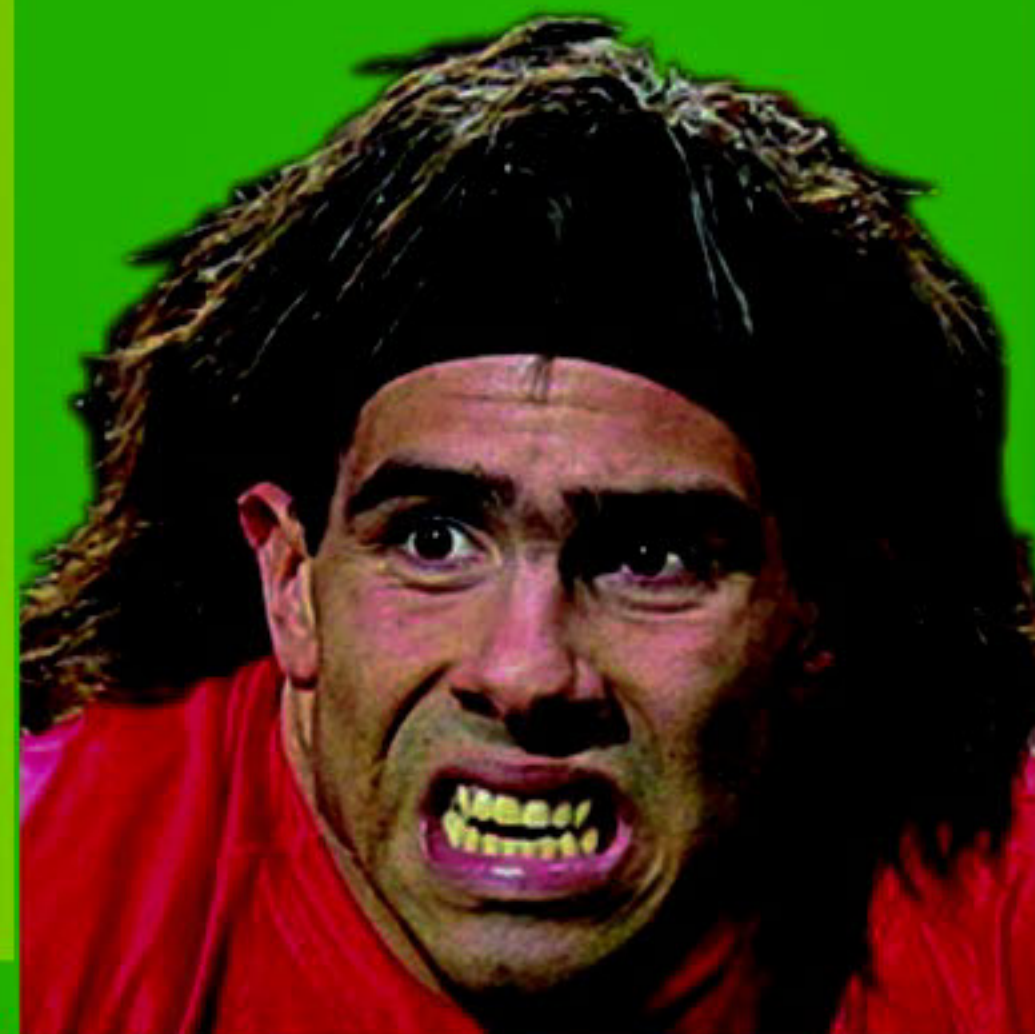


Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY JULY 26, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Tevez slams Fergie

Manchester City striker Carlos Tevez has slammed Sir Alex Ferguson's claim that he was not offered a new contract at Manchester United because he was planning to retire within four years. Tevez quit United to sign for bitter rivals City in a controversial transfer in 2009. Tevez wants a transfer after growing unhappy following his family's failure to settle in Manchester and their subsequent return to Argentina. The 27-year-old has already seen a potential move to Brazilian club Corinthians come to nothing and few clubs seem willing to meet his huge wage demands.



Bangladesh's cricket team's captain Shakib Al Hasan (R) listens intently to what the coach Stuart Law has to say during their official press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. The team will be leaving tomorrow for Zimbabwe where they will play one Test and five one-day internationals against the hosts.

PHOTO: STAR

Tigers excited about Test return

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Without being unduly bothered about their prolonged absence from the longer-version of the game, the Bangladesh national team players were instead upbeat about getting back to the number one form of the game; Test cricket.

Terming the five-day game as the best form, both Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan and new head coach Stuart Law echoed the sentiment on Monday that the fourteen-month gap from Test cricket would not be a big issue when they take on Zimbabwe in Harare in the lone Test match from August 4.

The Bangladesh team will leave Dhaka tomorrow to play in one Test and five one-day internationals during their 26-day trip in Zimbabwe.

"I've always said that Test cricket is the best form of cricket. It is a complete test of what a player is capable of. It is challenging because we're playing a Test after a long time and we are playing them in their own conditions. But everyone should be excited about the fact that we are going to play Test cricket again after a long gap and I'm sure they're interested to do well in the Test," said captain Shakib while speaking in an official press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Stuart Law didn't get enough time to share his ideas with the boys ahead of the important trip, especially considering that the players were involved in one-day and T20 cricket for the best part of the last one and half years, but the Australian looked at the positives ahead of his first assignment with the Tigers.

"It's a different mindset. The boys have played a lot of one-day and Twenty20 cricket so it's not ideal. On the other hand, they should be excited to be getting back into Test match cricket, which for me is the number one form of the game. Hopefully the boys will react to it that way. It's an opportunity as well to take a step up that ladder," said Law when asked about Bangladesh's absence from Test cricket for the last fourteen months.

The new coach also said that it's all about the mental approach, which has to change when the boys shift their focus to the longer version from the shorter ones.

"I don't think there is any pressure to show that we are better. Zimbabwe had problems off the field but look, they'll be a tough unit. It's going to be a tough test obviously.

"But it's not a skill problem as I've seen. The players are highly skilled. It's a mental problem -- mental approach has to change in Test cricket. They have to find a tempo that suits Test cricket with their batting. I've set a challenge for us to bat 120 overs in the first innings," said Law praising the players' performance.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Booters resigned to fate England into the lead

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national football team returned home yesterday evening after their disappointing performance against Lebanon in their away match of the World Cup pre-qualifying in Beirut and will start preparation for the July 28 home match from today.

The players, officials and coaching staff looked disappointed with their 4-0 drubbing at the hands of Lebanon that all but shattered Bangladesh's hope of playing in the qualification round with the top 20 teams from Asia.

However all of them readily admitted that the Lebanon side were much better than Bangladesh.

"Lebanon are a far better side than us. They have several players who are playing in leagues abroad so it was not unusual to lose against Lebanon," Macedonian coach Nikola Ilievski told reporters at the airport.

The coach also believed it would be an

uphill task to overcome a 4-0 deficit in the home match and almost gave up hope.

"The Lebanese are physically strong and I am not sure whether we can overcome the deficit," he said.

About the exclusion of goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee, Nikola said, "Mamun [Khan] was in better form than Biplob so I was thinking of the change. Moreover Biplob had an upset stomach at the last moment which made the decision obvious."

He, however, said that Bangladesh could have conceded more goals had Biplob played while Mamun Khan saved at least three good chances.

"To be truthful, none of our 11 players could perform well. Besides, Lebanon with three to four quality players were the better side on the pitch. Although we created a few scoring chances we could not avail any of them," said captain Mohammad Sujon adding that coach Nikola Ilievski had chosen the playing eleven keeping goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee out of the starting squad.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Cricket

AFP, London

James Anderson took five wickets as England thrashed India by 196 runs to win the first Test at Lord's here on Monday.

Victory gave England a 1-0 lead in a four-match series which if they win it by two Tests will see them replace India at the top of the ICC's Test Championship table.

India, needing what would have been a Test record fourth innings victory total of 458, were bowled out for 261.

Anderson took five for 65 in 28 overs during an innings where Suresh Raina top-scored with 78.

Kevin Pietersen was named man-of-the-match for his 202 not out in England's first innings 474 for eight declared.

Before tea India had seen Sachin Tendulkar's latest bid to score his 100th

international hundred, and first in a Lord's Test, end in failure when he was lbw to Anderson for 12.

They started the final session on 218 for five, with Raina 54 not out and India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni 16 not out.

Importantly England had a new ball that was only an over old and fast bowler Chris Tremlett used it well to dismiss Dhoni for his interval score as he edged a rising delivery to wicketkeeper Matt Prior.

