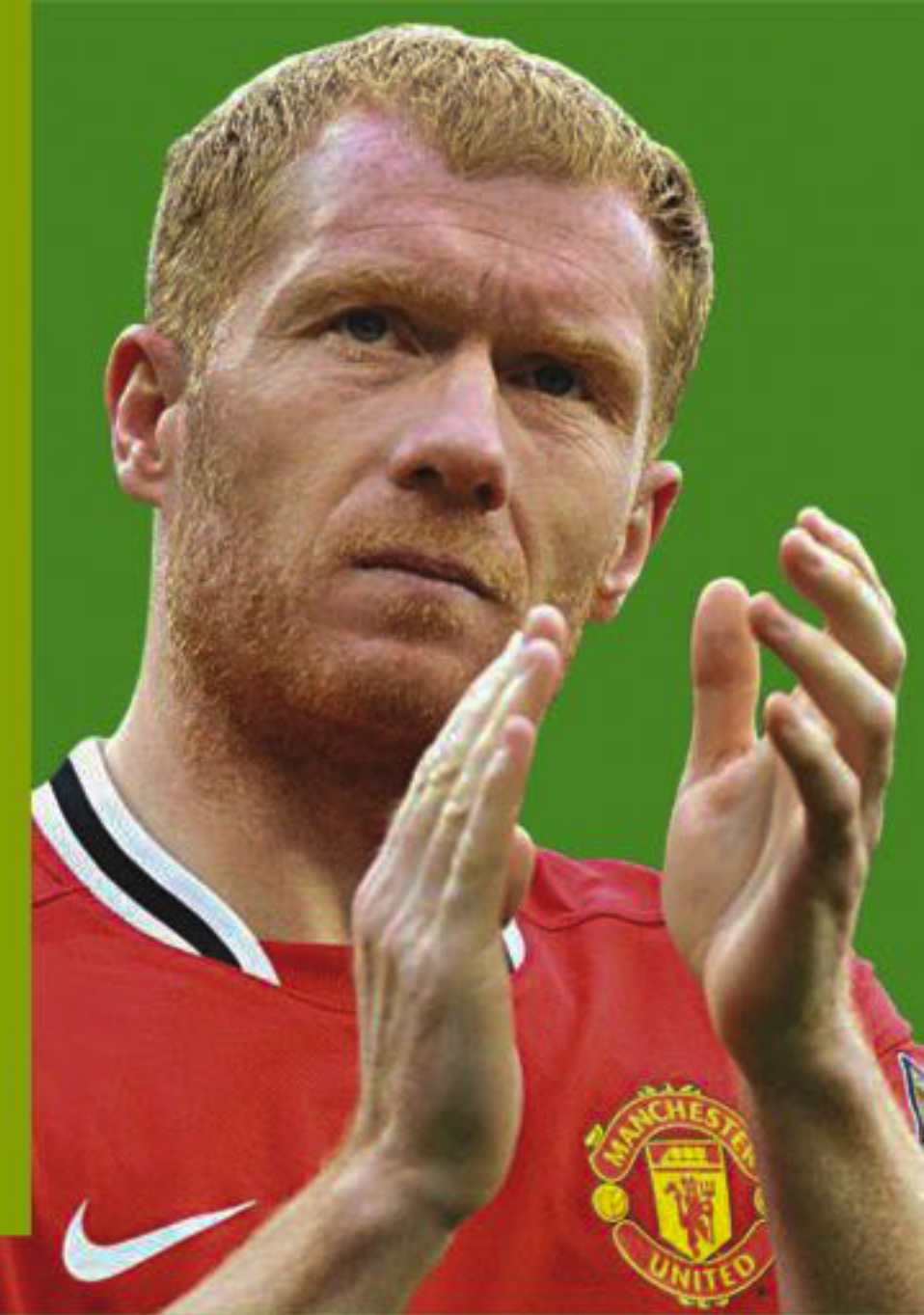


Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JANUARY 30, 2013, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Thieves steal Scholes' car

Manchester United midfielder Paul Scholes has had his top-of-the-range 4x4 stolen from outside his house, as he defrosted the windscreen with the engine running, police said on Tuesday. The grey Chevrolet Captiva was taken from the driveway in Oldham, northwest England, just before 8:00 am (0700 GMT) on Monday, Greater Manchester Police said in a statement. Media reports said the former England player had gone back inside his house while the engine was melting ice on the vehicle, which retails from 22,905 pounds (\$36,000-27,000 euros) in Britain, and



Dhaka end Sylhet run

BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong

Dhaka Gladiators captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza finally regained his rhythm to help his team stop the Sylhet Royals' winning run in the second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday. It was sweet revenge for Dhaka, who handed a 31-run defeat to Mushfiqur Rahim's Sylhet, who defeated the defending champions by seven wickets less than a week ago at Khulna.

At the end of the game, Sylhet were left to rue three crucial run-outs in chase of 158 on a good batting track to suffer their first defeat in six games. Dhaka, on the other hand, bounced back from their defeat in the last match with spirited teamwork to bring up their fourth win in five games.



The match had promised a high-class battle between the two top sides but in the end it became a one-sided affair in front of a crowd of nearly 10,000; less than half the opening day's huge turnout as Sylhet failed to match their impressive level of performance till that stage in the tournament.

Dhaka got off to a good start courtesy of Joshua Cobb and Mohammad Ashraful but lost three quick wickets, and it was Darren Stevens who helped his side put up a fighting total with an unbeaten 35-ball 55 that saw four boundaries and two sixes. Anamul Haque also deserved some credit for his 18-ball 32 cameo that featured three huge sixes.

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SCORES IN BRIEF

DHAKA GLADIATORS: 158-5 in 20 overs (Cobb 29, Ashraful 14, Shah 22, Stevens 55 not out, Anamul 32, extras 4; Benn 1-23, Nabi 1-43, Gazi 1-25, Mominul 1-19).
SYLHET ROYALS: 127-8 in 20 overs (Mushfiqur 41, Chigumbura 25, extras 12; Mashrafe 1-14, Thomas 2-12, Saqlain 2-33).
Result: Dhaka Gladiators won by 31 runs.



Chittagong Kings' brand ambassador Brian Lara complies with the demand of fans by signing autographs during his visit to the Mostafa Hakim High School and College at Katuli in the port city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Hockey coach due today

SPORTS REPORTER

Belgian hockey coach Mike Keenan is scheduled to arrive here tomorrow morning as an advisory coach for the Bangladesh national hockey team under FIH's (Federation de International Hockey) high profile coaches project. Keenan is expected to be accompanied by FIH president Leandro Negro.

The Belgian coach will stay here till February 8 to look after the Bangladesh national team, which will participate in the World Hockey League (Round-2) in New Delhi, starting from February 18.

"Keenan will basically fine tune the squad and

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Khulna hit BPL low

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

Rangpur Riders won a dull match against Khulna Royal Bengals by 33 runs at the MA Aziz Stadium last night. Khulna had a good chance of securing their third win in a row after their bowlers dismissed Rangpur for 122 in the day's second match of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20. But West Indies pacer Fidel Edwards and left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak combined to skittle Khulna for 89 - the lowest total in the BPL, four less than Chittagong's 93 against Khulna in the first edition of the competition.

Edwards claimed four wickets and captain Razzak captured three but it was the pathetic batting of Khulna that actually helped Rangpur avenge their nine-run defeat against the same opponents. It was Rangpur's third win in five games.

Khulna lost their first three wickets because of the madness of Lou Vincent, Mizanur Rahman and Riki Wessels.

Captain Shahriar Nafees, who entered the match on the back of a hundred and a fifty in the last two games at Khulna, started too cautiously which helped his opponents maintain the pressure. Then the left-hander played a poor shot against Nasir Hossain to offer a simple catch at point and his dismissal paved the way for the winners to take the control of the match.

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SCORES IN BRIEF

RANGPUR RIDERS: 122 all out in 20 overs (Hyatt 23, Borgas 21, Nasir 21, O'Brien 24 not out, extras 14; Reza 1-25, Zadrán 1-22, Asif 1-0, Badree 1-23, Harris 3-22, Sanjamul 1-14).
KHULNA ROYAL BENGALS: 89 all out in 18.4 overs (Nafees 14, Mizanur 15, Wessels 11, Harris 15, Asif 19, extras 9; Edwards 4-11, Razzak 3-21).
Result: Rangpur Riders won by 33 runs.

'Almost no progress'

Cricket

NAIMUL KARIM

It's been six months since Richard McInnes's return to Bangladesh as the head of the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) National Cricket Academy (NCA). The Australian, whose hard-hitting High Performance Unit camps back in 2005 are often credited with having helped produce some of today's national team, is however frustrated with what he described as 'close to zero progress' since his arrival.



RICHARD MCINNES

Head coach of the National Cricket Academy Richard McInnes says systemic flaws in the BCB retarding progress.

The 38-year-old in an interview with The Daily Star said that he was struggling to get a 'move on' due to the 'systemic flaws' in the board.

"To be honest I have 12 or 15 different proposals in front of the board and they are just sitting there at the moment," said McInnes, who is here on a two-year contract, when asked about the changes that he had tried to implement.

"Unfortunately what's happened is that we have had the West Indies series, the NCL (National Cricket League), the BCL (Bangladesh Cricket League), the BPL (Bangladesh Premier League T20) and in between all that, the board being dissolved and the ad-hoc committee being appointed.

"The way the BCB operates, whenever there's an event on, everybody is involved so nothing else happens. I'm just waiting until all these events finish and

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After six months of his contract '12-15 proposals' still await approval.

Says lack of preparation before first-class cricket contributes to fast bowlers' injuries.

Fast bowlers 'will break' on the tour of Sri Lanka as they will have no time to prepare for the longer

BU heap misery on MSC

SPORTS REPORTER

A rampant Brothers Union continued their resurgence in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League as they mauled strife-torn Mohammedan SC 4-1 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Boosted by a win and a creditable goalless draw in their previous two matches, the Oranges put on a brilliant display of attacking football to mesmerise trouble-hit Mohammedan. The players in Black and White, who had returned to training just a day before the match after refraining for two days in demand of unpaid wages, simply looked short of idea and communication against a rampant Brothers attack.

Nigerian striker Kingsley Chigozie struck twice while his compatriots Samson Illiasu and Adams Jankasa netted one apiece to drive the Oranges to their biggest win over Mohammedan. All the four goals came after Osei Morison had given Mohammedan a surprise early lead.

"Even after suffering a 3-0 defeat in the first meeting, I was confident that we can beat Mohammedan. The boys worked hard and have been responding well to my instructions which paid dividend today," said a happy Brothers coach Ladi Babalola after the game.

The second win in nine matches took Brothers Union to 7 points, four clear of basement sides Arambagh and Feni Soccer Club while Mohammedan stuck to the fifth position with 13 points from nine outings.

Mohammedan took the lead in the sixth minute when Ejike Francis played Morison on the left-side and the league's top-scorer ran past a defender before placing the ball into the back of the net, to raise his goals tally to eight. However, that early goal hardly lifted the spirits of the Black and Whites and it was a constant struggle since then.

Brothers' Brazilian striker Garcia Anderson and Nigerian Kingsley Chigozie constantly breached the Mohammedan backline. Mohammedan's midfield too looked vulnerable without in the absence of Augustine Chizoba and Mostafa Ibrahim, whom they released during the mid-season transfer window.

Kingsley was the more threatening among the two Brothers strikers and he levelled the margin in the 37th minute with a side-volley after Anderson had rattled bar

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Kingsley Chigozie's two goals powered Brothers Union to a 4-1 win over Mohammedan SC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR




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