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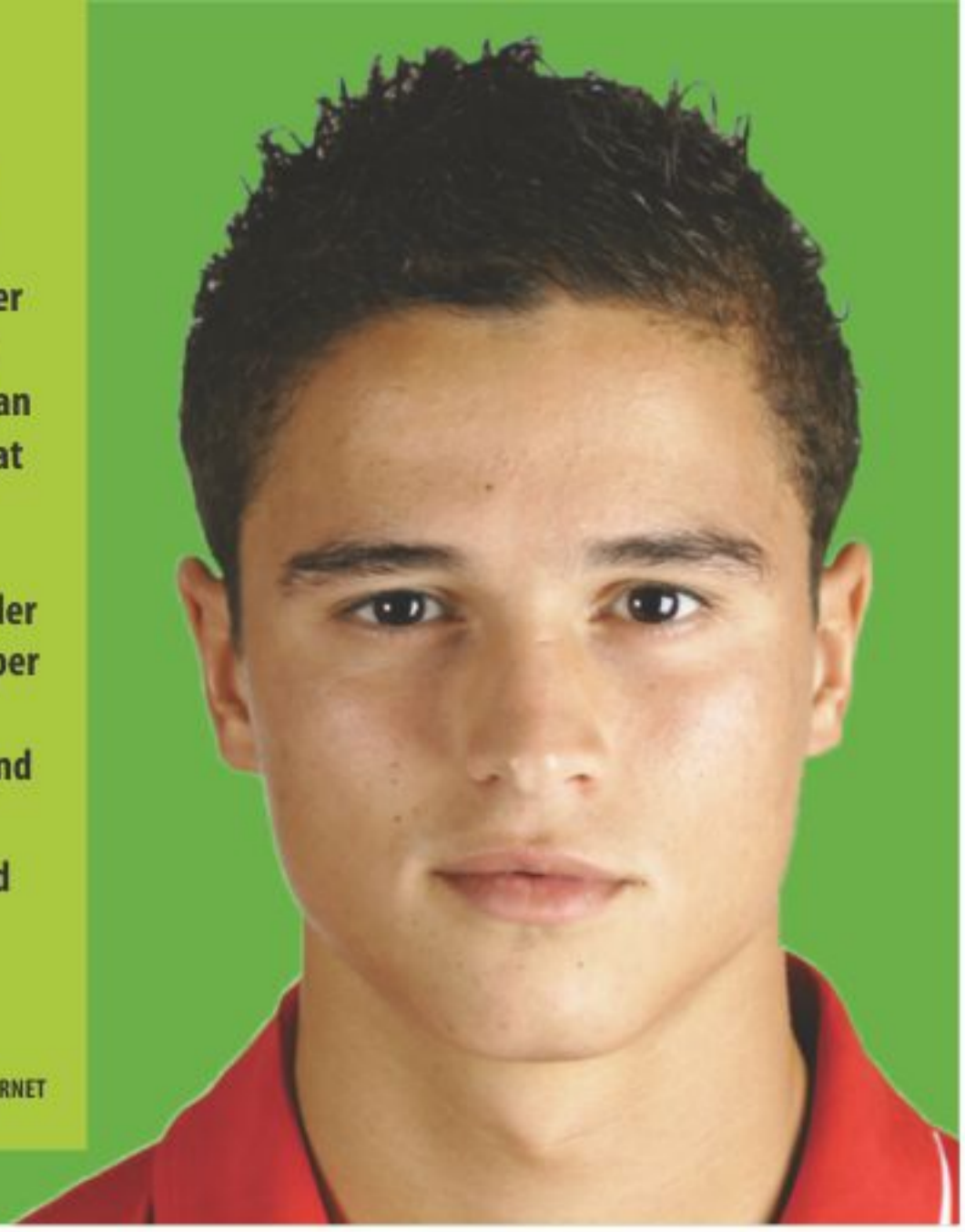
DHAKA THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Afellay suffers revenge tackle

Schalke played a friendly against lower division club TuS Erndtebrück, giving newly acquired Ibrahim Afellay, on loan from Barcelona, a chance to show what he can do. When he did just that by hoping over fellow Dutchman and Erndtebrück goalkeeper Jannick von der Heiden to score an easy goal, the keeper got his revenge by putting in a late tackle on Afellay's legs as the ball found the net.

Von der Heiden was booed by fans and was unapologetic after the match, prompting his manager to ban him indefinitely.

- INTERNET



Proteas level series

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh women's cricket team came agonisingly close to clinching their maiden T20I series but a dicey 53 by Susan Benade helped South Africa level the three-match series as they won the second T20I by 6 wickets at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. The Proteas, who were set a target of 106, needed nine runs off the last over. With nine needed off the last over Benade hit a boundary through deep square leg and followed that up with a couple of scrappy twos to tie the scores with one ball left. A gentle push towards cover off the last ball gave the visitors their fourth T20 victory.

It was a difficult day for Bangladesh on the field as they failed to make the most out of the chances that were presented to them. Nuzhat Tasnim, the Bangladeshi keeper, missed three stumping chances, one of which included the prize scalp of Susan Benade in the last over. Benade was also given another life when she was dropped at square leg in the tenth over.

Bangladesh's opening bowler Jahanara Alam bowled a good line and length and got both the openers out early in the innings. The South African chase, however, gathered momentum after the fall of the second wicket as Allison Hodgkinson and Benade shared a 73-run partnership. A diving effort by Lata Mondol at mid-off broke the partnership in the 18th over. The hosts were back in the game after Mignon Du Preez, the opposing captain, was caught at long on in the 19th over. However, fielding lapses and some good hitting at the end ensured a South African victory.

Earlier, the home side were looking forward to a series win as they were put in to bat by the visitors. Captain Salma Khatun played the role of the lone warrior with a run-a-ball 42 that included five boundaries. Khatun, however, couldn't get much support from the other end as the Tigrisses stumbled across the 100-mark barrier at the fag end of the innings. It was a below-par score considering the fact that the home side were cruising along at 65 for 3 at the end of the first ten overs.

"We had a good start today, but unfortunately we didn't bat well at the end of the innings. We had a mixed day on the field today. Lata took a brilliant catch but we also missed a number of opportunities," said Khatun. Echoing the captain's views, coach Oshadee Weerasinghe said, "The problem lies in the fielding. I hope we can score a big total in the final game in order to avoid pressure."

Benade, who played a key role behind the victory, admitted that she played a dangerous innings. "I am an aggressive player and there will be times when I might just throw my wicket. But thankfully, things worked out for me today," she said.

The third and final T20I will take place on Friday at the same venue and will be broadcast live on ATN Bangla.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH: 105-6 in 20 overs (Salma 42, Lata 10; Van Niekerk 2-16, Kapp 1-12, Shabnim 1-18)

SOUTH AFRICA: 106-4 in 20 overs (Benade 53 not out, Hodgkinson 37; Jahanara 3-16, Kobra 1-15)

Result: South Africa won by 4 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Susan Benade.



CATCHES WIN MATCHES: (top right) South Africa women's cricketer Marizanne Kapp dives to catch Bangladesh captain Salma Khatun off her own bowling and (above) Bangladesh wicketkeeper Nuzhat Tasnim squanders a chance to stump Susan Benade and bring an end to her match-winning innings during the 2nd T20I at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN



Sorry salaries

NAIMUL KARIM

Having seen the Bangladesh women's cricket team fight neck and neck against the likes of South Africa and Ireland in recent times, the common spectator would ideally feel that the 'Bangladeshi Eves' are in good hands and that they might even break into the elite group of cricketing nations in the coming years.

A mere glance at their performance in the last couple of series, especially in the T20 format, displays decent potential. Players such as Salma Khatun and Ayesha Rahman have steadily improved their game and time and again have proved their calibre on the field. The difficult part, however, begins at this point. Converting potential to skill depends upon a number of factors and the most important of them is the financial aspect.

Currently, there are 16 players who are under the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) contract, with players in the highest group -- Grade A -- earning a paltry sum of Tk 12,000 (146 US dollars) a month. Salma Khatun, Rumana Ahmed, Ayesha Rahman (Suktara) and Lata Mondol are the only players in this grade. Cricketers in Grade B and Grade C earn Tk 10,000 (122 dollars) and Tk 8,000 (97 dollars) respectively.

Reports from the BCB state that three cricketers were initially given contracts in 2008. The number rose to 12 the following year with players in the highest group allotted a monthly sum of Tk 10,000. Ever since then the salary structure has only seen an increment of Tk 2000 in each grade.

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Siddikur's Taipei challenge

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman will be looking to end his long barren run in the Asian Tour when he tees off for the Yeangder Tournament Players Championship in Taipei today. The flag-bearer of Bangladesh golf has been in very consistent form this season as he finished five times in the top five this season and missed the championship by three shots in the Selangor Masters in Malaysia last week.

The most heartening was the fact that he ended the last two rounds with six-under-par scores, and if he can maintain the good form in Taipei, a second Asian Tour title might be around the corner. Siddikur himself

BCB toughens Nafees stance

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) took a harsher stance regarding disciplinary action against left-handed batsman Shahriar Nafees as president AHM Mustafa Kamal was not happy with the recommendation of the disciplinary committee.

The 'suspended sentence' on the left-handed batsman remained but as per the new decision a six-month ban and financial penalty will be imposed on Nafees if he makes the same mistake in his future career.

The announcement was made after Kamal met with chief selector Akram Khan and the disciplinary committee chairman Sirajuddin Mohammad

Alamgir on Wednesday.

The disciplinary committee's earlier decision on Tuesday stated that a two-match ban will be enforced if Nafees repeats the offence within the next six months.

"We made the changes after discussing the matter with our president (AHM Mustafa Kamal)," said Alamgir.

After this decision the till recently out-of-favour batsman is now available for selection and chief selector Akram Khan said yesterday that they will include the left-hander in the A team for the series against the West Indies High Performance team which arrived yesterday.

Nafees, captain during the Bangladesh A team's tour of India, was sent home before the third match due to a breach of discipline and to date had not been considered for selection.

The Powers of GMs

ANISUR RAHMAN



The Bangladesh men's chess team, comprising the country's all five Grand Masters for the first time, returned home from Istanbul yesterday after a successful campaign in the 40th World Chess Olympiad where they produced the best ever result, finishing 33rd among 152 countries.

All the five GMs were quick to single out unity as the chief factor behind this success, as the team received a warm reception by the Bangladesh Chess Federation at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

"We are all satisfied with the collective performance which let us achieve the best ever result in the Olympiad. But this team has the ability to produce even better results," said Bangladesh



Players and officials of the chess teams were given a warm reception at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLARCHOKH

and subcontinent's first Grand Master Niaz Murshed.

"The finish, especially the last three rounds, was crucial and we played according to plans even though we did not have a great start," said Niaz.

Bangladesh started the 11-round Swiss-League championship with a clean 4-0 sweep over Papua New Guinea but went down against

Armenia (4-0) and Belarus (3-1) in the next two rounds before beating Mozambique 4-0, Iraq 3.5-.5 and then lost again to Turkmenistan 0.5-3.5. Bangladesh did not lose any more rounds after that, while drawing two more rounds against Peru and Dominican Republic in between.

According to the players' information,

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AFC delegation in Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER

A five member delegation of Asian Football Confederation arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a two day tour to develop a plan for the improvement of the management capability of Bangladesh Premier League and Clubs.

The delegation includes Kaita Sugihara, head of development, Yogesh Desai, development officer, Brendan Menton, consultant of AFC development program, Kentaro Hiyoshi, consultant of AFC development program and Shaji Prabhakaran, development officer FIFA. AFC has re-modelled the development program and Bangladesh has been included in the program as a pilot member association.



Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim (2nd from L) stands with his team, who will take on New Zealand in their first match of the World T20 on September 21, outside the Bandaranaika International Airport in Katunayake yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Tigers reach Colombo

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh cricket team reached Colombo yesterday after a long journey from Trinidad & Tobago to take part in the ICC World Twenty20.

Mohammad Ashraful, who hit form in the next quadrangular series in Trinidad and Tobago exuded confidence on arrival. "I feel I am hitting the ball well. I love Sri Lanka. I have some excellent memories of this country and I have been on every tour of this country since my international debut. I am really looking forward to the tournament," he said.

Ruing the defeat against T&T in the last match, he said, "We should have beaten them. Batting second was a lot easier at Queen's Park Oval as the bowlers found it difficult to grip the ball as there was dew."

"Everybody is fine and there has been no sign of jetlag as a ten-hour stopover in Dubai helped them to recover from the tiredness," Rabeed Imam, BCB's media manager, informed the Daily Star Sport over phone from Colombo. "Everybody is fine and there has been no sign of jetlag as a ten-hour stopover in Dubai helped them to recover from the tiredness."

Siam sub-jr chess champ

SPORTS REPORTER

Ikramul Haque Siam became unbeaten champion in the Azim Uddin Bhuiyan Trust 32nd National Sub-Junior Chess Championship earning 8.5 points from 9 rounds.

Siam, the runner-up in the last edition, drew his board against Tanzina Akter Tani in the last round. National junior champion Abdullah Al Saif became runner-up with 7.5 points while last year's sub-junior champion Mohammad Fahad Rahman became third with seven points. Tani became champion in girls group with 7 points. Afin Jahan Munia became runner-up with 6 points while Maliha Sarlin became third with 5.5 points.

Mohammad Hanif, SEE PAGE 17 COL 2