

# Star SPORT

DHAKA SUNDAY JANUARY 13, 2013, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Morocco demand Taarabt apology

Morocco are demanding an apology from midfielder Adel Taarabt for insulting the national team coach, who left him out of the African Nations Cup. The Queens Park Rangers midfielder was accused of disrespecting Rachid Taoussi in an exchange of text messages and Moroccan media following his omission from the tournament in South Africa, which starts next week. "The Moroccan federation and its staff, the federal bureau seeks a written apology from the player," said a statement by the Royal Moroccan Football Federation.



## Papon unfazed by Zaka reaction

Lambasts predecessor Kamal for recent comments

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon was still hopeful of the participation of Pakistani players in the upcoming Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) as he believes the latest reaction from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman, Zaka Ashraf, was more an impulsive one than anything else. The BCB boss also came down heavily on his predecessor AHM Mustafa Kamal's recent comments where he refuted Papon's claims that Bangladesh's tour to Pakistan was 'unconditional'.

ing our recent discussion in Delhi. We talked for hours and the kind of discussion we had hardly gave me any negative vibes. What he said to ESPNcricinfo did not reflect what he

BCB president said PCB counterpart Zaka Ashraf's comments were 'impulsive'. Recent discussions with Ashraf in Delhi were cordial. Discredited Kamal's denial of the

told me during the meeting. I think it is a knee-jerk reaction and was more an impulsive reaction than anything else," Papon told reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National

Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, when asked about Zaka's latest comments in which the PCB boss indicated that Pakistan players will play in the BPL only if the BCB agrees to a tour of Pakistan.

"I still believe that, based on our cordial discussion, the Pakistan players will take part in the BPL," he added.

When asked whether they have communicated with the PCB regarding the latest warning, Papon said: "We will wait for a day or two because we have not received any official letter from the PCB regarding this matter. Even on Cricinfo it was not specifically written that they would not allow their players. Rather it was written that if we do not confirm the tour then they would not provide us support."

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## One more for Tamim

SPORTS REPORTER

Dashing Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal will play another game for New Zealand's Wellington Firebirds in the ongoing HRV cup. He is scheduled to take the field against the Northern Districts in a match at Wellington today. He scored 68 in his previous game against the team. Tamim was initially supposed to play six T20 games in the tournament. The opener however informed reporters yesterday that he'll be playing the game on Sunday as well. So far Tamim has scored 232 runs in 6 matches, including two half-centuries.

## BPL PREVIEW: RANGPUR RIDERS Newcomers count on local force

SPORTS REPORTER



The newest franchise in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20, the Rangpur Riders, will begin its journey in the T20 competition with a side that will depend mostly on local players. With a few known foreign recruits in the team, the Riders will hope that their local stars live up to expectations. Their most expensive buy this year was all-rounder Nasir Hossain, who was bought for 208,000 dollars. Also playing for the team is Abdur Razzak, who has been given the responsibility of leading the side.

Off the field, the Riders' have one of the more 'jollier' team management setups of

the competition. While they weren't as successful in the auctions, they seemed to have been enjoying just being part of the show, something that was reflected in their 'unique' bids. Razaq, for instance, was bought for 92,777 dollars while Junaed Siddiqui was signed up for 67,556 dollars.

### KEY PLAYERS

Nasir Hossain has gradually grown into one of the more dependable players for the Bangladesh team. He has consistently played the role of a finisher for Bangladesh and with Junaed Siddiqui being the only other batsman to have recently played in the national team; Nasir will have to shoulder a lot more

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Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin (2nd from R) presents Dutch coach Lodewijk de Kruif (2nd from L) and his deputy Rene Koster (L) the national team shirts after signing MoUs at the BFF House yesterday.

## BFF signs MoU with Dutch coaches

Final contract expected to be signed within two weeks

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) yesterday with Dutch coaches Lodewijk de Kruif and Rene Koster to appoint them from June 1 as the national team's head coach and assistant-cum-academy-coach respectively. The final contract, expected to be signed within the next two weeks after the lawyers of each party go through the contract papers, will

bind them for two years effective from June, 2013. These details were revealed at an eagerly-awaited press conference at the BFF House yesterday, where BFF president Kazi Salahuddin announced that both parties were happy to have reached the deal.

"We are all happy that we came to an understanding. All the terms are conditions have been met by both parties. Even though we haven't signed the final agreement, everything is settled and sorted. There were minute points in agreements which needed to be addressed and clearly identified which is why it

took so long to come to consensus," said Salahuddin upon reaching the press conference along with the two coaches and members of the National Teams Committee after a marathon discussion among the two parties, mediated by the coaches' Dutch agent. "Even though they will be taking charge from June, I have requested them to come on a loan-contract for three weeks (Feb 20-March 7) to help us prepare for the AFC Challenge Cup. They will inform us on that by Tuesday after consulting with their clubs," said Salahuddin.

