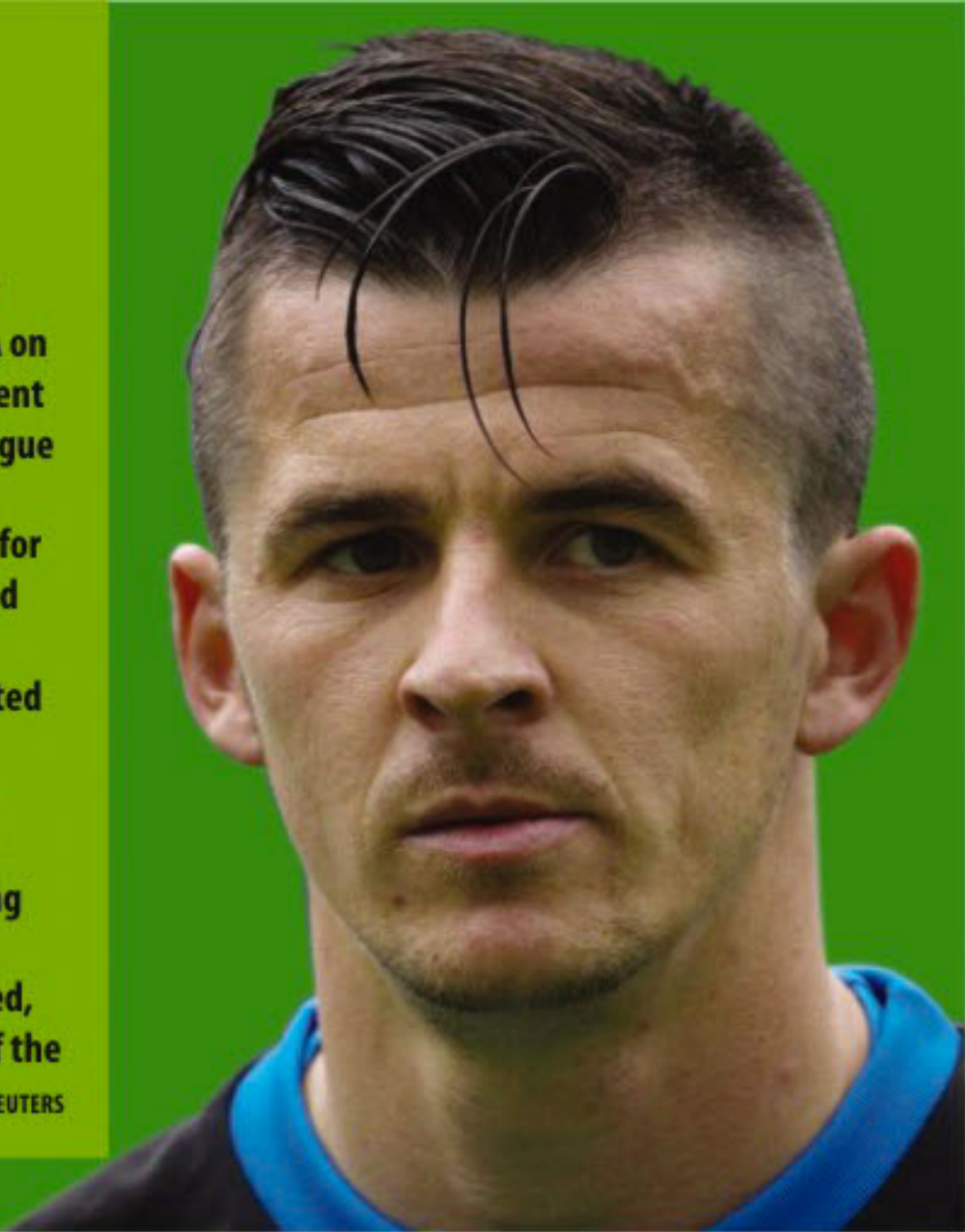


Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY MAY 16, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

FA charges Barton

Queens Park Rangers midfielder Joey Barton was charged by the English FA on Monday with two acts of alleged violent conduct during Sunday's Premier League match against Manchester City. The controversial player was sent off for elbowing Carlos Tevez and then kicked Sergio Aguero and tried to head-butt Vincent Kompany before being escorted off the pitch. An FA statement said: "Following the player's dismissal in the 54th minute there followed two incidents involving Sergio Aguero and Vincent Kompany. "As Barton had already been dismissed, both of these incidents fell outside of the jurisdiction of the referee." -REUTERS



Tigers go to Harare on June 14

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will arrive in Zimbabwe on June 14 to play a tri-nation Twenty20 series that also involves South Africa.

This was confirmed yesterday after the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) approved participation of the national team for the tri-series and also for BCB XI's tour of Trinidad for a T20 series against Trinidad & Tobago commemorating the island's Independence Day.

The double-league competition, which are not going to be internationals as Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) could not arrange a television broadcast, will begin on June 18 after the Tigers play a 50-over practice game.

The tournament will be played at the Harare Sports Club; the final will be held on June 24.

The BCB XI will be off for the Caribbean on August 25 and will begin the T20 series against Trinidad from August 30. The second and third matches will be held on September 1 and 2 before they head back home the next day.

The Tigers' schedule for the matches in Ireland and Scotland in late July is expected to be announced in a day or two.

U-22 ASIAN CUP

Clubs agree to release players

SPORTS REPORTER

The clubs of the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League have agreed to release their players for the training camp of the U-22 national team ahead of their Asian Cup campaign which begins in Nepal on June 2.

However, the players will get back to their respective clubs a day before their league matches and will return to the training immediately after the match day, it was decided at a meeting of the clubs' with the professional football league committee yesterday.

The meeting also decided to suspend the ongoing league for a week, corresponding to the tournament (Jun2 June 10), informed BFF's acting general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

The clubs have also agreed to play one of their remaining matches without their players who were chosen for the

BOA rewards for athletes

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association rewarded nine weightlifters and six taekwondo players yesterday.

The nine weightlifters, six of them women and three men, won medals in the 1st South Asian Men's and Women's Weightlifting Championship held in Nepal recently while the taekwondo players, two of them women and four men, won medals in the 1st Mount Everest Taekwondo Competition last year.

The players were awarded Tk 10,000, 5,000 and 3,000 for winning the medals. BOA secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed was present among others at the program.



Muktijoddha Sangsad striker Mithun Chowdhury (R) celebrates his second strike against Feni Soccer Club in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Muktijoddha maul Feni

SPORTS REPORTER

A brace from Mithun Chowdhury powered Muktijoddha Sangsad to an emphatic 5-0 win over visiting Feni Soccer Club in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Apart from Mithun's double, Nigerian striker Sunday Chizoba, defender Nasir Chowdhury and substitute winger Shihab netted one goal each for the All Reds, who came into the game on the back of a shock 1-0 defeat against minnows Farashganj SC.

The outcome of the day's match could not bring any change in the 11-team points table as Muktijoddha stayed in second position with 24 points from 12 matches, three less than leaders Abahani. Feni Soccer, on the other hand, are in ninth position with 10 points from same number of matches.

National striker Mithun Chowdhury had been going through a bad patch since the start of the fifth edition of professional league and even lost his place in the starting eleven for his failure to score goals even though he started the season brilliantly by scoring three goals in four Federation Cup matches.

With Muktijoddha leading 2-0, the diminutive striker came off the bench in the second half and struck two goals to ensure the big margin win for his side.

"Every player goes through lean periods and I did too. But now that is over as I have scored two goals today. I want to thank my teammates who wanted me to score in this match," said Mithun after the game.

After their shock defeat against Farashganj in their previous match, Muktijoddha were more cautious in yesterday's match as they fielded five defenders and Sunday playing as the lone striker. However, that didn't bar them from taking a seventh minute lead.

Brazilian midfielder De Souza Lima put a through-pass for Sunday, who entered the box to square-pass it to unmarked Nasir and the defender placed the ball home from the edge of the six-yard box.

The lead was doubled by Sunday who entered the box from the left-flank this time before curled the ball nicely to find the far corner in the 21st minute despite facing challenge from defender Mostafa Kaba and Markson F Gray inside the box.

Five minutes before the break, Feni Soccer mustered their first shot on target but Atangana Paulin's shot was gripped

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BSWA BODY RULING SC halts HC stay

SPORTS REPORTER

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday halted the High Court order that stayed the ad-hoc committee of Bangladesh Sports Women's Association for one month.

Chamber judge of Appellate Division Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the order after the National Sports Council challenged order of the High Court yesterday. Attorney General Mahbub Alam, senior advocate AFM Mezbahuddin Ahmed and three other deputy attorney generals argued before the court in favour of the National Sports Council while barrister Masood Reza Sobhan and Fatema S Chowdhury argued in favour of petitioner and former BSWA general secretary Mahfuza Akhter Kiron.

A High Court bench recently issued a stay order on the ad-hoc committee of BSWA for one month and served a show cause notice on the NSC as to why the respondents should not be directed to allow the elected executive committee of BSWA to assume its office and continue functioning till the completion of tenure.

"After the Supreme Court order, the ad-hoc committee of the BSWA has no bar on working and it will work as usual as before," said NSC law official Kabirul Hasan yesterday.

