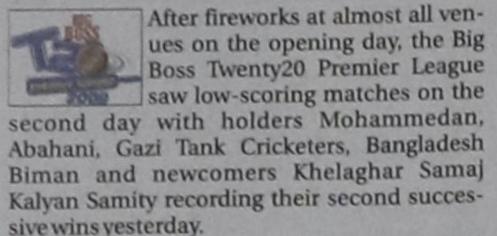
Big guns win again

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan continued their aggression, riding on a blazing knock from opener Tamim Igbal, who followed Wednesday's 60 with another half-century (69) to help the Motijheelbased outfit to a comfortable 79-run victory over BKSP at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The dashing left-handed opener, hammered three sixes and six fours in his 47-ball knock while captain Mohammad Ashraful chipped in with a 30-ball 34 that included three boundaries.

Chasing a mammoth target of 156 under lights, the boys from BKSP were skittled out for just 76 in 20 overs. Mohammedan pacer Sajedul Islam took two wickets conceding 14 runs.

Title-contenders Abahani laboured hard once again in the second match to record a four-wicket win over Old DOHS at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (DCS), thanks to a timely 49-run knock from opener Rony Talukdar.

Abahani consumed 18.4 overs to reach a paltry target of 97 losing six wickets after spin-

Athletes now preparing for next year's South

Asian (SA) Games will get an opportunity to

daylong 10th National Summer Athletics

Competition takes place at the Bangabandhu

have been training for the SA Games since

January, however will have to be content with

the age-old hand timing in what would be the

last competitive meet for them ahead of the

biggest regional sporting carnival, scheduled to

be held in Dhaka from January 29 to February 9.

including 125 women from across the country

are also expected to compete in the meet,

athletes ahead of the 11th SA Games in

Bangladesh, we are staging a daylong meet and

hope the athletes will be able to evaluate them-

selves," said Bangladesh Amateur Athletic

Féderation general secretary Shah Alam at a

press conference at the Bangabandhu National

Nazmun Nahar Beauty, Jasmine Akter, Al Amin,

Afzal Hossain Surya and Emran Bhuiya -- will

miss the meet as they have been receiving

Of the 36 SA Games camp's athletes, five --

which is being held after a four-year gap.

Apart from them, another 350 athletes

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National Stadium today.

An opportunity for reality check

ner Nasir Hossain (2-14) and pacer Shuvashish Roy (2-19) had bowled tightly to restrict DOHS to 96 for six in their allotted overs. Fazle Rabbi of DOHS top-scored with 39 off 34 balls.

Over at the Fatullah Stadium, left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak and medium pacer Farhad Reza shared six wickets to guide Gazi Tank to a 11-run win against Surjo Torun Club, who could manage 104 for eight in 20 overs in reply to Gazi Tank's 115.

Surjo Torun were in contention when Imtiaz Hossain and Rajin Saleh were in the middle. They contributed with 46 and 26 respectively, but soon after their wickets fell, they lost their way and their hopes of a second successive victory was finished. Farhad and Razzak played vital role in Gazi Tank's victory taking three wickets each.

Earlier, Sanjamul Islam and ICL-returnee Tapash Kumar Baisya wrecked Gazi Tank innings with their fierce spells, Sanjamul claimed five scalps for 22 and Tapash returned figures of four for 19. Farhad Hossain (23), Nayeem Islam (22) and Farhad Reza (20) were the notable scorers for Gazi Tank, who on the previous day beat Cricket Coaching School by 83 runs.

At Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, national wicketkeeper Mushfigur Rahim struck an unbeaten fifty to propel national flag carrier Biman to an emphatic seven-wicket win over Partex Sporting Club.

Biman raced to 103 for three in 16.1 overs in SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

The meet has been decked out with 21

The federation is expecting to win two gold

medals -- in the women's 100m hurdles and in

men's long jump -- in the SA Games, dropping

the hope of clinching the men's 100m sprint

in their respective 100m hurdles and long jump

were effectively dashed after the departure of

sprinters Shamsuddin and Abu Abdullah," said

records of other nations' athletes, Alam said

during next month's Asian track and field compe-

tition in China where top athletes from the sub-

continent are supposed to compete," he said.

that they were more or less aware of it.

"Foujia Huda Jui and Al Amin are doing well

"Our hopes of winning the men's sprint

Asked whether they were aware of the

"We will however get an up-to-date picture

events including 13 for women, the same num-

ber of events included in the coming SA Games.

the former fastest man of Bangladesh.

the SA Games," said Shah Alam.

a dejected Shah Alam.



