

# Star SPORT

DHAKA SUNDAY OCTOBER 14, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## 'Ox' gets dad off his back

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain opened his goal-scoring account for England against San Marino and silenced his father into the bargain. The Arsenal winger revealed his father Mark, himself a former England international, had taunted him about his lack of goals.

Oxlade-Chamberlain, 19, became his country's fourth youngest scorer in the 5-0 World Cup qualifying win, mirroring Mark's own record of one goal in eight games.

However, Chamberlain netted on his debut against Luxembourg and was impatient for Alex to get on the international scoresheet.

"It's a relief to get the monkey off my back as they



## Same old Test story?

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Tigers will play Test cricket after almost a year when they start their home series against West Indies in November-December this year.

Bangladesh last played a Test against Pakistan in December last year and Mushfiqur Rahim's men had devoted themselves to T20 cricket over the last few months as part of their preparation for the recently concluded ICC World Twenty20. Therefore, the team and especially the head coach need to plan extensively so that the players can shift their focus from the shortest version of the game to longer-version cricket.

But the reality is that there have hardly been any steps taken by the think-tank regarding planning for the demanding tour, even though the team have historically looked undercooked when returning to longer-version cricket after a long gap. The major problem this time is the absence of head coach Richard Pybus, who is now in South Africa on holiday, as nobody could clear the air about when the Englishman will return to Dhaka with many in the board doubtful of his return.

Pybus needs to chalk out an extensive plan with this home series in mind because the series marks the first time since his appointment in June that he will lead his

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Argentina superstar Lionel Messi celebrates one of his two goals against Uruguay during their 2014 World Cup qualifier at Mendoza on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Sk Jamal Group B champions

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club emerged Group B champions in the Grameenphone Federation Cup with an emphatic 3-0 win over a depleted Muktiyoddha Sangsad in their last group match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nigerian hitman Mike Otojareli struck twice while his compatriot Sunday Chizoba netted one on the muddy, slippery pitch which turned into the proverbial 'paddy field' following the two matches per day routine and the rainfall over the last three days.

It was really tough for the booters to put up a good show on such a pitch but Sheikh Jamal DC maintained the standards set in their previous match -- a 4-0 win over Noakhali FA -- and notched a convincing win over Muktiyoddha Sangsad, who after earlier confirming their quarterfinal berth with a massive 7-1 win over Noakhali FA finished group runners-up.

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## NCL's U-turn

Franchise-based four-team tournament mooted

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) intentions of hosting the 14th National Cricket League (NCL) along a franchise-based system has taken a U-turn of sorts after BCB officials, in a last-minute change, decided that the league which is scheduled to begin on October 20, would take place in its regular format.

The BCB tournament committee, however, stated that they will organise another four-day tournament, after the league, with four franchises. "The National Selectors will make a pool of 80 players, based on their performances in the league. These 80 players will then contest a tournament that will

have four franchised-based teams," said Gazi Ashraf Hossain, chairman of the tournament committee of the BCB.

The tournament, which aims to fulfil BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal's wish of hosting a franchised-based competition, will be cramped between the upcoming series against the West Indies in December and the lucrative Bangladesh Premier League T20, which is scheduled to begin on January 17, 2013.

A league based on a franchise system promised to bring about merits but the board failed to address the various intricate details that eventually compelled them to change their plans. "We cannot conduct the national league in a similar format (franchise-based) because there was a conflict of

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## Magical Messi

AFP, Montevideo



Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi scored twice as Argentina defeated Uruguay 3-0 on Friday to remain comfortably on course for the 2014 World Cup finals in Brazil.

The victory kept the 1978 and 1986 world champions on top of the nine-nation South American group while continental champions Uruguay remain in the fourth and final automatic qualifying place.

Messi grabbed his 11th and 12th goals of the campaign in Mendoza, but the Argentina skipper had to wait until midway through the second half to unlock a tight Uruguay defence.

He opened the scoring in the 66th minute when he slid in from a cross by Angel Di Maria with his second goal -- and his team's third -- coming eight minutes from time.

In between, Manchester City's Sergio Aguero hit the target, again from good approach work from the tireless Di Maria.

Argentina thought they had a fourth goal in the dying minutes but substitute Hernan Barcos's effort, off a one-two with Messi, was ruled out for offside.

The win leaves Argentina with 17 points from eight

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## No spot-fixing committee yet

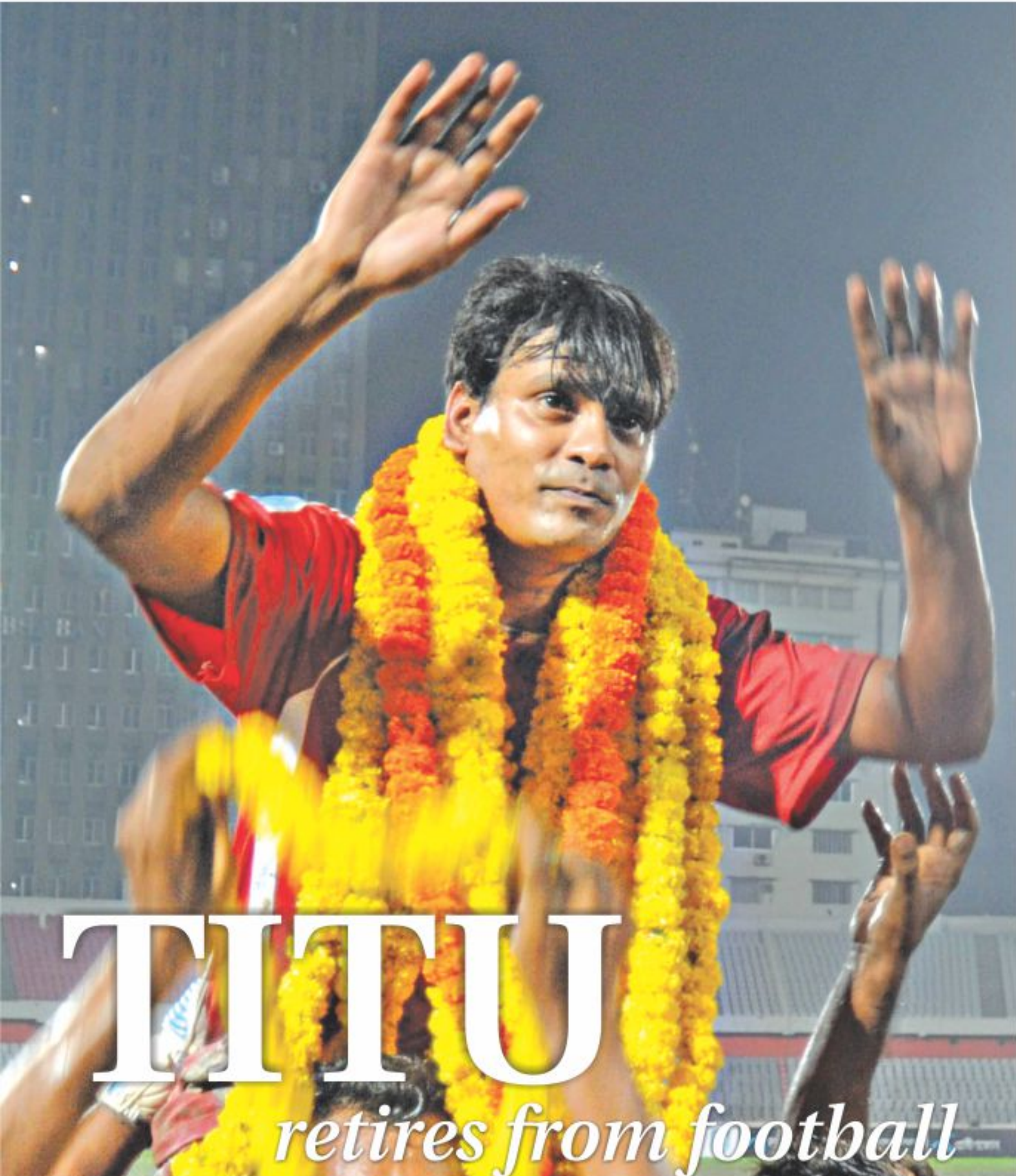
SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is yet to form an inquiry committee to look into the recent spot-fixing controversy.

