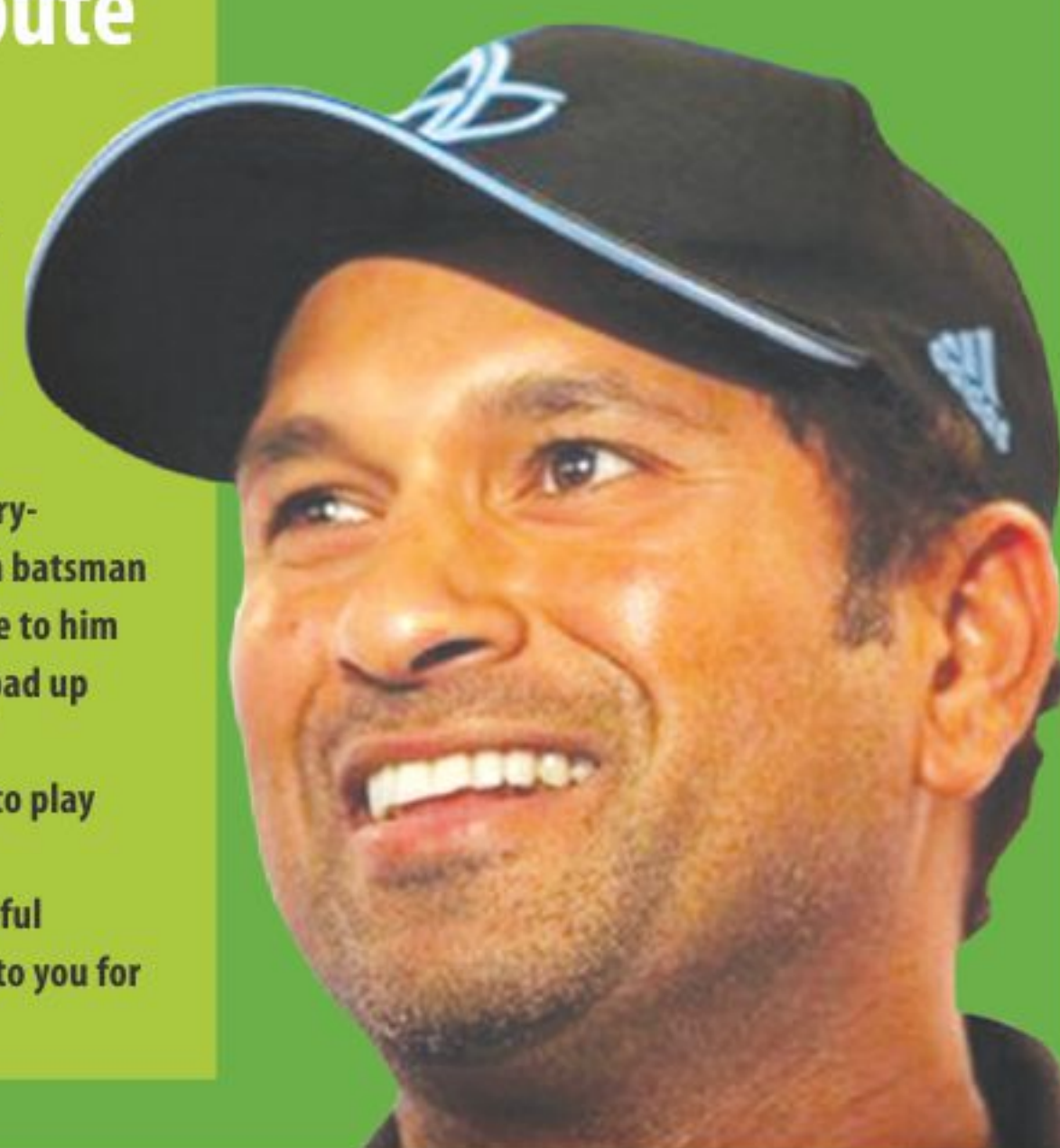


Star SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY JULY 16, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Sachin's tribute to 'Binga'

Their on-field face-offs were among the most exhilarating sights in international cricket and as Australian speedster Brett Lee drew curtains on his injury-ravaged career, senior Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar paid tribute to him saying that it was a "joy" to pad up against the pacer. "BrettLee_58 It's been a joy to play against u Binga. Congratulations for a successful career.... All the best wishes to you for



May firm on \$600k

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Federation of International Cricketers Association (FICA) has remained firm on their claim that Bangladesh Premier League franchises owe foreign cricketers 600,000 dollars.

FICA CEO Tim May said yesterday that the BPL stated amount -- 70,000 dollars -- is an inaccurate figure. He also informed that FICA has requested permission of the players to release their information.

"They [BPL] state that is only 70k [70,000] dollars -- that's one third of what is owing to just one overseas player," said May in an e-mail to The Daily Star Sport. "As of last Tuesday when we put our media release out there was about 600,000 dollars owing to overseas players. This doesn't count monies owed to domestic players -- that also amounts to hundreds of thousands of dollars."

"We have requested permission of the players to release their information and are awaiting their response," he said, assuring that the information will be disclosed whenever available.

But May doubted whether the BPL officials knew the accurate figures that are

outstanding to the players. He also said that there hasn't been any tax documentation made available to the players.

"They [BPL] certainly appear to have little idea of what they owe players, and they certainly can't produce any documentation of the 25% tax deducted from players' pays [this is in addition to the monies owing to players]."

"We have been requesting this proof of payment from BPL and the franchises for some months -- not one player has received this documentation."

"One has to query if they have paid this amount at all -- surely if they had they would supply the documentation to players. Hopefully for the franchises sake they have otherwise I would imagine they will be falling foul of the Bangladeshi taxation authorities," he said.

Meanwhile in the latest move the BPL governing council has sent letters to all six franchises and set July 21 as the new deadline to complete all payments which will include the payments made out by the Bangladesh Cricket Board to the players, on behalf of the franchises.

If the franchises cannot make payments under the new deadline, the BPL has threatened to pull the plug on their contracts and go for new franchises.



TIM MAY



Abahani forward Iqbal Nadir Prince (R) goes past the Sonali Bank goalkeeper to score one of his three goals during their Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League match at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Tigers play 2 practice T20s today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh play two warm-up Twenty20s today at The Green in Comber, Belfast.

In the early afternoon game, the Tigers take on Ireland XI which begins at 5:30 p.m. (Bangladesh Standard Time) and then the Northern Cricket Union President's XI in the evening game (10:00pm BST).

They trained at the Comber ground yesterday where the nets were held at the centre wickets, though according to team manager Tanjeeb Ahsan Saad, there was a slight drizzle.

Both the games today will be eleven-a-side with every member of the touring squad set to get a game. There won't be any extra man being picked for these matches as is sometimes the practice in tour games, informed Saad.

Bangladesh take on Ireland in the three-match Twenty20 series from July 18 to July 21, all matches to be played at the Civil Service Cricket Club in Belfast.

Italian MotoGP Lorenzo's

AFP, Mugello

Yamaha's Jorge Lorenzo won the Italian MotoGP on Sunday, stretching his lead at the top of the riders' championship with an assured performance.

Spaniard Lorenzo finished over five seconds ahead of second-placed Dani Pedrosa, grabbing his fifth win of the season and putting him on 185 points, 19 ahead of his countryman Pedrosa, who is now on 166 points.

Casey Stoner, who was third in the championship before the race, finished eighth after misjudging a corner and running off the track.

Valentino Rossi failed to wow his home fans, finishing in fifth place and remaining way off the race for the title.

Bangladeshi set to represent Ironman

Athletics

SPORTS DESK

Tahsin Alam is set to become the first Bangladeshi to compete in the world's most difficult one-day endurance race, The Ironman Triathlon, taking place in Lake Placid, New York on July 22. It will be a grueling combination of a 3.8 km swim, 180.2 km on cycle followed by running a full marathon of 42.1 km without a break within 17 hours.

This will be a conquest of massive athletic endurance, treading a territory where no Bangladeshis have gone before. Fueled by the inspiring stories of Bangladeshis conquering Mt. Everest, Tahsin aims to achieve a monumental physical feat and serve as an ambassador of the benefits of healthy and active lifestyle among his countrymen.

The preparation up to this triathlon has been anything but a bed of roses as the young man has been training twice a day, up to 30 hours a week. After being detached from any physical activity for years, Tahsin took on a personal challenge of completing half a marathon of 21 km in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In between that he completed

several other runs and bike races to prepare himself. Funnily enough, he never had a swimming lesson until the desire to compete in a triathlon sparked up. Four months of swimming lessons later, in April 2011 he completed a sprint triathlon in impeccable time which led him to a conquest of 7 other additional, larger, triathlons. His biggest test during training came when completing the Half-Ironman triathlon in October 2011, completing 1.9 km of swimming, 90.1 km of cycling and 21 km of running in just over 6 hours.

Tahsin has been living in the United States for the last 12 years having spent his childhood in Saudi Arabia while his mother, Dr. Amena Begum, worked as a professor of physics at King Saud University. Upon her return to Bangladesh in 1993, Tahsin was enrolled in schools here, eventually completing his A levels at The Aga Khan School. He was actively involved in various sports throughout his school years. He completed his bachelor's degree in political science from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. Tahsin's ultimate goal is to represent Bangladesh in the triathlon discipline in the Commonwealth Games 2014 in Scotland and bring glory in the name of his country.



PHOTO: COURTESY

A beaming Tahsin Alam is set to fly the Bangladeshi colours in Ironman Triathlon in New York on July 22.

India-bound BD A team declared

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday named a 15-member Bangladesh A squad for the Shafi Darashah Invitational tournament. The four-day competition is hosted by Karnataka State Cricket Association and will feature local first-class teams, running from July 27 to August 14 in Bangalore and Mysore.

The second string side will fly off to the southern Indian city on July 23.

Placed in Group A, Bangladesh will take on Baroda Cricket Association from July 27 to 30, against KSCA from August 1-4 and the last group match against KSCA Colts from August 6-9. The other group has KSCA President's XI, Mumbai Cricket Association XI, Rajasthan Cricket Association President's XI and Hyderabad Cricket Association XI.

Among those selected are six Test cricketers -- Shahriar Nafees, Imrul Kayes, Rokibul Hasan, Naeem Islam, Enamul Haque Jr. and Shahadat Hossain -- and Shuvagata Hom Chowdhury who played a handful of ODIs.

Shamsur Rahman, Mohammad Mithun and Farhad Hossain are the first-class performers with the bat while off-spinner Sohag Gazi and seamers Alauddin Babu, Dollar Mahmud and Kazi Kamrul Islam have all taken more than 20 wickets.

The inclusion of pace-man Shahadat however blocked the addition of another left-arm spinner, which could have been Saqlain Sajib. The Rajshahi left-arter was one of three bowlers to take 50 wickets in the first-class competition.

However, the board didn't

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

SQUAD

Shahriar Nafees, Imrul Kayes, Mominul Hoque, Mohammad Mithun, Shamsur Rahman, Rokibul Hasan, Shuvagata Hom Chowdhury, Farhad Hossain, Naeem Islam, Enamul Haque Jr., Sohag Gazi, Shahadat Hossain, Alauddin Babu,

Abahani strike at divided Sonali

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

A fractured Sonali Bank suffered second successive defeat in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League, suffering a huge 8-3 defeat to joint champions Abahani at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

It was not unlikely for Sonali Bank to suffer a defeat against title contenders Abahani but the way they lost yesterday and Mohammedan on Friday hinted towards divisions in the team. They led the 11-team point table along with Mohammedan till the fifth round but since then have had two successive defeats offering no challenge to the stronger opponents.

Local players like Abdus Sajjad John, Mohammad Rubel alleged after the game that they lack cohesion with Pakistani players.

"There is no understanding between the local and Pakistani players in the team as the Pakistanis have a tendency to play among themselves without helping the local players," alleged Sajjad after the game.

"Besides, there is also a problem in the management and the coach has lacked proper game plans against big teams," complained Rubel.

However, Pakistani defender Rana Jubair

Riaz denied these allegations, saying that the weaker defence was one of the reasons to concede defeat against the big guns. But both local and Pakistani players believed that the bankers are not such a team to concede such big losses. Coach Sultan Ahmed also admitted there was no cohesion among the players and they would soon sit together to solve the problem.

Back to the game and Sonali Bank levelled the margin after going two goals down but they did not stop Abahani forward Iqbal Nader Prince, who struck a hat-trick to give Abahani a 5-2 lead at the end of the first half. After resumption, the bankers pressed hard to pull another goal back but again conceded three more goals in seven minutes to surrender themselves against the Sky Blues, who maintained their second position in the table with 21 points from eight matches.

Archivals Mohammedan posted their eighth straight victory to top the table with 24 points from eight outings. The Black and Whites handed an emphatic 12-1 defeat to Azad Sporting Club, thanks to five goals from Rasel Mahmud Jimmy, which included a hat-trick. Mamonur Rahman Chayan scored two goals while Moshirur Rahman Biplob, Sheikh Mohammad Nannu, Alamgir Islam, Tapash Barman and Istiaque Ahmed netted one goal each. Roman Sarker struck the

A proud natant from Pabna

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR, Pabna

The honour of carrying the Bangladesh flag at the 2012 Olympic Games falls upon the shoulders of 20 year old swimmer Mahfizur Rahman Sagor from Pabna.

"This is a great opportunity for me and I am going to the Olympics, the greatest show on the earth", Sagor told the Daily Star. "I feel proud that I will carry the Bangladeshi flag in London Olympic 2012".

Sagor was selected as the flag bearer over four other Bangladeshi athletes who will compete in London. His credentials make him a worthy choice of the great honour. In 2005, he won a gold and four bronze medals in national swimming competition. In 2006, he added two more gold and three silver medals. In 2009 Sagor went to the semi-final in the Youth Asian Swimming Competition in Singapore.

He is Bangladesh's fastest man in water, with a personal best of 24.53 seconds in 50meter freestyle swimming a mark he will want to better in London. In the last SAF, Sagor took the silver medal.

While champion amongst Bangladeshi's Sagor is realistic in assessing how he might

fare on the international stage. "Local coaching is enough for bringing results in national or Asian swimming competitions", he said, "but in Olympic, the style and technique in swimming is quite different. Without having long term preparation by foreign coach, it is quite tough to bring any success".

Sagor's family echoed the flag bearer's pride as well as his concerns. Father Azizur Rahman Tinku, a freedom fighter, said: "We feel proud that our son is going to perform in Olympic carrying our national flag. But we are worried about his performance there as he had no coaching from international coaches. Olympic swimming is tougher than any other



MAHFIZUR RAHMAN