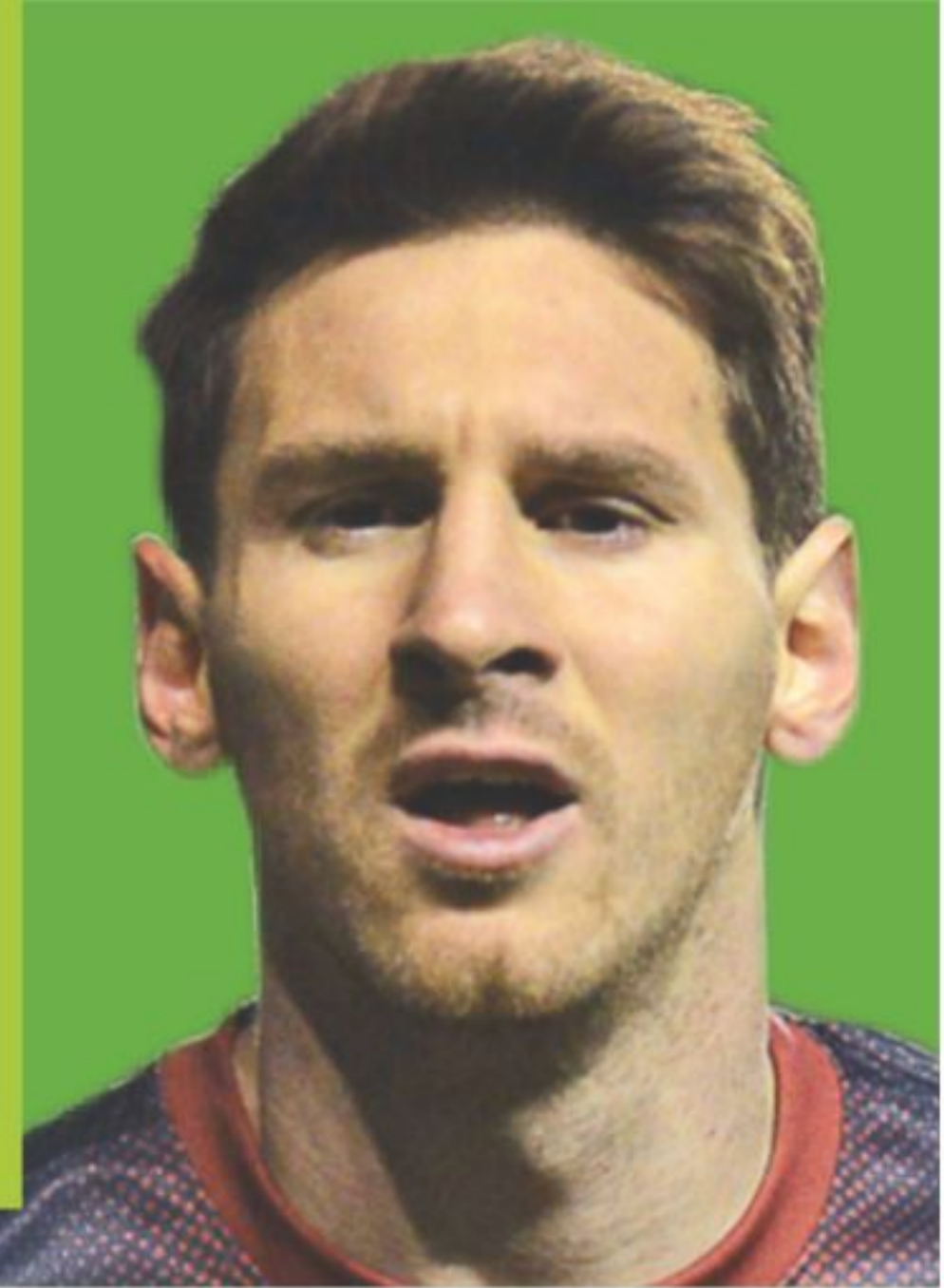


Star SPORT

Messi breaks 300 barrier

Lionel Messi smashed through the 300-goal mark with a brace as Barcelona crushed Rayo Vallecano 5-0 in Madrid on Saturday. Messi's goals were the 300th and 301st of his career, a total made up of 270 for Barca and 31 for Argentina in only 419 matches. They also took him to 13 in the league this season and 73 in all competitions in 2012 just two behind Pele's 75 goals in 1959, and only 12 shy of Gerd Mueller's all-time best of 85 in 1972.

-AFP



Uncharted waters for BD women

Asia Cup semifinal against Pakistan today

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Memories of Bangladesh's four-wicket victory over Pakistan in Sri Lanka in the 50-over-Asia Cup in 2008, must be lingering at the back of Salma Khatun and her teammates' minds as they take on Pakistan in the semifinal today for a berth in the final of this year's Twenty20 Asia Cup taking place in Ghuangzhou, China.

While the win in 2008 gave the Bangladesh women's team its first triumph over a One Day International side, a victory today can send them to their maiden tournament final and in the process, signal a huge step forward for women's cricket in the country.

It must be noted that while the media were busy providing coverage to the innumerable problems that the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) was going through



SALMA KHATUN

over the last couple of months -- contractual disputes with former head coach Richard Pybus, the crisis regarding the National Cricket League and the spot-fixing allegations against Bangladeshi umpire Nadir Shah -- Salma and Co. along with their Sri Lankan coach Oshadee Weerasinghe have been practising in a corner of the

BCB's Academy Ground, away from the limelight. This was after the Bangladeshis nearly won the three-match T20 series against South Africa at home, a tournament which they eventually lost by two games to one.

Contrary to common opinion, Weerasinghe before leaving for China stated that he was actually aiming to win the trophy. The coach's logic was simple enough: "If we can beat South Africa, then we can definitely give the other Asian

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



Star Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan appears to have mishit a ball during a friendly tape tennis cricket match between the 2003 and 2006 SSC batches at the Magura HSS College playground yesterday. The match was played on the occasion of a reunion of batches from 2003 to 2006.

PHOTO: HOSSAIN SIRAJ

BFF U-23 to play in Pokhara

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation Under-23 development squad will travel to Nepal to participate in the Safal Pokhara Cup that starts in Pokhara on today.

Bangladesh national team coach Saiful Bari Titu will be guiding the team in this tournament which will double as preparation for an Under-23 competition to be held in Sri Lanka in early December. Although the Nepalese competition starts today, Bangladesh will play their first game on November 6 facing either McDowells RCT or Yeti Himalayan Sherpa Club.

Bangladesh have been given a bye to the second round as one of the three foreign teams in the competition. Bhutanese League Champions Druk

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Siddikur 46th among 48

SPORTS REPORTER



Ace Bangladesh golfer Siddikur Rahman failed to impress in the CIMB Classic, which ended on Sunday and where his childhood idol and all-time golfing great Tiger Woods of USA also took part.

Siddikur broke even over the four rounds at the Mines Resort and Golf Club in Kuala Lumpur to finish 46th out of 48 golfers after having started off badly. It was disappointing all round for Siddikur as he could not fulfil his wish of playing a round with Woods while also putting up a poor show at an event that he has featured in since inception.

Woods produced a special round of eight-under-par 63 to jump from tenth position to joint fourth in the last round. The real star of the show however was USA's Nick Watney, who produced a scintillating round of golf when it mattered most, in the fourth round. Starting the day in seventh spot he leaped over defending champion Bo Van Pelt and Robert Garrigus of USA, who were both in pole position going into the last round, to win the title with a scarcely believable round of 10-under-par 61 which gave him a cumulative score of 22-under-par 262.

Van Pelt and Gatrigrig trailed him by a single shot while the trio of Woods, Brendon de Jonge of South Africa and USA's Chris Kirk trailed Watney by two strokes.

Siddikur, who ended the first round in 45th position

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Rajib shares lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Enamul Hossain Rajib drew his fifth round game with International Master Nolte Rolando of Philippines to share the lead along with three other players in the Vizag Grandmasters

International Open Chess Tournament at the Rajib Gandhi Indoor Stadium at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, India yesterday.

The other leaders were GM Kravtsov Martyn and GM Vovk Andrey of Ukraine and Nolte Rolando with 4.5 points each.

Another Bangladesh Grand Master, Abdullah Al Rakib, followed the leaders along with twelve other players with 4 points.

GM Ziaur Rahman, GM Niaz Murshed, IM Abu Sufian Shakil, FM Taibur

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Roach looks forward to Bangladesh tour

Cricket

AFP, Bridgetown

West Indies fast bowler Kumar Roach hopes the feel-good factor of being World Twenty20 champions will rub off on him on the tour of Bangladesh after he was overlooked for the recent triumph in Sri Lanka.

"The players are very confident following that success," Roach said.

"It's good to be around them right now. It's been very inspirational and they are talking stuff that is very useful to me.

"I'm glad to be around them at this time -- I'm always glad to be around them -- but at this time, it's even better now we have had that bit of success, so we are looking to go forward now and move on from strength to strength."

Roach was not a member of the World Twenty20 squad that prevailed over hosts Sri Lanka to win the tournament, the first major title West Indies have won since they lifted the ICC Champions Trophy eight years ago in England.

He has however, kept himself in shape,

playing matches for his club in his native Barbados.

"I'm glad to be involved with the West Indies team again and I am hoping that some of the work I did for my club I can bring it into my bowling for West Indies on this tour."

Roach is tied with three other players as the second-most successful bowler in Tests this year.

He and South African seamer Vernon Philander, along with off-spinners Saeed Ajmal of Pakistan and Graeme Swann of England have all snared 39 wickets.

Each of the West Indies fast bowler's scalps have come at 22.25 runs apiece in the seven Tests that he has played.

Only England fast bowler Stuart Broad with 40 at 27.77 in nine Tests has more wickets.

Roach praised the work of West Indies coach Ottis Gibson in his improvement and was looking forward to reaping more success on the forthcoming tour.

"The coach has been doing a lot of work with me and we have had a lot of good chats about bowling. The work has paid

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8

Joy appeals one-year ban

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation vice president and Team BJMC director Arif Khan Joy on Thursday appealed to BFF to withdraw his one-year suspended ban for illegally entering the field of play with a firearm and threatening referees.

The BFF had imposed the ban on Joy a couple of weeks ago along with a fine of Tk 50,000 for his antics during the Grameenphone Federation Cup match between Mohammedan and BJMC.

The BFF acting general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag said that they had received the appeal from Joy and forwarded it to the appeal committee who will now take the required further steps.

Pakistan wait for Tigers

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's cricket board said Sunday it hopes to arrange a tour by Bangladesh as part of efforts to revive international cricket in the country.

Pakistan have not hosted any international series since a terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore in March 2009. Foreign teams have refused to tour the country over security fears.

"We are in touch with the Bangladesh Cricket Board" on the issue, Pakistan Cricket Board spokesman Nadeem Sarwar told AFP.

"There were some positive negotiations between the two boards on the sidelines of the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



The Red Bull-Renault car driven by Sebastian Vettel (INSET) of Germany zooms through a bend during his winning drive in the Formula One Indian Grand Prix at the Buddh International circuit in Greater Noida in New Delhi on Sunday.

PHOTOS: AFP

Vettel shines in Indian GP

AFP, New Delhi



Defending world champion Sebastian Vettel cruised to his fourth consecutive win and extended his lead in this year's title race to 13 points when he steered his Red Bull car to victory in the Indian Grand Prix.

The 25-year-old German dominated the race from start to finish as he led from pole to the chequered flag to come home ahead of nearest championship rival, Fernando Alonso of Ferrari.

Vettel's Red Bull team-mate Mark Webber finished third to consolidate his grip on third in the title race, the Australian fending off a strong late challenge from Lewis Hamilton of McLaren who finished fourth ahead of his team-mate and compatriot Jenson Button.

Felipe Massa came home sixth in the second Ferrari ahead of his old friend Kimi Raikkonen of Lotus, Nico Hulkenberg of Force India, Romain Grosjean in the second Lotus and 10th placed Bruno Senna of Williams.

It was Vettel's 26th win and he revelled in his familiar trick of adding the fastest lap of the race in the final lap and then standing atop of his car to milk the applause from the crowd.

Vettel, aiming to become Formula One's youngest triple champion, said: "Two years and two wins here, it's a very special Grand Prix, I don't know what it is about this circuit."

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1