

# Star SPORT

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## Beckhams want another baby

David Beckham and wife Victoria hope to have another child, he said Friday, only two months after the former Spice Girl gave birth to their fourth child. "If we were lucky enough to have another one, it would be great," the 36-year-old said on The Ellen DeGeneres US television show, according to pre-broadcast excerpts cited by celebrity bible People magazine. "We always spoke about having a big family. We love children. We are very blessed to have four healthy children so if one comes along that would be amazing," he added.

— AFP



## 'Sacking outright is not right'

Cricket

BISHWAJIT ROY

It was not Shakib (Al Hasan), rather Bangladesh cricket is the loser. The comment was made by none other than Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) director Enayet Hossain Siraj, who is also the chairman of cricket operations committee, while giving his reaction yesterday over the sacking of the national team captain and his deputy Tamim Iqbal.

**Bangladesh coach Stuart Law (L) speaks to Tamim Iqbal during training at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Tamim is likely to miss today's game against BCB Academy due to a stiff neck.**

PHOTO: STAR

"You can hire a coach or other supporting staff, but you can't hire a captain, so you have to be careful in this regard. Once we had axed some senior players at a time and still we have been compensating for that. For every wrongdoing you have to pay heavily," said Siraj, who was absent from the board meeting in which the decisions were taken and only returned home on Friday after a business trip.

"The board has every right to take any decision and we have to accept it, but only time can say how good the decision was," added Siraj while talking with The Daily Star Sport over telephone.

It was the first time that a board high-up publicly expressed his reservations about the merit of the board's decision.

Questions have already been raised about the manner of the decision, branded as 'whimsical' in many quarters, and many have pointed the finger of blame at the inef-

iciency of the cricket operations committee for their failure in handling some issues properly, but Siraj had his own views regarding the issue.

"Even a person condemned to death gets the opportunity to defend himself. My question is, was Shakib given this opportunity? I don't think so. There is a code of conduct for the contracted players and you have to first see whether they breach it or not before taking any disciplinary action. And without any hearing you can't reach a final decision," said Siraj.

He also underlined the difference between 'discipline problem' and 'attitude problem'.

"A lot of questions have been raised but I think Stuart Law cleared the air. It's better not to say anything more regarding this disciplinary or attitude problem issues," he added.

Though many believe that taking such a crucial decision without consultation with the cricket operations chairman or his committee is an insult to him, Siraj said that he has no ill feelings as he believed that it was nothing personal.

"There is nothing personal, so why should I feel insulted by the decision which was taken in the highest forum of any organization? The duty of the cricket operations committee is to keep the cricket in the right direction and if you think it has failed to do so you can take any decision," said Siraj.

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## BANGLADESH VS WI SERIES DRS use still up in the air

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is not yet sure whether the Decision Review System (DRS) will be in place for the coming home series against West Indies.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) in its annual conference in June in Hong Kong had agreed to make the DRS mandatory for all Tests and ODIs, subject to commercial considerations.

According to the BCB, there are three options regarding use of the DRS. The host cricket board can avoid using the DRS with the ICC's consent, or they may follow the minimum standard or the enhance standard. For using any of the two standards, they must pay heavily as expensive technology like

Hawkeye is required.

BCB is considering following the minimum standard but the broadcaster, Nimbus, can only fulfill three requirements -- slow motion, super slow motion and audio vision on stumps -- out of the five. Hot Spot and Ultra slow motion are the other technology required for the minimum standard. In the ongoing series between Sri Lanka and Australia, the broadcasters do not have the last two technologies available but they're still using the DRS.

The board already sent a letter to ICC seeking their advice whether the three requirements will be good enough for the DRS and will take the decision after the governing body's recommendation.

There is no need to pay anything for the three but the board have to pay

nearly Tk 2 crore if they want to fully use the DRS.

"Hopefully we will use the DRS (Decision Review System) in minimum standard. We are waiting for ICC's advice in this regard," said Enayet Hossain Siraj, BCB's cricket operations committee chairman yesterday.

Besides DRS, there are some other new rules which will become effective from October 1.

The other new rules are: batsmen will not be allowed runners in international cricket, two new balls, one from each end will be used, in ODIs, only one incorrect challenge to an on-field umpire's decision will be allowed per innings, as opposed to two, as at present and elective Powerplays will be restricted to between the 16th and 40th over of an ODI innings

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## Lanka solid in reply

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Kumar Sangakkara hit an unbeaten 61 in his 100th Test as Sri Lanka responded bravely to Australia's 316 in the third and final game of the series in Colombo on Saturday.

