

Oracle octopus Paul dead

Paul the octopus, who shot to fame during this year's football World Cup in South Africa for his flawless record in predicting game outcomes, has died, his aquarium in Germany said Tuesday.

"Management and staff at the Oberhausen Sea Life Centre were devastated to discover that oracle octopus Paul, who achieved global renown during the recent World Cup, had passed away overnight," the aquarium said in a sombre statement.

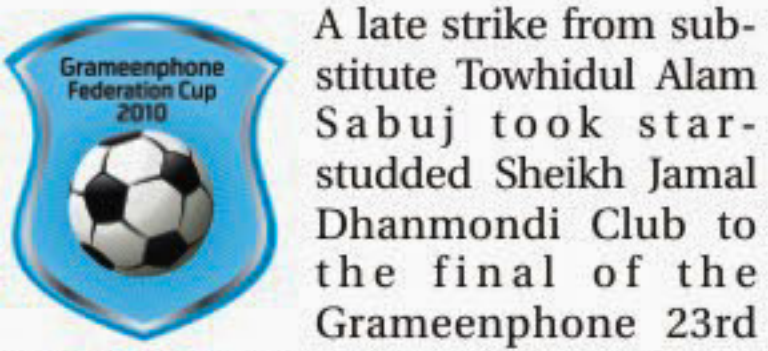
"Paul amazed the world by correctly predicting the winners of all Germany's World Cup clashes, and then of the final," said Sea Life manager Stefan Porwoll.

Paul's body is now in cold storage while the aquarium decides "how best to mark his passing."



Sabuj sends Sk Jamal in final

SPORTS REPORTER



A late strike from substitute Towhidul Alam Sabuj took star-studded Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club to the final of the Grameenphone 23rd Federation Cup with a loan-goal win over Muktiyoddha Sangsad in the second semifinal at Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

It will be a battle of brothers in the final when, seven time champions Abahani, founded by Sheikh Kamal, will take on their next door neighbours, recently named after Sheikh Kamal's younger brother Sheikh Jamal, on Saturday.

Having earlier spoiled two chances from one-on-one situations inside four minutes, Sabuj found the back of the Muktiyoddha net four minutes from time much to the relief of a new look Dhanmondi Club that virtually broke the bank to form a star-studded team.

It is for the first time this club made it to the final in any domestic top-flight competition.

The national striker received a defence-splitting pass from Zahid Hossain inside the box and made space on his right foot before firing a grounder from the edge of the eight-yard box which Muktiyoddha keeper Biplob Bhattacharjee could only lay a hand on way to the net.

"It is always a tough battle to find your place in the starting eleven from among 16 national players. But I waited for my chance and proved myself by striking the winner," said Sabuj who

replaced Shakil Ahmed after the break.

The game got off to a sparkling start when Sheikh Jamal striker Zahid Hasan Emily snatched the ball from Motiur Munna right after the kick-off and passed it to strike partner Enamul Haq inside the danger zone before defender Dami Emanuel made a timely intervention to keep Sheikh Jamal at bay.

However, after that initial pressure, they struggled to muster any threatening attacks against a rigid backline marshalled by Rajani Kanta Barman, Dami Emanuel, Luciano Theiler and Firoz Mahmud Titu.

Muktiyoddha, who came into the semifinal on the back of a staggering 17 goals in five matches and with a hope of making it to the final after three seasons, might have got ahead, but for the superb saves from man-of-the-match Aminul Haque, the veteran goalkeeper who now stands under the Sheikh Jamal post.

Aminul foiled three successive attempts inside a minute as he first fisted a placing shot from Alamgir Kabir Rana, then blocked a Mithun Chowdhury tap from a close range before stopping the follow-up from James Moga in the 55th minute.

Two minutes later, Muktiyoddha were again deprived of an opening goal when Alamu Bukola raced past defender Ariful Islam to cut it back to Moga at the touchline, who saw his fierce drive cleared by defender Atiqur Rahman Meshu from the goalline.

Bukola left the field limping in the 64th minute which curbed Mukti's cutting edge and Sheikh Jamal grabbed the opportunity with both hands launching attacks one after another.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



SUPER-SUB: Sheikh Jamal striker Towhidul Alam Sabuj makes a popular gesture to the crowd after scoring the all-important goal against Muktiyoddha Sangsad in their Grameenphone Federation Cup semifinal at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Nat'l swimming from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The Walton 24th National Swimming Championship gets underway tomorrow at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur.

Some 437 swimmers including 82 female competitors will take part in the meet.

The swimmers will compete in 38 gold (19 each for both male and female) events. Besides, the events of diving and water polo have been also added. The timing will be recorded in an electronic board.

Of an estimated budget of Tk 7.5 lakh, sponsors Walton will provide Tk 3.5 lakh.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



TEN Action
Carling Cup
Newcastle v Arsenal
Live from 12:40am (Thursday)

Ton-up Rokibul



SPORTS REPORTER

Rokibul Hasan and Naeem Islam struck centuries to power their sides to wins in the National Cricket League one-day competition yesterday. Barisal beat Khulna by 19 runs while Rajshahi put Chittagong to the sword with a convincing 151-run victory. In the other match at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium, Dhaka strolled past Sylhet by seven wickets.

While the big scores helped Rokibul and Naeem further their cases ahead of the Zimbabwe series after question marks loomed during the New Zealand ODIs, Zunaed Siddiqui continued his struggle.

Zunaed's Rajshahi teammate Mushfiqur Rahim, another who had an ordinary time against the Kiwis, made most of the opportunity to bat at No 5 as well as it being his second last innings before the national camp from October 31.

BARISAL-KHULNA
Rokibul followed up his unbeaten 90 against Sylhet in the first round with another significant innings, a century, as Barisal batted first to score 252-5 in 50 overs.

The right-hander from Jamalpur, who made only 51 runs in four innings against New Zealand, anchored Barisal throughout his 99-ball 101 that included seven boundaries and a couple of sixes.

Rokibul added 40 with Shahriar Nafees for the third wicket before the left-hander was caught behind off left-arm Bishwanath Haldar. Arafat Salahuddin then played the perfect foil for an aggressive Rokibul as the pair added 85 off 95 balls.

In reply, Khulna were rocked back early by paceman Kamrul Islam Rabbi, who snared four wickets, but the experienced Tushar Imran held firm.

Tushar's dismissal for 98 off 110 balls in the 40th over brought Barisal back to life as they took the last six wickets for only 33 runs.

RAJSHAHI-CHITTAGONG
At the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, Naeem and Mushfiqur added 212 runs for the fourth wicket after Rajshahi stuttered to 55 for three. Eventually, they reached 281 for six from 50 overs.

Naeem slammed six boundaries and four sixes in his 125-ball knock while Mushfiqur missed a century by seven runs when Nazmul Islam had him dismissed for 93 off 111 balls.

Later, Sabbir Rahman's three wickets and a couple each from Naeem and Saqlain Sajib stifled Chittagong who were bowled out for 130 runs from 38.5 overs.

SYLHET-DHAKA
Another leg-spinner, Noor Hossain, played an important role in Dhaka's domination over Sylhet. He took three for 33, all middle-order

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Div-I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi, Uttara Sporting, Agrani Bank, Young Pegasus and North Bengal Cricket Academy won their respective matches on the first day of the First Division Cricket League yesterday.

Favourites Sheikh Jamal (134/10) narrowly managed to beat Bangladesh Boys 124/10 by 10 runs at BKSP. Nayeem Islam took five wickets for 24 runs, but in a losing cause.

Uttara (262-7) thrashed Dhaka Wanderers (129-10) by 133 runs at the Dhaka

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

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

Zim eye Test return

NZ send A team first time in 5 yrs



AFP, Harare

The crack of bats on balls at the deserted Harare Sports Club rouses rare bursts of cheers from a pitch-side pub as Zimbabwe hosts their first New Zealand cricketing visitors in five years.

The mood at the empty ground was a shadow of the festive crowd that 18 years ago rooted for Zimbabwe's international Test debut. But the muted 'A' match signals a milestone in the country's march out of cricket exile.

"If it was, say, three years ago, it would never have even been discussed," said commentator and Zimbabwe Cricket staffer Dean du Plessis on the thawing of relations toward the long-blackballed host nation.

"If somebody had mentioned the word 'Zimbabwe' they would have said we don't want to go there, we don't want them here."

New Zealand's ending of their boycott on the heels of an Irish tour follows Zimbabwe Cricket's courtship of western cricket nations as it plans a return to the Test arena after voluntarily pulling out 15 years ago.

"Certainly in May we will play a Test match," Zimbabwe Cricket managing director Ozias Bvute told AFP.

"We've said we'll go back next year and we've said we're going to responsibly approach Test cricket and we're going to try and play one-off Tests over the next few years in Zimbabwe."

Zimbabwe's political turmoil dramatically spilled over into the sport with an infamous 2003 World Cup black-armband protest for the "death of democracy" under President Robert Mugabe, the sport's patron.

A couple of years later, authorities shelved the squad's five-day status after a strike by the top, mainly white, players over team selection.

"They seem to think we were kicked out, but that isn't the case," stressed Bvute.

"We were choosing our team from 15 people and when we lost the bulk of them we were no longer able to field a national team."

To tackle this, young black cricketers and local franchises have been targeted, with former Test stars like Heath Streak and Alistair Campbell returning to management posts.

Bvute believes the pool is now larger and more talented.

"Or at least they won't be as scarred as the lot we have now who have been isolated from many of their peers because of the politics that has taken centre-stage over the last few years," he said.

But despite the return of some incoming

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

ক্রিকেটান্দে ভাসুন কক্সবাজারে আসুন





Beach Cricket

28 October, Thursday 1:00 pm
29 October, Friday 9:00 am
30 October, Saturday 9:00 am

Beach Concert

28 October, Thursday 6:00 pm
Band: Dalchut, Souls & Momtaz (Folk Singer)

29 October, Friday 6:00 pm
Band: Lalon, Feedback & Nagarbaul (James)

Watch 

