



**Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo refrains from celebration after opening the scoring against Granada in their La Liga encounter at the Santiago Bernabeu on Sunday. The Portuguese striker later revealed to reporters that he did not celebrate the two goals because he was unhappy at the club.**

PHOTO: AFP

## C'Ron drops a bomb

AFP, Madrid



Real Madrid star striker Cristiano Ronaldo sparked a storm of media speculation over his future Monday by saying he was 'sad' at the club.

Ronaldo scored a brace in Madrid's 3-0 win over Granada on Sunday but did not celebrate either goal.

Quizzed by reporters after the game at the Santiago Bernabeu, he said: "It could be because I am a bit sad. That is the only reason. When I don't celebrate goals, I am not happy."

Ronaldo was elusive about the reasons for his unhappiness, saying only that it was professional rather than personal. "I am not going to say more. People know why," he was quoted as saying in the media.

Asked if he was upset because Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta was crowned UEFA Best Player in Europe on Thursday, he replied: "No, it's not that. There are more important things."

Iniesta deserved the award, he added. The 27-year-old Portuguese said his thigh was hurting but he hoped it would recover in the next few days to allow him to play.

"He can't take it any more," headlined the front page of top selling sports daily Marca. Ronaldo "disconcerts Madrid and sounds alarm bells after not celebrating his goals against Granada," it said.

Ronaldo had gone to see Real Madrid chairman Florentino Perez on Saturday to say he was unhappy in the club, the paper said, without citing a source.

Marca said team-mates, who were not named, believed he had become more miserable since Iniesta was honoured. Ronaldo and Barcelona striker Lionel Messi had also been in the running.

"Does he want to go?" asked an article in rival sports paper AS. Ronaldo's "attitude is a depth charge that could explode with serious consequences if no-one intervenes urgently at the club."

Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho had criticised their performance against Granada.

"I did not like the game as we had little rhythm. We have had little time to work this week and we were slow. We got the points but that is not enough, we have to play better," he said.

The coach had already laid in to the team's performance in their previous first division game, a 2-1 defeat at derby rivals Getafe, which he had described as "unacceptable in every aspect".

Real Madrid redeemed themselves on Wednesday, though, claiming the season's first piece of silverware with a 2-1 victory over 10-man Barca that delivered the Spanish Super Cup on away goals.

## TENDER FOR WORLDWIDE MEDIA RIGHTS BCB reviewing clauses



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is in the process of rethinking some tough clauses following a poor response to their international tender for worldwide media rights.

The board has already extended the timeline for obtaining tender documents and submission of tenders by another seven days in order to be able to review all the reasons that has led to the poor response by the companies. They have also called for an emergency meeting today to discuss how they can bring some leniency on some of their clauses to allow them to attract more companies to buy their television broadcast and marketing rights. This is a major source of income for the richest sports federation in the country. "Everything will be reviewed in the meeting.

Right at this moment it's not possible for me to elaborate anything regarding this tender issue," said BCB's acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury yesterday.

The board was forced to extend the date as, according to sources, only two companies including Ten Sports bought the schedule before the last date on August 30.

As per the new timing, one can buy the schedule until September 6 and the last date for dropping the tender would be September 12 but the time may be further extended if needed because the board is extremely cautious about the deal following on from their bitter experience with Nimbus.

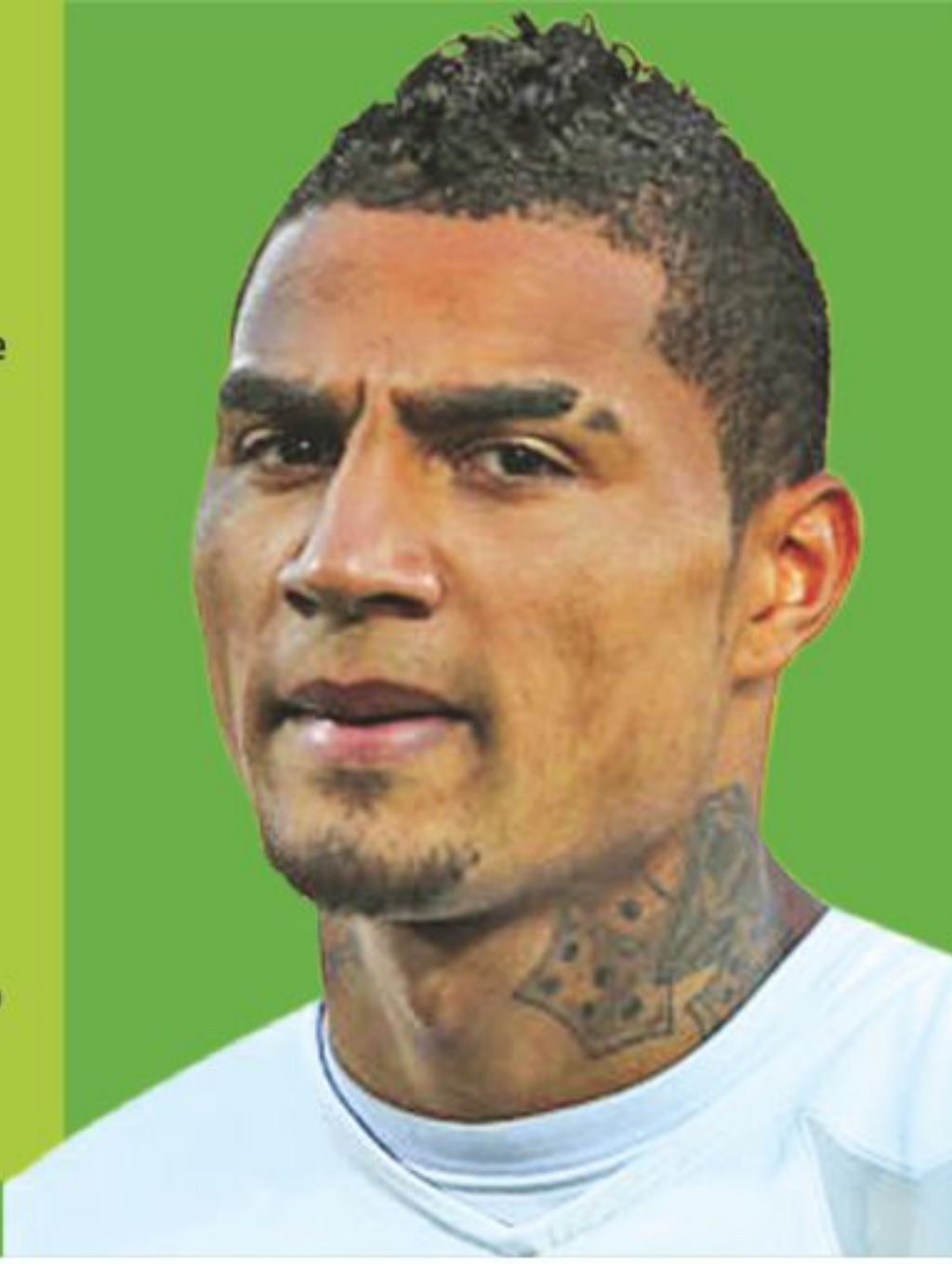
The BCB floated the tender for a TV deal from November 1, 2012 to April 30, 2016 after a strong committee headed by its vice-president Ahmed Sajjadul Alam prepared a guideline for the new TV deal. The troublesome six-year agreement with

## Boateng breaks his hand

AC Milan's Kevin Prince Boateng will undergo an operation on a fractured bone in his right hand, it was reported Sunday. The German-born Ghanaian suffered the injury in Milan's hard-fought 3-1 win away to Bologna on Saturday, the Rossoneri's first win of the season following their opening day defeat to Sampdoria.

ANSA news agency said Milan will wait until after the operation before announcing whether and for how long Boateng will be sidelined.

Riccardo Montolivo is also set to undergo scans to determine the extent of a thigh knock he suffered in the game.



## Tigers touch down on Trinidad

SPORTS REPORTER

The Tigers reached Trinidad on Sunday night to take part in the Trinidad Quadrangular T20 competition.

Mushfiqur Rahim's men will play the tournament as part of the ICC Twenty20 World Cup under the banner of BCB XI.

They will play a practice match against a local selection on September 5 before taking on Barbados on September 6. They will play their second game against Afghanistan on September 7 and play their third and final match against Trinidad & Tobago on September 8 at the Queen's Park Oval, Port of Spain. They will then head directly for Sri Lanka on September 9 to take part in the ICC World Twenty20 starting from September 18.

Bangladesh has been placed in Group D along with New Zealand and Pakistan in the ICC World Twenty20. The Tigers will take on New Zealand on September 21 before meeting Pakistan on September 25. Both matches will be played at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium.



**Russian sensation Maria Sharapova (R) and former world number one Andy Roddick of the USA celebrate their respective victories in the US Open at Flushing Meadows on Sunday. Sharapova reached the quarterfinals while Roddick, who announced he would hang up his racket after the tournament, moved to the fourth round.**

PHOTOS: AFP



## Djokovic, Roddick move

AFP, New York



Defending champion Novak Djokovic stormed into the US Open last 16 on Sunday as Andy Roddick stretched his long goodbye into a prime-time showdown with fellow former champion Juan Martin Del Potro.

Djokovic coasted past French 30th seed Julien Benneteau 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 despite being forced to open up play on day seven at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

He goes on to face Swiss 18th seed Stanislas Wawrinka, a semifinalist in 2010 who eased past 14th-seeded Ukrainian Alexandr Dolgopopolov 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 for a spot in the quarterfinals.

American 20th seed Roddick delayed his retirement by advancing to the fourth round with a 7-5, 7-6 (7/1), 4-6, 6-4 victory over Italy's Fabio Fognini.

Roddick, the 2003 US Open winner who will retire once this tournament is over, will play for a spot in the

quarterfinals against 2009 winner Juan Martin Del Potro, the seventh seed from Argentina.

"I am trying to keep all of my emotions together. All the support I have received over the past few days has been truly humbling," said 30-year-old Roddick.

Del Potro defeated 63rd-ranked compatriot Leonardo Mayer 6-3, 7-5, 7-6 (11/9) in a three-hour 20-minute marathon which was wrapped up on his sixth match point.

Del Potro's win in New York three years ago was the only occasion in the last 30 majors that the champion wasn't Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal or Djokovic.

Lleyton Hewitt, was knocked out by low-profile Spanish fourth seed David Ferrer, a semifinalist in 2007, who clinched a 7-6 (11/9), 4-6, 6-3, 6-0 win.

Former world number one Hewitt, who has not reached the last 16 at the US Open since 2006, and has been plagued by groin and foot problems this year, committed 72 unforced errors

and squandered five set points in the first set tie-breaker.

"All in all, I'm happy. It takes a quality player to beat me," said 31-year-old Hewitt, who needed a wildcard to play in New York after his ranking slumped to 125.

Ferrer, a semifinalist already this year at the French Open, and a quarterfinalist at the Australian Open and Wimbledon, has five titles to his name in 2012 -- second only to world number one Federer.

"I'm having the best season of my career and I think it's the right time. I'm 30 years old," said Ferrer, who will next face French 13th seed Richard Gasquet.

Gasquet beat 245-ranked US college champion Steve Johnson 7-6 (7/4), 6-2, 6-3. Hewitt, 31, and Ferrer were two of eight players 30-or-older to reach the third round, the most since 1974.

Serb eighth seed Janko Tipsarevic, a quarterfinalist in 2011, made the last 16, beating Slovenian qualifier Grega Zemlja 6-4, 6-3, 7-5.

## Maria breaks quarters jinx

AFP, New York



Maria Sharapova reached the US Open quarterfinals for the first time since her 2006 championship run with a 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 victory over Russian compatriot Nadia Petrova on Sunday.

And defending champion Samantha Stosur of Australia set up a last-eight showdown with top seed Victoria Azarenka as both captured fourth-round triumphs on the Flushing Meadows hardcourts at the year's last Grand Slam tournament.

Third seed Sharapova, who completed a career Grand Slam by capturing the French Open title last June, rallied after twice dropping four games in a row and having to sit through a 73-minute rain delay.

"I'm so happy to be in the quarters," Sharapova said. "It has been so many years and it's a great stage to be at."

Seventh seed Stosur squandered eight match points but finally subdued stubborn British teen prodigy Laura Robson 6-4, 6-4 in 98 minutes.

She advanced to a quarter-final against an opponent she has never defeated, World No. 1 Azarenka of Belarus, who

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## BFF talent hunt begins

SPORTS REPORTER

Talent hunt for the BFF Football Academy in Sylhet got underway on Sunday through Panchari upazila of Khagrachari district as all District Football Associations (DFA) have been asked to complete the selection at Upazila level by September 1 to 15.

Yesterday, Chandpur DFA and Meherpur DFA completed one of its upazila selection processes as a total of 10 youngsters -- five each from U-14 and U-18 -- will be picked from each of 495 upazilas across the country. The selection process will be carried out by an upazila selection board which comprises of a BFF coach, a DFA coach, an upazila medical



PHOTO: AFP

**South Africa's Oscar Pistorius (R) congratulates Brazil Alan Fonteles Oliveira on the podium after the latter beat him to silver in the men's 200m T44 athletics event at the London Paralympics on Sunday. Pistorius slammed the organisers for his defeat calling it an unfair race, but later apologised for his outburst.**

## Oscar apologises for timing of outburst

AFP, London



South Africa's Oscar Pistorius apologised Monday for the timing of his outburst after losing his T44 200m title, but insisted there was an issue with large prosthetics lengthening an amputee's stride.

Pistorius, the star of the London 2012 Paralympics, was sensationally beaten into the silver medal position by Brazil's Alan Oliveira on Sunday, in a result that stunned the Olympic Stadium. Pistorius had been first round the bend at the Olympic Stadium in east London but 20-year-old Oliveira took the race at the third round, the most since 1974.

Blake Leeper of the United States was third in 21.45sec. Pistorius's loss ended his nine-year supremacy in the event.

The 25-year-old then hit out at the International Paralympic Committee, claiming it was not a fair race and he was at a disadvantage caused by artificial leg length, as the regulations allowed athletes to make themselves "unbelievably high".

Pistorius is set to meet with the IPC to raise his concerns.

The South African, who had both legs amputated below the knee as an infant, runs on carbon fibre blades, as does Oliveira.

"I would never want to detract from another athletes' moment of triumph and I want to apologise for the timing of my comments after yesterday's race," the South African said in a statement.

"I do believe that there is an issue here and I welcome the opportunity to discuss with the IPC but I accept that raising these concerns immediately as I stepped off the track was wrong.

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