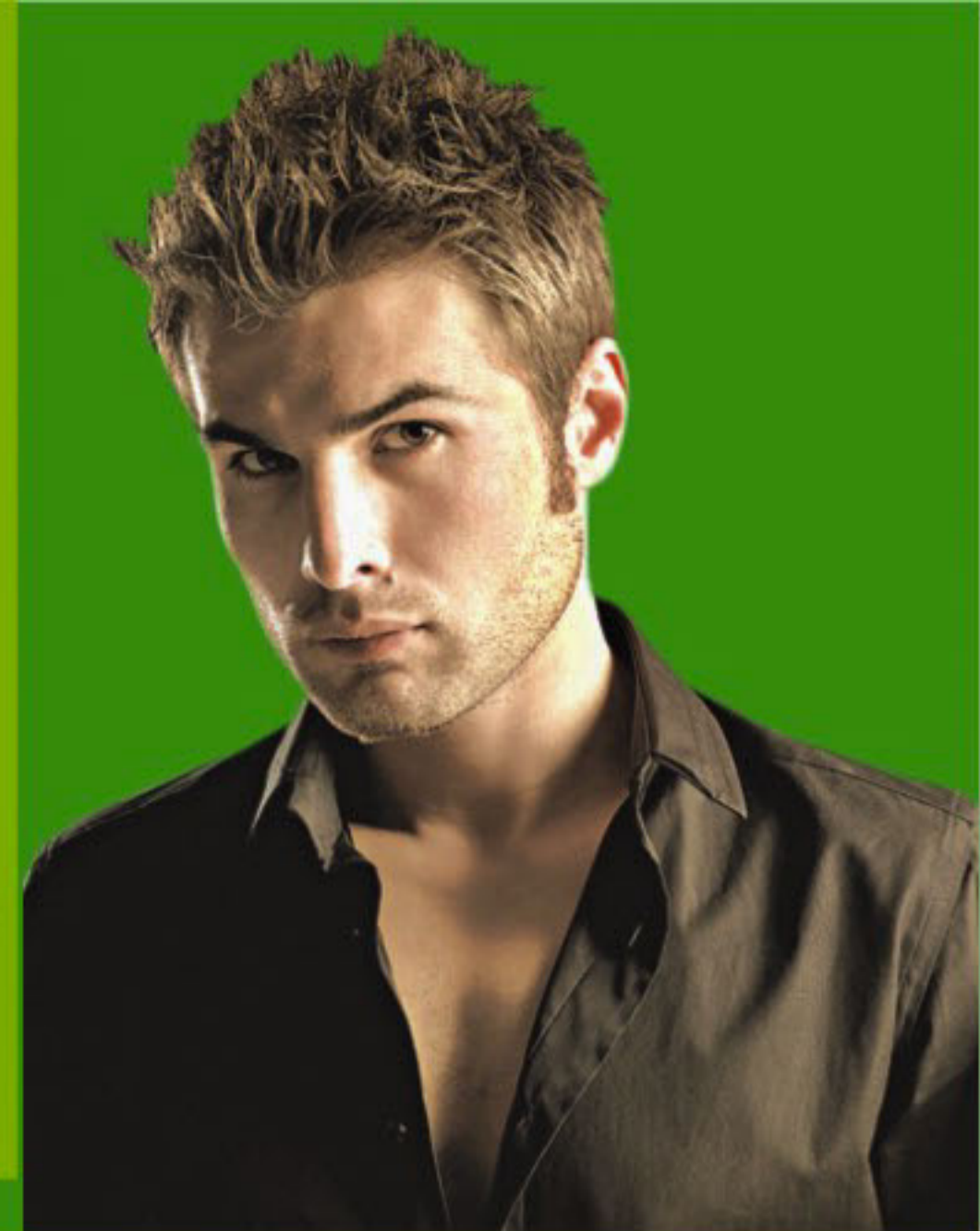


Mutu assaults waiter

Disgraced Fiorentina striker Adrian Mutu has reportedly attacked a barman in Florence, a little over a week before his return from a doping ban. According to witnesses, the Romanian forward argued with the barman over the payment of a bill at Sam before punching him twice and kicking him while he was on the floor, ANSA news agency reports Saturday. Mutu is set to return from a nine-month doping ban on Oct. 29 after twice testing positive for the banned stimulant sibutramine. In 2004 he was sacked by Chelsea and banned for seven months having tested positive for cocaine.



