

Visitors' happy day

SPORTS REPORTER

It was a day belonged to the visitors in the Citycell Bangladesh League as three out of the four touring teams won their respective games at different venues across the country yesterday.

Sheikh Russel Kira Chakra, for whom it was an away match against Farashganj at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, recorded a 2-0 win.

Struggling Muktiyoddha Sangsad pulled off a lone goal victory against hosts Feni Soccer Club at the Shaheed Salam Stadium in Feni.

Shuktara Jubo Sangha returned to winning ways after six straight defeats when they beat Beanibazar SC 2-1 at the Sylhet Stadium.

The only disappointment among the visitors were Brothers Union who had to content with a 1-1 draw with Chittagong Mohammedan at the MA Aziz Stadium in the port city.

Although the winners and the vanquished have little to focus as far as the title race is concerned, Sheikh Russel looked like the only team to catch second-placed Mohammedan after their yesterday's triumph.

It was Russel's 13th victory in 18 matches and lifted the point to 43, five less than Mohammedan.

After a barren first half, Salah Maslous and Rajon Mia struck for Russel against Farashganj.

Smarting from a 1-1 draw against

Rahmatganj MFS in the previous match, Russel boys took to field without their top-scorer Moroccan Samir Omari and found them struggling against a youthful Farashganj, who should have taken a deserved lead, but they failed to cash in on the opportunities they created in the first 45 minutes.

Sheikh Russel took the lead eight minutes into the second half with Moroccan Salah clipping the ball over an

RESULTS	
Sheikh Russel KC 2 (Maslous 53, Rajon 79)	Farashganj 0
Beanibazar SC 1 (Cooper 69)	Shuktara JS 2 (Mutebi 42, Tapu 68)
Ctg Mohammedan 1 (Lamine Soumah 62)	Brothers Union 1 (Enock Bentil 14)
Feni Soccer Club 0	Muktiyoddha 1 (Rokonuzzaman 75)

advancing Farashganj custodian Titumir Chowdhury into an empty net. The Moroccan however had to pay a price for that as he failed to avoid a collision with Titumir and left the field with blood pouring down his nose.

Before conceding the goal, Farashganj saw a beefy attempt by Imtiaz Sultan Jitu rattled off the woodwork.

Rajon sealed the fate of the game in the 79th minute with a well-judge header off

an Abdullah Parvez corner

At the Shaheed Salam Stadium, visitors Muktiyoddha took a sweet revenge of their 1-2 first leg loss against Feni Soccer Club with a 75th minute strike from Rokonuzzaman Kanchan.

The fifth victory in 17 matches meant once-heavyweight-turned-no-hoppers Muktiyoddha raised their point tally to 17 to stay at seventh place along with Chittagong Abahani while Feni despite their fifth defeat in 17 matches maintained the fourth position with 24 points.

Away at Sylhet Stadium, Shuktara recorded their second victory after six straight defeats when they beat Beanibazar by the odd goal in three.

The first meeting of the two teams ended in a goalless draw at Narayanganj.

Idris Mutebi put Shuktara ahead three minutes from break while Tapu doubled the margin in the 68th minute. One minute later Cooper struck for the hosts, but could not avert their eighth defeat in 17 games.

Despite the victory Shuktara still stays at the bottom the 13-team table with 10 points, three points less than Beanibazar.

At the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong, hosts Chittagong Mohammedan came from behind to hold Brothers Union to a 1-1 draw. The two teams also drew goalless in their first meeting at the BNS.

Brothers went ahead with a 14-minute strike from Enock Bentil before Lamine cancelled it in the 62nd minute.

Brothers now have 18 points from as many games while Ctg MSC have 19 from 18 matches.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

7-star Chelsea

AFP, London

Salomon Kalou scored a hat-trick as Chelsea returned to the top of the English Premier League with a 7-0 thrashing of Stoke at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

Victory saw Carlo Ancelotti's men leapfrog champions Manchester United and left the Londoners a point in front with two games to play after they'd scored seven goals in a match for the third time this season.

Ivory Coast international Kalou stooped to head the Blues in front from a Didier Drogba cross in the 24th minute.

And seven minutes later, he doubled the Londoners' lead with a driven strike.

Before half-time, he was involved in the build up to Chelsea's third which came after visitors Stoke had seen goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen go off with a shoulder injury.

Kalou went down under a challenge from former Chelsea defender Robert Huth which began outside the box but a penalty was awarded and England midfielder Frank Lampard scored from the spot.

Kalou's grand day got even better in the 68th minute when he completed his treble on the follow-up after Stoke substitute keeper Asmir Begovic had blocked his initial shot.

Lampard added a fifth and further goals from Daniel Sturridge and Florent Malouda gave Chelsea a plus eight goal difference advantage over United, which could yet prove crucial in deciding the title race.

Chelsea's win was all the more impressive as they were without suspended captain and England defender John Terry.

Tennis team to leave for Davis Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

A six-member Bangladesh tennis team will leave for Iran today to take part in the 2010 Davis Cup (Asia/Oceania region-3) which will held in Tehran from April 26 to May 1.

Participants from Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Vietnam, Bangladesh and hosts Iran will take part in the meet.

Bangladesh qualified for the region 3 competition last year. The team consists of four players Amol Roy, Shibu Lal, Alamgir Hossain and Ranjan Ram and two officials -- non-playing captain SK Moeen Uddin Wali Ullah and manager Mohammad Ali Din. They are expected to return on May 2.



PHOTO: STAR

Sheikh Russel's Moroccan recruit Jamal Nakhli (L) fights for the ball with Farashganj defenders during their Bangladesh League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

SA Academy kept at bay

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The GP-BCB National Cricket Academy put on some good fightback to keep South Africa Academy at bay and chalk out a draw on a rain-marred final day of the first four-day at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong.

With the overnight score of 145 for 3 and needing a further 248 runs to win, the BCB side fought hard to stave off the South African attack as they stuttered to 250 losing nine wickets when the stumps were drawn.

The two overnight batsmen Shuvogoto Hom and Mahmudul Hasan provided

Manikganj cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Retired XI defeated Sir Sadat Ali Memorial Club by six wickets while Tiger Sporting Club defeated Biltu Club by three runs to move into the semifinals of the Khan Real Estate Second Division Cricket League at Manikganj Government Boys' High School playground yesterday.

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most of the impetus to the fight with some solid batting. The two added 104 runs for the fourth wicket before Hasan became a leg-before victim to left-arm spinner Kehsav Maharaj for 55, one of his four victims in the innings.

There were nine boundaries in the 72-ball innings from Hasan. Hom grafted for some more time before falling leg-before to G Vrich after playing a patient knock of 74. His 133-ball knock consisted 11 boundaries. Hom's dis-

missal was the sixth in the innings and there were 17 more overs for the hosts to negotiate. Three more wickets fell but the hosts, most importantly, hung in there with their last wicket to bid out the time. The hosts were 250 for nine as the stumps were drawn for the match, with the two unbeaten batsmen on the night. Rony Talukdar and Keshav Maharaj were named joint man-of-the-match for their efforts with bat and ball respectively.



PHOTO: COURTESY

BCB Academy's Rony Talukdar (R) and Keshav Maharaj of South Africa Academy share the man-of-the-match trophy after the end of their four-day match at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Alam Boli of Teknaf celebrates after becoming champion in the Jabbarer Boli Khela at the Laldighi Maidan in Chittagong yesterday.

Alam Boli, the king

STAR SPORT DESK

The century-old traditional Jabbarer Boli Khela was held at the historic Laldighi Maidan in Chittagong yesterday. The event is a traditional wrestling competition and one of the oldest traditions of the port city.

Alam Boli from Teknaf emerged champion in the 101st edition of the competition. Alam was also the joint-champion in the hundredth meet last year.

Banglalink, one of the leading mobile phone operators of the country, sponsored the competition which is a part of the three-day Boishakhi Fair at Laldighi. Banglalink sponsored the event for the second consecutive year.

The tradition is that it is held in Boishakh, the first month of Bengali year, and the sporting event always takes place at Laldighi Maidan. The contest got its name from local merchant Abdul Jabbar Sawdagor who introduced this competition back in 1909 -- Bengali year 1316 -- with an aim to motivate and organise the Bengali youths. The descendant of Abdul Jabbar, with the support of local people, has proudly upheld this tradition ever since.

BCCI suspends Modi

CRICINFO, undated

The BCCI has suspended Lalit Modi, the IPL chairman, following several allegations of financial misconduct over the past fortnight. The suspension notice was served on him by Rajeev Shukla, a BCCI vice-president, at the conclusion of Sunday's tournament final in Mumbai, with Shashank Manohar, the board president, sending an email to the same effect.

It is understood Modi - who has not signalled his intentions but is likely to go to court - will be given 48 hours to answer the charges levelled at him. However, he made a strong statement at the post-match ceremony in a speech that dwelt on the controversy.

