

# Star SPORT

DHAKA FRIDAY 20

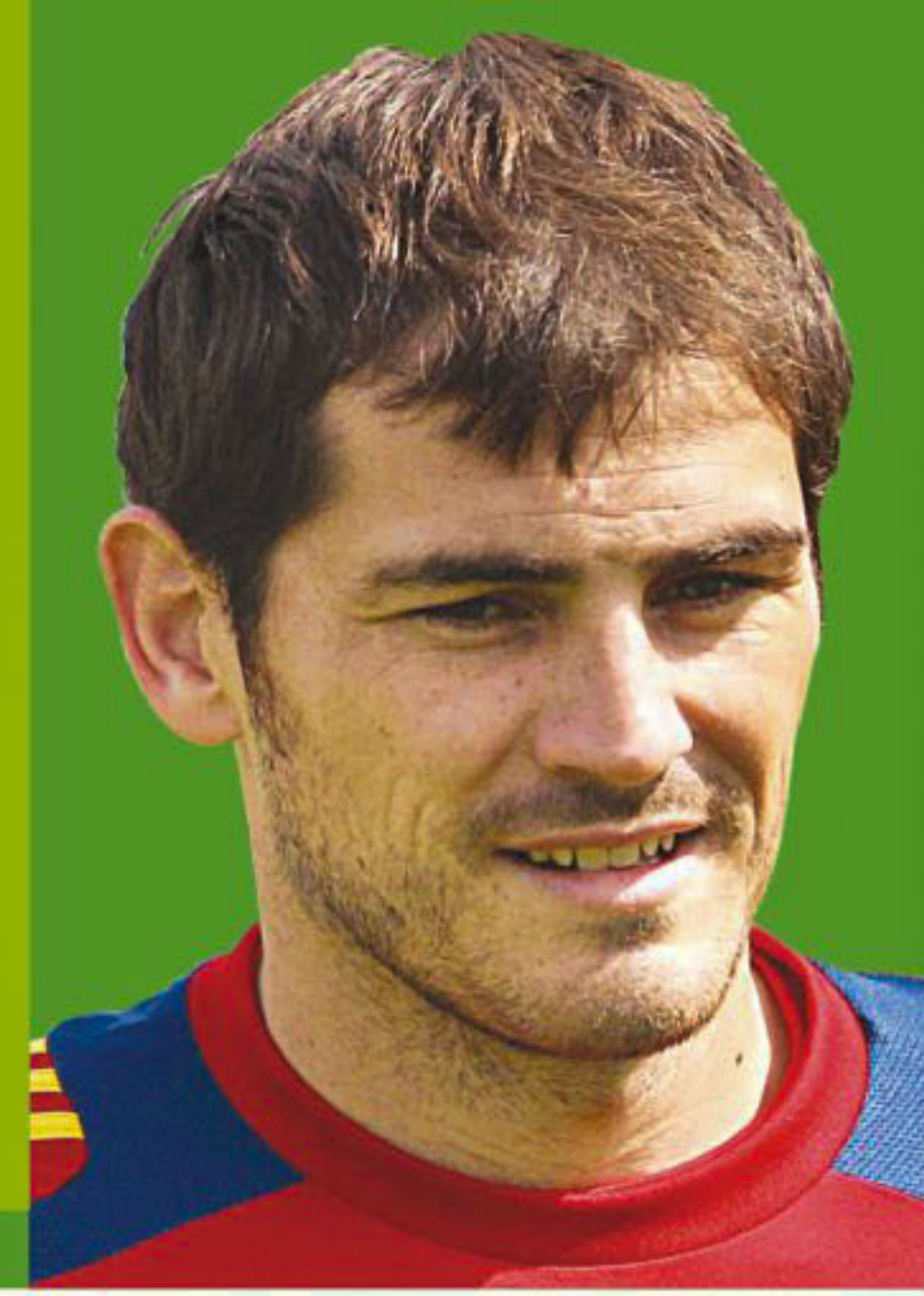


Victoria's star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan plays the pull shot during his side's 5-wicket victory over Abahani in the Dhaka Premier Division Cricket Super League match at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Casillas sets new record

Real Madrid goalkeeper Iker Casillas has set a new record in international football following Spain's 4-1 victory over South Korea in a friendly match. In what was his 130th appearance for Spain, Casillas won his 95th match for the national team, breaking the record for the highest number of international victories that had been set by France's Lilian Thuram and matched by Egypt's Ahmed Hassan. The 31-year-old custodian was introduced in the second half and did not concede a goal, while watching Alvaro Negredo score La Roja's fourth goal of the night.



## Ashraful, Junaed back for Zim tour

### Ireland tour confirmed

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Ashraful and Junaed Siddiqui find themselves back in the national fold after being named in the 15-member squad for the tour of Zimbabwe announced by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday.

The Tigers will leave for Harare on June 12 to play a tri-nation T20 tournament with Zimbabwe and South Africa being the other teams.

Chief selector Akram Khan said that they considered the performance of a few players in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) before picking the squad for the tournament. Opener Imrul Kayes, Jahurul Islam and Naeem Islam were the notable omissions from the squad while pacers Shafiqul Islam and Rubel Hossain were left out due to shoulder injuries, making way for Nazmul Hossain and the uncapped Abul Hossain.

"We are looking forward to forming a good team before the ICC Twenty20 World Cup and the matches in Zimbabwe, Trinidad & Tobago and Ireland will give us a good opportunity to identify the right combination. We are not in favour of making changes to the team but we always want to recognise the performance of the players," said Akram.

"Junaed has a very good reputation as a T20 player and most importantly he played well in BPL and in the latter part of the National Cricket League. Ashraful also looked good in the domestic competition as he always does, and he was especially fantastic in the BPL. True, Ashraful could not fulfil our expectations but we want to keep faith in him because he

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## Shakib steers Victoria

### Premier League resumes after two months

SPORTS REPORTER



The Dhaka Premier Division Cricket Super League resumed yesterday after a two-month break with the Abahani-Victoria Sporting Club rematch at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium. And the result remained the same as Victoria secured the full two points with a five-wicket victory over the Dhanmondi-based club.

Shakib Al Hasan was the hero in the dull and drab affair. There was no sign of tiredness in Shakib who put in an all-round performance to guide Victoria to the comfortable win as the world's number one all-rounder, who returned home on Wednesday after a successful IPL campaign, made the team-highest 58 after taking two wickets in the much-discussed rematch.

On March 28, the ugly side of club cricket was revisited during the match between Abahani and Victoria at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur as Abahani decided to bat first and were bundled out for 177 runs. The country's club cricket then slipped into the mire when the defending champions failed to turn up when it was Victoria's turn to chase the paltry total. The match referee awarded Victoria two points according to the bylaws as Abahani refused to play but the league was suspended for two months following the controversy over the legality of Pakistan and Victoria batsman Mohammad Yousuf's registration.

The long deadlock finally ended after BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal's meeting with the six Super League clubs' representatives where it was decided that a rematch would take place. Shakib however said that the problem still persists as the board did not clear the air surrounding the legality of Yousuf's registration.

"What happened has happened. It was important for us to win this match and we won it but I think it is very necessary that the ongoing problem is solved. If Mohammad Yousuf's registration is valid then he must be allowed to play. On the other hand if it is not valid then arrangements should be made so that Victoria are able to take another player in his place. I don't know why it is taking so long to take the decision. We have brought a foreign player but we can't play him. The club is losing money. It is a frustrating matter, so it is the duty of CCDM to take necessary and quick action," said Shakib after the match.

The 25-year old all-rounder however said that he was desperately looking forward to clinch the league title for Victoria.

"I told Badal bhai (Lutfur Rahman Badal) during the IPL final that we have four matches in hand and we will be champion if we can win these four matches. I have never been a part of a champion team in the premier league, so I'm a little desperate to become champions," he hoped.

Back to the match, a good piece of spin bowling from Indian Iqbal Abdullah, his KKR

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## ECB appoints corruption monitor

AFP, London

English cricket chiefs have set up a new anti-corruption watchdog to monitor domestic limited-overs competitions, it was announced on Thursday.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said the seven-strong panel of officials would scrutinise games in the domestic Twenty20 league and 40-over competitions.

The new monitoring group would be run under the supervision of the ECB's anti-corruption chief Chris Watts and staffed by "suitably skilled and experienced individuals with investigative and regulatory backgrounds".

"The ECB has been at the forefront of efforts to stamp out corruption in cricket and the creation of a dedicated team of officials to monitor our domestic limited-overs competitions demonstrates our determination to protect the integrity of the sport," ECB chief executive David Collier said.

"They will be a visible presence at matches and will act as a constant reminder to players, officials and club personnel of the need for constant vigilance with regard to this issue as we seek to identify, prevent and eradicate corrupt practices from our domestic game.

"Players from all 18 first-class counties have recently participated in anti-corruption tutorial sessions and we will continue to work closely with the Professional Cricketers' Association to enhance player education around this issue."

## Players checkmated in chess elections

SPORTS REPORTER

The District and Divisional Organisers' Association-backed panel swept to victory in the Bangladesh Chess Federation polls crushing the opponent panel backed by the players, including five grandmasters.

They won all 24 posts four vice-presidents, one general secretary, two joint secretaries, one treasurer and 16 members as all 117 voters cast their votes amid a festive mood at the National Sport Council auditorium. The president will be nominated by the government.

Gazi Saiful Tareq, who is hardly renowned in chess area, has been elected general secretary defeating former chess player and banker Khandoker Kayesh Hasan by a margin of 71-46.

GM Niaz Murshed was one of heavy-weight vice president candidates from players'-backed panel but he also lost in the polls which was dubbed as a unique election in the sports arena as all players went against organisers, specially district and divisional. But, in the end, the players had

to concede defeat against the organisers who are always united during any elections in the sports arena.

Former general secretary Mokaddesh Hossain became the fourth vice-president bagging 64 votes, seven more votes than Niaz who got 57 votes. KM Shahidullah, Shahabuddin Shamim and Jahangir Islam were the other three elected vice-president.

"The outcomes of the polls proved that the voters wanted to see the organisers in the management and the players are in the board of chess not in organising," said general secretary-elect Saiful Tareq.

Before the election, there was a discussion whether the chess players would return to the board if they suffered defeats in the polls.

Defeated general secretary candidate Khandoker Kayesh Hasan also saw no reason for the players to keep them away from play.

"I hope the winners will keep their words and fulfill their pledges," said Hasan adding that the voters did not respond to their appeals though the money was a factor in the elections.

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## India hails Anand's feat

AFP, New Delhi

India on Thursday celebrated Viswanathan Anand's world title chess triumph, with Bollywood stars, the prime minister and newspaper front pages lining up to hail his success.

Anand, 42, defeated Israeli challenger Boris Gelfand in a quick-fire shootout in Moscow on Wednesday after their 12-game epic was drawn, giving Anand a fifth world title and his fourth in a row.

"The country should come out on the streets and celebrate," Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan told reporters.

"It is bigger than any World Cup victory," he added in a reference to India's cricket World Cup win last year that triggered massive

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Mohammedan forward Mamunur Rahman Chayan (R), who scored four goals, attempts a shot at goal while an Azad Sporting Club defender (L) stretches to intercept during their match of the Walton Club Cup Hockey Tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Big wins mark opening day

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Mohammedan SC and Sonali Bank began their campaigns of the Walton Club Cup hockey tournament with a bang after posting massive victories in their respective openers at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The star-studded Mohammedan side thrashed Azad SC 8-0, thanks to a hat-trick from penalty corner specialist Mamunur Rahman Chayan as the season's curtain-raising tournament got underway yesterday after a gap of nearly two-and-a-half years.

In the other game Sonali Bank also posted an identical 8-0 win over Bangladesh Police in the tournament opener.

Sonali Bank dominated the game after taking an easy 4-0 lead in the first half before

adding four more goals in the second half.

Rubel, Sujan, Khairul struck two goals each while Mikasa and Abdus Sajjad John netted one goal each in the eminently one-sided affair.

However, the match between start-studded Mohammedan and Azad, comprising school students from Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan, was different despite the latter suffering a huge defeat.

The match turned virtually into a game between the national side and a school side as Mohammedan comprised of mostly national players were pitted against Azad consisting of the school students of Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan. To their credit, they kept Mohammedan waiting for 18 minutes before conceding a lead.

Mohammedan even found it hard to split the backline of Azad and the experienced

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Grand Masters Reefat Bin Sattar (L) and Niaz Murshed (R) look on anxiously as the votes for the Bangladesh Chess Federation elections are counted at the National Sports Council Auditorium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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