

Star SPORT

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Suarez banned for 8 matches

Liverpool striker Luis Suarez has been banned for eight matches and fined 40,000 pounds (\$62,800) for racially abusing Manchester United defender Patrice Evra, the FA said on Tuesday. Suarez was found guilty of misconduct and warned about his future conduct after using "insulting words" towards Evra during Liverpool's Premier league match against United at Anfield on Oct. 15, including a reference to the France defender's colour. The ban is suspended pending the outcome of any appeal lodged by Uruguay international Suarez against



From safety to defeat

Pakistan win Test series 2-0

BISHWAJIT ROY



An unlikely resistance came from Mushfiqur Rahim and Nasir Hossain on the fifth and final day but their efforts were not good enough for Bangladesh to save the second Test against Pakistan and sign off the year on a bright note yesterday.

Pakistan made a clean sweep by winning all matches on tour when they posted a seven-wicket victory over the Tigers at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, where the home team showed some character through man-of-the-match Shakib Al Hasan's splendid all-round performance after a no-show in the first Test in Chittagong. Bangladesh looked competitive for the first time in the series during the second Test after surrendering meekly in the lone T20, three ODIs and first Test match. The most encouraging part in the second Test was that there had been three sessions in which the Tigers did not lose any wickets, which showed that this Bangladesh line-up were

capable of batting with resolve, but the missed catches and poor umpiring undermined what could have been a better performance.

The Tigers' well-documented tendency to collapse was on everybody's minds when they resumed their second innings on 114 for five under foggy condition but the 117-run sixth wicket stand between Mushfiqur and Nasir kept Pakistan waiting for victory till the last session. On the other hand, things could

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MAN-OF-THE-MATCH: Shakib Al Hasan keeps a stump as a souvenir of the second Test where he set a tremendous record taking six wickets and scoring 144 runs. Despite Shakib's heroics, the hosts ended up on the losing side.

PHOTO: STAR



The Pakistan team celebrate with the Cool & Cool Test Series trophy after beating Bangladesh by seven wickets in the second and final Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Pakistan won the first Test in Chittagong by an innings and 184 runs.

PHOTO: STAR

Kamal earns BCB nod too

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday approved the name of AHM Mustafa Kamal as its nomination for the ICC (International Cricket Council) vice-president role.

The decision was taken in an emergency board meeting yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

"The board unanimously took the decision in favour of AHM Mustafa Kamal in the emergency meeting. There was no other candidate. Now we will try to campaign in favour of him so that he can take the two-year vice-president's role at the International Cricket Council (ICC) from 2012," said BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus after the meeting.

A delighted BCB president Kamal was also on

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Mushfiq takes the blame

MOHAMMAD ISAM



The tendency to take risks in a stable position has hurt the Tigers once more though skipper Mushfiqur Rahim owned up to his error in judgment after the seven-wicket defeat to Pakistan in the second Test.

"Of course I will take the blame. If I didn't get out, we could have batted 30 minutes more. I feel guilty for my shot as I let my team down," said the Bangladesh captain during the post-match press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Pakistan had just removed Nasir Hossain after seeing the pair add 117 for the sixth wicket in a morning of inspired rearguard action from the Tigers. With three hours to go and an elongated tail to bat with, Mushfiqur thought it wise to charge left-arm spinner Abdur Rehman. But the man who had batted so calmly for his 53 off 143 balls, let out a chipped straight drive that was skied and eventually caught by Saeed Ajmal at mid-off.

It was the last straw as Pakistan took just 38 balls to close off the Bangladesh second innings, restricting the hosts to a total of 234 and a 102-run lead.

"I was set so I thought if I take a chance, I could score 20-30 more runs. My plan was correct but execution was wrong. They only had square-leg back. I tried it earlier but couldn't get to the ball," he added, though he was not the only guilty party in the second innings. Mahmudullah Riyad was reckless too, skying an ill-conceived pull shot off Aizaz Cheema late in the fourth evening. "He knows it well that when he got out, it was a bad time. He was having good partnerships with Nazimuddin and Nasir. We have to cut down on some shots in such situations," said Mushfiqur.

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Misbah credits continuity

SPORTS REPORTER



An in-form Pakistan signed off on a successful year in style when they beat Bangladesh by seven wickets in the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. By winning six out of ten Tests Pakistan finished as the second most successful team of the year after England and captain Misbahul Haq played a pivotal role in leading the team out of all the controversies surrounding Pakistan cricket.

"When we started playing as a team, a few of our guys were new and inexperienced. But at the moment we are an

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Deals struck for BPL

SPORTS REPORTER

Two signing ceremonies concerning the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) Twenty20 competition was held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

First, Gazi Ashraf Hossain, the BPL governing council chairman, and Game On Sports director Anjan Ganguly signed the papers on behalf of the two parties. The deal is for six years worth 44.33 million dollars.

Then, Virgo Media Channel 9, the official broadcast rights of the BPL, signed the agreement through its managing director Enayetur Rahman.

The six-team tournament will begin on February 10

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4TH DEPARTURE IN 4 YEARS

Ilievski, BFF part ways

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Niloka Ilievski's rocky seven-month stint with Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) came to a premature end yesterday, after the football governing body confirmed that he had resigned from the post for personal reasons.

The announcement came a few hours before the Macedonian was scheduled to depart for home last night and brings an end to his seven-month tenure which still had another five months to run.

"The NTMC [National Team Management Committee] tried to give its highest assistance to the coach, who worked independently without any interference," said NTMC chairman Badal Roy yesterday.

"In six to seven month under his guidance, the performance of the national football team has improved although the result of the SAFF Championship was not good. We

were hesitating to take a decision regarding the coach but at the same time [on Tuesday] he himself tendered his resignation. It was accepted by the NTMC after consent from Kazi Salahuddin," added Badal Roy during a press conference at the BFF House, in which Ilievski was also present.

Ilievski becomes the fourth national coach to depart in four years under the National Team Management Committee (NTMC). Not one completed their tenure with Bangladesh.

"You all know that the situation after the tournament (SAFF Championship) was difficult for me, but really I have personal problems and thus resigned from the post," said Ilievski.

"I'll have to undergo a ligament operation. I need two to three months to recover it and it is not possible for me to continue with Bangladesh football after the operation. However, I want to thank the Bangladesh Football Federation and the journalists for

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PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh national football team's parting coach Nikola Ilievski (C) speaks at a press conference at the BFF House yesterday.



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- Get as many votes as you can to win a trip for you and your friends to Cox's Bazaar on the 31st

