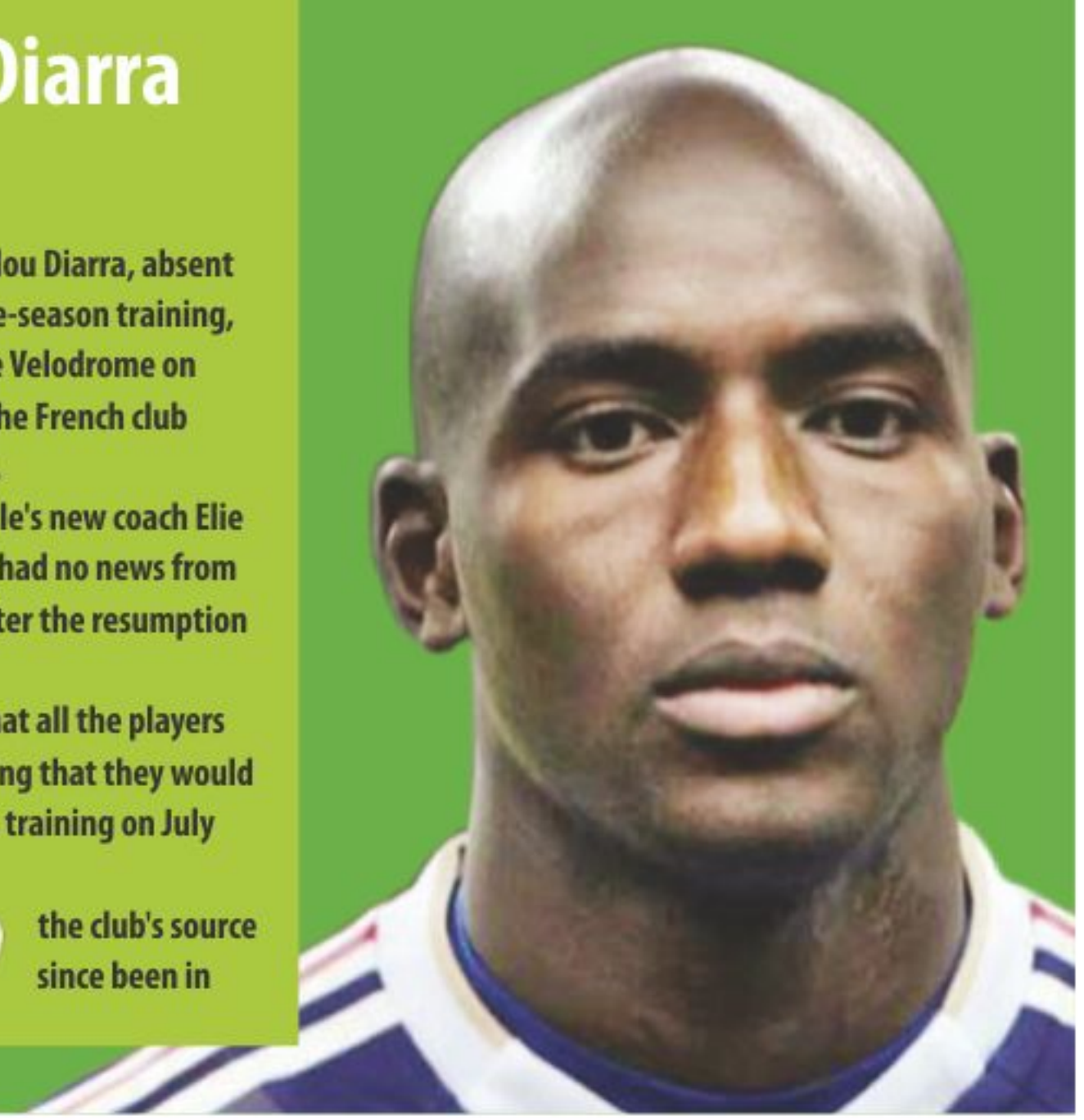


Star SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY JULY 21, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Missing Diarra surfaces

Marseille midfielder Alou Diarra, absent without leave from pre-season training, is expected back at the Velodrome on Saturday, a source at the French club indicated on Thursday. On Wednesday Marseille's new coach Elie Baup said that he had had no news from the player two days after the resumption of training. The manager added that all the players had signed a form saying that they would be back for pre-season training on July 16. According to Baup has the club's source since been in



Riyad seals it with ball

Tigers take T20 series 2-0

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Elias Sunny and Mahmudullah Riyad did the job with the ball after Nasir Hossain's maiden Twenty20 fifty as Bangladesh wiggled past Ireland in a 1-run win in the second game of the series at Stormont in Belfast last night.

It confirmed the series victory with one match in hand, which is to be played today from 9:00pm (Bangladesh Standard Time). The victory also helped the Tigers to enter into the ICC T20 rankings as the ninth ranked side, replacing Ireland.

Sunny, the hero of the first match with the record-breaking five-for, produced yet another spell of fine spin bowling taking two wickets for 18 runs in four overs, but finally it was the vice-captain Riyad who acted calmly in the tense finish of the match, a vital component in the Tigers' defense of 146-6 in 20 overs.

He suddenly changed the course of the match in favour of Bangladesh when he gave only four runs in the 18th over leaving the home team to score 19 runs from the last two overs. The Irish batsmen however bounced back as Shakib Al Hasan leaked nine in the penultimate over.

But Riyad spoiled the home side's comeback in the series by giving two runs in the first three deliveries and then taking two consecutive wickets to seal the match. Trent Johnston whacked a six off the last ball which only reduced the margin of defeat as they finished their 20-over quota on 145-6.

Earlier a fine unbeaten half-century from man-of-the-match Nasir gave the Bangladeshi bowlers a respectable total to work with after a poor start.

Bangladesh, who scored their highest total of 190 runs in the first game, managed much less on Friday but mainly because of Nasir's 33-ball 50, his highest score in the T20 international that contained four boundaries and two over boundaries, the required run-rate was over the seven-run per over mark.

Bangladesh were 89-4 after 15 overs but two productive overs saw them achieving the decent total. Seventeen runs came from the 17th overs as hard-hitting batsman Ziaur Rahman whacked a six and boundary in the first two deliveries from Alex Cusack followed by another boundary from Nasir Hossain and in the next over Nasir smashed a six and a four to collect 18 runs from Max Sorensen's over.

Bangladesh won the toss and decided to bat first but Tamim Iqbal and Mohammad Ashraful failed to justify their captain's decision against the much improved Irish bowling effort.

Tamim played nine balls without scoring any runs before he was caught by George Dockrell off Trent Johnston and the crisis deepened when in-form Shakib was dismissed cheaply by Alex Cusack after he made only 11 runs in nine balls.

Bangladesh had desperately needed to accelerate the run-rate to put up a fighting total but the quick dismissal of skipper Mushfiqur Rahim and his deputy Mahmudullah Riyad made the things more

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England wicketkeeper Matt Prior plays a square cut on the second day of the first Test against South Africa at The Oval in London yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

BFF academy still an afterthought

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

"We had dreamt of building a football academy for a long time but could not do so earlier due to financial problems. Our dream has finally come true after this agreement with the BKSP... After receiving clearance for the Sylhet BKSP, our first job will be to collect funds and start the academy within one and a half months," Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin said during the agreement signing ceremony on December 18, 2011.

Seven months have passed since that announcement, but the Sylhet BKSP is still in its previous shape due to a lack of effort from the football's governing body. No furniture or equipment has been installed at the 100-capacity student dormitory, the three-storied administrative building, two five-storied officer and staff quarters, the gymnasium or the swimming pool.

The State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker, who was present at the signing ceremony, had promised to help the BFF but the sad part is that no BFF official has ever turned up to place the requirements regarding the Sylhet BKSP to the NSC in line with the sports minister's promise.

"I have been at the helm for the last five years but to be honest I could do nothing for football as they never asked the NSC for anything except for the modernisation work at the dressing room of the Bangabandhu National Stadium," said NSC director (planning and development) Abdur Rahman.

He added that government offices have to follow some guidelines to start any development work, but in this case no requirements were placed from the BFF.

BFF's acting general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag admitted the failure of his organisation but has no explanation on why they failed to follow up on the BFF president's promise.

However, in the meantime, 700,000 dollars of fund was

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Rain ruins U-19s 2nd practice tie

SPORTS REPORTER

The second limited-over practice match between the Bangladesh Under-19s and BCB Invitational XI was called off midway due to rain yesterday.

At the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna, the World Cup-bound age-group side made 220 for nine in 38 overs after rain delayed the start. The Invitational XI innings had only gone on for 19 overs when they were 74-4 before the rain appeared again.

Mosaddek Hossain struck a fifty for the Under-19s while Al-Amin (43) and skipper Anamul Haque (34) had some batting practice. With the ball in hand, Faizur Rahman took two wickets while Dewan Sabbir and Abu Jayed took one each.

In the first match on Thursday, Anamul led from the front with a century as his side won by a massive 101-run margin.

Usha post eighth win

SPORTS REPORTER

Usha Krira Chakra overwhelmed Bangladesh Sporting Club 8-0 in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Moinul Hossain Kaushik slotted five goals including a hat-trick while Mohammad Atique, Mohammad Imran and Rabbi Salehin struck one goal each for Usha, who joined joint leaders Abahani and Mohammedan on 24 points from nine matches. Mohammedan however played a match less than Abahani and Usha.

In the day's other match, Wari Club defeated winless Bangladesh Police AC 2-0 with Mudasser Nazir and Sohail scoring one goal each.

SA fight back

Cricket

AFP, London

Graeme Smith and Hashim Amla laid the foundations for a significant score as South Africa recovered from the early loss of Alviro Petersen to reach 86 for one at the close of the second day of the first Test against England at The Oval on Friday.

James Anderson produced a superb delivery in the third over of the innings, swinging the ball in and striking Petersen on the back pad to win a leg before wicket decision from umpire Steve Davis.

Petersen's dismissal continued the trend of a day which saw bowlers dominate for long periods under an overcast sky in south London.

However, South African captain Smith and Amla saw their team through to the close to keep the tourists in contention after England's first innings of 385 all out.

Amla had an escape 10 minutes before the end of an extended day's play when England captain Andrew Strauss dropped him at first slip off Ravi Bopara.

But Amla finished on 47 not out, while Smith, playing in his 100th Test, was unbeaten on 37.

There were signs, though, that the tourists will need to build a big first innings score

because of uneven bounce from a dry pitch, while England off-spinner Graeme Swann was able to get some turn.

England lost their last seven wickets for 118 runs despite an aggressive innings of 60 off 90 balls by wicketkeeper Matt Prior.

Fast bowler Dale Steyn struck in the third and fifth overs of the day to dismiss Alastair Cook and Ravi Bopara as the match underwent a transformation from the first day when the England batsmen were seldom troubled in reaching 267 for three.

In the first eight overs, England added only six runs for the loss of two wickets as Steyn and Vernon Philander bowled an immaculate line, gaining some swing with the second new ball.

South Africa, bidding to replace England as the world's top ranked Test team, made a crucial breakthrough when Steyn dismissed Cook.

Cook added only one run to his overnight 114 before he was bowled off an inside edge by a ball from Steyn which swung in to him.

Bopara made an unhappy return after a year out of the Test team, trying to withdraw his bat after shaping to hook, but getting an edge to be caught behind by AB de Villiers without scoring.

Jacques Kallis bowled Ian Bell for 13 when Bell left a delivery which cut back and

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Usha KC's Pakistani forward Shahbaz Ali (C) goes past a Bangladesh SC player during their Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League match at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STA