

Star SPORT

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Cristiane sets goal record

Brazil striker Cristiane became the most successful goalscorer in Olympic women's football history on Wednesday as the South Americans opened their 2012 campaign with a 5-0 thumping of Cameroon.

Cristiane grabbed the fourth goal late in the second half at the Millennium Stadium.

It was her 11th Olympic goal, meaning she is now the all-time leading scorer in women's Olympic football, overtaking Birgit Prinz of Germany. Goals from Francelle and Renata Costa had put the South Americans 2-0 up in the first 10 minutes as Cameroon were outclassed,



In the land of the blind

QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM from London



Im Dong-Hyun cannot read the letters on a keyboard. By all accounts, if you dictated this article to him, he could not have typed it up on a computer. His vision is 20/200; in layman's terms that is vision which is ten times worse than the normal person. By definition that also makes him legally blind.

Yet, on Friday, when he will stand 70 metres away from a target that he cannot even see, Im will aim not just for the wooden circular board at the end of the line, but specifically at the minute gold centre at its heart. Because for the 'blind' Im, the Olympic is not just about participating, it is about winning an individual gold medal that has so far proved agonisingly elusive.

The South Korean's story seems to just emanate from the script of a Hollywood summer blockbuster. Indeed, the leap of faith required to hit a target so far away that you cannot even see, requires a certain level of conviction that most mere mortals lack.

There has been plenty of brouhaha made of Oscar Pistorious's efforts to qualify for the Games, but even there is the question mark of whether the South African's prosthetic limbs give him an unfair edge over other competitors. While you can debate the merits and demerits of Pistorious's 'legs', with Im, there is no such issue. Paraphrasing the words of the famous Nike advert, he hits targets that he does not see, but can only imagine.

"I can see the colours," insists Im. "With-

out the colours it would be a problem," he admits sheepishly. The claim is remarkably self-effacing. Playing any sport without the gift of perfect vision is a challenge. Competing then, in archery where you hit targets almost the length of a football pitch should realistically be an insurmountable challenge for one who cannot see.

But Im has managed to adapt, develop and hone a technique to such razor sharp perfection that he has rapidly ascended into the world's premier archer.

His laden trophy cabinet includes the World Championships and World Cup individual gold medals along with his team Olympic medals. Yet he is desperate to pick up the one prize that has eluded him: individual Olympic gold.

His technique to reach such dizzying heights is amazing and his devotion to the sport is hellish. "I don't care if I can see the target or not. It's not important. It's all in the colours." Not that those are much clearer, often resembling a medley of mixed paints, difficult to distinguish. But Im still manages to 'feel his way' to the target.

"Archery requires very sensitive muscles," he says. "I used to play football at school, and I enjoyed really physical sports, but I now try to avoid any sports that might build up different muscles. That might have a negative impact on my archery."

And, for Im, that simply would not do.

(Bangladesh archer Emdadul Haque Milon will be competing in the archery recurve bow event alongside Im Dong-Hyun in the Men's Individual round at Lord's Cricket Ground today)



PHOTO: AFP

British Prime Minister David Cameron (standing R) and London Olympics organiser Sebastian Coe speak at a press conference yesterday in front of the Olympic Park in London, where the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games will be held today.

Menu of Events

1. Entry by the Head of State
 2. Playing the national anthem
 3. The parade of the athletes
 4. The symbolic release of pigeons
 5. The opening of the Games by the Head of State
 6. Raising the Olympic flag and playing the Olympic anthem
 7. The taking of the Olympic oath by an athlete
 8. The taking of the Olympic oath by an official
 9. The taking of the Olympic oath by a coach
 10. The Torch relay and Olympic flame
 11. The artistic programme
- (order may be changed; the opening ceremony)

Emeka claims unpaid wages

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan's Nigerian coach Emeka Ezeugo filed a complaint to the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) against the club, claiming that he is yet to be paid 103,114 dollars by his club in unpaid wages, victory bonuses, tickets and other bonus payments, etc.

The Nigerian coach mentioned that he was supposed to be paid 2500 dollars per month, 300 dollars per match won, 5000 dollars for finishing third in the league, reimbursement for air tickets, for his trip to New York and for international transfer certificates, according to BFF officials.

However, Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan, director and member in charge of Mohammedan SC Ltd., denied Emeka's claim and

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Tigers end tour on losing note



Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Tigers ended their tour of Europe with a one-wicket defeat as the Netherlands snatched a last ball victory in the final T20 International at Sportpark Westvliet in The Hague last night.

A second upset was inflicted upon Bangladesh by an associate team in the space of three days with Scotland earlier defeating the Tigers in the first match by 34 runs at the same venue. Bangladesh, who made the trip as part of their preparation for the upcoming ICC World Twenty20 to be held in Sri Lanka in September, won four out of six matches on the tour, having earlier clinched the series against Ireland 3-0.

The Netherlands exacted sweet revenge for their eight-wicket defeat in the first match, thanks largely to their bowlers who restricted Bangladesh to 128 runs. But still the Bangladesh bowlers picked up wickets at regular interval to see an exciting finish to the match as Ahsan Malik cut left-arm spinner

Abdur Razzak behind point to the fence to clinch victory for the Dutch off the last ball.

The home team needed ten runs from the last six deliveries of Razzak, who was hit for a six by Timm van der Gugten off the fourth ball to dash the Tigers' hopes before he was dismissed off the next delivery.

But it was Michael Swart who shaped the victory with a 49-ball 61 that saw four boundaries and two sixes. He smashed one six and a four to take 14 runs in the 17th over bowled by Shakib Al Hasan to turn the tables on the visitors.

Earlier, opener Tamim Iqbal's back-to-back half-century and Mahmudullah Riyad's 41-run innings was not good enough to put up a fighting total on the board as the visitors were dismissed for 128 from their 20 overs.

The Netherlands bowlers did a decent job to wrap up their opponents for a paltry total once Bangladesh skipper Mushfiqur Rahim decided to bat first in their last game on the tour of Europe. Bangladesh lost three early wickets, those of Shakib Al Hasan, Junaed Siddiqui and Mushfiqur with the scoreboard reading just eight runs.

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U-19s confident heading into WC



Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Coach Sarwar Imran and captain Anamul Haque said yesterday that the Bangladesh Under-19 team are ready to achieve something big in the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup 2012 to be held in Brisbane, Australia in August.

They expressed their optimism despite the team's recent debacle in the Asia Cup in Malaysia while talking at an official press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday prior to the departure of the team for Australia tonight.

"I believe this team has the potential to do

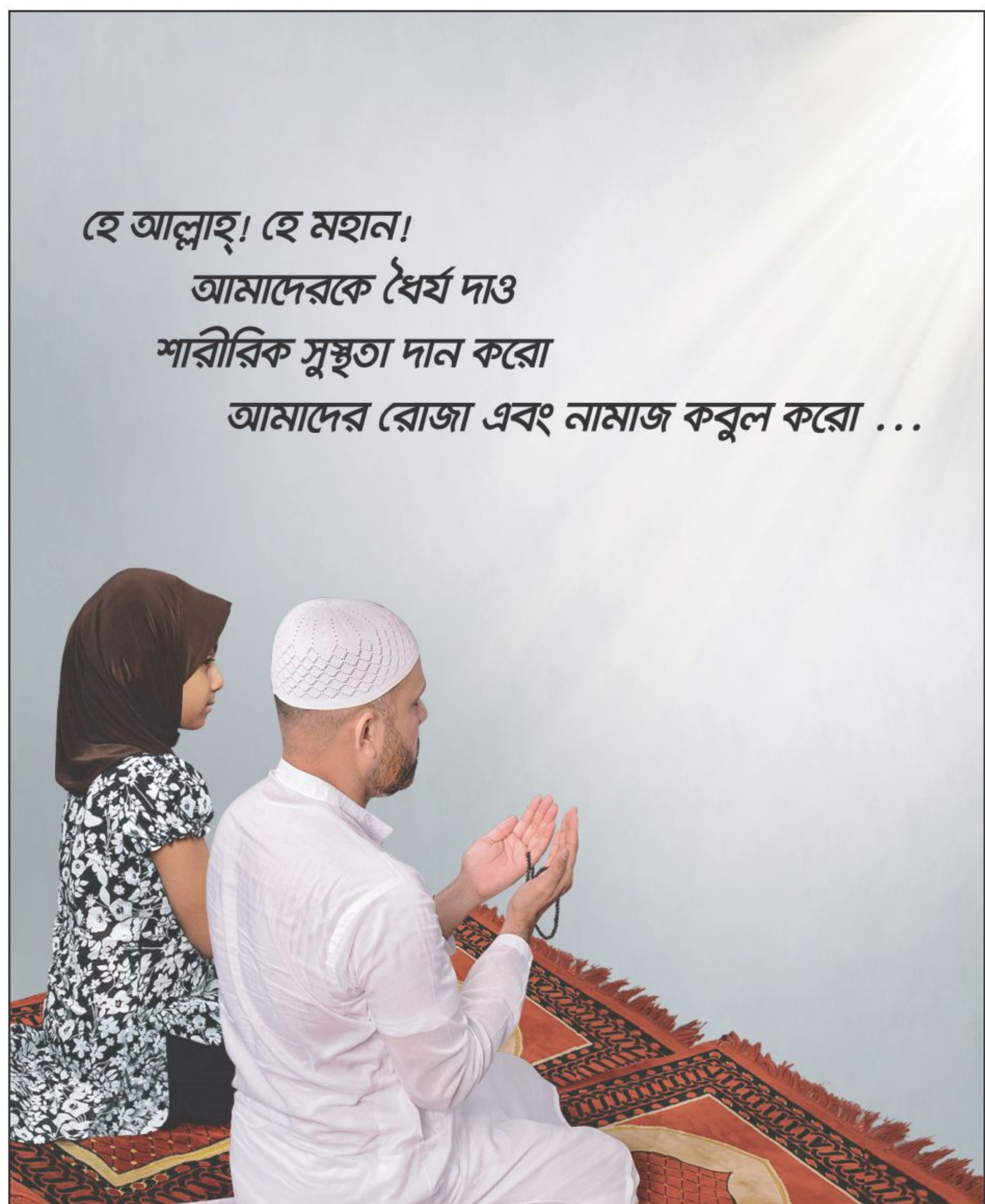
something big in the tournament. We have to win at least two games if we want to qualify for the Cup competition and I have faith in my boys that they are capable of beating Sri Lanka and South Africa," hoped Imran, who has been tasked with the care of the team till the World Cup after its failure in the Asia Cup, where they were eliminated by Afghanistan and Sri Lanka during the group stage.

Anamul, the wicketkeeper-batsman who was brought to the junior side and made captain for the mega event while the board made major changes in the aftermath of the Asia Cup, echoed the sentiment.

"It's a full strength team as some of our major bowlers returned to the squad after recovering from injuries. There are still some minor injuries but I hope everything will be okay before the start of the tournament proper. We are now really confident with this team," said a confident Anamul.

Bangladesh have been placed in Group D along with Sri Lanka, South Africa and

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