

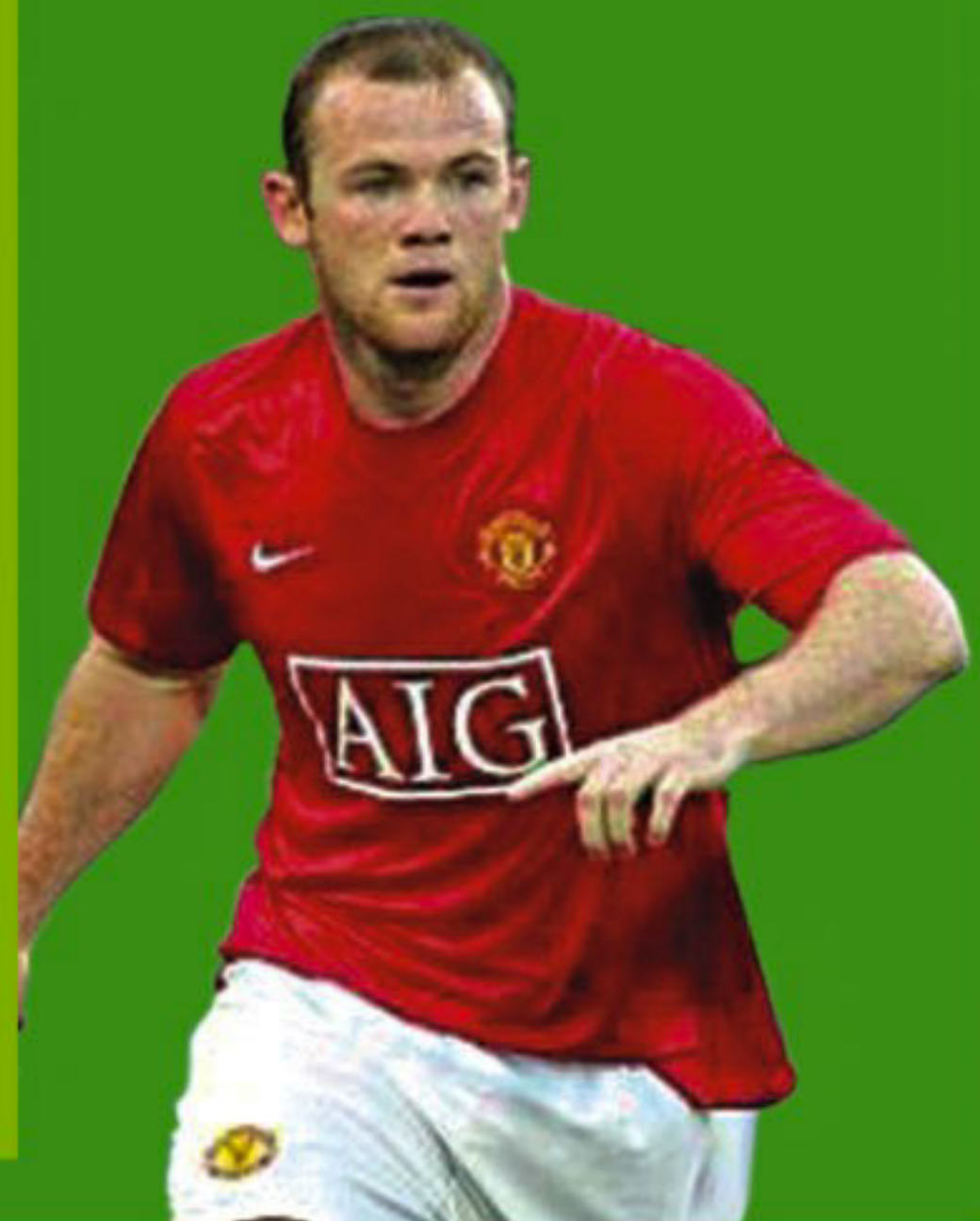
Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Rooney suffers blackmail

Three people appeared in a British court on Monday accused of trying to blackmail Manchester United and England striker Wayne Rooney and his wife Coleen for £5,000 (\$8,100, 5,700 euros). Lee Platt, 28, Jennifer Green, 25, and Steven Malcolm, 42, were charged with blackmail and handling stolen goods during a brief hearing at a court in Manchester, northwest England. The plot allegedly took place after the footballer's wife lost her camera phone at an arena in Manchester after attending a concert by US band Black Eyed Peas in May last year.

-- AFP



BCB seeks fair FTP

India tour still elusive

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will appeal for fair distribution in the next Future Tours Programme (FTP). BCB CEO Manzur Ahmed, who will leave Dhaka on June 24 to attend the two-day CEOs meeting, informed that they have proposed to different cricket boards for the reasonable allocation.

"We are not asking for equal distribution rather we are asking for fair distribution. Everything is mostly depending on the respective boards, so mutual understanding and interest is the most important thing in this regard and that's why we have already proposed to different boards," explained Manzur.

Although there has been a whispering that top-ranked sides are reluctant to host Bangladesh but there has been a fair number of Test, ODI and T20 matches in the proposed FTP for the next eight years, which will be effective from June 2012 to April 2020.

Bangladesh is likely to get around 50 Test matches, 79 one-day internationals and 17 T20 internationals in the span of eight years as per the proposed FTP but once again there was no schedule for Bangladesh to visit India to play a full series.

The tenth member of the Test elite club, Bangladesh, visited all the other Test nations for playing full series except India. Since being elevated into the Test club in 2002, Bangladesh hosted India several times but the neighbours have yet to invite the Tigers to play a full series in their country which raised many eyebrows.

According to the proposed new FTP there is no scope for Bangladesh to visit India for Test series in the next eight years which meant Bangladesh cricket team will deprive from playing Test match in India in 20 years of their entrance into the Test cricket.

The finger however has been raised towards the Bangladesh officials as many believed that they have not tried enough to make it happen as the home series against India is always financially more viable for Bangladesh cricket.

Manzur however said that everything is not finished with the proposed FTP.

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PHOTO: STAR

Action from the Bangladesh League encounter between Farashganj SC and Arambagh KS at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Muktis' hopes alive

SPORTS REPORTER

Grameenphone Bangladesh League 2010

Muktijoddha Sangsad kept their title hopes alive beating hosts Chittagong Mohammedan SC 2-1 in their penultimate round match of the Grameenphone Bangladesh League at the Cox's Bazar Stadium yesterday.

Arman Aziz and James Moga struck for Muktijoddha before Shahedul Alam netted the consolation goal for the home side.

The fourteen victory in 21 matches helped Muktijoddha raise their points tally to 47, three behind leaders Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club. However, if Sheikh Jamal will be crowned the new champions of the professional league only if they avoid defeat against Brothers Union on Wednesday.

But if Sheikh Jamal lose against Brothers,

and if Muktijoddha win against Rahmatganj MFS in their last match on Friday, both of them will be tied on equal 50 points. In that case, the title will be decided on goal difference where Muktijoddha are well ahead of their rivals Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club.

The All Reds though made sure Sheikh Jamal have to wait till the last match for their party with a professional display at the Cox's Bazar Stadium yesterday. Midfielder Arman Aziz put Muktijoddha ahead in the tenth minute before James Moga, who missed a crucial penalty in their 1-1 draw against Farashganj in their previous match, doubled the lead in the 50th minute and took his goals tally to 17 goals for the league.

Shahedul then pulled one goal back for the hosts in the 68th minute which was not

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Shakib now shines with the ball

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Four-wicket hauls from Shakib Al Hasan and Alan Richardson in the first innings put Worcestershire in a strong position in their County Championship match against Hampshire yesterday.

On the third day, Hampshire were bowled out for 239 runs in their first innings and were forced to follow on. In their second innings, the visitors at the New Road ground were 222-7 after tea, ahead by 58 runs, when this report was filed.

Shakib, who took two wickets (Nic Pothas and Dimitri Mascarenhas) overnight, removed James Tomlinson and Imran Tahir to return with figures of 4-42 from 14 overs.

Richardson, a medium-pacer, took four for 56 while Jack

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Super Cup from July 8

SPORTS REPORTER

The Grameenphone Super Cup begins at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on July 8 with top six finishers from the Bangladesh League taking part in the tournament, it was decided at a tournament committee meeting of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday.

The cash-rich tournament will have a double league system between two groups of three teams and the semifinals will also be double-legged.

The second edition of the tournament will offer a prize money of 1.45 crore taka with the champions taking one crore and runners-up 20 lac.

The participating clubs

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BFF appeals for Aminul's return

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday requested goalkeeper Aminul Haq to return to the national fold after he announced his retirement from the national side ahead of the FIFA World Cup pre-qualifiers against Pakistan.

"I have requested Aminul to play the FIFA World Cup pre-qualifying round and declare his retirement from the field," National Team Management Committee

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Sunnydale school player Raisa, who scored three goals, prepares to shoot during their victory against Ispahani Girls' School and College in the Polar Ice Cream School tournament at the Handball Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

School h'ball underway

SPORTS REPORTER

BAF Shaheen School & College blanked Oxford International School 19-0 in the opening match of the Polar Ice Cream 19th School Handball Tournament at the Handball Stadium yesterday. Shahadat netted eight goals while Shamrul scored five for the winners. In the other matches, Scholastica beat DPSST School 8-0, St. Gregory's thrashed South Point 21-3, Play pen beat Motijheel Govt. Boys' School 15-3, Narinda Govt. High School beat Sunnydale School 15-11 and BIS defeated Willes Little Flower 11-3.

In the girls' group,

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Stamina may hinder Jamal's selection

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Danish-born Bangladeshi booter Jamal Bhuiyan, who was called up for the preliminary squad for Bangladesh's FIFA World Cup pre-qualifiers against Pakistan in June and July, is likely to struggle to secure a place in the final 20-member squad.

An attacking midfielder, Jamal, who arrived here a week ago from Denmark, played a practice match with Brothers Union yesterday after having practiced with Mohammedan SC a couple of days ago as the national football team has yet to start training due to the ongoing Bangladesh League.

He quickly built up a good understanding with Brothers' Brazilian playmaker

Everton during the match and the 21-year old booter looked better in shooting, passing and positional awareness than his compatriots. He nearly found the net with a superb volley from outside the right-hand side of the area and broke the backline of opponents with a cute one-two with Everton.

However, Jamal, who is now playing for HIK, a second division team in Denmark, looked shorn of stamina in the very humid conditions and struggled to cope with the pace after 30 minutes.

"I can't breathe," said Jamal after the practice match at the Brothers Union ground.

Asked about his stamina, Jamal said, "It was my first practice and the pitch was not good but this match has no relation with the selection process I believe and I will

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S'kara bats to safety

Cricket

AFP Southampton

Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara's maiden Test hundred in England helped the tourists save the series finale at the Rose Bowl here on Monday.

But a draw in the third and final Test gave England a 1-0 win in this three-match series after an innings and 14-run win in the first Test in Cardiff was followed by stalemate at Lord's.

Rain, which robbed the first Test ever staged at the Rose Bowl of 155 overs on the first three days, had the final say when a downpour during the tea interval on the fifth day brought this match to a premature close.

Bad weather meant 369 overs were lost in the series as a whole,

equivalent to 26-and-a-half hours' playing time.

Sri Lanka were 334 for five in their second innings in reply to England's first innings 377 for eight declared, a lead of 141, having lost just two wickets on the last day.

One of those was Sangakkara, out shortly before tea for 119 when the left-hander's square cut off James Anderson was caught by substitute Adam Rouse at backward point.

His exit ended a fifth-wicket stand of 141 with Thilan Samaraweera, who was left stranded on 87 not out.

Sangakkara had managed just 65 runs in five previous innings this series but, leading Sri Lanka in the absence of the injured Tillakaratne Dilshan, he showed his class with a 25th Test century.

Sri Lanka resumed on Monday on 112 for three, 81 runs behind, with Sangakkara

44 not out and nightwatchman Rangana Herath unbeaten on two, in overcast, seam bowler-friendly conditions.

But Sangakkara, who averages over 56 in Tests, cover-drove fast bowler Chris Tremlett for four in the first over of the day.

Anderson nearly had Herath out for five but first slip Andrew Strauss was distracted by Graeme Swann, moving across from second slip, and the England captain dropped the fast-travelling chance.

When first-change Stuart Broad came on, Herath, primarily a left-arm spinner, pulled him for a well-struck boundary. Broad later twice left the field with a bruised left heel.

Herath was eventually lbw on the backfoot to off-spinner Swann after missing a sweep for a gutsy 36.

Sri Lanka reached lunch on 226 for

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Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara shapes to cut a delivery during his match-saving century against England on the fifth and final day of the third Test at the Rose Bowl in Southampton yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP