

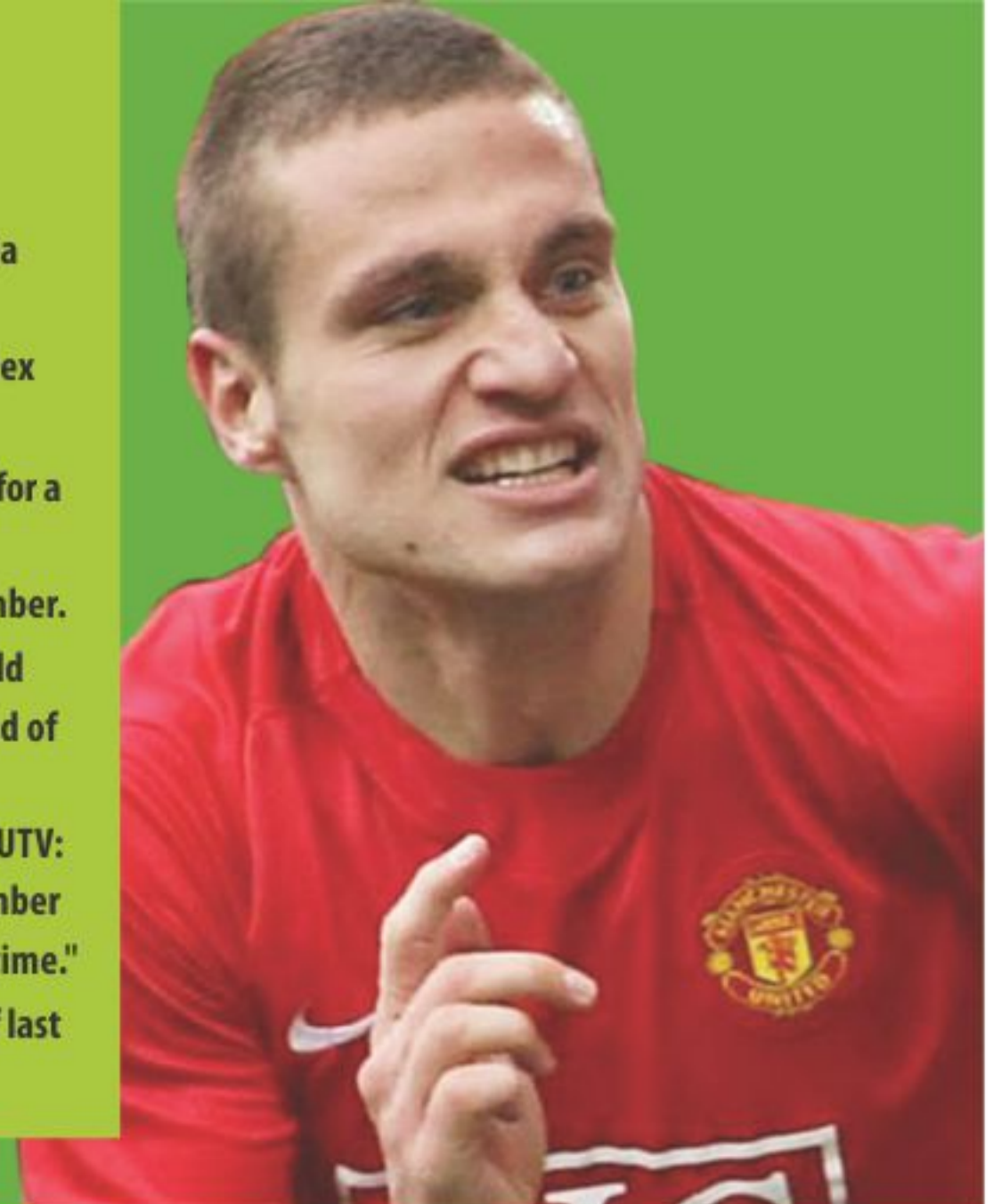
Star SPORT

DHAKA SUNDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Vidic out till Christmas

Manchester United captain Nemanja Vidic could be out of action until Christmas, according to manager Alex Ferguson.

Serbia defender Vidic was ruled out for a minimum of eight weeks after undergoing knee surgery in September. However, suggestions the 31-year-old could return to action before the end of November appear to have been optimistic, with Ferguson telling MUTV: "I think we're talking around December for Vidic. Maybe around Christmas time." Vidic missed the final five months of last season.



W Indies' itinerary revealed

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Saturday released the itinerary for the West Indies tour of Bangladesh.

West Indies will arrive in Dhaka on November 5 to play two Tests, five One-Day Internationals and one T20 International in Dhaka and Khulna.

It will be the third full series for the Caribbean side in Bangladesh. Since Bangladesh's elevation to the elite club in 2000, the West Indies team first visited in 2002 and their last visit was in October 2011.

The Tigers have won two Tests and drawn as many matches in their last eight engagements against the West Indies.

The West Indies team will play one Test, three ODIs and the lone T20I at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur while Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna will debut as the country's seventh Test venue when the second Test of the two-match series will take place in the South-Western city which will also host the first two ODIs.

West Indies will open their tour with a three-day warm-up match at BKSP and will travel to Khulna on November 18 after playing the first Test at Mirpur which will begin on November 13.

ITINERARY

November 8-10: 3-day at BKSP
November 13-17: First Test at Mirpur
November 21-25: 2nd Test at Khulna
November 28: Practice match at Khulna
November 30: First ODI at Khulna
December 2: Second ODI at Khulna
December 5: Third ODI at Mirpur
December 7: Fourth ODI at Mirpur
December 8: Fifth ODI at Mirpur

Rajib rules in Vizag



SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Enamul Hossain Rajib added a new feather to Bangladesh's chess as he became undefeated champion in the Vizag Grandmasters International Open Chess Tournament in Andhra Pradesh of India yesterday.

Rajib, who started the tournament as the 11th seed, drew his last round board against IM GA Stany of India yesterday to notch up 8.5 points which forced him into a three-way tiebreak with GM Adhban of India and GM Davit Petrosian of Armenia.

In the tie-breaking system, Rajib became champion with 73.5 Buchholz points, Adhban became runner-up with 73 points and Petrosian finished third with 68 points. Rajib received a paycheque of two lakh rupees for his victory.

This triumph by Rajib comes hot on the heels of GM Ziaur Rahman's success in the NIT Nagpur Grandmasters Chess Tournament last month. This is unprecedented in the history of Bangladesh's chess that two of their players won back to back Grandmasters' tournaments. Bangladesh had also recorded their best performance by emerging 34th in the World Chess Olympiad held in Istanbul in August this year.

Among the other Bangladeshi participants in Vizag, GM

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ENAMUL HOSSAIN RAJIB



PHOTO: STAR

While all eyes were on Bangladesh and Khulna all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan (R), he failed to join the party on the second day of the National Cricket League match against Rangpur at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday. His Khulna captain Abdur Razzak grabbed five wickets on the day; opposition batsman Ariful Haque hit a quick-fire 75, but Shakib could manage only 25 runs after taking three for 111.

Mixed day for national stars

SPORTS REPORTER

There were mixed performances from the national players on the second day of the second round of the National Cricket League in different venues across the country yesterday. Khulna skipper Abdur Razzak continued his good run with yet another five-wicket haul as he played a crucial role in bowling out Rangpur at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna. The same match, however, saw star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan struggle on his return to the longer format of the game. While he did pick up three wickets in the innings, he was caught behind for 25.

Rajshahi's Junaid Siddiqui took his overnight score to 181 before getting stumped off Barisal's Shohag Gazi. His timely innings will definitely help his cause of a possible return to the national fold. Rajshahi and national skipper Mushfiqur Rahim, however, lost his wicket for just 19 runs.

Chittagong are poised to take a first innings lead against Sylhet in

the game taking place at the BKSP. The port city's foreign player Milinda Siriwardana caused the main damage for Sylhet as the Sri Lankan slow-left armer ran through Sylhet's middle order. Meanwhile, wickets continued to tumble at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka where the match between Dhaka and Dhaka Metro heads towards a

three-day finish with a victory for either side a possibility. **CHITTAGONG VS SYLHET** Sylhet, who had an overnight score of 10 for 1, lost seven more wickets yesterday before stumps. Sylhet's batsmen struggled against the spin-duo of Milinda and Yasir Arafat. Sylhet will be banking on Alok Kapali, who will begin the

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SCORES IN BRIEF

CHITTAGONG: First innings 367 all out in 77.5 overs
SYLHET: 188 for 8 in 66 overs. (Rumman 52, Kapali 40; Milinda 4-82, Yasir 3-38)
RANGPUR: First innings 388 all out in 117.3 overs (Naeem 127, Ariful 75; Razzak

5-103, Shakib 3-111)
KHULNA: 112 for 4 in 42 overs. (Anamul 41, Soumya 29; Alauddin 3-25)
RAJSHAH: First innings 466 for 3 in 133.4overs (Junaid 181, Mizanur 148; Shohag 2-150)

DHAKA METRO: First innings 205 all out in 47.2 overs. Second innings 128 for 6 in 49 overs. (Tasamul 31, Marshal 20; Shaidd 2-17)
DHAKA: 165 all out in 50 overs (Nurul 68;

Siddikur at lowly 77th

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's ace golfer Siddikur Rahman was staring at yet another ignominious end to a prestigious event as he was placed 77th out of 78 participants at the end of the third round of WGC-HSBC Champions in Dongguan, China yesterday.

