

# Star SPORT

DHAKA SUNDAY JUNE 10, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedaily.com

## Greece lose Papadopoulos

Greece central defender Avraam Papadopoulos will miss the rest of Euro 2012 after suffering a knee injury in their 1-1 draw in the tournament's opening game against co-hosts Poland on Friday. He was replaced after 37 minutes by his namesake Kyriakos, before being taken to hospital where scans showed the 27-year-old had suffered damaged ligaments in his left knee. After returning to the team hotel, the Hellenic Football Federation (EFO) issued a statement saying he would return home for treatment, UEFA.com reported on Saturday.

-- REUTERS

## Pybus asks Tigers of future

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
New national cricket coach Richard Pybus had a unique introduction with the Bangladesh players yesterday when he engaged them in a five-hour interactive session at the National Cricket Academy.

He discussed several issues with the 27 cricketers called up ahead of the Tigers' tour to Zimbabwe on June 12. National cricketers Shahriar Nafees, Rokibul Hasan and Rubel Hossain had also been invited.

In an effort to put together a set of team rules, Pybus asked the players and the support staff to state their long-term desire verbally and in written form. They talked about their on and off the field attitude, vision, body language and the best training methods.

The 47-year-old Englishman also used examples of successful cricket teams from the past to illustrate his point, it was learned.

Tigers' opener Tamim Iqbal praised the alternate way to train themselves ahead of a tour.

"It is a nice way to start, we won't get much time to practise before the series so it's nice to know about him and the manner in which he wants to operate," said

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## 'We will pay everyone'

**BPL already paid 89% of foreign player fees**

**Cricket**

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The Bangladesh Cricket Board president AHM Mustafa Kamal has reiterated that all payment owed to the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) players will be cleared.

The reaction comes a day after Tim May, the chief executive of Federation of International Cricketers' Associations (FICA), said that many players are yet to receive full payment, as a result of which the players' organisation instructed lawyers in Dhaka to file a claim against the relevant franchises and the BCB.

Apart from terming the BCB "amateurish", May also criticised Kamal, the board chief, who said that the statement was uncalled for.

"The statement is very unfortunate. I have said it repeatedly that it is BCB's obligation that if any player is unpaid, the board will make the payments. I am reassuring that not a single player will go unpaid," Kamal told The Daily Star over phone yesterday.

"The impression we have from talking to the six franchises is that most of the payments have been disbursed. But there may still be one or two cases of unpaid wages. We have said it before and I will repeat it now: the BCB will pay the foreign players if the franchises don't."

The BPL governing council were informed by the franchises in a meeting last night that around 89 per cent of the foreign players' payments have been made though they haven't received the applicable information for the local players. Out of the 2.77 million dollars net payable, the unpaid fees figure currently stands at 305,000 dollars approximately, said a BCB press release which also informed that two of the six BPL franchises have completed their payments to foreign cricketers in full.

The local players' payments have not been done in full as

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Maria Sharapova of Russia exults after winning the French Open title for the first time at the Roland Garros in Paris yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Sharapova the new queen

**French Open**

**REUTERS, Paris**

Maria Sharapova kept her poise to outwit and overpower diminutive Italian Sara Errani and win her first French Open crown with a 6-3, 6-2 victory on Saturday.

Despite the one-sided scoreline, Italian Errani troubled Sharapova with some cute volleys, sliced forehands, daring dropshots but found the Russian to be an insurmountable obstacle.

With Errani standing at just 1.64 metres, the statuesque Russian used her 24 cms advantage and wider wingspan to great effect as she chased down everything the Italian could throw at her.

She wrapped up victory when Errani ended a prolonged rally by dumping a backhand into the net, allowing Sharapova to become the 10th woman to complete a career

Grand Slam after she added the Paris title to her triumphs at Wimbledon (2004), US Open (2006) and Australian Open (2008).

The victory capped a remarkable comeback for Sharapova after many thought her career was all but over when she underwent shoulder surgery in 2008.

Having waited four years to climb back into the Grand Slam winner's circle, it was little wonder the 25-year-old dropped to her knees and covered her face in disbelief in her moment of triumph.

But this was no time for the queen of women's tennis, who will also climb back to the top of the rankings on Monday, to hide her face.

A beaming Sharapova, still on her knees, tilted her head skywards and lapped up the applause from the hollering fans with outstretched arms.

Even when the on-court announcer accidentally asked the

crowd to cheer for "runner-up Maria Sharapova", the smile could not be wiped off her face.

