

Vuvuzelas could be banned

Vuvuzelas could be banned in South African soccer grounds unless fans of the country's most popular club, Kaizer Chiefs, improve their behaviour, officials have warned. Kaizer Chiefs were given a record fine of 500,000 rand (\$72,130) -- suspended for 12 months -- and their chairman was ordered to make a public apology after supporters threw two vuvuzelas and a cabbage on to the pitch during a recent cup game against Moroka Swallows. "Should vuvuzelas continue to be used as missiles they could be banned from PSL (Premier Soccer League) matches," the league's prosecutor Zola Majavu told a news conference.

- REUTERS



Siddikur to play PGA tournament

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman is all set to battle against contemporary golfing greats Ernie Els and Retief Goosen in the PGA-sanctioned CIMB Asia Pacific Classic in Kuala Lumpur from October 28.

The country's first professional golfer reached this new high after earning a place in the Asian Tour Order of Merit. Siddikur is currently number nine in that list, confirming him a place in the tournament to be held at the Mines Resort and Golf Club in the Malaysian capital.

The top 25 available players from the PGA tour's final FedExCup standing have qualified for the CIMB Asia Pacific Classic. The top 10 players from the current Asian Tour Order of Merit and five players under sponsor exemptions will join them to complete one of the strongest playing fields in Asia's golf tournament circuit.

The total prize money is six million dollars and the winner will get \$1 million.

Meanwhile, Siddikur's sponsor Grameenphone congratulated him and wished success in this prestigious tournament.



Sheikh Jamal striker Towhidul Alam Sabuz runs off as winger Zahdid Hossain follows in celebration after the opening goal of their Grameenphone Federation Cup match against Rahmatganj MFS at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Abahani, Sheikh Jamal in semis

SPORTS REPORTER



Title aspirants Abahani emerged Group A champions on goal difference to move to the semifinals of the Grameenphone Federation Cup after playing out a goalless draw against Sheikh Russel KC at Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Newcomers Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club also secured a place in the last four from the same group after handing a 2-1 defeat to Rahmatganj MFS in the day's first match.

After a fierce battle in the first half, Sheikh Russel, who needed nothing but a win to ensure the semifinal berth, kept their mighty opponents at bay while the Abahani backline looked more vulnerable in the absence of Ghanaian defender Samad Yousif, who was serving a one match ban for two successive bookings.

Defender Amit Khan Shuvro took his place but the former Muktiyoddha defender was under tremendous pressure throughout the game and sank the Sky Blues after bringing down Sheikh Russel striker Mohammad Yousuf inside the danger zone to concede a penalty kick in the dying minutes.

With four minutes remaining in the game, Moroccan Samir Omari stepped up to take the spot-kick but to the disgust of the Russel fans floated the ball over the crossbar, allowing Abahani to become group champions followed by Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club.

"It is part of the game. It can happen even though there was no pressure on me," conceded a disgruntled Samir after the game.

Abahani manger Satyajit Das Rupu, however, saw the penalty shot as a conspiracy against Abahani.

"Mohammedan are almost out of the tournament. Awarding a penalty to Sheikh Russel was just an attempt to exclude

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

Powerplay needs new philosophy



MOHAMMAD ISAM

Mahbubul Alam, an experienced off-spinner from Rajshahi, said a season or two ago that whenever his captain would hand him the ball during the Powerplay restrictions, his face would break into a smile. Not a rueful one but it was genuine happiness. Mahbubul, better known as Mustakim, really loves to bowl when the Powerplay is on.

His explanation, due to his confident nature, was simple: with the field up and a

maximum of three fielders outside the 30-yard circle, the singles get cut off as the batsmen wouldn't risk a run-out with six to seven fielders inside the circle. That would force them to look for boundaries and try lofted shots, giving the bowler every chance of picking up wickets.

Not surprisingly, it is a common sentiment among bowlers (especially those who back themselves to do the job). In domestic one-day cricket, batsmen are less inclined to take risks for a number of reasons that vary from the prevailing club culture to the batsman's effort to secure his immediate future in the team.

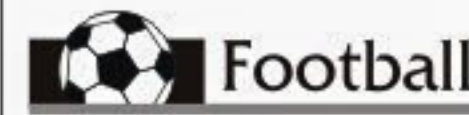
Ever since the option of batting

Powerplay became available, mid-level clubs decided that it was best not to mess with it while the top clubs are still having trouble making full use of it. From the batsmen's point of view, taking 'unnecessary' risks would risk his future in the team and frankly, who would want the official barking at him after getting out?

It seems that this defensive mindset has made its way to the Tigers dressing-room and by the looks of it, is here to stay. No matter what happens, they seem to be happy keeping the batting Powerplay "for later use", as if they will bash 80 or 90 runs from the last five overs. But the reality is

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Rubcic ponders last four



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national football team's Croat coach Robert Rubcic is still pondering his last four options for the starting eleven of the Asian Games after watching national players in the ongoing Grameenphone Federation Cup.

Rubcic has so far witnessed five matches of the tournament and was seemingly unhappy with the performance of his charges but said he expects to finalise his starting eleven after watching the semifinals.

"I must say they did not look too good and I expect better from them," Rubcic told reporters after watching the match between Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club and Rahmatganj MFS at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

"I said before that I have found seven players already for the starting eleven and I hope to find out the remaining four after the Federation Cup semifinals as my first target is to form a strong squad for the Asian Games," said the 47-year old coach.

Bangladesh will take on Uzbekistan on November 7 in their opening match before taking on United Arab Emirates on November 9 and Hong Kong on the November 11.

Rubcic observed that in all those five matches he watches, the players performed well in the first 20 minutes but then they somehow failed to keep up the same level which he had no explanation for.

"I don't know why the players lose concentration so early. May be they lack power," opined Rubcic who was also worried over the rustiness of the national players.

"The potential problem the players will have

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

NCL one-dayers from today



SPORTS REPORTER

The one-day competition of the National Cricket League gets underway today at three different venues across the country.

Dhaka will face Chittagong at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur while Barisal will look to defend their 2008-09 crown when they take on Sylhet at the Shahid Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi. In the other game, Khulna face Rajshahi at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra in the opening day fixtures.

National players will be available for only the first phase that is scheduled to end on November 5 but captain Shakib Al Hasan has decided to sit out after a gruelling season while dashing opener Tamim Iqbal, pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and pacer Nazmul Hossain are yet to fully recovery from their injuries.

Nazmul, who cut his finger during the first one-dayer against New Zealand in the recently-concluded series, is likely to miss the first two games while Mashrafe and Tamim have a chance to play only the last game of the first phase.

"We are hopeful that Tamim and Mashrafe will be fully fit before the last game of the first phase while Nazmul has a chance

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Transcom Cup golf held

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Faridul Islam clinched the men's title while Mrs S J Hong won the ladies' crown in the 15th Transcom Cup Golf Tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

General Md Abdul Mubeen, Chief of Army Staff distributed prizes among the winners at the KGC yesterday. Vice Admiral Zahir Uddin Ahmed, Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman, Major General Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiq Huq, vice president, Kurmitola Golf Club, Latifur Rahman, chairman and chief executive officer, Transcom Limited were also present. A large numbers of participants, members of Transcom

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



Winners of the 15th Transcom Cup Golf Tournament pose with chief guest Chief of Army Staff and president of Kurmitola Golf Club General Md Abdul Mubeen during the prize giving ceremony at the KGC yesterday. Chaiman and CEO of Transcom Limited Latifur Rahman (C) was also present.

PHOTO: STAR

6 red snooker

SPORTS REPORTER

The best of 11 frames final of the first National 6 Red Snooker Championship will be held today at the Dhaka Club Billiards Room from 12 noon.

Mofazzal Hossain of the Gulshan Club will play against Reza Pahlovi Narayangonj Club in the final.

Mofazzal beat Ziaur Rahman Azad of Dhaka Club 5-4 and Pahlovi defeated Arif of Comilla Club 5-4 in the semifinals on Thursday.



India coach Gary Kirsten (L) gives newcomer Shikhar Dhawan some batting lessons during a training session at the Jawaharlal Nehru ground in Goa yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

THIRD & FINAL ODI

India, Aus arrive in Goa



PTI, Margao

India and Australia arrived on Thursday here from Vishakapatnam ahead of the third and final one-dayer scheduled to be held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Fatorda on Sunday.

After the first ODI was washed off in Kochi, India won the second match by five wickets on Wednesday at Vizag to take an unassailable 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

The Australians arrived here with only 12 playing members after injured speedster Doug Bollinger and key middle order batsman Michael Hussey flew home at the conclusion of the second match.

Cricket Australia's Communications advisor Lachy Patterson, who is traveling with the

visiting team, said that no replacements have been called for as the October 24 fixture was the concluding tie of the rubber.

"Yes, that's correct. We have come here with 12 players. There won't be any replacements (for Bollinger and Hussey), as this is the final match," he told PTI.

The two teams are set to have their first practice sessions at the Nehru Stadium here tomorrow. Goa has been experiencing off-season rains over the last few days but with the sun coming out in full force the wicket has dried out nicely.

Pitch curator Narayan Raju from Bangalore said the wicket for the match, which was damp following incessant rains over the last few days, has dried up well thanks in large measure to the bright sunshine yesterday and today.

"Even if it rains on the eve of the match we

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

27 booters picked

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday picked 27 booters for training ahead of the 51st Subroto Mukherjee Cup (U-17) football tournament which will be held in New Delhi from November 25 to December 2.

The training will get underway on Monday at Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan and the selected players have been asked to report to coach Syed Golam Gilani at the BFF House on the same day.

SQUAD

M Borhan, Ishak, Rafi Raihan, Tapu Barman, Yasin, Raihan, Munna Asam, Rakin, Samrat,

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1