"We have had some off field unpleasant dramas only based on innuendo, half truths and motivated leaks from all kinds of sources," he said. "I assure you all decisions have been taken jointly by the governing council ... Still, as the leader of the team, if there is any flouting of rules or any other financial irregularity, I will take full responsibility."

The IPL governing council is due to meet today and, though the meeting was called by BCCI president Shashank Manohar, Modi sent out an agenda that included asking all those filing charges to bring documentary evidence. It now appears that Modi will not be allowed to attend that meeting.

Once the suspension notice is served - both via email and in writing - Modi will be given 48 hours to respond to the charges. If his response is deemed unsatisfactory, the board will pass a resolution to terminate him at the working committee meeting on May 2. That will then go to vote at the special AGM.

Through much of the past

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Chennai IPL kings

SPORTS DESK



Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni led his team like a true general and his deputy Suresh Raina batted, fielded and bowled like a champion as Chennai Super Kings lifted the third Indian Premier League with a 22-run win over Mumbai Indians in a pulsating final at

the DY Patil Stadium in Mumbai yesterday.

Batting first Chennai put up a fighting 168-5 in their share of 20 overs with Raina hitting an unbeaten 57 and Dhoni contributing a solid 22. Chennai were struggling at 68 for 3 after 12 overs when Dhoni got into the act: 100 runs were added in the last eight overs, and Raina scored 44 at a strike-rate of 200 after the first drop.

Mumbai might have walked

into the final as a better side after a fantastic run in the group stages, but they faltered when it mattered most. Sachin Tendulkar beat the pain-barrier and scored a fine 48 even with a split webbing but some strange moves in the batting order eventually proved costly for them.

Mumbai promotions Abhishek Nayar and Harbhajan Singh up in the batting order in place of JP Duminy and Kieron Pollard and it did not work as wicket fell at regular intervals and run-rate continued to climb beyond the limit.

Giant West Indian Pollard however threw caution to the wind when he clobbered 22 runs including two sixes and as many fours in the 18th over bowled by Australian Doug Bollinger. It was however not enough for the best team in the competition to overhaul the target.

The victory meant Dhoni adding another feather to his captaincy hat with aggression, smartness and flair, and won the third IPL through a fourth one-sided knockout match in a row.

Suresh Raina capitalised on two dropped catches to score a crucial fifty. But there was no denying of his electrifying presence on the field. He took one wicket and more importantly took a stunning diving catch at deep mid-wicket.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Chennai Super Kings: 168 for 5 (Raina 57 not out, Dhoni 22; Fernando 2-23)

MUMBAI INDIANS: 146 for 9 (Tendulkar 48, Pollard 27, Jakati 2-27)

Result: Chennai won the final by 22 runs.

Man-of-the-final: Suresh Raina



PHOTO: AFP

An Indian policewoman searches a young girl outside the DY Patil Stadium before the start of the final match of Indian Premier League in Mumbai yesterday.

Bangladesh A on the ropes

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

South Africa A rode on two huge tons from Heino Kuhn and skipper Thami Tsolekile after Alviro Petersen's century to put up a massive 676 for 9 before restricting hosts Bangladesh A to 148 for three at the end of Day Three of their first unofficial Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The hosts, who were bowled for 346 in their first knock, were still 182 runs adrift of the visitors' first innings total with seven wickets remaining in their second attempt.

It was another hard day for the hosts as the South Africans kept piling on their overnight score of 436 for five. The two not out batsmen Kuhn and Tsolekile were the architects of the run-fest. The two added 283 runs for the seventh wicket before Kuhn fell nine runs short of a double hundred becoming a caught-and-bowled victim for Forhad Hossain. Kuhn's 239-ball stay at the wicket contained 14 boundaries and a maximum. His partner skipper Tsolekile was equally aggressive, scored 140 runs off 182 deliveries before becoming victim of left-arm spinner Faisal Hossain. He was one of the five victims of Faisal who finished with five for 183 from his 41 overs. The rest of the batting line-up picked up some quick runs before Tsolekile made the declaration halfway through the post-lunch session.

Bangladesh A got 41 overs to negotiate in the day and they managed to put on 148 losing three wickets in that time. Opener Shariar Nafees picked up a half-century after he had narrowly missed one in the first innings. Nafees and Shamsur Rahman put on a 93-run opening stand before Nafees was dismissed by Dean Elgar. Elgar accounted for Shamsur too for 38 a run later. And the next man Farhad Hossain departed without adding to the total. From there on, Nazimuddin and

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