Eng fear C'paul, pace

Cricket

REUTERS, London

Shivnarine Chandernaul's limpet-like batting and the express pace of Kumar Roach and Fidel Edwards will make West Indies dangerous opponents for strong favourites England in the three-Test series starting on Thursday.

England top the world rankings, six places above their opponents, and have not lost a home Test series since 2008, while West Indies have won only one of their last 18 Tests on English soil and just one of their last 10 series.

With conditions also likely to favour England's potent bowling attack, Darren Sammy's touring side face a daunting task going into the first Test at Lord's.

"They've got Ottis Gibson as a coach who worked within the England set-up for three

years, they've got two bowlers who can bowl very quick, they've got Chandernaul who's a world-class batsman who's toured England on numerous occasions, so they're certainly a team we have to be very careful of," England fast bowler Stuart Broad told Sky Sports.

"We have to perform the way we can perform and should perform," he added.

"We won't look too far ahead in the series. We'll look to that first hour in the first Test match like we always do, try and set the tone and try and hit them hard."

England lost 3-0 to Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates this year, a series in which their top-order batsmen struggled badly for runs, and although they fought back to draw 1-1 in Sri Lanka there are still grounds for concern.

Captain Andrew Strauss scored the last of his 19 Test centuries 18 months ago and the

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FIXING ALLEGATIONS

Suspension on 5 Indian IPL-ers

AFP, New Delhi

Five domestic Indian Premier League players were suspended from cricket on Tuesday after a sting operation by a local TV channel highlighted alleged fixing and corruption, sporting authorities said.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said the players were handed provisional suspensions until its investigations into the allegations were completed.

The five -- TP Sudhindra, Mohnish Mishra, Abhinav Bali, Amit Yadav and Shalabh Srivastava -- are all first-class cricketers signed to various teams in the IPL.

"The BCCI has decided to suspend these players from all cricket till preliminary investigation into the whole episode is completed," IPL commissioner Rajiv Shukla told reporters.

The inquiry will be carried out by former police officer Ravi Sawani, who has previously served in the International Cricket Council's Anti-Corruption and Security Unit, Shukla added.

Hindi-language India TV showed Sudhindra, of the Deccan Chargers, allegedly agreeing to bowl pre-arranged no-balls in a local amateur match, while Kings XI Punjab player Srivastava was reportedly heard boasting he could do the same in the IPL.

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Chess looking for consensus

SPORTS REPORTER

Almost all the voters are expected to compete in the much talked about polls of the Bangladesh Chess Federation as 108 nomination papers were sold at the National Sports Council yesterday.

A total of 117 voters will elect a 25-member committee, comprising one president (govt nominated), four vice presidents, one general secretary, two joint secretaries, one treasurer and 16 members. The election is scheduled for March 31.

So far four panels -- led separately by GM Niaz Murshed, incumbent general secretary Mokaddesh Hossain, Gazi Tareq Saiful and Khandoker Kayesh -- are campaigning for the BCF polls and they have picked nominations for their respective committees, leaving

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Premier League tangle untied

May 31 restart; Abahani-Victoria replay

SPORTS REPORTER

The Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League will resume on May 31 after a suspension of two months, Bangladesh Cricket Board announced yesterday.

The long deadlock ended after BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal's meeting with the six Super League clubs' representatives at the board headquarters in Mirpur.

Abahani, Mohammedan and Victoria Sporting Club, the three clubs embroiled in the controversy, as well as Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, Old DOHS Club and Gazi Tank attended the meeting.

The stalemate came to an end after

Victoria agreed that their match against Abahani will be replayed and BCB boss could convince the clubs that it would be wise to leave behind the Victoria batsman Mohammad Yousuf's registration issue considering its legal complications.

The league was suspended since March 28 following the controversy over the legality of Yousuf's registration as Abahani refused to play in the second session for which Victoria were awarded two full points.

Abahani along with the other Super League clubs except Victoria protested the decision and took a strong stance as they were saying that they will not take part in the league until their demands including a fresh match between

Abahani and Victoria and reconstruction of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) were fulfilled.

An emergency BCB meeting had called to break the deadlock from where a date was fixed (April 10) but the board ultimately failed to resume the league and after that the board formed a high-powered four-member committee but senior vice-president Mahbubul Anam, Gazi Ashraf Hossain, Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir and Dewan Shafiqul Arefin could not find a solution.

The clearance papers of Mohammad Yousuf even gave to the government's investigative agencies to take the decision about the legality of it.

"For the greater interest of cricket I

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BCB chief AHM Mustafa Kamal (C) addresses the media yesterday after meeting with the six Premier League club representatives including former national captain Khaled Mahmud (2nd from L) in Mirpur. The clubs have agreed to resume playing the Super League on May 31.

PHOTO: STAR