SPRINTING TO SOUTH AFRICA: Argentina substitute midfielder Mario Bolatti is ecstatic after scoring the all-important goal against Uruguay during their 2010 World Cup

qualifier at the Centenario Stadium in Montevideo on Wednesday. Bolatti's goal put his team through to South Africa. Argenna Scrape unu

AFP, Montevideo



Argentina scraped into the World Cup Wednesday with a 1-0 win over

Uruguay as Diego Maradona finally celebrated mission accomplished after a stumbling, lacklustre qualifying campaign.

The two-time champions needed a goal by substitute Mario Bolatti six minutes from time to earn the three points and secure the fourth and final qualifying spot from South

America. Brazil, Chile and Paraguay had already made sure of their places in the finals.

Uruguay finished in fifth and now face a play-off against Costa Rica, who finished fourth in the CONCACAF region behind USA, Mexico and Honduras, to decide their World Cup fate.

In a poor match with few opportunities, the crucial moment came when Uruguay were reduced to 10 men when Martin Caceras was redcarded for a foul on Jonas Gutierrez.

From the ensuing free-kick, Juan Sebastian Veron had a shot charged down, but Bolatti, on the field for just four minutes after replacing Gonzalo Higuain, reacted quickest to the loose ball to beat Nestor Muslera in the Uruguayan goal.

Maradona, who had used over 70 players since taking over a year ago, opted to leave Carlos Tevez on the bench



STAR Cricket

Champions League T20 Eagles v Somerset Live from 5:30pm New South Wales v T&T Live from 9:30pm **ESPN**

> Sportscenter India Sports News Live at 9:30pm

alongside Martin Palermo, who grabbed the last-minute goal which saw off Peru on

"I thank the team and the fans, who crossed the River Plate, for the privilege of tak-

HOSTS: South Africa

Switzerland. (Nine teams qualified)

9+4=13 Teams Will Participate

2+3=5 Teams Will Participate

Denmark, England, Germany, Italy,

Netherlands, Serbia, Spain, Slovakia,

PLAY-OFFS: Seeds: Russia, France,

Portugal, Greece. Non-seeds: Ireland,

Slovenia, Ukraine, Bosnia-Herzegovina

(Four teams will qualify for World Cup finals)

Ghana, Ivory Coast. (Two teams qualified)

EUROPE ZONE

AFRICAZONE

ing Argentina to the World Cup," said Maradona, who was in combative mood at his

treated me like rubbish."

qualified)

INTERCONTINENTAL PLAY-OFF: TBD (November 14): New Zealand/Bahrain (0-0 after first leg). (One team will

post-match news conference. "But there were people who did not believe in us and who

WC QUALIFICATION STATUS

Automatic Qualifiers: 1

4+3+1=8 Teams Will Participate

SOUTHAMERICAZONE

Uruguay, needing a win to make sure of automatic qualification, were on top early with Argentina unsurprisingly nervous and defender Gabriel Heinze picking up a booking after just nine minutes.

NORTHAMERICAZONE

Brazil, Paraguay, Chile, Mexico, United States.

Argentina. (Four teams Honduras. (Three teams

PLAY-OFFS: Uruguay against Costa Rica (November 14 and

November 18) (One team will qualify for World Cup finals)

ASIA ZONE

qualified)

DPR. (Fourteams qualified)

4 Teams Will Participate

Andres Scotti almost gave the home side the lead at the famous Estadio Monumental, but his header slipped by Argentina goalkeeper Sergio Romero's post.

Lionel Messi, who has yet to shine under Maradona despite his scene-stealing performances for Barcelona, attempted to catch out Muslera with a long distance free-kick.

The goalless half-time stalemate suited Argentina as Ecuador, the only other rivals for the last qualifying spot, were also being held 0-0 at the interval by Chile in Santiago.

The low-quality affair continued after the break with the first opening not coming until the 73rd minute when Diego Lugano headed wide from a

pinpoint Diego Forlan free-kick.

Uruguay continued to press against an Argentine team happy to pack seven defenders behind the ball as the clock ticked down before Bolatti, in just his third international, put his country into the finals.

In Santiago, Chile took the lead against Ecuador thanks to a 51st-minute strike from Humberto Suazo. Ecuador, who had Segundo Castilla sent-off, needed to win to keep their qualifying hopes alive.

Five-time champions, and SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

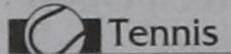


Premier Div T20 Cricket Mohammedan v Partex (1:30pm) Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National

Stadium BKSP v Victoria (1:30pm) Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium Biman v Khelaghar KS (1:30pm) Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium Gazi Tank v Abahani (5:30pm) Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National

Stadium Surjo Torun v Cricket Coaching School (2:30pm) Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium Old DOHS v Kalabagan KC ((2:30pm) Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

Rain keeps Ali, Ram waiting



higher training in Malaysia.

SPORTS REPORTER

Stadium yesterday.

Rustom Ali and Biplob Ram marked a memora-

ble day for Bangladesh's tennis when they became champion and runner-up in the dou-Tournament at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

singles final match between the two could not 1-1. Ram went on to win the next two games to finish on the day due to rain.

in the second when the rain came to push back the match to the reserve day.

Earlier, Ali took the doubles crown with India's Dhankar Shaurya, beating an all-Bangladeshi team of Biplob Ram and Jamil Bhuiyan in straight 6-3, 6-4 sets. Hong Kong's Ali's powerful groundstrokes were countered Ka Ma Carin and Ching Chan defeated Indian by Ram's wider range of shots that included pair of Moulika Ram and Shambhavi Dixith 3-6, powerful back-hands and cross-court winners. later won the singles' title as well, beating match was briefly interrupted by a dust-storm, India's Moulika Ram 6-1, 6-2 to claim a memo-

the moment.

crown.

"In a bid to assess the performance of the events and we hope they will win gold medal in

The day's most eagerly awaited event at Court 1 saw Bangladesh's Ali, who deposed top seed Duzbionjit Singh of Malaysia in the quarterfinals, take on Ram, who got rid of second seed Prajwal Dev of India in quarterfinals.

Ali was dressed in red shirt and black shorts bles in the Prime Bank ATF Under-14 Tennis for the final while his counterpart Ram was attired in ash shirt and black shorts.

Ram got an early break in the very first game, However, bigger glory was put on hold as the but Rustom broke back in the next to draw level go up 3-1 and was looking to be in control. Ali won the first set 6-4 and was trailing 3-5 However, Rustom upped his ante and won the next four games on the trot and ultimately took the first set 6-4.

Ram started the second set more in command, he was playing the more aggressive tennis now, and sent Ali running for the ball. 6-3, 6-3 to take the girls' doubles crown. Carin Ram was leading the second set 2-1 when the

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



Abahani batsman Rony Talukdar cuts off the back-foot during his 49-run knock against Old DOHS in their T20 Premier League match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Records roll on opening day

TBD (November 14): Egypt/Algeria, Cameroon/Gabon,

Tunisla/Nigeria. (Three teams will advance to the World Cup finals)

advance to the World Cup finals) 1 Team Will Participate

TOTAL PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES: 1+13+8+5+4+1=32

Swimming

SPORTS REPORTER

Seven records were set on the opening day of the 25th National Age-group Swimming Championships at the National Swimming

Complex in Mirpur yesterday. Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP) indeed dominated the pool, winning 18 gold, 16 silver and 14 bronze medals, expectedly but it was their rivals, Bangladesh Ansar, who cre-

ated more records. Jewel Ahmed of Ansar

alone set two new records in the boys' 15-17 years age group while his teammates on the distaff side Nazma Khatun, Babita Khatun and Lucky Khatun set new marks in their respective events. Ansar finished the day with 17 gold, 13 silver and nine bronze medals. Asif Reza Noor and Nazma

Akter set the other records for BKSP on the day.

Jewel won the 200m individual medley with a record timing of 2 minutes 24.17 seconds, eclipsing the previous best of 2 minutes 30.34 seconds. He also created another record in the 400m

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Pexatech Open Int'l Rating Chess SPORTS REPORTER

Australia, Japan, South Korea, Korea

Pexatech Open International Rating Chess Tournament got underway at the Chess Federation hall room yesterday. Ninety-eight players won their first round matches in the day and earned full points.

Earlier, sub-continent's first Grand Master Niaz Murshed inaugurated the tournament. Mokaddes Hossain, general secretary of Bangladesh Chess Federation, delivered the host's address. Vice president of BOA Mizanur Rahman Manu, IWM Rani Hamid Masudur Rahman Dipu, general secretary of the federation were also present at the

inauguration ceremony. SEE PAGE 18 COL 8