

Star SPORT

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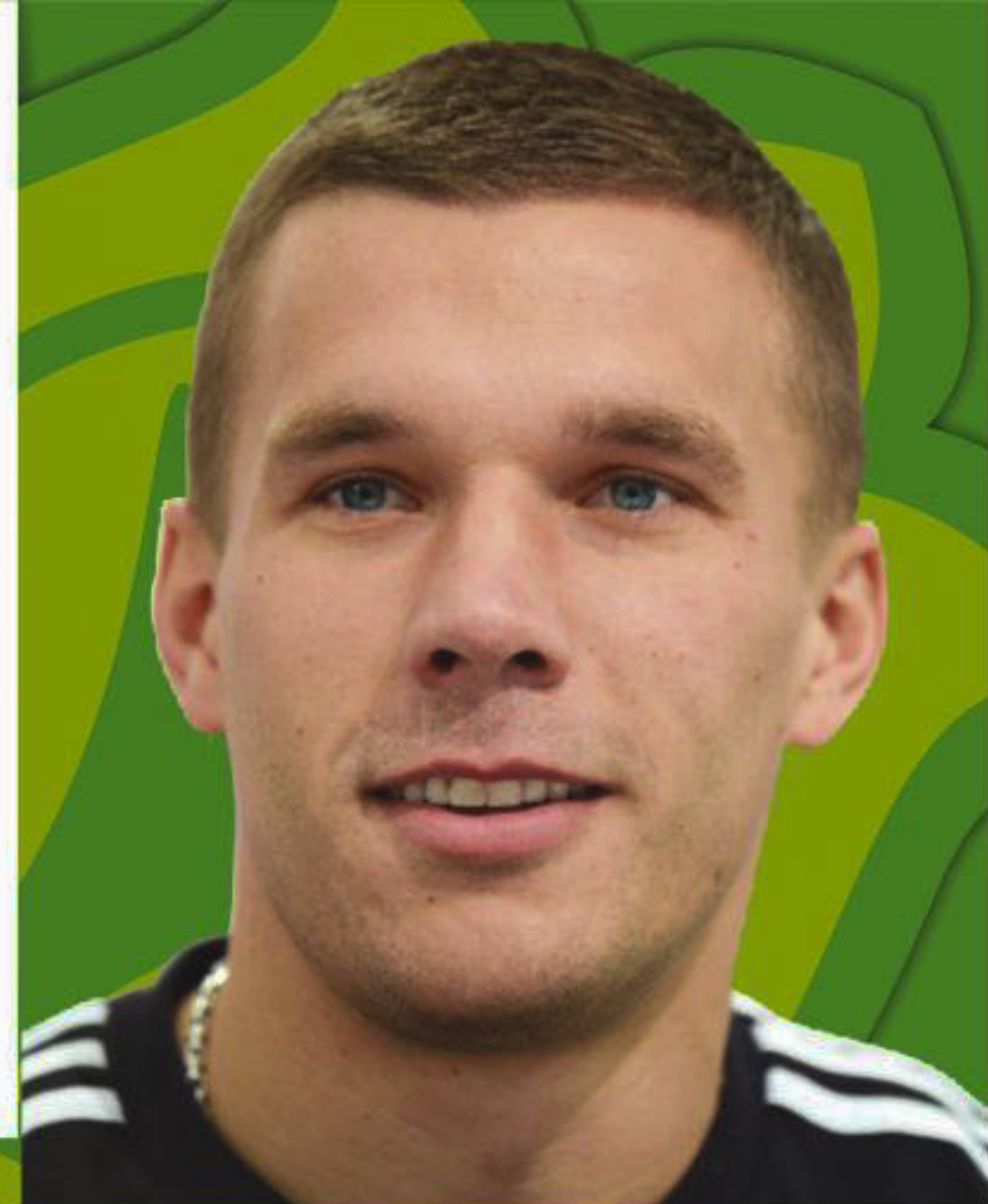
Podolski wins 100 caps

Germany winger Lukas Podolski, 27, became the youngest European player to win 100 caps for his country.

"Prince Poldi", as he is known in his hometown of Cologne, won his first cap in 2004 and has since put a reserve sign on the German left wing.

"It was something special for me that I got a goal in my 100th match," Podolski told German television.

"The most important thing is that we won. It was a tough match against a strong Denmark team and fortunately we got the second goal



U-19s Asia Cup squad declared

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board announced a 15-member squad on Monday for the Asian Cricket Council Under-19 Asia Cup to be held in Kuala Lumpur from June 23. The team led by Asif Ahmed Ratul will leave for Kuala Lumpur on June 21. Bangladesh has been placed in Group B along with Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Qatar while Group A comprises of India, Pakistan, Nepal and Malaysia.

Bangladesh will play their first group match against Qatar on June 23 at the Selangor Turf Club before taking on Sri Lanka on June 24 at the Bayuemas Oval. They meet Afghanistan in their last group match on June 26 at the Kinrara Oval.

"We hope the team will reach the semifinals as group champions. This tournament gives us an opportunity to understand our strength ahead of the ICC Under-19 World Cup (to be held in Australia in August)," said Nazmul Abedin Fahim, deputy national manager of the BCB's game development committee, yesterday.

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EURO 2012 TODAY'S MATCHES

Donetsk, Group D:
England v Ukraine (12:45am, June 20)

Kiev, Group D:
Sweden v France (12:45am, June 20)



Italian forward Antonio Cassano (C) is the toast of his teammates after scoring the opening goal against Republic of Ireland during their Euro 2012 Group C match at the Municipal Stadium in Poznan last night.

PHOTO: AFP

Italy, Spain in quarterfinals

AFP, Poznan

Antonio Cassano and Mario Balotelli scored the goals as Italy beat 10-man Ireland 2-0 at the Municipal Stadium here on Monday to reach the Euro 2012 quarterfinals. Spain's 1-0 win over Croatia meant Italy finished second in Group C and will play the Group D winners in the last eight while Ireland finish bottom with three defeats.

While Italy were worthy winners, Ireland coach Giovanni Trapattoni will

have been bemused to see his side concede both goals from corners.

The Italians - who trailed Spain and Croatia by two points going into the game with the Irish having already being eliminated after two defeats - took the lead in the 35th minute through a header by Antonio Cassano.

The Irish produced a more spirited challenge than their previous two games but ended the game with just 10 men as Keith Andrews was sent off and the Italians rubbed salt into the wound as Mario Balotelli volleyed in the second.

Defending champions Spain left it

late before ousting Croatia 1-0 in Gdansk on Monday. After a tight encounter which rarely hit the heights Jesus Navas bundled in a close-range winner in the 87th minute.

Having come on for Chelsea star Fernando Torres in the second-half, Sevilla's Navas hit the 88th-minute winner after Barcelona's Xavi Hernandez chipped the Croatian defence and Andres Iniesta provided the final pass.

Spain coach Vicente del Bosque named an unchanged team, while Bilic abandoned the 4-2-2 formation he used in the opening win over

Ireland and the draw with Italy for a 4-2-3-1 formation.

As they had done in Thursday's hammering of Ireland here, Spain started with almost 80 percent ball possession, which never dropped below 60, as Croatia seemed content to hit long balls down to lone striker Mario Mandzukic.

On a rare early forage into the Spanish half, Bayern Munich's Danijel Pranjić fired a shot to the left of Spain goalkeeper Iker Casillas, who dealt with the left-footed shot comfortably on 25 minutes.

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Tamim injured, skips today's tie

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal will be replaced by Anamul Haque in today's Twenty20 triangular match against South Africa after the left-hander suffered a leg injury in the tournament's opening game.

"I have injured my quads, it's a grade one tear. So I'm definitely not playing tomorrow's [Tuesday's] game," Tamim told The Daily Star Sport over phone. "It is still a fifty-fifty call whether I will play the next game [against Zimbabwe on June 21] because I don't want to aggravate the injury. But I won't be coming back home."

Tamim endured the grade one tear on his left quadriceps while batting during against Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club, although he was hurt in the same place earlier in the month.

Tamim put together a 61-run opening stand with Mohammad Ashraful but the middle-order couldn't capitalise on it and Bangladesh lost by eleven runs. When the two openers fell by the 14th over, Ziaur Rahman, skipper Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad and Nasir Hossain were left to complete the rest of the chase although facing a rising run-rate. But they fell short of the Zimbabwe total of 156 runs.

"Ash [Mohammad Ashraful] and I did provide a good start but we missed out on a big over in the middle of the innings, an over that would produce 12 to 14 runs," said Tamim.

"Instead there were overs when there were 3-4 dot balls. We also had some new players who definitely felt some pressure."

In the Powerplay, Bangladesh had two overs that yielded ten and eleven but when the Zimbabwean spinners came on, Tamim and Ashraful struggled to quicken the scoring rate. They reached fifty in the eighth over but went on to bat till the 10th over to add 61 before Ashraful fell to a stumping. Tamim fell to a catch at third-man off Chris Mpofu after making 38 off 35 balls, when the asking rate hovered around the ten runs an over mark.

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TEAMS

BANGLADESH (probable): Mohammad Ashraful, Anamul Haque, Ziaur Rahman, Mushfiqur Rahim (captain & wicketkeeper), Mahmudullah Riyad, Jahurul Islam, Nasir Hossain, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Abdur Razzak, Abul Hasan, Elias Sunny.

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Hashim Amla (captain), Farhaan Behardien, Marchant de Lange, JP Duminy, Faf du Plessis, Colin Ingram, Richard Levi, Albie Morkel, Chris Morris, Justin Ontong, Wayne Parnell, Robin Peterson, Lonwabo

Farashganj deny Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Title contenders Abahani missed a late penalty kick and paid for it as they had to settle for a 0-0 draw against lowly Farashganj SC in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The three-time champions Abahani (41 points from 18 matches) would have gone level on points with leaders Muktiyoddha Sangsad (43 points from 19 matches) with a win having played a match less. Abahani would be ruing the missed chance as they now need a victory in their next match against Feni Soccer before taking on Muktiyoddha in the last match to decide the title. Yesterday's result also ruled out the possibility of a play-off. Farashganj SC, on the other hand, have eased the fears of relegation with 18 points from as many games.

Ghanaian hitman Twum Frank missed the pivotal penalty kick in the 83rd minute as he hit it straight to Farashganj SC goalkeeper

Sultan Ahmed. However, the awarding of the kick generated more talk than the squandering of the penalty. Abahani winger Zahid Hossain was tackled from behind by defender Zamir Uddin inside the danger zone as referee Abdul Hannan Miron pointed to the spot. But the decision did not go down well with Farashganj players as they refrained from playing for five minutes. They had done the same thing earlier in the season against Team BJMC and were warned by the game's governing body not to repeat it again.

Abahani's Iranian coach Ali Akbar vented his frustration at the attitude of the Farashganj players. "Because of this type of negative mentality of the opposition and poor refereeing, your U-22 national team lost 4-1 to a small country like Nepal. It is not football. The referee ruined the game by allowing them to refrain from playing and he instead should have blown the final whistle when they were killing time during the penalty shot," said an angry Akbar after the game.

Farashganj coach Kamal Babu gave his

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Farashganj goalkeeper Sultan Ahmed (C) is the toast of his teammates after his heroics earned them a valuable point in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League match against Abahani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Satabdi face Ispahani in final

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Satabdi Goshthi Cricket Academy and Ispahani Cricket Academy will play in today's final of the CJKS-Urban American Under-18 T-20 tournament at the MA Aziz Stadium.

In the first semifinal, Satabdi beat JDC Udioman Cricket Academy by 17 runs. After losing the toss they went to bat first and made 134 runs in 20 overs with man-of-the-match Sagar making 56 off 44 balls which featured four boundaries and three sixes while Pear added 40 off 33 balls. Amir Hossain took two wickets.

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