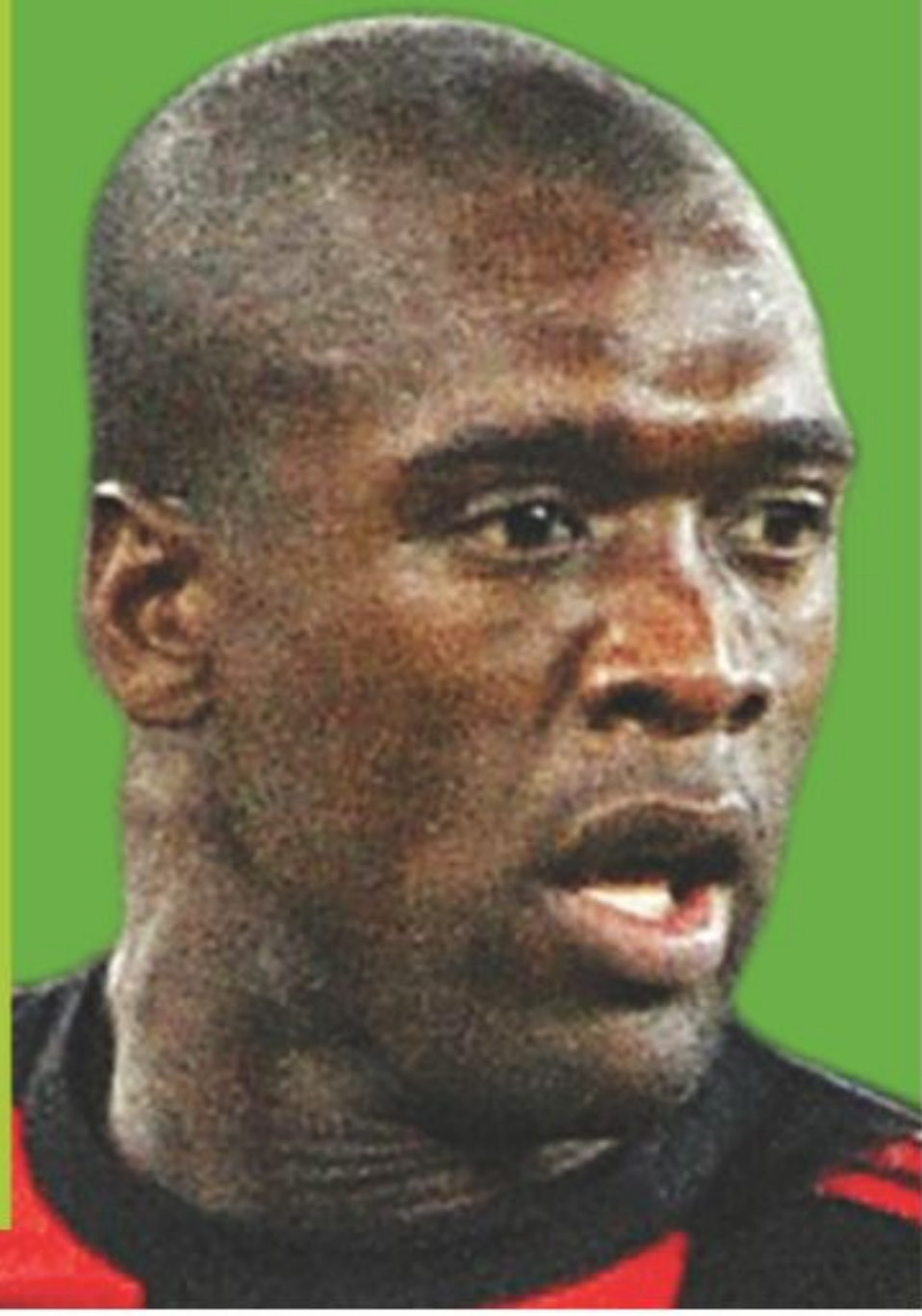


# Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY JULY 24, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Losing debut for Seedorf

Former AC Milan, Inter Milan, Real Madrid and Ajax Amsterdam midfielder Clarence Seedorf made a losing debut in the Brazilian championship as his Botafogo side lost 1-0 at home to Gremio. The 36-year-old Dutchman, described by Botafogo president Mauricio Assuncao as the greatest foreign player to sign for a Brazilian club, produced a subdued performance, although he was applauded by home supporters on being substituted late in the game. "The atmosphere was amazing, I hope every game is like that," he told reporters after Sunday's game.



## I got half my pay: Pont

### Dhaka might've boycotted BPL semi

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Premier League's payment issue has brought on fresh controversy after Ian Pont claimed that he is yet to be paid half his payments by Dhaka Gladiators, the franchise he coached during the inaugural edition. The allegation comes two days after the six franchises missed their latest deadline, July 21, to complete all payments.

"I am personally missing 50 per cent of my contracted amount and others are still awaiting re-imbursement of flights, expenses and original fees," Pont wrote in an email to The Daily Star Sport yesterday. "Pieces of paper kept being produced showing bank transfers by the franchise, but they never took place. Players and staff have been given a whole host of excuses. Deadlines and promises remain broken."

"The franchise, run by the Chowdhury family, has just stopped communicating. It's not only very sad but totally unprofessional to run a business this way in my view," he added. Gazi Ashraf Hossain, chairman of the BPL governing council, however said that Pont, as

the highest-paid coach in the competition, received the payment in full, though he was not aware of any other clauses in his contract.

"As far as I know, he was the highest paid coach in the tournament and already got full payment of 20,000 dollars," said Ashraf. "I don't know if there was a promise of any additional amount in the contract. If such a thing exists, I will still say that our priorities are player payments and tax issues. We will look into his claim afterwards."

In response Pont wrote, "I don't really wish to talk about specific sums as they are and should be private. I can confirm that I have received half the amount stated in my contract. I don't get the obsession with the amounts. If someone is owed a dollar, they are owed money. Had I wished my private finances discussed, I would have put the figures. I was careful not to as this is confidential information."

Ashraf was however disappointed with the irregular payments after the franchises missed yet another deadline, by which time the BPL would complete the franchises' contract formalities with Game On Sports as well. Despite such indifference, Ashraf will

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The Bangladesh flag is hoisted yesterday during the Team Welcome Ceremony at the Olympic Village in Stratford, London.

PHOTO: STAR

## Premier Division Hockey

### Bima ensure Super Five

SPORTS REPORTER

Shadharan Bima became the fifth and last team to qualify for the Super Five of the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League, with a 4-1 win over Bangladesh SC at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Title contenders Mohammedan, Abahani, Usha and Sonali Bank had earlier confirmed their Super Five berths while Shadharan Bima joined them with 15 points from 10 outings.

Both Shadharan Bima and Bangladesh SC had a chance to move into the Super Five with a straight victory, but the former had the last laugh in the end.

Enamul Kabir Turjo put Shadharan Bima ahead in the 29th minute before

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## Tigers take on Scots today

### Play extra game on July 26

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

A confident Bangladesh continues their tour of Europe when they play a Twenty20 international against Scotland, their first-ever, at the Voorburg Cricket Club in The Hague today. The match will start at 8:00pm (Bangladesh Standard Time), to be streamed live at [www.ispahanibd.com](http://www.ispahanibd.com).

Mushfiquur Rahim's men will also play an additional game on tour, on July 26, against the Netherlands after the Dutch cricket board (KNCB) complied with a request from the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) who are worried about the team's demotion in the ICC Twenty20 rankings if it doesn't play enough matches before the August 1 cutoff.

"We asked the KNCB, our kind hosts, for the extra game and they have agreed. The game on Thursday will begin at 2:00pm local time," said Sabbir Khan, BCB's cricket operations manager.

Between August 1, 2010 to July 31 this year, the Tigers will play eight T20Is. According to the ICC website, "only teams who have completed at least eight T20 international

matches since 1st August between two and three years ago will have their rating above converted into a ranking on the main table."

Bangladesh are now currently ranked at No 4 in the ICC Twenty20 rankings after beating Ireland 3-0 in the three-match series that ended on Saturday evening.

They snatched wins from the jaw of defeat in the last two games against Ireland after a convincing 71-run victory in the first match to take the series 3-0. Winning close games is as an improvement for the team and the Bangladesh skipper has already expressed his satisfaction over his team's performance against Ireland, who are considered dangerous in their own conditions.

It was learned yesterday that coach Richard Pybus told his charges that they are yet to complete their mission as they have two matches in hand in the tour. Bangladesh take on hosts Netherlands tomorrow at the same venue before the last game on July 26 to wrap up their summer tour.

"Bangladesh team had a full practice session today [Monday] and they also watched the video footage of the Scotland team because we played against them long

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QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM

The mood in England ahead of the Olympics was significantly lifted yesterday. One of the reasons for this is the brilliant, uncharacteristic sunshine that the whole of Britain have been enjoying, a stark contrast to the events of a few weeks ago when showers were claimed to be apocalyptic.

But a large part of the upturn in moods was also the victory of Bradley Wiggins in the Tour de France. The Metro and the Independent both chose a well worked pun proclaiming "Here-Wiggo, Here-Wiggo".

The Telegraph sums up the mood of the nation, saying "Bring on the Olympics". Indeed, London seems finally excited that the Olympics is here and it took the prospect of medals to do so. There is also speculation that Wiggins, the first British Tour de France winner in over a century, could be fast-tracked into the role of lighting the Olympic torch.

### Hard to find Javelin

London's creaking transport system was not helped by some confusing signage at the central hub of King's Cross St. Pancras on Monday. Numerous journalists and members of the Games Family were found wandering trying to locate the high-speed Javelin train that transports one from Central London into the Olympic Park in six minutes. Many journalists expressed their frustration and despite the best efforts of the brightly dressed volunteers sometimes finding the right carriage still proved a challenge.

### Sick? So am I

Offices in London are bracing for a raft of sick leave applications in the coming weeks. According to research from recruitment consultancy Badenoch & Clark younger employees and those from London are most likely to pull a 'sickie', with more than a quarter of workers aged 18-24 and the same amount of those who live in the capital tempted to call in ill.

### Don't count your suns before they rise

Despite the recent upswing in the weather, it is no guarantee that the Opening Ceremony on Friday will be rain-free. According to the met office, midweek

## Amla, Steyn destroy England



5-STAR STEYN: South Africa fast bowler Dale Steyn celebrates picking up his fifth wicket, that of England batsman Graeme Swann, to speed up the home team's demise on the fifth day of the first Test at The Oval in London yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Cricket

AFP, London

South Africa on Monday took a one-nil lead in the three-match series against England, beating the hosts by an innings and 12 runs and securing their first win at the Oval after a masterful display of top order batting.

Hashim Amla's unbeaten 311, ably supported by 182 not out from veteran all-rounder Jacques Kallis and 131 Graeme Smith took the Proteas to 637 for 2 before they declared, setting England a target of 252 to make them bat again.

But with the hosts resuming on 102 for four, England were always facing an uphill battle to save the game and despite some resistance from Ian Bell (55) and Matt Prior (40), saving the task ultimately proved impossible.

England, however, had managed to survive the first session virtually unscathed, moving to 177 for five at lunch, with the only wicket to fall that of Ravi Bopara, who was bowled off an inside edge by Dale Steyn for 22 in the seventh over.

Steyn bowled an accurate spell at the start of the day but his wicket came off a short, wide ball, which Bopara tried to punch to the off side, only to get a thick inside edge which caused the ball to crash into his stumps.

Bell was dropped by stand-in wicketkeeper AB de Villiers off leg-spinner Imran Tahir when he was on 20, with De Villiers failing to hold a thin edge in Tahir's first over of the day, shortly

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## Bangladesh flag raised in Games

SPORTS REPORTER From London



The Bangladesh anthem rang out and the red and green flag was hoisted at the Olympics, for the first and probably only time, as London 2012 officially welcomed the Bangladeshi contingent to the Games via an interactive Team Welcome Ceremony held at the Olympic Village in London on Monday.

A traditional part of most Olympics, the Team Welcome Ceremony usually takes place ahead of the Opening Ceremony and acts as a way of formally inviting the athletes to the Village and the Games.

For most countries with modest sporting ambitions, Bangladesh included, this is probably the only time they get to see their anthem played and the flag raised. So in hindsight, the athletes could hardly have asked for a better setting as they lined up under brilliant sunshine in a cool and beautiful London morning.

They were treated to a fun and interactive show, created, written, staged and performed by the young members of the National Youth Theatre. The show highlighted the "open-arms" and neutrality policy of the Games and extended a warm welcome to the Bangladeshi athletes and other members of the contingent through a mixed array of dances, songs and performances. It also urged the athletes to strive to perform better through the official poem which reminded the athletes that "Courage must be bigger than expectation" and that they should "Stand tall for their ambition".

The Mayor of the Olympic Village Charles Allen and Bangladesh Chef-de-Mission Nurul Fazal Bulbul exchanged crests with a vow to spread the Olympic movement far and wide.

Four of the five Bangladeshi athletes who will be participating attended the event with only shooter Sharmin Akhter Ratna missing out as she was due to join the team later in the day.

The ceremony is held with the Truce Wall as a backdrop. The Wall features quotes and images from school-children reflecting their feelings about the Olympic Truce.

Bangladesh's high commissioner to Britain also attended the event.

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