

# Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY DECEMBER 4, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## FIFA punishes Jong-Woo

FIFA has suspended a South Korean player for two international matches over a post-match political gesture at the London Olympics, the South's football body said Monday. FIFA's disciplinary committee has also slapped a fine of 3,500 Swiss francs (\$3,781) on Park Jong-Woo following his actions, which relate to an island dispute with Japan, the Korean Football Association (KFA) said. The association itself was warned for failure to properly instruct players on



## Team first for Tamim

BISHWAJIT ROY

A happy Tigers returned to Dhaka yesterday after stupendous ODI success in Khulna, where they won both one-day matches against visiting West Indies by huge margins; a result not thought even in dreams before the start of the five-match series though they boast a record of winning a series against New Zealand 4-0 previously.

Bangladesh made a brilliant comeback after a 10-wicket defeat in the second and final Test and demonstrated why they are considered a much better unit in the shorter version of the game.

The Tigers are now eyeing greater success. For Mushfiqur Rahim's men the series victory is within reach now. But dashing opener Tamim Iqbal said that it would be better for the team to focus on how they can keep the momentum going and put up better performance in the next three games, scheduled for December 5, 7 and 8 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, rather than thinking of the series victory.

"Honestly speaking we are in a good position to win the series and we have the chance to do it in Mirpur, but in my opinion we should only think about how we

can continue the good show rather than thinking about the result. As a team we are playing good cricket in the series and I believe the result will come automatically if we can continue it," said Tamim yesterday, adding that the team were upbeat after tremendous success in Khulna but nobody was over excited.

It's really refreshing when the opener put emphasis on individual improvements despite comfortable victories in the first two matches.

"I'm sure the players and coaching staff will discuss how we can improve our individual performances before the next three games. It was a brilliant team effort in the first two games, but still I believe we can improve our individual performances. Strength-wise we are not a big side, so it's important everybody contributes but I believe we are on the way to becoming a strong one-day side," said a confident Tamim.

The Chittagonian also believes that people remember individual success only when it makes an impact on team's result, so it's important to focus on team success rather than any individual achievement.

"Without any doubt Anamul [Haque] played a brilliant knock in the second match but people will not remember for

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Bangladesh cricket team captain Mushfiqur Rahim (L) reads newspaper as opening batsman Tamim Iqbal looks on while they sit in the plane to Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

## WI back to drawing board

SAKEB SUBHAN

The spectacular and comprehensive manner of West Indies' defeats in the first two ODIs in Khulna have completely turned expectations surrounding the five-ODI series on its head. Sporting memory is short -- you are only as good as your last performance -- and so now the tourists occupy the space that the home side inhabited before the series. With the memory of Khulna fresh in mind, it is now hard to imagine how West Indies will get around to beating Bangladesh -- the overwhelmingly favourite result before the series.

Maybe it is time to refresh the memory. West Indies still do have batsmen like Chris Gayle, Marlon Samuels, Dwayne Smith, Kieron Pollard who can destroy bowling figures and the best laid plans. They also have a mystery bowler in Sunil Narine and good fast bowlers in Kemar Roach and Ravi Rampaul. The script was supposed to be thus -- the batting will run up 300-plus totals against an attack missing the bowler Shakib Al Hasan and the bowling would shoot out a batting side which was supposed to be lost if Tamim Iqbal did not fire at the start, not to mention flounder in the middle without Shakib the batsman.

West Indies scored only 199 batting first in the first match and lost by seven wickets, before losing by 160

runs in the second match after conceding 292 in the first innings in which Tamim scored only five. Not quite according to script. Of course the script might still be followed -- West Indies might still win the remaining three games and take the series as they were expected to. But one thing seems certain -- unlike Bangladesh who have seemed to find the resources whereby all members,

even newcomers, execute plans well the West Indies need a strong show from two of their best batsmen -- Gayle and Samuels -- to overcome the hosts' spin threat.

In the first game they lost eight wickets for 97 runs to spin and as many wickets for 95 in the second. After the second match West Indies skipper Darren Sammy admitted that spin was a problem and that batsmen needed to settle in and score. What has happened so far is that the early exits of Gayle and Samuels have forced the middle-order -- Pollard, Smith, Darren Sammy and Devon Thomas -- to hit out and get out as they do not have the skills to milk the bowling for ones and twos when boundaries dry up.

Even if a batsman like Darren Bravo does settle in and play the spinners well, Bangladesh's batting display in the second match will ensure that the pressure is always there, as a middling total will probably not be enough

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## Third ODI sold out

SPORTS REPORTER

Tickets for the third one-day international between Bangladesh and West Indies have been sold out on the very first day after those were put on sale yesterday.

The third ODI of the 5-match series will take place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur tomorrow.

Fans queued up in front of the nine nominated branches of the Social Islami Bank Limited in the capital from early morning and many had to return home without ticket, which became precious after the Tigers' victory in first two games in Khulna.

