

## Metsu replaces Maradona

Former Senegal and United Arab Emirates coach Bruno Metsu has replaced the sacked Diego Maradona in charge of Al Wasl, the Dubai-based club said on Tuesday.

Argentina World Cup winner Maradona, 51, was sacked last week with a year left on his two-year contract following a trophy-less season for Al Wasl.

"More details will be revealed in the press conference that will be held in the coming days to officially unveil coach Metsu as head coach," said a club statement released on Twitter, which also said Frenchman Metsu, 58, had signed a



## Rubel can't make World T20 cut

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced a 30-member preliminary squad for the ICC World Twenty20s to be held in Sri Lanka from September 18.

It includes every one of

the current national team players who have toured Zimbabwe or Europe this summer as well as seven discarded internationals and six uncapped players.

It is hard to envisage any of those outside the national setup breaking in, with the national selectors having to make choices from the options in pace bowling except for Rubel Hossain who has not been included in the 30-man team.

The shoulder surgery he undertook in South Africa hasn't healed, presumably, in time but there was hope sometime ago that he would be fit for the World Twenty20s. The Bagerhat-born pacesman was hurt while playing for Sylhet Royals against Barisal Burners in the Bangladesh Premier League

on February 10. He bowled only two overs in the inaugural game of the T20 competition before pulling up and missed the rest of the BPL and the Asia Cup in March.

It is likely that the selectors will stick to experienced Twenty20 batsmen, especially since Anamul Haque didn't exactly put the world on fire in Zimbabwe.

The Tigers will take on New Zealand on September 21 before playing against Pakistan on September 25. Both matches will be held at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Kandy.

### PRELIMINARY SQUAD

Tamim Iqbal, Imrul Kayes, Junaed Siddiqui, Jahurul Islam, Anamul Haque, Mohammad Ashraf, Shakib Al Hasan, Alok Kapali, Shuvagata Hom Chowdhury, Mominul Haque, Rokibul Hasan, Mushfiqur

Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Naeem Islam, Nasir Hossain, Sabbir Rahman, Abdur Razzak, Enamul Haque Jr., Elias Sunny, Sohag Gazi, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Forhad Reza, Shafiul Islam, Nazmul Hossain, Ziaur Rahman, Abul Hasan Raju, Shahadat Hossain, Kazi Kamrul Islam, Al Amin Hossain and Alauddin Babu.



RUBEL HOSSAIN



Usha KC's Pakistani forward Shahbaz Ali (R) rounds up Sonali Bank goalkeeper Probir Ghosh to score in their Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League match at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Nafees named Bangladesh A captain

SPORTS REPORTER

Shahriar Nafees has been named captain of the Bangladesh A team for the Shafi Darashah Invitational tournament that begins on July 27. Rokibul Hasan has been appointed his deputy.

Earlier on July 15, the 15-member squad was announced without a captain or a vice-captain.

The four-day competition which is hosted by the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) will feature regional/state first class teams of India. The tournament will run till August 14 in Bangalore and Mysore.

Pencilled 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 includes KSCA President's XI, Mumbai Cricket Association XI, Rajasthan Cricket Association President's XI and Hyderabad Cricket Association XI.

## KFC WOMEN'S FOOTBALL Soma slams treble

SPORTS REPORTER

Soma slammed a hat-trick to power Gopalganj to a massive 9-0 win over Manikganj in the KFC Women's Football Super League at the Birsreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Apart from Soma's treble, Padma Rani struck twice while Nazma, Tithi, Tumpa and Shandha netted one goal each for Gopalganj, who led the first half 4-0.

At the same venue, Narsingdi defeated Kishoreganj 2-0 with Lima and Lipi scoring one goal apiece.

Narayanganj blanked hosts Sylhet 5-0 at the Sylhet Stadium as Mithila, Eti and Anjum scored one goal each while Sharifa struck the other two goals.

Patuakhali and Habiganj played out a goalless draw in the first match at the same venue.



PHOTO: STAR

A Gopalganj striker (L) shoots to score against Manikganj during her side's 9-0 victory in the KFC Women's Football Super League at the Birsreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

## Shakib, Zia & Sunny on fire

SPORTS REPORTER

Shakib Al Hasan's strokeplay, Ziaur Rahman's power-hitting and Elias Sunny's record-breaking 5-for gave Bangladesh a 71-run win, their biggest-ever in Twenty20s, over Ireland at Stormont in Belfast last night. They took a 1-0 lead in the 3-match series.

It was the Tigers' highest score, 190-5 in 20 overs, that proved too much for the home side who reached 119-8 in 20 overs after having decided to chase.

Shakib struck nine boundaries in his 33-ball 57, his maiden fifty, and shared a 59-run second wicket stand with Tamim Iqbal, who made a run-a-ball 31.

The last five overs however belonged to debutant Ziaur Rahman as he struck five sixes in a 17-ball unbeaten 40. He also equalled Nazimuddin's record (made against Pakistan in 2007) for the most sixes hit by a Bangladeshi in an innings.

Mahmudullah Riyad also chipped in with two sixes in his 15-ball 23, the two hitting four in a row between the 16th and 17th overs, the turning point of the game.

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## Usha punish Sonali Bank



SPORTS REPORTER

Title contenders Usha KC closed the gap with leaders Mohammedan SC in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League with a 4-1 victory over troubled Sonali Bank at Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The seventh win in eight matches propped Usha to joint-second position with Abahani KC on 21 points, three behind star-studded Mohammedan SC.

Three-time champions Usha made sure they took maximum points against their hapless rivals Sonali Bank, who had also suffered heavy defeats against Mohammedan SC (7-0) and Abahani (8-3) in their previous two matches. The players and coach pointed out that the misunderstanding between the foreign recruits and local players was one of reasons behind the two big losses.

Sonali Bank, however, yesterday played better than their previous two matches and kept the Usha at bay for 45 minutes, but once they conceded the first one, of the same followed.

"The problem within the squad has been reduced as team management sat with the players after the defeat against Abahani," said Sonali Bank coach Sultan Ahmed. However, Sultan admitted that Usha deserved the victory against even though the umpiring was not up to mark in the game.

After failing to convert two penalty corners in the first half, Usha availed their third penalty corner to go ahead when Pakistani recruit Akhter Ali found the back of the net after combining with Shabaj Ali, Mosharraf Kuti and Mohammad Atique.

Shabaz doubled the margin in the 52nd minute after changing the direction of a fierce hit by Sarwar before Rabbi Salehin made it 3-0 in the 56th minute.

Shabaz struck his second goal in the 64th minute to ensure Usha's seventh victory before Sonali Bank's Pakistani recruit Rana Jubair scored a consolation goal for his side one minute before the end.

The other match between Ajax SC and Wari Club, at the same venue, ended goalless.

## OLYMPIC GAMES Opening show cut short

AFP, London

The organisers of the London Olympics on Wednesday scrapped part of the opening ceremony due to fears that an overrunning show would cause bottlenecks on public transport.

Organisers LOCOG said a sequence involving stunt bikes had been cut to ensure that the spectacle, which kicks off the Games on July 27, finishes on time.

"We need to make sure the show comes in on time to make sure spectators can get home on public transport, so we have taken the tough decision to cut a small stunt bike sequence of the show," a LOCOG spokesman said.

He added that the 27-million-pound ceremony at the Olympic Stadium in east London was due to finish between midnight and 12:30am London time.

The show is designed to transform the stadium into a rural British idyll, complete with cows, sheep and synthetic clouds to provide traditional British rain -- in the unlikely event that the weather does not provide it.

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## Semenya looks forward

AFP, London

South African 800m runner Caster Semenya said on Wednesday her controversial victory in the 2009 outdoor World Championships was behind her and she was solely focussed on adding Olympic gold.

The 21-year-old -- who is coached by 2000 Sydney Olympics 800m champion Mutola from Mozambique -- had to undergo drug tests followed by gender tests following that magnificent victory in Berlin.

The situation spiralled out of control with Caster complaining of "unwarranted and invasive scrutiny of the most intimate and private details of my being".

She was barred from the track for almost a year before being cleared to run again and her comeback was hampered by a lower back injury and a growing belief that coach Michael Seme had taken

her as far as he could.

However, she told several British national newspapers on Wednesday that nightmare was all in the past and she wanted to go on and win the gold -- something if she does achieve she will dedicate to the increasingly frail South African political icon Nelson Mandela, who celebrates his 94th birthday on Wednesday.

"That is in the past," she said. "You need to concentrate on the future. I don't have to entertain those things now. I can concentrate on my running, that's all."

"With each year I experience I become a more relaxed athlete. I also know what is important to listen to and what to ignore."

"I try to run my best always but sometimes I do not and I have to deal with negatives. People ask questions that can make you sad, but I must always stay positive."

"That's what I have to learn. I have to act professionally. But this is my first Olympics so London will be special for me."

## ADMISSION

ADMISSION TEST ON August 10, 2012

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