

# Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 31, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Norwegian FA's radical idea

The Norwegian Football Association (NFF) has a novel idea to even out one-sided matches - if a team go four goals down they can bring on another player, a proposal backed by former international Henning Berg. "It's a good rule that will lead to more even matches," said Berg, who was capped 100 times by Norway. "It's no fun to lose 17-0. It's no fun to win 17-0 either." Aalesund coach Kjetil Rekdal, who often partnered Berg in defence for the national side, was less



## Bangladesh bow out

India vs Pakistan final



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh women's cricket team lost the all-important semifinal game to Pakistan by six wickets in the Asian Cricket Council's (ACC) Twenty20 cup, in Guangzhou, China yesterday. The women in green, who were put in to bat by their Pakistan counterparts on a rainy morning, posted a below-par total of 82 for seven in 20 overs. In reply Pakistan reached their target with 14 balls to spare.

The Bangladesh players made a cautious start to their innings as the first seven overs witnessed only one boundary. The slow run-rate, however, got the better of them and eventually wickets began to tumble.

Farzana Haque took 44 balls for her 28 and a few hits by Shuktara Rahman towards the end of the innings helped Bangladesh cross the 80-run mark. The Pakistan bowlers, especially the spinners, enjoyed a good run on the field as their opponents struggled against them.

In reply, Pakistan lost early wickets and were in danger of suffering a collapse. They lost 2 wickets in the first Powerplay. The crucial wicket of captain Sana Mir gave Bangladesh some hope of a comeback. However, a 44-run partnership between Bismah Maroof and Nida Dar for the third wicket, took the game away from Bangladesh. By the time the fourth wicket fell in the 15th over, Pakistan needed just 15 more runs to reach the finals of the Asia Cup. Pakistan's Nida Dar, who picked up

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Bangladesh woman cricketer Shuktara Rahman bowls during the Asian Cricket Council Women's T20 Cup semifinal against Pakistan in Guangzhou yesterday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

## Cox City banned for 5 years

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) on Tuesday decided to ban Cox City Football Club from all kinds of BFF approved activities for five years as the club without any notice declined to participate in Bangladesh Premier League and some other national level competitions.

Cox City was promoted to the Bangladesh Premier League, the top tier of the professional league after becoming the champions of the second tier competition Bangladesh Championship League last season.

They however failed to participate in last month's Grameenphone Federation Cup as they were affected by the recent riots in Ramu.

The BFF senior vice president and the professional league committee chairman Salam Murshedy said that they made the decision after

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## Ticket rates released

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has released the ticket rates for the upcoming home series against West Indies. West Indies will arrive in Dhaka on November 5 to play two Tests, five one-day internationals and one Twenty20.

The lone T20, first Test and the last three ODIs will take place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur while the second Test and the first two ODIs will be held at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna. The tickets will be available at the booths of the stadiums.

### TICKET RATES

**Test Matches:** East Stand Tk 20, Club House Tk 75, North and South stands Tk 50, Grand Stand Tk 500.

**ODIs and T20I:** East Stand Tk 50, Shahid Jewel & Shaheed Mushtaque Stands Tk 200, International 300, North and South Stands Tk 100, Grand Stand Tk 1000.

The first Test match is scheduled to begin on November 13 in Mirpur.

## Rajib takes solo lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Enamul Hossain Rajib took the solo lead in the Vizag Grand Masters International Open Chess Tournament at the end of the sixth round games at the Rajib Gandhi Indoor Stadium at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh in India.

Rajib beat Ukrainian Grand Master Kravtsov Martyn to improve his tally to 5.5 points from six games.

Grand Master Abdullah

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## Season starts Nov 13



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Premier League, the top flight of the professional football league will begin on November 13 with nine teams playing in four venues, said the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday. According to the original BFF calendar, the league was supposed to begin on November 10 but the professional league committee of BFF decided to defer it at the request of the participating clubs.

