

Bangladesh reach final

BFF XI-2, INDIA U-19-0

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Ariful Kabir Farhad maintained his hundred per cent scoring record as Bangladesh Football Federation XI set up Wednesday's final clash against hosts Myanmar in the Grand Royal Challenge Cup football tournament with a 2-0 defeat of the Indian under-19 team yesterday.

Rokonuzzaman Kanchan opened the account for the SAFF champions after ten minutes while Farhad, who came on for Kanchan, converted an 82nd minute penalty to seal the victory.

Muktijodha forward Kanchan, adjudged man-of-the-match, had also scored in the first match against China. On the other hand, it was the Abahani striker Farhad's fourth goal in three matches after a brace against China in their 3-1 victory and a consolation goal in a 2-1 defeat to Myanmar in the league phase.

The BFF XI finished second with six

points, one adrift of top-of-the-table Myanmar who drew goalless against China in the last match later in the day in Yangon.

The Bangladesh-Myanmar final, which kicks off at Bangladesh time 3.30 pm tomorrow, will reminisce memories of the final between the two national teams in 1995 that went the visitors' way. Led by the late Monem Munna, Bangladesh beat the hosts 2-1 to lift the maiden international football trophy for the nation after losing in the league match.

However, Bangladesh will miss the services of ace playmaker Arman Mia, who received two yellow cards in the tournament.

Bangladesh, preparing for the Asian Cup pre-qualifiers against Pakistan and the SAFF Championship in Pakistan in December under Argentine coach Diego Cruciani, fielded a weak side, making seven changes to the line-ups of their first two games and came close to conceding an early goal. However, the Under-19 Indian side spoiled a fifth minute penalty to lose the initiative.

"The team clearly did not show the same rhythm as we decided to

include seven new faces in the side," told team leaders Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chhunu over phone from the Myanmar capital.

"We made the changes because we wanted to give exposure to as many players as possible in this tournament. However, the young players could not cope with the situation and as soon as we understood that we would need some experienced players, we brought on Joy, Alfaz and Farhad as substitute players," the former national winger added.

Apart from those three experienced campaigners, Bangladesh also rested regulars like goalkeeper Aminul, defender Sujon, mid-fielders Matur Munna and Ujjal.

India ended losing all the games including a massive 11-0 loss to Myanmar U-23s while China U-23, who needed a 3-0 win against the home side in the last match to reach the final in expense of Bangladesh by a better goal difference, ended third with four points.

The BFF XI line-up: Biplab, Hassan Al Mamun, Faisal, Nazrul, Titu, Wali Faisal (Joy), Arman, Abul (Alfaz), Asad, Emily and Kanchan (Farhad).

AFRO-ASIAN MEET Rahim to lead U-19 team

SPORTS REPORTER

Test cricketer Mushfiqur Rahim will lead Bangladesh in the Afro-Asian Under-19 cricket tournament which starts in Vishakhapatnam, India on November 19.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday named a 14-member squad for the tournament also involving India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed has been named manager and Alistair de Winter coach.

Young wicketkeeper Mushfiq has played one Test for the country against England at Lord's last summer.

Bangladesh will play hosts India in one of three matches on the opening day and take on Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Pakistan and South Africa on November 20, 22, 23 and 25 respectively. The final is slated for November 27.

The cricketers have been requested to report to Shahidul Islam Ratan at BKSPon November 10.

SQUAD

Mushfiqur Rahim (captain), Tamim Iqbal, Mehraj Hossain, Mehdi Hassan, Saquib Al Hassan, Nazmus Sadat, Sohravardi Shuvo, Nabil Samad, Marshall Ayub, Humayun Kabir, Aslam Khan, Nazmul Hossain, Milton, Kamrul Islam, Dolbar Mahmud. Officials: Faruque Ahmed (manager), Alistair de Winter (coach), Nazmul Abedin Fahim (assistant coach), Sam Byrne (physio), Mohammed Salahuddin (computer analyst).

Standbys: Rakibul Hassan, Sirajulhah Khandem, Ashiqul Islam, Mazharuddin, Reazul Islam.

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PHOTO: AFP

SMILING ASSASSIN: Indian wicketkeeper batsman Mahendra Singh Dhoni acknowledges the crowd's applause after reaching his hundred in the third one-day international against Sri Lanka on Monday. Dhoni scored an imperious unbeaten 183.

