

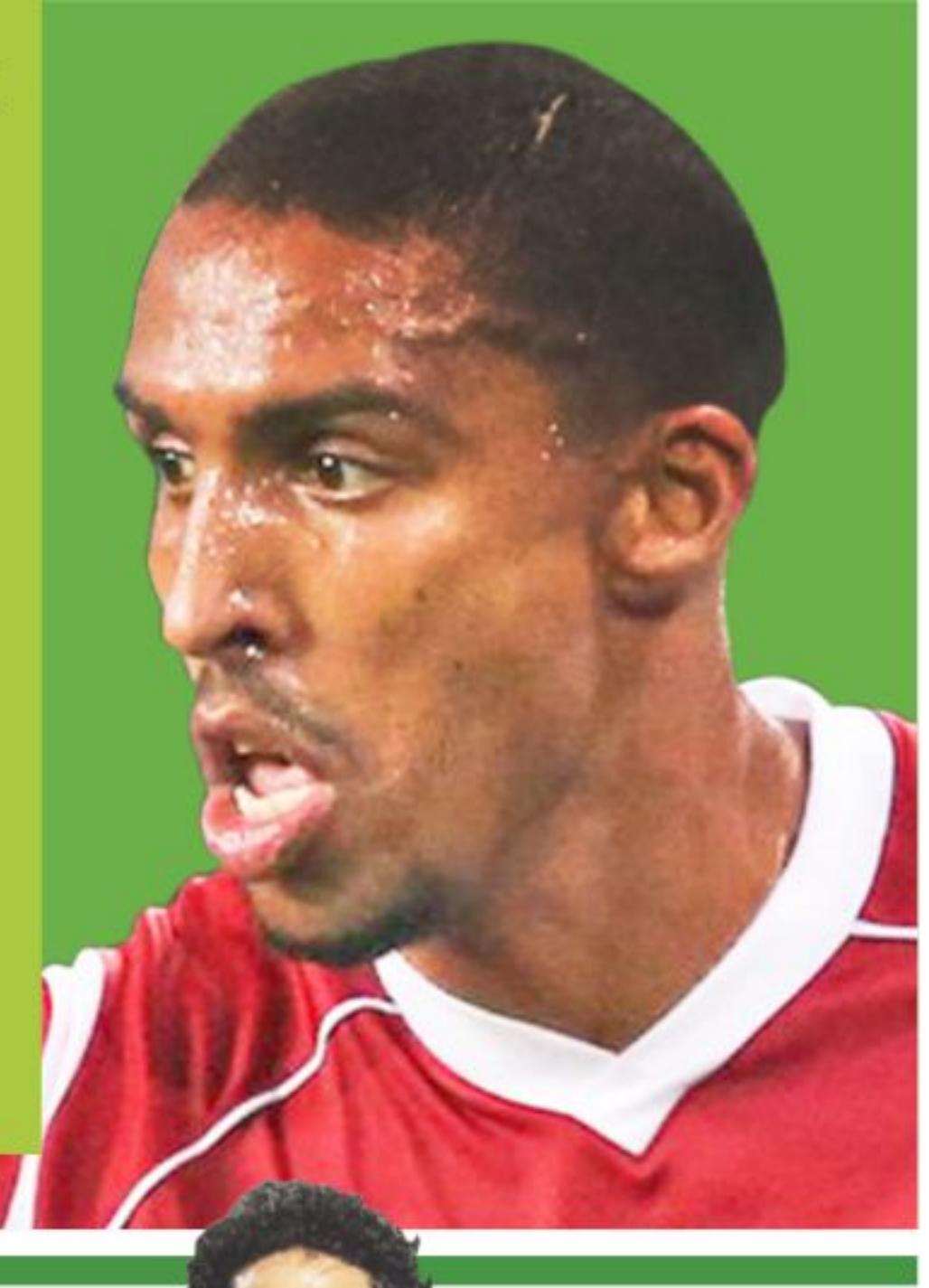
Mtiliga's Denmark career over

Denmark's Patrick Mtiliga has played his final game for Denmark, national team coach Morten Olsen said here Tuesday, after the player refused to warm-up for a World Cup qualifier against Italy.

After the match Olsen explained why Mtiliga would not play for the national side again.

"He has played his final game for Denmark," said Olsen.

"He refused to warm up for the game because he was too unhappy at not being in the starting eleven and seeing Simon Poulsen start instead."



Papon given BCB reins

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Nazmul Hassan Papon has been appointed the new president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Papon, the ruling party parliament member and son of President Zillur Rahman, replaced AHM Mustafa Kamal, who has recently been nominated as the International Cricket Council (ICC) vice-president.

Kamal will formally hand over charge to the new board president, who is due to return this afternoon from Kuwait, at the BCB headquarters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur tomorrow at 11am.

"He (Nazmul Hassan) is a proven administrator and more importantly, a man of cricket. I am confident that under his able leadership Bangladesh cricket will only move forward and reach the standards desired by the country's 16 crore people. On behalf of the board I wish him success and assure him of every cooperation," said Kamal while congratulating his successor.

Ever since Kamal was elevated to ICC's



NAZMUL HASAN PAPON

prestigious post, the point of interest in everyone's mind surrounded the identity of his successor at the BCB. Initially the name of former BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury was doing the rounds but following Papon's expression, two days ago, of his wish to run for the presidential post it became clear that he was most likely to take the hot seat. And yesterday's government announcement put an end to all the speculation about who would head the richest sports body in the country.

Nazmul Hassan Papon is the 14th president of the BCB and seventh after since Bangladesh's elevation to Test status in 2000.

Born on May 31, 1961, Papon has been involved with popular club Abahani Limited for nearly a decade, and since 2008 he has served as the chairman of this club's cricket committee, besides also being an accomplished administrator. Papon, who completed his MBA from Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Dhaka University, is the managing director of both Beximco Pharmaceutical Limited and Shinepukur Ceramics Limited and a director

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Muktijoddha winger Yousuf (L) celebrates after scoring the first goal against Brothers Union during their Federation Cup quarterfinal clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The Reds' Brazilian recruit Thiago Silva (R) also found the back of the net in their 2-0 win.

Gun-toting Joy show-caused

SPORTS REPORTER

Arif Khan Joy, BFF vice president and director of the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC), has been served a show-cause notice by the professional football league committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

The BFF served the notice asking Joy to provide reasons why there should be no action taken against him for his intrusion into the field of play with a fire-arm during his side's quarterfinal clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Tuesday.

Joy has been asked to reply within 24 hours to explain his unlawful activities. The show cause was issued after the league committee went through the reports of the

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CIMB CLASSIC

Siddikur to play with Tiger

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's top golfer Siddikur Rahman will be rubbing shoulders with American legend Tiger Woods and many other superstars when he tees off at the CIMB Classic in Kuala Lumpur on October 25.

The 27-year-old remains the only Bangladeshi to win on the Asian Tour, the ground-breaking victory coming in the 2010 Brunei Open. He also has fond memories of the CIMB Classic; in the inaugural edition in 2010 he emerged a surprise package by finishing joint eighth and earning a career-high purse of 121,250 dollars.

He should feel confident going into the landmark event as his form has been promising of late; he finished joint-third in the recently concluded Macau Open, and seems to have left his early season troubles behind.

The 6.1-million-dollar tournament, which will take place at the Mines Resort

NATIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE STARTS OCT 20 Four teams yet to submit squads

SPORTS REPORTER

With only two days to go to the start of the National Cricket League (NCL), the country's lone first-class competition, only four of the eight divisional teams have submitted their squads to the BCB's tournament committee yesterday. Besides, there were no frantic activities or the pre-season preparations from the participating teams after a last-minute decision from the board to switch to the old format, putting the planned franchise-based league on hold for the time being.

"We have received squads of four teams as of today (Wednesday). We are expecting to get all the squads by tomorrow," said Hafiz Joarder, member secretary of the BCB's tournament committee.

He also said that unlike last year, the national selectors would not be involved in selecting a national pool based on which the teams could have been decided.

"Pools will come into play only if the divisions need extra players. This case will arise when the national players leave their respective divisions to play for the national team," added Joarder.

The committee yesterday announced the league's fixtures, which unlike last year will witness only a single round of play.

Matches will be played at nine different venues and there will be four games played simultaneously. Defending champions Rajshahi will take on Dhaka at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in one of the four opening round fixtures, starting on October 20.

The tournament committee has also introduced a revised points system, decreasing the points for an outright victory from eight to six.

"We have changed the bonus point system in order to put more weight on outright

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Sk Jamal, Muktis in last 4

SPORTS REPORTER

Grameenphone Federation Cup 2012

Holders Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club and Muktijoddha Sangsads KS advanced to the last four of the Grameenphone Federation Cup beating their respective rivals in the quarterfinals at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Sheikh Jamal handed a 2-1 defeat to eight-time champions Abahani, thanks to a brace from Nigerian Mike Otejaleri while a depleted Muktijoddha Sangsads defeated three-time champions Brothers Union 2-0 under the floodlights.

Sheikh Jamal and Muktijoddha will contest the second semifinal on Saturday.

Muktijoddha Sangsads, who are reeling from the departure of 15 star players surprised all to reach the last four for the second consecutive year. Their star man was winger Mohammed Yousuf who struck the opener five minutes into the game and then turned

provider for the second for Brazilian Thiago Silva, who wrapped up the victory 12 minutes from time.

Two-time champions Muktijoddha



looked in control for the most part under the guidance of coach Shafiqul Islam Manik. They added the goals in due time and kept possession well to advance to the last four comfortably.

Meanwhile, the first game of the day was the eighth Dhanmondi derby between traditional powerhouses Abahani and Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club.

The latter emerged victors for the third time against the eight-time champions, who were also eliminated from last season's Federation Cup from the same stage at the hands of Sheikh Jamal. Sheikh Jamal moved into the semifinal for the third time in a row, thanks to a collective and spirited effort and have now emerged as a new powerhouse in the country's football arena.

Sheikh Jamal took the lead in the 31st minute when Nigerian hitman Mike Otejaleri darted into the danger zone of Abahani and placed the effort past advancing goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Shohel.

Abahani looked determined to come back in the match but found it

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Argentina superstar Lionel Messi (R) accelerates away from Chile's Marcelo Diaz (C) and Gonzalo Jara during their 2014 World Cup qualifier at the National Stadium in Santiago on Tuesday.

Argentina keep winning

REUTERS, Buenos Aires



Argentina's world class forwards were instrumental in a 2-1 away win over Chile on Tuesday that gave the visitors a three-point lead in the standings as the South American World Cup qualifying campaign takes a break until March.

Lionel Messi and Gonzalo Higuain struck within minutes of each other half an hour into the match, taking their personal tallies to seven, with Chile pulling one back through substitute Felipe Gutiérrez in added time at the end of the game.

Argentina have 20 points from nine matches, three more than Ecuador, who drew 1-1 away at Venezuela, and four ahead of Colombia, who have a game in hand.

They rode their luck in the opening half hour when Chile created several chances, then showed superior finishing to settle the match.

"We have forwards of huge standing who normally never forgive (mistakes). Argentina were sharper with their finishing," Argentina coach Alejandro Sabella told reporters.

"We knew Chile would take the ball from us a lot and we had to be very concentrated in defence."

Travelling is a risky business in the tight nine-nation South American group, so Argentina have taken out good insurance with Tuesday's win because anything can happen in the remaining seven rounds of matches next year.

Uruguay, the top South American team at the 2010 finals in South Africa where they finished fourth, lost 4-1 to Bolivia in La Paz, where striker Carlos Saucedo bagged a hat-trick.

The Uruguayans, renowned for their strong defence, have conceded 11 goals in their last three away matches and taken

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