

# Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Kingston offered \$300K bribe

Ghana progressed to the knockout phase of the 2006 World Cup, thanks in part to a 2-0 victory over the Czech Republic in Group E.

Those three points might not have been secured for the Black Stars, however, if goalkeeper Richard Kingston had succumbed to an offer to throw the game.

Speaking on Emmanuel TV, the broadcast channel of the Synagogue Church of All Nations, Kingston claimed he was offered \$300,000 to ensure the Czechs won 2-0, but he was persuaded to avoid the bribe by his wife.



## All-round Salma sinks SA

Bangladesh women win first T20I by 7 wickets

SPORTS REPORTER

A rollicking batting performance by Captain Salma Khatun, in the post-rain session, gave the Bangladeshi women's cricket team their second T20 victory this year in the first of three T20Is against the visiting South Africans at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. Bangladesh, who had to chase down a reduced target of 73 in 13 overs, cruised to victory with seven wickets and five balls to spare.

It was a lively performance from the women in green, who shed the daunting memories of the previous encounter with South Africa with an impressive performance on the field. After having put the South Africans in to bat, the Bangladeshi bowlers took wickets at regular intervals to peg back the visitors. The fielding lifted by a notch and the hosts garnered two crucial wickets through direct hits. Even Ritu Moni, who had dropped two sitters in the last ODI of the three-match series that Bangladesh lost 2-1, looked threatening with her

accurate throws from cover.

The Proteas, once again, found it difficult to negotiate the Bangladeshi spinners as all three slow-bowlers in the side -- Rumana Ahmed, Khadijatul Kobra and Salma Khatun -- were amongst the wickets. Susan Benade held the core of the South African innings together with a 30-ball 37, which included three sixes.

However, she didn't receive much support from her teammates. It was only towards the end of the first innings that captain Mignon Du Preez and Marizanne Kapp managed to up the run rate. Kapp smacked two boundaries off Jahanara Alam in the penultimate over and took the score to

105 -- a modest total considering the good bounce that was on offer.

In reply, Bangladesh slumped to early trouble as their in-form player, Lata Mondol, was bowled for a nine-ball duck. The hosts went into the rain-break after 4.4 overs with the score stuck on 12 for 1. However, a string of boundaries after the break, courtesy of the captain, changed the entire scenario. Khatun went on to score 27 runs off 14 balls and also scored the team's first maximum -- a six over deep mid wicket -- of the entire campaign against South Africa.

The gravity of this victory for the home side was best described by the captain, who in the post-match conference stated that it was only in the penultimate over, when Bangladesh required 11 of 12 balls, that she fancied a chance of winning. "I initially didn't think that we could achieve the target. But I just decided to play every ball on its merit when I came on to bat," said Khatun.

The Proteas, who have only won three out of the 22 games that they have played in this format, will be hoping for a change of fortunes. Captain Mignon

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**SOUTH AFRICA:** 105 for 6 (Benade 37, Du Preez 18; Salma 2-21, Rumana 1-10)  
**BANGLADESH:** 75 for 3 (Salma 27, Farzana 15, Rumana 14, Shukhtara 15 not out; Benade 1-5)  
**Result:** Bangladesh won by 7 wickets (D/L method).

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Bangladesh women cricketers celebrate their stunning seven-wicket victory over South Africa in the first T20I at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



AT LONG LAST: Britain's Andy Murray shows off the trophy he won by defeating Serbia's Novak Djokovic in the US Open final at Flushing Meadows on Monday. The victory ended a 76-year drought of a British Grand Slam champion. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Murray ends British wait

REUTERS/AFP, New York



Britain's long wait is over. The nation that invented modern tennis finally has a champion for the new age after Andy Murray won the US Open on Monday.

The jokes about wooden rackets and men playing tennis in long, white trousers have lost their punchline and Fred Perry, the last British man to win a Grand Slam single title way back in 1936, can rest in peace.

It has been a long and agonising wait for Murray too. The 25-year-old Scot, a naturally shy, introverted man, has carried the weight of expectation since the moment he emerged as the potential drought-breaker.

Unfairly branded a 'choker' after losing his first four Grand Slam final appearances, Murray silenced his critics and exorcised his own doubts forever when he beat the defending champion Novak Djokovic in a five-set thriller.

In a roller-coaster final, which witnessed a 54-shot rally, numerous 30-stroke exchanges, as well as a record-

setting tie-breaker, the 25-year-old Murray held his nerve in a knife-edge final set.

The Olympic champion led 3-0 in the decider, dropped serve but broke again for 5-2 when Djokovic called a medical time-out.

But Murray wasn't to be denied, taking the historic crown when Djokovic went long with a forehand on a second match point in what was, at four hours and 54 minutes, the second-longest US Open final of all time.

"I have been asked about it many times when I got close to winning Grand Slams before," he said.

"I hope now it inspires some kids to play tennis and also takes away the notion that British tennis players choke or don't win, or it's not a good sport."

In 2010, Murray cried when he lost the Australian Open final to Roger Federer and he sobbed again when he lost to the Swiss master at Wimbledon in July.

But on Monday, under the bright lights of New York City's National Tennis Center, he shed tears of a joy as the heavy burden was lifted from his

shoulders with a rousing 7-6, 7-5, 2-6, 3-6, 6-2 victory.

"I was obviously very emotional. I cried a little bit on the court," he said. "You're not sad, you're incredibly happy."

It has been a long and hard road to the top for Murray, who was born in Glasgow and raised in Dunblane.

He was a pupil at Dunblane Primary School and present on the day in 1996 when a gunman shot dead 16 students and a teacher before turning the gun on himself. Murray, eight years old at the time, hid under a desk.

When he was 15, he moved to Barcelona to further his tennis career and in 2008, he made his first Grand Slam final, at the US Open, losing in straight sets.

He made the Australian Open final in 2010 and again a year later, but the results were the same, triggering doubts in his own mind even though he was an established top player and regular winner of Masters events.

Earlier this year, he hired former world number one Ivan Lendl as his

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## Suspended ban for Nafees



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) disciplinary committee found Shahriar Nafees guilty of misconduct and imposed a 'suspended sentence' on the left-handed batsman.

The disciplinary committee talked with the player and team officials yesterday before taking the decision against the left-hander, who was sent back home because of misconduct before the third group game in Bangalore in the Shafi Darashah tournament last month.

"We found him guilty. He certainly breached the players' code of conduct and he himself admitted that he made a mistake, and promised not to repeat this kind of behaviour in the future. We imposed a suspended sentence which means that a two-match ban will be automatically enforced if he makes the same kind of mistake within the next six months," informed Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir, the director and chairman of BCB's disciplinary committee.

"As a captain he cannot behave like he did on the tour, but what we believe is that sending him home was a kind of punishment in itself, which is why we wanted to give him a chance to redeem himself," added Alamgir.

After this decision the till recently out-of-favour batsman is now available for selection. He will be hoping to be selected to play against the West Indies High Performance team which will arrive today for a tour of Bangladesh. The tour includes one four-day match against the National Cricket Academy team starting from September 16 at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna, a second four-dayer against the Bangladesh A team starting from September 22 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur where they will also play three one-day matches -- on September 28, September 30 and October 2 -- and two T20 matches on October 4 and October 5 against the same opponents.

Nafees admitted his mistake saying: "Had the dressing room been closed off to the public and not been so open, it wouldn't have created so much trouble. I could have

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## Reality check for Siddikur



ASIANTOUR.COM

Siddikur Rahman is happy that he received a reality check ahead of his title bid at this week's Yeangder Tournament Players Championship which starts at the Linkou International Golf and Country Club on Thursday.

The flagbearer of Bangladesh's gold was on a roll since the start of the season but received a harsh lesson in golf when he missed the cut for the first time in Switzerland a fortnight ago.

The 2010 Brunei Open winner stormed off the blocks quickly, making the cuts in all of his 10 starts until his Swiss campaign put the brakes on his charge.

"I guess that's what golf teaches you. There'll be times when your form dips and you fall out of contention. It's how you get back into the game," said Siddikur to the Asiantour website.

The 27-year-old did bounce back with an inspired performance by finishing tied-third in Malaysia last week and he believes that it is only a matter of time before another grandstand finish awaits.

"I don't really want to remember too much about what happened in Switzerland now. The most important thing is that I'm back in form," said Siddikur.

"I played very well in Malaysia, especially the last two rounds and I had a very good rest before coming over here to Taipei. The greens are going to be hard this week and the key to having a good score lies in your short game," added Siddikur.

With four top-five finishes this season, it'll be a matter of time before Siddikur reaches pole position again and it could potentially happen at the Yeangder TPC this week.

The 500,000 dollar event also features 14-time Asian Tour title winner Thaworn Wiratchant of Thailand, local hero Lin Wen-tang and Lam Chih Bing of Singapore among others.

## Kiwis spoil Yuvraj's party

AFP, Chennai

New Zealand defeated India by one run in the second T20 International to clinch the 2-match series 1-0 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai yesterday.

India, chasing New Zealand's 167-5, were restricted to 166-4 despite Virat Kohli's 70 off 41 balls.

India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh bowled two overs, took a catch and scored 34 runs off 26 balls in his first international outing after being treated for cancer earlier this year.

The opening game of the two-match series, a tune-up for next week's World Twenty20 in Sri Lanka, was washed out without a ball being bowled in Visakhapatnam on Saturday.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**NEW ZEALAND:** 167 for 5 in 20 overs (McCullum 91, Williamson 28, Taylor 25 not out, Oram 18 not out; Pathan 3-31, Zaheer 1-27, Balaji 1-33)  
**INDIA:** 166 for 4 (Kohli 70, Raina 27, Yuvraj 34, Dhoni 22 not out; Mills 2-17, Franklin 2-26)

**Result:** New Zealand won by one run and clinched 2-match series 1-0.

**Man-of-the-match:** Brendon McCullum.

**Man-of-the-series:** Brendon McCullum.



HE'S BACK FINALLY: India star Yuvraj Singh follows through on an on-drive during the second and final T20I against New Zealand at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai yesterday. The match marked the all-rounder's return to international cricket after winning his battle against cancer. PHOTO: AFP