The clubs made the request on the basis of the fact that they would be missing a lot of their young players who will be in Nepal from November 5 to 11 with the Bangladesh Under-23 development squad participating in a local tournament.

This season, the league will add a new venue, with Gopalganj District Stadium doubling as the home of Muktiyoddha Sangsad. The three other venues are the Bangabandhu National Stadium,

Kamalapur Stadium and Feni District Stadium.

The league is scheduled to be completed by March 2013 and will be played in the usual format of two legs. Chairman of the professional league committee Abdus Salam Murshedy yesterday said that they had pencilled in the games for weekends to attract spectators.

"Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays are the game days in our fixture so that the spectators get an opportunity to make some time to enjoy the game," said Murshedy. The full fixture list will be revealed soon.

Meanwhile, 23 of the 37 players who were called for the national team camp reported to coach Saiful Bari Titu on Tuesday. But the coach released six of them as he changed his mind and decided to run the camp only with the Under-23 players.

"I left the senior players since the Under-23 team has their engagement knocking at the door. I do not have time to work with the senior players now," said Titu.

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## Indian govt clears Pak series

PTI, New Delhi

Indian home ministry on Tuesday cleared Pakistan cricket team's tour of India for a limited-overs series beginning December 25 and said that the government will provide foolproof security to the visiting team.

This was conveyed when a delegation of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) met Union Home Secretary RK Singh here on Tuesday, official sources said.

BCCI senior official and Union Minister Rajiv Shukla said that the delegation discussed with the home secretary about

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## Day-night Tests okayed

Australia welcomes ICC's decision



AFP, Melbourne

Cricket Australia Tuesday said it wanted to start playing day-night Tests as soon as practical after the International Cricket Council gave its seal of approval to the concept.

The ICC late Monday announced that Tests can finally take place under lights, with teams deciding on the hours of play and the brand, type and colour of the ball to be used.

Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland has long argued that the game needs to recognise that fans have a better chance of watching Test cricket if it is played at night.

"Test cricket is by definition played on at least three week days, times when most people are at work or school, and this limits the ability of fans to attend or watch on TV," he said in a statement.

"We limit ourselves by staging cricket's

premium format at times when fans often cannot watch."

He said when a Test was played in Perth on Australia's west coast, which is three hours behind the cities of Sydney and Melbourne, the television audience was much higher because fans on the east coast were home from work.

"CA has a formal strategic plan that demands that Australian cricket puts fans first and we will now add day-night Tests to the agenda when we talk to other Test nations about their future tours down under," he said.

However, Sutherland added that he did not want to create expectations that day-night Tests were imminent.

"Finding a Test ball that is as easily visible in the day as it is at night is still a technical work in progress that the ICC is now leading and it has not yet been possible to predict when such a ball might be available," he said.

While the traditional red ball is not

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Bangladesh under-23 football players congregate at BFF House after eid vacations yesterday, before setting off for Nepal to participate in the Safal Pokhara Cup.

PHOTO: STAR

## Tendulkar will get it Wright



CRICINFO, Mumbai

John Wright, the former India and New Zealand coach, feels Sachin Tendulkar will iron out his batting flaws and return to form against England.

"If I am not wrong, he gets bowled mostly to left-armers. I remember him getting bowled to West Indies' Pedro Collins too a few years ago. But I don't think there is a technical flaw or a matter of serious concern. He is good enough to overcome these challenges," Wright told the Hindu. Wright was in Hyderabad to promote a scholarship named after him for students from India, Sri Lanka and Nepal in New Zealand's Southern Institute of Technology.

Tendulkar hasn't scored a half-century since the IPL in May this year. He had a poor Champions League T20, scoring 47 runs in four matches at a strike-rate of 71.21. Moreover, of his last nine dismissals, six have been bowled, sparking concerns on his slowing reflexes.

Wright, though, feels he's about to turn the corner. "I am really optimistic of Sachin scoring a century or even a double century. I am sure he will be acutely motivated to have a go at the Englishmen and the Australians later this year."

Wright's views were echoed by Adam Gilchrist, the

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