

PM may watch Super Cup final

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to watch the country's biggest-ever crore-taka Citycell Super Cup football final next Friday as the chief guest at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

A high-level delegation of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), led by its president and legendary footballer Kazi Salahuddin, called on the premier at the Dhanmondi office of the Awami League president last evening and invited her to grace the gala soccer ceremony as chief guest.

Hasina accepted their invitation.

"The final decision in this regard will be made soon," her party office said.

The BFF delegation included its senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshedi, vice-president Kazi Nabil Ahmed and member-cum-tournament committee

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Did U Know?

In 1999, a Manchester City fan threw an asthma inhaler on to the pitch during a disappointing home draw against Northampton.



What to WATCH

BTV

Super Cup Football (Plate Group, 2nd Semifinal) Farashganj v Rahmatganj Live from 5:00pm

TEN Sports

South Africa v Australia Third Test, Day Four Live from 2:30pm West Indies v England Second ODI Live from 7:30pm

ESPN

English Premier League Wigan v Hull City Live at 7:25pm Liverpool v Aston Villa Live from 9:55pm Primera Liga Mallorca v Atletico Madrid Live from 2:00am (Monday)

STAR Sports

English Premier League Man City v Sunderland Live from 8:55pm



TALK TURKEY



Heath Streak

(Former Zimbabwe cricket captain)

"Maybe ... people will look at us in different light. Security is not an issue here compared to Sri Lanka. You can't put us in the same bracket with such countries."

While calling on countries such as England and Australia to change their stance on playing cricket against Zimbabwe.



PHOTO: STAR

Sheikh Russel and national striker Alfaz Ahmed (2nd from left) heads the ball wide off the mark during his side's Citycell Super Cup Plate semifinal against Chittagong Abahani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The veteran marksman scored one in the regulation time of the match that ended in a 1-1 draw and then stepped up to strike his second in the shootout that Russel won 5-3.

Russel top in shootout

SPORTS REPORTER



In a match full of missed opportunities Sheikh Russel managed a 5-3 penalty shootout victory against Chittagong Abahani to move into the Citycell Super Cup plate stage final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The new powerhouse of the country's football, who were eliminated from Group A to play the consolation plate group, will face the winner of today's second semifinal between Rahmatganj and Farashganj in the final at the same venue.

Midfielder Emon was the villain for Chittagong Abahani as he blasted his effort wide off the mark. Russel's Serbian forward Vukadin Milunovic then stroked home his spot-kick to bring joy for the locals.

In front of a sparse crowd in the big bowl the match rolled into the penalty shoot out stage after the scores were tied

at 1-1 after extra time.

Russel had led for most of the match but a late defensive blunder from their Moroccan recruit Rachid Ennoury allowed Liberian Joshep Romeo to level the score with eight minutes remaining.

Earlier seasoned striker Alfaz Ahmed had broke the deadlock in the eighth minute of the second half when he produced a side volley in an open net on a low cross from Serbian Milunovic.

The veteran forward Alfaz was near to breaking the stalemate again but his fierce long-range left-footer struck the post in the dying moments of regulation time.

Both the sides missed a number of scoring opportunities in the match and Russel failed to use their favourite-tag rather Chittagong Abahani kept constant pressure on their opponents.

The port-city Abahani created the first chance in the tenth minute but Liberian Joshep Fullo was unfortunate as his header on Emon's corner deflected from the side bar.

In the 30th minute Alfaz failed to score in a one-on-one situation after receiving the ball from a Rajan Miah cross and then he set up a chance after two minutes for Milunovic who headed over the cross-piece.

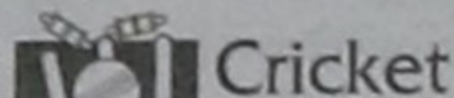
But it was frustrating for Chittagong Abahani not to take the lead in the match and their Liberian recruit Romeo was the culprit -- spoiling two open net chances within the last five minutes before the breather.

In the second half the match gathered pace and Chittagong Abahani dominated the proceedings but Alfaz stunned them by putting Russel ahead in the 53rd minute. Emon had a chance to score the equaliser in the 61st minute but he screwed wide from a handshaking distance.

In the shootout Mahmudul Hasan, Rachid Brigeme, Bulbul and Alfaz netted for Russel aside from Milunovic. For Abahani, Sayedul Haque, Othelo and Tommy all hit the back of the net before Emon's miss.

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Stars not shining



SPORTS REPORTER

National players have not done justice to their status so far in the Premier Cricket League, once again proving themselves as Tigers without claws, barring a couple of exceptions.

With only four of them featuring in the list of top 20 batsmen after the first phase, the picture looks pretty dismal.

Tigers opener Zunaed Siddiqui, who plays for Surjo Torun, has scored 385 runs in 11 matches with three 50s to be at number 10 on the list. Mehrab Hossain, Tamim Iqbal and Imrul Kayes are at numbers 14, 15 and 16 with 371, 356 and 343 runs respectively.

Bangladesh captain

Mohammad Ashraful is way down at number 36 with 258 runs from 10 matches which include one century and that too in an inconsequential match against relegation-bound Victoria.



MOHAMMAD MITHUN

All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan who was injured after playing the first five games for Bangladesh Biman has managed 185 runs with one half-century.

When the national players were expected to dominate the show in the league, it was the youngsters who hogged the spotlight and showed great promise. Gazi Tank's wicket-keeper-batsman Mohammad Mithun is the second highest run scorer with 455 runs with an average of 41.36 with one fifty and a century. His 169 against Partexat BKSP is the highest individual score in an innings so far.

Mohammedan's Shamsur Rahman Shuvo is another colyounng batter who has shown great assurance with the bat scoring 398 runs from ten matches. The talented top-order bats man has been

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Women's WC final today

India finish 3rd

BBC ONLINE, Sydney

England captain Charlotte Edwards says her players will not be complacent going into Sunday's ICC Women's World Cup final in Sydney.

England take on New Zealand, who they have already beaten in the tournament.

"They are a good side and we won't underestimate them," insisted Edwards. "We go into the final on par."

England have twice before lifted the World Cup, both times on home soil, in 1973 and again in 1993.

And Edwards is under no illusion as to the importance of the occasion for her and the team.

"Sunday is going to be the biggest day of our lives and we cannot wait for it," she said.

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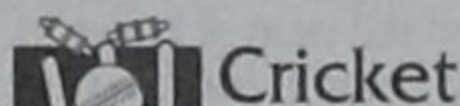


PHOTO: AFP

Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh is the toast of his teammates after his six-wicket haul that ended India's 33-year drought with a ten-wicket win over New Zealand on the fourth day of the first Test at Seddon Park in Hamilton yesterday.

India end NZ drought

Harbhajan's six scripts 10-wkt win



AFP, Hamilton

India broke a 33-year drought when a six-wicket haul by Harbhajan Singh spun them to a 10-wicket victory over New Zealand in the first Test here Saturday.

Harbhajan's 6-63 wizardry, following an iconic 160 by Sachin Tendulkar, formed the cornerstone of India's first Test success in New Zealand since 1976.

They wrapped the game up with more than a day to spare after New Zealand were all out in their second innings for 279, and India knocked off the required 39

runs in 5.2 overs.

"It was a very special win because of a couple of players. Sachin getting a big hundred, Harbhajan getting his five wickets," said Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

"It's great to play with Sachin. Whenever he scores those big hundreds you can't see anything better. I don't think there were any bad deliveries that weren't fetched for four."

"And Harbhajan proved a point why he is among the best and got us important wickets at the right time," he said, adding the next target was to win a series in New Zealand for the first time in 40 years.

A disappointed New Zealand captain

Daniel Vettori admitted his side had been outplayed and would need a dramatic improvement to save the series.

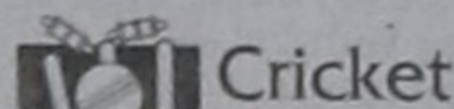
"In every aspect India showed us how to do it in this Test match," he said.

Brendon McCullum kept the Test alive longer than expected with a fighting 84 at the New Zealand tail, but it had been a lopsided match from day one when the hosts' top order crashed to six wickets for just 60 runs on a benign wicket.

That highlighted the huge gulf in Test experience between the sides where India's top six batsmen boast a combined 502 Tests between them, compared to 54

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De Villiers puts SA on top



AFP, Cape Town

AB de Villiers went on a six-hitting spree as South Africa moved into a dominant position on the third day of the third Test against Australia at Newlands Saturday.

De Villiers hit 163 as South Africa reached a total of 651, a first-innings lead of 442.

Australia were 102 for two at the close, still needing 340 to avoid an innings defeat. The batsmen dismissed were Phil Hughes and captain Ricky Ponting.

In an afternoon of rapid scoring De Villiers equalled the world record when he hit four sixes off successive balls from medium-pace Andrew McDonald.

The only other players to achieve the feat were Kapil Dev for India against England in 1990 and Shahid Afridi for Pakistan against India in 2006.

The previous two scoring shots by De Villiers were also sixes, against leg-spinner Bryce McGain, who was replaced by McDonald.

De Villiers finally fell to part-time spinner Simon Katich, caught on the midwicket boundary after a 196-ball innings which included seven

sixes and 12 fours.

South Africa lost three wickets during the morning and struggled against tight Australian bowling until a flurry of scoring shortly before the lunch break took the total beyond 500.

De Villiers and new cap Albie Morkel then thrashed the bowlers in a seventh wicket stand of 124 scored in 85 minutes off 120 balls.

The left-handed Morkel was bowled by McDonald for 58, made off 71 balls with 10 fours and a six.

Morkel was bowled in the same over that De Villiers hit his four sixes, which he followed with a single before Morkel hit across the line and missed.

Captain Jacques Kallis failed to add to his overnight score of 102 before a lifting delivery looped off the spine of his bat to provide an easy return catch for Ben Hilfenhaus.

Mitchell Johnson then produced his best spell of the match to dismiss JP Duminy and Mark Boucher cheaply.

Johnson finished with four for 148 and Katich, introduced towards the end of the innings, took two for nine.

Katich's figures were in stark contrast to the none for 149 off 18 overs by leg-spinner

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