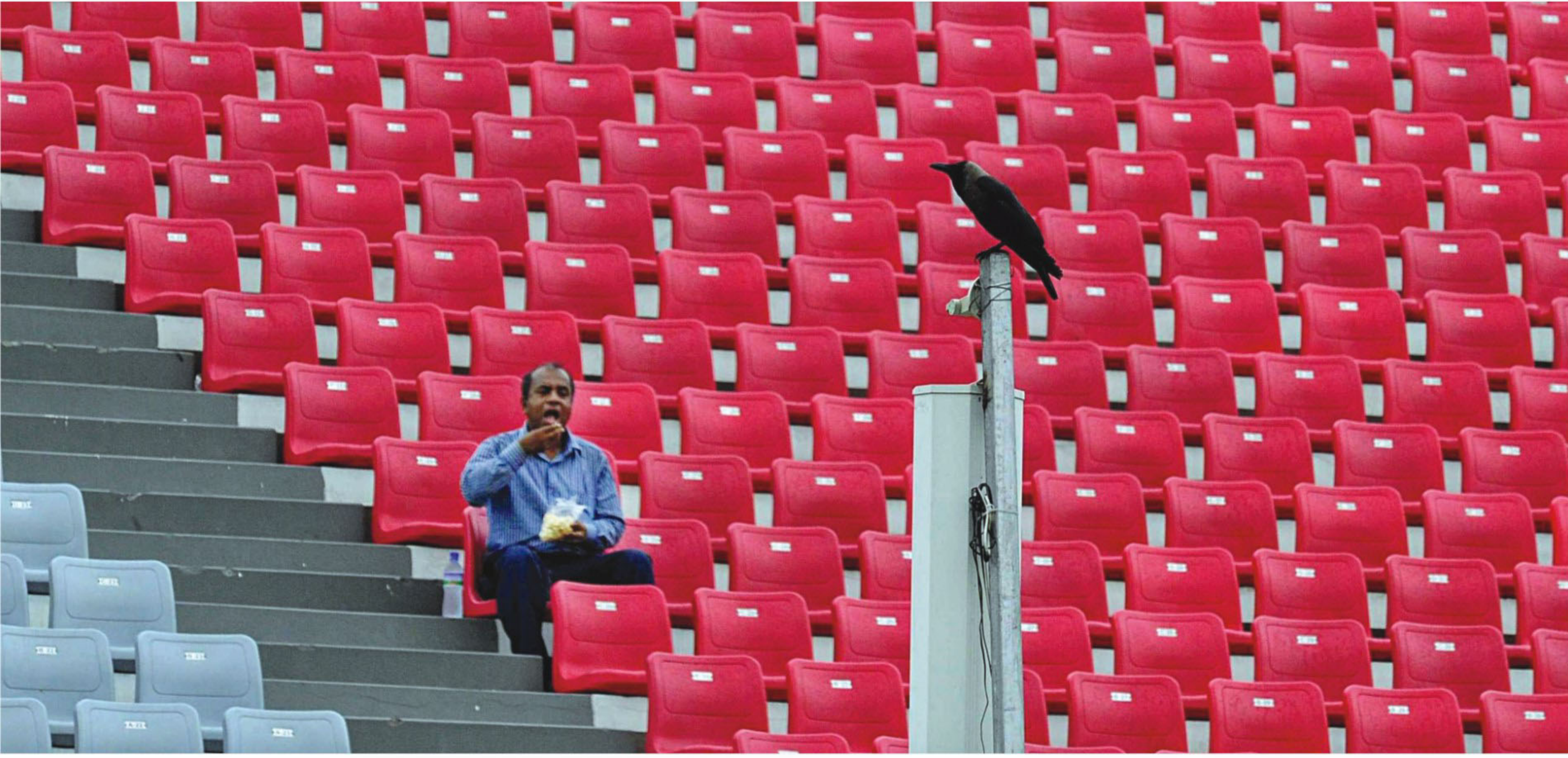


# Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JUNE 15, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## C'Ron pledges to stay at Real