Errani, who had been left sobbing after her remarkable fortnight ended one victory short, pumped her arms as if to say "Yes, Yes, Yes, I am actually the champion".

During the 89-minute contest though, there was only one winner.

"I'm really speechless. It's been such a journey for me to get to this stage," Sharapova said during her victory speech during which she showed off her multi-lingual skills by speaking in English, French, Spanish and Russian.

"It took me many years to get to this stage, eight years ago was my breakthrough."

"I'm so happy to share this moment with you all. I cannot wait to be back. To be here and win this, even if it was my only Grand Slam, it would be just as

## Shakib given Zim off

**Cricket**

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Bangladesh will play the unofficial tri-nation T20 tournament in Zimbabwe this month without Shakib Al Hasan, as the all-rounder has been rested for the trip following a request from the player.

Top-order batsman Jahurul Islam has replaced Shakib in the 15-member Bangladesh squad which will fly for Harare on June 12 to play the triangular T20 tournament involving South Africa, Bangladesh and hosts Zimbabwe.

"The BCB cricket operations department decided to withdraw Shakib from the tour squad following a request from the player. The break was approved considering the amount of cricket Shakib has played over the last two years. The board is hopeful that the rest will allow the world's number one

Test and ODI all-rounder to return for the next assignments of the national team

refreshed and help him attain optimum performance," said a board statement.

Former Bangladesh skipper Shakib, who has been going through a gruelling and successful season, was happy with the break he has gotten from the board and said while talking to reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday that he will try to stay away from cricket during this much-desired break.

"It feels really good. I want to enjoy the break. I don't want to talk or think about cricket during this break," said Shakib.

Jahurul, the Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League champions Victoria's wicketkeeper-batsman, was in the team during Bangladesh's impressive run in the Asia Cup at home but was ignored for the Zimbabwe trip as the selectors kept faith on the promising wicketkeeper-batsman Anamul Haque.

"I watched the last league match yesterday (Friday) and what I found was that

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## Gazi Tank runners-up

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Gazi Tank Cricketers finished runners-up in the just-concluded Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League.

Victoria Sporting Club emerged champions by beating Old DOHS by two wickets in the last round match on Friday but lack of clarity from the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) could not confirm the runners-up.

"According to the bylaws Gazi Tank finished second as only Super League head-to-head is taken into account," informed CCDM's acting chairman Hanif Bhuiyan after an emergency meeting yesterday.

Gazi Tank managed an exciting one-wicket victory against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club at the BKSP in the last round match on Friday to finish with 22 points, the same as Old DOHS, who finished third because of the head-to-head equation in the Super League.

## Dutch shocked



**DENMARK 1:0 NETHERLANDS**  
**KROHN-DEHLI 24**



AFP, Kharkiv

Denmark claimed the first upset of Euro 2012 by overcoming a badly misfiring Netherlands side 1-0 in their opening Group B match at Metalist Stadium here on Saturday.

Brondby forward Michael Krohn-Dehli claimed the game's only goal mid-way through the first half, as Denmark avenged their opening-game loss at the 2010 World Cup and recorded a first win over the Dutch since 1967.

Defeat already compromises the Netherlands' chances of progressing to the knockout phase, with games against Germany and Portugal still to come in the competition's most unforgiving group.

Beaten finalists at the World Cup and top scorers in qualifying, the Dutch entered the tournament among the favourites but their hopes of success in Poland and Ukraine may now hinge on Wednesday's encounter with Germany.

"This is the game," rued Dutch coach Bert van Marwijk.

"We were really determined and I thought that we played even better than our oppo-

nents, but you have to score that goal."

Denmark, meanwhile, will advance with renewed belief that they can emulate their shock Euro triumph from 1992, particularly as they finished above forthcoming opponents Portugal in qualifying.

At the age of 18 years and 71 days, Jetro Willems became the youngest ever player to grace a European Championship but the Dutch left-back showed no early nerves and saw a shot from 20 yards narrowly clear the crossbar.

Maarten Stekelenburg was the first goalkeeper called into action, as he comfortably claimed a header from Danish captain Daniel Agger, but gradually the Danes were forced deeper and deeper into their own territory.

Ibrahim Afellay, Robin van Persie and Arjen Robben all threatened on multiple occasions, while the latter saw a low cross cut out by Lars Jacobsen after electing not to reward van Persie's through ball with a shot.

It was therefore against the run of play that

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EURO 2012

TODAY'S MATCHES

Gdansk, Group C:  
**Spain v Italy (10pm)**  
Poznan, Group C:  
**Rep of Ireland v Croatia (12:45am, June 11)**