

# Star SPORT

## VDV questions Redknapp

Tottenham star Rafael Van der Vaart has told Harry Redknapp that he no longer wants to be played out of position, as he was against Arsenal on Sunday, and claims that the Spurs boss was wrong to substitute him in the derby clash.

"I have definitely had a series of irritations," Van der Vaart was quoted as saying in the Daily Star.

"You want to play in the position where you do best. But if I have to chase after an attacking full-back every time, I can't play my own game



## An opportunity, not revenge for Sammy

SPORTS REPORTER



The only two times Darren Sammy played Tests against Bangladesh were during the 2-0 defeat in 2009. But earlier this year, he was at the helm when the Tigers were shot out for 58 runs.

Despite the World Cup West Indies would be willing to reverse those Test defeats but are not yet calling this series their shot at revenge. "It's never about revenge. It's about making full use of the opportunity. We have a young side and we're looking to play good, competitive cricket. Hopefully we'll be victorious at the end," said the ever-smiling Sammy who took three wickets on that fateful March day.

"The last time we played, we got the better of them. We'll try to repeat such a performance, but you can't bowl out teams under hundred every game. They [Bangladesh] are a good side at home, they won quite comfortably against New Zealand last year," he added.

Sammy leads a young side which has an average age of 24 for the solitary Twenty20 and ODI series but the first man from his island (St Lucia) to play Test cricket wanted the spectre of 58 all out to weigh heavy on the home side.

"We never took them for granted and we won't do it here. We want to focus on us and on what we could do. They say that you're as good as you're last performance. Hopefully it'll play very much on their mind.

"The last time we played in Test matches, we were defeated at home. It is a great opportunity for us to do the same here. Bangladesh plays very well at home so I expect it to be a very competitive series," he said during the team's official press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Apart from the spectre of 58 all out, the continuous presence of Chris Gayle related questions dogged the West Indies high-ups and it was no different yesterday. Sammy and coach Ottis Gibson had to fend off several questions related to the ignored ex-captain but when asked about the importance of senior cricketers, the former fast bowler said, "We are building a team and of course we need senior players that are committed, to mix with the youngsters. Some of them have taken the opportunity and done very well for us. As we are looking at the future, we will build a team around the younger guys."

"Do we need our senior players? I think we need everybody who are committed to us," he added.

Sammy too raised a gripe and it was about the omission of the Decision Review System

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The West Indies are led by skipper Darren Sammy during warm-up ahead of a light training session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Muktijoddha ask for fresh investigation

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha Sangsad have requested the Bangladesh Football Federation to re-investigate the match-fixing allegations against defending champions Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club and Rahmatganj MFS.

The one-page letter, signed by the club's general secretary Emdad Hossain, requested the BFF general secretary to reinvestigate the fixing scam following an investigative report aired on the Maasranga TV recently.

The club sought justice regarding the match-fixing issue of the Bangladesh League, where they finished behind champions Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club by a single point.

The investigation fined Sheikh Jamal Tk 20 Lakh and Rahmatganj Tk 5 lakh, and banned one player and two officials for various terms.

## Batsmen vs WI

### Shahriar to lead BCB XI

SPORTS REPORTER

Shahriar Nafees will lead a batsman-heavy BCB XI side against West Indies in the first practice match at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium on Friday.

The left-handed Nafees, who is part of the Tigers' ODI plans but was ignored for the only Twenty20 against the tourists, will have Junaed Siddiqui, Mohammad Ashraf, Alok Kapali, Rokibul Hasan, Naeem Islam, Nasir Hossain and Shuvagata Hom Chowdhury for company.

Among them, Nafees will have to ward off direct competition from Junaed while Shuvogata is also in contention. Rokibul also has an opportunity to stake a claim for a Test spot.

The bowlers, meanwhile, are mostly from the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy. Alauddin Babu, Kamrul Islam Rabbi and off-spinner Sohag Gazi will back the more experienced Robiul Islam.

Batsman Mominul Haque might get a look-in though the top-heavy look means the youngster has less opportunity to play against an international team for the first time.

The visitors will play the second practice match on October 9.

### SQUAD

Shahriar Nafees (captain), Junaed Siddiqui, Mohammad Ashraf, Alok Kapali, Rokibul Hasan, Naeem Islam, Nasir Hossain, Shuvagata Hom Chowdhury, Sahagir Hossain (wicketkeeper), Robiul Islam, Alauddin Babu, Kamrul Islam Rabbi, Sohag Gazi, Mominul Haque.

## Good start key: Riyad

SHAHNOOR RABBANI



Mahmudullah Riyad is usually a man of few words, but the newly-appointed vice-captain of the Tigers makes his point precisely.

Despite the West Indies having the ICC Emerging Player of the Year, Devender Bishoo, as their leading spinner, the Tigers are concerned of the opposition pace attack.

Kemar Roach, Ravi Rampaul and Carlos Brathwaite make up the main pace attack with skipper Darren Sammy and Andre Russell providing the seaming variety. Despite so many options, Sammy also has the twin leg-spin threat of Bishoo and Anthony Marin up his sleeve.

"There are no special plans for (Devendra) Bishoo," said Riyad after training at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

"They have a good pace bowling attack, so if our openers can get off to a good start, then that momentum will carry over to the middle order and hopefully we can post a competitive total."

Riyad was however brimming with confidence ahead of the series against the West Indies even after their horror show in their last encounter in the World Cup.



MAHMUDULLAH RIYAD

"If we look at things from a more positive perspective then you can see that we defeated the West Indies in the first Twenty20 World Championships in South Africa and they were a much stronger team back then. So I believe that if we play to our potential then we

can manage a positive result," he said. The West Indies side is one that has many new faces with key players such as Chris Gayle missing, something that Riyad was taking as an advantage to the Tigers.

"Gayle is an explosive batsman and his exclusion is a positive, but we are not worried about him. We are more focused on performing well," he said.

Riyad had been a key performer in the last series against West Indies where he scored a match winning half-century to take the Tigers to their first Test series win away from home.

"I expect to bat in No 5-7 and if the teams needs then I'm willing to bat anywhere else in the order," added Riyad.

With the single Twenty20 match coming up against the West Indies first, here is where he believes the Tigers' weaknesses lies in the game's shortest format, and what they need to do.

"Possibly power hitting is our weakness in T20s but more importantly, I believe that getting off to the good start, whether with the bat and or ball, is more important.

"The momentum from that can be carried on and hopefully give us a positive result," said Riyad.

## BJMC come but can't complete signing

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) yesterday turned up at the Bangladesh Football Federation House for their players' registration for the upcoming Bangladesh League, but due to miscommunication they had to return without registering any players.

BJMC, who were one of the powerhouses in local football in the '80s, entered the BFF premises on horse carriages as the band party led the way beating drums and blowing whistles.

Due to lack of proper documents, adequate fees for registration and unsigned papers, the newly promoted team have been asked to turn up later to complete the registration formalities.

BJMC were given direct entry into the professional football league considering their previous organising capacity and funds for the football team, which is all set to return to the top flight after 27 years. BJMC director and former national player Arif Khan Joy said they would present a new brand of football in the country.

And, their new brand of football depends on veteran striker Alfaz Ahmed, midfielder Abul Hossain, winger Abdullah Parvez, goalkeeper Mohammad Nehal, defender Amit Khan Shuvro, who are noteworthy names in BJMC's potential roster.

BJMC has targeted to stay among top three teams of the league.

"We will prove ourselves on the pitch and bring a new style of football which will be replicated by others in future," said BJMC director and former footballer Arif Khan Joy. "We will bring quality foreign players as well as coaches to meet our target."

BJMC, who have made Tangail their home venue, have appointed Jakaria Babu, Wazed Gazi and Sakir

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## ATHLETES DEPART FOR SL TODAY

## Gold hopes from surfing, kabaddi

SPORTS REPORTER

A 29-member Bangladesh contingent leaves here for Sri Lanka today morning to take part in the First South Asian Beach Games with hopes of achieving good results in Surfing and Kabaddi.

The six-day First South Asian Beach Games will get underway from October 8 in Hambantota, the township from which Sri Lanka president Mahinda Rajapaksa hails. Sri Lanka intends to promote Hambantota and ready the town before bidding for the Commonwealth Games.

Of 12 disciplines, Bangladesh will take part in five surfing, women's kabaddi, swimming, bodybuilding and football.

"We don't still know how many gold medals are up for grab, nor do we know the final schedules of those disciplines but we know our competitors in those disciplines," said Bangladesh Olympic Association director general retired Colonel Wali Uallah at a press conference at the BOA Bhaban yesterday.

Sri Lanka have taken the initiative to start the Beach Games among the members of the South Asian nations and all eight nations in the region are taking part in the Games though not all are competing in all of the disciplines.

"As Jafar Alam is a recognised surfer, who finished fifth in the short board event in Hawaii in 2010, we expect a gold from him.

"To cope with the wave in Hambantota, Jafar was sent there

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## Sabina leads goal-fest

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club registered a massive win in the Walton Women Football League beating Arambagh Krira Sangha 26-0 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

National striker Sabina Khatun netted 12 goals alone while Nubai Ching Marma added seven. Aung Mra Ching Marma scored four while Suraiya and Tahmina Putul grabbed one each. To compound the misery, Suinu Ching Marma put one through her own net as Sheikh Jamal completed the biggest win of the league. Jamal took a 10-0 lead in the first half when Sabina had already grabbed seven goals.

This massive win also confirmed semifinal berth for Sheikh Jamal from Group A who had beaten Dipali Jubo Sangha 4-0 in their first match.

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(From L-R) Aung Mra Ching Marma, Sabina Khatun and Nubai Ching Marma, the three Sheikh Jamal forwards, pose gleefully during their match against Arambagh KS at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Between them the three shared 23 goals as Sheikh Jamal romped to a 26-0 victory.

PHOTO: STAR