Power test for Kamal

BCB sits for its AGM today



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal is all set to feel the pulse of his councillors about his stubborn stance of upholding professionalism when he attends the first annual general meeting (AGM) of his one-year tenure at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel today.

There are some run-of-the-mill issues on the agenda, which will be placed before the councillors for their approval, but the TK. 57-lakh AGM might in all probabilities heat up over a couple of burning issues like the failure of holding the EGM (extraordinary general meeting) before the AGM and a proposal for amendment in the board's constitution curbing the authority of its chief executive officer.

The board directors are already divided into two groups over the amendment to the constitution with the board president publicly saying that he would stand against any move to make the CEO into a glorified COO (chief operating officer) in the draft of the amendment, prepared by his apparent rival and constitution committee chief Dewan Shafiqul Arefin.

Kamal, who has recently appointed a CEO defying opposition from some directors ever since he took the hot seat in September 2009, now faces tougher battle to convince his councillors how important a CEO is for the betterment of Bangladesh cricket.

Meanwhile, the amendment proposed in the draft constitution is to replace 'chief executive officer' (CEO) with chief operating officer (COO) curbing his authority over the chief finance officer, who according to the amendment, will be accountable to

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Muktijoddha's Sudanese striker James Moga (R) celebrates his goal during the Federation Cup match against Brothers Union at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Muktis, BU in last four

SPORTS REPORTER



Muktijoddha Sangsad eased past Brothers Union 3-0 in their Group B encounter at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday to qualify for the Federation Cup semifinals. Brothers also made it to the last four behind Muktis, while this result eliminated defending champions Mohammedan from the group stage.

A first-half double from Muktijoddha's Sudanese striker James Moga and another from Mithun Chowdhury in the second half ensured the Muktis topped the group with seven points followed by Brothers with six. Muktijoddha will now face Group A runners-up Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club in the second semifinal on Tuesday while Brothers will face group A champions Abahani in the first semifinal on Monday.

Both the coaches seemed satisfied with the outcome of the game. Muktijoddha coach Maruful Haque said they are happy with having topped the group and are not concerned who they are facing in the semifinals.

"We had the target of being group champions, and we have achieved that. Now we are not concerned about who we have to take on. We have to work on the combination between midfield and attack a bit more," said the former Mohammedan coach who joined the Muktis at the start of this season.

Brothers coach and former club great of the club Wasim Iqbal said that having confirmed the semifinal berth they decided to rest a few key players and test out the others.

"We wanted our key players to rest and did not want them to get injured at this stage. We also wanted to test out how the others can do against a good side," he said.

It was an utterly comfortable and convincing victory for Muktis as they controlled the game right from the word go till the very end. They might not have expected such an insipid performance from high-flyers Brothers Union after the All Orange flew

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Asiad hockey squad named

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Hockey Federation has announced a 20-member team for the upcoming 16th Asian Games to be held in Guangzhou, China from November 12.

Zahid Hossain has been named captain while Mamunur Rahman was made his deputy.

Four players -- Monowar Hossain, Al Mansur, Hasan Jubair and Afsar Uddin -- were named as stand-by.

SQUAD

Zahid Hossain, Mamunur Rahman, Rafiqul Islam, Mashur Rahman, Imran Hasan, Tapash Barman, Enamul Kabir, Imran Ahmed, Hosne Mubarak, Kamruzzaman, Russel Mahmud, Sheikh Md Nannu, Krishna Kumar, Puskar Khisa Mimo, Maksud Alam and Mosharraf Hossain.

Mohammedan's shameful exit

SPORTS REPORTER



Defending champions and record ten-time winners Mohammedan Sporting Club bowed out of the Grameenphone Federation Cup even before they took to the field for their last group B match against Feni Soccer Club as Muktijoddha Sangsad eased past semifinalists

Brothers Union 3-0 at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Their fate already confirmed, Mohammedan played out a 1-1 draw against Feni Soccer Club in the day's second match under floodlights.

The Black and Whites finished third in group B with two points from three games, above Feni who finished with a point earned from this game. Mohammedan earlier drew goalless against Muktijoddha and lost to Brothers 2-0.