Sri Lanka, seeking a series-levelling win, 166-2 in their first innings after a batting Michael Hussey had steered the tourists out of Sports Club.

Mahela Jayawardene chipped in with 31 not out 69 with Sangakkara to leave the hosts 150 runs

in hand. Hussey followed a match-winning 95 and 142 in the drawn second game at 118 studded with 12 boundaries and

The left-hander, a veteran of 62 Tests, on way to his 15th century -- the fourth

The 36-year-old's value to the team the fact that he has scored four of six Test centuries, the other two coming of Brad Haddin and Shaun Marsh.

The hosts began their

closed the second day at masterclass from trouble at the Sinhalese

in a third-wicket stand of behind with eight wick-

ets in the first Test in Galle

Pallekele with a fluent

two sixes.

passed 5,000 Test runs

against Sri Lanka.

can be gauged by

Australia's last

from the blades

reply slowly as

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## Karim lone candidate for MSC presidency

SPORTS REPORTER

The Mohammedan Sporting Club election saga served up a sensational twist yesterday when Obaidul Karim popped up at the scene with a desire to run the presidency of the prestigious club.

Karim, the chairman of Orion Group, was the lone candidate to have submitted his nomination paper for the post of president of Mohammedan, which has been plagued by internal conflict ever since it turned into a limited company in March this year.

Besides, 20 other aspirants have also submitted their nominations for the posts of 16 directors on a day

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## Asia Cup faces delay again Second tier in November?

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Asia Cup could be delayed further if a proposed India-Pakistan series gets the green signal from both countries.

The bilateral series could push back the regional cricket tournament that is slated to be held between March 13 and 21.

Asian Cricket Council CEO Syed Ashraful Huq and Bangladesh Cricket Board media committee chairman Jalal Yunus have both said yesterday that both the ACC and BCB haven't been told about such changes in the schedule.

According to a report last week by the Press Trust of India (PTI), the postponement of the biennial competition now depends on BCCI and PCB holding talks and confirming a date, which could well be after the Australia tri-series which also involves India and Sri Lanka.

This tri-nation tournament had earlier delayed the Asia Cup which was first scheduled to be held between March 1 and 12.

The Asia Cup, organised by the ACC, has often run into trouble. In its history of 27 years, numerous such postponements and pull-outs have dogged this tournament. India didn't play the second edition in 1986 as they had a sour political relation at the time with hosts Sri Lanka. Similarly, Pakistan pulled out of the 1990 tournament due to a similar reason, this time in India while in 1993, there was no Asia Cup due to the India-Pakistan tension at the time.

Since 2000, the two-year gap was followed but almost all the tournaments had to be delayed for some reason or the other.

The 2012 edition will be the eleventh in the tournament's history.

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

With a bid to filling the gap between Bangladesh League and First Division and have the circle of football in place, Bangladesh Football Federation plans to hold the second tier football league from November. A meeting with some of the interested clubs was held at the BFF house in this regard in which various issues including venues, financial solvency, format of the league, venues and other things were discussed.

"We called the clubs to discuss several aspects of the second tier league, which we are hoping to commence within November and before the start of the Bangladesh League," said BFF senior vice-president Salam Murshedy after the meeting at the BFF house yesterday.

However, the fact remains that five years after the introduction of the top tier professional league (Bangladesh League), the second tier is still very much in the BFF boardroom and not much headway has been made in the four meetings over the last four months.

"We don't want the second tier to stop once it gets started, which is why we want to make sure everything is in order and properly executed. We will finish the bylaws within the next seven days, after having the feedback from the clubs," defended Salam.

Salam said that they have finalised five venues (Dhaka, Ctg, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar, and Narayanganj) for the league, each of which will be used in turn to cut back on costs. However, unlike in the Bangladesh League, no team will be

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PHOTO: AFP

**Australia's Mike Hussey raises his bat after reaching his 15th century on the second day of the third and final Test against Sri Lanka at the SSC ground in Colombo on Saturday.**

## Razzak's turn in the hot seat

SPORTS REPORTER

Abdur Razzak has confirmed that he will lead the national team in today's BCB Cup game against the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

"Yes, I was told that I will captain the team tomorrow [Sunday]," Razzak said last night.

Razzak was made vice-captain for the season opening tournament with Mushfiqur Rahim as the skipper while Mahmudullah Riyad is the captain of Bangladesh A (with Junaed Siddiqui as his deputy).

Chief selector Akram Khan said that the change was to check everyone out, even for the vice-captain's role.

"I spoke to Stuart [Law]

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