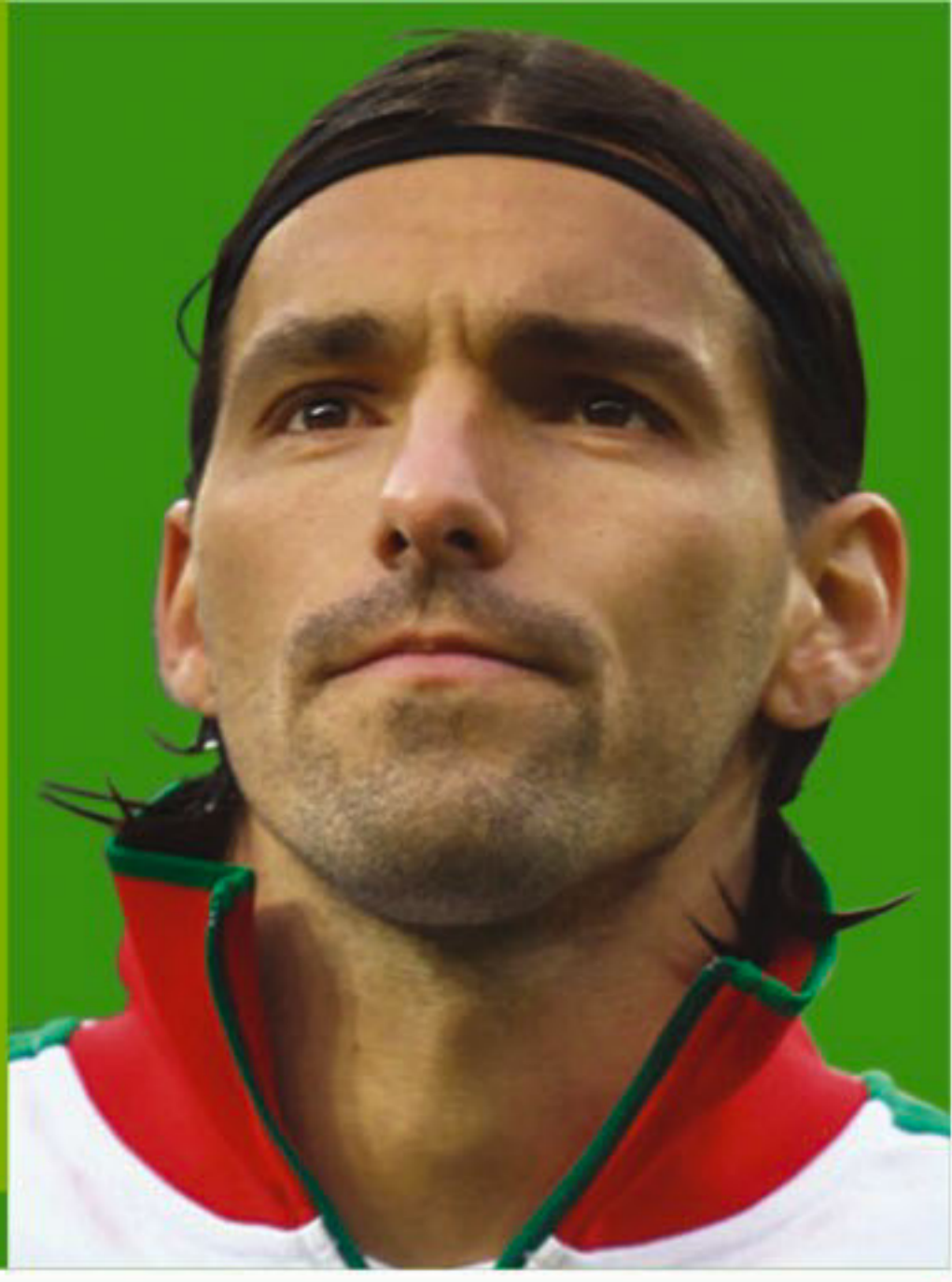


Danny out of Euro 2012

Zenit St Petersburg and Portugal winger Danny will be sidelined for up to eight months and miss Euro 2012 after injuring his knee in training, the Russian champions said on Tuesday. Danny, 28, suffered a "complete tear of the front cruciate ligaments in his right knee" at the team's pre-season training camp in Italy, Zenit said on their website (www.fc-zenit.ru). The flashy midfielder was out of action for almost a year after tearing cruciate ligaments in the same knee in 2009.

REUTERS



Kamal bullish about ICC role

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The International Cricket Council's decision to reconsider the role of the vice-president -- a position current Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal was set to take up from 2012 -- dampened Bangladeshis' fond hopes of seeing one of their own lead the global sporting body from 2014. The man himself, however, seemed unperturbed.

Five days after the ICC meeting, Kamal reiterated that he was not disheartened by his nomination as ICC vice-president from 2012 being deferred nor by the decision to split the role of president with a new chairman's post from 2014.

The next ICC annual board meeting in June this year will not only discuss the amendment in line with the recommendations of Justice Lord Woolf but also consider

the position and role, if any, of the ICC vice-president between 2012 and 2014.

"There is no point being disappointed with the changes. The issue of the vice-presidency role is under process. Why should I be disappointed when I can still be the ICC president in the post-2014 period?" queried a confident Kamal while talking to reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

As per recommendations, the president will have an ambassadorial role and will be appointed on a one-year rotational basis, while a chairman will lead the board. Kamal however said that there will be no change in the role of president.

"For the president everything will be the same as before. The recommendations just created a new system to build a bigger and better global game. Still the opportunity is there for us to lift the image of Bangladesh cricket, so we should in no way belittle it," observed Kamal smilingly adding that he

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Mahmudullah Riyad is a picture of concentration while driving towards extra-cover during Abahani's Premier League match against Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Axe falls on Bell

AFF, Dubai

Experienced middle-order batsman Ian Bell was Tuesday dropped from England's one-day squad after struggling to find his form during his team's 3-0 Test defeat to Pakistan.

The 29-year-old managed just 51 runs in six innings and failed to cope against spinner Saeed Ajamal, who finished with 24 wickets in the series. Pakistan romped to a 71-run win in the third Test on Monday.

Hampshire spinner Danny Briggs and Somerset batsman Jos Buttler were included in the 16-man one-day squad for the first time.

Buttler made his international Twenty20 debut against India last year but is yet to play for England in the 50-over format.

Alastair Cook will lead England in the four-match one-day series which starts in Abu Dhabi on February 13.

Stuart Broad will captain a 15-man Twenty20 squad that includes Nottinghamshire's Alex Hales for the three-match T20 series against Pakistan.

Paceman Tim Bresnan is also included subject to fitness.

"Bresnan's inclusion in both squads is subject to a

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Pepsi official beverage of BPL

SPORTS REPORTER

Pepsi will be the official beverage of the Bangladesh Premier League which begins on February 9.

The tournament proper will begin on February 10 when the matches of the six-team Twenty20 competition will kick off.

The popular soft drink was also one of the official sponsors of the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup.

Div II Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhanmondi Cricket Academy beat Gopibagh Friends Association by 50 runs during their Second Division Cricket League game at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

In a low-scoring affair, DCA made 163 runs in 48.3 overs with Robin making 41. In reply, Gopibagh were bowled out for 113 runs in 45.3 overs.

Babu picked up four wickets for the winners.

Arambagh stun BU

SPORTS REPORTER

A brace from Nigerian hitman Joel Ujumefun helped Arambagh KS come from behind to beat Brothers Union 2-1 in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The match between the two lesser weights could have gone either way but Arambagh snatched all the three points by availing two of the three chances they produced in the second half after conceding a first-half lead.

The ball was basically confined to the midfield as both teams played without much purpose before Brothers snatched the lead through a planned attack with Samson Iliasu playing Joshua Olalekin on the right side.

Joshua broke the off-side trap to enter the box and danced past a defender and

rounded the goalkeeper to place the ball home in the 40th minute.

Arambagh could have levelled the margin in the stoppage time of the first half had their Liberian striker Benjamin Cooper not headed an Eleta Kingsley lob wide of the target.

After the breather, Arambagh dominated the proceedings and created at least three scoring chances and availed two of them to leave the field with three points.

Kingsley missed an easy opportunity one minute into the second half for Arambagh while at the other end Kingsley Chigozie squandered a sitter for Brothers in the 51st minute.

However, Arambagh came level with an eye-catching strike from Joel, who side-volleyed a Sohag lob past Brothers goalkeeper Uttam Barua in the 75th minute and then shocked the Gopibagh outfit tapping in a cut-back from Kingsley in the injury time of the second half.

Old DOHS finish on top

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The traditional duel of the Dhaka Premier League turned out to be a drab affair yesterday when Abahani sauntered past Mohammedan Sporting Club by five wickets at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium. Old DOHS meanwhile signed off their first leg campaign with their ninth win, beating Prime Doleshwar by 21 runs at the BKSP.

Away in Bogra, Gazi Tank held their nerve in a three-run win over Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club despite skipper Mushfiqur Rahim's third century.

ABAHANI-MOHAMMEDAN Peter Trego kept up his knack of giving Abahani the early breakthrough as he removed Imtiaz Hossain in the fifth over. And when Kamrul Islam Rabbi took care

of the in-form Imrul Kayes, caught behind in the sixth over, it became an uphill task for Mohammedan who chose to bat first.

Thanks to Golam Mabud's 42, the Motijheel outfit finished at 170 runs in 45.4 overs. Trego picked up four wickets.

Abahani remained in control despite losing the Englishman early in the piece, as Anamul Haque and Marshall Ayub played around Mahmudullah Riyad, who took Abahani home through his unbeaten 48.

The win put Abahani in fourth place with 12 points while Mohammedan only just made it to the Super League with ten points.

GAZI-JAMAL Mushfiqur Rahim's third century in this year's league was still not enough as Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club fell just three runs short of Gazi Tank's 245-

8 in 50 overs.

The national captain played 141 balls for his 116 which had nine boundaries and a six, and as the sixth man out in the 48th over, still had hope of a Sheikh Jamal win. But some excellent slog-over bowling by Asif Ahmed and Mohammad Sami gave Gazi their seventh win and a probable third-place finish in the first leg.

The Dhanmondi outfit ultimately finished on ten points (level with Mohammedan) within the top six clubs.

DOHS-DOLESHWAR Rameez Pinzara struck 64 in another modest score of 198 all out for Old DOHS. Off-spinner Taijul Islam took three wickets for Prime Doleshwar, who couldn't chase down the total.

They were bowled out for just 177 runs in 48.2 overs with Old DOHS skipper

SEE PAGE 17 COL 3



Chittagong Kings' batting consultant Michael Bevan (2nd from R) speaks during a press conference in the port city yesterday. Also present were CEO Samir Q Chowdhury, icon player Tamim Iqbal, technical director Dean Jones and advisor Minhazul Abedin.

PHOTO: STAR

Toklis powers Victoria

SPORTS REPORTER

Striker Toklis Ahmed slammed a hattrick to power title contenders Victoria SC to an emphatic 3-0 win over Agrani Bank in their opening fixture of the Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Before the start of the second-tier football league, Victoria and Agrani Bank faced each other in the Grameenphone Federation Cup where they played out a

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BPL good for locals: Bevan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

One-day cricket idol Michel Bevan said that the Bangladesh Premier League T20s is a great opportunity to play with and against experienced and skilled international players, which will make the local players learn newer techniques.

He was addressing a press conference arranged by the team management held at Chittagong Club yesterday.

"It will create competitiveness and professionalism among the players in Bangladesh Cricket," said the batting coach of the Chittagong Kings, the team representing the division in the upcoming tournament.

The former Australia batsman added that Bangladeshi players have little experience in T20 cricket but the youngsters would be able to gather experience through this tournament.

Kings' icon player Tamim Iqbal, who is also waiting to get

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02 days to go... Starts from 10 February 2012 Keep your eyes on Channel 9

KHULNA ROYAL BENGALS roaring to rule

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