

# Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY MAY 3, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Yuvraj given 20 acres

Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal on Tuesday offered to allot 20 acres of land near Chandigarh to star cricketer Yuvraj Singh to set up a sports academy.

Yuvraj, who is recovering after undergoing treatment for a rare germ cell cancer, was accompanied by his mother Shabnam Singh when he called on Badal at his residence on Wednesday, an official spokesman said.

Badal wished him a speedy recovery and best of health. Badal appreciated the proposal put forth by Yuvraj to establish state-of-the-art sports academy near Chandigarh to impart training to the budding players in cricket, hockey, golf



## BCB helpless with Premier matter

SPORTS REPORTER

Another board meeting took place on Tuesday but still the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) could not break the deadlock and resume the Dhaka Premier Cricket League.

Rather, the helpless board has taken the matter to government intelligence agency to investigate the registration issue of Victoria's Pakistani batsman Mohammad Yousuf, whose clearance letter from Mohammedan Sporting Club has been the main topic of grouse.

"The board has decided to given the responsibility to the government agency to find out whether there was any fraud regarding registration of Mohammad Yousuf," said BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus yesterday. "We had no other choice because five clubs out of six are very much stubborn in their stance. The clubs wanted to solve the matter first before taking part in the league."

"We will set our next course of action after getting the report from the government agency," he added.

The Super League was suspended following controversy over the registration of Yousuf on March 28. It could have been a straightforward matter for the board but they have created a farce after the way they have been dealing with the matter which simply wasted precious time in an otherwise stop-start domestic calendar.

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## Moulvibazar keep winning

SPORTS REPORTER

Rahat's opening burst gave Moulvibazar the start they required to eventually beat Naogaon by four wickets at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

The medium-pacer picked up three wickets that sunk Naogaon to 155 all out in 41.4 overs. Rezwan and Ejaz took two wickets each.

In reply, Moulvibazar reached 156-6 in 34 overs with Shahnor top scoring with 29 runs.



Royal Challengers Bangalore batsman Chris Gayle hammers one on way to scoring 71 in their IPL match against Kings XI Punjab at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore yesterday. Gayle's efforts went in vain as RCB lost by 4 wickets.

PHOTO: AFP

## Punjab scramble past Bangalore

SPORT DESK



Piyush Chawla's flat six over long-on sealed King's XI Punjab a 4-wicket victory over Royal Challengers Bangalore in a nerve-racking IPL T20 encounter at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore yesterday.

Chasing a modest 159-run target, Kings XI Punjab looked on course with plenty of wickets in hand till a late flurry of run-outs took it down to the wire. In the end, leg-spinner Chawla kept his cool as he slogged Vinay Kumar for six in the penultimate delivery to seal the tie with four wickets to spare. Punjab had a raucous start, courtesy of Mandeep Singh's 43 before Nitin Saini added 50 and David Hussey scored 45 to put the visitors on course.

Earlier sent in to bat, Chris Gayle's fiery 71 off 41 balls took Royal Challengers 158 for five wickets in their 20 overs.

Royal Challengers were heading for much

more before Azhar Mahmood produced a terrific final over to restrict them below 160 runs. Mahmood dismissed AB de Villiers and Andrew McDonald in the last over and conceded just 4 runs.

Bangalore lost Virat Kohli and Gayle in quick succession after the duo added a quick-fire 119 runs stand to resurrect their innings.

Chawla dismissed Kohli in the seventeenth over to reduce Bangalore to 134 for 4 in 16.4 overs, soon after Mahmood struck in the previous over to break the imposing Gayle-Kohli partnership.

Gayle hit four massive sixes and six boundaries in his whirlwind 41-ball knock to lead the Bangalore run charge.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 158

for 5 (Gayle 71, Kohli 45; Mahmood 3-20)

KINGS XI PUNJAB: 163 for 6 (Saini 50,

Hussey 45, Mandeep 43; McDonald 2-25)

Result: Kings XI Punjab won by four wickets

Man-of-the-match: Azhar Mahmood

## New committee for change?



Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The newly elected executive committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation, although awaiting official recognition by FIFA, held an introductory meeting at the BFF House on Tuesday.

The two newly elected vice presidents Tabith M Awal and Arif Khan Joy, among others, were introduced to the president Kazi Salahuddin while vice president elect Badal Roy remained absent from the unofficial meeting.

"We were introduced on Monday through an unofficial meeting and we will sit in the executive committee meeting as soon as FIFA recognises this committee," said vice president Tabith M Awal, who is yet to retire from football.

A businessman by profession, Tabith asserted that his business would not hinder him from fulfilling his duties to BFF and football, as he came to football with the knowledge that he would have to give extra time to develop football.

"I think everything in football is in place but it has not been managed properly and I will try to manage it properly with the help of my business knowledge," said Tabith adding that there must be a target, a strategy, a deadline and evaluation for success or failure.

"More footballers will come out if we organise more tournaments and I will insist that the committee re-introduce tournaments which have not been held for a long time," said Tabith, son of industrialist Abdul Awal Mintu.

Re-elected member and former footballer Satyajit Das Rupu informed that every

member, irrespective of their panel, has been urged to work together.

"All the members have been requested to work together and act as family members as the committee comprises members from two panels," said Rupu.

"The members have also been asked not to say anything that might destroy the harmony of the executive committee," said the former footballer.

However, it seems vice president Badal Roy may keep his distance from the current committee as he remained absent in the meeting. Roy alleged that a group conspired against him during the elections in an effort to make him lose.

Roy narrowly escaped defeat in the polls as he finished fourth, bagging 61 votes while his nearest rival got 59 votes.

"There was a conspiracy to keep me out of the committee and a lot of money was disbursed in the election to see me fail," said Roy.

"I have to think whether I will be able to work with this new committee as the situation is not welcoming and I am under tremendous pressure mentally," said the former national footballer.

Defeated candidate Shawkat Ali Khan Jahangir also said that he lost against money.

"I lost to money and seasonal birds won the money game of election," said Jahangir. "As an organiser, I had been with the sport for a long time but I was not evaluated by the delegates."

It is worth mentioning here that out of the eighteen members, only five -- Kazi Nabil Ahmed, Harunur Rashid, Sirajul Islam Bachchu, Amirul Islam Babu and Maruf Hasan have a background in organising while others including president Kazi Salahuddin, senior vice president Abdus Salam Murshedy have a footballing background.

## They think of cricket at BNS again

SPORTS REPORTER

The name of Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) came up as a possible venue for the ICC World Twenty20 Bangladesh 2014 during a preparatory meeting held at the conference room of the Youth and Sports Ministry yesterday.

The mega event will take place in Bangladesh from April 1 to 20 in 2014 where 16 men's teams and 10 women's teams (subject to ICC's approval) will participate.

"It was a preparatory meeting and all the discussions were just in preliminary stages. The BNS name came in discussion as possible venue but all of this will be subject to the concerned authorities. Everything came up as a proposal," informed BCB acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury, who attended the meeting on behalf of the board.

He said that the Cox's Bazar venue has been proposed to host all the women's matches considering the accommodation and other facilities.

The names of Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, Fatullah Cricket Stadium, Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in

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PHOTO: STAR

Barguna Zilla School players celebrate winning the Standard Chartered Young Tigers National School cricket tournament trophy at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on May 1.



A CHAMPIONSHIP GOAL! Manchester City's Belgian defender Vincent Kompany (2nd from R) heads in the all-important goal against Manchester United during their English Premier League match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester on April 30.

PHOTO: AFP

## Heading to the wire

REUTERS, Manchester



The English title race is heading for its tightest finish in 23 years after Manchester City's 1-0 win over Manchester United on Monday left the teams level on points at the top of the Premier League table.

With two matches to play, both Manchester clubs are on 83 points but City lead on goal difference.

Roberto Mancini's City have scored 88 goals and conceded 27 for a goal difference of 61 while United have scored 86 goals and conceded 33 for a difference of 53.

Not since Arsenal and Liverpool finished level on points in 1989 has the title race been so close when the teams finished level on points (76) and goal difference (37).

Arsenal's Michael Thomas scored with almost the last kick of the final game of the season to give his side a 2-0 win at Liverpool that clinched the title by virtue of Arsenal having scored more goals over the season.

Such neck-and-neck finishes are rare. Prior to 1989 the last time it happened was 1965 when Manchester United and Leeds United finished level on points and Manchester took the title under a system that separated the sides on average goals

scored over the 42 games of the season.

On paper, Manchester City have the harder games left this season and that makes United favourites to win the title, according to City manager Roberto Mancini.

City's last two matches are at Newcastle United, who are chasing a Champions League place, and home to relegation-threatened Queens Park Rangers.

United, meanwhile, will host Swansea City and travel to Sunderland, both opponents safe in mid-table.

Gary Neville, who retired as a United player last season, told Sky Sports that losing the title on goal difference was manager Alex Ferguson's "worst nightmare".

"Losing a championship on goal difference is what he always talks about, every single season," said Neville.

"In January, in February, in March, whatever month it is, going for a championship he will say: 'If you're 1-0, 2-0 up, score three, score four'.

"You never know whether it's going to get to goal difference."

Neville said United had passed up opportunities to boost their goal difference during the season.

"Look at games like Fulham at home 1-0, QPR at home 2-0, and it's these sort of things

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NAT'L SCHOOL CRICKET

## Barguna champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Barguna Zilla School became champions of the Standard Chartered Young Tigers National School cricket tournament by beating Meherpur's Technical School & College by five wickets in the final on May 1.

Some thousand-odd players from the different teams of the city's Third Division Qualifying tournament turned up at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium to witness the game which however was a one-sided affair.

The Meherpur school's decision to bat first backfired as they were bowled out for just 96 runs in 41.3 overs. Shakil took four wickets for just nine runs while skipper Mridul picked up three.

Saiful made 26 for the Barguna school who reached the target in 34.3 overs.

State Minister for the Ministry of Youth & Sports Ahad Ali Sarker, MP distributed prizes as the chief guest