

# Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY JULY 7, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Hamman hearing on July 22

FIFA announced on Wednesday it had completed its investigation into Mohamed bin Hamman and its ethics committee would hear the case against the suspended Asian football chief on July 22. The charges relate to alleged bribes of \$40,000 bin Hamman either paid or offered to 25 Caribbean Football Union (CFU) associations in May during his campaign for the FIFA presidency. The ethics committee will also hear the cases of Debbie Minguell and Jason Sylvester, the two CFU officials who were also suspended along with FIFA vice-president Jack Warner.



## Clubs, players excited

SPORTS REPORTER



As the booters count down the remaining days to the end of the season, the club officials seek to boost the stars by announcing incentives ahead of the Grameenphone Super Cup which starts from tomorrow.

The footballers have had an atypical season, after having been engaged in playing since August of last year. They started this long season with the Federation Cup and followed it up with the Independence Cup, the Bangladesh League and now go on to play the Super Cup on their last legs.

"We have been playing for nearly one year and we all are a quite exhausted," Abahani captain Pranotosh Kumar said. "As professional footballers, we are committed to put our best in the Super Cup to end the season on a high."

There are only four hurdles to cross to win the Tk one crore prize money and the shorter version of the tournament, Pranotosh believed, would make the players happy.

The club officials are also trying to boost up the players with incentives and the Super Cup also provides the players with the perfect platform to perform ahead of next season's transfers.

League champions Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, Federation Cup champions Abahani, cup holders Mohammedan SC and Brothers Union plan to distribute a portion of the prize money among the players if their sides can win the money-spinning Super Cup.

"Last time, we distributed Tk 25 lakh out of Tk 1 crore and this time we will distribute more if the boys win the cup," said Mohammedan's directors in charge Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan.

"We can't reveal our plan at the moment, but we have definitely a plan to disburse a certain amount of money among the players if they win Super Cup," said Abahani football manager Satyajit Das Rupu.

However, the players do not want to concentrate on the incentives the clubs would provide rather they want to show their worth in the field at the Super Cup.

"It is a big tournament in terms of prize money and it is also a matter of pride to be a part of this. We are all excited to

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Intellectually challenged athletes Nipa Bose (L) and Farhana Ithu (R) proudly display their Special Olympics World Summer Games table tennis gold medals upon their arrival from Athens in the city at dawn yesterday. Bangladesh won five golds on the last day of the Games which ran from June 25 to July 4, with the duo contributing three to the tally, Nipa winning two and Farhana one, taking Bangladesh's total gold haul to 12.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Tigers gear up on green pitch

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Batsmen jumping around at the crease is a rare sight in Mirpur these days. But a slightly lively wicket at the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy was enough to spice things up as the Tigers geared up there for the upcoming series against Zimbabwe.

With very little to do in terms of preparation apart from hitting the nets, the Tigers had to be content with creating tough conditions.

"I asked for some grass on one wicket and to leave the other one as a normal track," said coach Sarwar

Imran, the man in charge of the preparatory camp. "There was good carry and some bouncers were flying around. It was a good wicket and there was even bounce but with none of the movement that you usually get on a grassy wicket."

Several of the batsmen were hit as the likes of Shafiul Islam, Rubel Hossain, Nazmul Hossain and Robiul Islam enjoyed the bounce and peppered the batsmen.

Opener Imrul Kayes, after a long hit in the middle, laid a concrete block that covered a few bowling lengths so that he could replicate a fast wicket. Some others were seen giving special attention to the short ball.

The coach too was heard several times giving batsmen scenarios to bat in ten-minute sessions. "We don't have much time or space to get in all the scenarios but I gave them a few like batting ten minutes before and after the lunch interval, the first ten overs of the new ball, etc," explained Imran, who is set to accompany the Tigers to Zimbabwe as the assistant-cum-bowling coach.

While the Tigers cramped in as much skill training as possible, most of the Zimbabwe players are getting some much-needed action against South Africa A and Australia A in a tri-series at home.

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## Tamim steals the show

Cricket

STAR SPORT DESK

Tamim Iqbal came up trumps in the battle of Bangladesh at New Road in Worcester on Tuesday night as his Nottinghamshire beat Shakib Al Hasan's Worcestershire by ten runs in the Friends Life t20.

The left-handed opener hammered 35 off 25 balls with the help of three boundaries and one six that made a dent in the member's stand roof. His innings, and that of his opening partner Alex Hales (39), gave Nottinghamshire a brilliant start but their middle-order bungled up the act. They were bowled out for 152, which was however enough to beat the home side who ended with 142 for five.

With the win, Nottinghamshire became

the first team to qualify for the quarterfinals.

But it was the battle between the two Tigers that kept everyone up. After attempting two reverse-sweeps, Tamim swept the next one conventionally down to Moeen Ali, who dropped after diving sideways. In Moeen's first over, Shakib dropped a sitter at long-off off Tamim before the Chittagonian nailed one over Shakib and into the stands for his only six. But his innings ended next ball when he was stumped by Ben Scott for 35.

Shakib bowled almost as perfectly as a Twenty20 bowler could bowl but his batting remained unconvincing as he scratched around for a 22-ball 20 with a solitary boundary.

Coincidentally, it was Tamim who held his catch off a Steven Mullaney full-toss.

Moeen's half-century off 35 balls was not enough for Worcestershire as they lost with five wickets in hand in the end.



Bangladesh batsman Tamim Iqbal advances down the wicket to smash a six during his 25-ball 35 for Nottinghamshire against Worcestershire in the Friends Life t20 at New Road on Tuesday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## N'Ganj, Sathkira in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Narayanganj moved into the semifinal of the National Women's Football Championship with an emphatic 4-0 win over Sathkira at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Narayanganj led the first half 2-0 with strikes from Nina Chakma and Iti before Bithi and Akhi netted one goal apiece to book a semifinal clash against Jessore on Saturday.

Despite the defeat, Sathkira also qualified for the semifinal and is set to play against holders Bangladesh Ansar & VDP tomorrow.

In the day's other match, Khulna recorded a massive 6-1 victory over Thakurgaon with Mirona striking a treble and Fatema Khatun a brace.

Mousumi Rani Roy scored the consolation goal for Thakurgaon.

## Europa move to joint lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Europa Youth joined joint leaders The Greys and Dhumketu in the Citycell Premier Division Basketball League by winning their match at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium on Tuesday.

Europa Youth, The Greys and Dhumketu each have 14 points, though The Greys with nine games, played two more than Europa and Dhumketu.

Europa thrashed Flame Boys 120-51 after leading the first half 47-21 while the Gregarius defeated the Greys 95-54 to stay behind the leaders with 12 points.

Despite the loss, The Greys still stay top with 14 points.

Hornets SC defeated Bakshibazar 64-52 yesterday.

## Fatullah all but fixed for Argentina practice

SPORTS REPORTER

The Fatullah Cricket Stadium is likely to be used as a practice venue for Argentina and Nigeria before their international friendly match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on September 6.

The Bangladesh Football Federation had requested the National Sports Council, owners of all stadiums in country, to allot the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium or Fatullah Cricket Stadium for holding the practice sessions for Argentina and Nigeria though both teams will have indoor-practice at the BNS, a day before their scheduled encounter.

"It is all but confirmed that the practice sessions of Argentina and Nigeria will take place at the Fatullah Stadium and it will be finalised in a couple of days," said Organising committee co-chairman Badal Roy after a meeting between the BFF high ups and the youth and

## ICC team recommends Pakistan overhauling

Cricket

CRICINFO, Lahore

The International Cricket Council's (ICC) Pakistan Task Team (PTT) has recommended what amounts to a root and branch reform of the game in Pakistan, which includes broad changes to the way the board is run but also on issues such as selection and managerial appointments.

The PTT presented a 38-page report during the annual conference in Hong Kong last week and listed 63 recommendations which it believes will strengthen cricket in the country. The report has also, in strong terms, called for a resumption of cricket ties with India, recognising it to be a key component of the fabric of Pakistan's cricket.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said last week it would review the report and get back to the ICC with some "observations" on the recommendations; in some instances, such as the recommendations to reduce the power of the chairman, board officials believe the PTT has gone beyond its remit.

The parameters for the body's work -- as the report acknowledges -- did expand over time. Initially set-up in light of continuing concerns over security in Pakistan (it was constituted in June 2009 having been on the agenda since February that year) it broadened its role after the spot-fixing scandal to take in "integrity issues" as well as matters of governance and administration.

And it is the recommendations on the last that are particularly eye-opening. "Perhaps the strongest of the recommendations, however, relate to the governance structures of Pakistan cricket," the executive summary of the report states. "It is highly unusual that the President of the country is entitled to appoint both the Chairman of the PCB and over half of the Governing Board. It is also inconsistent with the demands of modern sports administration that the Chairman also holds the powers of the CEO."

"The PTT believes there should be a wholesale [internal] review of the PCB's governance structures, including its constitution. While recognising that changes may not happen overnight, the PTT believes that preserving the status quo will constrain the development of Pakistan cricket in the long-term and is not in keeping with international best practice in sports administration."

Ten recommendations are made on matters of selection, the report noting that "there has been a high level of turnover of selectors in the past five years with five different people serving as chairman of selectors in this short period." The report recommends that the selection committee operate without "outside interference" and also suggests that appointments to the committee should be through a clear process, approved the board of governors. Most tellingly, it asks that the chairman's right of veto on selection of players be removed altogether.

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