

Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY JULY 12, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Pizza delivery boy Pele

If you were wondering just how far 71-year-old Pele would go for his beloved former club Santos, the answer is apparently "delivering pizzas." For the purposes of an ad campaign concocted by Santos' marketing department, Pele dressed in the uniform of a local pizza shop and spent a night making deliveries to unsuspecting customers. He also answered the phone and tried his hand at making a pie before ending the night on someone's doorstep with a handful of pizzas.

—INTERNET



Saqlain joins Tigers for 3 months

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday appointed Saqlain Mushtaq as the national team's spin bowling specialist. This, along with two other appointments, was approved during a meeting yesterday.

The former Pakistan off-spinner is expected to join the Tigers during their trip to Europe. "There are a few formalities that are not complete but we hope he joins us on July 15 in Ireland," said BCB director Enayet Hossain Siraj.

During the meeting it was discussed that the short stint will be a probation period for Mushtaq, who is well acquainted with head coach Richard Pybus, though there was no talk of a prolonged contract.

The 35-year-old has also served as the spin specialist for New Zealand for 12 months since August 2009 while also working with Australian spinners during the Ashes earlier in the same year.

The BCB directors also approved the appointment of Richard McInnes as the head coach of the National

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ANOTHER FEATHER ON HIS CAP: Shakib Al Hasan (R) chats with Tigers teammate Tamim Iqbal at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday ahead of their flight to Belfast. Shakib has now remained the No. 1 ODI all-rounder for 432 matches, equalling Jacques Kallis's record at the top.

PHOTO: STAR

Tigers leave for Europe

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Tigers left Dhaka yesterday to play five T20 internationals during their Europe trip as part of preparations for the upcoming ICC World Twenty20 to be held in Sri Lanka in

September this year.

Mushfiqur Rahim's men will open the tour with a practice match against an Ireland XI at Belfast on July 16. They will play the three-match T20 internationals series against Ireland on July 18 and play the remaining two games on July 20 and 21.

Afterwards, they will travel to the

Netherlands to play one T20 international against Scotland on July 24 and their last game against Netherlands on July 25.

Bangladesh's record in T20 cricket is not good and due to a lack of international matches they are not even in the ICC T20 international rankings. As

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Ashraf hits back at May

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Gazi Ashraf Hossain, the Bangladesh Premier League governing council chairman, has slammed Federation of International Cricketers' Association (FICA) after it advised players yesterday to skip future editions of the domestic Twenty20 tournament in a latest outburst.

In a media release, FICA claimed that at least twelve overseas players were yet to receive their full payments amounting to over 600,000 dollars, though Ashraf has strongly reacted to the allegations.

"They are actually trying to damage our image," Ashraf told The Daily Star Sport over phone. "They have started a hate campaign to sully the name of Bangladesh Premier League. The outstanding figure is just part of their imagination."

FICA CEO Tim May has said that the BCB and the six franchises have been breaching the contract since May.

"The franchises and the Bangladesh Cricket Board have been in breach of contract for nearly two and a half months," said May in the statement. "We have given them every opportunity to settle these amounts and they have continually responded with a series of broken promises and empty public pronouncements."

"It goes without saying that FICA will be strongly recommending to all players, both in and outside Bangladesh, that they should not contemplate participating in this tournament in the coming years."

"The process of the payment of players has deteriorated into a joke and the unprofessionalism of its handling is mas-

sively short of that required standard of an ICC full member country," May added.

Ashraf reacted sharply to May's comments, saying, "I don't know how to condemn their latest statement. We had a very successful inaugural tournament and it's the players who've benefited the most. In fact the BCB has set a rare example by paying the players themselves."

"We are trying to help the game and the players but what FICA actually has done, I don't really know. Their campaign is based on a few players who are not yet paid due to some technical reasons. I think the time has come to think about Tim May's role in FICA."

"Now that we are trying to put together the second edition, it seems they are out to damage the tournament's progress. It is my opinion that maybe some people can't stand the BPL's success. So I think FICA should stop this negative campaign."

"We are getting a lot of response from cricketers around the world. It is really encouraging for us," added Ashraf.

BPL secretary Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir told Reuters that only 70,000 dollars remained unpaid that too due to disputes over players' injuries and bonus payments.

"Since a very small portion is now outstanding, it's unfortunate for the FICA to ask the players to boycott the tournament," said Alamgir.

"We transferred Marlon Samuels's dues of 170,000 dollars last month but the money has repeatedly bounced back from the account number he provided us."

Alamgir also said that New Zealand cricketer Scott Styris's dues were transferred to another player's account by mistake.

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An action from yesterday's Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League match between Usha KC and Shadharan Bima at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

PHOTO: STAR

BFF CALENDAR 2012-2013

Thick on domestic, thin on international

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday revealed the calendar of 2012-13 season which promises an action-paced nine months of domestic football, but very little international engagement.

The season will kick off with Federation Cup Qualifiers at the end of August and will cap off the big-budgeted tournament of Super Cup by the middle of May, 2013.

The Tk one-crore tournament, which generated huge enthusiasm among the football fans when introduced in 2009, has been held only once since, that in the 2010-2011 season, and despite verbal assurance from the football's governing body, it was not held in the just-concluded season.

This is the second time in five years that the BFF officially disclosed its calendar, and they hope of sticking to it this time, though the first one they provided in 2009 was hardly kept up with.

Apart from the Super Cup, the calendar includes regular leagues like Bangladesh

Premier League, Bangladesh Championship League, Dhaka Metropolis First, Second, Third and Pioneer Leagues and tournaments like Federation Cup, Independence Cup, and the Club Cup Championship for the district clubs while the National Football Championship for the teams from districts, universities and services teams has been omitted.

The BFF is also going to rename the Federation Cup qualifiers as the Federation Shield where clubs from second tier professional league, services, universities and districts will be eligible to take part.

The players' transfer window for the Bangladesh Premier League will open on August 16 as the sixth edition of the professional football league will get underway from November 15 after the completion of Federation Cup (Sept 24 to October 20).

"The season will kick off with the Federation Shield which will start from August 30," said BFF's senior vice president and league committee chairman Abdus Salam Murshedy at a press conference yesterday.

Holding the district football league is one of four major promises of the Bangladesh

Usha keep goal-fest on

SPORTS REPORTER

Usha Krira Chakra continued their goal-fest in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League with a convincing 10-2 win over Shadharan Bima at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

It was the third time in six matches that Usha struck 10 or more goals that raised their goal tally to 51 from six matches.

The fourth straight victory put the Old Dhaka outfit in the joint-third position along with Abahani and Sonali Bank as Mohammedan SC lead the table with 18 points from 16 matches.

Moinul Islam Kaushik scored four goals, Shahbaz Ali netted two goals while Mohammad Atique, Akter Ali, Sarwar Hossain and Mohammad Imran scored one goal each for Usha, who dominated the first half 4-0.

In the day's other match, Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club played out a goalless draw against Azad SC.

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