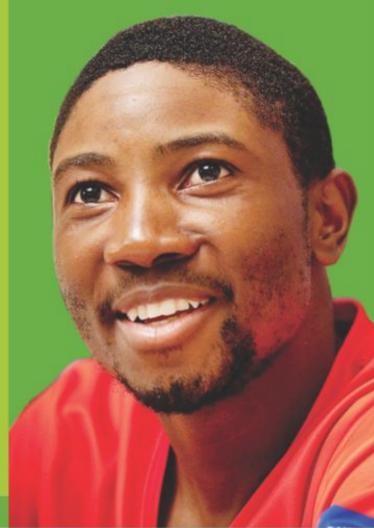


# Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JULY 11, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Pious Taibu quits cricket

Former Zimbabwe national cricket captain Tatenda Taibu has decided to retire from the sport to devote his life to the church, Zimbabwe Cricket announced Monday. The 29-year-old batsman and wicket-keeper made his international debut in 2001, and became team captain three years later -- the youngest in the country's history. "I just feel that my true calling now lies in doing the Lord's work and although I am fortunate and proud to have played for my country, the time has come for me to put my entire focus on that part of my life," said Taibu in a statement.



## TIGERS LEAVE FOR EUROPE TODAY

# 'Some spots still open'

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Tigers leave for their Europe tour today. It has somehow emerged as a challenging tour for the Bangladesh team, as it will not be an easy task for them to beat Ireland. So, Mushfiqur Rahim's men will have to make sure that their team spirit will not be dented in this challenging tour ahead of their ICC World Twenty20 mission in Sri Lanka in September this year.

And everybody will be looking forward to seeing how the team is shaping up, especially in the newest format of the game under the guidance of Richard Pybus. The Englishman had his first assignment with the Tigers in Zimbabwe where his charges won one match each against the hosts and South Africa.

Without any doubt there is no alternative other than winning the matches against Ireland, Scotland and the Netherlands but while Pybus was speaking in an official press conference along with his captain Mushfiqur yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, the new Bangladesh coach said that "The goal is every time we play we play with the focus for excellence. We need to make sure that we control our game plan in terms of what we wanted to do."

Pybus was also not ready to make any prediction about the coming series and rated Ireland quite highly.

"I am not in a habit of pulling out a crystal ball and making predictions on series. We will have complete respect



**Bangladesh cricket coach Richard Pybus addresses the media yesterday on the eve of the Tigers' tour of Europe. They leave here this morning for Belfast.**

PHOTO: STAR

for the Irish. They are now big boys. They are very dangerous and the side is made predominantly from county players in England so they are professionals as they have earned the right to

play county cricket," he opined.

Bangladesh skipper Mushfiqur Rahim once again said that this tour is an opportunity for them to enter into the T20 ranking and as well prove some points in the away tour and coach Pybus also emphasised on the need for playing more T20 games to get accustomed with the format.

"To learn a format you have to play a lot. We need to play as much T20s as possible and then the guys need to decide their spots. And then they will learn to play in combinations and play according to the right game plan in different environments. We need to play a good amount of T-20 games to be a top T20 team in the world," suggested the Bangladesh head coach, who also talked about the bright sights of his team performance during the Zimbabwe trip.

It is said that Bangladesh is yet to learn the craft of the new version of the game and are still looking for a right combination and Pybus also hinted that there are some spots which are still open.

"There was some good stuff that came out of Zimbabwe. But there are spots which are still open. If I can cut it today I really enjoyed today. I want as much competition for the spots in the senior side as possible. That's what is going to make the team stronger in the future as three or four guys will fight for the same spot. All of these preparations

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PHOTO: STAR

**Shakib Al Hasan comes off the field with his gear after a practice match at the BCB National Cricket Academy ground in Mirpur yesterday.**

## 6-month ban on Babu

SPORTS REPORTER

Farashganj SC coach Kamal Ahmed Babu has been served six month's suspension from all footballing activities by Bangladesh Football federation for breaching discipline during the club's match against Mohammedan SC in the Bangladesh Premier League on June 30. Babu protested a decision by the referee and when he was expelled from the technical zone, he disobeyed the order. The decision to ban the coach for six months (effective from July 10) came at a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee at the BFF House yesterday. The club has also been fined 25,000 taka for breach of discipline at different times during the league. It may be mentioned that Farashganj are one of the two clubs that have been relegated to Championship League this season.

## Mohammedan, Abahani win

SPORTS REPORTER

Title contenders Mohammedan SC took solo lead in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League with a convincing 7-1 win over Ajax Sporting Club at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The sixth straight win put the Black and Whites on 18 points, three points ahead of archrivals Abahani and Sonali Bank SC, who however have played a match less than Mohammedan and Abahani.

Mamunur Rahman Chayan put Mohammedan ahead in the very second minute from a penalty stroke before doubling the margin three minutes later converting a penalty corner as Mohammedan dominated the first half 5-0.

Rasel Mahmud Jimmy struck two goals while Golam Mostafa Manik, Sheikh Mohammad Nannu and Pakistani recruit Tareq Aziz, netted one goal apiece for the joint champions.

Imtiaz Ahmed scored the consolation goal for Ajax, who suffered their third defeat in five matches.

In the day's other match, Abahani posted an identical 7-1 win over Shadharan Bima SC with Pakistani Alim

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## Rokibul slaughters seniors

SPORTS REPORTER

The Tigers completed their preparation for the coming Europe tour with a heavy eight-wicket defeat to the Bangladesh A team in the last T20 practice match at the BCB National Cricket Academy ground yesterday.

The man who assaulted the Europe-bound team was none other than the out-of-favour batsman Rokibul Hasan, the right-hander who took the bowlers to the cleaners in a 61-ball 140 that contained 14 fours and 11 sixes. The mesmerizing innings from Rokibul and a 50-ball 85-run innings from left-hander Shahriar Nafees helped the second string side to chase down the national team's 243 runs with five balls to spare. Rokibul and Nafees added 233 runs for the second wicket stand.

Earlier, the national team rode on Mushfiqur Rahim's 26-ball 59 that saw two fours and seven sixes and Ziaur Rahman's 27-ball 68 with five fours and seven sixes to put up a challenging total on the board.

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## Eleven star Khagrachari

SPORTS REPORTER

Khagrachari started the KFC Women's Super League with a massive 11-0 win over Laxmipur on the opening day of Kharachari zone at the Khagrachari Stadium yesterday.

Mitu Marma slotted seven goals against Laxmipur, who went down 7-0 in the first half, thanks to a treble from Mitu in the fifth, 32nd and 36th minutes. Keli Chowdhury struck two goals while Shonakti Chakma and Anuma Mara scored one goal each in the first half.

After resumption, Mitu added four more goals to raise her tally to seven and complete the rout.



PHOTOS: INTERNET



**South Africa wicketkeeper Mark Boucher (above) stands up to the stumps to keep against Gemaal Hussain of Somerset during a practice game at Taunton on Monday. (L) Moments later he was struck in the eye by a bail.**

# Boucher retired hurt 999

Cricket

AFP, London

South Africa wicketkeeper Mark Boucher has retired from international cricket after suffering a severe eye injury during his country's tour match against Somerset, team captain Graeme Smith revealed on Tuesday.

Boucher had to undergo three hours of surgery on a "laceration" to the white of the left eyeball on Monday night after being struck by a bail on Day One of the Proteas' tour match at Taunton.

The incident occurred when a ball from spinner Imran Tahir clean bowled Gemaal Hussain, with Boucher stood up to the stumps and wearing a cap instead of a helmet.

He immediately hit the ground and

was helped from the pitch with blood apparently coming from his eye.

The 35-year-old was due to return home after being released from hospital on Tuesday morning and Smith, speaking at Taunton, read out a statement on Boucher's behalf that confirmed his retirement from South Africa duty.

"It is with sadness and pain that I announce that I will not be able to play international cricket again," Boucher said in the statement.

"Due to the severity of my eye injury, I will not be able to play International cricket again. I had prepared for this UK tour as well, if not better than I have prepared for any tour in my career.

"I never anticipated announcing my retirement now but circumstances dictate differently.

"For now, I'd like to thank a huge

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### BATTING & FIELDING

	M	I	NO	R	HS	Ave	100	50	4s	6s	Ct	St
Tests	147	206	24	5515	125	30.30	5	35	656	20	532	23
ODIs	295	221	57	4686	147*	28.57	1	26	356	83	403	22
T20Is	25	21	6	268	36*	17.86	0	0	22	2	18	1

### BOWLING

	M	I	B	R	W	BBI	Ave	Econ	SR	4w	5w	10
Tests	147	1	8	6	1	1-6	6.00	4.50	8.0	0	0	0
ODIs	295	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Div-I h'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Arambagh KS earned their second consecutive victory in the Orient Bread First Division Men's Handball League crushing Satirtha Club by 49-2 goals at the Shaheed Monsur Ali National Handball Stadium yesterday.

Arambagh, who defeated Monsur Sporting Club on Monday, dominated the first half against Satirtha by 25-1 goals. Monir scored eleven goals for the winners.

In the second match, Purbachal Parishad beat Monsur Sporting Club by 25-16 goals after leading the first half by 14-10 goals. Shahid scored seven goals for the winners while Rafique netted eleven goals for the losing side.

In the day's third match, Prime Sporting Club defeated Jatrabari Sports Academy by 37-12 goals after dominating the first half 19-5. Arif contributed 14 goals for the winners while Ferdous netted seven goals for the losing side.

# Rakib, Rajib in for Olympiad

Chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Grandmasters Abdullah Al Rakib and Enamul Hossain Rajib are set to return to the chess board after two and a half year's of sabbatical as they will be part of a strong Bangladesh contingent in the upcoming Chess Olympiad to be held in Istanbul, Turkey from August 28.

The Bangladesh Chess Federation decided to include those two having tweaked with the statutes in a bid to include Rajib, Rakib and Reefat Bin Sattar in the Olympiad squad.

As per constitution, the national team must be formed on the basis of players' performance in the national chess championship and thus top five performers -- GM Ziaur Rahman, GM Niaz Murshed, IM Abu Sufian Shakil, IM Minhazuddin Sagar and FM Debraj Chatterjee -- were supposed to be members of the Olympiad squad as Rakib and Rajib did not take part in the last national championship while Reefat pulled out in the middle of the championship.

"We want to send a strong and experienced team to Chess Olympiad and we on Monday sat with all grandmasters, who agreed to represent the country. We might have tweaked the constitution but Shakil, Sagar and Debraj accepted our proposal in the greater interest of chess," said BCF vice president Syed Shahabuddin Ahmed Shamim yesterday.

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PHOTO: STAR

**Sabbir Ahmed of Abahani (in the foreground) keeps possession against a Sadharan Bima defender during their Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League clash at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.**