"All tickets, around 19,000, for the third match have been sold out from the nine nominated bank branches in the capital on the very first day. So fans will not get any ticket for the third match from the

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## Ponting still feels pretty special

Cricket

AFP, Perth

Ricky Ponting put on a brave face after he was denied a fairytale ending when dismissed for eight in his final Test innings Monday, bringing the curtain down on a glittering 17-year career.

Ponting, the second-highest Test run-scorer of all-time behind India's Sachin Tendulkar, announced his impending retirement before the showdown with South Africa in Perth after a record-equalling 168 Tests for Australia.

The 37-year-old, who said he was more nervous for his final Test than at any other stage of his career, was looking to go out with a big innings.

But he lasted just 23 balls in Australia's second innings as the home side slumped to a 309-run defeat and South Africa won the series 1-0 to retain the number one Test ranking.

"I felt there was one last big push for me, and the day and game was set up for it, but it didn't last long enough," Ponting said.

"Even out of today, only being out there

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Australia's retiring batsman Ricky Ponting, dismissed for 8 in his last innings, leaves the field to a standing ovation at the WACA on Monday. PHOTO: AFP

## Hasan too out of the ODIs

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh fast bowler Abul Hasan, who suffered a side strain during the second one-day international in Khulna on Sunday, has been ruled out of the remaining matches of the series against West Indies due to the injury.

Ziaur Rahman, an all-rounder from Khulna, has been named his replacement. The rest of the Bangladesh squad remains unchanged for the last three matches.

"He [Hasan] has suffered from a side-strain, something that quite frequently occurs on the non-bowling side of bowlers," said Debashish Chowdhury, physician

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## Booters fail at first hurdle

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh U-23 National Football Team made a frustrating start to the HE Mahinda Rajapakshe International Tournament, suffering a 1-0 defeat against Pakistan in one of two matches on the opening day at the Jayathailaka Stadium in Kandy yesterday.

Kaleem struck the all-important goal for Pakistan in the 80th minute, which makes Bangladesh's job to qualify for the four-nation tournament semifinal tough as they will now have to beat hosts Sri Lanka tomorrow and Maldives on December 7.

The Bangladesh senior side have remained unbeaten against Pakistan's senior side in the last 13 years, but the junior side failed to show the resilience even though a

good number of players in this side have had experience of international football with the senior side.

According to a report from Bangladesh Football Federation, play was mostly confined to the



Action from yesterday's Bangladesh and Pakistan match of the U-23 Mahinda Rajapakshe International Tournament at the Jayathailaka Stadium in Kandy. Bangladesh lost the match 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY

midfield in the first half with Bangladesh enjoying the lion's share of possession yet could not yield any

scoring opportunities against Pakistan.

After resumption, Pakistan pressed hard for the lead and earned a free-kick from just outside the danger area three minutes after the break before Saddam saw his shot drift away from the far post, much to the relief of the Bangladesh side.

Moments later, Bangladesh launched a counter-attack but striker Shakhawat Hossain Rony failed to connect a cross from wing-back Ashraf Mahmud Linkon while winger Sohel Rana shot straight to Pakistan goalkeeper Saqib Hanif in the 56th minute.

Having survived two close calls, Pakistan reorganised and stepped up the attack. Pakistan striker Saeed was denied by Bangladesh goalkeeper Maksudur Rahman Mostaque, who

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## Metro win in 3 days

SPORTS REPORTER



Dhaka Metro became the first team to win a match in the sixth round of the National Cricket League yesterday as they romped past Rangpur by nine wickets at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra. The match witnessed an aggressive century by Shamsur Rahman as Metro chased down the target with more than a day to spare.

Rangpur's Dhiman Ghosh suffered from muscular spasms on the field and had to be carried off. He therefore couldn't bat for Rangpur in the second innings.

In the game at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi, Dhaka need just 89 more runs on the last day to defeat leaders Khulna. Rajshahi are on the verge of winning the game at the BKSP as Sylhet are eight wickets down with a lead of just 16 runs. The game at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium between Chittagong and Barisal headed for a draw as Barisal lead by 5 runs and have seven more wickets in hand.

RANGPUR v DHAKA METRO

A fierce 107 of just 87 deliveries by

Shamsur quickened Dhaka Metro's win against Rangpur. Earlier, Rangpur had to declare on 266 for 9 due to Dhiman's injury. Chasing a target of 147, Metro reached home for the loss of only one wicket.

KHULNA v DHAKA

Imrul Kayes hit form with a fine century for Khulna, yet his side were staring at defeat with Dhaka just 89 runs away from the target. Dhaka were 121 for 3 at stumps and are favourites to win the game on the last day.

SYLHET v RAJSHAHI

Tajjul Islam and Saqlain Sajib shared seven wickets as Sylhet finished the day on 188 for 8. Golan Mabud's half-century led Sylhet's batting.

However, with only two wickets left, Rajshahi are expected to ease to victory on the final day.

BARISAL v CHITTAGONG

An unbeaten century by Faisal Hossain led Chittagong's batting as they finished their first innings with a lead of 92 runs. Barisal lost three wickets before stumps as they ended the day on 97 for 3.

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