



Tigers' opener Tamim Iqbal works the ball on the leg-side during his blazing unbeaten 66 against Bangladesh A in their BCB Cup game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Neuer demonised

Manuel Neuer shrugged off a steady stream of abuse, as well as being demonised as 'Judas' by fans of former club Schalke on Sunday, claiming he expected to face hostility on his return to Gelsenkirchen. Neuer, who skippered the Royal Blues to the German Cup last season, made a controversial switch to Bayern Munich in the summer and on Sunday, Schalke's fans let him know that the resentment still burns deep. Several anti-Neuer banners hung around the Veltins Arena. One read: "We mourn M. Neuer - who died between 2005-2011 - Resurrected"



## BCB might pick captain today

Meeting to discuss more major issues

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The directors' meeting of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), to be held at the the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today, is expected to decide the new national captain and his deputy. The meeting is a continuation of the adjourned board meeting of September 5 where the decision to sack Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal was taken.

There is hardly a lot of options as far as the Tigers' captaincy is concerned, which is why wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim is the likely candidate for the hot seat while Mahmudullah Riyad is being considered as his deputy, although the possibility of an unlikely candidate getting the nod cannot be ruled out.

When asked, BCB media committee chairman Jalal Yunus could not assure whether the new captain's name will be announced in the meeting or not, but he hinted that there is a chance, as the West Indies will arrive in Dhaka on October 4 and

the board will have to give the new skipper some time before the home series starts. The Akram-led selection panel will submit a preliminary squad for the board's approval.

Although the main agenda is discussing the issue of the development of cricket in the country, many directors felt that the board must finalise the appointment of new skipper in the meeting where the directors will also give their opinions on the proposed constitution amendment.

In the last meeting, some expressed their views on the amendment but many felt that there is no point in bringing changes to the constitution except to incorporate the provision that a president has to be elected as per the guideline of the International Cricket Council (ICC), which sought democratisation of the boards in its Hong Kong AGM.

The ICC has asked for elected presidents of the respective boards to make sure of no political interference in the running of the board. In line with the ICC guideline, the BCB is going to amend the constitution as currently the BCB president is handpicked

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## Tamim champions BCB Cup

Also urges to keep home advantage

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite the rain and some very uninspiring play, especially by his opposition yesterday, Tamim Iqbal believed that a tournament like the BCB Cup serves cricket well.

The left-handed opener hammered an unbeaten 66 in the Tigers' 10-wicket win over Bangladesh A in the rain-curtailed match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. After the second string side were routed for 167 runs in 46.3 overs, Tamim and Imrul Kayes had batted just two deliveries before heavy rain in Mirpur kept the players away for almost three hours. Set 100 to win from 20 overs, Tamim's fiery 51-ball dig that had ten boundaries was enough to finish the game in only 15 overs.

"This sort of tournament is a good initiative. It

was competitive today and the matches have the look and feel of a real competition, because we plan in that manner. I hope they continue holding such tournaments like the BCB Cup," Tamim said afterwards, asking if it could be a regular fixture like the Dhaka Premier League.

Though Tamim hastened the Tigers' victory in the late afternoon session, it was also an important little innings for Imrul Kayes, who batted with some freedom to make 20 off 41 balls. The Merherpurn-born batsman, who had a miserable time in Zimbabwe, struck two solid boundaries in his hour-long stay at the wicket, probably for the first time since the fourth ODI in Bulawayo last month.

Supportive of his longstanding opening partner, Tamim joked that there was much love between the duo but added that it was important that everyone supports Imrul at this hour.

"He batted well for a year. If he's dropped, he will have to start all over again when given the next chance. Everyone has to realise that it is a matter

of one good innings before his confidence picks up. I am sure he will find support from everyone involved," said Tamim, who has opened with Imrul 74 times in international cricket.

Meanwhile, the lowly 100-run target came about after the national bowlers, particularly Nasir Hossain, struck the Bangladesh A batsmen hard. Nazmul Hossain removed both openers early before the spinners set in. Nasir ran through the Bangladesh A middle-order, taking out Nadif Chowdhury, Mahmudullah Riyad, Rokibul Hasan and Elias Sunny, as they were reduced to 95 for seven in the 31st over. Abdur Razzak, who was leading the Tigers in the field for the first time after his first game in charge was called off midway, took three wickets while Nazmul added a third too.

When asked about the much fresher pitches in use during this tournament, Tamim believes it will be unlike a Bangladesh wicket if these are continued upon. "I think we should play in wickets that

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## Stalwarts appeal to save MSC

SPORTS REPORTER

When a circular pinned on the notice board of Mohammed Sporting Club's Motijheel premises revealed a list of 14 individuals, including the name of a new president yesterday, many thought it marked the end of a long and gruelling election saga of the prestigious club.

The list which announced Obaidul Karim, the lone candidate for the presidency, elected unopposed along with 13 directors following the withdrawal of seven candidates of what should have been a body 16 directors, however, was not an ideal outcome.

Rather, the whole election drama starting from the submission of nominations papers on Saturday was greeted by anger from a number of proven Mohammedan organisers and players. And the outburst under the banner of the Mohammedan family at Hotel Purbani in the afternoon was quite extensive, clearly suggesting that the manner in which the whole election episode was undertaken has failed to fulfil the demand of a consensus and a dynamic body of a club which is set to start a new journey as a limited company.

"Till Saturday everything was going in the right direction in the quest of forming a consensus committee but the scenario suddenly changed when Obaidul Karim submitted his nomination as a president candidate instead of the existing board president Kutubuddin Ahmed," said Badal Roy in his introductory speech.

"The changed scenario promoted other proven organisers to pull out from a panel which we believe was not a panel of Obaidul Karim but a panel of Lokman Hossain," added the former Mohammed stalwart and now a member of the club.

"I don't mind for not being a member of the board of directors. But we will not tolerate someone who has not been with the club before to come and fulfil their ill motives, said the former midfielder.

He said that a vested group has emerged

ever since the club turned into a limited company in March this year.

He also urged both the present president and president-elect to find out a formula so that the club can be run by a set of directors acceptable to everybody.

Abdus Salam Mursheedy, another brand name of Mohammedan, said: "All of the Mohammedan members sitting here may have the ability to be president, but we have to consider their organising capability, financial solvency, dedication towards the club as well as games. But those, who are contesting in the elections, have no such quality I believe."

Mursheedy, also a senior vice-president of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), said that he has nothing to earn from Mohammedan because the club has given him everything including the most adored branding.

"There are hundred of Salams but I'm the only Salam of Mohammedan and I feel very proud for that.

While pointing to Mahbubul Anam, sitting next to him, along with Sajed AA Adel, Luthfar Rahman Badal, Shariful Alam, Mostaqur Raman, Imtiaz Sultan, Rumman Bin Wali, Riaz and Aminul Haq Moni, Salam said that all of them have been paying heavily or showing extreme dedication for the club for a long time.

"We wanted to make Mohammedan a model sports institute. But the initiatives were barred in different ways when the matter of election came. That's why we wanted to form a consensus committee but we failed due to the intervention of a vested group," said Mahbub a former Mohammedan player turned organiser.

He also urged the president to take initiatives to protect the club from the vested group.

"There was no conflict in the club until it turned into a limited company and a vested group is trying to capture Mohammedan's Motijheel land worth Tk 300-350 crore and 25-acre lands in Savar," said Fazlur Rahman Babul, a veteran organiser.

## Shakib goes cheaply for KKR

SPORTS REPORTER

Shakib Al Hasan was run out for four in Kolkata Knight Riders' first Champions League T20 qualifiers game at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad yesterday.

The former national captain, who was the world's No 1 all-rounder till April this year, was a victim of Auckland's brilliant fielding. In the 18th over bowled by Chris Martin, Rajat Bhatia forced a ball to mid-off from where Andre Adams, the former New Zealand paceman, nailed Shakib with a direct hit. Shakib looked to be backing up too far and wasn't even close to making it back.

He had made four runs off seven balls, coming into bat at No 7, out of Kolkata's 121 for six from 20 overs after Jacques Kallis had won the toss and decided to bat first.

It was a bright start from Manvinder Bisla and Kallis, who added 73 for the first wicket with the wicketkeeper hammering 45 off 32 balls with the help of seven boundaries and a six. The South African all-rounder made 33 off 35 balls but apart

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## Hughes ton carries Australia to lead

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka kept their hopes alive of securing a series-levelling win over Australia in the final Test in Colombo on Monday, despite an unbeaten century from opener Phil Hughes.

Left-arm spinner Rangana Herath grabbed all three wickets as the tourists, trailing by 157 runs on the first innings, ended the fourth day's play at 209-3 in their second knock at the Sinhalese Sports Club.

Hughes was unbeaten on 122 and skipper Michael Clarke was on eight, with Australia going into the final day on Tuesday 52 runs ahead with seven wickets in hand.

Clarke's men will need to bat out at least two of the last three sessions to draw the match and clinch the series 1-0 on the back of a 125-run win in the first Test in Galle.

The rain-hit second match in Pallekele was drawn.

Hughes had walked to the crease in danger of losing his spot in the team after failing to score a half-century in 11 innings since an unbeaten 86 against New Zealand in March last year.

The left-hander, who had an umpire's review for a catch at the wicket go in his favour off the last ball of the day, responded with an aggressive knock that contained 16 boundaries and a six.

Hughes had also survived a review for leg-before on 99 before cutting seamer Chanaka Welegedara for two runs later in the same over to bring up his third Test century. Hughes celebrated the landmark by raising

his fist towards the travelling Australian media in the press box before he acknowledged the cheers from his team-mates and the crowd.

Hughes contributed 36 in an opening stand of 62 with Shane Watson, who fell leg-before to Herath for 21 when a TV review overturned umpire Tony Hill's decision to reprieve the batsman.

Shaun Marsh added 60 for the second wicket with Hughes when he was given out by Hill, caught at short-leg off Herath, even though replays showed the ball made no contact with the bat.

Marsh, surprisingly, did not ask for a review.

Marsh then put on 66 for the third wicket with Ricky Ponting, before the former captain edged a vicious turner from Herath to the slips after making 28.

Earlier, Sri Lanka gained a sizeable lead through a maiden Test century from vice-captain Angelo Mathews.

Mathews returned unbeaten on 105 as the hosts added 45 runs to their overnight score of 428-6 before they were all out for 473 shortly before lunch on the fourth day.

Fast bowler Peter Siddle claimed two of the last four Sri Lankan wickets to finish with 4-91 from 35 overs. Trent Copeland and Mitchell Johnson picked up two wickets each.

Siddle bowled Shaminda Eranga for 12 and trapped Herath leg-before for three within the first hour.

Mathews was stranded on 95 when Sri Lanka lost their ninth wicket, but the right-hander reached the coveted century by driving Siddle to the cover fence for his 10th boundary.

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## U-16 booters keep losing

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh U-16 team suffered their third defeat in as many matches in the AFC U-16 Qualifiers in Iraq on Sunday as they went down to Iran 3-0.

Iran led the first half 1-0, courtesy of a 30-minute strike from Erfan Ishtakri. Hossaini Syed doubled the lead in the 76th minute before Reja Karmoloch finished with a third five in the 81st minute.

Earlier, Bangladesh lost to hosts Iraq 7-0 and were beaten by Palestine 2-0. Bangladesh will play against Qatar in their fourth match today.



Aggrieved Mohammedan stalwarts and officials express their dissatisfaction with the state of affairs of the club at a press conference in Hotel Purbani yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR