

SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY OCTOBER 9, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

'Football unifies Ivory Coast'

Ivory Coast star Didier Drogba said Monday that he believes that football is the only unifying force in his war-torn country.

"The national team means a lot to this country. I think that today - and I choose my words carefully here - it is Cote d'Ivoire's only unifying force," Drogba said in an interview with FIFA.com.

"All our ethnic groups are now represented in the team - Baoules, Betes, and so on.

"So there's a complete cross-section in the Cote d'Ivoire team and I think that it's the only good example there is



Zahed Parvez (No. 8) of Muktiyoddha Sangsad skips a sliding-tackle from a Noakhali Football Academy defender during their Grameenphone Federation Cup rematch at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Nadir Shah in fixing scandal

Cricket

STAR SPORT DESK

Well-known Bangladesh ICC panel umpire Nadir Shah has been plunged into controversy after Indian television channel India TV conducted a sting operation that has revealed that six umpires from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, Shah among them, were willing to give wrong decisions during a game in lieu of money.

The channel, which aired the footage of Shah yesterday, claimed that another Bangladesh spinner, Sharfudoullah Ibne Shahid Shaikat who was also interviewed on Skype, refused to perform any favours in lieu of money offered by the undercover reporters.

It was reported that the footage was shot on July 25 in Delhi where Shah was supposed to sign a contract with a Sports Management Group (which was actually an undercover



NADIR SHAH

sting by reporters) so that he could officiate matches of the Sri Lankan Premier League (SLPL).

Although the questions in the footage were focused on what favours the umpires could do for them in the SLPL, Shah spoke on a number of issues without being prompted.

According to the video, Shah, who has officiated in 40 one-day internationals and three T20 Internationals, was ready to fix matches of the SLPL, international or domestic level. He also revealed that Pakistani batsman Nasir Jamshed "fixed" matches in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL). Shah also stated that umpires from Bangladesh are always ready to 'help' their country's cricketers.

The other umpires named in the sting operation are Nadeem Ghauri and Anees Siddiqui of Pakistan, Sri Lanka's Gamini Dissanayake, Maurice Winston and Sagara Gallage.

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Players train in coach's absence

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER.

The Bangladesh national cricket team players took part in an unofficial practice session organised by captain Mushfiqur Rahim at the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) National Cricket Academy (NCA) ground yesterday.

With the BCB yet to receive a proper training schedule from head coach Richard Pybus and the National Cricket League almost certain to be delayed, the players decided to go through a few routine exercises.

"Some of the spinners were going through their training courses with Saqlain (Mushtaq), and Mushfiqur (Rahim) thought it would be a good idea to bring them together for some stretching," said NCA head coach Richard McInnes. The group, apart from players from the academy, included the likes of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and vice-captain Mahmudullah Riyad.

When asked if the board had assigned McInnes to handle the affairs of the national players during his absence, the Academy coach stated that he was just 'overlooking' the activities at the ground. "Pybus and I work very closely. He is on leave at the moment, but he's working from South Africa. As for the matters here, I am just a mere caretaker," said McInnes.

Earlier, the BCB officials had sent a mail to Pybus requesting him to organise an early camp for the national players.

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Muktis maul Noakhali in rematch

SPORTS REPORTER



A depleted Muktiyoddha Sangsad all but confirmed their quarterfinal berth in the Grameenphone Federation Cup when they handed an emphatic 7-1 defeat to Noakhali Football Academy in the rematch at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The freedom fighters side just need a point from their last Group B match against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club to ensure the last eight but they will be through before playing their last match if Noakhali FA lose to Sheikh Jamal on Thursday.

Veteran midfielder Azmal Hossain Biddut struck twice while Jewel Rana, Faisal Mahmud, Shihab, Mohammad Biplob and Shaymal Ahmed Rony netted one goal for Muktiyoddha Sangsad while Murad scored a consolation goal for Noakhali FA.

Following the power outage at the BNS on Saturday, the match between Muktiyoddha and Noakhali FA was called off with Muktiyoddha Sangsad leading 2-0 until the 73rd minute. It looked like the rematch might turn into a potential banana skin as the

Muktis failed to make much headway in the first half with a re-jigged team missing the likes of national stars like Zahid Hasan Emily, Mithun Chowdhury, Mamunul Islam, Shakil Ahmed, Ariful Islam and Rezaul Karim who had all left the All Reds this season.

But the scenario totally changed in the second half and Muktiyoddha Sangsad just toyed with the team from outside the capital and opened the floodgate six minutes into the second half through Jewel Rana before Biddut struck two successive goals inside six minutes to make it 3-0.

