

# Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY JULY 21, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Terry wants to coach Chelsea

Chelsea captain John Terry has reiterated his desire to become manager of the club but hopes new manager Andre Villas-Boas will be around for "for a long time," reports said Wednesday.

Terry, 30, said he believed the appointment of Villas-Boas showed Chelsea was willing to appoint a young manager, pointing out that he will be the same age as the 33-year-old when his contract expires.

"Obviously that's my overall aim, to become manager," Chelsea was quoted by The Daily Telegraph as saying.



## Booters off to Lebanon

Coach, captain full of hope

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh football embarked on its most important journey ever when the 20-member national team left for Beirut last night to take on Lebanon in the away leg of the FIFA World Cup pre-qualifying Round-2 on July 23.

Bangladesh have never made it to the group phase of the Asian zone of World Cup qualifiers before, but everyone including the coach, captain and the players believe that this time they can make it by beating Lebanon, who are fourteen places below Bangladesh in FIFA rankings, over the two legs.

"Lebanon may be favourites on paper considering their home advantage, but I believe my players have the quality to beat them. My players have trained strictly and in a disciplined way and I worked on formation and system to combine the eleven who would be the toughest players on the pitch," said Bangladesh coach Nikola Ilievski yesterday.

The 56-year old Macedonian also said that he now has a clearer idea of the side than prior to taking on Pakistan, whom they beat 3-0 on aggregate to move to round-2. And with the inclusion of defenders Mohammad Sujan, Wali Faisal, midfielder Pranotosh Kumar and striker Mohammad Robin, he might be opting for a 4-1-4-1 formation,



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh football coach Nikola Ilievski talks to the press while captain Biplob Bhattacharjee looks on at the BFF House yesterday.

which may again turn into 4-3-3 or 4-5-1 depending on the situation of the match.

"Before the Pakistan match at home, I had no choice in selecting the squad but this time I had conducted seven sessions in five days and watched 6 Super Cup matches before picking the squad that is stronger than the squad that played against Pakistan," said Ilievski.

The Macedonian coach said that even though they would be satisfied with a point from the away game, he would opt for attacking football rather than defensive.

Ilievski conceded that he does not have much insight into the Lebanon side, but felt it was more important to know his own players

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## BCB worried about Shakib comments

SPORTS REPORTER

The Australian Stuart Law began his journey with the Tigers yesterday but the centre of discussion at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur was not the Australian's first day as Bangladesh coach rather the debate on team selection between the selectors and captain.

The comments of Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan not only hurt chief selector Akram Khan but also his two colleagues Minhazul Abedin and Habibul Bashar as they claimed that they were present while the chief selector was talking with Shakib over the phone.

Everybody however was curious about Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)'s reaction on the issue. And as a chairman of the cricket operations committee Enayet Hossain Siraj was the right man to give the opinion.

The veteran organiser however was not ready to think about whether Shakib had made the comments going beyond his jurisdiction or breached the code of conduct. But he did raise

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Rubel Hossain (L) and Robiul Islam run with parachutes attached to their backs during Tigers' training at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Skipper ducks Law's debut

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Shakib Al Hasan's absence from training yesterday, the first day under new coach Stuart Law, didn't go by unnoticed, one day after his criticism of the national selectors.

While vice-captain Tamim Iqbal was at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium despite being on a seven-day break due to a groin injury, a proper

explanation for the missing skipper remained elusive as nobody from the team management or the cricket operations committee could give the exact reason with most shirking away with the line, "I don't know."

It is apparent that Shakib might have wanted to avoid the media present during training after chief selector Akram Khan contested his claims of not being informed about the team before it was named, though it was later learned that he did indeed take leave but again, the reason remained unknown.

The new trainer Law, the former Australian cricketer and Sri Lanka assistant coach who was appointed the Tigers' head coach last month, was asked how he felt about the absence of the two top cricketers on his first day.

"They've been away playing county cricket in England. Tamim Iqbal has a slight groin problem, he probably wouldn't have taken part in the fielding, the warm-up or the gym session," said Law while speaking to the reporters.

"I'm quite happy that those guys

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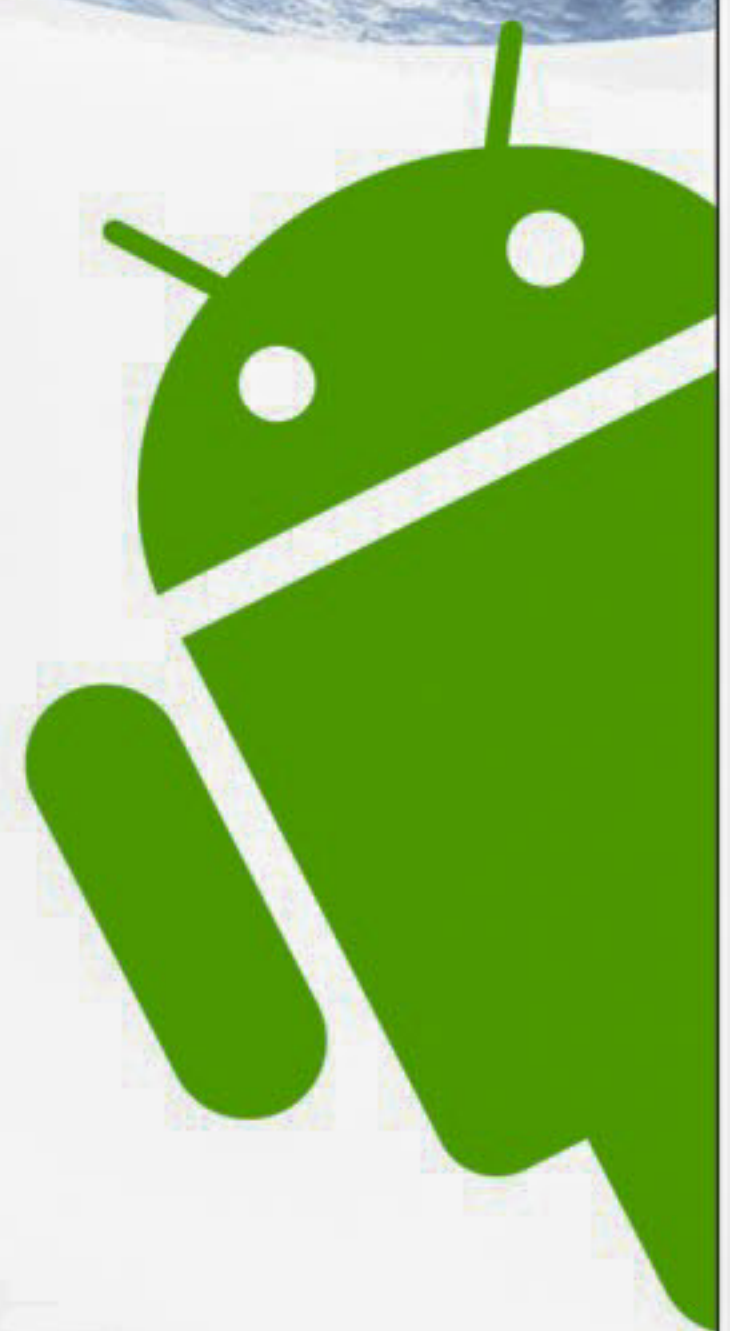
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