

Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Fergie blasts ref Tagliavento

Sir Alex Ferguson was scathing of referee Paolo Tagliavento, disputing the penalty award which helped Basel take the lead against Manchester United during their 3-3 draw at Old Trafford. "I don't think it was a penalty. You could see quite clearly Valencia won the ball. It was a poor decision as far as I'm concerned, disappointing. "The referee kept getting in the road of the game. I don't know how many times there was a pass and he got in the way. I think he wanted to play."

-- AFP



Women tour India, Lanka next month

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh women's cricket team will tour India and Sri Lanka next month. The five matches will prepare the players ahead of the World Cup qualifiers that will begin here from November 14.

The Salma Khatun-led squad of 18 will take on Saurashtra women's team in two one-day games on October 6 and 8 after they arrive on October 4.

Afterwards, they will fly off to Colombo and take on the Sri Lanka national side in three one-dayers on October 11, 13 and 14.

Mamata Maben, the former India international, is the team's coach while Dipu Rai Chowdhury will travel with the team as manager and technical director.

SQUAD

Salma Khatun, Panna Ghosh, Ayesha Akhter, Sukhtara, Jahanara Alam, Shathira Jakir, Farzana Hoque Pinky, Lata Mondol, Rumana Ahmed, Sultana Yesmin Boishakhi, Chamely Khatun, Champa Chakma, Shohaly Akther, Tahin Tahera, Sharmin Akhter Supta, Sanjida Islam, Shamima Sultana, Khadiza Tul Kubra. Coach: Mamata Maben.

Few issues to be resolved



SPORTS REPORTER

Stiff competition in the middle-order, the No 3 quandary and spin bowling form, among other issues, would be discussed primarily when the selectors meet today to finalise the 14-man Tigers' limited-overs teams that will take on West Indies next month.

The Tigers face Darren Sammy's men in a Twenty20 international on October 11 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium before the ODI series begins at the same venue two days later.

Despite being on the back of a 3-2 series defeat at the hands of Zimbabwe, the squad would see few changes with chief selector Akram Khan confirming the tough fight for a place in the middle-order.

"We have a few players for the No 6 and 7 spot. There's a lot of competition there and I think we'll have to really discuss before coming to a conclusion," said chief selector Akram Khan who confirmed that they will submit the team by Friday.

Naeem Islam, Alok Kapali and Nasir Hossain are all up for the position that will come after Shakib Al Hasan and skipper Mushfiqur Rahim. Nasir is leading the pack as of now as he played against Zimbabwe and struck a half-century on debut. But Akram has said that performances during the BCB Cup will be taken into account, giving hope to Naeem and Kapali, who played decent knocks individually.

"We will look at performances as it was

the sort of tournament that helped players like Imrul Kayes come back into form. I think it was a good opportunity for everyone to show where they are at the moment," said Akram.

He also said that while there were trials for the No 3 spot during the season opening one-day tournament with Mohammad Ashraful and Kapali tried at the spot, it is too early to make a call.

"I am only focused on the [squad] of fourteen. I will have to talk to the captain and coach before we make decisions on the playing eleven. We did try Ashraful at three during the BCB Cup but nothing is sure yet," he said.

In the spin department, Abdur Razzak could be given a fair run during the limited overs matches, though Elias Sunny's name is creeping up in conversations mainly due to the left-arm spinner's recent performance.

It wouldn't be surprising if Sunny is in the Twenty20 side as a bowling addition is the only option that the selectors can have in the format which the Tigers are really not experienced in.

Bangladesh haven't played a Twenty20 game for more than a year and on top of that, the format hasn't been played in the country even domestically since the 2009-10 season. It virtually rules out selecting specialists for this version of cricket.

"We don't have many extraordinary Twenty20 players so we will base the team on one-day players. It will mostly be a similar team with a few additions for the ODIs," opined the former national captain.



Nasir Hossain sweeps on his way to 93 not out for BCB Red as wicketkeeper Sahagir Hossain watches during the third day of the practice four-dayer at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Nasir too falls short



SPORTS REPORTER

Similar to Naeem Islam from Day Two, Nasir Hossain too missed a century on the third day of the practice four-dayer at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

But his unbeaten 93 guided BCB Red to 285, a first-innings lead of just four runs, carrying on from their overnight 215-7. In their second innings, BCB Green stumbled their way to 174 for six at the close of play yesterday as they took an overall lead of 170 runs.

Unlike Naeem, Nasir was stranded

in the nineties. The 20-year-old all-rounder, who began the day on 40 off 47 balls, guided the tail in an assured display. His 53 runs on the day had a six off Elias Sunny and a boundary apart from the eight he hit the earlier evening, but his ability to pick the singles in the final two balls was helpful for the Red's cause. Abdur Razzak helped add 57 for the eighth wicket while Shafiqul Islam and Nazmul Hossain hung around for an hour. But the latter couldn't stay to help Nasir score the century as Nazmul gave Tanvir Haider a simple catch off Elias Sunny.

The left-arm spinner took three

wickets, similar to Shahadat Hossain who didn't add to his three.

Green's reply began poorly as Junaed Siddiqui was hit on the elbow by Rubel in the second over, the left-hander wincing in pain. Sahagir Hossain and captain Shahriar Nafees added 70 for the first wicket before the wicketkeeper fell to Mahmudullah Riyad for 26. First innings hero Naeem made only eight before he became Razzak's first victim and in the next over, Nafees missed a half-century as he fell for 46 off 87 balls; the left-hander struck eight boundaries during his two

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Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club striker Sabina Khatun (R) vies with a Dipali Jubo Sangsad player during their Walton Women's Football League opener at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Sabina scored twice as Sheikh Jamal won 4-0. PHOTO: STAR

Tigers to brush up T20 skills



SPORTS REPORTER

With so few Twenty20 matches under the Tigers' belt, it has been decided to make a belated effort and give them some match practice in the format.

Mushfiqur Rahim's men will now play a Twenty20 game (between BCB Red and

BCB Green) on October 3 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. The match will be a day-night affair, replacing the previously scheduled practice one-dayer.

The Twenty20 for October 6 at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium will also be played according to the schedule.

The last Twenty20 international played in the country

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WOMEN'S FOOTBALL Sheikh Jamal's flying start

SPORTS REPORTER

Title contenders Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club got off to a flying start in the opening match of the Walton Women's Football League with an emphatic 4-0 win over Dipali Jubo Sangsad at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

National striker Sabina Khatun struck twice while Sharmin Akhter Rupa and Amra Ching Marma netted one goal apiece for Sheikh Jamal, a team that comprise mostly of national players.

Sheikh Jamal, who have been training for one year for the first-ever women's league involving eight clubs, took only three minutes to open the account, giving an impression of goal galore. National strike Sabina, who has a record of scoring 11 goals in a match, was spearheading the attack for Sheikh Jamal. However, the margin of win was not one that satisfied the Sheikh Jamal coach as the girls of Dipali Jubo Sangsad put on some brave defending.

"I am not satisfied with the margin and it should have been bigger. The opponents adopted defensive strategy and my team found it hard to break down defence," said Sheikh Jamal coach Mosharraf Badal, who however is confident of reaching the final and is expecting Mohammedan SC as the opponents in the final.

Of the eight teams, Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi and

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Congratulations

Our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Obaidul Karim, Honorable Chairman of the Orion Group of Companies, on being elected as the President of Mohammedan Sporting Club.

May this historic club prosper and attain greater heights of glory under his inspiring and dynamic leadership.

