

# Star SPORT

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## Reid forgives Maradona

Former England midfielder Peter Reid had said he would never forgive Diego Maradona for the 'Hand of God' goal which helped knock England out of the 1986 World Cup finals. But when Reid bumped into Maradona while filming at the Argentina legend's new club in Dubai, they literally kissed and made up. 'It was good to see him and we had a bit of light-hearted banter and a good laugh. I think I look in better shape than he does now anyway', says Reid.

- INTERNET



## No point in looking back

Bangladesh-Pakistan 2nd Test from today

MOHAMMAD ISAM



Mushfiquur Rahim's frustrating reply yesterday summed up the environment around the Tigers ahead of the second Test against Pakistan.

It will be yet another uphill task for Bangladesh as Pakistan have completely dominated them in the five matches on tour so far. As if the back-to-back defeats weren't enough, the team had to put up with the utmost levels of unprofessional activities by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) with the delay in the naming of the squad for the game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium today with the addition (Shafiqul Islam) joining the team less than 48 hours before the game.

The onus fell on the under-fire cricketers to move ahead from the mess, the skipper leading the way when asked of his opinion during the pre-game press conference.

"It isn't the first time such a thing has happened in our team. We are used to it," said Mushfiquur.

He has of course been witness to the different ways the board has disregarded a professional approach, especially when it comes to dealing with selection matters. But the 23-year-old was quick to move on. "We are totally focused on the Test ahead. Since we haven't been able to play to our ability, we are focusing to improve on that," he said, the young man aware that it is the team that has to pull through since they are out in the glare.

Mushfiquur said that the failure of the team's leading players have also hampered progress.

"We are trying to put together a balanced team which we haven't done so far. Against such a good side, there's a problem if you don't have a balanced line-up. Our top players haven't done well in this series. This is the main reason.

"It becomes difficult for the younger lot when the top players don't perform, but everyone is trying hard," he said.

This being their last game of the year would slightly add to the pressure on the Tigers, especially since it has been quite an ordinary 2011.

"Our target will be to finish off well so that we can go into our next international commitment with the memory that yes, we did well in the last game.

"We have nothing to lose. Everyone knows this is a good chance. We have no pressure. This is the last match of the year and we have to do well," he explained.

Curiously, this is the "last" game in charge for Mushfiquur as well, at least from the BCB's appointment of him as the captain till the Pakistan series. Though it is probably a moot point, the wicketkeeper-batsman said that he hasn't felt that the captaincy has been extra baggage for him.

"It is a great honor to lead the side. I knew it would be a challenge to lead in international cricket where there's a lot of pressure. Our problem is that a lot of our players can't perform at the moment," he said.



Bangladesh captain Mushfiquur Rahim leads his teammates as they go for a sprint during a training session ahead of the second Test against Pakistan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: STAR

Pakistan fast bowler Umar Gul focuses on his push-ups while the rest of the Pakistan team is busy stretching prior to their second Test against Bangladesh at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

## 'Just a phase for Tigers'

SPORTS REPORTER



Misbah Ul Haq said that Bangladesh are currently going through the bad phase which every other team goes through at some point.

He has overseen Pakistan's five consecutive wins on tour which has included all formats and the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium from today is also expected to be a stroll for the visitors.

"Every team does have their phases and Bangladesh is going through that phase because their batting is not up to the mark," said the Pakistan captain during the pre-game press conference yesterday.

"This is really a testing time for them but at the same time, if you are playing against any team you will have to give your 100% because cricket is a very uncertain game.

"So don't just think about the opposition rather every time you come out, just try to give everything that you have because any time this game can turn around and you can find yourself in a different position," he explained.

Despite walking all over the hosts, Misbah still talked

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V-DAY FOOTBALL FRIENDLY

## Muktis win comfortably

SPORTS REPORTER

National striker Mithun Chowdhury struck one goal to power Muktijoddha Sangsad to a comprehensive 4-1 win over Sheikh Russel KC in the Victory Day friendly match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Muktijoddha Sangsad, one of title contenders of the upcoming season, dominated the show from the outset to seal the victory in the friendly match which was organised by Ministry of Liberation War Affairs in association with Bangladesh Football Federation to mark the 40th Victory day of Bangladesh.

Coach Shafiqul Islam Manik fielded a virtually second string side resting star players like Zahid Hasan Emily, Shakil Ahmed, Ariful Islam, Rezaul Karim, goalkeeper Mamun Khan, yet they proved too good for Maruful Haq's Sheikh Russel.

All Reds, however, took 21 minutes to open their account and it was national striker and last season's second-highest scorer Mithun, who beat Sheikh Russel goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee with a right-footed grounder from inside the

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Zia still leads

SPORTS REPORTER

Leader GM Ziaur Rahman dropped point but still maintained solo lead in the Walton 37th National Chess Championship at the close of the fifth round at the Bangladesh Olympic Association yesterday.

After four straight victories, Zia drew against GM Reefat Bin Sattar and both parties accepted a draw after 12 moves.

Zia has now 4.5 points at the top of the table as GM Niaz Murshed also drew against Emon to remain behind Zia with four points.

IM Abu Sufian Shakil also drew his board against FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar, who is now in the third position with 3.5 points while Reefat and Debaraj Chatterjee share the fourth position with three points each.



PHOTO: BANGLARCHOKH

Grand Master Niaz Murshed (L) ponders a move against Mahfuzur Rahman Emon during their match of the National Chess Championship at BOA media room yesterday.

V-DAY CRICKET

## Soumya shines in massive win

SPORTS REPORTER

A strong batting display helped Shaheed Mushtaque XI to secure a massive 129-run victory over Shaheed Jewel XI in the Victory-Day exhibition cricket match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Put into bat first, Shaheed Mushtaque piled up 303 runs for nine wickets in their stipulated 40 overs thanks to man-of-the-match Soumya Sarkar and Shuvogoto Hom who made blistering half-centuries.

Soumya smashed eight boundaries and two sixes during his 66-ball 75 while Shuvogoto contributed 63 off 50 balls that contained six fours and two sixes.

Captain Nafis Iqbal was the other notable scorer with 36 off 32 balls that included seven boundaries.

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