



Chittagong Abahani's Rubel Miah (C) is in a hot pursuit to win the ball ahead of a Bangladesh Police defender during the opening match of the 23rd Grameenphone Federation Cup at the Bishreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday. Abahani won 2-1.

PHOTO: STAR

Div II chess
SPORTS REPORTER

Toyota Motors, Agrani Bank and Fire Service & Civil Defence shared the lead with five points each after the third round of the Philosophia 2nd Division Chess League at the Chess Federation yesterday.

Friends Chess beat Rajshahi Chess Club followed the leaders with four points each.

Toyota Motors missed the chance to enjoy a solo lead when they drew with Agrani Bank 2-2.

Fire Service beat Bondhor Fine Chess Club 3.5-0.5; Friends Chess beat Rajshahi Daba Unnayan Shangastha 2.5-1.5; Asad Chess Club beat Habisganj Chess Club 2.5-1.5; Al-Haz Abdul Karim Chess Club beat Bangladesh Women Chess Association 3.5-0.5; Royal Electronics beat Kasparov Chess School 4-0 and Baroder Daba School beat Ekata Shapla Sangha 3.5-0.5.

Andy banking

FROM PAGE 17
"Players like Jacob Oram and Scott Styris are always going to be a big miss. We do have Vettori, McCullum and Kyle Mills so we got a bit of experience across the board there," said McKay.

McKay, who has taken seven wickets in nine ODIs so far, made his debut against Bangladesh earlier this year when the Tigers didn't play all too well. But Tuesday's loss obviously changed the Kiwis' mindset, as reflected by McKay's comments.

"We had a bit of a hiccup in that first game. We were outplayed by Bangladesh who played very well.

"I think they have improved immensely. Shakib [Al Hasan] is in great form. I think you got a good new breed of players and they are starting to play more consistently, so it's more of a challenge for us," he added.

Proteas

FROM PAGE 17
Brendan Taylor claimed two for 16 in four overs.

Then Taylor followed up his excellent bowling effort with 59 off 39 balls. Justice Chibhabha also made the same score, off 41 balls.

For the hosts, Robin Peterson and Rusty Theron took two wickets each.

Klose might

FROM PAGE 20
Klose has 57 goals from 104 international appearances and is second only to Gerd Mueller's incredible tally of 68 goals in 62 games between 1966 and 1974.

Remarkably, Klose has scored five goals for Germany in just three Euro 2012 qualifiers this season, but has failed to find the net in seven games for Bayern Munich and has hinted he is prepare to leave.

Tevez hints

FROM PAGE 20
okay in my life? When I talk about quitting, I mean quitting football, not just the national team.

Neuer drops

FROM PAGE 20
the corner and get back on track.

"My contract runs until 2012 and I have always made it clear that I would play this season for Schalke. As for the future, we will see. I want to be playing in European competition next year."

Ctg Abahani beat Police in opener

SPORTS REPORTER



Chittagong Abahani beat Bangladesh Police by the odd goal in three in the opening match of the 23rd Grameenphone Federation Cup football tournament at the Bishreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Dhiman Borua opened the scoring in the 15th minute for the Sky Blues before substitute Ararat made it 2-0 on the hour mark.

Bangladesh Police captain Mafizul Rahman scored a consolation goal from a penalty just before the final whistle.

Earlier, Bangladesh Football Federation senior vice president Abdus Salam Murshedy

formally opened the meet as chief guest. Kazi Nabil Ahmed, vice president of BFF and Syed Tahmid Azizul Haque, head of market communications of sponsors Grameenphone, were also present.

The opening match of the first round of the traditional season's curtain raiser was a relatively sedate affair. Even though the gallery entry was made free, there were only a handful of spectators to watch the match, which was mostly a drab affair with the goals providing the few moments of excitement.

Dhiman's opening goal was a cool finish as he dabbled the ball into the net after receiving a cross from captain Masud Alam. Masud was also the provider of the second goal, as his corner was headed in by substitute Ararat.

Rajasthan, Punjab

FROM PAGE 17

Lachlan Murdoch, who were later joined by Raj Kundra and Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty.

Both teams took part in the first three editions of IPL, before their ownership deals were questioned by BCCI officials who were probing financial irregularities by former IPL chief Lalit Modi.

The six other original franchises are Kolkata Knight Riders, Chennai Super Kings,

Bangalore Royal Challengers, Deccan Chargers, Delhi Daredevils and Mumbai Indians.

Two new franchises, Kochi and Pune, are to be added to the 2011 edition with a fresh auction of players to be held later this year.

Kundra, co-owner of the Rajasthan Royals, reacted strongly to the BCCI's move and threatened legal action.

"I don't see IPL 4 happening if the BCCI treats other teams like this," Kundra was

quoted as saying by the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency.

"The termination of the contract by BCCI is shocking. We are seriously thinking of legal action. We need to see a copy of the termination notice and study it."

Bangalore owner Vijay Malaya tweeted: "I wonder if IPL franchisees are serious stakeholders whose investments and participation are respected, or are they slaves who only come and play?"

A Punjab official was hopeful of a resolution soon. "We are in shock," the official told Cricinfo. "It came out of the blue, it was absolutely unexpected."

Rajasthan Royals, captained by former Australian spin wizard Shane Warne, won the inaugural tournament in 2008.

The Punjab team included Sri Lankan stars Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene, Australian pace bowler Brett Lee and India's Yuvraj Singh.

Delwar-Mamun take doubles title

SPORTS REPORTER

Delwar Hossain and Mamun Bepari won the doubles crown in the Anlene ATF Under-14 series after defeating the Indian pair of Govas Aryan and Karan Mehta 6-4, 6-0 in the final at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

But Mamun failed in the singles final, conceding a 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 defeat to Mehta.

The Indian however was slightly lucky as Mamun suffered muscle cramps after taking the lead with the first set.

Hong Kong's Speckman Clary beat compatriot Lo Wing Chang 6-1, 6-1 to take the girls' crown.

New Zealand Dairy Products Bangladesh's head of marketing GM Kamrul Hasan was present as the chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners.

De Jong

FROM PAGE 20

sent a gift - but that's it.

"A visit from De Jong wasn't put to him. Brian wanted to visit but Hatem was on morphine at the time. The facts of the matter are he hasn't been in touch and he hasn't apologised. Brian Marwood has been in touch, but not De Jong."

Beckham at Kamalapur

SPORTS REPORTER

Beckham was sitting in the VIP gallery of the Kamalapur Stadium to watch the opening match of the 23rd Grameenphone Federation Cup between Chittagong Abahani and Bangladesh Police yesterday.

Yes, you have read it right. Ted Beckham, the father of England's most celebrated football player David Beckham, watched the match with great interest.

The 62-year-old arrived in the city last morning as an ambassador of the David Beckham Football Academy partnering Canary Wharf Football Development Programme, a major real estate developer in Tower Hamlets of London, which is a major centre for the Bangladeshi community in the United Kingdom.

Beckham Sr., who has coached a few Bangladeshi youngsters at the famed David Beckham Academy in London, said the Bangladeshi boys are good in technique and they can only improve given proper coaching and training.

A fan of Twenty20 cricket, Beckham said he would not have the opportunity to watch the Bangladesh's third one-day match against New Zealand today, but he did watch 'Tigers' match against Middlesex when they toured England earlier this year.

Howard Dowber, strategic adviser to Canary Wharf watched the opening Federation Cup match with Beckham.

Dowber said, "We are proud to have been associated with the training of Bangladeshi kids. We feel tactically and physically they have improved a lot.

"The four-year programme has now come to an end. We believe the youth programme that we started four years ago, will be taken forward by the Bangladesh Football Federation."

Dowber informed that few of those players from the academy have appeared for the Bangladesh Under-19 side and ply their trade for some of the top clubs in the country.

The Canary Wharf representatives, along with Ted Beckham, will watch the academy players in an exhibition match against a local team at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

Primary schools football on

SPORTS REPORTER

The first-ever Bangabandhu Gold Cup Government Primary School Football competition started across the country yesterday.

On the opening day, Joydevpur Smriti Govt. Primary School beat Harilal Govt. Primary School by 3-2 at the Gazipur Shaheed Barkat Stadium.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Motahar Hossain inaugurated the meet as chief guest in the afternoon.

Japan Open Nadal's

Tennis

AP, Tokyo

Top-ranked Rafael Nadal overpowered No. 5 seed Gael Monfils 6-1, 7-5 to win his first Japan Open title Sunday and regain some face after a surprise semifinal loss in Bangkok last week.

Nadal roared out in the first set, breaking Monfils in the second and sixth games and keeping the Frenchman off the net with deep, well-placed returns that sealed it up in just 25 minutes at 6-1.

Monfils took back some of the momentum early in the second set, delivering strong serves and crosscourt returns - and pleasing the crowd with acrobatic saves. But the left-handed Spaniard fought back in the 11th game, breaking Monfils's service with a long return shot just out of reach that put him ahead 6-5. He then held his service to take the next game and the match at 7-5.

"I have to enjoy this moment," the 24-year-old Nadal said, promising to return next year. "You never know when it will end."

Nadal, who has won nine Grand Slam titles and seven of eight finals this season, went into the match a heavy favourite, having beaten Monfils in six of their seven past meetings. His only loss to the Frenchman came on Doha's hard surface last year.

Monfils has also struggled with left-handed opponents, marking a 0-3 record against them this season.

"I wanted to win another big

title after the US Open last month," Nadal said. "Every tournament is very important."

But Nadal, fresh off a shock semifinal loss in Bangkok to compatriot Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, said going into the match that he was tired from a long season and was having trouble concentrating.

Though he breezed through his early matches in Tokyo, winning in straight sets, that fatigue showed in his semifinal against unseeded Viktor Troicki, who was at match point twice and forced the top seed to into two tiebreakers before he finally capitalised on the Serb's sloppy play.

Nadal had only one ace, to nine served up by Monfils, but was 90 per cent for first serve points won.



PHOTO: AFP

World number one Rafael Nadal of Spain bites the winner's trophy after beating Gael Monfils of France at the Japan Open final in Tokyo yesterday. Nadal won 6-1, 7-5.

DELHI DIARY

RS 3 CRORE GRASS

Horticulturists have developed grass carpets worth over 3 crore rupees, especially for tourists arriving for the Commonwealth Games, Games officials said.

Barmula grass was grown at a farm house in Hapur's Asodha village for three months for visiting foreigners, according to officials. 55 trucks loaded with the grass were dispatched last week under the supervision of a senior police official.

SWIMMERS, ARCHERS LEAVE

The Bangladeshi swimmers and archers left Delhi yesterday for home with empty hand

after competing in the XIX Commonwealth Games.

There is nothing to mention about the swimmers except Shahajan Ali Romy, who qualified for the semifinals in the men's 50m breaststroke for the first time in a big competition like Commonwealth Games though he had won a gold medal in the 2006 South Asian Games.

Bangladesh's main hopes were in shooting and archery but both the disciplines frustrated all after the country's top archer Emdadul Haq Milon was eliminated from the pre-quarterfinals to dash the hopes of winning a medal from archery.

RAHUL'S INSPIRATION

Rahul Gandhi, Congress general secretary, is seemingly inspiring their athletes as the son of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi watched the wrestlers and boxers fight for second consecutive day yesterday.

His presence at the KD Yadav Wrestling Stadium made the sporting environment more colourful as he watched the freestyle wrestling of Yogeshwar Dutt, who eventually won the gold medal.

On Friday, Rahul was also seen visiting the Talkatora Indoor Stadium and watching the fight of Vijender Kumar. After the game, Rahul hugged the Olympic bronze medalist to inspire the boxer.

However, the security officials had a tough time as Rahul breached all security cordons and preferred to sit in the spectators' gallery instead of the VIP block. He became the centre of attraction not only among the spectators but also the officials and volunteers.

SUMITA 3RD FROM LAST

Sumita Rani finished 11th in a field of 13 in the women's 100m hurdles in the Commonwealth Games at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium yesterday.

Sumita, who won a silver medal clocking her best time of 13.99 seconds, took 14.35 seconds to cross the finish line and became last in Heat 1 which consisted of seven hurdlers.

Australia ahead

FROM PAGE 17

Paine, who made 92 in the first Test in Mohali, continued to frustrate the Indian bowlers with his second successive half-century.

The 25-year-old earned two lucky reprieves on either side of the lunch break.

He was on 40 when wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni took a catch off Sreesanth, but umpire Ian Gould judged a no-ball after consulting the television umpire.

Paine moved to 57 when he drove Ojha upishly to covers where the usually reliable Suresh Raina spilled a simple catch, but he managed just two more runs before falling in the bowler's next over.

Ojha then trapped Mitchell

Johnson leg-before for no score as Australia slipped from 405-5 to 415-7.

With partners running out, North attempted to get quick runs and pulled Harbhajan to the deep mid-wicket fence, where Sreesanth took a good catch.

Nathan Haurtiz was run out by a direct throw from debutant Cheteshwar Pujara, while last man Peter George was stumped off Harbhajan.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 478 (Watson 57, Katich 43, Ponting 77, Hussey 34, North 128, Paine 59; Ojha 3-120, Harbhajan 4-148)

INDIA: First innings 128 for 2 (Vijay 42 not out, Sehwag 30, Tendulkar 44 not out)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 43 Tibetan, 1 Cheese partner, 4 Genesis woman, 7 Equipment, 11 Midwestern state, 13 A billion years, 14 Operatic solo, 15 — and Teller, 16 Youngster, 17 Change, 18 Will of "Men in Black", 20 Nitwit, 22 Embrace, 24 "Pop Goes the —", 28 Bar music-maker, often, 32 Former planet, 33 October birthstone, 34 Poorly lit, 36 Muscat's land, 37 Boarded, 39 "Scram!", 41 Stuck-up

Crossword grid with numbers 1-61 indicating starting positions for clues.

Solution to the crossword puzzle. Includes clues like 1 Beer, 2 Throat-clearing sound, 3 Short skirt, 4 "A mouse!", 5 Null partner, 6 Provide an income for, 7 Inspected, 8 Historic time, 9 Atmosphere, 10 Comic Romano, 12 Watchful, 19 Gist, 21 Energy, 23 Deity, 25 Japanese wrestling, 26 Greek vowels, 27 Unrivaled, 28 Trots, 29 Fairy tale preposition, 30 Green Hornet's sidekick, 31 Roman numeral, 35 Spring month, 38 To the — degree, 40 Atlas page, 42 Search engine name, 45 PBS science show, 47 Quickly, on a memo, 48 Zhivago's love, 49 Has to, 50 Lawyers' org., 51 Hawaiian garland, 52 Skillet, 54 Simple card game.

CRYPTOQUIP puzzle with letters L O P F - Z B D M P F H P Y P Z C H D B F N A O P J B Z W C I M P F S L D A A P W W B F N Q Z C T D L L K J Z Q B F P C K L S P W A : C T P M Z F B C I Y Z B D . Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A COMPANY'S PRESIDENT HAS BEEN DEFEATED TWICE, WOULD YOU CALL HIM A DOUBLE-BESTED SUIT?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals T