

Star SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Steel helmets to stop C'Ron

Germany's players will need steel helmets for protection when Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo lines up to take free kicks in their Euro 2012 Group B match in Lviv on Saturday, Germany assistant coach Hansi Flick said.

Ronaldo packs a powerful strike from dead-ball situations and the Germans have been told to minimise the risk of committing fouls outside the box in one-on-one situations. "I think just steel helmets and to make themselves big," Flick told reporters on Friday when asked how the Germans planned to deal with any potential free kicks from the



Pybus in attendance

It wasn't a very well attended Dhaka Premier Cricket League finale yesterday, but there were important people watching from the stands.

Bangladesh's new coach Richard Pybus saw his first domestic game after taking over the job. He was a keen observer, picking up the fact that there were very few overers of fast bowling on show. For the record, Victoria Sporting Club employed six overers by Al-Amin Hossain and Saikat Ali while Old DOHS bowled only one over of seam, by Mohammad Sharif.

"It is a shame that we hadn't seen a little bit more seam bowling," he told reporters yesterday. "Maybe if I am a bit longer with the national side I can find the depth in the seam bowling department."

It was his first taste of domestic cricket but the Englishman had done his homework on where the priorities sometime lie.

"The match has been played with really good intensity, it is nice to see the players are treating it very

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



Victoria Sporting Club players rejoice their Premier League triumph after beating Old DOHS at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Investment bears fruit

SPORTS REPORTER

A confident Victoria Sporting Club turned up for their league deciding last round match against Old DOHS with commemorative T-shirts. In the end, there was no potential banana skin as the favourites clinched their title with a two-wicket victory at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

It was not easy though as Victoria captain Shakib Al Hasan was atypically nervous in the last over when his side needed only one run from the last six balls as Muktar Ali was caught and bowled by Nahidul Islam in the very first

ball which was followed by two dot balls. But the Victoria camp erupted into joy after the Indian Iqbal Abdulla managed the winning run from the fourth ball.

"I was little bit nervous in the last over especially because we were already wearing the special T-shirts," said Shakib with a wry smile.

It was a most satisfying day for the Victoria not only because their backers realized a fruitful investment but because of all the controversies surrounding their Pakistan recruit Mohammad Yousuf's registration, which saw the league suspended for two months.

The happiest man was Shakib, the world's number one all-rounder who was the centre of attraction after the

match although he did not really contribute significantly to the win. Yet, it was another feather on the successful cap of the 25-year old Magura-lad as his dream of winning the most coveted league title was fulfilled yesterday under his own leadership.

"I'm happy because I was desperately looking to achieve this feat. It is totally a different feeling from the IPL success because you can't compare these two competitions," said an excited Shakib adding that he dedicated the win to Lutfur Rahman Badal, the chairman of the club's governing body.

"Today's victory gave us a clear indication that our cricket is gradually

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Victoria end long wait in style

SPORTS REPORTER

A grand finish was how Victoria Sporting Club clinched their fourth Dhaka Premier League title yesterday, overturning aspirants Old DOHS by two wickets.

As the Victoria players, officials and supporters skirted the Fatullah Cricket Stadium's boundary rope, Iqbal Abdulla took his sweet time in the final over to bring up the 239-run target after Old DOHS made 238-9 in 50 overs.

The Indian recruit hit off-spinner Nahidul Islam over cover off the fourth ball and as he ran towards the Victoria entourage, celebrations began as the curtain was drawn on the 2011-12 domestic season.

Victoria and Old DOHS were level on 22 points alongside Gazi Tank (who beat Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club) but taking the head-to-head calculations into account, Victoria's hard-fought win made it two out of two against Old DOHS in the competition, and thus the championship. It was Victoria's first trophy at this level since

2002-03 when they had won two on the trot. Way before, their first trophy in Dhaka's top cricket league came in the 1975-76 season. History, however, was the last thing in the cricketers' mind on a blisteringly hot day.

It was a day of run-outs,

fumbles, erratic bowling lines and wrong decisions for Old DOHS; Victoria waited for the opposition to make a mistake and pounced on each of them.

They played how favourites should, dominating the early stages by putting pressure on the Old DOHS batsmen who had to take a cautious approach after losing their first starter Ziaur Rahman to a run-out in the third over.

As if the mix-up wasn't enough, another between Uday Kaul and Shuvagata Hom Chowdhury had the latter run out in the twelfth over. Their coach Khaled Mahmud would later call the run-outs the turning point of the game.

What kept Old DOHS going was Kaul who remained unfazed by the occasion. The left-hander from India kept on building the innings by picking the ones and twos at will, eventually adding 88 runs for the sixth wicket with Roelof van der Merwe, who added much needed zing to the innings in the span of an hour.

Kaul made 65 off 95 balls with the help of four boundaries before Saikat Ali took a

splendid catch at the deep midwicket boundary, while van der Merwe hammered six sixes, five off Mosharrar Hossain, and two boundaries in his 56-ball 59. Mohammad Sharif struck two boundaries and a six in his 26-ball 33, but it was clear that the Victoria

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

POINTS TABLE

	P	W	L	Pts
Victoria	15	11	4	22
Gazi Tank	15	11	4	22
Old DOHS	15	11	4	22
Sk Jamal	15	8	7	16
Abahani	15	7	8	14

Touch is Smart

Samsung Champ Deluxe DUOS
Tk. 7,590/-

Samsung Star 3 DUOS
Tk. 9,990/-

Premium Touch
ChatON, SNS & IM Links | Smart Dual SIM
Music Player | BT 3.0 | Wi-Fi*

*Only in Star 3

Check out the hologram sticker for an original Samsung handset and get:

- World-class quality
- 1 year's full warranty

Come and Play @ Samsung Brandshops: Dhaka: Bashundhara City (L1, L6); Shimanto Square; North Tower; Eastern Plaza; Khilgaon (opposite to Taltola Super Market) | Chittagong: Sanmar Ocean City; Chowmohony; Biponi Bitan; Akhtaruzzaman Centre | Sylhet: Karimullah Market | Comilla: Eastern Yakub Plaza | Tangail: B.B. Girls' School Road | Rajshahi: Kadirganj (beside Nagar Bhaban) | Rangpur: Zilla Parishad Super Market | Bogra: Yakub Ali Moar | Feni: Grand Huq Tower

Gazi win, but unsure of 2nd place

SPORTS REPORTER

Gazi Tank Cricketers managed an exciting one-wicket victory against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club at the BKSP yesterday, but couldn't still be confirmed as runners-up in the Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League.

The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis will hold an emergency meeting to decide on the trivial matter but the lack of clarity from the organisers is simply unacceptable. If both legs are taken into account, Victoria Sporting Club are champions while Gazi Tank and Old DOHS are equal in terms of head-to-head clashes. In that case, Old DOHS are runners-up. If only the Super League was taken into account, it will be a straight head-to-head between Old DOHS and Gazi Tank, with the latter claiming the runners-up spot.

But as has been the theme in the Premier League this season, confusion reigns supreme.

At the Savar venue, Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim once again batted brilliantly to make 93 while left-arm spinner Mehrab Hossain's five wicket haul was not enough for Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club to win the high-scoring match.

Gazi Tank rode on opener Asif Ahmed's 83 to chase down the 272-run target with one ball remaining.

Mushfiqur scored 93 off 75 balls that featured two fours and six sixes to finish the league with 951 runs while Shamsur Rahman contributed 83 off 110 balls with the help of eight boundaries and two sixes as Sheikh Jamal scored 271 for seven wickets in 50 overs.

Pakistan spinner Danish Kaneria picked up four wickets for 39 runs.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Action-packed opener



POLAND 1:1 GREECE
LEWANDOWSKI 17 **SALPINGIDIS 51**



AFP, Warsaw

Substitute goalkeeper Przemyslaw Tyton was the unlikely hero as his penalty save from Greek captain Giorgos Karagounis saw Euro 2012 co-hosts Poland draw 1-1 with Euro 2004 champions Greece in an incident-packed opening match here on Friday.

Tyton's moment of glory came with his first piece of action after Poland's first choice goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny had been sent off by Spanish referee Carlos Velasco Carballo in the 69th minute.

The Spaniard had been a busy man as he sent-off Sokratis Papastathopoulos shortly before half-time with the hosts leading 1-0 thanks to a goal by Robert Lewandowski.

Tournament co-hosts Poland looked to have launched their campaign with a flourish, their self-belief stoked when Borussia Dortmund star Lewandowski sent home fans wild with his 17th-minute header.

But with Greece aware their shock win over Euro 2004 hosts Portugal launched them on their road to the title, they battled hard in the second half, with substitute Dimitris Salpingidis levelling the score in the 51st minute.

Poland manager Franciszek Smuda had warned that the Greek defence would be a tough nut to crack, and opted to go for the

jugular from the outset.

Three minutes in, Rafal Murawski forced Greek keeper Kostas Chalkias to punch his strike clear, followed swiftly by Maciej Rybus, who hit the post.

Greece attempted to respond in the 11th minute after winning a free kick, with Euro 2004 veteran Karagounis finding Fanis Gekas, who headed wide.

Lewandowski worked hard with Borussia Dortmund team-mates Kuba Blaszczykowski and Lukasz Piszczek - a trio dubbed the squad's backbone by Poland manager Franciszek Smuda - to hound the Greek defence.

Operating up front, defender Piszczek fed midfielder Blaszczykowski, only for the Poland captain to head over the bar.

Two minutes later, diving to head the ball, Lewandowski failed to latch on to a cross from Piszczek.

But the three men's efforts paid dividends as they took advantage of poor marking with Piszczek finding Blaszczykowski, and Lewandowski heading home the latter's cross.

Papastathopoulos, already hit with a yellow card for fouling Lewandowski, saw red four minutes from half-time for bringing down Murawski.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8



Poland striker Robert Lewandowski (L) heads home his side's opening goal in their Euro 2008 opener against Greece at Warsaw last night.

PHOTO: REUTERS