

MSC go goal crazy

SPORTS REPORTER

FEDERATION CUP '09

Nigerian striker Christian Emeka celebrated his return to Mohammedan with a hat-trick and confirmed the Black and White's quarterfinal berth in the Federation Cup after crushing Brothers Union by a mammoth 7-1 in Group A encounter at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Apart from Emeka's treble, Zahid Hasan, Emily, Zahid Hossain, Alamu Bukola and substitute Alangir Kabir netted one goal apiece for the Motijheel-based outfit, who raised their points tally to six from two outings with a match in hand against BKSP.

Murad Ahmed Milon scored the lone goal for the

Gopibagh-based Brothers Union.

Away at the Bangladesh Army Stadium, newcomers Feni Soccer Club kept their hopes of qualifying the quarterfinals alive with a massive 7-0 win over BKSP, thanks to hattricks from Anwar Hossain and Monamem Khan Raju.

Brothers and Feni are now level with three points each and square off in the crucial last group match to see them in the last eights after the vacation of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Back to the Mohammedan Brothers match, Mohammedan coach Maruf Haq chose the same eleven that thrashed Feni Soccer Club 4-0 in the opening match and it got off to a sparkling start when Emily with a solo

effort darted in the box immediately after kick-off. And three minutes into the first half, the former Abahani striker rose highest to connect an Arman Aziz free kick, but saw his header come off the post.

Surviving from the starting moments, Brothers went on the attack and found the back of the net in the eighth minute when Milon was presented a free header by Sabuj Kumar from the right and the striker nodded the ball home though Mohammedan goalkeeper MN Shakil got a hand to it.

After going down, star-studded Mohammedan stepped up the attack on the rain-soaked pitch played at a frenetic pace until the breather.

It was Emily, who struck two goals in his debut match, who levelled the margin in the

20th minute with a soft header after being presented an opportunity from a Zahid cross.

The supplier then turned scorer two minutes later as he put the holders ahead with a clever over-head shot after being set up by defensive midfielder Arman Aziz.

Emily was forced to leave the field after 25 minutes after having sustained a muscle cramp that allowed Emeka, who last season played for Abahani and struck 17 goals in B. League, to play the season's first match and saw the formation of a lethal attack with Nigerian Bukola, last season's highest scorer.

Soon Emeka had started to have an impact on the match as Brothers Union, had virtually no resistance in midfield as well as at the backline and sank to a massive defeat.

Emeka's side-volley off a Zahid cross came off the post in the 33rd minute and a few minutes later Bukola sent a 12-yard spot kick wide.

But Emeka made it 3-1 two minutes from the breather with a diving header off a low cross from Wali Faisal, who also looked impressive yesterday compared to his debut match.

After resumption, Maruf sent Rana, who was playing his first match in the top-flight, on the left side in place of Enamul Haq Sharif and the national midfielder impressed all to turn provider for the fourth goal.

Rana dragged a shot from the left and Emeka tapped it from close range in the 58th minute before he himself unleashed a powerful shot inside the box past goalkeeper Jahangir Alam in the 81st minute.

With seven minutes left, Bukola made it 6-1 before Emeka completed his hat-trick two minutes from time to add insult to injury.

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PHOTO: STAR



Rampant Mohammedan striker Christian Emeka tries to skip away from the challenge of Brothers Union's Mahammad Adil during their Fed Cup match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The Nigerian struck thrice as Mohammedan thumped Brothers 7-1, their worst-ever defeat.

PHOTO: STAR

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India ride on Sachin

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Tendulkar put on 95 for the first wicket with fellow veteran Rahul Dravid, who contributed 39 after being asked to open the batting in place of the axed Dinesh Karthik.

Sri Lanka face a target of 6.4 runs an over under lights to win the series that also featured New Zealand.

The hosts had defeated India by 139 runs in their

league match on Saturday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the India innings in the tri-series one-day final against Sri Lanka at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Monday:

INDIA

David Dilshan b Jayasuriya 39
Tendulkar lbw b Mendis 138
Dhoni c Kandamby b Malinda 56

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India's little master Sachin Tendulkar salutes the crowd upon reaching his 44th ODI hundred in the Compaq Cup final against Sri Lanka at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Mahmud asstt coach

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national captain Khaled Mahmud has been named assistant coach of the Bangladesh national cricket team.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) confirmed the former all-rounder as Jamie Siddons's assistant when the board of directors resumed its September 9 adjourned meeting yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Mahmud, who joined BCB as the operations manager of the national cricket academy after making his last international appearance against Sri Lanka in February 2006, was with the national team during the tours of West Indies and Zimbabwe and the board was highly impressed with his performance during the tours.

"We are very much happy with his contribution and you know we have always believed in him because we know he has got the quality to

serve the national team. He got a chance and availed it," said BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus.

But there was confusion over the status of Mahmud as the 38-year-old former all-rounder had been working under the development committee since he got the appointment as the academy operations manager and the contract runs till March 2010. And there is a different rule and financial package for BCB's common employees and the employees of the team management.

"We confirmed him as assistant coach till March 2010 and the package will be discussed later. The cricket operations committee will take the decision after discussions with Mahmud. Actually it's our policy to involve former national players with this kind of job and it's our first step towards that," Jalal explained.

Mahmud however was excited with the board's decision.

"It's a big achievement in my career," he said. The BCB also confirmed extension of all the

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Brett Lee

(Australia fast bowler)
"I want to keep increasing my speed as I have during this series [here in England], starting off 88mph and working up to 96mph."



PHOTO: AFP

Kim Clijsters of Belgium, holding the US Open trophy in one hand, lifts her daughter Jada with the other as she celebrates her victory over Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark in the final at the Flushing Meadows in New York on Sunday.

Kim's triumphant return

AFP, New York

US OPEN
Kim Clijsters of Belgium won the US Open for the second time on Sunday, defeating Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark 7-5, 6-3 to complete one of the most stunning comebacks in modern sports history.

Wozniacki paid tribute to Clijsters saying: "Kim just played a great match.

"She really showed that she's playing great tennis, and I'm happy to have her back.

"But of course I'd like to have taken the next step and have won this match. She played better than me today, and that's why she won."

The 26-year-old Clijsters won her only Grand Slam title here in 2005 after losing four finals, three to compatriot Justine Henin and one to Jennifer Capriati of the United States.

She was unable to defend the title the following year as she was injured and then in May, 2007, she rocked the tennis world by retiring, saying that she had had enough of injuries and the tennis lifestyle.

In her time away from the sport, she married and had a baby daughter and it was only at the start of the year that she started to consider a comeback.

That came in Cincinnati in early

August, and Flushing Meadows was just her third tournament since she returned.

True to form, Clijsters, who defeated sisters Serena and Venus Williams on her way to the final, opened strongly, holding the serve and then grabbing the first break of the match to lead 2-0.

The 19-year-old Wozniacki, playing in her first Grand Slam final, counter-attacked to break back in the next game, converting her fifth break point with a raking forehand drive that Clijsters failed to control.

The Dane held serve and then broke again as Clijsters struggled to contain her opponent's length and variety of shot.

With her 18-month old daughter Jada watching in the players' box as well as husband Brian Lynch, Clijsters had three break back points to level at 3-3 but failed to take them.

Wozniacki, like Clijsters the daughter of a professional footballer, kept up the pressure and drew mistakes from the Belgian to set up two more break points for a 5-2 lead.

Clijsters dug deep to close to 4-3 and in

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Federer v Del Potro

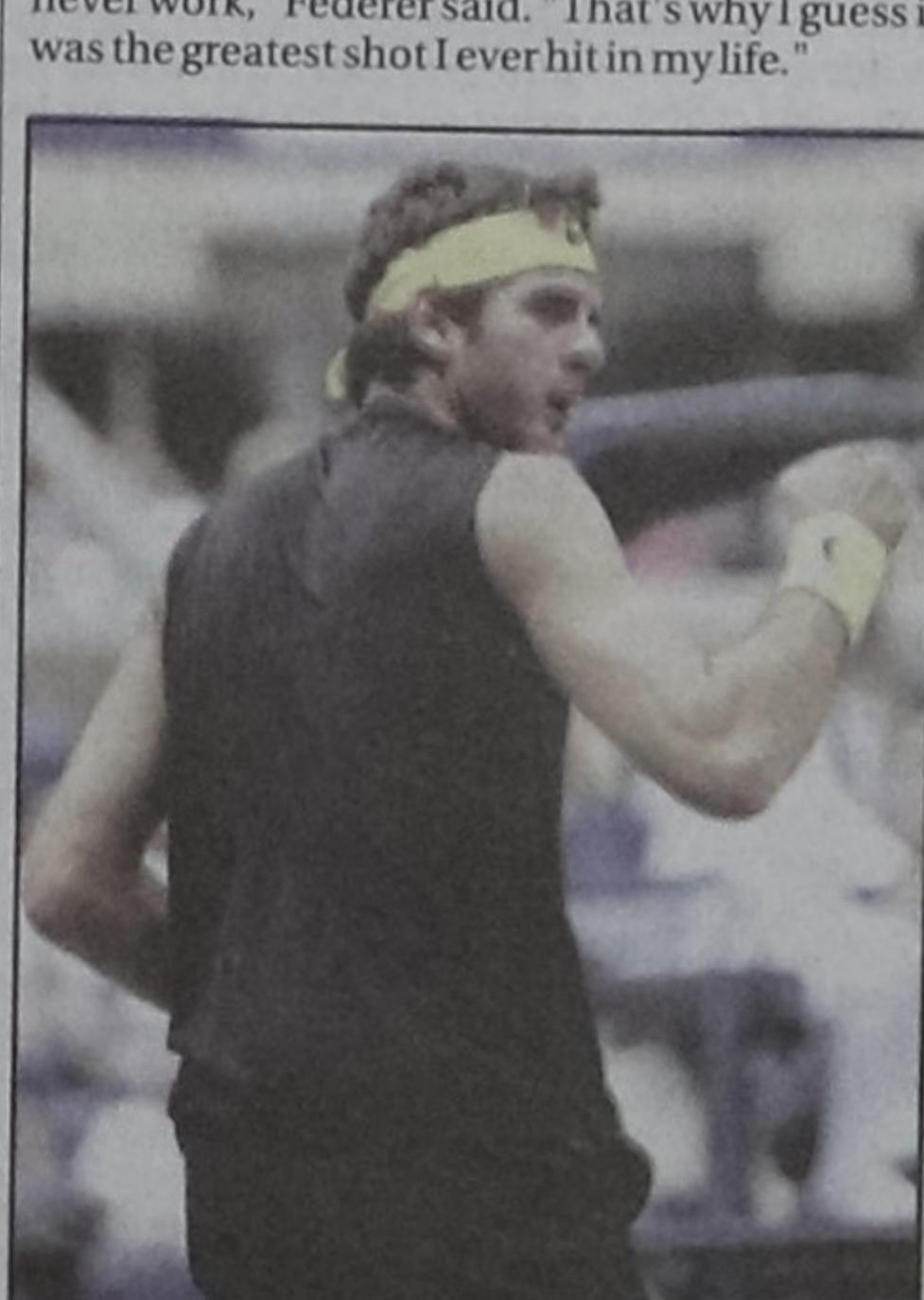
AFP, New York

US OPEN
Hitting the greatest shot of his amazing career on the penultimate point, Roger Federer advanced to the US Open final defeating Serbian fourth seed Novak Djokovic 7-6, 7-5, 7-5.

World number one Federer will play for his sixth consecutive US Open title and record-stretching 16th career Grand Slam crown against Argentine sixth seed Juan Martin del Potro, who is 0-6 lifetime against Federer.

But the moment everyone will be talking about from Federer's semifinal triumph will be the back-to-the-net, between-the-legs running forehand which the Swiss superstar swatted past the stunned Serbian for an astounding winner.

"I do (practice) them a lot actually but they never work," Federer said. "That's why I guess it was the greatest shot I ever hit in my life."



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English injury woes mount

SPORTS REPORTER

Luke Wright became the latest England cricketer to sustain an unusual injury after a ball from a bowling machine struck his toe and left him doubtful for today's one-day match against Australia.

Wright was batting in the indoor nets at the National Cricket Performance Centre in Loughborough, central England, when he was hit on the toe by a ball from the machine and had to have stitches inserted into the injury.

The Sussex all-rounder will

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Argentine youngster Juan Martin del Potro (L) ruthlessly disposed of Rafael Nadal to set up a US Open final clash with world No 1 Roger Federer (R) of Switzerland, who got rid of Serbia's Novak Djokovic equally emphatically at the Flushing Meadows on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP