

## Alves sidelined for 3 weeks

Barcelona's already hurting defence has taken another hit with Dani Alves sidelined for three weeks because of a pulled muscle in his left thigh. The Brazil right back left Sunday's 2-2 tie against Real Madrid in the first half and was replaced by Martin Montoya. Barcelona was already missing Carles Puyol, out until December with a dislocated elbow, while Eric Abidal is still recovering from a liver transplant. Defender Gerard Pique is expected to return soon from a sprained left foot. Barcelona are also without midfielder Thiago Alcantara because of a



## A dream comes true Kamal chosen as ICC vice-president

Cricket  
SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal is all set to become the International Cricket Council's (ICC) vice-president for the 2012-14 period, after the game's governing body unanimously accepted his nomination at a board meeting in Sri Lanka yesterday.

The decision also clears the way for him to become president of the ICC, for a year though, after the current chief, Alan Isaac's tenure expires in 2014. Consequently, Kamal will now have to stand down as the president of BCB to take up the post.

"This is an achievement for the 160 million people of Bangladesh," said Kamal in a telephonic conversation with The Daily Star yesterday. "I want to thank the ICC Board for accepting my nomination as the next vice-president. This is indeed a proud moment for Bangladesh and its cricket-loving people and a tribute to our undying passion for this noble game," he added.

Kamal, who was the joint nominee from the BCB and the Pakistan Cricket Board, expressed his gratitude towards the organisations. "I want to thank the officials in the BCB. I would like to especially thank the cricket board of Pakistan for having faith in me. I am also grateful to the cricket boards of India and Sri Lanka for supporting me," he said.

Kamal, who arrives here tomorrow from Colombo, said that he'd have a series of meetings with the government, upon his return, regarding the selection of the next BCB president.

Earlier, the ICC executive board had stalled his nomination for the ICC vice-

presidency following a hectic annual general conference of the game's governing body in Kuala Lumpur in June where New Zealander Isaac, then the vice-president, officially took over the presidency from India's Sharad Pawar.

Kamal's nomination was once again in danger, after the ICC almost agreed to change the structure of its administrative hierarchy in line with the Lord Woolf Report, which threatened to abolish the vice-president's post for better governance.

The BCB president though was always optimistic about his chances. "There were never any obstacles in my way to this post. It was only a matter of time; there were just a number of processes that the ICC had to go through," said Kamal.

The wait has finally come to an end for Kamal, who in his bid to accomplish his mission, left no stones unturned. The highly critical step of attempting to send the Bangladesh cricket team for a tour in Pakistan, which, reportedly helped him win the nomination from the PCB, was just one of the risks that Kamal took in pursuit of what can only be described as his 'dream job'.

The road to the vice-president's post seemed more like a personal battle for Kamal, who actually managed to convince the PCB to nominate him for the post, much before the BCB officially submitted his name, in December last year.

Kamal, no doubt, had to go through a series of diplomatic negotiations with different cricketing boards to achieve what he has today. He has also handled the wrath of the media with grit and patience. However, only time can tell as to how beneficial Kamal's high profile position will be for the newest Test playing nation in the world.



Mohammedan winger Shohel Rana (R) celebrates one of his two goals against Bangladesh Police in their Grameenphone Federation Cup encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Nadir claims innocence

Cricket  
SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh ICC panel umpire Nadir Shah, who has found himself at the centre of cricket's latest fixing controversy following a sting operation by Indian television channel India TV in which he was shown to have been willing to give doctored decisions in lieu of money, refuted the allegation in various interviews yesterday.

"These are baseless allegations. I am not paying it any heed," said Shah during a telephone interview with BBC Bangla while away on a personal trip to Kolkata. "The world has listened to what they said (on the tape), but no one is listening to what I have to say. I listened to what they had to say, but when I realised that they were trying to fix matches I said that I will not do it."

When asked whether he had informed the International Cricket Council (ICC) or the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) about his encounter, Shah replied that he had not because he did not think that things would be taken this far.

"I did not let them (ICC and BCB) know because I did not think that things would go that far. My agent knew but told me to stay quiet. They (the India TV undercover reporters) called me again, but I told them that I am unwilling to talk to them and urged them not to call me again."

Shah, who has officiated in 40 one-day internationals and three T20 internationals,

also said that he is not much worried about the ICC investigation into the matter because he has not committed any crime, and stressed that he would tell the truth to the ICC investigation team.

Meanwhile, the BCB have pledged to launch an investigation of their own in which they will call all of the parties involved and look into the matter in detail. At the moment the BCB is trying to procure the video footage of the sting operation in its entirety so that it can conduct a detailed investigation that cuts to the heart of the matter. The ICC had already requested India TV to hand over the video footage.

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CONGRATULATIONS! Bangladesh Cricket Board president AHM Mustafa Kamal (R) is being congratulated by his Pakistan counterpart Zaka Ashraf after he became the ICC vice-president in Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

## Mohammedan, Abahani win

Football  
SPORTS REPORTER

A brace from winger Shohel Rana helped Mohammedan all but confirm their quarterfinal berth in the Grameenphone Federation Cup with a 3-0 win over Bangladesh Police at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The ten-time Federation Cup champions now top Group A with two successive wins and just need a single point against star-studded Sheikh Russel KC in their last match to move into the last eight after two seasons. However, the Motijheel-based outfit will be through with a match in hand if Sheikh Russel can beat Bangladesh Police in today's match.

Title contenders Abahani started their Group C campaign on a winning note after beating Jessore DFA Ekadosh 2-0 under floodlights. Elsewhere, Brothers Union and Rahmatganj MFS played out a goalless draw at the Birshreshtha Shaheed

Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Riding on a 4-0 win over Rampur Boys Club of Feni in the previous match, Mohammedan posted their second successive victory but not before spending some torrid time against Bangladesh Police who put up an improved performance after being humiliated 5-0 by big-budgeted Sheikh Russel KC in their tournament opener.

Police goalkeeper Jafrul Islam initially denied the Black and Whites after thwarting two successive efforts by Maruf Ahmed and Wasio Olalekan.

Mohammedan came close to taking the lead in the 28th minute but a powerful shot from Maruf Ahmed went wide hitting the side-post. National winger Shohel Rana broke the deadlock just one minute later with a clinical side-volley inside the box after

goalkeeper Jafrul failed to judge a right-side cross from Mobarrak Hossain.

After resumption, both sides played a better show and Police

came close to restoring the margin but Mohammedan goalkeeper Titumir Chowdhury did not face much problem to hold on to a weak shot taken by Azmi Omar in a one-on-one situation in the 67th minute.

It was again Shohel who doubled the lead with a clever over-head chip in the 69th minute while Shariful Islam sealed the match with a right-footed shot from the right-hand side of the box in the 74th minute and sent Bangladesh Police packing.

In the second match, Abahani got off to a winning start but the triumph was not convincing against a team outside the capital who played without their six players of starting eleven as six players are engaged in the Chittagong League.

It was understood that Jessore DFA was much happier despite the loss and they left the field satisfied as they held their illustrious opponents in the second half after conceding two goals in the first half.

Abahani's new signing Atiqur

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## Dwayne, Upul out of CL

CRICINFO, Mumbai

West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo will not take part in the Champions League for Chennai Super Kings due to a thigh strain. He has been replaced by the Sri Lankan fast bowler Nuwan Kulasekara in the squad that is already in South Africa.

Super Kings have also lost batsman S Anurudha, who will be out of action for six weeks after fracturing his right clavicle during the Challenger Trophy in Rajkot. He has been replaced by the left-arm spinner Shadab Jakati.

Upul Tharanga, the Sri Lanka opening batsman, will be out of action for Uva Next due to a broken finger. He has been replaced by Ashan Priyanjan, the right-handed batsman, who led Sri Lanka in the 2008 Under-19 World Cup in Malaysia. Priyanjan didn't play in the Sri Lanka Premier League Twenty20 tournament held in August, which Uva won to qualify for the Champions League.

## LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Shantinagar SC defeated Udit Club 4-1 in the Green Delta Insurance 2nd Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Raihan struck two goals while Mumin and Marzan netted one goal each for Shantinagar while Shihab pulled one goal back for Udit Club.

In the second match, Tejgaon Agragami Club played out a 2-2 draw against Dhaka Young Star. Imran and Prince scored for Tejgaon while Smrat and Shahriar netted for Dhaka Young.

### Summer badminton

Enamul Haque Enam clinched the title of men's singles in the Summer Open (Ranking) Badminton Tournament with a 21-19, 18-21 and 22-20 win over Ahsan Habib Parash at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

The Mashrafi and Joynal pair emerged champions in the men's doubles event with a 21-10 and 21-15 win over the Enam and Shamol pair in the final while women's singles champion Shapla pairing with Nabila won the women's doubles title after beating the Sema and Ankhi pair in the final.

### U-14 football in Japan

Bangladesh U-14 national team made a contrasting start in the ten-team Japan-SAARC U-14 Football Exchange Program to Support Disaster Affected Areas in Japan yesterday.

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Abahani midfielder Abdul Baten Komol (L) goes past Jessore DFA Ekadosh players during their Grameenphone Federation Cup match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR