

# Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY OCTOBER 25, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Football after Rio, says Bolt

Sprint superstar Usain Bolt said Tuesday he likes his chances at starting up a football career after he retires from athletics after the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

"I would love to play. I've played football. I've played charity matches. Something I really want to try. "And after Rio, I'll just retire and just try and see if I'm any good in soccer, but I think I'd be pretty good because I play with my friends. I've played charity matches in Jamaica. I think I'm pretty good."



## Papon sets deadline for BPL resolution

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Nazmul Hassan Papon, the new president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has said that he aims to solve the problems regarding the Bangladesh Premier League by 1st November. The president stated that he would be meeting the owners of the franchises next week in order to discuss the issues in detail.

"There is a slight confusion regarding the financial aspect of the BPL. The best way to sort it out would be to meet them. They wanted to meet me earlier, but I couldn't give them enough time since I was outside the country," said Papon.

"Through our discussions, if it is confirmed they owe us money, we will definitely take a stern disciplinary action against them," added the president.

Papon also stated that the BCB would have to initiate the process for the elections from today. The Board will also hold discussions with the National Sports Council (NSC) in regards to some new amendments suggested by the NSC in the amended BCB-Constitution.

The National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday vetted the amended constitution of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) paving the way for an elected president. "I have always been for elections," said Papon.

The games regulatory authority also reinstated the councillorship of former national cricketers, though in a modified version, where the NSC staked a bigger claim in the directorship of the country's most affluent federation. It was learnt that the NSC wanted the post of three directors instead of the existing one in the board.

The president believed that the sports council should have given the cricket board more time to respond to them. "The problem here is that we are time-bound. I haven't read the constitution or the new clauses that the NSC has submitted as yet. We just got a letter from the NSC a few days back and I was out of country. It

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Bangladesh Cricket Board's new president Nazmul Hassan Papon (L) chairs the 37th board meeting at its headquarters at Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Women start with a win

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh National Women's Cricket Team started their campaign in the ACC Women's

Twenty20 Asia Cup on a winning note as they handed a six-wicket defeat to hosts China in Guangzhou yesterday.

Bangladesh reached the target of 64 with five balls to spare after restricting China to a paltry 63 for six in the stipulated 20 overs.

In reply, Bangladesh lost opener Lata Mondal (0) with the scoreboard reading two for one in 1.3 overs before Sharmin Akhter and one-down Farzana Haque repaired the damage to take the side to 40 in 10.6 overs. They were separated as the latter was dismissed by Zhou Haijie for 19 off 37 balls.

Afterwards Bangladesh faced another hiccup losing two more wickets - Shukhtara Rahman (1) and Rumana Ahmed (1) before captain Salma Khatun joined Sharim to take the side home with five balls to spare.

Sharmin remained unbeaten on 27 off 42 balls that included two fours while Salam scored an unbeaten 10 off 11 balls.

After being put into bowl first, Bangladesh had

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## Pybus blames BCB

Richard Pybus is not returning to Bangladesh. In an interview with CricInfo, the English-born coach told that issues with his contract and interference from administration were among his reasons for the decision. The Daily Star is publishing the whole of the interview below:

**What made you interested in the Bangladesh job at the beginning?**

A sports management group brought it to my attention. They'd had an inquiry from Bangladesh, and I was told Bangladesh wanted me to put my CV forward. I did so and then I got an offer to take the job. I replied that I wouldn't take a job without meeting the administration. Although I wasn't actually looking for this job, I thought out of respect for them that I should go out to Bangladesh and hear what they had to say.

**Can you explain your current position with Bangladesh cricket?**

I won't be continuing as head coach. I've been fulfilling my role in good faith, given that I haven't had a contract for nearly five months. But everybody's patience has limits and my position has been made completely untenable.

**Why is that?**

The board, in the form of Nizam Chowdhury the chief executive, approached me earlier this year on three occasions to become head coach. I turned them down twice, as I couldn't commit to the amount of time they wanted me to be with the team and in Bangladesh, which was 320 days a year. I explained that I had family responsibilities that stop me from being away for this amount of time. The third time they approached me, I explained again, in detail, what the issues were. I said I could prepare the team in camps, tour with them and be there for all series, but I needed to get home



between tours for my family. If they were happy with that, then I could do the job for them. That was when they agreed that I would be able to go home between tours. That is the heart of the matter.

**Did you have this agreement as both written agreement and verbal?**

No, their agreement was never made explicit in the contract they presented to me in Dhaka so I refused to sign it. I tried repeatedly to resolve it. I initiated more than six meetings and discussions to make the terms of the contract negotiation transparent and offer solutions but to no avail. That is why I have decided I will not go back.

**Because you didn't (have it in writing), why did you decide to go in the first place?**

I felt we could work it out. My conscience is completely clear. I could not sign a contract that is different from the agreement I made when I accepted the job. I got on with the

coaching but when details of my contract were leaked to the media and discussed in the public domain, I felt the BCB had made their position clear. They fundamentally undermined the principles of confidentiality and they went back on their word. **Did you try to resolve the issues?** After seeking resolution on the contract problem for over three months, I spoke to the [BCB] president again about it after the WT20. I wrote up the meeting in an email to the president, CEO and director of cricket. I gave them solutions to the issues that had not been included in the contract. All of this I of course expected to be confidential.

A few days later, I was contacted by Bangladesh journalists who said my contract had been leaked to them by the BCB administration. This was followed by a press statement from the BCB, saying I hadn't signed my contract and that I'd gone away without submitting plans for the upcoming West Indies tour. This wasn't true. The plans had been submitted nearly three weeks earlier and then rejected by Cricket Operations. They took a confidential contract discussion into the public domain and proceeded to give press statements on it, breaching the privacy and confidentiality expected in contract discussions.

**Are there any issues besides leave that led to your decision?**

I asked for the mandate of authority and responsibility to run the national side without interference from board

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## BCB refutes

### Jurgensen takes interim reins

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Richard Pybus, who was hired as the head coach of the Bangladesh team in May this year, has officially quit the job. According to officials of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), Pybus' agent conveyed the message to the board on Tuesday night. The board has named Shane Jurgensen, the team's bowling coach, as the interim head coach of the national team for the upcoming series against the West Indies in November.

"As of now, we have given Shane the duty of handling the national team. We will soon start the hunt for a new coach," said Nazmul Hassan Papon, president of the BCB.

"The major problem was that there was no written agreement with Pybus and us. Therefore we can't take any legal action whatsoever. We have learnt our lesson and we have decided not to have any more unwritten agreements in the future," added Papon.

The BCB president stated that the board could not agree to the coach's demands. "He is a highly professional coach and we perhaps became a little over excited on his arrival and hence assumed that he would agree to our demands.

However, his family didn't want to come here and that's why he wanted to go back home as much as possible. But that just will not work. We can't have a part-time coach for the national team. Unfortunately, these issues created a distance between the coach and the board right from the beginning," said Papon.

He also commented on an interview of Pybus published by ESPNcricinfo, where Pybus made a series of allegations against the board. The former Bangladeshi coach, in the interview, stated that the board didn't provide the players with hygienic food.

"Players were going down with food poisoning during camps, so I wanted to offer them something better than a fried egg sandwich. I was told I couldn't, because that was all the budget could afford," Pybus told ESPNcricinfo.

Replying to Pybus' statement, Papon said, "From what I know, we spend a lot of money on food for our players. If our cricketers eat a particular type of food for the entire year and then eating something different for the seven days at their camp, I'm not sure how much of a difference that would have made." He further stated that the board would provide a detailed reply to all the allegations made by Pybus, in the interview, on 1st November.

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## Siddikur plans 'dream round' with Tiger

INTERNET, Kuala Lumpur



Siddikur Rahman, nicknamed the 'Tiger Woods of Bangladesh',

will finally get his chance to face-off with the man himself at the CIMB Classic which starts on Thursday.

Woods, a 14-time Major champion, will headline the 6.1 million dollar tournament which former ball boy Siddikur, one of the great success stories on the Asian Tour, has competed in since the event was inaugurated at the Mines Resort and Golf Club in 2010.

"I'm hoping to play one round with him. It doesn't matter which round it is! It has always been a childhood dream of mine

to play with Tiger Woods," said Siddikur, who finished tied 11th in 2010 edition.

"When I was a beginner 14 or 15 years ago, I had a dream in my mind and that was to play with Tiger. I'm excited that it might come true this week," he added.

Siddikur has come a long way since the days of playing golf with a makeshift seven iron head attached to an iron rod.

He became the first Bangladeshi to win on the Asian Tour when he won the Brunei Open two years ago and has featured in the top-10 of the Order of Merit in the past two seasons.

Currently 10th on the rankings, the straight-shooting Siddikur, who is adored by the golfing fraternity back home, aims to upstage the elite field this week



SIDDIKUR RAHMAN

after enjoying a week's break to rest a sore back.

"I'm feeling much better. It was very painful during the third and fourth round of the Macau Open (two weeks ago). I felt a bit of pain

earlier in the week but it feels much better now. I had to withdraw from India because I wasn't feeling too good. I needed a lot of rest and I'm feeling better now," said the 27-year-old Bangladeshi.

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