The BCB had pledged the formation of the committee soon after well-known Bangladesh ICC panel umpire Nadir Shah was plunged into controversy following Indian television channel India TV's sting operation into spot-fixing by umpires.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has provisionally suspended six umpires from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka who allegedly agreed to spot-fix matches

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## TITU retires from football

SPORTS REPORTER

Firoz Mahmud Titu, a former Bangladesh international and current Muktiyoddha Sangsad defender, retired from all forms of football yesterday.

The 38-year-old played for the Reds for about 36 minutes against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club in a Federation Cup encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

When he was walking off the fever-pitch after being substituted, he received an emotional sending off by the players of both teams, who carried him to the touchline as a mark of respect. Besides, players and official of both teams in the dugout also gave

him standing ovation.

The right-back, a product of BKSP and a member of the enterprising Fakirerpool Youngmens Club in the 90s, has been an important member of the national team since his debut in 1999.

Also a member of the 2003 SAFF championship team, Titu is revered for his famous goal against Yugoslavia in a Shahara Cup match in India in 2001. He broke an off-side trap down the left and raced to the opponents' box and drove the ball past an advancing giant Yugoslav custodian. He played for all the major clubs in the domestic football and won the League title thrice.

## Siddikur slips

SPORTS REPORTER

After two days of consistent golf, Bangladesh's ace golfer Siddikur Rahman slid down the leader board after the third round of the Venetian Macau Open in Macau yesterday. Having enjoyed two excellent rounds to start the day in joint fourth position, Siddikur struggled to a one-over-par 72 that saw him slip to joint tenth at the Macau Golf and Country Club.

The picture however remained rosy for India's Gaganjeet Bhullar who finished the third round as he had the first two -- in pole position. Having shot an astonishing eight-under-par in the first round and consolidated it with a three-under-par in the second, Bhullar continued the good form with a two-under-par 69 in the third round to have a cumulative score of 13-under-par 200. He leads Thai youngster Thitiphun Chuayprakong by two shots, while Filipino Angelo Que, Scott Hend of Australia and American Berry Henson will enter the final round four shots behind.

It was an unpleasant turnaround for Siddikur, who impressed with rounds of five-under-par 66 and three-under-par 69 in the first and second rounds respectively. The front nine saw some good golf from the Bangladeshi, who hit an eagle on the second hole and a birdie on the eighth before bogeying the ninth. But it fell apart in the back nine where he succumbed to bogeys on the tenth and eleventh and a double bogey on the twelfth before pulling it back slightly through a birdie on the thirteenth.



PHOTO: STAR

Abahani's Shoma (L) returns the ball while her partner Sinthi looks on during their women's team event final against Destiny yesterday.

## Women's team title Abahani's

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani clinched the women's team event title of the Baizid Steel Federation Cup Open Table Tennis Tournament with a 3-1 win over Destiny in the final at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Soma drove Abahani on the path to glory by winning the single bout against Snigdha. She then combined with Sinthi to win the doubles before finishing the final in a flourish, clinching the deciding fourth game, a pulsating five-setter, against Rumi.

Abahani had earlier moved into the final beating Narail 3-0 while Destiny also recorded a 3-0 win against Bangladesh Chemical.



ফার্স্ট সিকিউরিটি ইসলামী ব্যাংক লি:

FIRST SECURITY ISLAMI BANK LTD.

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Price Sensitive Information

This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of **First Security Islami Bank Limited** in its 128th meeting held on October 13, 2012 has decided to purchase space approximately 60,000 (Sixty Thousand) Square Feet at Block # SE(F), Plot # 3, Gulshan Model Town, Gulshan - 1, Dhaka-1212 from Rangs Properties Limited at a cost of approximately Tk.245.00 (Two Hundred Forty Five) crore only (excluding Registration fees, Tax, VAT and other related charges) for Head Office of the Bank subject to approval of Bangladesh Bank.

Sd/-

Abdul Hannan Khan  
FVP & Company Secretary

Dated: October 13, 2012

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