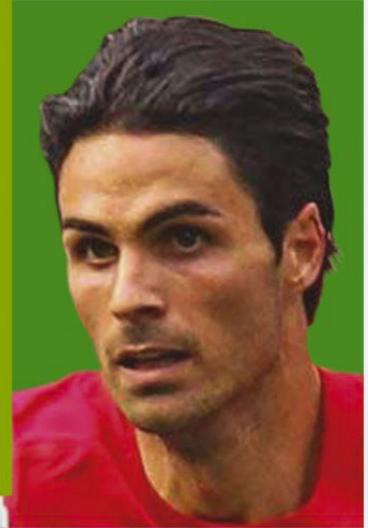


# Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY JANUARY 15, 2013, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Arteta ruled out for weeks

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger fears Spanish midfielder Mikel Arteta will be sidelined for at least three weeks with a calf strain. Arteta missed Sunday's 2-0 home defeat against Manchester City after suffering the injury in training earlier in the week. The 30-year-old will have a scan on Monday to determine the full extent of the problem, but Wenger doesn't expect to have the former Everton star back before February. "Arteta will have a scan on Monday, he



## Mushfiqur to keep leading

BCB announces list of contracted players

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Mushfiqur Rahim has been retained as captain of the Bangladesh national cricket team and Mahmudullah Riyad will continue as his deputy for the upcoming tours of Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.



MUSHFIQUR RAHIM



MAHMUDULLAH RIYAD

The decision was taken during an emergency meeting of the BCB's (Bangladesh Cricket Board) ad-hoc executive committee at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday where the board also awarded central contracts to four newcomers -- Shohag Gazi, Anamul Haque, Mominul Haque and Abul Hasan -- in the place of Imrul Kayes, Nazmul Hossain, Shuvagoto Hom and Nazimuddin.

The Tigers will play two Tests and three ODIs in Sri Lanka in March this year and after that will visit Zimbabwe to play two Tests, three ODIs and two T20Is.

The BCB had first appointed Mushfiqur as captain and Mahmudullah as his deputy in September 2011 following the removal of Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal. Since then, the duo got extensions from the board twice.

Meanwhile, the board announced a 15-

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Chittagong Kings' English recruits Ravi Bopara (R) and Jason Roy take a breather during a practice session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium's practice facilities in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Hooper keen to coach Tigers

Cricket

CRICINFO, Dhaka

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has accelerated its hunt for the next head coach even before the January 25 deadline for receiving applications, with former West Indies captain Carl Hooper in the mix.

The BCB is looking to fill the position before the tour of Sri Lanka in March.

"We have sent out an advertisement seeking a coach and that [deadline] ends on January 25, but we are also looking elsewhere," Jalal Yunus, the BCB media committee chairman, told ESPNcricinfo. "We know that Carl Hooper is interested in taking the job."

After retiring from international cricket in 2003, Hooper hasn't had a major international coaching job. Two years ago, he was the batting coach of the Sagcor High Performance Centre in Barbados.

Former Australia fast bowler Craig McDermott is also vying for the position. "Mark Greatbatch [former New Zealand batsman], who had applied when we last looked for a coach, is still interested, as is [Craig] McDermott," Yunus said.

McDermott is currently Ireland's bowling coach and is understood to be shortlisted as Somerset's coach. McDermott had also served as Australia's bowling coach

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## Enamul to officiate in SA-NZ ODIs

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's international panel umpire Enamul Haque Moni will officiate as an on-field umpire in the One-Day International series between South Africa and New Zealand. Moni has so far officiated in 43 ODIs.

Moni was the first ever Bangladeshi to be summoned by the ICC to stand as an on-field umpire in a match between two foreign teams. The three-match ODI series will begin on January 19. He'll be partnered in the series by Pakistan's Aleem Dar.

PREVIEW: BARISAL BURNERS

## Counting on NOCs

SPORTS REPORTER



Barisal Burners were one of the most hyped teams during the inaugural edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) for a number of reasons. From acquiring the services of Chris Gayle, albeit for a short period of time, to being on the winning end of the 'semifinal controversy' last year, the Burners consistently hit the headlines. They eventually lost to Dhaka in the finals. Like the previous year, Barisal will depend a lot on their foreign players. With a number of hard-hitting Pakistani players in the side, the Burners will be dearly hoping that Pakistani players receive their no-objection certificates.

KEY PLAYERS

The phrase 'old is gold' goes well with all-

rounder Azhar Mahmood, who despite being in his late 30s, still manages to pack a punch in the shortest format of the game. Currently busy with Australia's Big Bash League (BBL) Mahmood, who was bought for 150,000 dollars, will definitely play a crucial role in Barisal's strategies. Brad Hodge is another player very experienced in this format. His rollicking 88 against Adelaide in the BBL recently proves that he can still be a match-winner. These two players, with their vast experience in the format, will play a key role for the Burners.

POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS

The six slots for the local players are most likely to be filled with the national players and the better-known domestic cricketers in the side. Alok Kapali and Shuvagata

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## BPL T20 Shakib wants proper process

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Gladiators' all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan hopes that the 'player payment' controversy doesn't recur in this year's Bangladesh Premier League (BPL).

"I don't think the lack of payment will affect the players on the field. But obviously everybody will feel bad. There is nothing much to say here, we are the sufferers. Whenever we play, we give our 100 per cent; sometimes we play, well sometimes we don't, but this can't be a yardstick to measure the amount of payment, said Shakib after training yesterday.

The player, who like many others, hasn't yet received this year's initial fee (25 per cent of a player's auction value) claimed that he too had to face problems while acquiring his fee in the inaugural edition of the BPL. "We all had to suffer. I don't know what will happen to the dues of the players from last year, but I think if everything is done properly this year, there will not be any complaints," said Shakib.

He said that he wasn't fully fit as yet. "To be honest, I think I am not fit yet. However, I hope to recover within the first two matches," he said, adding that he has been training on his own for the last few days.

## Tamim returns fresh, modified

Cricket

NAIMUL KARIM

Having scored two half-centuries and two scores of above 30 in six games, Tamim Iqbal's short stint with the Wellington Firebirds in the HRV cup, a T20 competition in New Zealand, turned out to be quite a successful one for the left-handed opener. The batsman, who opened the innings alongside Jesse Ryder in the competition, provided early impetus with the bat in almost every game that he played.

Upon his return to the country yesterday, his initial reaction was one of satisfaction with the creditable performance. "It was a fantastic experience for me. Apart from performing I also got the opportunity to get to know their culture, their cricket and their cricketers. It was a challenge and I enjoyed every bit of it," said Tamim.

While Tamim's performance in the HRV cup did earn him a lot of acclaim, the left-hander however claimed that his main objective remained elsewhere. It was an opportunity for him to work on his batting technique with former Bangladesh coach Jamie Siddons, who currently works for the Firebirds.

"I wanted to go there because I was not quite happy with my batting. I noticed that the way I was batting in 2010 and the way I am batting now, there is a huge difference. I may have been amongst the runs but I felt that there was something wrong with my technique," said Tamim. The batsman claimed that he had gained a 'special trust' with Siddons, something that had been built during the Australian's three-year stint with Bangladesh.

"Ex-cricketers in Bangladesh are obviously capable of addressing my mistakes. However, I think every cricketer has a coach whom they trust and for me that's Jamie," said Tamim.

The opener stated that he had spent long hours in the nets with Siddons, the effect of which was felt towards the end of his spell. "I think in the last couple of matches I realised what I was doing wrong and I batted with a mixed technique, which included things from the past and the newer lessons. Its something that I can change in time," said the 23-year-old.

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## All's well with BPL?

SPORTS REPORTER

As the start of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) draws nearer, the main question surrounding the T20 tournament concerns the participation of the Pakistani players. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) however has no doubt about the timely start of the second edition of the tournament and the participation of the Pakistani players, although they were yet to receive NOCs (non objection certificate) of any Pakistan player.

After yesterday's emergency meeting of the BCB's ad-hoc committee, media committee chairman Jalal Yunus and Afzalur Rahman Sinha, chairman of the BPL governing council, expressed optimism regarding the participation of the Pakistani players.

"The BPL issue was discussed in the board meeting and I can assure you that the opening ceremony will take place on January 17 as per schedule and the tournament will kick off from January 18," said Sinha.

"We are hopeful about the participation of the Pakistani players as our president (Nazmul Hassan Papon) had a very cordial discussion with PCB chairman Zaka Ashraf. The news [about Pakistani players' participation] has

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Russia's Maria Sharapova blows a kiss to the crowd after her victory over compatriot Olga Puchkova in the first round of Australian Open in Melbourne on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Solid start for Novak, Maria

AFP, Melbourne



Novak Djokovic made a commanding start to his quest for a hat-trick of Australian Open titles Monday, as local hero Lleyton Hewitt became the first high-profile casualty.

The Serbian world number one was in imperious form as he tossed aside Frenchman Paul-Henri Mathieu 6-2, 6-4, 7-5 in just 1hr 42min on Rod Laver Arena to waltz into the second round of the year's first Grand Slam event.

Djokovic is bidding to become the first player in the Open era to win three consecutive Australian Opens, and he brushed aside the 60th-ranked Mathieu for his 15th straight match win in Melbourne.

But Hewitt, unseeded but playing in his record 17th consecutive home Open, was knocked out by Serbian eighth seed Janko Tipsarevic, 7-6 (7/4), 7-5, 6-3 over three hours of high-class tennis.

Elsewhere, Spanish fourth seed David Ferrer eased past Belgian Olivier Rochus, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 in 1hr 50min

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