

# Star SPORT

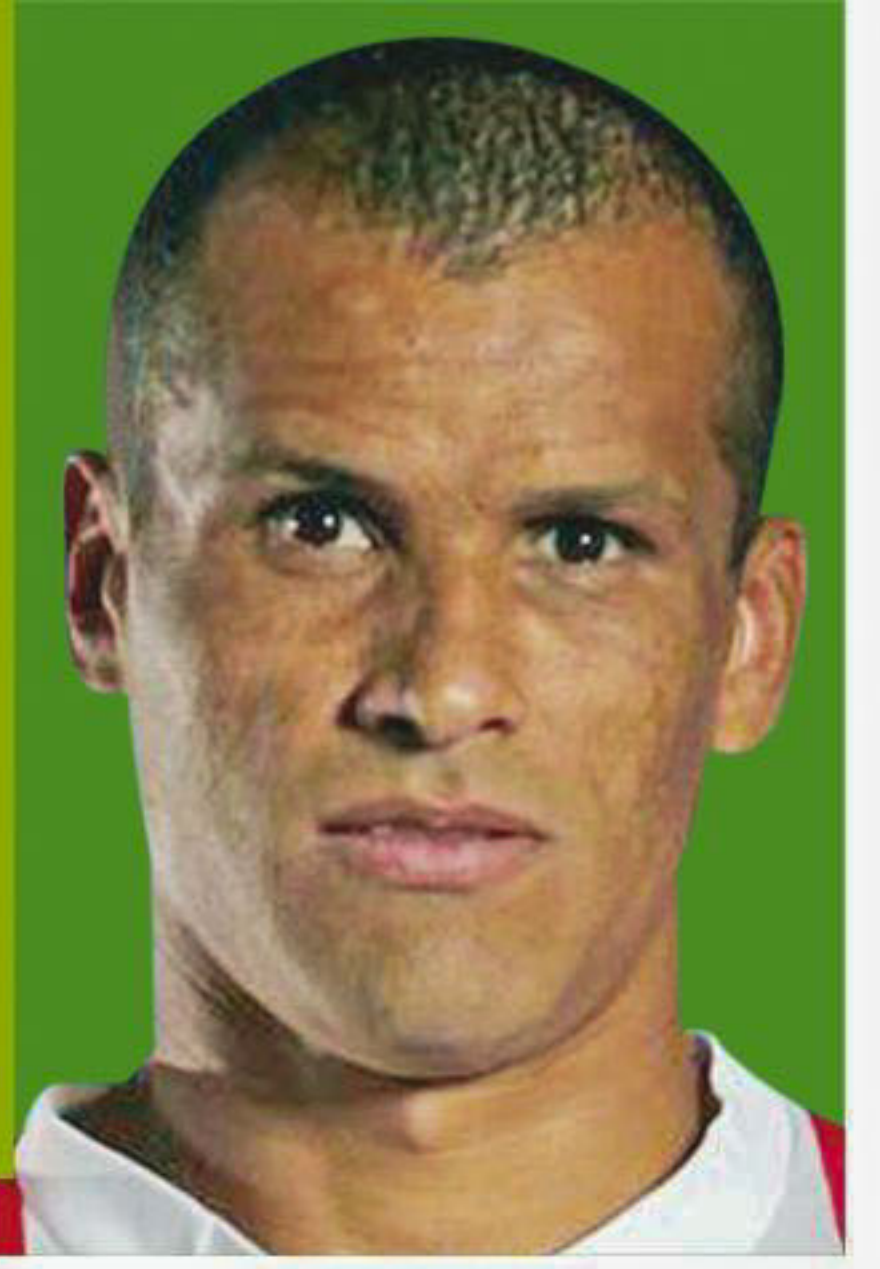
DHAKA FRIDAY JANUARY 18, 2013, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Rivaldo going strong at 40

Former Brazil midfielder and 1999 World Player of the Year Rivaldo announced on Wednesday he had signed to play for Sao Caetano at the age of 40 until the end of the year.

"I will dedicate myself fully to do the best possible on the field, as I've done until now. I hope to be an example for many," Rivaldo said on his Twitter account about returning to a Brazilian team after playing for Kabuscorp in Angola.

"To my critics, I would like to say that



## No turning back from T20, says Lara

SPORTS REPORTER

Prime Bank BPL 125  
 Legendary West Indian batsman Brian Lara arrived in the city yesterday to take up his role as the brand ambassador of the Chittagong Kings for the second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League.

Speaking in a press conference at a city hotel, Lara stated that his role in the team would be to act as a guide for the players and also help spread the allure of cricket to Chittagong.

"As a former cricketer I think it's time for me to give something back. I believe as a former captain and a player of the West Indies, and as someone who has played alongside great cricketers like Courtney Walsh and the late Malcolm Marshall, I believe that this is where my work now is," said Lara.

And opposed to the populist theory, the ex-West Indian player was of the opinion that the wave of T20 competitions would only make cricket a lot more exciting on a whole.

"I think it can only have a positive effect. When people ask me if I think my record is going to be broken. I think yes definitely. Just look at players like (David) Warner from Australia, Chris Gayle or (Virender) Sehwag; these are the guys that are threatening and their main format is T20 cricket and they create a lot of excitement in Tests as well," said Lara. "That is what the people want to see."

"I never played a local game with Trinidad and Tobago with 20,000 people watching and that just happened this weekend... there's no turning back from T20," he said.

The legendary left-hander though

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



Brian Lara, the prince of Trinidad and now a brand ambassador of Chittagong Kings, speaks to reporters at a city hotel yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## 2nd BPL rolls out today

SPORTS REPORTER

Prime Bank BPL 125  
 After all the off-field drama and controversies, the second Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) rolls on the greens of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today with defending champions Dhaka Gladiators taking on Khulna Royal Bengals in the opening match at 2pm.

Barisal Burners face off Sylhet Royals in the other match at 6pm at the same venue.

The biggest challenge the BPL confronts this year is to create the same vibe and attraction among the fans, who will miss some big-name entertainers after the last minute refusal of Pakistan Cricket Board to grant NOC to any of their players.

Another issue, the non-payment of the

players that dominated the first edition and had frequently made international headlines, is set to trouble the organizers. And on Thursday, BPL governing council chairman Afzalur Rahman Sinha admitted that he was not sure how many of the seven franchises have complied with the January 16 deadline for the pending payments of the players.

"We were very much engaged with the Pakistani player issue, so I can't say anything clearly about the payment issues right at the moment. I have to check everything tomorrow."

On the field, it will be even a bigger challenge for Khulna Royal Bengals, the hardest hit among the seven teams who bought as many as seven Pakistani cricketers in December auction.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



A performer, acting as a bride, takes a palanquin ride during the colourful opening ceremony of the second Bangladesh Premier league at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Hooper's denial

CRICINFO, Dhaka

Carl Hooper has denied any interest in coaching Bangladesh. Earlier this week the Bangladesh Cricket Board had spoken of the former West Indies captain as one of the early candidates.

"I was asked if I was interested, said I wasn't and that was the last I heard of it," Hooper told The Advertiser. "I was hoping Bangladesh would retract what they have apparently said that I was 'interested in the job'. I have not applied and I am not interested. I am happy at Woodville."

On Monday, BCB media committee chairman Jalal Yunus had said Hooper was one of those interested in taking up the offer after the board had advertised for the position that had been vacated by Richard Pybus in October

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

## Local flavour to BPL opening

SPORTS REPORTER



The second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) officially kicked-off last night amidst glitz and fireworks at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. The first match will be held today, but on Thursday renowned artistes like Runa Laila, Momtaz and James added a touch of flair to an event that had initially threatened to fall flat because of poor audience turnout.

In the end, the organizers were compelled to open most of the gates to the stadium to the public for free, which at least guaranteed a full house for an evening of fun and frolic. The initial low turnout was in part due to confusion about which bank was selling tickets for the event. Active Services, who bought the rights of the sale of the BPL tickets, were initially supposed to strike a deal with Prime bank. The company then informed that they had signed a deal with Premier Bank. In a last minute change though, officials informed that the tickets would be sold through the United Commercial Bank. But despite the early hiccoughs,

President Zillur Rahman officially inaugurated the event at 6:30 pm yesterday and was closely followed by a hefty firework routine.

That was the queue for veteran Bangladeshi artistes like Runa Laila and Momtaz to kick-off the cultural evening.

Laila was an instant hit with her song Dama Dam Mast Kalandar, as the entire crowd sang along to her tunes. Next in line, Momtaz too captivated the crowd with her pop-numbers. The show also witnessed dance programmes representing the cultural art-forms of the different regions.

Thereafter though, the cultural programmes came to a sudden halt at approximately 8 pm leaving the entire stadium clueless regarding what to expect next.

After almost an hour in the darkness, the show restarted with pop-rock artiste James enthralled the crowd with his band. He began his performance with 'Mira bai' and followed by 'Deewana Mastana', both of which set the show rolling in style following the long gap. A host of other international performers entertained the crowd past 10 pm with more fireworks lighting the sky towards the end of the show.



## Musa no more

SPORTS REPORTER

Noted sports commentator and journalist Muhammad Musa died of a cardiac arrest in the early hours of Thursday at the Islamic Hospital. He was 65.

Musa, who last worked as the assistant editor of Daily Inqilab, was laid to rest at the Mirpur-11 Graveyard after his namaz-e-janaza was held at the Mirpur-6 central Mosque.

Musa left behind one son, two daughters, a wife and a host of well-wishers.

Musa was born in Barasat under Chhabish

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

## Mahmud quits BCB post

Opts for coaching Ctg Kings

SPORTS REPORTER

Prime Bank BPL 125  
 Khaled Mahmud resigned as a member on the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) ad-hoc committee after he was asked to choose between a coaching stint with the Chittagong Kings and the administrator's role in the executive body.

"He [Khaled Mahmud] tendered his resignation as the board decided not to allow any of its employees to get involved with the franchisees for the second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League. He had a financial engagement with one of the franchisees and he discussed the matter with us, but the board is very rigid on its stance," said BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus yesterday.

The National Sports Council on November 27 last year formed a 13-member ad-hoc committee for the BCB naming Nazmul Hassan Papon as its chief.

Mahmud informed that he took the decision (of resigning from the board) after discussing the matter with BCB president Papon.

"Without any doubt it was a great honour for me when I was included on the ad-hoc committee. It would have been nice if I continued, but the reality is different for me. I have to earn money for my livelihood, so there was no other choice rather than taking the decision to continue as coach of the Chittagong Kings," said Mahmud.

"I talked with Papon bhai. Actually it was not possible to continue with both jobs as there was a conflict of interest," he added.



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