



The construction work of the proposed venue for the 2014 ICC T20 Women's World Cup in Cox's Bazar got a real shot in the arm after the Engineering Corps of Bangladesh Army got involved from Monday. The picture taken on Thursday shows the pitch is taking shape to be ready in time for an August inspection.

PHOTO: STAR

## Fahad youngest FIDE Master

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammad Fahad Rahman was officially recognised as a FIDE Master by the game's governing body yesterday after he emerged champion in the 14th ASEAN Age-Group (U-10) Chess Championship held in Thailand last month to become the country's youngest FIDE Master.

"My ultimate target is to become a Grand Master and I just entered the first stage of that target," said an ecstatic Fahad, the country's 13th FIDE Master, over the phone yesterday. "I believe it (becoming FIDE Master) will encourage me to achieve my target."

The 10-year-old Fahad started to play chess through a tournament organised by Bangladesh Shishu Academy but he drew attention two years later when he became an age group champion of the National School Chess Tournament organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation in 2009. His star kept rising as he lifted the title of the National Sub-Junior Chess Champions in 2011.

Having shrugged off the failure in the Asian Youth Chess Championship in Sri Lanka last year, Fahad became champion in a foreign meet for the first time by winning the U-10 age-group title in the Asian School Chess Tournament in Kolkata last November and he finally earned the coveted title of FIDE Master through his outstanding performance in Chiangmai, Thailand in June.

"I want to go step by step to achieve my ultimate goal, which is why I need to play Grand Master tournaments as much as I can," said Fahad. "I hope the federation and private companies will help me to take part in tournaments inside and outside of the country."



## De Kruif wants keeping coach

SPORTS REPORTER

Dutch coach Lodewijk de Kruif has asked the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) to provide him a specialist foreign goalkeeping trainer as soon as possible.

After the national team's practice match against Team BJMC on Wednesday, de Kruif placed his demand to BFF president Kazi Salahuddin, who agreed in principle to provide a foreign goalkeeping coach, but the poor financial condition of the game's governing body means Salahuddin will be hard-pressed to meet de Kruif's demand immediately.

"Our goalkeepers have zero technique and I need a coach who has the sound knowledge of technique," Salahuddin quoted de Kruif as saying.

"I think de Kruif should get a goalkeeping coach but at the moment I can't say anything. Today (Thursday) I came to the federation to discuss the matter with others but no one has arrived yet," said Salahuddin at his office yesterday afternoon.

Presently local coach Zahidul Islam Milon has been working as goalkeeping coach.

## German-based Reasat arrives

SPORTS REPORTER



German-based footballer Reasat Khaton arrived in the capital yesterday for a trial for a place in the Bangladesh national football team with Dutch coach Lodewijk de Kruif looking for Bangladeshi expatriate booters to boost his squad for the SAFF

Championship to be held in Nepal in September.

Reasat, who was kept in the 35-member preliminary squad, is the fourth expatriate booter for the national camp with two - Australian-based Anando Rahman and US-based Farhan Khan - already pulling out of the camp. Denmark-based Jamal Bhuiyan meanwhile has seemingly prevailed despite the number of booters being reduced to 26.

He was supposed to participate in the camp earlier, but some problems prohibited him from doing so. "The coach knew I had some problems. I had professional contracts with the club (Cloppenburg). I informed the coach, and he said that it was not a problem," Reasat said, explaining his delay.

Explaining his desire to play for the national team, Reasat said, "I knew Bangladesh football from my father. I even know some national players from Afghanistan who play in Germany. They (Afghan players) played against Bangladesh and told me that Bangladeshi players have good techniques and are fast."

"I hope I can help the team, that's all I can say. From now, I will stay for two weeks and afterwards maybe I stay for longer or return to Germany," said the 23-year old Reasat, whose favourite position is the left and central midfield.

Reasat informed that he was out of action for the last year and a half following an injury he sustained while playing for Cloppenburg but having recovered from his injury two months ago, is now fit to play.

The midfielder has played 20-odd matches for the U-23 side of Hessen Kassel before playing for SC Freiburg.

Reasat left Bangladesh at the age of five along with his family, which now lives in Germany.

# League in early September: Papon

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon has said that the board will not comply with the Dhaka Premier League Clubs Committee's demand of hosting the players' transfer of the competition in September and the league later that month.

The league, which has already been delayed a number of times this year, was scheduled to begin on August 29 and have its players' transfer on July 25. The president however stated that the board will announce fresh dates for both events this week.

"We have to start the league in the first week of September because New Zealand is touring Bangladesh in October and the national players won't be available that month. We have an aim of hosting the super league (second round of the tournament) in November," he said.

"The players' transfer will have to take place within August. I will sit with the board tomorrow and announce the dates this week," he added.

Explaining the reason behind yet another delay, he said: "The players' transfer is going to take place in a new format this time - the gradation system. The system and the bylaws were sent to the clubs recently and they have a number of questions regarding the system which we need to talk about. That will be done within a week's time."

He also stated that if the league does indeed take place in September then it would be hosted outside Dhaka with Bogra,

Rajshahi and Khulna being the likely venues. The president who visited the stadium at Fatullah, an alternate venue for the Twenty20 World Cup next year, also stated that at this point of time preparing the country for the world event was his top priority. "That's more important than the Dhaka Premier League as of now," he said. "While the stadium is up to international standards, the ICC asked us to modify the dressing rooms, build a two-storey building which will include a box for the ICC and build dressing rooms for the practice ground as well. Most of the work is done I am not worried about the venue."

He was however, concerned about the situation of the outer ground of the venue which was waterlogged due to the recent rainfall. "Because of the lack of a proper drainage system the practice ground outside the stadium was two feet under water for a while. To solve the solution the drainage system needs to be developed and I have spoken to the concerned authorities about it," he said.

Meanwhile Papon also told reporters that he was hopeful that the board's elections would take place in a month's time. "I am hopeful that the legal issues can be solved and the elections can take place within a month's time," said Papon.

Regarding the ICC's Anti Corruption and Security Unit's latest visit Papon stated that they had come to interview Mohammad Rafique and certain other members of the Bangladesh Premier League's franchises. "I did not have any meeting scheduled with ACSU's officials this time," he said.

## Women's club cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Gulshan Youth Club defeated Khelaghar Somaj Kallyan Samity by 47 runs in the Women's Club Cricket Tournament at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday. Batting first Gulshan rode on Shohely Akhter's 36 to score 145 in 38.4 overs. In reply Kallyan Samity were bundled out for 98 in 28.5 overs. Samity's Ritu Moni was the pick of the players in the match as she scored 34 runs and finished with figures of 3 for 19. In the day's other game Rising Girls Cricket Academy beat Dipali Jubo Shongho by seven wickets at the City Club Ground yesterday. Dipali were restricted to 137 for 9 in 40 overs. In reply the Cricket Academy reached the target in 37.2 overs.

## Third WI-Pak ODI today

INTERNET, St Lucia



West Indies after getting thrashed in the first one-dayer bounced back well in the second game to level the five-match series 1-1 against Pakistan. Both the teams now travel to St. Lucia for the remainder of the fixtures.

West Indies' 37-run victory in the second ODI will give them lot of confidence going into Friday's third match. Pakistan's batting has been slow and their batsmen tend to lose momentum in the middle overs. Moreover, they leave much of work for the final overs.

The top order needs to fire and keep in mind the scoring rate as in the first two matches the workload has been on the middle-order. Coming to bowling, Pakistan have looked consistent and need to improve on their death over bowling. The form of Wahab Riaz is a bit of concern as the left-arm pacer has gone wicketless in the last games. Asad Ali played in the last match and conceded lot of runs but still then the visitors bowling looks balanced.

West Indies also have batting woes to address as the top order has been inconsistent and it is the middle-order coming to the rescue. Darren Bravo in the second one-dayer anchored the West Indies along with brother Dwayne Bravo but the form of Chris Gayle is a matter of concern.

## SL cricketer's antics above 35,000 feet!

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan cricket chiefs on Thursday handed down a fine of nearly 2,000 dollars to a batsman who tried to force open a cabin door of a British Airways flight at 35,000 feet.

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said Ramith Rambukwella had been fined 50 per cent of his tour fees after a disciplinary inquiry into the incident on a Boeing 777 from St. Lucia to London at the end of an A tour to the West Indies.

SLC said the player had also received a "severe warning on his behaviour" for causing panic onboard the aircraft which was carrying 229 passengers nearly three weeks ago.

The batsman was seen by other passengers pushing and pulling the door on the plane while apparently searching for the toilet, about two hours out of London's Gatwick airport, according to British media reports.

Although British Airways said at the time that "the event was linked to an element of alcohol", Rambukwella has insisted that he was merely sleep-walking.

## Bell's Ashes treble

AFP, London



Ian Bell's third hundred in successive Ashes matches saw England fight back against Australia in the second Test at Lord's on Thursday.

Ashes-holders England were 289 for seven at stumps on the first day, having been in dire straits at 28 for three when Bell came in.

Yet just when it seemed England had regained control, part-time leg-spinner Steven Smith took three wickets for 18 runs in six overs late in the day.

Tim Bresnan was seven not out and nightwatchman James Anderson four not out at the close.

Bell's 109 was the same score as he made in the second innings of England's 14-run first Test win at Trent Bridge last week, with both these centuries following his 115 in the final match of the 2010-11 Ashes in Sydney.

The 31-year-old was the fourth Englishman to score centuries in three consecutive Ashes Tests after Jack Hobbs, who did it twice, in 1911-12 and 1924-25, Walter Hammond in 1928-29 and Chris Broad, whose son Stuart was in England's side Thursday, in 1986-87.

Bell, together with Warwickshire colleague Jonathan Trott (58) and Jonny Bairstow (67), shared

partnerships of 99 and 144.

Yet England's grip was loosened when Smith dismissed Bell, Bairstow and Matt Prior.

After the teams were presented before play to Queen Elizabeth II, monarch of both Britain and Australia, it was the tourists who bossed the early exchanges.

England were soon three wickets down with skipper Alastair Cook, opening partner Joe Root and dangerman Kevin Pietersen all out cheaply.

Shane Watson got the ball rolling for Australia when he brought one back into Cook's pads to have the left-hander lbw for 12.

Ryan Harris, recalled after Australia dropped the wayward Mitchell Starc, then took two wickets in an over.

The 33-year-old, playing just the 13th Test of his injury-ravaged career and first in more than a year, had Root lbw in his third over.

Four balls later, Harris shaped a delivery up the slope which Pietersen, on two, nicked to wicketkeeper Brad Haddin.

Often criticised for slow scoring, the fluent Trott had scored 11 fours when he top-edged a pull off a Harris short-ball to give Usman Khawaja a simple catch at deep square leg.

Bairstow, on 21, was bowled by Peter Siddle but was told to wait as Dharmasena asked Hill to check for what turned out to be the slightest of no-balls.

### SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND: First innings				
Cook lbw b Watson	12			
Root lbw b Harris	6			
Trott c Khawaja b Harris	58			
Pietersen c Haddin b Harris	2			
Bell c Clarke b Smith	109			
Bairstow c and b Smith	67			
Prior c Haddin b Smith	6			
Bresnan not out	7			
Anderson not out	4			
Extras: (lb-11, w-3, nb-4)	18			
Total: (For 7 wickets in 89 overs)	289			
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-26, 3-28, 4-127, 5-271, 6-274, 7-283				
To bat: Broad, Swann				
Bowler				
Pattinson	18	3	79	0
Harris	20	6	43	3
Watson	12	4	41	1
Siddle	20	6	53	0
Agar	13	2	44	0
Smith	6	1	18	3
AUSTRALIA: Watson, Rogers, Khawaja, Hughes, Clarke, Smith, Haddin, Agar, Siddle, Pattinson, Harris.				
Toss: England.				



PHOTO: REUTERS

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II meets with England's Steven Finn and captain Alastair Cook (R) before the second Ashes Test against Australia at Lord's yesterday.

## Team BJMC fly to Bhutan today

SPORTS REPORTER

Team BJMC leaves here today for Bhutan to take part in the Kings Cup with hopes of playing the final of the nine-club tournament but they have left behind coach Jakaria Babu and goalkeeper Aminul Haque.

"It is the first time that BJMC, a government organisation, is going outside the country to play a football tournament. Our target is to reach the semifinals first and then think of the final," said captain Amit Khan Shuvro at a press conference yesterday.

About the absence of coach Babu and Aminul, director of BJMC Arif Khan Joy said, "The coach is sick and not able to walk. The assistant coach will act as head coach. Aminul is not in our plans next season, so we are thinking of existing goalkeeper Himel instead of Aminul."

Team BJMC will start their campaign taking on Thimphu City FC on July 23 after another Bangladesh side, Arambagh KS, play the opening match of the nine-club tournament against Yeedzin FC tomorrow.