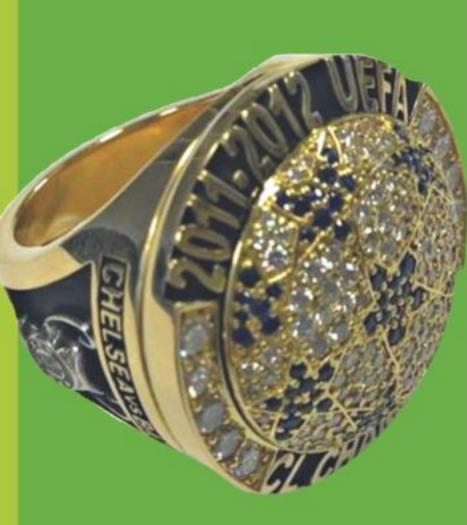
staff with commemorative rings. According to the Independent, the

old teammates The Chinese Super League season is over, so Didier Drogba has been back in London, training with his old teammates at Chelsea in an effort to stay fit for the Africa Cup of Nations next month. And on Thursday night, he hosted a special dinner where he presented last season's Champions League winning players and backroom

Super Bowl style rings cost Drogba a

total of about £800,000 (a mere four

Drogba's gift to





Bangladesh all-rounder Mahmudullah Riyad (R) follows through on a delivery during the fourth ODI against West Indies at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Mahmudullah made significant contributions with both ball and bat, yet could not help the Tigers avoid a 75-run defeat. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'Batters lacked guts' C

NAIMUL KARIM

DHAKA SATURDAY DECEMBER 8, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net



Bangladesh captain Mushfigur Rahim blamed Bangladesh's

batting failure in the top-order behind the hosts' 75-run defeat against the West Indies at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium yesterday. In the postmatch press conference Mushfigur stated that the top-order failed to 'take the challenge' and 'lacked guts' in the opening period of the second innings.

"I don't think the wicket was too bad. It was bound to swing under lights with all the dew...we wanted our batsmen to survive the opening spell and if we could score around 20-25 runs with 2 wickets we could have definitely chased 212. But after five wickets it becomes difficult to chase such a total down," said Mushfiqur after the fourth ODI.

Earlier the Tigers, while on the field, dropped five catches in the first innings. Darren Sammy, who scored an unbeaten half-century and propelled his side to a defendable total, was dropped by Shohag

different' had the fielders taken those catches.

"I personally think no matter how good the West Indies would have played they would not have scored more than 150 or 160 had we taken those catches," he said. "Sammy's drop cost us a lot. The other batsmen who were dropped lost their wickets sooner or later, but his drop had a bad effect on us," he added.

After losing five wickets within the first



Today's Score Card

WESTINDIES Gayle c Shohag b Mashrafe Powell Ibw b Sunny Samuels c Anamul b Sunny Smith b Razzak Bravo c & b Shohag Pollard c Mushfigur b Mahmudullah Thomas b Mahmudullah Sammy not out Permaul c Nasir b Mahmudullah Narine c Mominul b Razzak Roach not out Extras: (lb-5, w-14) Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-71, 3-75, 4-75, 5-79,6-102,7-145,8-155,9-175. Bowler

Shohag Total: (All out in 34.1 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-3, 3-4, 4-7, 5-13, 6-87,7-113,8-113,9-132.

level 5-match series 2-2. Player-of-the-match: Darren Sammy

Mashrafe Razzak Mahmudullah BANGLADESH Tamim b Roach Anamul c & b Sammy Naeem c Bravo b Sammy Mushfigur st Thomas b Narine Nasir cThomas b Roach Mominul c Pollard b Sammy Mahmudullah not out Sohag c Thomas b Permaul Sunny b Permaul Mashrafe Ibw b Smith Razzak c Sammy b Smith Extras: (lb-5, w-21)

Bowler Roach Permaul Result: West Indies won by 75 runs and

Another early exit for Siddikur

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman's miserable form in the Asian Tour continued as he bid bye to the Thailand Golf Championship on Friday. The 28-year old golfer missed the cut by five shots after two rounds of golf, as he racked up an aggregate score of fiveover-par (149). Siddikur followed opening round's three-over-par (75) with a two-over-par (74) at the Amata Spring Country Club yesterday.

Siddikur managed only two birdies against four bogeys on the day to relinquish any chance of making the cut which was set **SEE PAGE 17 COL 8**

www.aiub.edu

Gazi on 30. Mushfigur claimed that the scenario would have been 'extremely

six overs, Mushfigur and Mahmudullah Riyad shared a partnership worth 74 runs for the sixth wicket and gave the hosts some hope of recovering. The skipper, though was stumped in the 22nd over after he failed to read a Sunil Narine 'doosra'. Shohag came in next, but fell soon after playing a few good-looking shots.

"I think, even when Shogah was at the wicket, he was playing well and our scoring-rate was steady. Even when Mahmudullah and Shogah were there, SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Sammy was aiming at a total of 190

SPORTS REPORTER



It has been a series of two halves so far. First Bangladesh in Khulna produced fabulous cricket to go 2-0 up. Then in Dhaka the West Indies came back and won the third ODI

by four wickets on Wednesday, before blowing the hosts out of the water with a 75-run in the fourth at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday to level the series at 2-2.

The same principle that won the Tigers the first two games -- different players performing at crucial times to give their side the advantage -- worked for West Indies in the third and fourth games. On Wednesday it was Marlon Samuels's century that took the West Indies past a modest yet tricky total posted by Bangladesh. Yesterday, it was captain Darren Sammy's all-round show, as well as a concerted effort by the whole team, that brought the visitors roaring back into the series.

"You could say that," said Sammy after the match SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Khulna stumble

Second-positioned Dhaka on the other hand, got off to

a good start as they restricted Barisal to 253 for 9 yester-

Metro as they ended the day on 318 for 8 against Sylhet. It

was a similar story for Chittagong as they rode on Aftab

Ahmed's 97 to finish the day on 313 for 7 against Rangpur

Khulna's batsmen were trapped in a rut against

Rajshahi's slower bowlers as they struggled against the

likes of Saqlain Sajib and medium pacer Forhad Reza.

They were bowled out within 60 overs. In reply, Rajshahi

finished on 90 for 1 courtesy of an unbeaten half-century

at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium.

KHULNAvRAJSHAHI

by Myshukur Rahman.

BARISAL v DHAKA

Chess team sans 3 GMs

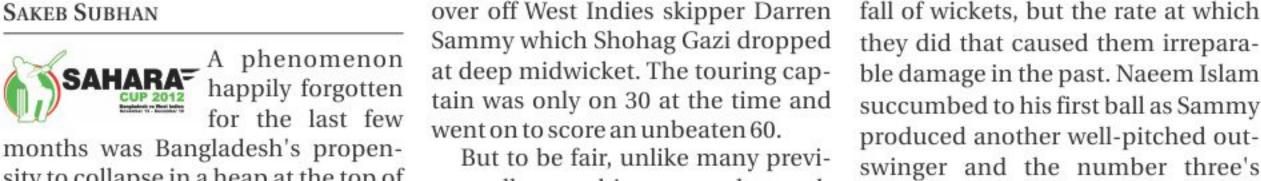
SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Chess Federation formed the national squad with two Grandmasters Niaz Murshed and Ziaur Rahman, two Internationa Masters Abu Sufian Shakil and Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar and FIDE Master Debaraj Chatterjee -- keep ing out Grandmasters Abdullah Al Rakib and Enamul Haque Rajib -- for the Word's City Chess Championship which gets underway in United Arab Emirates from December 21.

The squad has been formed in line with standings of the National Chess Championship which Rakib and Rajib skipped citing their fatigue as the reason following their involvement in two tour-

included in the fivemember squad after GM Reefat Bin Sattar, a thirdplace finisher in the national chess, pulled out of the squad citing personal reasons, which turned the national squad turned into a decimated one compared to the one comprising five GMs which finished 33rd in the Olympiad in September.

However, Rakib sees this as an opportunity for SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



Blast from the past

months was Bangladesh's propensity to collapse in a heap at the top of the order. It was as distant as possible from the memory when openers Tamim Iqbal and Anamul Haque took strike in chase of a modest target of 212 to seal a series win in the fourth ODI of the five-match series against the West Indies at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The momentum was however with the West Indies as the Tigers allowed them to escape from the doldrums of 155 for eight to post 211 for 9. The home team dropped five chances, including a sitter in the 46th over off West Indies skipper Darren

ous collapses, this was not the result of batsmen trying to hit out in desperation. It was a product of pretty good bowling from openers Kemar Roach and Sammy, the former's raw pace and the latter's swing combining to deliver a killer blow from which the Tigers would not recover.

Anamul was first to go in the second over, trying to turn a ball to leg but the swing produced a leading edge that Sammy the bowler pouched with glee. But then the Tigers' batting ills, dormant for so long, resurfaced. It was not just the

swinger and the number three's push defence caught the edge through to first slip. The whole stadium must then have been looking to Tamim to get

the Tigers out of the mire. But he was prey to his nemesis Roach in the next over, the left-hander's bat coming down a fraction too late as the ball clipped the off bail. New batsman Nasir Hossain lasted only two balls, and off the third he snicked a low catch to the keeper Devon Thomas. Bangladesh were four for seven at the end of the third over.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

on Day One naments in India. FM Debaraj has been SPORTS REPORTER Khulna got off to a disappoint-**WALTON** ing start in their pursuit of the Refrigerator 14th National Cricket League (NCL) title as they became the only team to be dismissed on the first day of the last round of matches yesterday. They were bowled out for 228 runs by defending champions Rajshahi at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

day at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi At the Cricket Garden in Rangpur, centuries from Marshall Ayub and Mehrab Hossain Jr propelled Dhaka

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8

Sporting a Tigers shirt, a fan waves the national flag at the stands of the Sher-e-Bangla **National** Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Consolation win for booters



Dhaka put pressure on league leaders Khulna by taking 9 | Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh U-23 national football team had a face-saving win in the HE Rajapakshe International Football Tournament when they handed a 1-0 defeat to Maldives in their third and final match in Nawalapitiya, Sri Lanka yesterday.

Bangladesh had announced themselves as one of favourites prior to the start of the four-nation tournament, but made an early exit losing to Pakistan and Sri Lanka in consecutive matches. The last match against Maldives was an academic affair as Maldives had already ensured their final berth, but for Bangladesh it was some

the in form team of the competition.

In any case, Bangladesh put on a much superior display in this matched and winger Towhid Alam made sure they bowed out with three points by scoring the only goal of the match on the halfhour mark.

According to a Bangladesh Football Federation report, Bangladesh pressed hard from the beginning and earned four corners kicks within the first 10 minutes but had to wait for the lead till 30 minutes.

Strikers Shakahwat Hossain Rony squandered a couple of good scoring chances while winger Towhid missed the target once before he put Bangladesh ahead in the 30th minute with his second effort.

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pride restored as they managed to defeat

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