The 27-year-old golfer carded a 4-over-par 76 in this round yesterday to take his tally to 13-over-par 229. That is a staggering 31 shots off the pace of joint leader Lee Westwood of England and Louis Oosthuizen of South Africa.

The day started in the worst possible way for Siddikur as he double bogeyed on the first hole. Things didn't get much better in the front nine as he racked up four more bogeys on the second, fifth, sixth and seventh holes respectively, before managing two birdies on the eighth and sixteenth holes.

The star of the day was American Brand Snedeker who scored a remarkable 60, which is the lowest round ever in a World Golf Championships event, and moved him up from equal 38th place to tied seventh.

Bijoy needs a boost



HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Sport in a poverty-stricken nation like Bangladesh throws up many inspirational stories of rags to riches, but for one tale of success there are many more examples of crushing poverty destroying dreams. Bijoy Kumar Sarker's tale falls somewhere in between, and so is perhaps more tragic, as he faces the possibility of his ambitions remaining unfulfilled after having come so close to fruition.

Bijoy has represented age-group national sides from the under-13 level up to the under-16s. He took part in the SAFF U-16 Championship in August 2011 in Nepal and then in the AFC U-16 championship in Iraq later that year. The coach of that side, Nurul Huq Manik, a former national footballer, thinks highly of the talented left-winger. "Bijoy was probably the best player of that squad. I would be surprised if he doesn't make it to the senior national side within two to three years," said Manik when asked about the prodigious winger.

On his talent, Bijoy can surely dream of representing the national side one day. But other things considered the path looks a thorny one, as thorny as it has been up to now.

Born to an impoverished indigenous family in the Mohammadpur upazila of Magura, Bijoy had to deal with the grinding poverty as he grew up. With a day-labourer father and a housewife mother, boys like Bijoy are expected to be found toiling on the street for their daily meal. But thanks to his wise mother, Rima Sarker, who gave up the luxury of his

income and sent him to Mohammadpur RSKH School and to the playground nearby, his life took a turn for the better.

"I just hoped and tried to let him choose a better life through sports and education which is why I sent him to school and to play. But I could not have dreamt he would contribute to the nation," a proud Rima said as she spoke to The Daily Star.

But when Bijoy thought life would be easier for him and his family, things started to get worse. His father was struck by a cardiac arrest three years ago, rendering him unable to take any heavy load. Now he manages a makeshift grocery stall and the whole family has to depend on the meagre income from that shop, putting Bijoy's academic and footballing pursuits in jeopardy.

The 16-year old is set to appear for the SSC (Secondary School Certificate) exams in 2013. But things are so grim financially that it is hard to manage the family's daily meals, let alone bear his educational expenses. Bijoy is at a loss as to how to continue his education and football.

"I don't know my fate -- whether I can become a talented footballer or continue my studies. We have now more pressing things to worry about because our only bread-earner, my father, has been suffering from cardiac ailments and my family is now burdened with the expenditure of his treatment", said a frustrated Bijoy.

Former Bangladesh national football team player Syed Nazmul Hasan, however, told The Daily Star: "As far as I know, Bijoy has to starve even these days. I hope people who are well off and generous will come forward to help flourish this footballer's promising career".



PHOTO: STAR

Dressed in national jersey, with the dream of representing the senior side one day, Bijoy stands in front of their hut.

Nadir goes AWOL



SPORTS REPORTER

The inquiry committee formed to get to the bottom of the recent spot-fixing controversy involving umpires is waiting on umpire Nadir Shah to present himself for cross examination.

"We tried several times to contact Nadir Shah but his mobile phone is switched off and we learnt that he is now abroad. Nadir Shah gave a written statement before Eid vacation but we need him in front of us to cross-examine a few issues," said Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir, head of the three-member inquiry committee formed by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Umpire Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid Saikat and journalist Minhaz Uddin Khan were already questioned by the committee and Alamgir also confirmed that they have got the uncut video footage of the sting conducted by Indian television

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Control is Ardeshir's philosophy



SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani's new Iranian coach Ardeshir Pournemat Vodehi wants to build a side around its current crop of players that will be tactically proficient enough to win difficult matches in their bid to retain the professional league title. The former Asian Football Confederation (AFC) coaching instructor, who arrived in Dhaka on Friday night, said he follows the philosophy of Barcelona. "Control the ball, control everything -- that would be my philosophy here with Abahani," said the Iranian after having a first look at his charges at the club premises yesterday.

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