New batsman Harbhajan Singh went for his shots, taking boundaries off Tremlett and Stuart Broad.

Raina, on 63, with India 243 for six, survived a huge lbw appeal from Broad which replays indicated was right in front.

It did not prove decisive, however, with left-hander Raina ninth man out when he was caught behind off Anderson to end more than two hours' resistance featuring 10 fours.

Broad finished the match with more than 28 overs to spare when he had last man Ishant Sharma lbw for one.

Tendulkar, in front of a capacity crowd in what was the 2,000th Test of all-time and the 100th between the two countries, rarely looked comfortable from then on and he might have been lbw for 11 to Broad.

Tendulkar spent 38 balls on 11 in all but it still seemed as if it might be his day when, on 12, he was dropped by England captain Andrew Strauss at first slip off Anderson.

But two balls later Anderson nipped one back to strike Tendulkar in front of his stumps and this time New Zealand's Bowden raised his finger to end a becalmed 85-minute innings that featured just one boundary.

India were 165 for five with the 38-year-old Tendulkar, who has now made 195 runs in nine Test innings at Lord's at an average of 21.66 with a best of

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Women's handball from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The 14th Delta Life Women's College-University Handball tournament gets underway today at the Handball Stadium with four matches slated for the opening day.

Twelve teams, split into four groups, will play the round-robin league matches and top teams of each group will advance to the semifinals which are scheduled for July 29. The final will be held on August 1.

Of the estimated budget of Tk 8.25 lakh, sponsors Delta Life will provide Tk 7 lakh and rest of the amount will be arranged by the federation, informed speakers at a press conference at the federation office yesterday.

Syed Moazzem Hussain, chairman of sponsors Delta Lift, will declare the 12-team meet open while officials of the Bangladesh Handball Federation will also be present.

GROUPINGS

GROUP A: Viqarunnisa Noon School & College, Lalmatia Women's College and Dr Malika University.

GROUP B: Siddeshwari Girls College, Mirpur Girls Ideal Lab and Ahmed Bawani Women's College.

GROUP C: Eden Women's College, Central Women's College and Dhaka Imperial College.

GROUP D: Holycross College, Ispahani Girls School and College and Home Economics College.

Shahjahan out in heats

SPORTS REPORTER

Shahjahan Ali Rony was eliminated from the heat in the 14th FINA World Swimming Championship in Shanghai as the SA Games gold medallist clocked 1:10.02 minutes in 100m Breast Stroke heat yesterday.

Rony finished 75th out of 80 swimmers, said a press release from Bangladesh Swimming Federation.

NATIONAL SHOOTING Armin sets new mark

SPORTS REPORTER

Armin Asha of Narayanganj Rifles Club broke her own record to snatch gold in the Women's 10m Air Pistol event of the 25th National Shooting Competition at the Gulshan Shooting Complex yesterday. Asha scored 473.9 points out of 509 to take the gold, beating her nearest finisher Miti Dewan (454.2) of Dhaka Rifles Club by a massive 19.7 points. Sinthia Naznin of Dhaka Rifles Club took the bronze scoring 451.5 points.

The 473.9 point score was an 8.7 point improvement over Asha's previous record (465.2) which she set during the 2009 National Championship. This was the second national record in the ongoing championships after Sharmin Akter Ratna broke the 10m Air Rifle record on Sunday.

Tripti Dutta of BKSP Shooting Club, who came second best to Ratna in that event, made up for her missed gold by winning the Women's 50m Rifle Three Position gold yesterday. Tripti took the gold with a score of 654.5 points, beating Suraiya Akter of Narayanganj Rifles Club (632.2) to silver and Sharmin Shilpa of Dhaka Rifles Club (627.2) to bronze.

In the Men's 25m Pistol event, Sheikh Shahadat Ahmed of Army Shooting Association won gold with a score of 519. Silver went to Hafizur Rahman of Kushtia Rifles Club (508) while bronze was taken by Ripon Kumar Saha of BKSP Shooting Club (502).

On the last day of the meet today, three events will be decided. Those are: Men's 10m Air Pistol; Men's 50m Rifle Three Position; and Men's Skit Shooting.



England seamer James Anderson (3rd from L) celebrates with wicketkeeper Matt Prior after removing Rahul Dravid (not in picture) on the last day of the Lord's Test in London on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP