

Football takes a young life

SPORTS REPORTER

Omar Sharif will not kick a football any more. The youngster from Narayanganj, whose dream was to grow up as a mature footballer, died of brain haemorrhage in the early hours on Tuesday at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

Omar, who represented Barisal DSA, picked a head injury during an aerial challenge in their JFA Cup Under-15 Football Championship qualifying match against the hosts on Sunday at Sharatpur. After a little pitch-side nursing including watering his head and a drink, he resumed the game.

After 15-20 minutes, the 15-year-old who was to sit for the coming SSC examinations, fell and began vomiting once the referee put him outside the pitch, according to his cousin Sunny.

He lost sense on way to the local hospital but the doctors there referred him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was taken on the same night. As his condition got critical, Omar was transferred to the BSMMU where he underwent a surgery.

Although the doctors claimed that it had been a successful operation, Omar breathed his last around 2.30 in the morning.

"When we took him to the Dhaka Medical, the doctors said that there was no treatment for him there. They suggested that we take him to a private hospital after doing CT Scans," Sunny told The Daily Star over phone.

"We did the tests at Popular (Diagnostic Centre) and took him to the PG (BSMMU) where the doctors immediately arranged a surgery. The doctors were hopeful about him although he did not regain sense. Early in the morning, they declare him dead," Sunny added.

Omar's father used to hawk fruits in the streets but has gone jobless after recent drives against street hawkers. Omar, who played at under-13 and -14 levels, also left

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Did U Know?

Kumar Sangakkara of Sri Lanka scored 10 runs in the second one-day international against India at the Madhavrao Scindia Cricket Ground in Rajkot on February 11. It was his sixth century, second against India.



TALK TURKEY

Rao Iftikhar Anjum, one of several back-up seamers called to South Africa during Pakistan's troubled tour, looks set to get the call-up into the starting eleven for the final one-day international at the Wanderers on Wednesday.

Inzamamul Haq, the Pakistan captain, hinted on the eve of the game at "two or three changes" to their side for a match they must win to level the series 2-2, one game having been washed out by rain. While he wasn't entirely forthcoming on some of the other changes, he was pretty direct when it came to the inclusion of Anjum, the 26-year-old swing bowler from Islamabad.

"Rao Iftikhar will definitely be given a chance, in the last year he has bowled very well," Inzamam said ahead of the team's final practice session. Rao Iftikhar could come in for Mohammad Asif, who is suffering from an elbow problem and should be rested lest he tear a ligament there ahead of a World Cup in which he will be a key bowler for Pakistan. That could mean a reprieve for Navedul Hasan. He has had a torrid time in the series but he will play unless Mohammad Sami recovers from his back strain.

Kamran Akmal is another player who has had a miserable series opening the batting, and he could be moved down the order with Imran Nazir and Shoaib Malik opening the batting. While Inzamam was talking about "hard work", "seeing and learning from

What to WATCH

NEO Sports
India v Sri Lanka
Third ODI
Live at 10:00 am

ESPN

Sportscenter India
Live at 9:30 pm
FA Cup

Bolton Wanderers v Arsenal
Live at 2:00 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports
South Africa v Pakistan
Fifth ODI
Live at 6:30 pm

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WORLD CUP TIGERS



SHAHIDUL BASHAR SHAHRIAR NAFEEZ AHMED TAMIM IQBAL KHAN AFTAB AHMED SHAKIB AL HASAN
MOHAMMAD ASHRAFUL MUSHFIQUR RAHIM MOHAMMED RAFIQUE ABDUR RAZZAK MASHRAFE BIN MORTAZA
SHAHADAT HOSSAIN TAPASH BAISHYA SYED RASEL RAJIN SALEH JAVED OMER

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