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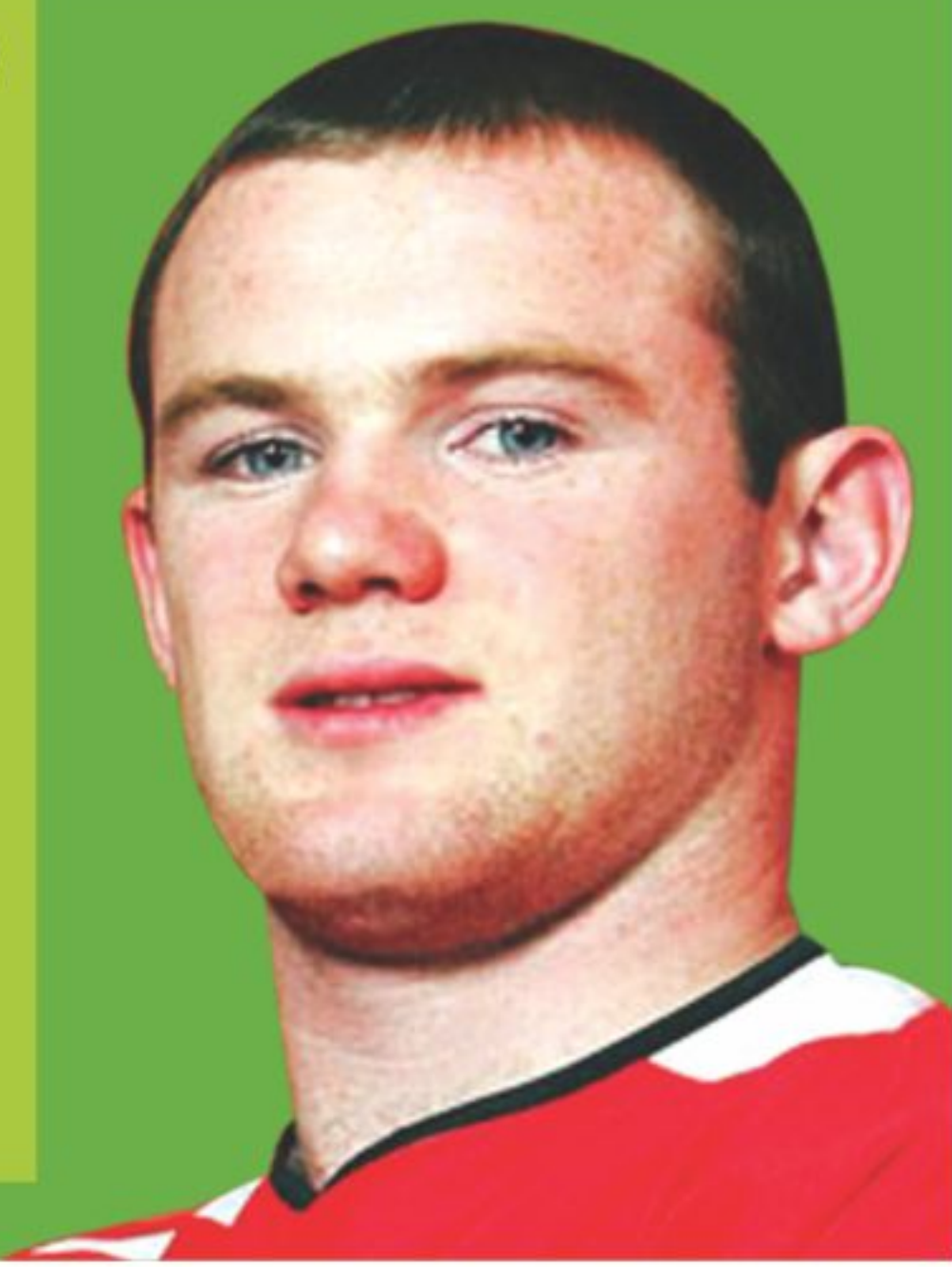
DHAKA FRIDAY OCTOBER 12, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Rooney to become dad for 2nd time

Wayne Rooney is to become a father for the second time in May, the England and Manchester United footballer's wife, Coleen, has revealed on Twitter.

She told her 840,000 followers that the couple were "thrilled" to be expecting a brother or sister for son Kai, who was born in November 2009.

"A few people guessed, so news is out ha!! Me, Wayne and Kai are thrilled that we are expecting a new addition to our family around May time," she tweeted. The childhood sweethearts from Liverpool, now both 26, wed in a lavish



Pybus position remains murky

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The last few days has seen much confusion created over the Bangladesh cricket team's head coach Richard Pybus's leave.

Pybus, who joined the Tigers in last June on a two-year contract, went to South Africa on leave after returning to Dhaka from Sri Lanka after the ICC World Twenty20.

According to BCB's cricket operations committee, the Tigers coach went on vacation without informing the concerned authorities and he has not communicated with the authorities properly for the last few days.

But BCB's acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury informed yesterday that it was earlier scheduled that Pybus would fly to South Africa to spend time with his family after the T20 World Cup, and that the BCB had communicated with the Englishman.

"There is nothing wrong as he main-

tained normal protocol to spend time with his family members in South Africa and we are in touch with him," said Nizamuddin over telephone.

He however was not ready to comment when his attention was drawn to Pybus's reluctance to answer the cricket operations committee's mail in which they asked the coach to detail his plans for the upcoming home series against West Indies.

Pybus has however sent a mail to the cricket operations committee to stop the short spin-bowling camp under the guidance of Saqlain Mushtaq, but he did not reply when the cricket operations committee informed him that it was not possible to discontinue the camp.

Regarding the contract, Nizamuddin categorically said that they signed a memorandum of understanding with the coach on the basis of which Pybus has been working with the team.

"I want to make it clear that he joined us only after the signing of an agreement. The question is how you interpret it. Without



RICHARD PYBUS

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Former national cricket captains including Akram Khan (L) present a bouquet to the newly-appointed ICC vice-president and BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal (C) on his arrival at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: STAR

Smooth sailing for giants

SPORTS REPORTER



Holders Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, along with title contenders Abahani, booked their quarterfinal seats in the Grameenphone Federation Cup after beating their respective rivals at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club handed an emphatic 4-0 defeat to Noakhali Football Academy and the result put Muktiyoddha Sangsad KS into the quarterfinals from Group B. The two giants will now face each other in the group-deciding match on Saturday after Noakhali FA were eliminated from the tournament with two successive defeats.

Abahani managed to notch a 2-0 win over Rahmatganj MFS to ensure their quarterfinal berths from Group C with two successive wins but the title contenders put up a spirited show, despite fielding Brazilian Welliton Santana, who remained anonymous throughout the game.

"He (Santana) is an attacking midfielder but I played him as a striker today. He is a good player but he needs some time to develop an understanding with the local players. However, I think he will be playing better once our Ghanaian players join us before the third match against Brothers Union," said Abahani coach Amalash Sen after the game.

Rahmatganj MFS, who were relegated from the Bangladesh Premier League last season, held their mighty opponents till the first half before a reorganised Abahani struck two goals inside four minutes in the second half to negotiate a potential banana skin.

Rahmatganj goalkeeper Masum denied Shakhawat Hossain Rony one minute into the second half but the goalkeeper could not stop the same hitman eight minutes later

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Siddikur's special start

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's ace golfer Siddikur Rahman shot off the blocks in style at the Venetian Macau Open yesterday at the Macau Golf and Country Club, finishing the day in joint-fourth position with a five-under-par 66 that included a rare hole-in-one.

But the 27-year-old's brilliance was outshone by a superb round of eight-under-par 63 by India's Gaganjeet Bhullar, who finished the round in pole position in the 750,000-dollar event.

It was a turnaround of sorts for Siddikur, who has been enduring a mixed season marred by bad starts and a few missed cuts. And the highlight of his stellar performance on the day was undoubtedly the hole-in-one, a rare occurrence in golf requiring a lot of luck and skill, on the par-three sixth hole. To that eagle he added five birdies on the second, third, seventh, 12th and 18th holes but bogeyed on the fifth and 10th to end up with five-under.

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BPL 2 from Jan 17

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The second edition of the lucrative Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 will commence on January 17 next year, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) revealed after a meeting of the tournament's governing council yesterday.

Other decisions taken during the meeting include the date for the franchisee auction, set for November 9, and the date for the players' auction, which will be held on December 7.

The date set for the franchisee auction is a tentative one, as the auction will take place if the existing franchisees do not fulfil some conditions, and if the governing council wants to add a new team to the six-team competition.

"The [franchisee] auction will take place if the existing franchisees fail to fulfil the preset terms and conditions and payments," said BPL governing council chairman Gazi Ashraf Hossain yesterday.

"We haven't yet signed contracts with the existing franchisees. The last date is October 20 and if they fail to sign contracts before this deadline, we will have to look for new owners. We may also want to add another team, in which case we will have to hold an auction for a new franchisee."

The council also decided upon a few other changes from the tournament's inaugural edition, which was won by the Dhaka Gladiators in February this year. Unlike the first edition, there will be no icon players. Instead, players have been divided into four categories: Golden, Category A, Category B and Category C.

In a further departure from the first edition which had no bidding limit, the final bidding price for each category has been set for the 2013 edition.

"Last year's experience told us to keep the final bidding price within a manageable limit, so that there are no problems with payments," added Ashraf, alluding to the player payment

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'Passion made it possible'

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal returned home from Colombo yesterday after becoming the International Cricket Council's (ICC) vice-president for the 2012-14 period.

BCB officials, some former national captains and supporters from his constituency greeted Kamal, also a member of parliament, with bouquets at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport where he once again thanked all who contributed to Bangladesh cricket, supported and helped him to achieve the honour for the country.

The game's governing body unanimously accepted his nomination at a board meeting in Sri Lanka three days back and the decision also ensured that he will be president of the ICC, although for only one year, after current chief Alan Isaac's tenure expires in 2014.

Kamal will now have to stand down as the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). Kamal however did not make clear when he will resign from his post, even as everyone is curious to know who will take the reins of the country's richest sports body after Kamal's appointment as the ICC vice-president.

"My tenure as ICC vice-president has been in effect from July (2012) but there is no need

to rush the issue of when I hand over charge to the new BCB president. I will sit with you again within the next few days to clear everything," said Kamal in a press meet upon arrival at the Shahjalal International Airport.

But if one thing is certain it is that Kamal will leave the board in a state of disharmony. Right now the board has been going through problems surrounding the head coach Richard Pybus, the franchise-based National Cricket League (NCL) and the recent spot-fixing controversy involving umpire Nadir Shah.

Nobody in the board has been able to clear the air about what happened with Pybus and whether he will resume his position as head coach while it was learnt that it is as yet uncertain whether this year's first-class competition will take place under a franchise-based system.

It now seems that the board has taken the NCL decision without having done any groundwork, which has created a state of chaos surrounding the country's lone first class competition. Meanwhile it's also not clear whether the board has taken any initiatives about the spot-fixing controversy.

BCB president Kamal however was not ready to talk about any issue yesterday other than his achievement in becoming the ICC vice-president.

"Today I can only give answers relating to the ICC vice-president and president issues.

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Mahanama to inspect Khulna today

SPORTS REPORTER

ICC match referee Roshan Mahanama arrived in Dhaka yesterday and will travel to Khulna today to inspect the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium.

The former Sri Lankan batsman will give his recommendations to the ICC after the visit and on the basis of his report the game's governing body will give their decision on whether the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) can stage a Test match at this venue.

BCB plans to hold the second Test of the two-match series between West Indies and Bangladesh and the first two ODIs of the five-match series at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium, which will be the country's seventh Test venue if they get the ICC nod as is expected.

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Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club's two-goal hero Sunday Chizoba (C) is being chased by a host of Noakhali Football Academy players during their Grameenphone Federation Cup match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

After a two-year gap, the Cute Premier Division Handball League gets underway tomorrow at the Shaheed (captain) M Mansur Ali National Handball Stadium with seven teams fighting for the coveted title.

Holders Narinda Pragati Club will face Bhratitya Samaj Kalyan Sangha in the opening match. Last edition's runners-up Old Ideals take on Victoria SC in the day's other match at the same venue. This year's league will be different in that there will be no relegations.

"No teams will be relegated this year because of the shortage of participating teams but we have decided to relegate one team from next season and two teams from the first division will be promoted to the Premier Division League," said Bangladesh Handball Federation general secretary Asaduzzaman Kohinor at a press conference yesterday.

Table Tennis

Baizid Steel Federation Cup Open Table Tennis Competition begins today at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium. All top players who recently held a press conference to express dissatisfaction with some ad-hoc committee officials of the Bangladesh

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Vettori can't tour Lanka

AFP, Wellington

Injury-plagued spinner Daniel Vettori will miss New Zealand's tour of Sri Lanka, cricket chiefs said Thursday, forcing selectors to draft uncapped leggie Todd Astle into the 15-man Test squad.

New Zealand Cricket said Vettori had failed to recover from an Achilles strain picked up at last month's World Twenty20 tournament, where the Black Caps were eliminated by eventual champions the West Indies.

The loss of New Zealand's most capped Test player is a major blow as the team prepares to tour a country renowned for spin-friendly wickets, leaving journeyman Jeetan Patel as its most experienced slow bowler with 15 Tests.

Chief selector Kim Littlejohn was confident Astle, 26, the only new face in

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