

# Star SPORT

DHAKA FRIDAY OCTOBER 7, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Jose punished

Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho has been suspended for two games and fined \$800 for eye-poking a Barcelona counterpart during a brawl, although his ban will not sideline him from any of his club's league matches. The Spanish federation's disciplinary committee says Barcelona assistant Tito Vilanova will miss one game for his part in the altercation, which happened in the closing moments of Barcelona's Spanish Super Cup victory over Madrid in August. Vilanova was also fined \$800. The bans do not affect domestic league or Copa del Rey matches, only future Super Cup games.

- AP



BCB Red opener Tamim Iqbal swings on the leg-side during the practice Twenty20 match against BCB Green at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Reds' revenge



Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Tamim Iqbal's 90 was enough to ward off half-centuries from Mohammad Ashraful and Alok Kapali in BCB Red's 12-run win over BCB Green in a practice Twenty20 game at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Put into bat, the Reds piled up 179-4 in 20 overs and though the Greens needed 39 off the last five, they were eventually restricted to 167-7.

It was a much-needed reversal from Mushfiquur Rahim's side who suffered the ignominy of a nine-wicket loss on Monday.

The tonic, of course, was a good start from the openers, particularly Tamim, and the left-hander's blazing knock provided just that.

During his 53-ball innings, the Chittagonian hammered nine boundaries and three sixes. He added 75 for the second wicket with Shakib Al Hasan after Imrul Kayes (18) fell in the sixth over giving Sohrawardi Shuvo a catch at point off Alauddin Babu.

Shakib, playing his first game in the country after he lost his captaincy, struck a couple of boundaries and a six in his 26-ball 35 as he let Tamim take on the Greens' bowling attack.

Skipper Mushfiquur struck a six and a four before falling in the 19th over for 17, as they took 49 off the last five overs.

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## Rumana, Salma star in big win

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh women's cricket team made a fine start to their tour of India when they beat Saurashtra Cricket Association by 61 runs at the RMC Stadium in Rajkot yesterday.

Batting first after winning the toss, the visitors made a competitive 204 for nine in 50 overs which was too much for the home side who were bowled out for 143 runs having played out all the overs.

Rumana Ahmed starred with the bat making 67 off 108 balls with the help of seven boundaries. She added 117 for the second wicket with Sharmin Akhtar (34) after Shuktara Rahman fell in the second over.

Later, captain Salma Khatun, who made 30, and Sanjida Islam (23) held the

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## Ramdin's wait is over

SPORTS REPORTER



Wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin will return to West Indies colours today after a break of more than a year. The practice match against the BCB XI will be his first since he was dropped for poor form after the home series against South Africa in June last year.

A regular face since his debut in 2005, Ramdin got into trouble when he made just 97 runs in Tests and ODIs against the Proteas, losing his place to Carlton Baugh for the tour of Sri Lanka later that year and was also cut from the West Indies' central contract list.

It was an ordinary time and it presumably changed after he spent time with the legendary Gordon Greenidge, courtesy of the Trinidad & Tobago board, honing his batting technique.

The Couva native fought back to win a spot in the West Indies side with runs in the domestic competitions, making 460 at an average of 41.81 with

a century in eight games. He was also the best wicketkeeper in the competition with 27 dismissals.

"I was not getting runs. I went back to the domestic league. I got some runs and worked on specific areas. At the beginning of my innings I was getting out and I worked on that," said Ramdin after training at the Academy ground in Mirpur.

The wicketkeeper, who arrived here on Wednesday, was playing in the Champions League Twenty20 for Trinidad & Tobago in India and only got on the flight after the island nation was eliminated from the group stages of the competition.

At training yesterday, Ramdin was one of the few who didn't seem to mind the oppressive humidity, the sort of conditions he believes will be a big ask for the fast bowlers. "I think it will be a challenge for the fast bowlers in the hot conditions. So far they have coped well, though they just came in two days ago," he said.

Apart from the heat, he also said that there are challenges to keep

places in the team, a factor he will be facing during this series.

"It's not only for me, but for all the guys in the team as everyone is fighting for a place. Each one of us works hard to get better and it's good for the team as it makes it a stronger unit," said Ramdin.

The West Indies have used five wicketkeepers (Baugh, Devon Thomas and Derwin Christian sharing the majority of the load with Lendl Simmons and Andre Fletcher keeping in a few games) between the time Ramdin was dropped and now.

Ramdin has often demonstrated nimbleness while keeping to spinners and with the Caribbeans keeping two leg-spinners in the mix, it will keep the T&T man busy.

"Back home there is a chance for me to keep to spinners as there are lots of spinners, so no problem keeping to them.

"Young Bishoo came in at international level [last year] and he has done well so far. I think the pitches out there will suit him," said Ramdin.

## Warm-up ties shortened

SPORTS REPORTER



The practice one-day match today between West Indies and BCB XI has been turned into a 45-overs-a-side affair.

According to a source in the BCB, the visitors requested a 9:30am start due to the distance from their hotel to the match venue, the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

They agreed to shorten the match after realising that the late start wouldn't cover a 50-over game.

Shahriar Nafees will lead the home side that is loaded with nine batsmen, most of whom have a shot at the ODI and Test series this month.

On the other hand, the West Indians' last outing was the twin Twenty20s against England earlier this month which the WICB and ECB had to schedule to cover for the Stanford agreement from two years before.

Sunday's warm-up match between the same sides has also been shortened at the visitors' request. Now it is a Twenty20 match which begins at 1:00pm.

Meanwhile, the Tigers have opted out of training on Saturday and Sunday.

### TEAMS

West Indies: Darren Sammy (captain), Danza Hyatt, Marlon Samuels, Andre Russell, Anthony Martin, Adrian Barath,

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AFC COMPETITION

## Nepal pulls out of U-19 qualifiers

SPORTS REPORTER

Nepal have pulled out of the AFC U-19 Qualifiers, reducing the Group A to a five-team competition to be held in Bangladesh from October 25 to November 2.

The news comes in the wake of a dispute between national coach Graham Roberts and his Under-19 counterpart Kishor KC over the availability of players for the qualifiers, according to ESPNstar.com.

Asian Football Confederation has also confirmed the withdrawal of Nepal. Now Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Oman, Maldives and hosts Bangladesh will be vying for two spots from the group for the 16-team finals.

## They 'betrayed cricket'

REUTERS, London

Three Pakistan cricketers, driven by greed, betrayed their teammates and the sport of cricket itself by taking bribes to fix incidents during a Test match against England last year, a London court heard on Wednesday.

The plot was orchestrated by Pakistan captain Salman Butt and his agent Mazhar Majeed and involved the team's two opening fast bowlers Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Aamer who were instructed to bowl three no-balls at a pre-agreed time, prosecutors allege.

"This case reveals a depressing tale of rampant corruption at the heart of international cricket, with the key players being members of the Pakistan cricket team," prosecutor Aftab Jafferjee told the jury at Southwark Crown Court.

He said the men had "contaminated" the games and "their activity represents a betrayal by them of their own team, their own Board of Cricket and most damaging of all a betrayal of the sport of cricket itself -- and all for greed".

The court heard that the scam was uncovered by a journalist at the News of the World newspaper, the tabloid at the centre of the phone hacking scandal which has rocked Rupert Murdoch's News Corp empire. The paper has since been closed down.

Jafferjee said journalist Mazhar Mahmood, well-known for revealing wrongdoing amongst British politicians, celebri-

ties and even royalty often posing as a "fake sheikh", had approached Majeed saying he was a wealthy Indian businessman wanting to set up a tournament in the Emirates.

"Were this investigation not to have been permitted, this activity of 'fixing' would have certainly continued -- unabated and unaccountable -- and beyond the reach of the law," the prosecutor said.

Jafferjee said the activity was underpinned by the betting industry in the Asian subcontinent -- Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Far East, adding that gambling in the Asian subcontinent on cricket games alone had a turnover of 40-50 billion dollars a year.

The jury of six men and six women was told that only Butt and Asif were on trial, but Jafferjee stressed there was "nothing sinister" in the absence of Majeed and Aamer from the proceedings, the Press Association reported.

Butt and Asif deny conspiracy to cheat and conspiracy to accept corrupt payments between Aug. 15 and 29 last year.

Butt made his test debut for Pakistan in 2003 and since then has played in 33 test matches, 78 one-day internationals and 24 Twenty20 games for his country.

He was appointed captain of Pakistan's test side on July 16 last year, during the tour of England.

Jafferjee said: "If the prosecution are right about his activity, that appointment

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West Indies wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin (L) and skipper Darren Sammy stretch during a training session at the Cricket Academy ground in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR