



PHOTO: STAR

Members of the Bangladesh U-19 squad discuss strategy at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The team leave for Brisbane tonight to take part in the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2012.

Guptill's close miss

Cricket

AFP, North Sound

New Zealand were 232 for four at the close on the opening day of the first of two Tests against the West Indies here on Wednesday as Martin Guptill spurned the chance of a century. Things had been going slowly the tourists' way when Guptill, on 97 and looking for his first ton against a side other than Bangladesh or Zimbabwe, slogged Sunil Narine to the grateful waiting Narsingh Deonarine just three overs before the end of the session. It was Narine's third wicket and put the hosts back on an even keel after they had earlier looked to be toiling at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium after Kiwi captain Ross Taylor had won the toss. Guptill had already had a scare when a review got him out of jail when he appeared to have been trapped lbw. Taylor made 45 but was bowled by Narine, who ended the day with three for 73. But it was the demise of Guptill which hit the tourists as he was replaced by Kane Williamson, who had made two at the close with debutant and nightwatchman Neil Wagner on four. The match saw top-order batsman Chris Gayle return

to the West Indies Test lineup for the first time since December 2010. Gayle has been absent from the Test side due to a standoff between himself and the West Indies Cricket officials board sparked by critical comments he made about officials in a radio interview after a sponsorship row. In a relatively sedate opening the Black Caps, beaten in the preceding one-day series, settled down as Daniel Flynn and Guptill moved the score along. Flynn had a scare when Kemar Roach made an early leg-before appeal in a slow start as six overs brought only as many runs. But the pace then quickened as Flynn hit two boundaries off Darren Sammy before Guptill survived a caught-behind appeal. Flynn hit another boundary off Sammy in the 18th over to bring the score up to 50 before Guptill slogged Sunil Narine for six. A review then went against the hosts as Guptill was given not out lbw to Sammy following an inside edge. A flurry of maidens held up the visitors either side of lunch before Flynn smashed Narine to the ropes while Guptill twice did the same to Ravi Rampaul. As the 100 mark beck-

oned Narine landed his first Test wicket as Flynn miscued an effort to Kieran Powell at point before Guptill secured his half-century in driving Roach for another boundary. New partner Brendon McCullum survived a review for lbw but then was out driving to Narsingh Deonarine at mid-off having made 25. The West Indies have dominated the tourists so far this summer, taking the Twenty20 series 2-0 in which Gayle was awarded man of the series, and the ODI series 4-1 in which Gayle made an aggressive century and half-century.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for team, batsman, runs, and other statistics for New Zealand and West Indies.

Still no report on fixing

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) seemingly feel no urgency to make public the investigative report into the match-fixing that allegedly took place between Brothers Union and Rahmatganj MFS, even though two-and-a-half months have passed since the launching of the investigation. Brothers Union and Rahmatganj allegedly played a fixed match in the Bangladesh Premier League on April 25 this year, just four days before the BFF polls. The game was termed an 'election match' due to the suspicion that Brothers' loss was a ploy to garner votes for their officials contesting the polls. The newly elected BFF committee launched the investigation through the Match-Fixing Identification Committee headed by the Bangladesh Rural Development Board's director general Humayun Khalid. The committee held its first meeting on May 11, followed by three to four more meetings but they have yet to submit their report while next season's players' transfer, scheduled for August 15, is drawing nearer. BFF senior vice president Abdus Salam Murshedy had earlier promised to make the investigative report public by July 23 and then July 26 but failed to keep his promise. "They (government officials investigating the suspicious match) were out of the capital, that's why they could not submit the report but they promised us that they will submit it by the middle of next week," said Murshedy, adding that they would call the league committee meeting the day after receiving the report and would later make it public. Murshedy also claimed that they were willing to publish the investigation report but they had no hand in actually compiling the report as an Independent Committee was working on it. The delay in publishing the report brings into sharp focus the ineffectiveness of the concerned authorities in dealing with corruption in football, and the situation is worsened when one considers that there is another suspicious match between Brothers Union and Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club yet to be investigated.

U-19s confident heading

FROM PAGE 16 Namibia in the 16-team competition and play two unofficial (against Papua New Guinea on August 1 and West Indies on August 3) and as many official practice matches (against Scotland on August 7 and South Africa on August 8) before the tournament proper. Bangladesh will play their first group match against Sri Lanka on August 11, followed by encounters with South Africa on August 12 and Namibia on August 16. Skipper Anamul said that they are looking forward to playing in the main competition where Bangladesh had qualified twice previously. "It is possible to play in the main competition if we can play as per our potential. It is nice that we have got four practice games before the tournament proper which will help us acclimatise to the conditions," said Anamul.

This team has been preparing for the last year and a half but many think the lack of match practice could be an issue. Coach Imran however dismissed the notion saying that this team has no deficiency in preparation. "I got four weeks to prepare the team and I am hopeful that this team will perform well in Australia. Under the guidance of (Zafrul) Ehsan this team has been preparing for the last year and a half and I had the experience of working with some of the boys at different times, so I have faith in the boys," said Imran. "Our main challenge would be to acclimatise ourselves with the Australian conditions as early as possible. It is nice that we are going early and that we are able to play some practice matches before the tournament proper. I think match-practice will not be an issue as we played some practice matches at home," he added.

Bolt fit, fully

AFP, Birmingham

Usain Bolt has been declared fully fit to defend his three Olympic titles, with the Jamaican team doctor insisting that the sprint king's performance is "on track". Bolt has struggled with leg and back problems in recent weeks while world champion compatriot Yohan Blake beat him in the 100m and 200m at the Jamaican Olympic trials. But team doctor Winston Dawes said he expects Bolt to be in prime shape by the time the track and field events start on August 3. "He's back fully. He has been training very, very hard and his performance is on track," Dawes told the BBC. "We expect he'll be fully fit by the time the Olympics come around. He had some slight cramps in his legs. He had had an accident before, so that might have shaken him up a little."

Tigers end tour

FROM PAGE 16

Riyad joined Tamim to repair the damage, putting on 62 runs for the fourth wicket but their efforts were in vain as nobody could stand up thereafter to build a respectable total. Bangladesh lost five wickets in the last two overs which killed any hopes of a bigger score. The Tigers had desperately needed fireworks from Tamim but the dashing left-hander failed to accelerate and ended up with 50 off 46 balls that contained only two fours and one six while Riyad smashed six boundaries during his 31-ball 41. The hard-hitting Ziaur Rahman was the other notable scorer with 22 off 17 balls that featured two boundaries and a six. Pacer Timm van der Gugten claimed three wickets conceding 18 runs in four overs while Michael Swart and pacer Mudassar Bukhari took two wickets each. SCORES IN BRIEF BANGLADESH: 128 all out in 20 overs (Tamim 50, Junaed 0, Shakib 0, Mushfiqur 2, Riyad 41, Zia 22, Nasir 4, Jahurul 2, Razzak 2, Shafiu 1 not out, Sunny 1, Swart 2-18, van der Gugten 3-18, Bukhari 2-13) NETHERLANDS: 131-9 in 20 overs (Barresi 13, Swart 61, Cooper 0, Borren 16, van der Gugten 12, Razzak 2-23, Shafiu 2-26, Shakib 2-28, Sunny 1-28, Riyad 1-24) RESULT: Netherlands won by one wicket.

Lemaitre to skip 100m!

AFP, London

Christophe Lemaitre, touted as Europe's biggest hope of breaking the Jamaican-US sprint hegemony, will likely not compete in the 100m at the Olympics, his coach told AFP on Thursday. The defending two-time European double sprint champion will only touch down in the British capital on August 4, the same day as the heats for the 100m get under way. "Christophe will arrive on August 4 so he won't be running the 100m," Pierre Carraz told AFP, adding however that there remained a window of opportunity for the 22-year-old to compete in the blue riband event of track and field.

Phelps has many enemies

AFP, London



Michael Phelps will put the final gloss on a glittering Olympic career at the London Games, but he's not the only star set to shine when competition begins Saturday at the Aquatics Centre. Phelps' unprecedented eight gold medals at the Beijing Games led the United States to a 31-medal haul in 2008, including 12 gold from the 32 events, nine silver and 10 bronze. Phelps won't try to match that feat, but his seven-event programme gives him plenty of room to make more Games history and anchor a US team out to continue its dominance against traditional rival Australia and rising powers such as China. Phelps is the two-time defending champion in all four of his individual events -- the 100m and 200m butterfly and 200m and 400m individual medley. No male swimmer has won the same Olympic event at three successive Games, giving Phelps another milestone to aim for. Japan's Kosuke Kitajima is also eyeing a golden treble after winning back-to-back 100-200m breaststroke doubles in 2004 and 2008. One of Phelps' biggest challengers figures to be teammate Ryan Lochte, who has emerged as a serious threat in both medleys. But Phelps says they can't afford to overlook anyone. "Ryan and I aren't here just racing each other," he said. "We're racing the whole world." Adds US men's head coach Gregg

Troy: "It's a pretty big world."

"There's a lot of good swimmers out there. I think if we take anything lightly we're making mistakes." Australia is bringing in the big artillery with James "The Missile" Magnussen and James "The Rocket" Roberts, in the prestigious 100m freestyle. Magnussen is the 100m free world champion and the fastest man ever in a textile suit with a 47.10sec and is odds-on favourite to give Australia the gold in the sport's blue riband event and lead them to victory in the coveted 4x100m free relay. The US have a "Missile" of their own, however, in 17-year-old Missy Franklin, who is set to become the first US woman to swim seven events at one Games. Franklin has downplayed comparisons to Phelps, but US women's head coach Teri McKeever thinks the youngster has what it takes to be a force on the Olympic scene and part of "the next generation of great swimmers". "The US are the big challenge. They have dominated swimming for 100 years," acknowledges Australian head coach Leigh Nugent. "There are other players who are making it tougher for us to stay in that number two position." Without a doubt that includes China, who claimed just one gold medal at the Water Cube four years ago, but have since grabbed four gold at the 2009 World Championships and five at the 2011 worlds in Shanghai. Sun Yang was a star in Shanghai, breaking Aussie Grant Hackett's iconic 1500m freestyle world record. Ye Shiwen won the women's 200m medley world title, part of a strong

Chinese showing that had head coach Yao Zhengjie speaking of Olympic "breakthroughs" in London. China's Wu Peng signalled his intentions in May with a confidence-building 200m fly victory over Phelps at a Grand Prix meeting in the United States. South Korea's Park Tae-Hwan, defending his 400m freestyle title from Beijing, gives Asia another contender. Hosts Britain, who saw Rebecca Adlington end a 48-year drought for British women swimmers with her 400m and 800m freestyle titles in Beijing, will hope to see her repeat in home waters. Elsewhere in Europe, Ranomi Kromowidjojo of the Netherlands owns the fastest times in the world this year in the 50m and 100m freestyle. In the 200m free, 2008 gold medalist Federica Pellegrini faces a strong challenge from France's Camille Muffat, whose time of 1:54.66 is the fastest ever in the textile suits now mandated by FINA. The ban on polyurethane "supersuits" means that racing, not records, will be at the fore. "We're back to a little more true sport," US coach Troy said. Even so, world records aren't out of the question, although no one expects to approach the 25 set in Beijing. Australian coach Michael Bohl predicted "three or four" world marks might fall. "You're probably going to see a couple," Phelps predicted, noting that the Olympics still energize swimmers like no other event. "This is the Olympic Games, the biggest of the big," Phelps said. "It's the Super Bowl of swimming."

9.4sec is possible

AFP, The Hague



Olympic sprint champion Usain Bolt's dream of completing the 100m in 9.4sec is feasible, according to a Dutch mathematical study whose findings were unveiled Wednesday. As the Jamaican prepares to defend his Olympic title in London, and also better his world mark of 9.58sec, the authors of a Tilburg University study concluded he could realise his objective of shaving another two tenths of a second off his current record. "Usain Bolt has said he is targeting 9.4sec for the 100 metres and according to our results this is achievable as the absolute limit for a world record at the moment is 9.36sec," one of the study authors, Sander Smeets, told AFP.

The study used various mathematical and statistical models collated from the best times posted over 100m by the 1,034 best male athletes going back to 1991, Smeets explained. The new study draws on an earlier one which Smeets carried out in 2008 which then suggested that the "ultimate world record" would be 9.51sec. However, "in 2008, Usain Bolt's records were not included in our data, which we published before the [Beijing] Olympics," Smeets explained, adding the original version drew on data from only 762 athletes. He added he hoped the new study would "inspire" the likes of Bolt to drive the time down. Bolt, 25, said in April he believed that if he can retain his Beijing crowns -- he also won the 200m and the 4x100m relay title -- he would be regarded as a "living legend".

No hijab in judo

INTERNET

Wojdan Shaherkani, the judoka from Saudi Arabia who is one of the first women to represent her country in the Olympics, has been ordered not to wear the hijab or head scarf, during competition. The International Judo Federation (IJF) said she will compete without a head covering. "The Saudi Arabian athlete will take part in judo and she will fight according to the principle and spirit of judo, so without a hijab," said IJF president Marius Vizer following Thursday's draw. Any head covering in judo is considered a safety risk. Judo players, or judokas, toss their opponents. Quite often the gi, the judo uniform that is used for other martial arts, is used to grab opponents. The gi is made of a heavy weave cotton, and it is easier to hold onto than the light, slippery fabrics normally used to make hijabs. It's not much of a leap to think Shaherkani could be injured if an opponent grabbed her hijab instead of her gi. Even in a different fabric, it could cause injuries as her head and neck would be vulnerable to a throw, instead of just her body.

Emeka claims unpaid

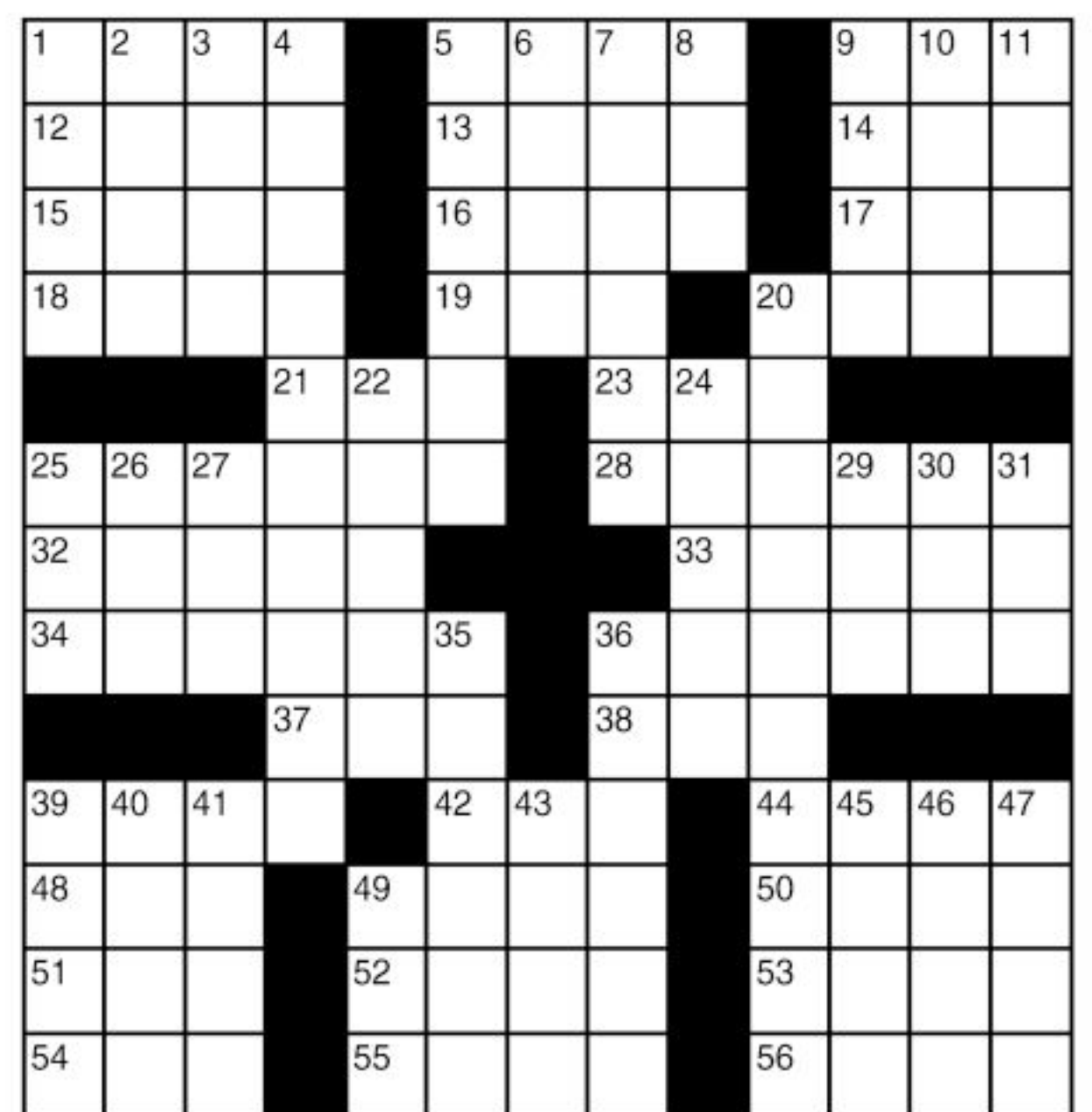
FROM PAGE 16

said, "We have already given him 16500 dollars out of his seven-month salary of 17500 dollars in three phases. "But he is claiming an extra month's salary as well as payment of international transfer certificates of the foreign players he brought at the start of the season but according to the deal with him, the club was not supposed to pay any money regarding ITCs," said Lokman, adding that the initial contract with Emeka stipulated a 2000 dollar salary, which they later raised to 2500 dollars. The former Mohammedan star took charge of MSC last November before guiding his side to the last match of the professional football

league on June 28. Under his guidance, Mohammedan were eliminated from the group stage of the Federation Cup and finished third in the 11-team Bangladesh Premier League table following a superb performance in the second leg of the professional league. The Nigerian World Cup star however has virtually no chance of coaching Mohammedan next season. "Last season, Emeka had to work as Abdul Kaium Sentu's assistant due to the lack of his coaching documents. We would love to see him as the head coach of the team but we actually can't recognise him," Lokman said. "This time we are thinking of appointing a local coach and it will be finalised at the board meeting."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Trip to Mecca 5 Inauguration recitation 9 Vacillate 12 Birthright barterer 13 100 percent 14 Have a bug 15 Flowerless plant 16 Blueprint 17 Altar affirmative 18 London gallery 19 Peculiar 20 Leftovers recipe 21 IV measures 23 Ram's fan? 25 Esprit de corps 28 Auto-maker's nightmare 32 Accustom 33 Recipient 34 GI ID 36 Set off 37 Baseball stat. 38 Homer's neighbor 39 Source of strength 42 Scepter 44 Thin 48 Vacationing 49 Michigan, e.g. 50 Between jobs 51 LummoX 52 Shrek is one 53 Spruced up 54 Saute 55 Abacus piece 56 Spreadsheet fill 58 Homer's neighbor 59 Source of strength 61 Weight 62 Cruising 63 Pub missile 64 Mrs. Johnny Cash 65 Go against 66 "— Lang Syne" 67 Merchant 68 Coop dweller 69 Bide one's time 70 Staffer DOWN 11 Candlelight, e.g. 20 Renewed energy 22 Transparent 24 Shoe style 25 Central 26 Yoko of music 27 Bad hairpiece 29 Blackbird 30 Allow 31 Sheltered side 35 Parking space? 36 "Absolutely!" 39 Horse's foot 40 Somewhere out there 41 Uncertain 43 Gumbo item 45 Concept 46 Venetian blind part 47 Animal-rights org. 49 High-arc shot



CRYPTOQUIP

P J N H J S U Q P M J N M C T Z L E Q W . N Q D T Q S H P S Q W H P N M E W . J Q B J J S W Q P H B W Q L Z B U E T W Z R P R U A R B A U Z W P D R Z W P D . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU MAKE A YOUNG SHEEP OUT OF TOY BUILDING BLOCKS, I SUPPOSE YOU'D CALL THAT A LEGO LAMB. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals S