

# Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JUNE 8, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Crouch rejects quit claims

England striker Peter Crouch on Tuesday rejected reports indicating he planned to quit international football after being consistently snubbed by Fabio Capello. Crouch, 30, was reported to have called time on his England career after failing to even win a place on the bench for Saturday's 2-2 draw with Switzerland at Wembley. However the tall Spurs forward, who has netted an impressive 22 goals in 42 games for England, insisted on Tuesday that he had not turned his back on playing international football.

- AFP



## Barnes turns down BCB offer

CRICINFO

Vincent Barnes has turned down an offer to coach Bangladesh but has been asked to reconsider his decision by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). Barnes' contract as South Africa's assistant coach will be terminated at the end of June and he is not part of the revamped national set-up under newly-appointed coach Gary Kirsten.

"I did turn it [Bangladesh job] down, but I have been asked to reconsider," Barnes told ESPNcricinfo on Monday.

At a press conference in Johannesburg, Cricket South Africa named Russell Domingo, who coached the Warriors, as assistant to Kirsten, and Allan Donald as the bowling coach. Barnes was offered a role at the High Performance Centre in Pretoria. Gerald Majola, the CSA chief executive, said they were waiting for a response from Barnes.

If Barnes does not reverse his Bangladesh decision, it will be a setback for the BCB, who had said they were close to signing him to fill the vacancy created by Jamie Siddons' departure after a disappointing World Cup campaign. Stuart Law, the interim coach of Sri Lanka, was also in the running but there were reports of his chances failing due to a disagreement over conditions with the BCB.

## 2nd ODI today

PTI, Port of Spain

It was not the most comprehensive of wins but having taken a morale-boosting 1-0 lead in the series, India would look to press home the advantage against a nervy West Indies in the second one-dayer, here today.

The four-wicket win in the first one-dayer came after a wobbly start and the second-string Indian team would be aiming to plug the loopholes as the series progresses.

Missing key players Sachin Tendulkar and regular captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the young team led by Suresh Raina benefited from the West Indians' follies in the lung-opener.

The Caribbeans, on the other hand, would hope to tilt the scale in their favour by picking up on the few positives they gained from the four-wicket loss at the Queen's Park Oval here Monday night.



England batsman Alastair Cook swivels to hook a delivery during his century on the fifth and final day of the second Test against Sri Lanka at Lord's yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Cook's final day flourish

Cricket

AFP, London

Alastair Cook scored his third century in four Test innings to help give England a chance of a series-clinching victory against Sri Lanka at Lord's here on Tuesday.

Sri Lanka were 32 for one in their second innings at tea on the fifth and final day, needing a further 311 runs in the final session's 45 overs to reach their victory target of 343.

The highest score ever made in the fourth innings to win a Test at Lord's was 344 for one, needing 342, by the West Indies against England in 1984.

England lead the three-match series 1-0 after dismissing Sri Lanka for just 82 inside 25 overs in an innings and 14-

run first Test win in Cardiff.

Before tea, Sri Lanka lost acting captain Kumar Sangakkara, opening in place of injured skipper Tillakaratne Dilshan, for 12 when he cut Chris Tremlett to Eoin Morgan at backward point.

Tharanga Paranavitana, who might have been stumped by Matt Prior, was nine not out and Mahela Jayawardene five not out.

Earlier, England declared their second innings on 335 for seven after Cook made 106 and Ian Bell 57 not out.

Left-handed opener Cook's century was his third hundred in four Test innings following scores of 189 against Australia in Sydney, 133 against Sri Lanka in the first Test in Cardiff and 96 in the first innings of this match.

He was eventually out when third umpire Aleem Dar, after long delibera-

tion, decided he had been stumped by Prasanna Jayawardene off impressive left-arm spinner Rangana Herath to end a five-half-hour innings.

Herath was the pick of Sri Lanka's attack with three for 87 in 24 overs.

Cook's exit sparked a flurry of late wickets as England went in search of quick runs.

England resumed Tuesday on 149 for two, a lead of 156, with Cook 61 not out and Kevin Pietersen 15 not out.

It looked as if they would bat through Tuesday's morning session without losing a wicket.

But, shortly before lunch, Pietersen was bowled by Herath for 72 to end a third-wicket partnership of 127 with Cook.

Sri Lanka, as they had on Monday, took the field without Dilshan.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

## 'No. 4 position vital'

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Ashraful was an enigma for all the previous selection committees and he has remained the same for the Akram Khan-led new selection panel. It will not be an easy task for the newly-appointed committee to take decisions on Ashraful, who was dropped for the three-match home series against Australia in April, when they sit on to pick up the final squad for the Zimbabwe trip in July-August.

Ashraful frustrated his faithfuls many times in his ten-year career and the age-old question has remained: why such a talented batsman like Ashraful has failed to perform consistently?

Is there any new formula or strategy coming from the new selection panel?

"We just started our work. Definitely the selection for the No 4 position would be a vital issue. I think it's too early to say anything about team selection because we are yet to discuss anything about that," responded chief selector Akram Khan when asked whether they have any special plan with the former skipper who has been in and out of the national team for last 7-8 months.

"Ashraful is a vital player and there has been hardly any doubt about his caliber but performance is the key for any player to establish his place in the team. I think No 4 is a very vital position for any team and we will definitely try to establish a player in this

position," he added.

What Akram however believed was that it is vital for any player to get the support from the concerned authorities and everybody should be given the confidence when a player is struggling with his form.

Many however believed that the 26-year-old right-hander got enough opportunity to prove his class but the batsman himself believed that he has still enough cricket to prove the critics wrong.

"The major problem for the last 7-8 months was that I was irregular in the team. I was dropped after a bad performance in one match which dented my confidence (against Zimbabwe). Actually I need support right at the moment to establish my position in the national team," said Ashraful.

"I'm not frustrated at all despite the fact that I could not perform as per expectations. I still think I have enough time to prove my worth and still I can prolong my career. I'm enjoying cricket very much.

"I think there is only one solution and that is to play my own game. I want to forget about what happened in the past and I am also not ready to blame anybody," he said, adding that he was excited with the pre-season fitness camp.

Ashraful also said that he was not worried with his form as he had some good performance in the domestic competitions as well as with the A team which he led in the South Africa trip.

"My performance in the Premier League

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

## Reds keep up the pressure

SPORTS REPORTER

Grameenphone Bangladesh League 2010

Muktijoddha Sangsad kept the pressure on leaders Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club with a 3-0 mauling of Chittagong Abahani at the Cox's Bazaar Stadium yesterday.

The victory took the Reds to 43 points, one behind Sheikh Jamal, with three rounds of matches left in the Grameenphone Bangladesh League. On the other hand, the defeat confirmed relegation for the Chittagong side who have been a regular fixture in the four editions of the professional league.

Muktijoddha have Rahmatganj, Chittagong Mohammedan and Farashganj to play against in their remaining matches while Sheikh Jamal have relatively trickier opponents in Rahmatganj, Mohammedan SC, and Brothers Union, a fact that the Muktijoddha coach Maruf Haque is not taking any comfort from. Despite being satisfied with his team's performance yesterday, Maruf saw little reason to be optimistic about his side's chances of winning the coveted title.

"We can't be too optimistic about my team's chances, especially after what we read in the papers about Monday's match between Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel. Our only hope would be Mohammedan stalling Sheikh Jamal in their encounter," said the Muktijoddha coach.

Having won their home leg match 3-2 against the bottom-placed side, Muktijoddha were expected to be the dominant force in this match too, and it proved to be the case once Nigerian defender Dami Emmanuel gave them a 17th minute lead. Veteran midfielder Arman Aziz's free-kick was fisted away by Abahani goalkeeper towards Emmanuel who fired in from close range.

The lead was doubled in the 38th minute when the league's second top-scorer Mithun Chowdhury tapped in a cross from Russian striker Boris Kotchikin. This was the 14th

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

## Prior's glove work!

AFP, London

A spectator in the Lord's Pavilion was injured by broken glass after England batsman Matt Prior threw a glove to spark an extraordinary sequence of events.

Prior, seemingly annoyed at being run out in the ongoing second Test against Sri Lanka here on Tuesday, threw a glove into the kitbag in the dressing room.

"There were bats resting on a window pane," an England spokesman told AFP. "The glove ricocheted into the bats resting on the window pane and that broke the glass.

"It is my understanding a female spectator suffered a small cut to her ankle. It was an accident and Matt Prior has apologised (to the spectator)."

The spokesman added it was an unfortunate incident and Prior would not be fined by team management.

## Dilshan's thumb broken

AFP, London

Sri Lanka captain Tillakaratne Dilshan has suffered a hairline fracture of his right thumb and will bat on the final day of the second Test at Lord's here on Tuesday only if "absolutely necessary", a team spokesman said.

Dilshan himself initially played down the extent of his injury after twice being hit on the thumb by England fast bowler Chris Tremlett while making 193 -- the highest individual Test score by a Sri Lankan at Lord's.

However, he was off the field for all of Monday's play, former skipper Kumar Sangakkara leading the side in his absence, and opening batsman Dilshan was then sent for further X-rays.

"He has suffered a hairline fracture," a team spokesman said Tuesday.

"He will bat only if absolutely necessary."

England lead the three-match series 1-0 after an innings and 14-run victory in the first Test in Cardiff.

## Figo, Ronaldo, Carlos in Dhaka?

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Indian Celebrity Management Group and local Showbiz Entertainment are planning to launch a football tournament in the mould of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in Bangladesh with former world stars making up a marquee 'icon player' in each, said an official yesterday.

"After getting the nod from the Bangladesh Football Federation, we have been working on it for the last three months and we have already communicated with the agents of Luis Figo and Roberto Carlos, who are available for the tournament. Now we are trying to reach the Brazilian Rolando," said Mehdi Hasan, director of Showbiz management, a local ally of Indian Celebrity Management Group, which is bringing Argentina and Nigeria in Bangladesh for a international friendly match on September 6.

Mehdi informed they had already talked about the matter with a few clubs, individuals and some corporate houses in

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

## PCB against ICC reform plans

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan has rejected reforms which could see the country lose the right to have one of its nationals at the head of cricket's governing body, an official said Tuesday.

A plan to scrap the rotation policy for appointing presidents and vice-presidents of the International Cricket Council is likely to be tabled at its board meeting in Hong Kong later this month.

"Under the current rotational system, Pakistan and Bangladesh have to put up the next candidates for president and vice-president and

SEE PAGE 17 COL 3

## BADMINTON WALKOUT

## Knit Concern point fingers at 'perpetrators'

SPORTS REPORTER

Having claimed themselves victims of a conspiracy from a few officials of the Bangladesh Badminton Federation, the Knit Concern Badminton Club officials sought a healthy environment in the federation as well as removal of those concerned officials.

Knit Concern Badminton Club walked out in the virtual final of the First Division Badminton League in protest of an umpire's revised decision that went in favour of ultimate champions Biman Bangladesh Airline a few days ago.

"In a bid to damage the harmony of our team which consisted of Malaysian

players, some federation officials brought a sudden change in the bylaws just a day before the league. We initially decided not to take part in the league but changed our mind after the high-ups ensured us that they would look after the matter. Seeing that we thought we should take part in the greater interest of badminton.

"But the referee with the assistance of those conspirators continued their partisanship to make sure a certain team won. The last league match was evidence of their motivated decisions," said Subash Saha, press secretary of Knit Concern at a press conference at a city hotel yesterday.

Saha blamed federation acting general secretary Zahidul Islam Kochi, Mansur Ahmed and Hamidul Haque for plotting conspiracy.

Kochi, however, denying allegations said the bylaws were sent to the participating clubs much before the tournament started but admitted they could not discuss the new matter with all clubs.

"We wanted to bring some changes in the bylaws to develop the game but five clubs out of eight did not accept it and the standing committee headed by Farque Dewan okayed the previous rules," said Kochi adding that the Knit Concern never placed their written or verbal allegations to them during the league.