

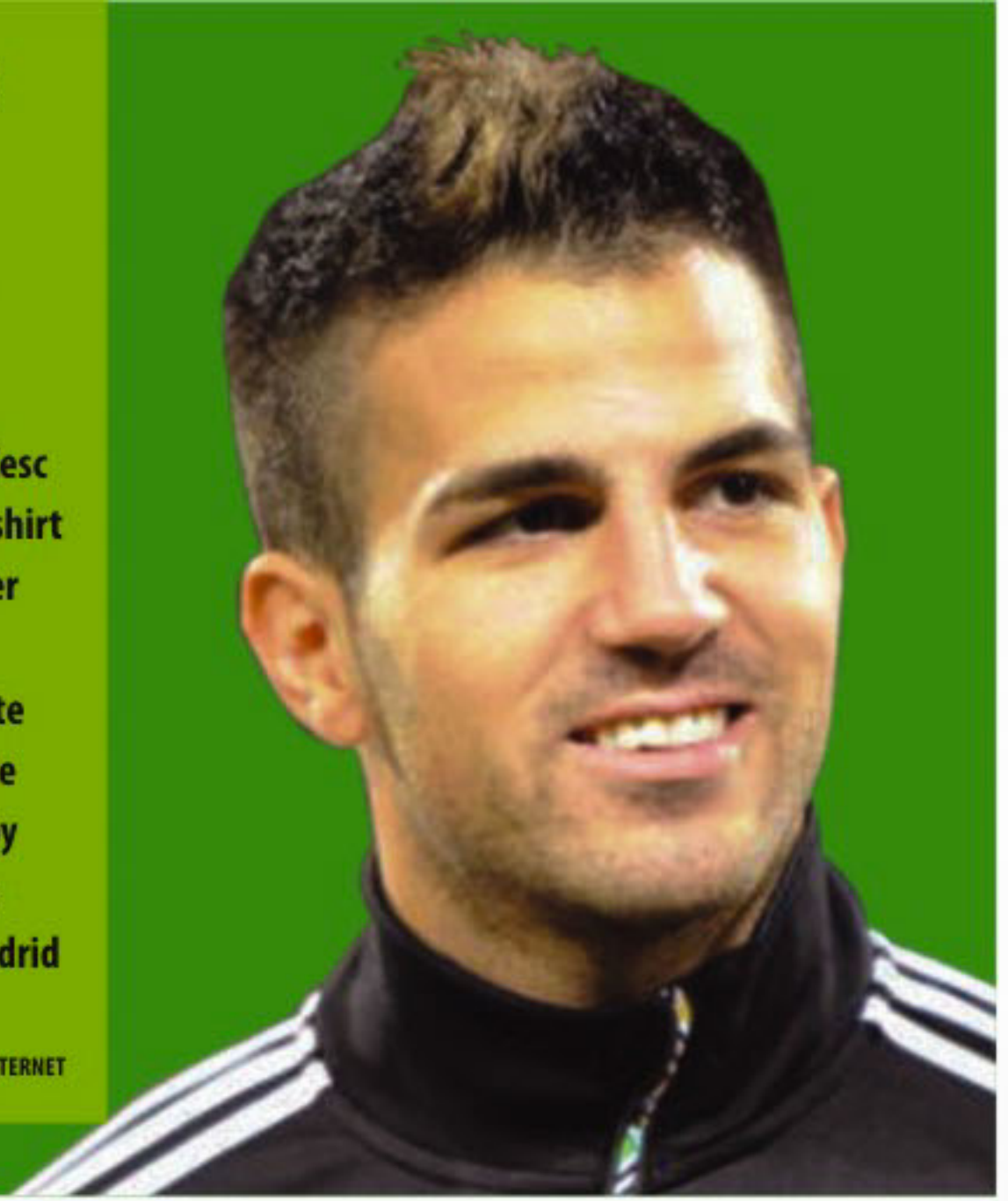
Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY MARCH 1, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Fabregas signs Real shirt

Stopping to sign autographs for a group of fans in Malaga as Spain prepare to play a friendly against Venezuela, Barcelona midfielder Cesc Fabregas was presented with the shirt of Real Madrid's German midfielder Mesut Ozil and he signed it. Of course, this was simply the polite thing to do, but it appears even the kid holding the shirt is stupefied by the fact that a man renowned for his Barca DNA would sign the Real Madrid shirt of a German player.

- INTERNET



Players and officials of Dhaka Gladiators celebrate with the Bangladesh Premier League trophy after defeating Barisal Burners in the final at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur last night. (Inset) Man-of-the-tournament Shakib Al Hasan of Khulna Royal Bengals embarks on a joyride on his Honda City car.

PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN



Dhaka the gladiators

SPORTS REPORTER



The franchise of the country's second largest division took just 15.3 overs to overhaul the Barisal Burners in a 7-wicket win in front of a full house, for successive days, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The gulf of difference between the two line-ups was for all to see as the Pakistan-heavy Gladiators had a lot more to offer with bat and ball than the top-heavy Burners, who could only muster 140-7 in 20 overs. But despite the glamour of the night, very few of the local players shone on the night, except Dhaka's young Anamul Haque Bijoy who, given the opportunity to bat at No 3, made 49 off 38 balls with the help of five fours and a six.

Anamul sealed the victory for the home team with a lofted on-drive off left-arm spinner Nazmul Islam

with 26 balls to spare.

He added 110 runs for the second wicket with opener Imran Nazir hammered six fours and six sixes in his 43-ball 75. Their partnership put the screws on the chase as Dhaka Gladiators, who had an ordinary second-half of the tournament, dominated the knockout stages by beating a strong Khulna Royal Bengals by nine runs, coinciding with the arrival of the deadly Pakistani pair of Shahid Afridi and Saeed Ajmal.

Barisal's defense of their modest total was not helped by their poor catching with Mohammad Mithun, the youngster who was auctioned off for \$80,000, having a terrible time under the bright lights. A wicketkeeper by trade, Mithun dropped Nazimuddin twice at deep square-leg off consecutive Kabir Ali deliveries in the second over, both catchable for any fielder of merit.

Apart from Barisal's catching and poor lengths while bowling wasn't their only problem on the night. Their batting too suffered from early losses. So as soon as Ahmed Shehzad fell for 28 in the fifth over by failing to clear Afridi over mid-on and Phil Mustard followed in the fifth by getting trapped leg-before by Ajmal, it was all down to skipper Brad Hodge.

The former Australia batsman didn't disappoint, slamming four boundaries and four sixes in his unbeaten 51-ball 70. Hodge,

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Sehwag, Zaheer rested

India name squad for Asia Cup in Dhaka

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

India have left out vice-captain Virender Sehwag and pace spearhead Zaheer Khan for the Asia Cup in Bangladesh, selectors insisting the out-of-form duo were rested and not dropped.

Veteran Sachin Tendulkar, chasing an elusive 100th international century, was included in the 15-man squad named Wednesday that also marks the return of hard-hitting batsman Yusuf Pathan and seamer Ashok Dinda.

Virat Kohli, who fired India to an impressive win over Sri Lanka in Hobart on Tuesday to keep them afloat in the tri-series in Australia, was promoted as vice-captain to

skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, as India look to the future.

The 23-year-old smashed an unbeaten 133 off 86 balls as India chased down a stiff target of 321 in just 36.4 overs to fashion a bonus point victory by seven wickets.

India need Australia to defeat Sri Lanka in Friday's last league match to join the hosts in the tri-series finals.

"We have to look at the future and that's why Kohli has been made vice-captain," chairman of selectors Krishnamachari Srikkanth told reporters in Mumbai.

Srikkanth said the decision to omit the under-performing Sehwag and Zaheer was taken after team management in Australia told the selectors that the pair, and fast bowler Umesh Yadav, needed a break.

"No one has been dropped," said

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Mushfiqu in for it

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday said it will take stern action against Mushfiquur Rahman for Tuesday's comments after the BPL T20 semifinal between Duronto Rajshahi and Barisal Burners.

"This is a serious offence," said BCB media committee chairman Jalal Yunus of the national captain. "Stern action will be taken if he's found guilty. The disciplinary committee will look into the matter and inform the board, which will take action shortly," he added.

As the captain of Rajshahi,

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Mash basks in glory

SPORTS REPORTER



Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was the captain holding aloft the BPL trophy when the dust had settled after the final between Dhaka Gladiators and Barisal Burners at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. The tournament has come a full circle for the Narail Express, as there was negativity surrounding him before the BPL started when he reported an approach for alleged spot-fixing.

The inaugural edition of the BPL has seen its controversies fixing allegations surrounding a player, the semifinals mix-up but Mashrafe was savouring the moment of victory regardless. "There have been controversies," the

Dhaka Gladiators captain said after the prize giving ceremony that saw a lot of hoopla. "But even then I can say with confidence that the other five captains are hurting because they are not standing where I am standing [as the champions]."

About the BPL, Mashrafe said that its biggest benefit was to the local youngsters.

"Local players mixing with international stars are the biggest benefit of the BPL," he said and gave credit to his team's plethora of Pakistani stars. "It has been great to have Shahid Afridi and Saeed Ajmal in the team from the semifinals, but I will have to give more credit to Azhar Mahmood, Imran Nazir and Rana Naved-ul-Hasan who have been there throughout the tournament. They have helped the youngsters with advice, and the youngsters have

benefited a lot by watching them train and seeing how they go about their preparation."

Coming back from a ten-month injury layoff, Mashrafe felt good about his fitness. "I think it is great that I have been able to finish the tournament, and the standard was also high, with the likes of Chris Gayle hammering away at the start.

About the final, which they won by eight wickets, Mashrafe said the strategy was to pack the side with bowlers because of Barisal's strong top order. "That was the only strategy really. We brought back Rana Naved-ul-Hasan to strengthen the bowling."

Shahriar Nafees, Barisal's icon player, said that Dhaka were the deserving winners. "They have an amazing

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Siddikur sets his sights on Open C'ship

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman takes the field along with an illustrious cast of 71 golfers for qualifying for the Open Championship through the International Final Qualifying (IFQ) -- Asia which starts at the Amata Spring Country Club in Thailand today.

The competition will be a stiff one as there are only four places up for grabs for the year's third Major at Royal Lytham and St Annes, England from July 19 to 22.

Siddikur, who has blown hot and cold of late, will be up against the likes of Mardan Mamat of Singapore, Chawalit Plaphol, Prom Meesawat and Prayad Marksaeng of Thailand, Ben Fox of the United States, Anirban Lahiri of India, Scott Hend of Australia among others for a place in the top four.

However, the good news is that after an indifferent start to the season, Siddikur has finally found some form as he has finished fifth in the SAIL-SBI Open in India which took place last week.

It has been a career of many firsts for Siddikur and he hopes to add another feather in the cap by representing his

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8

BCB all set to go for sweeping changes

Board sits for the AGM today

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

While everyone has been enchanted by the razzmatazz of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20, major changes are about to take place in the running of Bangladesh cricket, as a proposal for major amendments to the BCB (Bangladesh Cricket Board) constitution will be placed before the councillors for approval during today's Annual General Meeting (AGM) at a luxury hotel in the city.

The AGM will be followed by an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). And apparently it seems that the proposals, prepared by the constitution committee headed by Dewan Shafiqul Arefin, will be approved without any hurdle in the highest forum of the board and if that is the case then professionalism will take a back seat in the board's activities. Besides, keeping in line with the ICC's (International Cricket Council's) recommendations there is a proposal for the president of the board to be elected through a democratic process. Presently, the board president is a government nominee.

The amendment proposed in the draft constitution is the replacement of the post of 'chief executive officer' (CEO) with that of chief operating officer (COO), curbing his authority over executive power.

According to the proposal, the post of the chief financial official (CFO) will be abolished and the Finance Committee chief, instead of the CEO or the to-be COO, will look after the financial issues.

The proposal, if approved, will slash the executive power of the top official which means that the board activities will be run by amateurs instead of professionals.

Earlier, BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal subtly shifted from his refreshing 'professionalism' stance after the last AGM, suggesting the position of the CEO could soon become history.

And then he also mentioned that if the board moved the position from CEO to COO, there would not be any difference in its job description. In reality, however, COO will be a glorified clerk in the board.

There are some run-of-the-mill issues on the amendment list. But the most heart-breaking recommendation is the deletion of Clauses 9.3.8 and 9.3.9 -- which allow former cricketers the right to become councillors of the board -- from the board's constitution. The proposal, if approved, will ensure that there would be no cricketer-councillors, which were 15 in the present constitution.

The focus will also be on the proposal of the much-desired regional cricket associations with a view to decentralise cricket administration in the country which has been the centre of discussion regarding BCB's policy-making since its elevation to Test status in 2000. If it is approved, then there will be no existence of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) as the administrative zone will be divided into eight zones including the seven divisions and Dhaka Metro.

If the proposal is approved in the EGM today, then it will be sent to the National Sports Council for adopting it and issuing as gazette.

HC rejects Ctg Kings writ petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a writ petition, hours after it was filed by Chittagong Kings, which challenged the decision of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) authorities to exclude the franchise from the tournament while also seeking a stay order on the holding of the final match of the tournament.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim yesterday afternoon rejected the writ petition filed by Samir Quader Chowdhury, CEO of Chittagong Kings and owner of the team.

In the writ petition, Quader sought directive from the HC upon the BPL authorities to cancel the first semifinal match held between Barisal Burners and Duronto Rajshahi on Tuesday and appealed for holding a fresh semifinal match.

The HC rejected the petition on the grounds that it is not acceptable since a civil case involving the matter remains pending with a Dhaka court, and also stated that an adverse impact will take place if the HC interfered with the holding of the final match.

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- Liverpool John Moores University
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- London South Bank University
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Middlesex University, London

Dhaka
Winter Garden, Ruposhi Bangla Hotel
1 March 2012 from 12 pm to 7 pm
2 March 2012 from 11 am to 7 pm

Chittagong
The Peninsula Chittagong
4 March 2012 from 12 pm to 7 pm

- Navitas
- Newcastle University
- Queen Mary, University of London
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Staffordshire University
- The University of Hull
- The University of Manchester
- The University of Nottingham
- University of Reading
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