

# Star SPORT

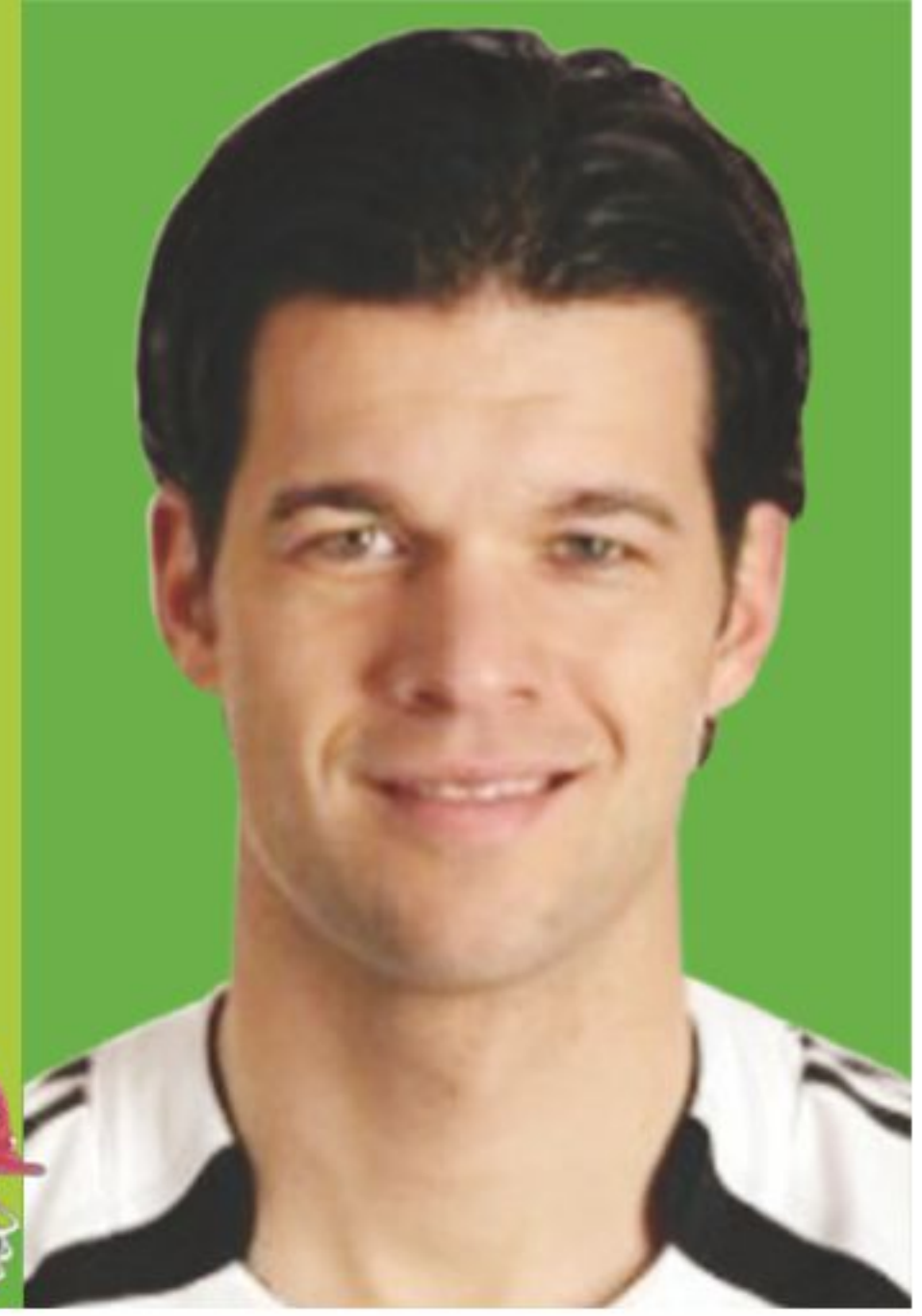
DHAKA SATURDAY DECEMBER 1, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.com

## Ballack planning own farewell

Former Germany captain Michael Ballack is reported to be organising his own farewell match for July 2013 having retired from professional football in October.

The 36-year-old former Chelsea and Bayern Munich midfielder is planning to hold his own farewell match on July 5 with Leipzig, Kaiserslautern and Leverkusen as possible venues, according to Cologne newspaper Express.

"We are in talks with Michael," said Leverkusen's director of sport Rudi Voeller, where Ballack spent the last two years of



## Manzarul honoured

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna

Yesterday, the day of the first ODI between Bangladesh and West Indies, was an emotional day for Khulna as one of its sons, Bangladesh Test cricketer Manzarul Islam Rana, was immortalised when the International Gallery (West) of the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium was officially renamed as the Manzarul Islam Rana stand.

Manzarul, a promising batsman who played seven Tests and 25 ODIs for Bangladesh, died in a motorcycle accident on March 16, 2007 at the age of 22.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon, made the announcement in an emotional press conference during the lunch break of yesterday's match alongside the deceased cricketer's mother Jamila Khatun. Papon honoured Manzarul's memory, saying that naming a stand was not enough to fill the gap the cricketer has left, but that his name will live as long as there is cricket and as long as the stadium stands.

Khatun, barely able to hold back her tears, thanked the BCB and especially the media for honouring her son's memory.

A short while later the announcement was made on the ground's loud-speakers for the capacity crowd, who roared in

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Bangladesh's debutant spinner Shohag Gazi (L) is ecstatic after dismissing West Indies batsman Marlon Samuels (R) during the first ODI at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Tigers ride on old & new

SAKEB SUBHAN from Khulna

It is a healthy sign for Bangladesh cricket when unexpected faces show up at post-match press conferences. It means that the range of performers are increasing and it is not the same old story of a Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal or Mushfiqur Rahim being the driving force behind the team's wins. Bangladesh won the first of five ODIs at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium against a strong West Indies outfit without Shakib, and more impressively with four debutants.

The victory was dedicated by captain Mushfiqur Rahim to the victims of the garments factory fire in Ashulia and Manzarul Islam Rana, the Test cricketer from Khulna who

lost his life in a motorcycle accident on March 16, 2007.

It was off-spinner Shohag Gazi, one of those debutants who seems to have international cricket all sorted out, who came to the press briefing with his senior spin partner Abdur Razzak. The two - Gazi with 4-29 and Razzak 3-39 -- had been instrumental in dismissing the visitors for the below-par score of 199, after which a blazing start by Tamim gave the Tigers the momentum to sail home with 58 balls to spare and seven wickets in hand.

Gazi -- holder of Bangladesh's best debut bowling records in both Tests and ODIs -- talked very little, shyness born of not seeing the spotlight too often. "It feels good to perform on debut, and even better because we won the game," was his

short reply when asked to describe his feelings.

He had gotten Gayle out for the third time in this match, but insisted that he did not think about what the opposition might do. "I have always only planned my own performance. I have been successful in following that plan," he said. When asked if Gayle's first Test onslaught was fresh in his mind when he came up to bowl his first over with the big Jamaican on strike, he replied: "No, I did not think like that; bowlers get hit for sixes and bowlers are the ones who take wickets. As for Gayle I try to make him play forward."

ICC's rule change, allowing a maximum of four fielders outside the 30-yard circle during non-Powerplay overs, was also met with a similarly

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## It goes both ways

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna

One of the main points of interests surrounding the first ODI between Bangladesh and the West Indies were the new ODI rules -- particularly the one that limits the number of fielders allowed outside the 30-yard circle at any time to four instead of five -- and how detrimental their effect would be on Bangladesh.

At the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday however, it was proven that cricket is a game where few things can be predicted, and things may not always be as they seem. More than anything else, it proved that cricket is a game that rewards skilful execution.

It was expected that spinners will suffer because of the rule, but quite the opposite happened on the field. After Chris Gayle's dismissal in the twelfth over, well caught by Tamim Iqbal off Shohag Gazi, the ensuing dismantlement of the much-feared West Indian power-hitters in the middle order showed that the new rule is not as straightforward as it seemed at first. Speaking to The Daily Star Sport after the match Bangladesh interim

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## CLEAR MEN

Today's Score Card

### WEST INDIES

Simmons lbw b Mashrafe	13
Gayles c Tamim b Shohag	35
Bravo run out	35
Samuels c Mahmudullah b Shohag	0
Pollard c Mashrafe b Razzak	15
Thomas c Razzak b Shohag	16
Sammy c Naeem b Mahmudullah	10
Russell b Razzak	0
Narine lbw b Shohag	36
Rampaul c Mushfiqur b Razzak	25
Roach not out	3
Extras: (lb-1, w-10)	11
Total: (All out in 46.5 overs)	199
Fall of wickets: 1-48, 2-48, 3-50, 4-100, 5-102, 6-128, 7-130, 8-133, 9-190.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	9	2	39	1
Hasan	8	0	45	0
Shohag	9.5	2	29	4
Razzak	10	1	39	3
Naeem	1	0	17	0
Mahmudullah	9	0	29	1

### BANGLADESH

Tamim c Pollard b Narine	58
Anamul c & b Sammy	41
Naeem not out	50
Nasir c Pollard b Russell	28
Mushfiqur not out	16
Extras: (lb-2, nb-1, w-5)	8
Total: (For 3 wks in 40.2 overs)	201
Did not bat: Mahmudullah, Mominul, Mashrafe, Shohag, Hasan, Razzak.	
Fall of wickets: 1-88, 2-112, 3-157.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Samuels	3	0	14	0
Rampaul	7.2	0	41	0
Roach	7	0	48	0
Narine	8	1	39	1
Sammy	8	0	29	1
Russell	7	0	28	1

Result: Bangladesh won by seven wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Shohag Gazi.

Toss: West Indies

Umpires: Ranmore Martinez (SRI) and Enamul Haque (BAN)

## Pollard laments 'bad day'

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna

After the practice match against the BCB XI on Wednesday when they scored 361 in 50 overs, West Indies would probably not have thought that they would not be able to pass 200 in their next outing at the same ground. But that was the outcome during their seven-wicket loss to Bangladesh at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

Kieron Pollard, the West Indies vice-captain, appeared a little dazed by the result when he fronted up to the media after the match. While giving credit to Bangladesh, the big-hitting batsman insisted that it was West Indies who let the match slip through their poor batting.

"It was mostly a bad day," he said when asked whether the defeat was a case of being outplayed or just having a bad day. "We didn't get much runs on the board. Bangladesh batted and showed how to bat on that wicket. They played better than us today, we gifted our wickets away."

West Indies never really built any momentum, losing wickets in clusters with their specialist batsmen seeming more eager to match their practice match score than adjust to early losses and reach a competitive total.

"I think it is a matter of patience, matter of playing each ball on its merit. We didn't do that today. We played injudicious shots, at times we needed to buckle down. We

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Spectators had a lot to shout about during Bangladesh's 7-wicket victory over West Indies in the first ODI at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## 'Pain was worth it'

SPORTS REPORTER

Yesterday was the day that Khulna had been waiting for -- the return of one-day internationals for the first time since 2006. The Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium filled up rapidly to its capacity of 10,800. There had been a mad rush for tickets such that wherever you went in the city, the availability or lack thereof of tickets was the refrain.

It seems the fates decided to reward the city's cricket lovers with an unexpected Bangladesh win, and smiles were pasted on faces as the crowd slowly filed out of the stadium

after a fruitful day.

"I am delighted with Bangladesh's victory today," said Saimum Khan, an SSC candidate of Khulna's Navy school. "I stood in line for two days to get tickets, but the pain was definitely worth it."

Dolon, a Mangrove Polytechnic Institute student complained about mismanagement regarding tickets. "I had to go through a lot of trouble to get a ticket," he said, adding that there was a lot of tickets sold through the black market. Regarding Bangladesh's performance, he said: "They bowled well. It would have been better if the ninth wicket hadn't

scored so many, we could have gotten them out for less. Tamim Iqbal and Shohag Gazi played excellently."

Sukhina Begum, assistant professor of Mujib Memorial City College, while happy about Bangladesh's performance, was disappointed with the overzealous security measures at the ground as well as the manner of ticket sales, which took place at the Khulna District Sports Association Stadium.

"The security measures were too much, and it took too long to get inside the stadium. Also, if tickets were sold at different booths and outlets around the city, we would not

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## Rnd 6 from today

SPORTS REPORTER



The penultimate round of the national cricket league begins today with Khulna leading the table by 11 points. They face Dhaka at the Shaheed Kamaruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi and will be crowned champions if they win the game. Meanwhile second-placed Sylhet will aim to put the pressure on Khulna as they take on reigning champions Rajshahi at BKSP.

Dhaka Metro will take on Rangpur at Bogra, while Chittagong will take on Barisal at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium. Tamim Iqbal, who played the first two games of the league, continues to occupy the highest run-scorer's position with 488 runs. Abdul Razzak, who had picked up 43 wickets in the first five matches, tops the wicket-taking list.

It's Nando's, on its best behaviour.

BUTTERFLY CHICKEN STEAK MEAL