Cristiano Ronaldo says he will not leave Real Madrid amid rumours of Manchester City trying to lure the Portugal forward back to England with a huge contract. Ronaldo told Spanish radio Cadena Cope on Tuesday that "I am not going. I give you my word. Today I would sign for 10 more years with Real Madrid." He didn't, however, rule out a future move from the Spanish giants: "Could I think differently tomorrow? Yes. No one knows the future of a player." The 26-year old forward even left open the possibility of joining Madrid's rival



Wise men say that a picture speaks a thousand words. This picture, taken at the Bangabandhu national Stadium yesterday during the Grameenphone Bangladesh League match between Brothers Union and Chittagong Mohammedan, speaks volumes of the sad state of affairs in domestic football. Once the most popular sport of the country, football is losing its lustre day by day, reducing it to a hollow spectacle. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Brothers, Ctg MSC share spoils

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
Brothers Union and Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club shared the spoils of a 1-1 draw in their Grameenphone Bangladesh League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Tuesday. The Oranges took a 16th lead when Nigerian striker Kingsley Chigozie profited from complete lack of communication in the Mohammedan defence to head in a cross from veteran Faisal. The goalie James Paul Mulbah was beaten at the far post. But the lead stayed only two minutes as the port city hit back through Liberian midfielder Jerry Odesco. Jerry slammed home a pass from veteran striker Forhad Hossain to restore the parity. The first leg match of the two teams had ended 1-0 in favour of the port city club. The draw meant Brothers stayed in sixth position with 26 points from 19 matches Chittagong Mohammedan stayed in tenth with 17 points from 20 matches.

## Jovanovski new football coach

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
Macedonian Gjordji Jovanovski has been named the new football coach of the Bangladesh national football team, formally closing the door on the incumbent Croatian Robert Rubcic, in a press conference at the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday. The 55-year-old coach is scheduled to arrive here on June 20 to take charge of the national side ahead of their FIFA World Cup pre-qualifier against Pakistan on June 29 in Dhaka, said Badal Roy, chairman of team management committee, at a press briefing at the BFF House yesterday. "We are taking World Cup qualifiers seriously in a bid to advance to the next round. We did not want to demoral-



**Coach's profile**  
**Name:** Gjordji Jovanovski  
**Born:** March 22, 1956  
**Place:** Skopje (Macedonia)  
**Nationality:** Macedonian  
**Marital Status:** Married with 2 daughters  
**Coaching career (1996-till date):** Vardar (Macedonia); Samsunspor (Turkey); Rabotnicki (Macedonia), Meilano (Macedonia), Metalurg (Macedonia), Macedonia 'A'  
**Playing career (1970-89):** Vardar (Macedonia); Red Star (Yugoslavia); Samsunspor (Turkey), Ankaragucu (Turkey)

ise our players before those games, which is why we have chosen Jovanovski," said Roy, who is also a vice-president of the BFF. Jovanovski will be awarded a one-year contract worth 66,000 dollars apart from food, transport and accommodation facilities, headed. "He will be given three months' wages in advance and the rest will be given in line with the contract which will be penned after his arrival," said Roy. Jovanovski, an UEFA pro-licensed coach, started his coaching career with Macedonian club Vardar in 1996 where he had also began his playing career 26 years earlier. His coaching career, confined so far within native

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

## Bittersweet BKSP

**Cricket**  
**MOHAMMAD ISAM**

For years, BKSP has been deeply associated with hard work in the country's cricket circle, a deep-seated connection that is something of a grim reminder of even its products. It hasn't been much different for the 29 elite cricketers whose fitness camp moved to the BKSP during the weekend, cloistered away from their comfort zone. They are accommodated in modern facilities but apart from the basic amenities, they have to deal with the "boarding school" lifestyle. Some, like national players Mushfiqur Rahim and Sohrawardi Shuvo, have spent the formative years of their life and cricket career here and are used to it, while others accept it and grit their teeth. "This place brings back a lot of memories for me. I had a lot of fun but also, there was hard work and it's the same right now," said Mushfiqur who passed out in 2006. "I think of that life, the same athletic

track, the grounds, and the hockey field. It is all coming back to me but I like it against my will, one can say," added the wicketkeeper. Tamim Iqbal, the Tigers vice-captain, is clearly not a big fan of this isolation but said that the purpose of the camp is attained. "We are working towards a goal and I think what we came here for, that is being achieved. But everyone must enjoy what they are doing. I think there should be a time when the player is allowed to be free," said the left-handed opener, adding that it reminded him of his days in the different-level teams. Mushfiqur added it seems to him like the Eid holidays in BKSP, a time when the students have lesser restrictions to deal with. "It is a confined life here. Nobody can get out so this is actually reminding of the time when we were about to go on Eid holidays," he said. Trainer Grant Luden however believed that the hard work invested this time will help them in the near future. "I asked the bowlers what they'd do when the score is 350-1. They know that they have to bowl long spells, prob-

ably 27-odd overs on flat Zimbabwean wickets. This will help them build up for that hard work," said the South African, who is strapping on heart rate monitors on the players so that short-cuts are not taken. Apart from the routine fitness work, the players are also learning new skills of different sports. If it was boxing the other day, yesterday they learned a few football tricks. Later, they larked about in a game, donning new hairstyles and nicknaming each other on famous footballers; the losing side is supposed to treat the winners in Mohammad Ashraful's new restaurant. The bonding among the players, both of international and domestic background, is marked and the fact remains that hard work builds more than just fitness. "They are working hard and encouraging each other," observed Luden. Elias Sunny, one of those in the camp due to his domestic performance, said that he felt at ease working with the Tigers. "I think the fitness level is almost the same. I don't feel that I'm any less than

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

## MSC in disarray

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
If you are Mohammedan at heart you must feel riled by the unhealthy battle for power of the most prestigious club of the country. A couple of days ago, former players and many officials who selflessly served the nearly century-old club gathered at the club's Motijheel premises with a passionate appeal to bury all the differences and act collectively so that the club, which has recently become a limited company to give it a professional and dynamic attire, could move forward and more importantly win hearts of a new generation of football fans who know little about the glorious legacy that this club holds. Unfortunately the appeal appeared to have fallen on deaf ears, and according to a press release issued by the chief election commissioner of Mohammedan Sporting Club Limited yesterday, a consensus looks a distant reality. As many as six aspirants have collected their nomination papers to contest for the all-important post of president. The race for becoming one of the 16 directors was also frantic as 50 aspirants have decided to try their luck for the lucrative post. If that was the afternoon twist of a topsy-

turvy Mohammed election drama, the evening was more dramatic with news that Monirul Haq Chowdhury, a feisty Mohammedan official of the 80s, along with five other petitioners has won a verdict from a law court that 'had been pleased to issue Rule and further been pleased to restrain the respondents from holding any election of Mohammedan Sporting Club Limited for a period of 1 (one) month'. This is not for the first time that a disgruntled Black and White loyal has taken the club to court. On May 31 another Mohammedan official Luthfar Rahman won a stay order from a law court which was however vacated on June 9. Rahman wanted a rectification of the club's 213 registered members, who were scheduled to vote a new president and 16 directors at the June 23 polls. The latest incident will certainly put the much-talked about election on hold for a while. It will also allow the fighting groups in the club to have some time to sit and think. However, the millions of loyal supporters of the club will wait with their fingers crossed with a hope to see a collectively fighting Mohammedan, a Mohammedan that have won many an exciting battle on the field over the years.

## R'ganj seek more time

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
Rahmatganj yesterday sought more time to appear before the Bangladesh League Committee to explain their alleged involvement in match-fixing against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club in the ongoing competition. Rahmatganj players and officials were supposed to appear before the committee yesterday after the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) decided to investigate the allegation. "We have requested the BFF to defer the date until the completion of our remaining two matches because it is tough for us to bring all players

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



FOOTWORK: Mushfiqur Rahim (R) and Shahriar Nafees (3rd from L) try some passing drills during football skills training yesterday as part of their ongoing fitness camp at the BKSP in Savar. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN