

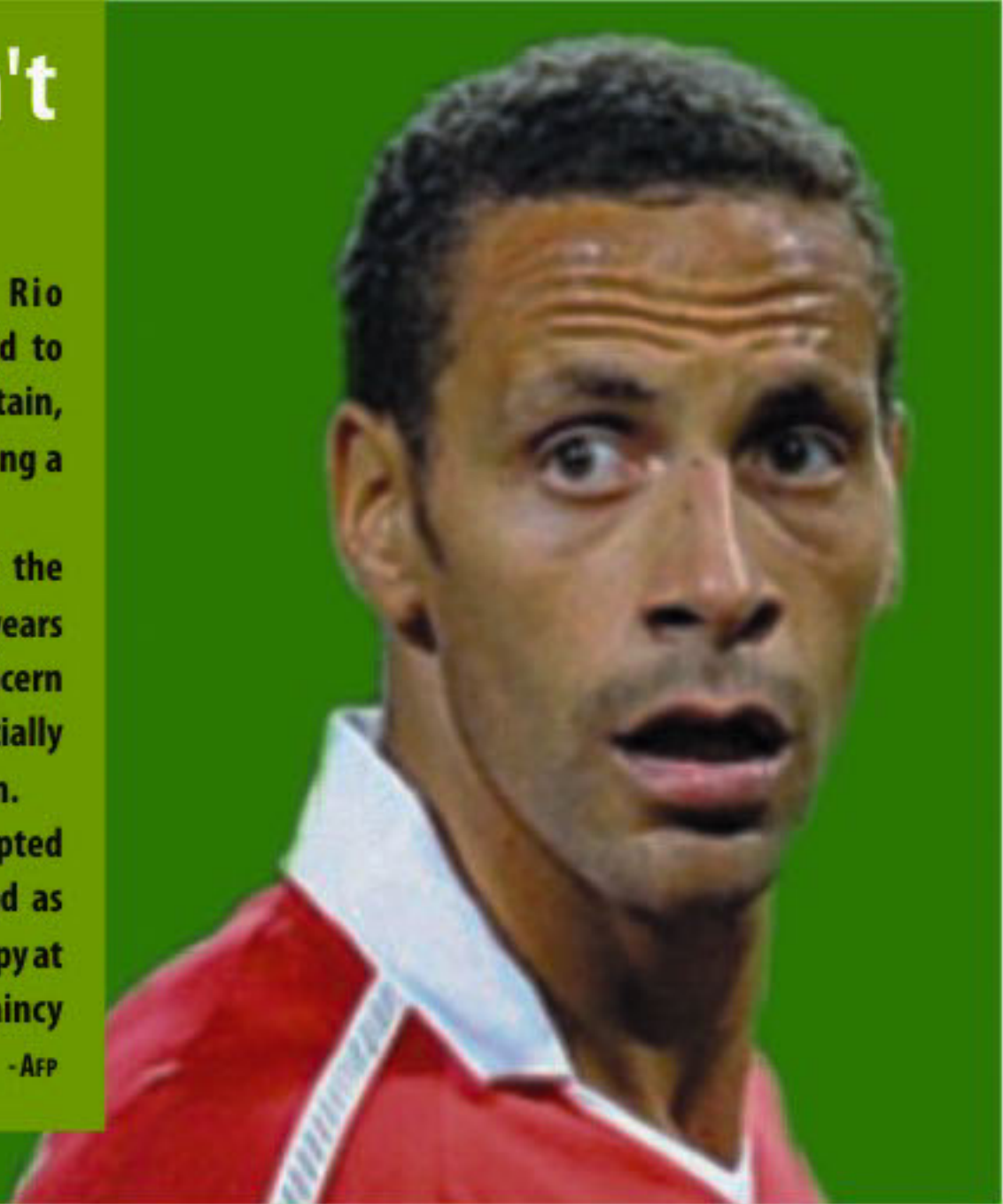
# Star SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Ferdinand won't replace Terry

Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand on Friday ruled out a bid to replace John Terry as England captain, saying he was focused only on securing a place in Fabio Capello's squad. Terry was dramatically stripped of the captaincy for the second time in two years earlier Friday amid mounting concern over his court case on charges of racially abusing Rio Ferdinand's brother Anton. Rio Ferdinand had previously accepted the armband when Terry was sacked as skipper two years ago, but was unhappy at the manner in which he lost the captaincy last year.

-AFP



## League resumes on Sunday

### Torun demotion upheld



SPORTS REPORTER

The Dhaka Premier League which was suddenly suspended two days ago following BCB chief Mustafa Kamal's instructions will resume tomorrow.

The board confirmed this last night after an emergency board meeting was called to solve the crisis surrounding the country's most coveted limited overs competition.

"It was decided in the meeting that the Dhaka Premier League will resume from tomorrow but for technical reasons, it may be delayed by a day. The board has also upheld the CCDM decision regarding Surjo Torun's demotion," said BCB media committee chairman

Jalal Yunus after a four-hour long heated discussion mainly centered on Surjo Torun's fate. "The league was suspended because the board wanted to solve the Surjo Torun issue and had a desire for a compromise deal. But finally we upheld CCDM's decision to avoid any kind of legal problems," added Yunus, when asked the reason behind the suspension of the league.

The chaos started with the expulsion of Surjo Torun Club, who failed to appear at the BKSP in Savar on time in their match against Kalabagan Krira Chakra on Tuesday because of road blockade following an accident near EPZ which killed one garments worker after a bus ran into his bicycle.

This was followed by the resignation of CCDM chairman GS Hasan Tamim after the committee made this decision on Thursday evening; it was also learnt that three directors fought hard to overturn the CCDM verdict considering Surjo Torun's contribution in cricket and a genuine reason behind the delay, but one influential board director won the battle finally.

Sources at the meeting informed that director Ahmed Iqbal Hasan at one stage left the meeting in protest of the decision shouting that he will quit the BCB.

President AHM Mustafa Kamal initially was in favour of overturning CCDM's verdict but he bent due to pressure. "Actually most of the members voted in favour of upholding CCDM's verdict," said Yunus.

Interestingly, the match referee Samiur Rahman didn't mention "walkover" in his initial report to the CCDM as the Surjo Torun officials had informed him about the situation. But the CCDM didn't go into clause 12.2 of the by-laws which states that an unusual situation will be considered.

In response of a question, Yunus also said that they didn't accept the resignation of GS Hasan Tamim. Hanif Bhuiyan, however, will be acting chairman as Tamim is out of the country. Kamal called this emergency meeting after returning home from Dubai as ten of the twelve participating clubs threatened to boycott the league if the board failed to resume the competition immediately.



PHOTO: STAR

Sheikh Russel striker Alamu Bukola (L) is being charged down by a Feni defender during their Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## Proctor, Roquibul match refs

SPORTS REPORTER

Mike Proctor, the former South Africa all-rounder, will be one of the two match referees in the upcoming Bangladesh Premier League.

He will be one of two referees of the Twenty20 competition alongside former national captain Roquibul Hassan. Proctor has administered 47 Tests, 162 ODIs and 15 Twenty20 internationals since 2002.

Among the umpires, Rudi Koertzen, Daryl Harper and Jeremy Lloyd are also reported to join the BPL.

Nadir Shah, Enamul Haque and Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid Saikat from the international panel will also conduct matches in the money-spinning competition.

## Div II football

SPORTS REPORTER

East End Club beat Purbachal Parishad by a solitary goal in the lone match of the Destiny Group Dhaka Mahanagori 2nd Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Ismail Hossain scored the all-important goal for the winners in the seventh minute from a spot-kick.

## Feni hold Sk Russel

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Russel KC stumbled in their opening match of the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League when they were held to a 1-1 draw by visitors Feni Soccer Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nigerian forward Rowland Abakporo gave Feni a first-half lead with a superb over-head kick before Ernest Sinkam Emako levelled the margin from a spot-kick late in the second half.

The game started with a minute's silence observed to the memory of those who died in a post-match clash in Egypt earlier in the week.

Sheikh Russel, one of the title contenders, dominated the game yet can consider themselves lucky having

snatched a point from the game. They went a goal down in the sixth minute and had to wait till the 78th minute to snatch an equaliser.

However, according to the trend of play, Sheikh Russel should have scored a few goals but for the failure of their strikers and a brilliant performance from Feni goalkeeper Masud Alam Uzzal, who thwarted at least three good attempts from Sheikh Russel forwards Yeamin Munna, Alamu Bukola and Ernest Emako.

Feni went ahead in the very sixth minute with a brilliant over-head kick from Rowland as his shot to the far post from the left-hand box left Sheikh Russel goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee, who was at the near post, helpless.

Sheikh Russel should have levelled the margin three minutes later, but winger Yousuf Ali drove miles off target from the edge of the six-yard box.

However, the third-placed finishers of the last season were given a reprieve with a penalty, thanks to Feni defender Okoye Victor who intentionally handled the ball inside the box which also saw him get the marching order. Emako stepped up to convert the spot-kick to rescue Sheikh Russel from a defeat.

"We were lucky to snatch a point from the game which is always better than getting nothing," said Sheikh Russel coach Maruful Haq.

Explaining the poor show from his charges, Maruf said that the wingers could not penetrate the Feni backline and the five-man wall of Feni made it difficult to go down the middle.

"Sheikh Russel are a better side than us and we are happy to snatch a point from them in our first away match although we targeted full three points," said Feni coach Rejaul Haque Jamal.

## Reprieve for India



AFP, Melbourne

India revived their Australian tour with a convincing eight-wicket win over the home side in the second Twenty20 international at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday.

The tourists dazzled in the field with four run outs to restrict Australia to 131 off 19.4 overs before reaching the target at 135 for two with two balls to spare before 62,275 fans.

It was the Indians' first victory on their tour of Australia after losing the opening T20 game by 31 runs in Sydney on Wednesday and receiving a 4-0 thrashing in the Test series.

Australia were scuttled by an India's brilliant fielding, the pick of which came from man-of-the-match Ravindra Jadeja who took two run outs.

It was a shambolic Australian performance with the bat and in the field as the youthful Indian side finally revealed the hunger missing for so much of the

lopsided Test series.

Gautam Gambhir top-scored with an unbeaten 56 off 60 balls with skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni not out 21 off 18 balls after promoting himself to number four in the batting order.

The Indians were always in control of the run chase,

but tensions mounted in the final over as the Australians ringed the field around Gambhir before he pierced the circle for the winning runs off Clint McKay with two balls to spare.

India only lost the wickets of Virender Sehwag for 23 off 16 balls and Virat

Kohli 31 off 24.

The impressive victory was just the momentum switch that India needed ahead of Sunday's opening match in the tri one-day series against Australia at the MCG.

Opener Aaron Finch, one of three changes from

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India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja (2nd from R) is congratulated by teammate Suresh Raina after the dismissal of Australia batsman David Hussey in their second T20 International at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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