

Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY JULY 19, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Holloioake bankrupt

Former England Test cricketer and Surrey captain Adam Holloioake has been officially declared bankrupt in Australia. Holloioake was standing in a case brought against him by businessman Martin Ryman at the Queensland Supreme Court in Brisbane, South Australia. The bankruptcy judgement is an end to a case that has lasted almost nine months, in which Ryman was suing Adam Holloioake and his father John for more than 2.7 million Australian dollars. Australian-born Holloioake's property company collapsed in 2010, owing 20 million dollars to more than 40



Law's focus on teamwork

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

When Stuart Law met his new charges at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, it was more than just smiles and handshakes. His brief with most of the national cricketers surrounding him centred on him being a hard, but fair guy.

Later during his first official press conference, it was along a similar theme; the former Australian cricketer said that his philosophy is to build a team and focus on stable relationships from the top and that he'd strive to remove doubts about the team.

"I believe the old adage which is so very true: team of champions is not always as good as a champion team. I've been in teams where we weren't as talented as the next team but we helped each other and we did as well as we possibly could. We lifted the game of those who weren't as talented," said Law, who arrived earlier in the morning along with fielding coach Jason Swift.

"My philosophy is that you have to play as a team. It's a team sport. I know it's a lot of individuals in the team, if everyone works for the same goal, it makes life a lot easier," he added.

Named the head coach by the Bangladesh Cricket Board on June 27, Law believes that stability and consistency will only come if

the proper environment is created.

"The main reasons why you're not consistent are when you're not really sure of your role in the team.

"If I can have a great working relationship with the selectors, the captain, the board itself, the playing side will follow suit. It's generally seen that if the top provide the most stable relationships and give the best environment, players will play better cricket," he opined.

Law's leadership quality is stellar. He's helped turn around Queensland's fortunes in Australia's domestic cricket. He was the first Queensland to captain his native side to a Sheffield Shield triumph.

When asked if he is ready for the mental challenge of probably losing more than his side will win, Law said he has gone through this before.

"When I played, I went through a lot of defeats. NSW used to beat us (Queensland) for fun. I've had defeat after defeat. I've lived it.

"Mentally, I'm prepared but I don't believe we should think of getting beaten every time. In the next couple of years, I want the doubts in your mind to change. I want you to think we're a force to be reckoned with," he said.

It was also clear that Law has some idea what he's about to deal with. In this current national setup, Shakhb Al Hasan and Tamim

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



New national cricket coach Stuart Law (R) speaks while new fielding coach Jason Swift listens during their first official press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

MATCH-FIXING VERDICT

Convicted parties to appeal

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

All the convicted parties in the Bangladesh League match-fixing scandal have decided to appeal against the punishments slapped upon them by the Bangladesh Football Federation on Saturday.

Bangladesh League champions Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club were fined Tk 20 lakh, Rahmatganj MFS Tk 5 lakh while Rahmatganj media officer Salahuddin Kala, goalkeeper Iran Sheikh and Muktijoddha Sangsad coach Maruful Haque were given suspensions of three, two years and two months respectively.

The clubs can now appeal to the appeal to either the executive committee or the president himself of the BFF against the ruling. And it seems most of the convicted parties will go that way.

"The verdict is designed to damage the image of Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club and we will appeal against the decision and ask the federation to refrain from taking such decisions without any proper evidence," said Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club president Manjur Kader.

"We have no option but to accept the decision as it (BFF) is the supreme organisation in country's football but we maintain that we are not guilty," said Rahmatganj MFS general

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Nafees warms up with a ton

SPORTS REPORTER

Shahriar Nafees took another step towards a return to the Test team when he struck 115 against the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy on Sunday.

The two-day match was marred by rain yesterday with only nine overs of the Academy side's innings possible (33 for one) but on Day One, it was Nafees who stood out with a typically phlegmatic knock.

After Mushfiqur Rahim won the toss and elected to bat first, the national side made 388 for 7 in 90 overs.

Nafees struck 17 boundaries and three sixes during his 168-ball knock.

"The innings felt good and it is always great to score big," said Nafees.

"Whether I will get back in the Test team entirely depends on the selectors and team management. I have

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

Japan win women's WC

Football

AFP, Frankfurt

Japan's World Cup victory can only help women's football to grow after the success of Germany 2011. USA coach Pia Sundhage has said after her side lost the final 3-1 on penalties.

Japan became the first Asian team to win the World Cup after captain Homare Sawa, voted player of the tournament and the event's top-scorer, equalised in the 117th minute to tie the scores at 2-2 after extra time.

They finished the game with 10 players after defender Azusa Iwashimizu was sent off in the 121st minute for a foul on the edge of the penalty area.

But the Japanese held their nerve and goalkeeper Ayumi Kaihori saved two penalties before defender Saki Kumagai hit the winning spot-kick to trigger huge celebrations from Frankfurt all the way back to Tokyo.

This was Japan's first win over the Americans at the 26th time of trying and Sundhage praised the winners by saying their fighting spirit could only benefit women's football.

"There is something to be said about the way Japan plays," she said.

"They are comfortable with the ball even when they are behind and that kind of thing is good for women's football."

The women's World Cup has been heralded by FIFA, the sport's governing body, as a huge success with 782,000 tickets out of a possible 900,000 tickets sold and 86 per cent of the overall stadiums' capacity was used.

The stars of the show have been Japan who proved height does not matter -- their tallest player is 1.71 metres -- as they floored some giants of the women's game.

Despite their nickname of Nadeshiko -- a delicate flower symbolising grace and beauty -- Japan were the giant-killers of Germany 2011 as they stunned the hosts in the quarter-finals.

Germany had been one of the favourites, along with Brazil and England, but all three exited in the quarter-finals.

Having scored a hat-trick in the 4-0 group stage win over Mexico, Sawa produced a long-range pass for the winning goal to seal a 1-0 victory over Germany in the quarterfinal in Wolfsburg.

Likewise, the USA left it until the

122nd minute of their quarterfinal against Brazil to make it 2-2 after extra time in Dresden.

Then Hope Solo, who has also captured the imagination here with stellar performances, was the hero in the penalty shoot-out.

The USA beat the south Americans 5-3 on penalties to make the last four and while Brazil's star player Marta, voted the best women's player in the world for the last five years, bowed out, Sawa showed some Asian flair.

Just like the Brazilians, England threw away the lead against France to crash out in their quarterfinal, also on penalties.

Sweden, who beat France 2-1 in the third-place play-off to finish third, managed a group stage win over the USA, but eventually lost in the semifinal in Frankfurt as the Japanese came from behind to inflict a 3-1 win.

The Swedes caught the imagination with their dance routine borrowed from Olympique Lyon by striker Lotta Schelin and inspired by French rapper Moussier Tombola's hit Logobitombo.

The USA went through to the final with a workman-like performance in the rain in Moenchengladbach to

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

MSC declare new election schedule

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan SC Limited declared its election schedules again yesterday with the poll to be held on August 1 at the Ruposhi Bangla hotel.

The final 213-voters list will be revealed on July 20 while the sale of nomination papers for one president post and 16 directors' posts will get underway the following day.

The hearing on candidature will take place on July 24 and the candidates will have a day if they want to withdraw their nominations. The final list of candidature will be published on July 26.

The election of Mohammedan SC Ltd was originally scheduled for June 20 but it could not take place following lawsuits filed by its members as well as former club secretary and the Motijheel-tent later sought extension of deadline of the election to the court.



Japanese team celebrate their first ever FIFA Women's World Cup triumph. Japan beat USA 3-1 in a penalty shoot-out in the final in Frankfurt on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP