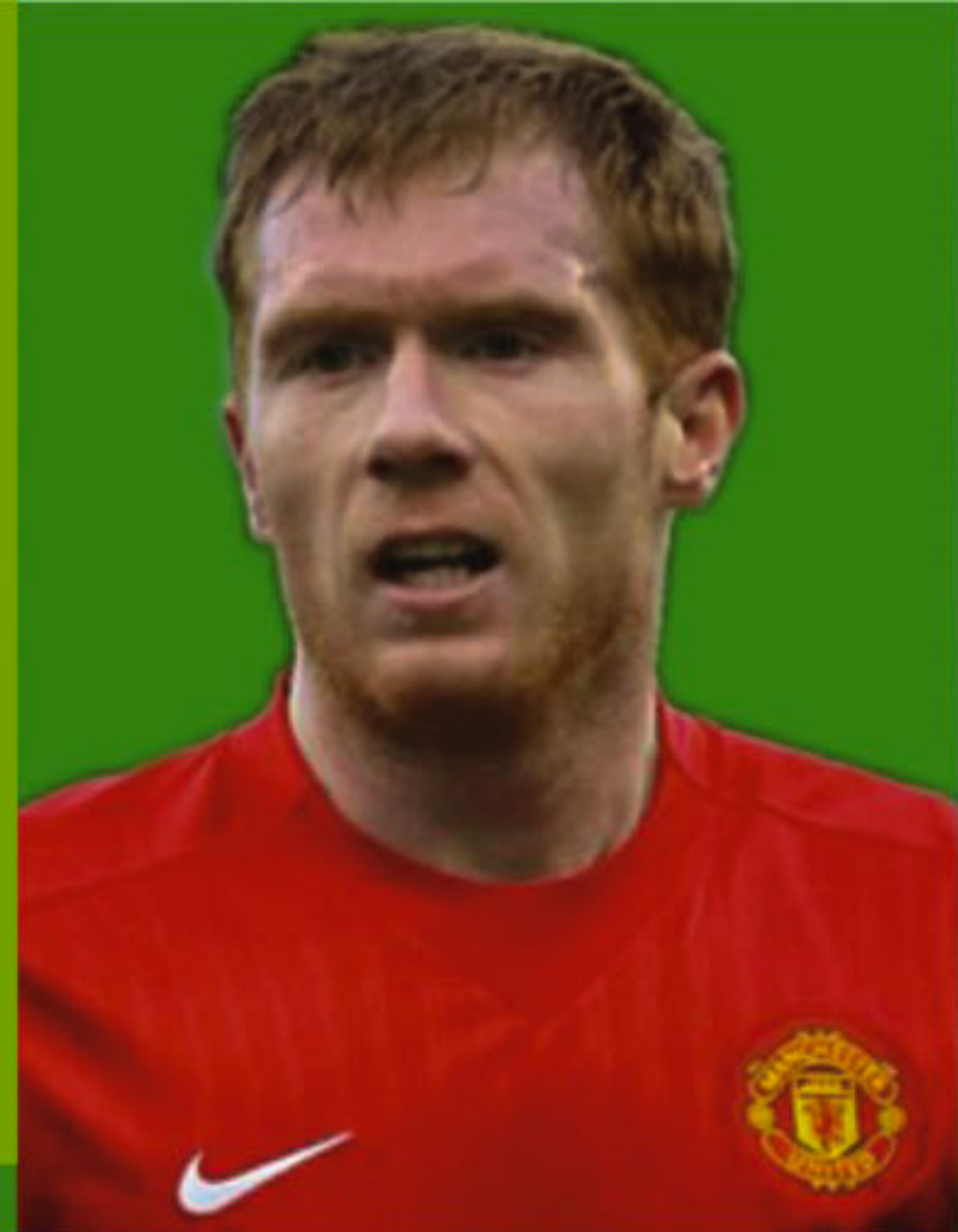


# Star SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY OCTOBER 1, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Scholes sorry for Tevez

Former Manchester United midfielder Paul Scholes expressed sympathy for Carlos Tevez on Friday following the striker's suspension for refusing to come off the bench against Bayern Munich. "I know Carlos quite well. He's a player who wants to be playing," Scholes told BBC Radio 5 live. "When he's a sub, it will be killing him. "It's totally up to the manager but Carlos wouldn't have been thinking that. He'll be thinking, 'The manager is against me, why is he not bringing me on? I'm City's best player and he's not playing me'.



## Naeem, Kapali in T20 fold

Sunny only uncapped among 18

### Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Naeem Islam and Alok Kapali earned recalls, while Elias Sunny was the only uncapped player to be picked when the national selectors named 18 players yesterday in the Tigers' squad for the only Twenty20 and the three-match one-day series against the West Indies.

Bangladesh Cricket Board's media release stated that the first 14 in their list is

#### SQUAD

Mushfiqur Rahim (captain/wicketkeeper), Mahmudullah Riyad (vice-captain), Tamim Iqbal, Imrul Kayes, Mohammad Ashraful, Shakib Al Hasan, Alok Kapali, Naeem Islam, Nasir Hossain, Abdur Razzak, Elias Sunny, Rubel Hossain, Shafiul Islam, Nazmul Hossain.

#### PLAYERS FOR ODIs ONLY

Sohrawardi Shuvo, Shahriar Nafees, Shuvagata Hom,

the squad for the October 11 Twenty20 international while also naming four cricketers -- Sohrawardi Shuvo, Shahriar Nafees, Shuvagata Hom Chowdhury, Shahadat Hossain, presumably for the ODI squad that will begin on October 13.

It was however not clear whether any of the "first 14 players" would make the ODI squad or there's guarantee for the last four in BCB's announced list to find places as well.

Nonetheless, the selectors ignored only Junaed Siddiqui from the team that played against Zimbabwe last month while Robiul Islam was logically dropped as he didn't play in the ODIs during that tour.

The replacements were eager to prove their cases in the sole opportunity.

Kapali, who was picked for the Australia series earlier this year after a three-year gap, was subsequently dropped for the Zimbabwe series.

"I will try to make the best of this opportunity," he said. "It is often thought that my favourite format is Twenty20. I have had

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Wari forward Shukhi (R) goes for goal during their match against Arambagh KS at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Shukhi scored twice as Wari romped to a 4-1 win.

PHOTO: STAR

## Finally discovered

### Cricket

MOHAMMAD ISAM

In the early spring of 2002, Surjo Tarun was a Premier League club in a hurry. They were desperately looking for young players and in their search, the officials stumbled upon a skinny lad who practiced at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Elias Sunny was already popular in the age-group competitions and almost everyone in the locality knew of his exploits in taped-tennis cricket. In the 2001-02 season, he made his debut for the mid-table club against Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. After a wicket-less spell of left-arm spin, Sunny was caught and bowled by Hashan Tilakaratne, the former Sri Lanka skipper who bowled off-spin very occasionally, for a duck.

Sunny has come a long way since that ill-fated debut more than nine years ago as his inclusion in the Twenty20 side against West Indies suggests.

"I started playing when I was 14 in the Discovery academy nets. Once I made my Premier League debut, I never looked back,"

said Sunny.

"Making it to the Bangladesh team is huge. I find it hard to express my feelings but I know it is also important that my focus is on regaining the spot," he added.

In the last three years, it has been a series of good performances that landed him the spot. Though he may yet find himself among the reserves, Sunny believes the recognition is inspirational enough to fight his way into the playing XI. "I don't know if I will play but I will give my all if I'm picked," he said.

Sunny has admitted that regardless of his performance in the Premier League, National Cricket League or even other competitions at home, it was the tour of South Africa for Bangladesh A earlier this year that shaped his mind about the rigours of top-level cricket.

"In South Africa, I bowled well but more than that, I saw how international cricket is played. I can say that I got 70% of how the game is played at the top-level and as a result, I think that tour was vital for my growth as a player," said Sunny.

During the BCB Cup final, he bowled a diligent 8-over spell that yielded just 13 runs,

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ELIAS SUNNY

	M	Runs	HS	Wkts	BBM	4w
List A	55	494	87	74	4/36	1
Twenty20	55	7	4	4	2/20	0

## Wari thrash Arambagh

SPORTS REPORTER

Wari Club got off to a solid start in the Walton Women's Football League 2011 as they beat Arambagh Kira Sangha 4-1 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Maksuda Khandakar Shuhi put Wari ahead in the 5th minute with a solo effort, taking the ball from 30 yards, and finishing with a left-footer from inside the box.

Nilufar Talukder Shanta doubled the lead by two minutes later before Bipasha Mali added the third in the 38th minute.

Monsha reduced the margin for Arambagh in the 79th minute but Shukhi sealed the victory for Wari with her second at the stroke of regulation time to ensure a convincing victory.

On the opening day on Wednesday, Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club had beaten Dipali Jubo Sangsad by 4-0.

## BANGLADESH LEAGUE

# Transfer window opens today

### Football

SPORTS REPORTER

A two-month players' transfer window for the fifth edition of Bangladesh League opens today with very little expectation of last-minute drama as all the giants have all but confirmed the services of their old guns as well as new inclusions.

Decking up of the squads started much earlier than the scheduled start of the transfer bourse. And even before the league starts, defending champions Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club and Mohammedan SC have seemingly lost ground on the other three title contenders Abahani, Muktijoddha Sangsad and Sheikh Russel KC, due to their late foray to scoop up players.

Sheikh Jamal, who are expected to complete their official signings on the first day of the transfer window today, have already lost many of their star players to rivals Abahani and Muktijoddha Sangsad.

Mohammedan SC, who are yet to win the professional league title in the four editions and had to be content with a sixth place finish last season,

could not confirm any big signings this season apart from veteran defender Rajani Kanta Barman and midfielder Matiur Munna.

Both Sheikh Jamal and Mohammedan could ensure only a few of their old guard and had to rely on the new recruits which has seemingly lessened their strength.

On the other hand, Abahani, Muktijoddha and Sheikh Russel have fortified their tents by ensuring the services of their old guns first and then recruiting promising new players. The coaches of the three clubs believe that inclusion of the new players have made their sides stronger than the last season.

Considering the players on papers, three-time Bangladesh League champions Abahani are going to form the strongest team followed by Muktijoddha Sangsad as both teams retained services of their old guard and roped in some star players from Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club.

The Sky Blues have confirmed Sheikh Jamal's Zahid Hossain, Wali Faisal, Nasirul Islam, Mohammad Sujon, Enamul Haque, Shahedul Alam, Chittagong Mohammedan's Touhidul

Alam and Muktijoddha Sangsad's Arman Aziz.

The All Reds followed suit by confirming Sheikh Jamal's Zahid Hasan Emily, Rezaul Karim, Shakil Ahmed, Mamunul Islam and Sheikh Russel goalkeeper Mamun Khan.

After Abahani and Muktijoddha, Sheikh Russel has the strongest side on paper followed by Sheikh Jamal and Mohammedan.

Like the previous year, the battle for the title is expected to be confined within the top five teams as the remaining six teams including newcomers Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) are set to form mediocre sides.

#### POSSIBLE SQUAD OF TOP FIVE CLUBS

**ABAHANI:** Himel, Zia, Sohel, Linkon, Siraji, Nazrul, Mamun Mia, Wali, Nasir, Sujon, Pranotosh, Chomrin Rakhain, Jitu, Shahed, Zahid, Arman Aziz, Shakawat Rony, Robin, Enamul Touhidul Alam.

**MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD:** Mamun Khan, Mustaq, Johurul, Saikat, Reza, Arif, Dami, Saikat, Titu, Obaed, Nasir (Army Nasir), Sweet, Shakil, Mamunul Islam,

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## Ansar, BJMC in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Ansar and Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) moved into the final of the Exim Bank 22nd National Women's Handball Championship after beating their respective rivals in the semifinals at the Handball Stadium yesterday.

In the semifinals, Bangladesh Ansar overwhelmed Naogaon by 34-4 points after dominating the first half 21-1 while BJMC defeated Dhaka 17-11 after leading the first half 9-2.

The final will take place today at the same venue.

## NATIONAL CHESS Malek loses to Rauf

SPORTS REPORTER

FIDE master Abdul Malek lost against Abdul Rauf on the second day of the qualifying round of the Mercantile Bank 37th National Chess Championship at the Bangladesh Chess

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An Ansar player shapes up for goal during their Handball League match against Naogaon at the Handball Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Marsh eyes long stint in Lanka

### Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Former Australian batsman Geoff Marsh began his two-year stint as Sri Lanka's new coach on Thursday hoping to lead the side beyond his contract and into the next World Cup in 2015.

Marsh, who turns 53 in December, said he was ready to accept the challenge of preparing the Sri Lankan team for the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand even though his contract was only for two years.

"We have not talked about the end (of the contract), but the World Cup is something that we look forward to...sure I am ready for that," Marsh told reporters in Colombo.

Marsh, who played 50 Tests and 117 one-dayers for Australia before retiring in 1992, said his immediate task was to prepare Tillakaratne Dilshan's men for the upcoming contests against Pakistan.

The series of three Tests, five one-day internationals and one T20 game is to be played in the United Arab Emirates from October 18 to November 25.

Marsh said the challenge ahead was to build a potent bowling attack to replace world bowling record holder Muttiah Muralidaran, who retired in July last year with 800 Test wickets.

"Losing Murali (Muralidaran) was huge... hopefully there is another Murali out there waiting to be found," he said, adding that he was confident Sri Lanka will soon start winning Test matches again.

## New ODI rules from today

CRICINFO

West Indies' tour of Bangladesh, which begins with a Twenty20 on October 11, will be the first international series under the ICC's revised playing conditions, which are effective from October 1. The amendments are only applicable to international cricket.

The ICC's cricket committee had made the recommendations after its meeting in London in May and they were passed by the executive board at the annual general meeting in Hong Kong in June.

Among the many new rules, the significant ones include finishing the Powerplay overs by the 40th over (though this condition will not apply to innings reduced to fewer than 40 overs), the discontinuation of the runner and two new balls per innings in ODI cricket.