

Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY JUNE 16, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Tia London-bound

Belgium's Olympic high jump champion Tia Hellebaut said on Tuesday she would defend her title in London next year. The 33-year-old had taken time off to have her second child -- who was born on February 15 -- but she said that she would be returning to competition by the end of the year. Hellebaut, who was European champion in the event in 2006, had already taken time off the sport towards the end of 2008 when she became pregnant, and gave birth to her first daughter Lotte in June 2009. "Aside from some exercises, I have not yet resumed jumping," said Hellebaut, who was pentathlon world indoor



Muktiyoddha striker James Moga (R) tries to outsmart a Farashganj defender during their Grameenphone Bangladesh League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. But Moga ultimately ended up as the villain as he missed a vital penalty.

PHOTO: STAR

ARGENTINA-NIGERIA MATCH

Cheapest ticket to cost Tk. 7,500

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Tens of thousands of the country's football fans have their eyes set firmly on September 6, when a lucky few will enjoy an unprecedented treat -- watching one of the world's best teams containing the day's best player on their own turf. Since there are a finite number of seats available, the treat will not come cheap, as was revealed at a press conference at the BFF House yesterday.

The minimum price of tickets for the Argentina-Nigeria FIFA friendly to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium was set at Tk 7,500 and the maximum at Tk 50,000.

The sale of tickets for the corporate houses will start from June 20 while those of regular galleries will get underway from July 15, said Anwarul Haq Helal, head of the organizing committee.

"We will first offer at least 100 tickets each to various corporate houses and then will go for general people. Seventy percent of the nearly 12,000-capacity Western Gallery will be kept for corporate houses while thirty percent of the Western Gallery and all of 9,000-capacity Eastern Gallery will be up for sale to general people," said Helal.

He added that the tickets for corporate houses will be sold by the federation but the

modulation ticket sale to general people are yet to be decided.

Of the 25,000-capacity stadium, a total of 24127 tickets will be put on sale as some hundred seats (lower part of the Special Hospitality Box, spaces in front of dressing rooms and VVIP box situated on top of the press box) will remain unsold for security reasons as well as to entrain state guests.

RATE OF TICKETS

Galleries	Price	Capacity
Western Gallery (Corporate)	Tk 10,600	12,000
Western Gallery (General)	Tk 10,000	
Eastern Gallery (General)	Tk 7,500	9000
Special Enclosure	Tk 15,000	486
VIP Gallery (Lower)	Tk 15,000	1354
VIP Gallery (Upper)	Tk 20,000	540
Special Hospitality Box	Tk 30,000	235
President Box	Tk 50,000	224
Hospitality Box (Corporate)	Tk 1,500,000	288

Besides, the game's governing body has decided to make special arrangements for different sports federations, national-award winning footballers, District Football Associations and members of Swadhin Bangladesh Football Team, as they will be given the opportunity to buy VIP Gallery tickets worth Tk 15,000 at a reduced price of Tk 5,000.

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Hurley-Nayar marriage over

AFP, London

British actress Liz Hurley's four-year marriage to Indian businessman Arun Nayar ended in divorce Wednesday amid continued speculation about her romance with Australian cricketer Shane Warne.

Hurley and textile tycoon Nayar were granted a divorce at a London court, although neither of them attended the hearing.

The couple married in March, 2007, in a star-studded ceremony at Sudeley Castle in southwest England, and had a second traditional Hindu ceremony at a palace in Jodhpur, northwest India.

Hurley, 46, revealed in December that she had split from Nayar, telling her followers on microblogging site Twitter: "For the record, my husband Arun and I separated a few months ago."

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Moga Mukti's villain

SPORTS REPORTER

With his face buried in his hands, James Saeed Moga resembled a tragic hero, much like Roberto Baggio did after the 1994 FIFA World Cup final at Pasadena.

Similar to the way the Italian blasted his crucial penalty kick over the bar to hand Brazil the Cup after almost single-handedly carrying his team into final, the Sudanese striker killed off Muktiyoddha's Bangladesh League title hopes with a wayward spot kick against Farashganj at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The match ended 1-1, leaving Muktiyoddha three points behind leaders Sheikh Jamal with only two games to play.

Muktiyoddha are on 44 points while Abahani are third with 39 having four games left to play. On the other hand, Independence Cup winners Farashganj have taken their points tally to 19 from 20 matches and are in the 9th position in the 12-team table.

Moga, the feisty Sudanese striker who is more renowned for his after-goal celebrations than expressions of dejection,

tried to put on a brave face and transferred the blame on refereeing.

"You see, we are all human being, and we all make mistakes, things like this happen with everyone. I slipped while taking the shot," said a frustrated Moga.

"But you see it's the partisan refereeing that really took the game away from us. When you are playing under such circumstances where no one wants us to win, how do you keep concentration on the field?" was the complaint from the striker who leads the scorers' chart with 16 goals.

The match was an eventful one with both teams creating numerous chances, a far cry from the 5-0 drubbing that the Reds handed to the Old Dhaka outfit.

Muktiyoddha, in pursuit of three points fielded an ultra-attacking line-up with Moga, Mithun Chowdhury, and Alamu Bukola up front and another striker Boris Kotchikin behind them. Bukola forced a 15th minute save from Farashganj goalie Sujon Chowdhury, the rebound was headed over the bar by Kotchikin.

After a few attacks and counterattacks, Muktiyoddha took the lead in the

35th minute through Bukola, who chested down a Mithun cross before beating the keeper with a clinical finish.

However, Muktiyoddha's all-out attack led to their own undoing just before half-time when they left too much space in defence to allow Congolese hitman Siyo Zunapio to blast his shot in the back of the net and restore parity. The Congolese had a few minutes earlier seen his goal bound shot deflect off a defender.

The second-half started in a similar fashion as the first with the bone of contention coming on the hourmark when linesman's flag disallowed a goal from Bukola as offside. A throw-in was headed by Moga to the path of Bukola who in turn headed it in, but the offside flag was already raised.

Both Moga and his coach Maruful Haque cried foul play in that incident after the match: "The flag was raised even before it reached me [Moga]. It was an intentional decision to deny us a win."

The match was held up for six minutes after that incident and once play resumed, Muktiyoddha hurled numerous attacks on the opposition defence.

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Siddikur revisits 'turning point'

Golf

SPORTS REPORTER

The Queen's Cup golf tournament in Thailand is set to get underway today in Samui, Thailand, with Bangladesh golf sensation Siddikur Rahman leading the field as the highest-ranked player on display.

Siddikur, who is second on the Order of Merit, has good memories of the course as it was here that he notched up his first top-10 finish on the Asian Tour.

"It was my turning point. Finishing top ten, gave me the experience and confidence to compete on the Asian Tour," he told the Asian Tour website. Siddikur went on to finish seventh on the Order of Merit last year after becoming the first Bangladeshi winner on Tour by winning the Brunei Open.

"I like this place and I am looking forward to the week. It's not an easy golf course. I have my expectation which is to try and win the tournament and hopefully I will get that," added Siddikur.

He will face competition from a strong roster of players that includes title holder Tetsuji Hiratsuka of Japan and Thailand's Prom Meesawat, who after a promising start to his career fell to the wayside, and after being treated by a sports psychologist insists that he has what it takes to win the event.

MSC polls on again

SPORTS REPORTER

Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan, director in charge of Mohammedan SC Limited, informed that the club has now no bar on holding elections and AGM after the Supreme Court cleared the way yesterday.

Monirul Haq Chowdhury, a former member of the club, had won a verdict the previous day from a lower court bench that barred the club from holding elections and AGM for a period of one month.

The verdict was stayed by a High Court Bench of Supreme Court yesterday that paved the way for holding the election again.

Following Tuesday's ruling, election commissioner Akter Hossain Khan postponed the June 23 election. Six members bought nomination papers for the post of president and 50 bought nominations for 16 posts of directors.

"The board of directors will now sit for a meeting to prepare a new guideline for the election commissioner," said Lokman.

According to the previous schedule, the candidates were supposed to submit their nomination papers yesterday, Wednesday.

MATCH-FIXING ALLEGATION

R'ganj appear before body

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh League Committee yesterday held talks with the players and officials of Rahmatganj MFS in the first step of investigation into the match-fixing allegations surrounding last Saturday's match against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club.

The committee quizzed Rahmatganj football secretary Salahuddin Kala, coach Ali Asghar Nasir, goalkeeper Iran Sheikh and defender Ddumba Michael about their roles during the game to find out whether there

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What next for the others?

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The flushed faces of Dhiman Ghosh, Nasiruddin Faruque and Shubhashish Roy after a 50-minute run said more about their progress than the blinding heat that emanated from the BKSP athletics track.

The trio were among the 29-man conditioning camp that began work under Grant Luden on June 4 and are in the middle of a fitness programme that will go on for 32 days.

Dhiman was picked in this group due to his fine National Cricket League form as was Nasiruddin Faruque, while Shubhashish is one of the promising fast bowlers in the country.

In fact all of those chosen have performed in the past 18 months and interestingly their fitness during this particular camp has impressed many, including vice-captain Tamim Iqbal. He even said that youngsters like Noor Hossain and Nasir Hossain were sometimes even better than the national team players in that regard.

There are 17 players who will miss the tour to Zimbabwe and it is clear now that they won't have much work after this camp ends in the first week of July.

Most of these players like Jahurul Islam, Nazimuddin, Shamsur Rahman, Shuvogotohom Chowdhury and Nadif Chowdhury were part of Bangladesh A team's tour to South Africa back in April but that was a one-off and there wasn't any separate camp for the second string side.

There isn't much change in luck for these players as a proposed tour to Malaysia next month is set to be cancelled, making them wait another three months for action.

Chief selector Akram Khan, who outlined fitness as one of the major criteria for selection, said it is important to have some continuation with fitness.

"All their hard work in the off-season will go in vain if they can't continue it," he said. "As far as I know, the board is planning something along the lines of the [now defunct] HP [High Performance] programme."

The former national captain stressed on the importance of a proper second string

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Rahmatganj goalie Iran Sheikh (R) talks to Bangladesh League committee chairman Salam Murshedy (L) during a match-fixing hearing at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR