

**Suso fined for 'gay' tweet**

Liverpool forward Suso was fined £10,000 (12,300 euros, \$16,219) on Tuesday after labelling team-mate Jose Enrique "gay" on Twitter. Suso sparked protests last month when he posted a photo on the micro-blogging website of Reds defender Enrique having his teeth whitened and added a tweet which read: "What f\*\*\*k is he doing? This guy is gay...he does everything except play football." He later deleted the tweet and uploaded the photo with a different comment, saying: "I dunno what to say..."



Triumphant Khilgaon Football Academy players celebrate after beating Matuail Udayan Sangsad in tiebreaker in the final of the Dhaka City Corporation Pioneer Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## BCB replies

SPORTS REPORTER

In reply to the reports published in the national media yesterday concerning the amendments made in the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) constitution, the BCB through a press release stated:

"The Board firmly believes that the BCB Constitution, that has been approved and endorsed by the National Sports Council (NSC), completely meets the demands of modern day sports administration and is compliant with all the requirements associated with running the game."

It further stated that the board would present its views on the constitution to the media in order to 'disperse any misconception or misinterpretation that may have resulted in the coverage.'

## Reception for Special Olympians

SPORTS REPORTER

Medal winning members of the Bangladesh Special Olympic squad have been accorded a reception by the National Sports Council at its office yesterday.

Bangladesh won 35 gold, 16 silver and seven bronze medals in the 2011 Special Olympics where some 40 Bangladeshi athletes took part in six disciplines.

State minister for youth and sports Ahad Ali Sarker said that the government has a plan to build a sports complex for mentally challenged athletes and urged the officials of Special Olympics to take proper initiatives to bring more laurel for the nation in future.

## V-Day tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

The quarterfinal lineup of men's singles in the Runner Victory Day Open Tennis Tournament was completed yesterday with eight players reaching the last eight at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna.

## Khilgaon Pioneer League champs



SPORTS REPORTER

Khilgaon Football Academy emerged champions in the Dhaka City Corporation (North & South) Pioneer Football League with a 5-3 win over Matuail Udayan Sangsad in tiebreaker in the final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The match rolled into direct shootout after the 80 minutes of regulation time failed to produce any decider under floodlight.

The Khilgaon boys burst into rupture as Shafayetur Rahman converted the fifth kick from the spot after their goalkeeper Aminul Islam had denied Matuail's Faisal Ahmed in the fourth kick. Mithu, Bijoy Sarker, Babu and Jhantu had earlier found the back of Matuail net while Shamim, Yar Mohammad and Jessy converted for Matuail.

However, Khilgaon FA, comprising a

good number of players with experience of playing for the national age-group teams, dominated the game but could not break the deadlock against Matuail, which is mostly comprised of players from Narayanganj.

Rejaul floated a well-judged cross from Jhantu over the bar in the very tenth minute while Jhantu saw his curving shot tipped over by Matuail goalkeeper Titu in the 40th minute.

Khilgaon were denied by the woodwork when midfielder Shafayatur rattled the bar in the 58th minute while Matuail goalkeeper Titu thwarted a Jhantu left-footer in the 70th minute to take the game into the shootout.

Goalkeeper Titu was adjudged man of the match for his brave performance. State minister for youth and sports Ahad Ali Sarker distributed prizes among the winners.

## Kevin to get new deal



BBC ONLINE, London

Kevin Pietersen will be offered a new England contract, says head coach Andy Flower.

Pietersen currently has a four-month deal with the England and Wales Cricket Board after he was not initially picked for the tour of India.

Batsman Pietersen was dropped in August for sending 'provocative texts' to South Africa players.

"The contract won't be a problem," said Flower. "Kevin has been excellent in every way."

Pietersen agreed a four-month deal at the end of September, in order to take part in the tour of India, which ended on

Monday with an historic first Test series victory since 1984-85.

"We did move on from it as soon as we had our meetings and everyone made a commitment to do so," Flower said of the negotiations which brought Pietersen back into the fold.

"We don't always get on with people all of the time -- any of us in any walk of life -- and everyone has made an effort to make it work."

"It's been really good fun and he should be very proud of the way he's operated out here, both as an individual and as a player."

Pietersen's hundred in the second Test in Mumbai was the man-of-the-match performance in a comeback victory which set England on the way to their 2-1 series success.

## ASIAN SCHOOL CHESS Fahad wins gold

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Fahad Rahman clinched gold in the U-9 age group of the 8th Asian Schools Chess Championship as he beat Lu Kaiyan of China in the ninth and final round in New Delhi yesterday. Fahad secured 7.5 points from nine games to emerge champion. A total of 57 players from nine countries took part in the U-9 group.

Fahad's compatriot Zoar Haque Pradhan finished eleventh in the U-17 group with 4.5 points. Zoar drew against Indian Mehrjot Kals in his last round. Nineteen players from five countries played the U-17 group.

## Jr wrestling from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Walton National Junior Men's and Women's Wrestling Championship begins today at the Handball Stadium in Paltan.

So far 16 teams have enrolled their names but the organisers are expecting more participation compared to last year's 21, organisers said at a press conference yesterday.

Tabiur Rahman Pahlowa, general secretary of Bangladesh Amateur Wrestling Federation, informed that sponsors would provide only Tk 1.5 lakh out of an estimated budget of Tk. 6.91 lakh.

## BPL auction today

No tripartite deals signed as yet!



Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

When the players' auction for the second edition of Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 begins at 10:30 am at the Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel today, all parties will enter it on a gentleman's agreement, which was also the case during the inaugural edition of the tournament, leading to a lot of disputes.

Although the new BPL Governing Council last Saturday said that they would enter this year's auction only on completion of a tripartite agreement between the franchisees, event management company Game On Sports and the Governing Council, its chairman Afzalur Rahman Sinha told last night that they would go into the auction on a 'verbal agreement'.

"We haven't had enough time to sign an official agreement with the franchisees as yet. We're going into the auction on a verbal agreement with the franchisees," said Sinha. "I am hopeful that we'll have the deals struck by the end of this month and I am confident that the problems that occurred last year are not repeated. As of now, we have to keep the ball rolling," he added.

The second edition of the BPL, scheduled to begin from January 17, will have a new team this year with Rangpur Rockets forming the seventh franchisee. Like in the first edition, the majority of foreign players are from Pakistan, with West Indies and England also sending sizeable contingents. Unlike last year, the matches will be spread over three cities -- Dhaka,

Khulna and Chittagong.

A lack of a legally binding agreement in the previous edition of the BPL created various 'payment related' problems and disputes between the parties, which ultimately tarnished the image of the T20 league and cricket in the country at large. Several players were left awaiting their dues long after the end of the league in February.

The payment problems invited international opprobrium as the Federation of International Cricketers Association (FICA) first threatened legal action over the non-payment of players, and then pursued that course in June.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board recently claimed that while the payments of the foreign players were completed, the dues of the local players were yet to be met by the franchisees.

Players' non-payment was not the only ill-effect of the lack of a formal, written agreement between the three major stakeholders of the T20 league. The playing-by-ear approach to the money-spinning venture, rooted in its absence of legally binding documentation, resulted in the semifinalist farce which saw the tournament committee oscillating between Barisal Burners and Chittagong Kings as the fourth semifinalist, something that reduced the country's cricketing fraternity to an international laughing stock. Moreover, apart from the players, a lot of institutions and personnel such as PR agencies are still complaining of not having received their dues for work done during the first edition.

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## Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Four matches took place in the First Division Cricket League yesterday. BKSP defeated Partex Sporting Club by four wickets at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium while the Young Pegasus Club beat Uttara Sporting Club by 10 runs in a close encounter at the City Club Ground.

At the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium Eskaton Sabuj Sangha beat Kathal Bagan Green Crescent Club by seven wickets. City Club won the match against Dhamondi Progoti Sangha at the BKSP-2 by six wickets.

## SCORES IN BRIEF

Partex Sporting Club: 121 for eight in 36 overs (Al-Imran 28, Rabiu 22; Rifat 3-24, Noor 3-42).

BKSP: 124 for six in 31.1 overs (Rifat 39, Musabbir 23 not out, Shahnoor 22; Humayun 2-19, Jahangir 2-15, Nihad 2-22).

Result: BKSP won by 4 wickets (36.0 Overs Match)

Uttara Sporting Club: 175 for nine in 39 overs (Rajib 41, Shahriar 29, Habib 28; SEE PAGE 17 COL 4)

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## LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army defeated Bangladesh Police in the opening match of the Victory Day Kabaddi League at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday. Army won the game with a creditable 'lona.' Bangladesh Jail recorded a slim 23-22 win over Bangladesh Fire Service.

## Nat'l pool championship

Sayem Hossain of National Billiard Academy (NBA) became champion for the third time in the National 9 Ball Pool Championship which concluded at the NBA Billiard Hall in Uttara on December 14. Sayem beat Tayef Quader of the same academy 15-10 in the final. A total of 71 players from different clubs of the country took part in this annual event. Syed Mahboob, general secretary of Bangladesh Billiards & Snooker Federation distributed prizes among the winners.

## New BBF president

Dr Khondokar Shawkat Hossain, secretary of Housing and Public Works, has been appointed as the president of the Bangladesh Amateur Boxing Federation by the National Sports Council yesterday.

The decision was taken in line with section 20 of the NSC act 1974 (amended), said a sports and youth ministry press release yesterday.

Hossain replaces former president and former youth and sports secretary Mahbub Ahmed, who is now secretary of Commerce Ministry.

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## Job opening in Max Foundation

Max Foundation, a fast growing Dutch based international NGO prevents child mortality through water, sanitation and hygiene education projects (Max-WASH) done by local partner organisations. Max Foundation is looking for 2 experienced persons for the following positions for Bangladesh country office in Dhaka

- Program Manager
- Accounts and Finance Manager

Do you have a relevant post-graduate qualification and extensive working experience in program/accounting & finance management and looking for a challenging opportunity?

For job description, required qualifications and application requirements please visit our website: [www.maxfoundation.org](http://www.maxfoundation.org)



Medal winning members of the Bangladesh Special Olympic squad pose with the State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker (C) at a reception at the National Sports Council yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR