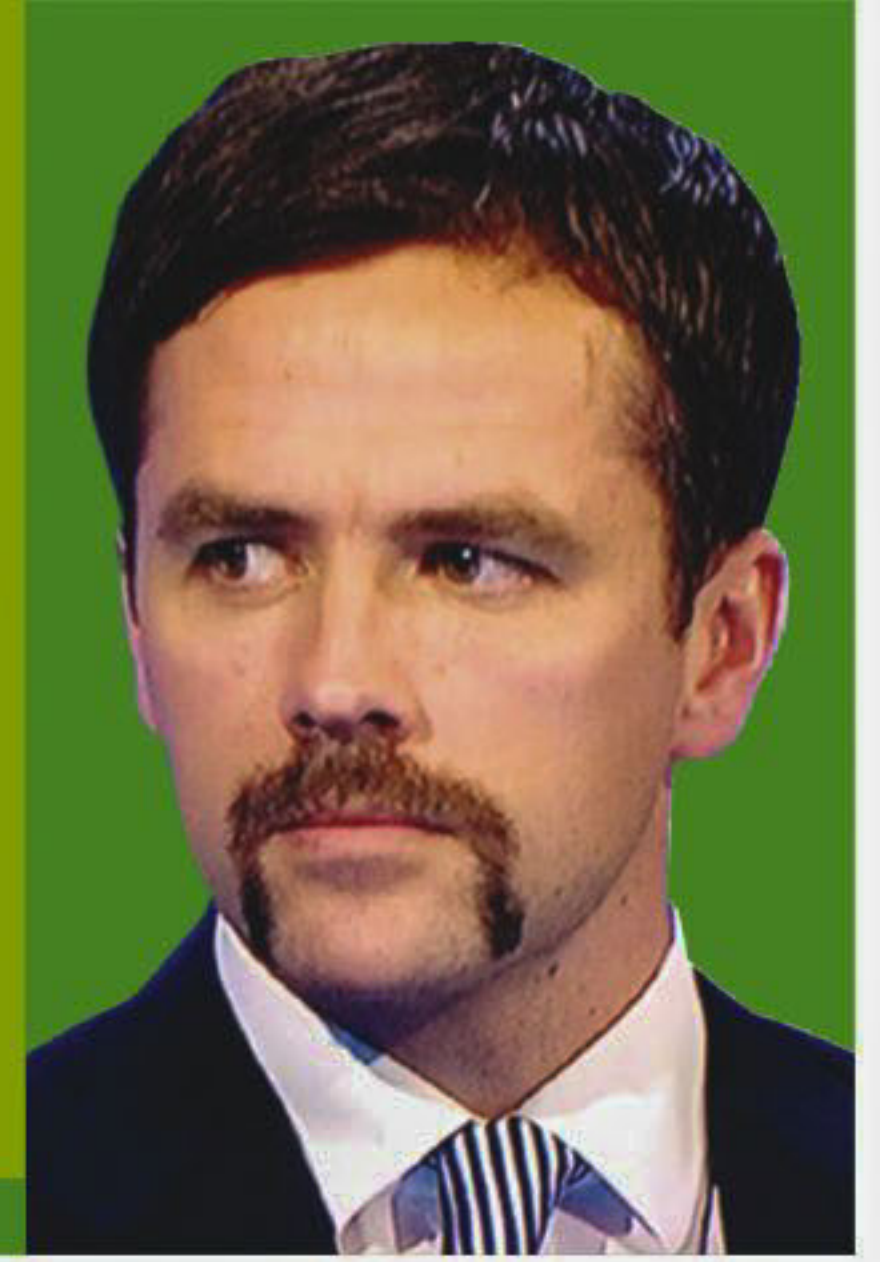


Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JANUARY 9, 2013, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Owen too old: Perth Glory

Australian A-League club Perth Glory Tuesday ruled out signing former England international Michael Owen because they want someone younger. Owen, 33, who scored 40 goals in 89 internationals for England and had stints with Liverpool, Real Madrid and Manchester United, is currently playing for Stoke City in the English Premier League. Glory coach Ian Ferguson said Owen's representatives contacted the club but the discussions did not go far. "I am looking for a younger player and a player who has been playing more



Shakib's no to BBL

SPORTS REPORTER

Star Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has refused an offer to play for the Adelaide Strikers in Australia's Big Bash League, said the Bangladesh fielding coach and Shakib's mentor Mohammad Salahuddin while speaking to The Daily Star yesterday. The offer was made by the team's coach Darren Berry, who sent Shakib a text message asking the left-hander if he would be available.

Shakib however denied the offer as he is still going through a rehabilitation programme to recover from a shin injury. The all-rounder, who attended gym sessions and various physical training activities throughout the last week, was seen batting at the indoor stadium yesterday. "He looked okay during practice. He batted only against spinners today. Tomorrow he'll be facing medium-pacers. It's a step-by-step process," said Salahuddin.

Niaz slips

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Niaz Murshed drew his fifth round board with Indian GM RR Laxman in the Delhi International Open Chess Festival which was held in Delhi, India yesterday. Niaz earned 3.5 points from five matches he played so far.

Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Hafiz-Al-Hasan picked up six wickets, including a hatrick as Young Cricketers posted a massive 107-run victory over BKSP in the First Division Cricket League at the Jahangirnagar University ground yesterday.

Hafiz picked up four wickets off four balls to finish with figures of 5-4-1-15-6 as BKSP were dismissed for 110 in reply to 217-7.

In the day's other matches, City Club registered 93-run win against Uttara Sporting Club at BKSP, Dhanmondi Progoti Sangha beat Bangladesh Boys Club by two wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium and Indira Road Krira Chakra defeated Young Pegasus Club by 45 runs at the City Club ground.

SCORES IN BRIEF

YOUNG CRICKETERS: 217-7 in 36 overs (Mithu 90 not out, Atiqur Rahman 48, Moinuddin Rubel 34; Siratunnabi 2-35, Shah Arfan Shakil 1-35)
BKSP: 110 all out in 29.4 overs (Rafsan-Al-Mahmud 28, Shahanur Rahman 25, Moyaunuddin 14; Hafiz-Al-Hasan 6-15, Nazmul Huda 2-24, Nasir 1-19)
Result: Young Cricketers won by 107 runs.

CITY CLUB: 192 all out in 42.5 overs (Tonmoy Ghosh 69, Rajeen 26, Sajjadul 41; Uttam Sarkar 2-13, Rois 2-26, Apu Sarkar 2-36, Rajib Prosad 2-39)
UTTARA SPORTING CLUB: 99 all out in 40.3

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BCB North Zone tail-enders Sanjamul Islam (L) and Sajedul Islam, who contributed 127 runs for the ninth wicket, take a run against Prime Bank South Zone on the first day of their Bangladesh Cricket League third round match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

A day of recoveries

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Marshal Ayub and Mehrab Hossain continued their good form as Walton Central Zone recovered from an early hiccup to finish the day in a strong position against Islami Bank East Zone in the third round match of the Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

The two batsmen added 175 runs for the undefeated fifth wicket as Central Zone scored 231 for four before bad light stopped the day's play. Marshal was five runs away from making his second century in the competition while Mehrab, who also has a hundred under his belt, remained not out on 75.

While Central Zone rode on two top order batsmen at Bogra, BCB North Zone survived a top order collapse courtesy of tail-enders Sanjamul Islam and Sajedul Islam who contributed 127 runs for the ninth wicket against Prime Bank South Zone at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

WALTON CENTRAL ZONE v ISLAMI BANK EAST ZONE

Shamsur Rahman and Elias Sunny made a good start after East Zone put their opponents in to bat but left-arm spinner Nabil Samad broke the 47-run partnership to arrest Central Zone's progress.

Nabil picked up two more wickets as Central Zone were reduced to 56 for four. Mehrab then joined the in-form Marshal to repair the damage.

Marshal clobbered 14 fours and a six during his 135-ball 95 while Mehrab struck 10 fours and a six during his 151-ball 75.

BCB NORTH ZONE v PRIME BANK SOUTH ZONE

A four-wicket haul by pacer Ziaur Rahman helped South Zone get off to a flying start after winning the toss but Sanjamul and Sajedul snatched away their early initiative. North Zone recovered from 125 from eight to eventually reach 291 all out.

Pacer Safaq Al Jabir dashed North Zone's hopes of getting one batting bonus point by taking the wicket of Sanjamul,

Marshal Ayub unbeaten on 95.

Tail-enders rescue

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SCORES IN BRIEF

CENTRAL ZONE: First innings 231-4 in 66 overs (Shamsur Rahman 23, Elias Sunny 20, Rokibul Hasan 0, Marshal Ayub 95 not out, Mohammad Ashraf 4, Mehrab Hossain 75 not out; Taposh Baishya 1-41, Nabil Samad 3-41).

NORTH ZONE: First innings 291 all out in 88 overs (Jahurul Islam 29, Mushfiqur Rahim 36, Nasir Hossain 0, Tanvir Haider 17, Forhad Reza 18, Sanjamul Islam 73, Sajedul Islam 76, Saqlain Sajib 15 not out; Safaq Al Jabir 1-12, Abdur Razzak 2-96, Ziaur Rahman 4-32, Shohag Gazi 2-94, Taposh Ghosh 1-14).

SOUTH ZONE: First innings 5-0 in 3 overs (Imrul Kayes 2 not out, Soumya

BPL's new entrants

SPORTS REPORTER

Last year's Bangladesh Premier League-winning coach Ian Pont is all set to take charge of the Dhaka Gladiators once again this year. Pont, whose relationship with the Gladiators had earlier been dented due to 'non-payment' issues, said in a Dhaka Gladiators press release yesterday that his dues were 'settled' and that he was looking forward to 'defend the title with a high-quality squad'.

Meanwhile, Australia pacer Dirk Nannes, who went unsold during the auctions was signed up by the Sylhet Royals yesterday. South African Alfonso Thomas is also expected to feature in this year's competition with Khulna Royal Bengals reportedly showing interest in signing the player.

The BPL Governing Council has also informed that the second edition of the BPL will witness Australia fast bowler Shaun Tait. It is still not clear however as to which team he'll be playing for. Chittagong Kings, Duronto Rajshahi and Dhaka Gladiators are all in the run to acquire his services.

Strings attached!

Kruif, Koster oversee 'other' facilities

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Dutch coaches Lodewijk de Kruif and Rene Koster spent busy time yesterday inspecting the civic facilities that Dhaka might provide them if they are to work here as coaches.

Bangladesh Football Federation's technical director BA Jubair Nipu accompanied the Dutch duo, who first went to the Canadian International School in Gulshan to see the education facilities there

for their children and then visited the Dutch Club and Dutch Embassy in Dhaka.

De Kruif was also taken to the residential area of Gulshan, United Hospital and Pizza Hut before returning to Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, where the two coaches have been staying since their arrival on Monday.

According to Nipu, the Dutch duo seemed unhappy about the heavy traffic in Dhaka even though they did not complain about it.

Before inspecting those facilities, the Dutch coaches had a meeting

with the BFF officials at the hotel where they apparently demanded additional facilities such as healthcare and education packages for their families among other things.

"Today we had detailed discussion with the agent of the coaches even though the BFF president had all but confirmed the financial terms during the first meeting in London. The agent has demanded some additional facilities. But we have attached some conditions and the agent will inform us of the coaches' decision,"

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Chairman of Bangladesh Premier League Governing Council Afzalur Rahman Sinha (C) speaks at a press briefing organised in connection with the tournament's ticket rates at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Tokyo quashes quake fears for Olympics

REUTERS, Tokyo

Concerns that a major earthquake could strike during the 2020 Olympics will not affect Tokyo's chances of hosting the Games, the city's bid leader said on Tuesday.

Tokyo tiptoed into the bidding race after losing out to Rio de Janeiro for 2016 and with the country still recovering from a deadly

tsunami and resulting nuclear crisis in 2011.

"You can't predict with any certainty where and when earthquakes will hit," Tokyo's bid president Tsunekazu Takeda told reporters.

"They can potentially happen in any country. It's the reaction to the quake which is the most important thing and to be ready as a nation if that occurs."

Tokyo, which hosted Asia's first Olympics in 1964, is the favourite

with British bookmaker William Hill to beat rivals Istanbul and Madrid, offering odds of 4/6. Istanbul are 5/2 and Madrid 3/1.

Despite Tokyo's economic strength and strong infrastructure, Takeda faced questions over whether the city could withstand another major earthquake.

A 9.0-magnitude quake in March 2011 triggered tsunami waves of up to 40 metres, killing more than 15,000 people in north-

east Japan and causing a meltdown at a nuclear plant north of Tokyo.

"In Japan, the procedures for dealing with disasters and architectural guidelines are very stringent," said Takeda. "In the 2011 disaster there were no casualties in Tokyo."

"The buildings really didn't suffer damage. We stressed to the IOC [International Olympic Committee] that Tokyo's buildings can withstand earthquakes."

"Tokyo's government is also working on making sports facilities even more quake-proof and seven years from now they certainly will be," he said as the city unveiled its bold, waterside plan for the 2020 Olympics.

All three cities -- Madrid bidding for a third consecutive time and Istanbul a fifth -- submitted their candidature files to the IOC in Lausanne on Monday.

"Tokyo is the world's most forward-thinking city," said Japanese Olympic Committee chief Takeda. "It sets global trends in everything from technology to fashion."

"Many of our venues are in place. Most of the Games infrastructure is in place. The 4.5-billion-dollar budget is already in the bank for a Games in the capital

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Ticket prices announced

SPORTS REPORTER



Tickets for the second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 will go on sale from January 13 onwards.

The lowest-priced ticket for a day's play (two matches) has been set at Tk 350 and each person will be allowed to buy a maximum of two tickets per day. Students and Airtel users will receive a 30 per cent discount upon presentation of a student ID or an Airtel SIM card.

The rights for the tickets were bought by Active Services, an event management company, for Tk 20 crores this year. Officials of Active Services informed that 30 per cent of the tickets will be sold through Airtel's mobile network, another 30 per cent through banks (partnering bank yet to be named), 10 per cent will be available online, and 10 per cent sold at the venue. The remaining 20 per cent have been reserved for officials of

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TICKET RATES

Category Name	Match Price	Student price
Shahid Mushtaq Stand	2000	1400
International Stand South	3000	2100
Southern Stand	500	350
BCB Corporate Lounge	8000	
BCB Corporate Box South	15000	
Eastern Stand	350	245
Northern Stand	500	350
International Stand North	3000	2100
Shahid Jewel Stand	2000	1400
VIP Grand Stand	5000	
Director Enclosure	5000	
BCB dignitaries	5000	



A computer-generated image provided by the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Bid Committee shows what the Tokyo National Stadium, which was the main venue of the Games in 1964, will look like when the makeover is done.

PHOTO: REUTERS