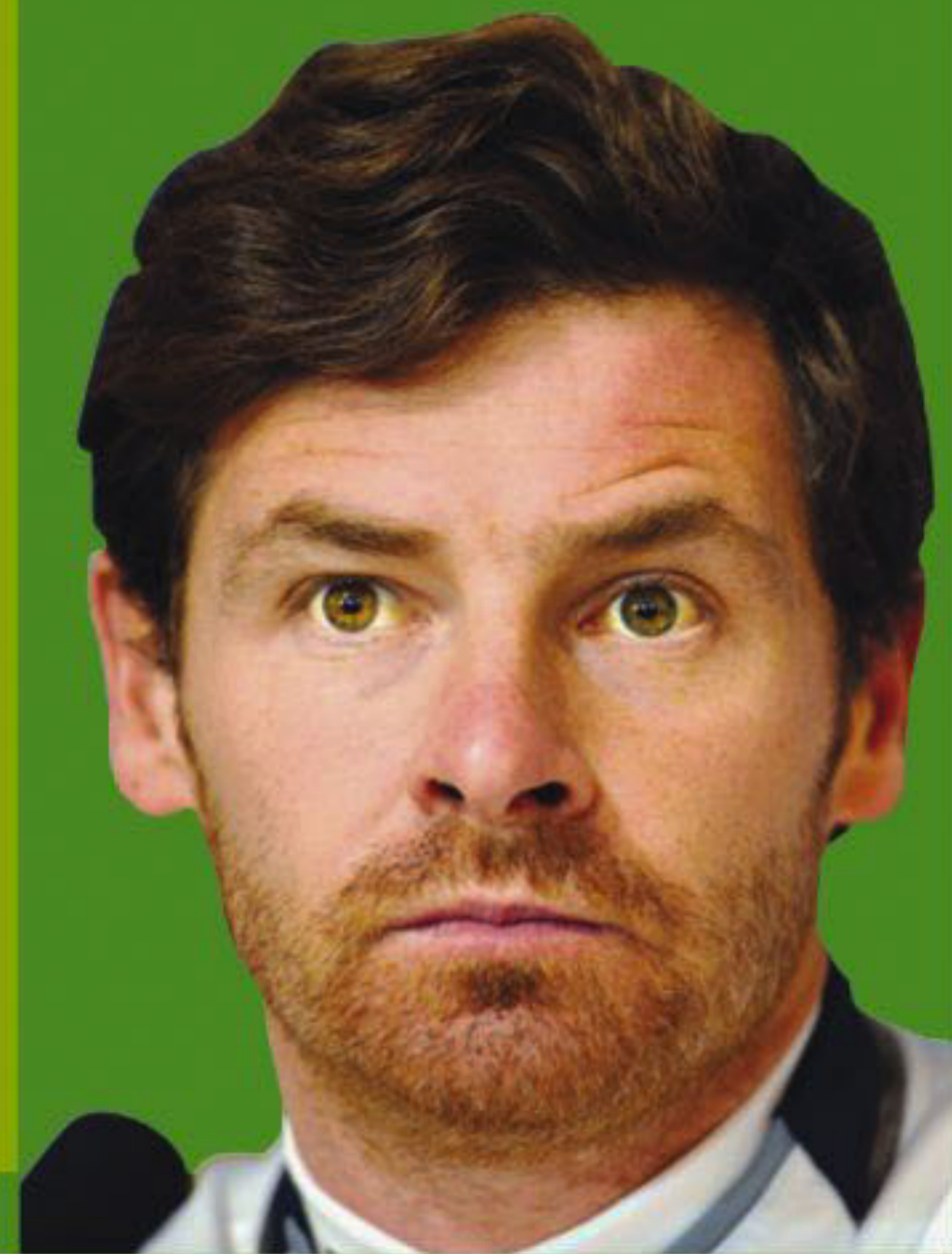


Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2013, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Villas-Boas not a fan of stats

Tottenham Hotspur coach Andre Villas-Boas has bucked his reputation as one of the most innovative managers in the game by declaring that he is not an unwavering fan of statistical analysis. The 35-year-old earned his spurs working alongside Jose Mourinho at Porto, Chelsea and Inter Milan, where his role involved producing detailed dossiers on opposition teams. However, the Portuguese says he has always been wary of the kind of empirical statistical analysis. "I don't use it because I don't believe in



Mushfiqur senses opportunity

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim said yesterday that the Tigers have a good chance of creating history in Sri Lanka when the team embark on a full series against their strong subcontinental rivals. The Lankans have always been a hard nut to crack on their home soil and the Tigers have little to cheer considering their forlorn record in the island. But Mushfiqur was optimistic, taking into account their opponent's current strength and the Tigers' good showing in the last home series against the West Indies.

Former Sri Lanka skipper Mahela Jayawardene will miss the series due to injury and the uncertainty over stalwart Kumar Sangakkara gave the Tigers skipper hope of turning the tide when they play two

Tests, three ODIs and a T20I during their month-long trip.

"Without these two players (Sangakkara and Jayawardene) who each have 10,000 runs under their belts, Sri Lanka will not be a full-strength side and you know their bowling attack is also not outstanding. Sri Lanka won only a few Test matches after the exit of Murali (Muttiah Muralidaran) and (Chaminda) Vaas. So, it's a good chance for us to play good cricket there this time," said a confident Mushfiqur while talking to reporters after the national team's practice session at the National Cricket Academy ground yesterday.

The wicketkeeper-batsman said that they will miss the services of their star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan but he has full confidence in

his young brigade. "Shakib's absence is a big loss for us and in no way can you make-



MUSHFIQUR RAHIM

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Jubilant Walton Central Zone players hold the Bangladesh Cricket League trophy after beating BCB North Zone by 31 runs in the final at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Shakib to have calf pop today

SPORTS REPORTER

Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan is set to undergo surgery in a hospital at Sydney today afternoon.

Shakib is going under the knife for the 'exertional compartmental syndrome', which is one of the three problems he was diagnosed with by the board's physicians last month. The syndrome, according to the board's physio, was caused due to an excessive amount of pressure on his right leg. The operation will sideline the all-rounder for six weeks.

In order to correct the other two problems—Tenoperi-ostitis and Stress Reaction—Shakib will have to go through measures such as physiotherapy, rehabilitation and biomechanical correction.

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Marshall, Sunny get late call-ups

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

In an unexpected turn of events, batsman Marshall Ayub and left-arm spinner Sunny were included in the Sri Lanka-bound Test squad as Naeem Islam and Enamul Haque Jr were ruled out of the two-match Test series due to injury. A day after the announcement of the 15-member squad the national selectors had to sit again yesterday to decide upon the replacements of the two injured players.

The injuries were detected during yesterday's practice session but it was during the recently concluded Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) where these players actually sustained the injuries. Chief selector Akram Khan told reporters at Mirpur yesterday that the players carried the injuries from the BPL. He was also concerned about the possibility of more injuries.

"Enamul (Haque) complained this

morning of left hamstring pain. After assessment it was found that he has a grade 1+ hamstring tear. This will see him receiving physiotherapy and rehabilitation for about seven to 10 days. Naeem has a grade 2 quadriceps tear on his right leg. He experienced pain and weakness upon testing. He will need to have physiotherapy and rehabilitation for at least two to three weeks," national team physio Vibhav Singh informed.

The news came as a shock for Akram. "It's really unfortunate. They actually played the BPL matches with these injuries and did not take due care. We have to be sincere. It is difficult for the physicians if the player himself is not conscientious or hides his injury," said disappointed Akram.

The former national skipper also said that they picked the best available players as replacements.

"You know we had a bit of a tussle between Mominul and Marshall Ayub

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Jahurul faces BCB ire

SPORTS REPORTER

National batsman, Jahurul Islam, will face disciplinary action for playing the Clemon Indoor University Cricket Tournament, without taking the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) permission, informed Jalal Yunus, Chairman of BCB media committee yesterday.

Jahurul is one of the cricketers under the central contract system of the BCB, contracted in Grade C, and thereby subject to the code of conduct of the game's governing body. The batsman had represented Dhaka University in a second-round match of the ongoing tournament on Sunday. He captained the BCB North Zone in the finals of the Bangladesh Cricket League in the same day, the third day of which began at 1 pm.

Title goes Central

SPORTS REPORTER

The only consolation for a brilliant performance by Sanjamul Islam was a shared man-of-the-match award with Rokibul Hasan as his side, BCB North Zone, fell to 31-run defeat against Walton Central Zone at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

With the win, Walton Central Zone wrote their names into the history book by virtue of being the first team to clinch the inaugural edition of the Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL).

The five-day battle ended inside four days when North Zone were bundled out

for 219 after resuming the day at 129 for five to suffer the 31-run defeat in the final fifteen minutes after the break of the first session of the fourth day's play.

Requiring 122 on the fourth day to chase down the winning target of 251, their two overnight batsmen Jahurul Islam and Sanjamul Islam threatened their opponents but left-arm spinner Elias Sunny turned the tide in their favour removing Sanjamul, who captured eleven wickets in the match, for a 99-ball 61 that contained nine fours and a six.

The breaking of the 106-run sixth wicket stand saw North Zone lose wickets at regular intervals and captain Jahurul was the last batsman dismissed for 81 off 133 balls.

The final of the newly-designed franchise-based second first-class competition in the country saw a double debut as the match marked the first time that a day-night first-class match was played in Bangladesh, and also the first time that a pink cricket ball was used in the country.

"It's really a fantastic moment as we became champions in the inaugural edition of the tournament. Playing day-night longer-version matches for the first time and with a pink ball was a new experience for everybody and we are excited that we could put our name in history by clinching

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SCORES IN BRIEF

CENTRAL ZONE: First innings 277 and Second innings 247.

NORTH ZONE: First innings 274 and Second innings 219 all out in 65.1 overs (Nasir 19, Jahurul 81, Sanjamul 61, extras 2; Mosharraf 3-62, Sunny 3-26, Ashraf 2-52)

Result: Walton Central Zone won by 31 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Sanjamul Islam & Rokibul Hasan.

Man-of-the-tournament: Marshall



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh footballers spend a light moment at the BFF House prior to their departure to Nepal yesterday for the AFC Challenge Cup Qualifiers.

Booters reach Nepal

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national football team reached Nepal capital Kathmandu yesterday, five days before their campaign in the AFC Challenge Cup Qualifiers begins, in a bid to acclimatise to the conditions in the mountainous nation.

The qualifiers will be held in March 2-6 and the top team from the four-team group will qualify for the 2014 final round.

The players checked in at the Grand Hotel in Kathmandu and later had a 30-minute stretching session. The booters will have their first practice session at the Regional Training Centre pitch this morning, according to a message from the BFF. Northern Mariana

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Bangladesh Games from April 20-28

SPORTS REPORTER

The 8th Bangladesh Games will take place from April 20-28 at 14 venues in the capital with the participation of 10,000 athletes, officials, organisers and support staffs. The largest sporting extravaganza of the country will be held after a gap of 11 years as the last edition was held back in 2002.

To make the Bangladesh Games a success, the Organising Committee, headed by finance minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, held its first meeting at the NSC Tower conference room yesterday.

"We put one step forward to make the Bangladesh Games a success by forming 14 sub committees and they have been already assigned their tasks. It is a positive sign in sports that we are going to hold the Bangladesh Games after a long period. I believe we will be able to complete it successfully," said Bangladesh Olympic Association's (BOA) secretary general Syed Shahed Reza after the meeting.

However, there are allegations from different disciplines that the participating athletes would get little time to prepare themselves before the Games and there is very little possibility of finding promising youngsters from the Games as there will be no qualification round at the district level.

"We have not imposed the Bangladesh Games on the

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Fans, young booters fight

SPORTS REPORTER

A football match of the U-16 Football Tournament between Mohammedan and Abahani yesterday brought back memories of infamous footballing clashes of the eighties and nineties.

The incident started when the young booters of Abahani got into an altercation with the referee for awarding a goal against them. The Abahani players assaulted the referee which forced him stop the game.

The aggrieved players were appeased and the match started ten minutes later, but the Sky Blues faithful could not be convinced as they stormed into the pitch and tore up the net, the corner flag and threw chairs into the

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