

# Star SPORT

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## Oezil happy at Real

Germany playmaker Mesut Oezil says he wants to see out his playing career with Real Madrid.

Oezil tells German magazine Kicker that "I want to finish my career at Real Madrid," and that while he knows Real will continue signing world-class players he wants "to be part of that future."

The 23-year-old Oezil, who joined Madrid from Werder Bremen in 2010, says his side is on course to claim the Spanish title from Barcelona.

Madrid has won 15 of its last 16 league games to lead the defending champion



## Club officials up in arms

**Cricket**

SPORTS REPORTER

The chaos that have gripped domestic cricket in the country continued unabated as ten of the 12 participating clubs threatened to boycott the suspended Premier Division Cricket League if the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) failed to resume the competition immediately.

The club officials made the announcement in a hurriedly-called press conference at a local hotel where they also warned the authorities concerned that they will not release their contracted players for the coming Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20.

"We have only one desire -- an uninterrupted league. You know the clubs have been spending huge money and they will face huge loss if they don't get an uninterrupted league and you cannot stop the league at your whim without discussion with the clubs," said Manzur Kader, president of Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club.

"We can't let go of this matter without any protest, which is why we have gathered here. We are in favour of playing cricket and our demand is very simple -- resume the league immediately otherwise we will boycott the league. On the other hand we have also

decided not to release our contracted players for the BPL and in that case the board must talk with us about our financial loss and risk of injury to the players if they participate," said Shawkat Ali Khan Jahangir, president of Victoria Sporting Club.

The ten top-flight clubs met in protest of BCB's decision to suspend the Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League for an indefinite period though the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) earlier assured them of the completion of the first round by February 6. Abahani and Mohammedan, however, did not join in the campaign though the other club officials confirmed that the two popular clubs expressed their solidarity regarding release of the players for the BPL.

All of a sudden BCB's acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury issued a letter on Wednesday night where it said that BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal, who was scheduled to return home last night after attending the ICC meeting, ordered the suspension of the league. Gazi Tank, who had a match against Abahani on Thursday, appeared at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur when they got the CCDM's letter at 10am.

Whispers were doing the rounds that the BCB president made the unexpected decision to fulfill the desire of Abahani, who were

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6



Muktijoddha striker Emily (R) is pumped up as he and his teammates celebrate his goal against Farashganj in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Muktijoddha off to winning start

SPORTS REPORTER



Two late strikes from Lima De Souza and Zahid Hasan Emily helped title contenders Muktijoddha Sangsad post a labourious 2-0 win over Farashganj SC in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu Stadium yesterday.

With only four minutes left for the final whistle and the match apparently heading for a dull draw, Brazilian midfielder Lima brought life into the match with a left-footer in the 86th minute and two minutes later Emily doubled the score to give the All Reds a winning start in their bid to win the professional football league title for the first time.

Star-studded Muktijoddha Sangsad enjoyed superior ball

possession throughout the game but their purposeless play almost caused them to drop points against the Old Dhaka outfit, Farashganj SC, who held Muktijoddha Sangsad to a 1-1 draw in the Federation Cup quarterfinal before conceding a 5-3 loss in the tiebreaker.

"It is hard to split the backline of a team who play negative football. But I am happy to leave the field with the full three points," said Muktijoddha Sangsad coach Shafiqul Islam Manik.

After the barren first half, coach Shafiqul Islam Manik made three changes to strengthen the attack. The substitute wingers Rajon Mia and Shakil Ahmed then helped penetrate the Farashganj backline allowing Muktijoddha to leave the pitch with heads held high.

The real scoring chance for Muktijoddha came in the 66th min-

ute when Sunday Chizoba passed to an unmarked Rajan Mia inside the danger zone but the winger saw his curling shot go just wide of the near post. Rajan, however, made amends, playing a role in the opener.

Brazilian Lima started his run from the midfield and reached the danger zone passing back and forth with Rajan Mia and Sunday Chozoba before unleashing a low left-footer past goalkeeper Sultan Ahmed in the 86th minute.

Two minutes later, Shakil Ahmed was the source of the second goal as the winger entered the box from the left flank to beat advancing goalkeeper Sultan and cut the ball back for his younger brother Emily to tap it into the open net to seal the victory.

"Still, I could not play my best eleven and it may take a little time to settle on the Muktijoddha's playing eleven, but I promise the team will

play better in the upcoming matches," said Manik.

"Farashganj went to snatch a point and we succeeded for 85 minutes. But in the end we failed to pick up a point against Muktijoddha, who are a far better and balanced side than us," said coach Kamal Babu.

### TEAMS

**MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD:** Mamun Khan, Mamunul Islam, Rezaul Karim (Shakil Ahmed), Zahid Hasan Emily, Maruf Ahmed (Rajon Mia), Mithun Chowdhury, Firoz Mahmud Titu (Ariful Islam), Emanuel Demi, Rafael De Androde, Lima De Souza and Sunday Chizoba. **FARASHGANJ SC:** Sultan Ahmed, Mamun Miah, Rashedul Alam, Jahirul Islam, Sayed Haque, Jewel Rana, Sabbir Hossain, Akbar Hossain (Pashban Molla), Akinyele Peter, Devis Mario (Teajieur Metenou) and Siyo Zupapio.

## Premier Bank title sponsor of BCL

SPORTS REPORTER

Premier Bank resumed its ties with football as the private bank became the title sponsor of the inaugural Bangladesh Championship League, a second-tier professional football league that begins from Monday.

The Premier Bank will provide Tk 20 lakh for the seven-team league with Uttar Baridhara Club taking on Beanibazar SC in the opening match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

"The introduction of the Bangladesh Championship League will bring a sequence in domestic football as we have already started the Bangladesh Premier Football League and the First, Second and Third Division Football Leagues in Dhaka," said BFF vice president Abdus Salam Murshedy at the logo unveiling as well as signing programme at the BFF House yesterday.

Premier Bank last sponsored the now defunct Dhaka Premier Division Football League in 2005.

Destiny 2000 has put up Tk 13 lakh as co-sponsor of the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

**Sheikh Jamal president Manzur Kader (3rd from L) reads out a protest note against Bangladesh Cricket Board's decision to suspend the Premier Division Cricket League indefinitely at a local hotel yesterday. Ten of the participating clubs threatened to boycott the League if the BCB did not resume the tournament immediately.**

PHOTO: STAR



## Aamer freed from jail

**Cricket**

AFP, London

Pakistan cricketer Mohammad Aamer was released Wednesday from a British jail after serving half of a six-month sentence for his part in a spot-fixing scam.

The 19-year-old was freed from Portland Prison in Dorset, south-west England.

Aamer, then a rising star of world cricket, was one of three Pakistan players jailed by a judge in London in November over their roles in a plan to bowl deliberate no-balls during a Test against England

at Lord's in August 2010.

However, he cannot immediately return to cricket as he is serving a five-year ban from the sport imposed by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for his role in the scandal.

Former Pakistan Test captain Salman Butt, 27, was sentenced to two and a half years for his role as the "orchestrator" of the scam while seamer Mohammad Asif, 28, received a 12-month prison term for bowling a fraudulent no-ball.

Mazhar Majeed, 36, the London-based sports agent who organised the scam was jailed for two years and eight months.

All three players are serving five-year ICC bans.

The scandal emerged as a result of an undercover investigation by now defunct British tabloid News of the World.

Both Butt and Aamer had appeals against their sentences rejected in November, with England's top judge saying they had "betrayed" their country.

Lord Chief Justice Igor Judge said Aamer was a "prodigious young talent with huge potential" that might be "irreparably damaged" by his time out of the game.

"This is, of course, his own loss and cricket will also be the poorer for the loss."

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

## Mahmood in, MacGill out for Gladiators

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Gladiators' Australian recruit Stuart MacGill yesterday pulled out of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 due to personal reasons, and will be replaced by Pakistan all-rounder Azhar Mahmood for the inaugural edition of the BPL due to start from February 9.

MacGill was bought by the Gladiators at the players' auction at the base price of

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

## LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

The Cute First Division Women's Handball League will start Sunday at the Handball Stadium with Mohammedan Sporting Club Ltd returning to the league after eight years.

Mohammedan emerged champions in their first appearance in 1984 and became runners-up the next year but they left the event for nineteen years before returning to the league again in 2004 where they again finished second.

This time, they have formed a strong team in a bid to clinch the title.

Nine teams, split into two groups, will play the round-robin matches with the top two groups from each group advancing to the four-team Super League.

Two matches will be held on the opening day with Arambagh taking on Mohammedan SC while Azad Sporting Club will face Flame Girl's Club.

Apart from those four teams, other participating teams are Dhaka Mariners Youngs Club, Madaripur Handball Training Centre, Jatrabari KC, Gafur Beluch Smriti Sangsad, RN Sport Home.

## 2nd Div Football

Friends Social Welfare Association held favourites Bangladesh Police AC to a 1-1 draw in the Destiny Group 2nd Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Aminul Islam gave Police a lead in the fourth minute while Swadhin Ahmed cancelled the lead three minutes from time to snatch a valuable point from Police.

In the day's other match, Karwan Bazar Progati Sangha defeated Bashabo Tarun Sangha 1-0 with Sabjid Ali scoring the decisive goal in the 28th minute.

## School Football

Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master High School moved into the district-level competition of the National School Football Islami Bank Tournament after emerging Upazila champions in Tangi yesterday.

Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master High School defeated

