

Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY OCTOBER 11, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Hristo charged with battery

Police in Chicago have placed former European Footballer of the Year Hristo Stoichkov under investigation for allegedly assaulting a journalist, Bulgarian media reported on Wednesday. Trud daily said a Chicago police officer confirmed they had received a complaint from Svetlozar Momchilov, owner of the US based newspaper Bulgaria Now, adding that the charge was listed as battery. Momchilov was quoted as saying he was punched by Stoichkov during Chicago Fire soccer club's 15th anniversary party at the Chicago History Museum on Monday, after



Umpires suspended

Shah to explain to BCB upon return

Cricket

STAR SPORT DESK

Cricket authorities on Wednesday suspended six umpires at the centre of claims by an Indian television programme that they could be bribed to make favourable decisions during games.

One of the prominent names among the six, Bangladesh's ICC panel umpire Nadir Shah, spoke to The Daily Star Sport yesterday from Kolkata over the phone, saying that he had learnt of the suspension and will give his explanation to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) once he is back in the country on Friday.

"I heard of the suspension, and I have been desperately looking for a flight, but I could not find one before Friday (October 12)," said Shah, who is currently on a personal trip in India. "I will explain my side of the story to the BCB once I get back," he added.

AFP adds from Colombo: The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the suspensions after a meeting in Colombo, where the West Indies defeated hosts Sri Lanka in the final of the World Twenty20 tournament on Sunday.

"The ICC and its relevant Full Member Boards have agreed not to appoint any of the umpires named in a sting operation recently conducted by India TV to any domestic or international cricket matches," it said in a statement.

the umpires directly will conduct the investigations as a matter of urgency," it added.

Three of those named were from Sri Lanka, while two were from Pakistan. The sixth was Shah, one of two Bangladeshi members of the ICC's international panel which officiates in matches around the world.

Grainy footage appeared to show Shah, who has stood in 40 one-day internationals and a number of Twenty20 internationals, saying he was willing to give decisions on demand.

An India TV transcript of the sting said Shah allegedly offered to give incorrect LBW (leg before wicket), run-out and inside-edge verdicts.

"If the umpire is shown a favour, the umpire can do anything," Shah was quoted as saying in the transcript.

The video does not show any cash being exchanged nor did the privately-owned channel broadcast any proof of the umpires delivering decisions or information.

Shah and the other umpires have rejected the allegations.

Gamini Disnayake, one of the Sri Lankans, told AFP on Wednesday that he wanted an inquiry to start as soon as possible so he could clear his name.

"I am not involved in any fixing and this allegation is a complete lie," Disnayake said. "I have asked the board to have an inquiry at the earliest opportunity."

Disnayake officiated at two warm-up matches during the World Twenty20 and has also been a reserve umpire at international

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



A dog, one of the three that suddenly invaded the pitch at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, briefly amuses the players and the fans before vanishing quickly without disturbing the second match of the Federation Cup. (Inset) Sheikh Russel striker Zahid Hasan Emily stabs in one of his three goals against Feni's Rampur Boys Club in the first match at the same venue yesterday. PHOTOS: STAR

Three tenders submitted for WI series

SPORTS REPORTER

Three companies submitted tenders for the media rights for the upcoming West Indies tour to Bangladesh.

Yesterday was the last date of tender submission for Bangladesh's home series, which is scheduled to take place from November 5 to December 11 this year.

"Two local and one Indian company submitted tenders before the deadline. We are yet to go through the details but hope to do it within the next two days," informed BCB media committee chairman Jalal Yunus yesterday.

Earlier, the BCB were unsuccessful in selling its worldwide media rights after negotiations between the board and Virgo Media, the only applicant to have accepted all the conditions of the previous tender, failed. With the series against the West Indies a little more than a month away, the board took the decision to sign a media contract just for the series.

Levi's chance to impress

ANI, Cape Town

South Africa's explosive batsman Richard Levi, who plays for Mumbai Indians, must use the Champions League Twenty20 tournament to reassure critics of his suitability to play in the best company.

Critics consider Levi as a "one-knock wonder" for his country after that hurricane innings of 117 not out in just his second match for South Africa against New Zealand at Hamilton in February.

Unfortunately Levi has managed only 114 runs in 10 other T20 innings for the Proteas, including single-figure dismissals in six of his last seven knocks, Sport24 reports.

Not too surprisingly, the 24-year-old was a prime candidate for a "Flops XI" selected by Cricinfo after the World T20, where South

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

NCL now from Oct 20

Players' match fees doubled

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's domestic season is set for a delayed start after members of the governing council of the National Cricket League (NCL) decided to reschedule the first match of the league to October 20. The league, which was initially supposed to begin on October 14, will see a hike in the players' match fees, with members of the playing eleven expected to receive Tk 40,000 per match. The match fee in the previous year's edition was Tk 20,000.

"We decided to increase the match fee as we want players to fight for a

place in the final eleven and thereby increase competition. The match fee will be given by the respective franchisees," said Mahbubul Anam, Convenor of the Governing Council. The 12th and 13th players enlisted in the team will receive one-third of the match fee, while the 14th player will get Tk 10,000 per match. He further stated that the league was delayed due to various constraints that the Bangladesh Cricket Board faced while adopting a 'franchisee' model for the NCL.

Anam also confirmed that all the eight divisions will be participating in this year's league.

"Four of the eight divisions are scheduled to receive franchisees. We

are trying to get more companies to invest. The teams which don't get franchisees will be run by their respective divisions," said Anam.

Prime Bank Foundation and Walton Hi-Tech Industries Limited are the only organisations to have received franchisee rights in the NCL so far. The companies will have to pay a yearly amount of Tk 50 lakh to maintain their rights. BCB stated that apart from the annual payment, the franchisees are expected to spend an approximate amount of Tk 2 crore.

As for the extent of control over the management of the divisions, Anam stated that the governing council has set up terms and conditions, based on which

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8

Emily back in the goals

SPORTS REPORTER

Grameenphone Federation Cup 2012

National striker Zahid Hasan Emily slammed a hatrick to power Sheikh Russel KC into the quarterfinals of the Grameenphone Federation Cup from Group A through a massive 6-0 win over Rampur Boys Club of Feni at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Big-budgeted Sheikh Russel's quarterfinal berth also ensured that Mohammedan SC will enter the last eight from the same group and they will face each other in the place-deciding match on Friday.

Apart from Emily's treble, Haitian Sony Norde struck twice and Moroccan Mohammed Aboukacem netted one in the one-sided and slow affair in which winger Zahid Hasan hogged the show after assisting

four out of the six goals that Sheikh Russel scored.

Emily, whose poor form last season saw him hog the bench at Muktiyoddha Sangsad found his feet again for the Blue and White outfit. The national striker scored against Bangladesh Police in the opener and now with this hatrick, he showed signs of returning to his old form.

"For a striker, a hatrick is always a big thing which keeps a player inspired to strike in each game," said Emily who struck a hatrick last two seasons ago for Mohammedan SC.

"Last two seasons I played under tremendous pressure for different reasons but this time, I am getting wonderful help from both my teammates and the coach and I am playing without any pressure and it helps me a lot," said Emily.

Emily put Sheikh Russel ahead in the ninth

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



Sachin Tendulkar bowls in the nets during Mumbai Indians' training session at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg yesterday, ahead of their Champions League T20 match against the Highveld Lions on October 14. PHOTO: AFP

ACC T20 ASIA CUP BD women to take on China on Oct 24

SPORTS REPORTER

Oshadee Weerasinghe, coach of the Bangladeshi women's cricket team has said that he expects the women in green to put up a good fight in the upcoming ACC Twenty20 Asia Cup to be held in Guangzhou, China this month. The Bangladeshi players who almost beat South Africa in a T20 series at home last month, have been placed in Group B along with hosts China, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

"I am hoping to go all the way. It's not an impossible task. We have played against these teams before and have beaten quite a few of them. This time we are much stronger," said Weerasinghe. The national players who have been practising at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Academy Ground for the last couple of days, have placed special focus on their fielding and batting. "Our fielding can improve a lot. As for our batters, many of them had to change their techniques in order to hit the balls harder," explained the Sri Lanka-based coach.

The team is scheduled to play their first game against Nepal on October 26 and are

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh thrashed Bhutan 5-0 yesterday in the Japan-SAARC U-14 football festival which is being held in Gotan Bay City in Japan.

Bangladesh, who played a goalless draw against Afghanistan and lost 2-0 to Japan Football Academy-1 in the first two matches, led the first half 2-0 before adding three more goals in the second half of the 50-minute game. Raqib Sarker and Mohammad Shiplu struck two goals each while Sagor Sohel netted one for Bangladesh, who will play against India today.

U-15 football friendly

Bangladesh U-15 National School squad played out a goalless draw against G Group Football Academy in one of three friendly matches held in Kochbihar, West Bengal, India yesterday.

Bangladesh U-15 School squad, which have been sent to Kolkata to play friendly matches following the cancellation of the tour of Denmark, will play their second match against the same team tomorrow in Mathbhanga.

Junior Chess

Holder Abdullah Al Saif took the solo lead in the 33rd National Junior Chess Championship at the close of the fifth round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

Saif beat Protiva to earn maximum five points from as many games while six players -- sub-junior champion Ekramul Haque Siam, Mohammad Sagar, Fahad Rahman, Avik Sarker, Protiva Talukder, Zoar Haque Pradhan shared the second position with four points each.

Div-II Hockey

Rayerbazar SC and PWD won their respective matches in the Green Delta Insurance Second Division Hockey

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Proteas want ECB apology

REUTERS, Cape Town

South Africa Test captain Graeme Smith has strongly denied recent suggestions that he or his team deliberately provoked England batsman Kevin Pietersen into sending "provocative" text messages to the Proteas players during the recent Test series between the sides.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chief executive David Collier said in a radio interview on Sunday that there had been a "deliberate policy" to entrap Pietersen.

"In the Proteas we pride ourselves on being a sporting and ethical team," Smith said in a statement released by the SA Cricketers' Association on Tuesday.

"We talk a lot about values and our approach to the game. We play hard but we play fair and any suggestions that we did this as a tactic is totally unwarranted and unnecessary."

SACA chief executive Tony Irish confirmed that both he and the national players are expecting an apology from Collier for his comments.

"Our players are angered by David Collier's claims that they employed unfair and unsporting tactics against Kevin," said Irish.