

# Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY JANUARY 5, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Diego accuses UAE officials

Diego Maradona has accused United Arab Emirates soccer officials of targeting his club. Maradona took over as Al Wasl coach in May and has been fined for criticizing a rival coach and his team has been banned from playing two matches at home due to fan trouble. Maradona says "Al Wasl is being targeted with these excessive bans and punishments." Maradona has had a running feud with critics and referees since he arrived last year. Al Wasl is in sixth place in the 12-team league, 11 points behind the leaders.

- AP



Abahani striker Mohammad Robin (R) skips a tackle from a Bangladesh Police defender during their Federation Cup match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Enamul's tough luck

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani returnee Enamul Haque may be out of action for most of the season as the former national striker ruptured his knee during a practice session for the Sky Blues recently.

The lanky striker, who returned to his old club after a lone spell in Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, was looking forward to some time in the middle as he spent most of the last season in the bench.

But the injury seems to have put paid to his hopes and the marksman had to be content watching his mates run a goal-fest against Bangladesh Police at the BNS yesterday.

"Since I did not have much chance to play in the starting eleven for Sheikh Jamal last season, I wanted to be in the regular eleven this season. But this unfortunate injury has struck me down. My doctor will run a test on my knee on the 15th of this month, and then we can be sure about the extent of the injury," said a dejected Enamul.

Despite having an excellent start to last season with seven goals in the Federation Cup, like many of his national teammates, Enamul sat out most of the season on the bench.

## Holders' bright start

*Abahani 6 - 0 Police SC;  
Feni SC 0 - 0 Arambagh KS*

Sports Reporter



Abahani's bid to defend the title of season's curtain raiser got off to a sparkling start when the holders mauled Bangladesh Police 6-0 in their opening match of the Grameenphone Federation Cup finals at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nigerian striker Lucky Paul celebrated his debut with a brace while Mohammad Robin, Ghanaian duo Twum Frank and Awudu Ibrahim and defender Wali Faisal struck one goal each to ensure a comfortable win for Abahani.

The Dhanmondi-based outfit toyed with the services team and took a comfortable 4-0 lead in the first half of the one-sided game before adding two more goals in the second half to announce their credentials for the title.

Abahani's Iranian coach Ali Akbar has got genuine reason to be optimistic after watching his strikers in form, unlike the last season when they misfired which resulted in the club being derailed from the race for the professional league title.

Bangladesh Police showed early signs of promise as they came close to taking the lead in the third minute but Abahani's national goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel tipped the Nazmul Hasan cross over the bar to keep Police at bay. That was the only notable attack during the match from Police and after that they mostly chased their own shadows.

Abahani built most of their attacks from the right flank and came close three times before actually taking the lead in the 14th

minute through Robin.

New-recruit Towhidul Alam floated a corner from the right side and Robin cleverly drove a low shot inside the box past goalkeeper Azam Khan, who was hapless to concede the second one from Frank.

Frank capitalising on a Ibrahim through-pass dodged past two defenders and the goalkeeper to fire home two minutes later while Paul found his first goal in the 31st minute with goalkeeper Azam failing to read an over-head lob.

Ibrahim, who has been playing for Abahani for the last six seasons, made it 4-0 with a tap in the 37th minute after former Sheikh Jamal defender Nasirul Islam ran in from the right side to enter box and cut it back for Ibrahim.

Abahani's new striker Paul increased the margin in the 54th minute before Wali celebrated his return to the Sky Blues tent after two seasons with a free-kick from the edge of the box three minutes before the final whistle.

"Abahani are a the better side this time compared to the last season in which we suffered the lack of genuine strikers. But, we have to hard work to defend the title and need more combination between the strikers and the midfielders," said Abahani coach Akbar.

"We knew that we would lose the match but the refereeing should have been fair. We expected to concede two or three goals but surely not six," said Police coach Selim Khan.

In the day's other match, Arambagh KS and Feni Soccer Club played out a goalless draw at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

## Normalcy remains

*Shehzad ton drives Victoria*



SPORTS REPORTER

The traditional giants sauntered to big victories while the new force was not too far behind in yesterday's Dhaka Premier Cricket League matches.

Abahani crushed Prime Doleshwar by 110 runs at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium while Mohammedan Sporting Club beat strugglers Surjo Tarun by eight wickets at BKSP Victoria Sporting Club shrugged off the Tamim Iqbal controversy with a 7-wicket win over Gazi Tank at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

**ABAHANI-PRIME DOLESHWAR** The defending champions again made a poor start though Peter Trego blasted the Prime Doleshwar bowlers from one end. The English all-rounder struck a run-a-ball 68 but when he was dismissed, Abahani were 104 for four in the 24th over.

Skipper Mahmudullah Riyad and Indian recruit Rajat Bhatia then added 110 for the fifth wicket as both scored half-centuries in their recovery act. Bhatia made 87 off 84 balls while Riyad

struck 62 off 86 balls, helping Abahani to 270-9 in 50 overs.

Mahbubul Alam, Victor Barua and Murad Khan took two wickets each.

After Trego set the tone with two quick wickets, paceman Abul Hasan damaged the middle and lower order with four wickets as Doleshwar were bowled out for 160 runs in 40.5 overs.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**ABAHANI:** 270-9 in 50 overs (Peter Trego 68, Riyad 62, Rajat 87; Mahbubul 2-66, Victor 2-49, Murad 2-49)

**PRIME DOLESHWAR:** 160 all out in 40.5 overs (Nafees 37, Manvinder 25, Nadif 24, Nayeem 27; Peter Trego 2-14, Abul 4-24, Rajat 2-23).

**Result:** Abahani won by 110 runs.

**GAZI TANK:** 215 all out in 47.5 overs (Shahzaib 42, Nasir 32, Mithun 71, Nazmul 23, Alauddin 21 not out; Alamin 3-39)

**VICTORIA:** 219-3 in 42.4 overs (Shehjad 115, Kamran 62)

**Result:** Victoria won by seven wickets.

**SURJO TARUN:** 204-9 in 50 overs (Jupitar 36, Raja 50, Hannan 37, Taiaur 29; Hammad 2-29, Yasim 4-31, Nur 2-40)

**MSC:** 205-2 in 46.2 overs (Imtiaz 26, Imrul 91 not out, Naeem 67 not out; Imran 2-36)

**Result:** MSC won by eight wickets.

**Victoria Sporting Club's Pakistani recruit Ahmed Shehzad plays a deft late cut during his superb 115 in the Dhaka Premier Cricket League match against Gazi Tank at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.**

PHOTO: STAR



## Six more foreigners for BPL

SPORTS REPORTER

Six more foreign cricketers have confirmed their registration for the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 auction.

They are Ramnaresh Sarwan and Dwayne Smith (West Indies), Isuru Udana (Sri Lanka), Tom Maynard and Joshua Cobb (England), Steve Tikolo (Kenya).

So far a total of 117 foreigners have expressed their interest in the competition, but the organisers have targeted a total of 135.

## NATIONAL SCHOOL FOOTBALL Rajdhani High group champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajdhani High School emerged Group D champions in the National School Football Islami Bank Tournament beating BAF Shaheen School & College by 3-2 goals in penalty shootout at the Abahani Club ground yesterday.

The keenly contested match rolled into tie-breaker as none of the teams could score during regulation time.

Earlier, Rajdhani High School defeated BAF Shaheen English Medium School by 2-0 goals in the first semifinal while BAF Shaheen School & College edged past Kashaituli Muslim Academy by 5-4 goals in penalty shootout in the second semi.

In the day's other Group D matches, Rajdhani High School beat Tejgaon Govt. High School 1-0, BAF Shaheen English

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## NAT'L BASKETBALL Ctg outplay Kushtia

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong DSA registered a facile 85-16 point victory over Kushtia DSA in district zone match of the Citycell 25th National Basketball Championship at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

The winners led the first half by 49-16 points. Zafri and Diba caged 18 and 16 points for the winners while Sami scored 14 for the losing side.

In the other matches of the day, Satkhira, Jessore, Mymensingh and Dhaka

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Victoria Sporting Club official Lutfur Rahman Badal (L) and batsman Tamim Iqbal, at the centre of the controversy that led to the latter's one-match ban, watch the Dhaka Premier Cricket League match between their side and Gazi Tank at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Tamim act 'unacceptable'



SPORTS REPORTER

Disbelief was the reaction among the country's cricket circuit a day after Tamim Iqbal's outburst on Mohammad Ashraful.

The Victoria Sporting Club opener was present yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, congratulating his teammates after their 7-wicket win over Gazi Tank after he served the one-match ban. But the objection within current and former cricketers, board officials, fans and the media had become louder by the time the guilty party emerged into public view for the first time since the incident.

Whether the punishment fits the offence is now a moot point since the match referee has already passed his

judgment (only if he or the CCDM ask for a further review will the Bangladesh Cricket Board disciplinary committee step in), but the damage done is the disrepute Tamim has gathered as a result. He ripped into the Old DOHS captain over a trifling matter that concerned a team official's heckling.

Former national cricketer Roquibul Hassan was shocked at the national cricketer's behaviour, terming it as shameful.

"As a former cricketer, I'm ashamed. The national players are examples; youngsters follow them and when the icons do this sort of thing, it gives the wrong signal," he said.

"Such activities have to be arrested by a strong arm," said Roquibul and added that it is the cricket board that has a role to play to deal with such indiscretion.

A national teammate of Tamim said

he was shocked after hearing the news on television. Like this player, many others have been shocked to see Tamim going after a fellow cricketer to defend a team official.

The board has also condemned the issue but as usual, it has no system in place for corrective measures that could help the players in the future.

"This hasn't been a pleasant situation. It is unacceptable from a player of that calibre," said BCB CEO Manzur Ahmed. "There isn't a mentoring system in place within the BCB, I agree. But we will take steps to guide them properly."

Roquibul though insisted that discipline has to be enforced by the cricket board, despite Tamim's actions taking place under CCDM's authority.

"The BCB has to make sure that there is zero tolerance when it comes to

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