

# Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY MAY 17, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Becks to bring flame to Britain

Football star David Beckham will bring the Olympic flame from Greece to Britain for the torch relay ahead of the London 2012 Games, organisers said on Wednesday. Beckham will be joined by five young Britons for Thursday's handover ceremony at the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens. The Los Angeles Galaxy midfielder and former England captain will then be part of the delegation that brings the flame to Cornwall in southwest England to begin its 70-day journey around Britain and Ireland. Beckham was part of London's winning bid team in the contest to stage the Olympics.

— AFP



PHOTO: AFP  
Kolkata Knight Riders batsman Shakib Al Hasan loses his leg stump as he attempts to pull a ball from Mumbai Indians bowler Dwayne Smith during their IPL match at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai yesterday.

## 'Tigers' camp not needed'

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

There is a very slim chance the Tigers' training camp will get underway as per schedule after the stalemate regarding the resumption of the Dhaka Premier Division Cricket Super League ended on Tuesday.

The cricket operations committee earlier decided to start the camp on May 20 with twenty-seven cricketers under the guidance of interim coach Shane Jurgensen but after the settlement of the Premier League scenario there is very little chance that most of the cricketers will be available as at least twenty selected players for the camp are involved with the six Super League clubs.

The Super League will start from May 31.

It was also scheduled that a five-day long camp will be held in Khulna in the first week of June where the players are supposed to play three practice matches, but it is now believed that there is no point in arranging these matches when there is a scope to play quality games in the Premier League.

"We have to rethink our planning because you know the team will leave for Zimbabwe to play a tri-nation T20 tournament on May 13, so after the end of the Premier League we will not get time to arrange any camp," said Sabbir Khan, cricket operations committee manager.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) already confirmed the tours of Zimbabwe and Trinidad and Tobago (under the banner of BCB XI) where the Tigers will play T20 matches as part of their preparation for the ICC Twenty20 World Cup to be held in Sri Lanka in September. Another proposed tour to Ireland in July is now unlikely to take place as BCB high-ups

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

## First women's hockey from Friday

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Hockey Federation is all set to introduce women's hockey from Friday at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium, following instructions from International Hockey Federation and Asian Hockey Federation. Four schools and two district teams, split into two groups, are taking part in the UBC Development Cup First Women's Hockey even though there was women's hockey played in the country from 1977 to 1983 under the Bangladesh Women's Sports Association.

"We have been under pressure for long from the IHF and AHF to start women's hockey and indoor hockey," said BHF general secretary Khaza Rahmatullah. "We have just started the journey of women's hockey and the continuation of this will depend on the response from other teams as well as on the interest of sponsors."

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8

## U-14 booters leave for Nepal today

SPORTS REPORTER

A 24-member Bangladesh U-14 football team leaves for Nepal today to take part in the AFC U-14 Football Festival which started in Kathmandu on May 10.

Five countries -- Bangladesh, India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and hosts Nepal -- are participating in the festival that will conclude on May 23.

The 25-member team comprises 22 booters and three officials. Former footballer Mohammad Mohsin has been chosen as the team leader while Nurul Haque Manik has been chosen as the coach.

CHESS TITLE FIGHT

## Four matches, four draws

AFP, Moscow

The two chess stars vying for the world title ground out another draw on Tuesday, the fourth such result in as many matches and leaving the series all square one-third of the way through.

India's title-holder Viswanathan Anand and Boris Gelfand of Israel agreed to a draw after a tough game at Moscow's Tretyakov Gallery which is hosting the 12-game series, leaving the match level at 2 points apiece.

Gelfand -- playing white -- sought to test out Anand's defences with a long end-game but the Indian showed no weaknesses to make a draw inevitable.

Both players conceded afterwards that the series was only just getting underway as they fence around for opportunities with the full knowledge that one mistake could cost the championship.

"We are still probing," Anand told reporters afterwards. "It's a pretty tough match."

The Minsk-born Gelfand, known for his robust match play skills, added: "I take each game as it comes. You should be ready for anything."

The winner is set to pocket 1.5 million dollars, with the loser earning \$1 million.

## Spin wins it for KKR

SPORTS DESK



Kolkata Knight Riders played three spinners for the first time in this year's IPL against Mumbai Indians last night and the decision paid rich dividends as the visitors successfully defended a paltry total of 140.

The three spinners, Sunil Narine, Shakib Al Hasan and Iqbal Abdullah stifled the Mumbai run chase to bowl them out for 108 in 19.1 overs, winning the match by 32 runs and bagging three valuable points.

Shakib, who was unlucky not to have Sachin Tendulkar out for naught, later accounted for Ambati Rayudu and returned figures of 1 for 25. Iqbal gave away 22 for the wicket of Herschelle Gibbs. But the hero of the night was mystery spinner Narine who took four important wickets for 15 runs to thwart the Mumbai innings.

The spinners were well supported by the two pacers, Jacques Kallis and Laxmipathi, who took two wickets each. The Mumbai

innings never gathered pace and lost wickets at regular intervals, with Tendulkar scoring highest 27 and Karthik following with 20.

Earlier, Rudra Pratap Singh bagged two wickets in as many balls in his first over as to restrict Kolkata's innings to 140 for seven, which at that time, looked like a modest total.

Skipper Gautam Gambhir made 27 off 23 while Manoj Tiwary scored an attractive 41 off 43 balls and Shakib scoring 13. Yusuf Pathan scored an unbeaten 21 to give Kolkata bowlers the chance to exploit the Wankhede pitch.

SCORES IN BRIEF

**KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS:** 140 for 7 (Gambhir 27, Tiwary 41, Shakib 13; Singh 2-33).

**MUMBAI INDIANS:** 108 all out in 19.1 overs (Tendulkar 27, Karthik 20; Narine 4-15, Shakib 1-25).

**Result:** Kolkata Knight Riders won by 32 runs.

**Man-of-the-match:** Sunil Narine.

## Russel's winning streak on

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Russel KC extended their winning streak in the Grameenphone

Bangladesh Premier League to four matches by posting a 3-2 win over minnows Rahmatganj MFS at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Midfielder Emon Babu, Cameroonian midfielder Frank Olivier and Senegalese hitman Mouchid Iyane struck one goal apiece for Sheikh Russel to help them post their sixth victory in 12 matches that also took them to third position from having 20 points.

Nigerian striker Nche Franchis and Ghanaian forward Idris Kasirye pulled a goal each back for Rahmatganj MFS but could not avoid their seventh defeat in 12 matches. The Old Dhaka outfit lie at the bottom of the 11-team points table with nine points from 12

matches.

Sheikh Russel, who signed three foreign players in the mid-season transfer window, looked sharp upfront two new Cameroonian and one Senegalese player but the absence of Abbas Inusa made their backline vulnerable and it seemed that Sheikh Russel were going to drop points with the bottom-side Rahmatganj MFS at one stage.

However, Sheikh Russel left the field with full three points, thanks to a brilliant save from substitute goalkeeper Mohammad Al Amin, who came in place of number one Biplab Bhattacharjee after the break.

Sheikh Russel took a ninth-minute lead through Emon Babu who placed a Zahed Parvez cross home while winger Zahed squandered an opportunity from the edge of the six-yard box on 22 minutes.

Sheikh Russel were ruling the early exchanges but Rahmatganj came back

strongly as they equalised in the 26th minute.

Left-winger Shirfin Ahmed Rony put the ball inside the area for Idris Kasirye, who made space on his right side to feed unmarked Franchis and the Nigerian striker hammered past goalkeeper Biplab for the equaliser.

But their celebration lasted only four minutes as Oliver found the back of the Rahmatganj net with a harmless shot that took a slight deflection off defender Dumba Micheal.

With five minutes left for the breather, Mouchid made it 3-1 for Sheikh Russel as the tall marksman won an aerial tussle with advancing goalkeeper Sujon Chowdhury and headed the ball home.

Rahmatganj again pulled one goal back through Idris who hammered a powerful shot after a left-side cross from Rony fell to him inside the box in the stoppage time of the first half.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

## Hussey stands by his players

AFP, New Delhi



Kings XI Punjab acting captain David Hussey on Wednesday defended his team's integrity amid allegations of corruption in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Amit Yadav and Shalabh Srivastava, two of the five players suspended by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) following a television sting, are contracted to the Punjab team, but have not played in the ongoing tournament.

Hussey, leading the team in the absence of injured fellow Australian Adam Gilchrist, said he would be disappointed if fingers were pointed at any of his players.

"Everyone in my team, everyone in Kings XI Punjab as a brand, plays with utmost integrity and if any print or TV media tries to write differently or say something differently about my team, then I will be very disappointed," Hussey told reporters.

"I can't really comment on the sting," he added.

Reporters from the Hindi-language India TV, posing as sports agents, recorded the low-profile players as saying that spot-fixing and black money was prevalent in the Twenty20 IPL. TP Sudhindra, Mohnish Mishra and Abhinav Bali were the other first-class cricketers suspended from the game on Tuesday by the BCCI until preliminary investigations were completed.

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

Sudhindra has played in three IPL matches for the Deccan Chargers this year and Mishra played one game for Pune Warriors. Bali has not featured in the tournament.

India TV showed Sudhindra allegedly agreeing to bowl pre-arranged no-balls in a local amateur league, while

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR  
Sheikh Russel forward Mouchid Iyane (C) leaps over Rahmatganj goalkeeper MN Shakil to head in during their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## IPL Fixing Scam 'Law to take own course'

PTI, New Delhi

Government on Wednesday said "law will take its own course" in the alleged spot-fixing scandal in the Indian Premier League (IPL) if there was any violation.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal gave this assurance in the Lok Sabha as the issue was raised by Shailendra Kumar (SP) with support from cricketer-turned-politician Kirti Azad (BJP).

"We are equally concerned as you are. It is for the BCCI [Board of Control for Cricket in India] to investigate. If there is any violation of law, law will take its own course," Bansal said.

Kumar said what was happening in IPL was a big scam but lamented that only five cricketers have been suspended by the cricket administration.

Azad wanted that Delhi Police should probe the matter and a special audit should be conducted.

Alleging that no action has been taken, Azad said, "Why should I have faith in the government when it gives me no protection?... I feel ashamed."