

## Hyundai test for Shantoo

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Interim coach Shahidur Rahman Shantoo gets his last chance to watch his players before picking his side when the Bangladesh national team take on Ulsan Hyundai FC in a friendly match at Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

Having lost the first warm-up against Sheikh Russel KC and winning the second game against BFF XI, Shantoo is focusing on rectifying the mistakes of the first two preparation games through the match against Hyundai, a two-time champions in the K. League.

"The squad is gradually getting into fine shape playing warm-up matches and taking tomorrow's (Thursday) match as usual, but I will try to rectify the mistakes the boys did in the first two matches," said Shantoo, who was assigned to guide the national squad following the termination of Brazilian coach Edson Silva Dido's contract over his youthful selection.

"Some of the players are still fighting closely for the 20-member final squad and I think the match will help me a lot to pick up the final squad," said the former national coach.

Nevertheless, Shantoo will try to set his best eleven before launching the SAFF Championship campaign against Bhutan on December 4.

"In the first match, I had

tried all players, but you saw in the second warm-up I almost fielded the same squad with a few changes and I think there will be a minor change in match against Ulsan Hyundai," said the BFF technical director adding they were not taking the match too seriously because of fear of injury.

Hyundai FC's star-studded side with all professional booters, however confirmed

that they are taking the match seriously to uplift their image of the club.

"It is a friendly match, but we will certainly not leave any room for them because our prestige is involved," said captain You Kyoung Youl at a press conference at the BFF house yesterday.

Assistant coach Lee Sang Chul believes that match will be a competitive one.

"We saw Maldives, Thailand, Myanmar improved a lot and hope the same competitiveness comes from Bangladesh, who might have improved a lot," said Chul.

It is a part of Ulsan Hyundai Horang-i's Asia tour before their domestic season kicks off in February next. Before coming here, the visitors also travelled to Maldives where they beat the Maldives national team 2-1 and after the game in Dhaka they will head home.

Ulsan Hyundai will field a virtual second-string side as their three members of the Korean national team as well as six Brazilian players left home because of their different commitments outside Korea.



Ulsan Hyundai Horang-i FC coach Lee Sang Chul (C) speaks at a press briefing at BFF House yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## India on top

Dravid slams his 28th century

Cricket

AFP, Kanpur

Rahul Dravid struck his 28th century and Zaheer Khan picked a wicket off the first ball as India tightened their grip on the second Test against Sri Lanka here on Wednesday.

Dravid smashed 15 fours and a six in his 144-run knock to guide India to an imposing 642 in their first innings while Yuvraj Singh and Venkatsai Laxman also joined in the run-feast with half-centuries.

In reply, Sri Lanka had reached 66-1 by close on the second day, trailing India by 576 runs with nine wickets in hand.

Tharanga Paranavitana and captain Kumar Sangakkara were both unbeaten on 30 each when stumps were drawn for the day.

Sri Lanka's innings began on a shaky note with in-form opener Tillakaratne Dilshan edging left-arm fast bowler Zaheer to be caught by debutant Pragyan Ojha at mid-on.

But Paranavitana and Sangakkara saw off some spirited bowling by India in fading light to ensure no further setbacks.

Left-arm spinner Rangana Herath took 5-121 to help Sri Lanka bowl out India shortly after tea but by then the hosts had ensured a huge first-innings total.

Laxman (63) hit five fours

on the way to his 41st Test half-century while Yuvraj cracked four boundaries and two sixes in his 67-run knock to enthrall a strong 25,000 crowd at the Green Park stadium.

The pair also shared 102 runs for the fifth wicket before Laxman was caught by Dilshan off Herath.

Herath struck again twice, bowling Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni and

Harbhajan Singh through the gate to bring some cheer to the Sri Lankan camp in the post-lunch session.

Dravid, who scored 177 in the drawn first Test at Ahmedabad, shared 94 runs for the third wicket with Sachin Tendulkar (40) to build on India's overnight score of 417-2.

He was the third Indian batsman to score a century

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



Star Indian batsman Rahul Dravid square drives on way to scoring a superb hundred on the second day of the second Test against Sri Lanka at the Green Park Stadium in Kanpur yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

## Football for climate change

SPORTS REPORTER

To create awareness among the people about the climate changes, a Copenhagen XI will take on a BFF XI in a friendly match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

"To create awareness and mobilise them we need to involve the people and sports is a good channel to reach them. Football and cricket are very popular games in Bangladesh so we think football in Bangladesh will be a good way to delivery message about the climate change," said Ngozi Otti, Bangladesh's representative of United Nations Volunteer (UNV), which is in collaboration with the football's governing body organising the friendly match.

Otti at a press conference said that Bangladesh is a victim of climate change and the people of Bangladesh are also facing difficulties through global warming that raises the sea level, bringing different natural disasters and the people of Bangladesh need to be aware about the climate changes.

The Copenhagen XI will consist of those foreign footballers staying in Bangladesh to play in different competitions while BFF XI is comprised former national and current players like Arif Khan Joy, Alfaz Ahmed, Motiur Munna, Amit Khan Shuvro, Enamul Haq Sharif, Faisal Mahmud, Shakil Ahmed, Abul



Liverpool striker David Ngog (up) goes airborne to score what would prove to be a futile goal from a back flick during their Champions League match against Debrecen at the Puskas Stadium on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## End of road for L'pool

Gunnars thru' to next round

AFP, Paris



Five-time champions Liverpool were knocked out of the Champions League at the group stage on Tuesday as a 1-0 win for Group E rivals Fiorentina against Lyon took the Italians into the knockout phase.

Liverpool's 1-0 win over Hungarian minnows Debrecen was only good enough to ensure a place in the knockout stage of the Europa League.

Premier League rivals Arsenal, by contrast, eased into the knockout stage when they beat Standard Liege 2-0 to finish top of Group H.

Champions Barcelona can also be more upbeat about defending their title.

They had faced a risk of elimination but first newly crowned Russian champions Rubin Kazan could only draw 0-0 at home to Dynamo Kiev and then the Catalan giants put on a grand display to beat Inter Milan 2-0.

Barca now lead Group F on eight points, two clear of Inter and Rubin, who play each other in Milan in a fortnight.

At least Liverpool have the consolation of the Europa League, whereas Scottish football plumed new depths as Rangers lost 2-0 at home to Stuttgart in Group G.

That result, combined with Unirea Urziceni's 1-0 victory over Sevilla in Romania, left Walter Smith's men without any hope of reaching the second-tier European competition.

Liverpool got the start they needed when they took an early lead through David Ngog but were unable to make much of an impression after the news filtered through that Fiorentina had taken the lead via a Juan Vargas penalty.

It was no more than Fiorentina deserved, having twice hit the woodwork against a Lyon side that could not be described as under-strength.

Barcelona - whose shamed French star Thierry Henry made his 100th appearance for the club - got off to a dream start by taking the lead through Gerard Pique and added a second as youth academy graduate Pedro shot home.

Inter coach Jose Mourinho was for once generous in defeat.

"Barcelona were the only team that played and they played very well," said Mourinho, who used to work as a transla-

tor for the late Sir Bobby Robson at the Catalan club.

"They were far superior and we can't have any complaints about the victory."

Arsenal took the lead through Frenchman Samir Nasri in the first half and added a second through a stunning long-range effort by Denilson shortly before the half-time break.

"It's really good for the team (to qualify) because we still have a game to go and we can relax a little and give some rest to some players, and make sure that some of the players who don't play too much can get a game," said the Arsenal captain, Cesc Fabregas.

Rangers' hopes of salvaging something looked to be dead in the water early on as a much more vibrant Stuttgart side took an early lead through Sebastian Rudy.

The German side - who are struggling in their domestic league - wrapped it up early in the second-half as Rudy turned provider, setting up Zdravko Kuzmanovic to head home and end Rangers' European campaign.

Rangers manager Smith, who has become increasingly frustrated in the

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



## Did U Know?

Sterling Moss of Great Britain has won the most number of Formula One races without winning an entire championship.



## Neo Cricket & SuperSport2

India v Sri Lanka  
Second Test, Day 3  
Live from 11:00am

## TEN Sports

New Zealand v Pakistan  
First Test, Day 3  
Live from 8:00am

## STAR Cricket & SuperSport6

Australia v West Indies  
First Test, Day 1  
Live from 7:00am

## ESPN

Sportscenter India  
Sports News  
Live at 9:30pm

## STAR Sports

ATP World Tour Finals  
Round Robin  
Live from 9:15pm

## Ease traffic before Games

SPORTS REPORTER



Editors of different national dailies have emphasised the need of 'security and smooth traffic system' during the 11th SA (South Asian) Games to be held in Bangladesh from January 29 to February 9 next year.

This was expressed at a view exchange meeting where the organising committee of the SA Games sought the support of the fourth estate for a successful holding of the regional Olympic event.

The meeting turned into an animated discussion with Prothom alo editor Motiur Rahman, Shamokal editor Golam Sarwar, Bhorer Kagoj editor Shamal Datta, Channel-I managing director Faridur Reza Sagar raising some salient points.

Members of the media especially electronic

media have demanded that the authorities should scrap the exclusive rights that state owned Bangladesh Television has for all events and allow access to the private channels so that sports lovers can see more events live.

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith who graced the occasion as chief guest assured the audience to look into the matter while urging the editors to uphold the image of Bangladesh by providing extensive coverage.

Bangladesh Olympic Association president and Army Chief General Abdul Mubeen presided over the meeting. State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker, chairman of Parliament Standing Committee on Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Rasel, SA Games media committee convenor Asaduzzaman Noor MP were also present.

BOA secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed gave a power-point presentation while co-convenor of the marketing committee Rubaba

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) president and Army Chief General Abdul Mubeen (2nd from L) speaks at view exchange programme with the editors of print and electronic media at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Irfan's contract not renewed

CRICINFO, undated

Indian allrounder Irfan Pathan, who has missed most of the ongoing domestic season due to a shoulder injury, has not been given a central contract by the BCCI for 2009-10, while Ashish Nehra who staged a remarkable comeback from injury this year, gets back into the retainer list.

Nehra replaced Irfan in the Grade B list for an annual central contract worth Rs 40 lakh. According to BCCI sources, Irfan has just returned to playing Ranji Trophy matches for Baroda after a long lay-off due to a shoulder injury and was considered as being "a long way away from where he should be" in terms of fitness and performance. As per rules, he will automatically qualify for a Grade D (Rs 15 lakh) contract if he gets selected to play for India over the next year, the sources added.

Praveen Kumar and Dinesh Karthik were the others to benefit, both moving up a grade. Karthik is now in Grade C (Rs 25 lakh) while Praveen moved up to Grade B.

Among the players demoted, apart from Irfan, is S Badrinath, who slipped to Group C from B last year, and Piyush Chawla, who has moved one step down to D. There were four new entries in India's latest retainer list - Abhishek Nayar, Dhawal Kulkarni, Ajinkya Rahane and Manoj Tiwary.

Grade A (Rs 60 lakh): Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni, Gautam Gambhir, Virender Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, VVS Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Zaheer Khan, Harbhajan Singh.

Grade B (Rs 40 lakh): Suresh Raina, Rohit Sharma, Munaf Patel, RP Singh, Ishant Sharma, Praveen Kumar, Ashish Nehra.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

## DOWNLOAD UP TO 10 FREE\* GAMES ON YOUR NOKIA

Log on to Ovi store for more exciting games, applications, ringtones & wallpapers  
http://www.nokia.com.bd/gameloft



\* For a limited period only. Offer valid on selected compatible Nokia devices only. Offer may vary depending on device and region. Download charges may apply. Please check with your service provider.

© 2009 Gameloft. All Rights Reserved. Platinum Sudoku 2, Block Breaker 2 Deluxe, Brain Challenge 2 Stress Management, Gameloft and the Gameloft logo are trademarks of Gameloft in the US and/or other countries. All manufacturers cars, motorcycles, names, brands, and associated imagery featured in the game are trademarks and/or copyrighted materials of their respective owners. Assassin's Creed and Rayman Raving Rabbids TV Party are published by Gameloft under license from Ubisoft Entertainment. Rayman Raving Rabbids, the character of Rayman, Assassin's Creed, Ubisoft and the logo Ubisoft are trademarks of Ubisoft Entertainment in the US and/or other countries. Based on Prince of Persia® created by Jordan Mechner. Prince of Persia is a trademark of Jordan Mechner used under license.

ASIANET/NT/Nov26/11/2009