Record-breaking Dhoni toys with Sri Lanka

Cricket

AFP, Jaipur

Mahendra Dhoni slammed a blistering 183 not out as India scored a superb six-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the third one-day international at the Sawai Man Singh Stadium here on Monday.

The swashbuckling batsman set an Indian record of sixes, registered the highest score by a wicketkeeper in one-days and the second-highest by an Indian batsman as his team overhauled Sri Lanka's 298-4 with 23 balls to spare.

Dhoni struck 10 sixes and 16 fours to upstage his counterpart Kumar Sangakkara's career-best 138 not out and helped India to a 3-0 lead in the seven-match series.

The 24-year-old bettered Australian Adam Gilchrist's 172 against Zimbabwe in Hobart in 2002, the previous highest by a gloveman.

Dhoni took four sixes off Upul Chandana and two each off Tillakaratne Dilshan, Chaminda Vaas and Farveez Maharoof to beat the mark of seven sixes by Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly, who did it twice each.

His tally of sixes was just one short of Sri Lankan Sanath Jayasuriya and

Pakistan's Shahid Afridi, who jointly hold the world record of 11 sixes in a match.

Dhoni's score was three adrift of Sachin Tendulkar's Indian record of 186 not out set against New Zealand in Hyderabad six years ago and equalled the second-highest score -- by Sourav Ganguly.

Dhoni went in after the first-over dismissal of Tendulkar for two. He chased and edged a ball outside the off stump from Vaas after scores of 93 and 70 not out in the first two matches.

India raced to 148-2 in just 20 overs but Dhoni was in no mood to let up, dominating crucial stands of 92 with big hitting opener Virender Sehwag (39) and 86 for the third wicket with captain Rahul Dravid (28).

"I had been told to go for my shots while being careful against (Muttiah) Muralitharan," said Dhoni. "It was really tiring because I had kept wicket for 50 overs before batting through the innings."

Dhoni, who suffered a bout of cramp and took Sehwag as a runner on 128, lofted the ball frequently on the off side. He took two early sixes off Vaas over the cover boundary and sealed the win by dispatching Dilshan over mid-wicket.

"My idea was to be there at the end

of the innings and get the winning runs," said Dhoni. "Gilchrist's record was at the back of my mind though I never thought of going for a double century."

Earlier, Sangakkara slammed 13 boundaries and two sixes during his 147-ball knock to improve on his previous best of 103 not out against Kenya at Sharjah in 2003.

The 28-year-old stylish left-hander was involved in a brisk 151-run stand for the third wicket with Mahela Jayawardene (71) after the dismissals of opener Jayasuriya (15) and captain Marvan Atapattu (17).

Selecting to bat, Sri Lanka got off to a sedate start as Jayasuriya played on to a delivery from seamer Ajit Agarkar and Atapattu struggled for 49 deliveries before edging one to wicketkeeper Dhoni off Jai Prakash Yadav.

The visiting side could not take advantage of the power play overs as they managed just 77 in the mandatory 20 overs with field restrictions which were taken by India on the trot.

But Jayawardene, who is returning home to get married on Wednesday before joining the team again during the seven-match series, came on to play the supporting role well.

The next match will be in the western city of Pune on Thursday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third one-day international between India and Sri Lanka at the Sawai Man Singh Stadium in Jaipur on Monday:

SRI LANKA

Sangakkara not out	138
Jayasuriya b Agarkar	15
Atapattu c Dhoni b Yadav	17
Jayawardene c Sehwag b Agarkar	71
Dilshan lbw b Sehwag	3
Maharoof not out	33
Extras: (lb-5, nb-4, w-12)	21
Total: (For 4 wickets in 50 overs)	298
Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-77, 3-228, 4-240	
Did not bat: Samaraweera, Arnold, Vaas, Fernando, Muralitharan	

Substitute: Chandana for Samaraweera

Bowler

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pathan	10	0	67	0
Agarkar	10	1	62	2
Yadav	9	0	53	1
Harbhajan	10	0	30	0
Kartik	6	0	42	0
Sehwag	4	0	29	1
Tendulkar	1	0	10	0

INDIA

Sehwag lbw b Muralitharan	39
Tendulkar c Sangakkara b Vaas	2
Dhoni not out	183
Dravid c and b Muralitharan	28

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Did U Know?

Sri Lanka have now lost five successive ODIs against India in India since March 22, 1999 (two in the Pepsi Cup in 1999 followed by three in the current series in 2005).



Duncan Fletcher

(England cricket coach)

"To be honest, the Ashes cannot be out of the England team's scheme and at the end of the day if you win the Ashes it gives you confidence. But what we don't want is over-confidence and complacency."

While urging his charges not to sit on their recent Ashes success but to focus on the tour of Pakistan ahead of his team's opening three-day match.



ESPN

- Football Focus
Live at 5:00 pm
- Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm
- UEFA Champions League
Betis vs Chelsea
- Live at 1:30 am (Wednesday)
- Eindhoven vs AC Milan
Same Day Delay at 4:00 am (Wednesday)
- STAR Sports
UEFA Champions League
Liverpool vs Anderlecht
Live at 1:30 am (Wednesday)

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Dear Readers

As The Daily Star approaches its 15th anniversary, the Star Sport team would like to know your feedback on how to make the pages more attractive. So, for the next two weeks send us your suggestions, comments and even criticisms within 200-250 words to sports@thedailystar.net. We intend to publish them and wish your valuable views will enrich your favourite pages. The last date for submission of your comments is November 15.

--Sports Editor

PRIMERA LIGA

Barca run riot

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Osasuna returned to the top of the Primera Liga with a 2-0 home win over Espanyol on Sunday while the inspirational Ronaldinho helped to push champions Barcelona up to second after a 5-0 rout of Real Sociedad.

Brazilian playmaker Ronaldinho scored twice after setting up Dutch midfielder Mark van Bommel for the opening goal.

Carles Puyol and Swedish striker Henrik Larsson were also on target at the Nou Camp. Sociedad had striker Gari Uranga sent off after 69 minutes.

Barca coach Frank Rijkaard did not want to single out any one player for praise.

"The best thing at the moment is the team spirit," Rijkaard told reporters. "I want to congratulate the players

for their attitude and the way different players are making the most of their opportunities.

"It is our consistency that is making the difference."

Osasuna lead with 21 points, two clear of Barcelona and three ahead of Real Madrid who beat Real Betis 2-0 on Saturday.

Espanyol's Cameroon keeper Carlos Kameni had a game to forget and was at fault for both Osasuna goals.

After 29 minutes, David Lopez's cross-cum-shot from the right flank seemed to be covered when Kameni caught it under the bar.

But the linesman flagged for a goal after Kameni's momentum appeared to carry him and the ball over the line.

Kameni then air-kicked a harmless ball in his area after 71 minutes, allowing Pierre Webo to collect and square for Inaki Munoz to score.

Fourth-placed Getafe lost 1-0 at Deportivo Coruna, Diego Tristan netting after 25 minutes.

Getafe are level with Celta Vigo on 17 points but have a superior goal difference.

Celta drew 1-1 at bottom club Athletic Bilbao on Saturday.

Villarreal, Sevilla, Deportivo Coruna, Valencia and Real Sociedad have 16 points.

Ronaldinho picked out van Bommel's late run to the edge of the area after 18 minutes and the

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PHOTO: AFP

ANOTHER MASTER ACT: Barcelona's Brazilian star Ronaldinho celebrates his second goal, a low free-kick past the Real Sociedad wall, at the Camp Nou on Sunday.

BKSP lift Nehru Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Pratisthan (BKSP) Under-17s lifted the Nehru Cup U-17 Hockey tournament beating Jalandhar's Alipur Khalsa in tiebreaker in New Delhi on Monday.

The regulation period of the final ended in a goalless draw and the game rolled into sudden death after the regulation shootout ended 4-4. In sudden death, BKSP won 5-4 with Turjo converting the match winner from the spot.

Archers off to Delhi

SPORTS REPORTER

A 12-member Bangladesh Archery team left Dhaka on Monday to take part in the 14th Asian Archery Championship that starts in New Delhi on November 4.

Bangladesh, which have four male and four female archers in the squad, will compete in men's and women's compound and re-curve events.

TEAM

Noore Alam, Alamgir Hossain, Sajjad Hossain, Sanwar Hossain Fakir, Nasreen Khanam Happy, Omi Chakma, Rina Chakma and Srabani Chakma.

A total of 22 countries are expected to participate in the eight-day meet.