This was the first time in the 30-year history of the Federation Cup that the popular Motijheel outfit failed to reach the semifinals. Mohammedan coach Shafiqul Islam Manik tried to put a brave face on the back of these embarrassing performances. He cited the unavailability of two of his foreign recruits for this debacle.

"We had been training with these foreign

players for fifteen days and we came to learn only on the day of the match that they could not play. We were depending a lot on the foreign recruits since we have a youthful side," said Manik.

Mohammedan went down in the 36th minute when goalkeeper Pearuzzaman misjudged a Masudul Alam Bulbul cross and gathered the ball from the back of the net.

The Black and Whites were awarded a penalty in the 48th minute when Anwar Hossain was brought down inside the box. Emeka Christian Ibe stepped up and hit an awfully weak kick into the palms of the Feni keeper.

Mohammedan however salvaged some pride when youngster Sohel Rana hit a superb shot across the edge of the box to beat the opposition keeper and gave the agitated Mohammedan faithful something to cheer about.

"We realised after the loss against Brothers that we had no chance in this Cup. I think those teams who made it to the last four are better than us.

"But I am not frustrated, because our aim was not the Federation Cup, rather it was the Bangladesh League. Moreover we did not get our full set of players," observed Manik.

Hasan Al Mamun, veteran defender of Mohammedan echoed his coach's sentiment.

"We are a foreigner-dependent side this time. Not having them was a setback. So this result was expected," said Mamun.

Ticket rates for Zim series fixed

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has fixed the ticket rates for the five-match one-day series against Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on November 27 and the first match will be take place on December 1 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The ticket rates--Club House Tk 200, VIP Tk 1000, Gallery Tk 50, International Gallery Tk 300 and Hospitality Box Tk 1.5 lakh, were finalised during a board meeting yesterday.

St. Joseph win school football

SPORTS REPORTER

St. Joseph defeated Mohammadpur Govt. High School 5-4 in penalty shootout to clinch the Pran Mango Juicepak School Champions Trophy football tournament at the Banani Chairmanbari ground yesterday.

Former national footballer Kaiser Hamid was the chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners. Pran Group brand manager Fahim Rashid was also present.

The competition began on October 9 with participation from 16 schools.

Mofazzal takes snooker title

SPORTS REPORTER

Mofazzal Hossain of Gulshan Club became champion of the inaugural National 6 Red Snooker Championship at the Dhaka Club billiard room yesterday.

He defeated Reza Pahlovi of Narayanganj Club 6-2.

Both players earned the right to represent Bangladesh in the forthcoming Asian 6 Red Snooker Championship to be held at Chanthaburi in Thailand from February 13 next year.

Div II football

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Green Boys' Society defeated Joybantop Satata Sangha 3-2 in the Second Division Football League at the Shaheed Miraz-Tapan Stadium here yesterday.

In another match, Rainbow Sporting Club drew 1-1 with Balora Bandhu Sporting Club.

NCL one-dayers on Barisal, Chittagong & Rajshahi wn

SPORTS REPORTER

The opening day of the National Cricket League's one-day competition lived up to the battlefield for national team places billing as one of the incumbents -- Rokibul Hasan -- made a firm statement in Barisal's 5-wicket stroll over Sylhet at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi yesterday. Alok Kapali, eyeing a place in the World Cup squad, had earlier made a good start to his season with a half-century.

But Mohammad Ashrafal, hoping to return to the Tigers' middle-order as early as the Zimbabwe series, failed when all eyes were on him at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur during Dhaka's 23-run defeat to Chittagong.

But the day's best performance was actually at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium

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Chittagong paceman Tareq Aziz jumps for joy after snaring Dhaka's Shuvogoto Hom (not in picture) during their National Cricket League game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Rain forecast at Goa

CRICINFO, Margao

"My god I have never seen rain like this before," John Hastings, the Australia all-rounder, tweeted on Saturday afternoon. "Chances are slim."

He was right. It poured for five hours on Friday evening and rained again on Saturday morning. The forecast threatens more bad weather; if the third and final one-day game is washed out today it would be the first time since the 1979-80 tour that Australia will leave India without having won a single game, including any tour matches.

There was also a short tour in 1996 (one Test

and one warm-up game) where Australia drew the tour game and lost the Test.

If the rains stay away and the drainage facility at the stadium, reportedly substandard, surprises to give a game, Callum Ferguson will replace Michael Hussey. Ferguson hasn't played a single Test match but they say he will be the captain in the future. Do such wild expectations terrify a young talent?

"That would be the highest honour as a cricketer you could possibly get," Ferguson said. "I just desperately want to get my baggy green first and see where we go from there." Before that Test debut, though, he will strive to shine in one-dayers. He had impressed in the 25 ODIs he played before his career was halted by an injury sustained in the 2009 Champions

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IT'S NOT GOA'S SEA BEACH: Ground staff walk through water at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium at Margao in Goa yesterday. Heavy overnight and morning rains created the water logging at the venue where India and Australia are scheduled to the third and final one-day international today.

PHOTO: AFP

Chelsea open 5-point gap

APP, London



Chelsea opened up a five-point gap at the top of the English Premier League here Saturday, goals from Florent Malouda and Salomon Kalou goal wrapping up a 2-0 victory over Wolves.

With Manchester City facing Arsenal on Sunday and Manchester United travelling to Stoke, the champions seized the chance to put pressure on the chasing pack by taking maximum points at Stamford Bridge.

Malouda's goal came on 23 minutes, the French international providing the finish after neat interplay between Yuri Zhirkov and Nicolas Anelka.

Salomon Kalou bagged Chelsea's second after a scintillating sequence of one-touch play opened up the Wolves defence on 81 minutes.

Elsewhere, newly promoted West Bromwich Albion advanced to fourth after coming from behind to defeat Fulham 2-1 at the Hawthorns.

Fulham had taken the lead on nine minutes when a Zoltan Gera shot was tipped onto the post by Scott Carson only to cannon back off the West Brom keeper and roll into the net.

Yet the Baggies were back on level terms soon afterwards, when Chris Brunt picked out Congolese striker Youssouf Mulumbu who rifled past Mark Schwarzer to make it 1-1.

West Brom took the lead five minutes before half-time, Brunt and Jerome Thomas combining well to play in Marc-Antoine Fortune who made it 2-1.

At the Stadium of Light, Aston Villa defender Richard Dunne set an unwanted Premier League record when his own goal handed Sunderland a 1-0 victory.

Wigan and Bolton Wanderers fought out a 1-1 draw at the DW Stadium, Hugo Rodallega scoring on 59 minutes for the Latics before Swedish international Johan Elmander levelled for the visitors seven minutes later.

Birmingham piled on the misery for minnows Blackpool with a 2-0 victory at St Andrews.

Korea Cup Taekwondo Army, Ansar clinch titles

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army became the men's champions in the Korea Cup taekwondo competition at the NSC gymnasium yesterday.

The winners picked up six gold, four silver and three bronze medals. Bangladesh Ansar took the women's crown with three gold medals, three silver and two bronze medals.

State Minister for Law Kamrul Islam distributed prizes among the winners.

College h'ball from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Holy Cross College will take on Central Women's College today in the opening match of the 13th Delta Life Women's College handball tournament at the Handball Stadium.

This was announced at a press conference at the Bangladesh Handball Federation office yesterday.

A total of eleven teams from nine colleges will take part in the meet.

SPORTS POLL
TODAY'S QUESTION
 Do you think the rewards given to the Tigers are over the top?
 Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote
 Follow The Daily Star Sport on

 www.twitter.com/dssport

What to WATCH

NEO Cricket
 India v Australia
 Third ODI
 Live from 9:30am

STAR Sports
 F1 World Championship
 Korean Grand Prix
 Live from 11:45am
 Liverpool v Blackburn
 Live from 7:55pm

TEN Action
 Primera Liga
 Getafe v Sporting Gijon
 Live from 8:55pm
 Villarreal v Atletico
 Live from 12:55am (Monday)

Serie A
 Udinese v Palermo
 Live from 11:00pm

ESPN
 English Premiership
 Stoke City v Man United
 Live from 6:25pm
 Man City v Arsenal
 Live from 8:55pm

TEN Sports
 Serie A
 Parma v Roma
 Live from 12:40am (Monday)