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## SA in command

Cricket

AFP, Port Elizabeth

Faf du Plessis hit his second Test century and Dean Elgar hammered his maiden ton as South Africa built a commanding first innings total on the second day of the second and final Test against New Zealand at St George's Park on Saturday.

Du Plessis made 137 and Elgar struck an unbeaten 103 as South Africa declared their first innings on 525 for eight, shortly after tea.

The Kiwis, in their chase were in deep trouble, losing six wickets for 47 runs at stumps.

After South Africa were made to struggle for runs, adding only 65 runs in 29 overs before lunch, Du Plessis and Dean Elgar lifted the tempo during the afternoon. The pair shared a sixth wicket stand of 131, a record for South Africa against New Zealand as South Africa added 105 runs between lunch and tea.

In overcast conditions, New Zealand produced their best spell of bowling and fielding so far in the series after rain delayed the start of play by 15 minutes. Trent Boult and Doug Bracewell both bowled a tight line and were well backed up by the fielders as only 11 runs were scored in the first 11 overs for the loss of Hashim Amla's wicket.

Amla added only four runs off 24 balls before he was caught down the legside by wicketkeeper BJ Watling off the left-armed Boult for 110.

Du Plessis, who made a match-saving century on debut against Australia in Adelaide earlier in the season, proceeded cautiously as he and Elgar consolidated before scoring freely after lunch.

On 98, Du Plessis almost played on against part-time seam bowler Colin Munro. On 99 he was struck on the right hand by a ball from the same bowler which reared off a good length. He played out two successive maidens from Munro to be stranded one short of his hundred at lunch.

Du Plessis reached his century when he hit the first ball he received after lunch, from off-spinner Jeetan Patel, for six.

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PHOTO: AFP

South Africa batsman Francois du Plessis punches the air after scoring a gutsy ton on the second day of the second and final Test against New Zealand at St George's Park in Port Elizabeth yesterday.

## Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

An aggressive 122 off 123 balls by Arifuzzaman Sagor led Baridhara Dazzlers to a 102-run win over Agrani Bank Cricket Club yesterday at the Dhaka University Ground in the First Division Cricket League. Batting first the Dazzlers finished on 320 for five. In reply, Agrani Bank were bowled out for 218 in 43 overs.

In the day's other game, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha defeated Surjo Torun by 1 wicket at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Batting first Surjo Torun were bowled out for 167 runs. Eskaton reached their target with 1 wicket and three balls to spare.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

BARIDHARA: 320 for 5 in 50 overs (Arifuzzaman Sagor 122, Shihab Ahmed 76 not out; Murad 2-54). AGRANI BANK: 218 all out in 42.5 overs (Saddam 67, Soumen 48, Anik 36; Shihab Ahmed 5-41) Result: Baridhara Dazzlers won by 102 runs. SURJO TORUN CLUB: 167 all out in 49.2 overs (Sadman 43; Abu Bakkar-3-25, Mustafizur Rahman 3-29). ESKATON: 169 for 9 in 49.3 (Hasanuzzaman 40, Mushfiqur Rahman 27; Liton Chandra 2-18) Result: Eskaton won by 1 wicket.

## Brothers break the duck

SPORTS REPORTER



Ten-man Brothers Union registered their first win in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League when they

defeated fellow strugglers Arambagh KS 2-0 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The Oranges had come to this match with zero points from six matches and were looking like genuine contenders for relegation from the nine-team league. However the Gopibagh outfit put in a dominating display and with the win, joined both Arambagh and Feni Soccer Club on three points.

Brothers took the lead in the 19th minute when Brazilian forward Garcia Anderson converted a penalty kick. The Oranges were reduced to ten men in the added time of the first half when defender Ashraf Karim was sent off for a dangerous tackle on Arambagh's Nche

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যে ছেলে বিপিএল দেখেনা, তার সাথে দেখা না হওয়াই ভাল!

Prime Bank BPL 2012-13

আসছে...

নির্মাণ তাকি ধ্বংস?

খোলা ট্রাকে নির্মাণ সামগ্রী পরিবহন জীবনের জন্য ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ

খোলা যানবাহনে নির্মাণ সামগ্রী বহন আর নয়!

নির্মল বায়ু এবং টেকসই পরিবেশ (CASE) প্রকল্প ঢাকা দক্ষিণ ও উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন