

## Khulna keep Dhaka winless

SPORTS REPORTER

A clinical performance from the bowlers helped Gemcon Khulna return to winning ways in the Bangabandhu T20 Cup as they managed to defend 147 runs against Beximco Dhaka to clinch a 37-run win in yesterday's second match in Mirpur.

Dhaka were bowled out for 109 to suffer their third defeat in three matches while Khulna notched their second win in four games.

After losing few early wickets, skipper Mushfiqur Rahim and Yasir Ali added 64 for the fourth wicket and it seemed that Dhaka might be able to make a comeback before the latter



Gemcon Khulna's Shuvagata Hom celebrates the wicket of Beximco Dhaka captain Mushfiqur Rahim during yesterday's second match of the Bangabandhu T20 Cup at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**Khulna:** 146 for 8 in 20 overs  
(Mahmudullah 45, Kayes 29; Rubel 3-28)

**Dhaka:** 109 all out in 19.2 overs  
(Mushfiqur 37, Yasir 21; Shuvagata 3-13)

**Result:** Khulna won by 37 runs

departed for 21. Mushfiqur soon followed for 37 and Dhaka failed to recover from those blows. Shuvagata Hom picked up three wickets while pacers Hasan Mahmud and Shahidul Islam bagged two wickets each for Khulna. Shakib Al Hasan remained picked up a wicket and remained economical, giving away just eight runs from his four overs.

Earlier, Khulna top order again failed to provide a stable start, with Shakib failing to make an impact yet again. The left-hander departed for 11. Skipper Mahmudullah's 45-run knock was what helped Khulna post 146 for eight, which eventually proved too much for Dhaka.

SPORTS REPORTER



Gazi Group Chattogram continued their brilliant run in the ongoing Bangabandhu T20 Cup and registered their third consecutive win, this time beating Fortune Barishal by 10 runs in yesterday's first fixture at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

It was once again their bowlers who kept their unbeaten run intact. The left-arm pace duo of national star Mustafizur Rahman and Under-19 World Cup winner Shoriful Islam bagged a combined six wickets to restrict Barishal to 141 for eight while defending 151 runs.

With three wins in as many games, Chattogram are on top of the points table while Barishal faced their second defeat in three games.

Player-of-the-match Shoriful was instrumental with the new ball, removing Mehedi Hasan Miraz with a return catch from a short ball in the fourth over. He

went on to pick two more wickets to end up with figures of three for 27 from his four overs.

Barishal skipper Tamim Iqbal, who hit a match-winning 70 in the previous game, was once again the key player with the bat but since his departure after a team-high run-a-ball 32, the side lost its way.

Chattogram skipper Mohammad Mithun used his trump card Mustafizur pretty well as he kept three of the pacer's overs for the latter stages after he bowled the ninth over and dismissed Parvez Hossain Emon.

The left-arm seamer repaid the captain's faith and picked two more wickets when Barishal needed to accelerate. Mustafizur removed Irfan Shukur in the 16th over and Mahidul Islam in the 18th, seriously hampering Barishal's momentum.

Having picked up four wickets in their previous match, Mustafizur once again used his famed cutters to good effect and finished with three for 23 from four overs.

Earlier, Chattogram were asked to bat for the first time in the tournament and



It seems as if Fortune Barishal captain Tamim Iqbal jokingly tried to punish Mustafizur Rahman, who was instrumental in Chattogram's 10-run win yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**CHATTAGRAM:** 151 for 7 in 20 overs (Liton 35, Mosaddek 28, Shykat 27; Jayed 2-42)

**BARISHAL:** 141 for 8 in 20 overs (Tamim 32, Afif 24; Shoriful 3-27, Mustafizur 3-23)

**Result:** Chattogram won by 10 runs

wickets for 32 runs in 41 balls. However, Barishal managed to post a fighting total in the end courtesy of Mosaddek Hossain's 24-ball 28 and Shykat Ali's blitz of 27 off just 11 balls, which included one four and three maximums.



Fitness trainer Ivan Razlog leads members of the Bangladesh football team during a training session at the Al Aziziyah Boutique ground in Doha yesterday. The Bangladesh team will take on hosts Qatar in a World Cup qualifying fixture on December 4.

PHOTO: BFF

## Real, Liverpool look to confirm last-16 spots

AGENCIES



Real Madrid will be aiming to book their spot in the last-16 stage of the Champions League when they take on Shakhtar Donetsk tonight.

Zinedine Zidane's side are currently second in Group B, three points clear of third-placed Shakhtar, meaning that a victory would see them advance to the knockout round of the competition.

Madrid, meanwhile, will enter Tuesday's match off the back of a shock home defeat by Alaves in La Liga. Zidane's side only picked up one point from their first two group games against Shakhtar and Gladbach but then managed to record back-to-back victories over Inter, including an impressive 2-0 success at San Siro.

As mentioned, a win on Tuesday would see Madrid advance to the last-16 stage of the Champions League and then potentially battle Gladbach for first position on December 9.

Los Blancos have actually lost in the round of 16 in the last two seasons and will be desperate to advance deep into the competition this term but inconsistency has been a real problem in 2020-21.

Meanwhile, Liverpool are hungry to bounce back while Atlético Madrid and Real Madrid can both avenge humiliating defeats as Matchday 5 begins.

Liverpool was less than impressed when

the Reds suffered their first group stage home defeat since 2014 on Matchday 4, describing the hosts' attack in their 2-0 loss to Atalanta as "alarmingly insipid - tired, weak and bang out of ideas". Jürgen Klopp's side still top Group D, yet the pressure is on as they welcome a revitalised Ajax. Klopp's team will qualify for the last 16 if they avoid defeat against their Dutch visitors.

Bayern Munich's record-breaking winning streak now stretches to 16 games, but with a round of 16 place and top spot now secure, will that run finally end in Madrid? Atletico lost 4-0 in Munich on Matchday 1, but if that result flattered Hansi Flick's team, Diego Simeone's men have not sparkled so brightly since.

Group C has divided quite sharply between the haves and the have-nots; Manchester City are through with 12 points, but while Porto currently sit pretty with nine, defeat at home to Josep Guardiola's side could yet give Olympiacos a chance to deny them a round of 16 berth on Matchday 6.

Winners of the first edition of the UEFA Champions League, Marseille have left their mark on the tournament's history in less heroic fashion of late, their 2-0 home reversal against Porto making it a record 13 straight group stage defeats. "The club will still be mocked for this run in several years' time," wrote local paper La Provence. Boss André Villas-Boas must now rally his troops as they welcome Olympiacos.

## Premier basketball sans giants

SPORTS REPORTER



After a two-year hiatus, the Premier Division Basketball League gets underway at the Dhanmondi Wooden Floor Stadium today without six teams from the last edition, including two former champions.

The league will feature six teams out of which Josephites and Old DOHS were promoted from the first division league, which concluded two weeks ago.

However, some 100 players will be deprived of participation in the league, which has been named after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to mark his birthday centenary.

The exclusion of the six teams - Gregarious, Gladiators, Flame Boys,

Greggs, Shawons and Eagles -- from the top-flight has caused controversy after Bangladesh Basketball Federation (BBF) allegedly did not respond to the appeal of those six clubs to defer the league due to the increase in coronavirus outbreak.

Now those clubs bear the risk of being relegated to first division as per the bylaws as the federation allegedly included the demotion clause despite promising those clubs verbally not to relegate this time if any club does not want to participate.

"We have been playing basketball for the last 25 years and became champions twice and runners-up three times in the last five editions held over the last 10 years. We wanted to play the league this time too and requested the federation to defer it a bit due to the rise in coronavirus infection, but they did not do so," Gregarious' general secretary Shahadat

Hossain told The Daily Star.

"As basketball is a physical contact game, there is every chance of spreading the virus in case anyone gets infected during the league. Besides, it is also a bit of a problem to get players from schools, colleges and universities which are also now closed."

Flame Boys' general secretary Sayeed Ahmed said, "They are incompetent organisers, who don't want progress of basketball. They are holding a farcical league with six teams. Federation never provided any financial assistance to us; instead we invest a lot of money in basketball regularly."

BBF's executive committee member and defending champions Hornets' general secretary Ranjit Chandra Das said, "Those six clubs are not taking part in the league due to their inability to form squads, but they are using coronavirus as an excuse."

## Cavani no longer looks like a 'panic buy'



REUTERS, MANCHESTER

When Edinson Cavani joined Manchester United on transfer deadline day in October it was widely described as a "panic signing" with the 33-year-old's arrival viewed as a desperate deal by a club who had failed to get their main targets.

But after his outstanding performance at Southampton, coming on at the break to create one goal and score two, including the late winner in a 3-2 comeback, the Uruguayan looks far from the washed-up player some suspected he might be.

His goals were superbly taken, his movement in the box won plaudits from his manager Ole Solksjaer and many observers and, even though it had only been 45 minutes, he looked far from a player past his sell-by date. "For me, he's one of those strikers that can smell the goal, as you saw twice," said United midfielder Bruno Fernandes. The question marks over Cavani were certainly justified though.

Now Cavani must hope an FA investigation into his deleted social media post, which included a word with racial connotations, does not result in the Uruguayan being forced back to the sidelines.



PHOTO: TWITTER

## ETERNAL DIEGO

(Clockwise from L) The footballing world, still reeling from the loss of Diego Maradona, continued paying homage to the Argentine legend. The cover picture of Spanish sports daily Marca yesterday portrayed Lionel Messi's tribute to his icon. Messi, like Maradona, has played for both Barcelona and Newell's Old Boys. The current Barcelona skipper removed his shirt to reveal the red and black of the Rosario club before pointing to the sky, dedicating his goal against Osasuna in a La Liga encounter on Sunday. Meanwhile, Napoli captain Lorenzo Insigne, following his side's 4-0 win over AS Roma, laid a floral wreath in front of a poster of Maradona at the Stadio San Paolo, which is all but set to be renamed as Diego Armando Maradona Stadium. The most emotional tribute of all, though, came in the game between Boca Juniors and Newell's Old Boys in the Copa Diego Maradona 2020 championship -- the Argentine championship renamed after the death of the legend, with Diego's daughter Dalma watching from her father's box under a poster with the words 'Eternal Diego' overhead.