Faisal Mahmud joined the party with a curving cross that found the back of the Noakhali net in the 61st that forced Noakhali to bring a change under the post but the new goalkeeper Minhaz could not stop Muktiyoddha and was sent off two minutes from time after handling the ball outside the box.

Substitute Shihab and Biplob widened the margin scoring in 74th and 75th minute before Noakhali pulled back one goal with Murad converting a penalty in the 79th minute.

Winger Shaymal Ahmed Rony sealed the match by scoring from a goal-mouth meleé five minutes from time.

Press term SL chokers

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's press was distraught on Monday after the host nation lost the World Twenty20 final against the West Indies, with criticism focused on the team's record of crumbling under pressure.

Millions of fans had prayed that Mahela Jayawardena's side would not choke in the Colombo clash, but the result was the fourth defeat for the country in major tournament finals since 2007.

"Silence of the Lion," said the privately-run Ceylon Today. "West Indies carry out their threat and dance on a Sri Lankan graveyard."

"Samuels pummels chokers," said the Daily Mirror in a reference to Marlon Samuels who won the man of the match award, making 78 runs off 56 balls.

"Sri Lanka strengthened their tag as the big-game

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WI party hard

AFP, Colombo



West Indies cricketers partied through the night on Monday after their triumph in the World Twenty20, as defeated hosts Sri Lanka cursed yet another "choke" in a final.

Chris Gayle, the West Indies' star batsman, and his teammates earned a fun-loving reputation during the tournament, and victory in the final triggered further outbreaks of the "Gangnam" dance craze that the players adopted.

"I want to know who [is] bringing me breakfast this morning? I'm still up and ready to replay the T-20 final tonight," Gayle tweeted on Monday morning, joking that he felt like "running a marathon".

The win on Sunday night in Colombo gave the West Indies their first world title since the 50-over World Cup triumph under Clive Lloyd in 1979, although they won the invitational Champions Trophy in England in 2004.

Gayle, one of the world's most feared batsmen, only scored three runs in the game, handing Sri Lanka a major opportunity to seize control until man of the match Marlon Samuels made 78 runs off 56 balls.

The victorious team -- captained by Darren Sammy -- celebrated with a high-spirited party that started in the banquet hall of the luxury Cinnamon Grand hotel in Colombo with a cake in the shape of the trophy.

"They were very happy. They had a lot of fun singing and dancing," a Sri Lankan official who was with the West Indies team told AFP. "It was a private affair and no outsiders were

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LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Eden Women's College retained the title of the Delta Life Women's College/University Handball Tournament with a 5-3 win over Siddheswari Girl's College in the final at the Shaheed M Mansur Ali National Handball Stadium yesterday.

Eden led the first half 3-1 in the competitive final. Shamsunnahar scored three goals for Eden College while Tunni netted two goals for Siddheswari.

Dhaka Cantonment Girl's Public School & College finished third beating Home Economics 6-5 despite trailing the first half 4-2 in the place-deciding match at the same venue.

Summer badminton

Shapla retained the women's singles title of the Summer Open (Ranking) tournament with a 21-4 and 21-2 win over Nabila in the final at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Gymnasium yesterday.

Now the Shapla and Nabila pair will play against the Brishti and Irina pair in today's women's doubles final as Shapla and Nabila pair defeated the Sena and Ankhi pair 21-13 and 21-19 while the Brishti and Irina pair beat Tania and Lucky pair 21-4 and 21-10 in the semifinals.

In the men's singles, Mashrafi, Ramzan, Sajjad, Rais, Minhaz, Rana Biswash, Mukter and Parash won their respective matches.

No from ACC

The Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) declined to send its representative to the Bangladesh Football Federation's Match Fixing Committee citing that the subject is out of its jurisdiction.



West Indies captain Darren Sammy takes photos with Sri Lankan schoolgirls in front of the Independence Memorial Hall in Colombo yesterday, the day after they clinched the ICC World Twenty20 title beating the hosts. PHOTO: AFP

Cricket Bolt's 'first love'

AFP, Wellington

Jamaica's Usain Bolt vowed Monday to defend his Olympic sprint titles in Rio but, buoyed by the West Indies' World Twenty20 triumph, declared that cricket was his "first love".

Bolt, who said in August that he was considering swapping sprinting for the long jump to provide a fresh challenge ahead of the 2016 Games, said he had decided to defend the titles he won in Beijing and London.

"Rio is about going and defending my titles," the reigning 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay Olympic champion told reporters during a visit to New Zealand.

"I don't want to try any different events at Rio because at Rio I will just defend my titles to show the world that there is a possibility that I can do it again -- to do the three-peat, that is the focus."

Speaking a day after the West Indies overcame Sri Lanka in the World Twenty20 final to claim their first world title in 33 years, Bolt said he loved cricket.

"It was my first love but I

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