

AC Milan veteran striker Filippo Inzaghi is set to miss the rest of the season after tests on Thursday showed he had suffered a torn cruciate knee ligament and will need an operation to repair the damage.

Inzaghi was forced off during Wednesday's night's 3-1 victory over Palermo that took Milan top of Serie A, just 15 minutes after coming on as a substitute.

It means the 37-year-old could miss the rest of the season, which could also spell the end of his glittering career given that he will turn 38 before the start of next season.



SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2010, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Aus-BD Test series may be rescheduled

PTI, Melbourne

Australia's Test series in Bangladesh in April next year is likely to be rescheduled as it is clashing with the fourth edition of the Indian Premier League, according to reports.

Australia are scheduled to tour Bangladesh for two Tests in April, after next year's Cricket World Cup, the same time when the fourth IPL will be held.

According to Foxsports, the Test series would either be scrapped or rescheduled.

Australia will take on England in the five-match Ashes series starting November 26 followed by a one-day series, before heading to the subcontinent to play in the World Cup.

Scrapping or postponement of the Bangladesh series would allow Australia's players to play in the IPL but after a gruelling season some of the high-profile stars, including Mitchell Johnson are likely to stay out of the Bangladesh series, the report said quoting ICC sources.

Asian Games open with much pomp

AFP, Guangzhou

The Asian Games opened with a spectacular water-themed gala ceremony on Friday, culminating years of planning for an event that is set to reinforce China's regional sporting dominance.

The extravaganza heralds the most ambitious Asiad so far with some 10,000 athletes from 45 countries and territories vying for gold in 42 sports.

The Games run until November 27, with hosts China heavily favoured to top the medal table, and South Korea and Japan battling for second place.

"Remember, you are part of history right here, right now," Olympic Council of Asia president Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah told the athletes at the opening ceremony.

"Please show us your best performance, and show us the spirit of sportsmanship, fair play, friendship and respect to your fellow athletes and officials."

Security forces mounted a sweeping operation to isolate the fenced-off venue with



Shakib Al Hasan rushes off the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday amidst a large crowd after Khulna's National Cricket League game against Rajshahi.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Dhaka thru', Barisal only just Final to be held tomorrow



SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka's 79-run win over Barisal yesterday took them to the final of the National Cricket League's one-day competition, but their opponents would only be identified after authorities confirmed with the playing conditions.

Dhaka, Rajshahi and Barisal are all equal on ten points but according to the by-laws, "the team which was the winner of the most number of matches played between those equal teams will be placed in the higher position."

In other words, Barisal qualified to tomorrow's final through their two wins in their matches against Dhaka and

Rajshahi (in both phases). Rajshahi only won one (against Dhaka) while Dhaka won three games, beating Rajshahi once and Barisal twice.

Barisal captain Shahin Hossain later admitted that he had no idea of their qualification and was only told while he was discussing their defeat to Dhaka in a team meeting.

"Someone came and told us that we are through. It was a huge surprise because we thought our run rate (-0.02) would be counted first," said Shahin.

The net run rate would have come into play if the number of wins between any of the two teams among the three were equal.

RAJSHAHI-KHULNA

Sadly, Rajshahi's total annihilation of Khulna wasn't enough in the end. The match at the Dhanmondi Cricket

Stadium was over by 1:00pm with the Rajshahi spinners ruling the roost.

The Rajshahi players were made aware of their fate only in the evening after the calculations were announced by the authorities. According to skipper Khaled Mashud, they were also of the idea that a win would be enough and treated the game like a semifinal.

All ten Khulna wickets fell to spinners with Sohrawardi Shuvo and Naem Islam picking up four each and the other two going to Saqlain Sajib.

The spinners took a firm grip after Imrul Kayes and Mohammad Mithun made a bright start. But once Naem had Imrul caught behind for 19, Khulna's wickets kept tumbling.

Mithun though, at the other end, Stadium was over by 1:00pm with the Rajshahi spinners ruling the roost.

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP HISTORY

Pakistan vs West Indies

As it was early days for limited overs cricket with teams still finding their feet in the format, a lot of the matches were woefully one-sided. There was one match though, that would have had current viewers of thrill-a-minute T20 matches gnawing through their nails.

It was the only match in which West Indies were dominated. The match was a sort of quarterfinal - the winner would be ensured a place in the semis, and Pakistan, batting first, put on a competitive 266 on board with fifties from Majid Khan, Wasim Bari and Mushtaq Mohammad. A run rate above four was quite respectable at the time, and chasing the target against a competitive Pakistan attack was not going to be easy.

West Indies romped to victory against Sri Lanka in their previous match without even having to flex their muscles, but any complacency was jolted out of their system by Sarfraz Nawaz early in their chase. He dispatched the West Indies' formidable top three of Greenidge, Fredericks and Kallicharan by the time the score reached thirty-six. Lloyd and Kanhai combined to put up forty-eight runs, and just as things were looking good for the batting side, Kanhai was bowled by medium-pace Nasser Malik for 24. Richards came and departed fifteen runs later. Allrounder Julien stuck around for forty deliveries while his captain scored runs at a good pace to reach 53 off 58, but both fell within two runs of each other, and the score read a sorry 151 for 7. It soon became 166 for eight, and after some resistance from Holder, West Indies were staring defeat in the face at 203 for 9, with wicketkeeper Deryck Murray and number 11 Andy Roberts trying to put together a miracle recovery.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Media cricket cup is Daily Star's Destiny

SPORTS REPORTER

In his famous play Julius Caesar, William Shakespeare observed that there is a tide in the affairs of men which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune.

After yesterday, The Daily Star would surely concur.

Just a month after they bagged the DRU-Rapid Securities football title, and a day before they will move to their brand new premises, the country's leading English daily capped a remarkable and unprecedented triple delight after also triumphing in the DRU-Pepsi Media Cup Cricket tournament with a 45-run victory over the Dainik Destiny, a Bangla-language daily in the final at the Maulana Bhashani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

But while the football final was won in penalties with blood, toil and tears, and the move to

the new premises comes after years of hope, hard work and aspiration, the cricket final was a relative breeze.

The Daily Star put up 95-1 in their six over before comfortably wrapping up Destiny for 50 off the last ball of their stipulated overs.

The victory was achieved, again, on the back of young starlet Najmul Alam Nobin who hammered a 13 ball 32 with four boundaries and one massive hit over the rope.

With the knock in the final, Nobin took his tournament tally to 129 in four matches without being dismissed and was a shoe-in for the man-of-the-tournament award, for which he bagged a modest Tk 5000.

But while Nobin was his usual brilliant best, his more prehistoric opening partner and captain M Abul Kalam Azad also smashed a sparkling 14 ball 33 that included five fours and one six.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



Shooter Abdullah Hel Baki (front) carries the Bangladesh flag as he leads the delegation during the opening ceremony of the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou, China yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Athletes take to field today

SPORTS REPORTER

After a spectacular opening ceremony of the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou yesterday, athletes from different countries will lock horn today with Bangladesh opening their campaign in disciplines of shooting, weightlifting, chess, wushu and billiard.

Apart from these five disciplines, Bangladeshi athletes will take part in 11 more disciplines in the Games. The disciplines are -- archery, athletics, boxing, cricket, football

(already eliminated), golf, hockey, kabaddi, karate, swimming and taekwondo. Bangladesh have sent a huge contingent of 235 athletes and officials with very little hope of winning medals in the showcase event where they won only one bronze in boxing and one silver and a bronze in kabaddi since making debut in 1986.

The officials of Bangladesh Olympic Association though are dreaming of winning medals in both men's and women's cricket (first time introduced), kabaddi and golf.

Athletes of shooting, weightlifting, chess, wushu and billiard take to the field today when focus will be on the shooting team.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

BCB U-17s win series 3-0

SPORTS REPORTER

BCB Under-17s took the series 3-0 against the visiting CAB Under-17s as they posted a 51-run victory in the third one-day at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Salman hit 65 as BCB Under-17 scored 257 runs for nine after deciding to bat first. Javed was the other notable scorer with 39 while Mosaddek added 37 and Sukanto 35.

Ritwik Roy claimed three wickets for 49 runs.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4



Members of The Daily Star cricket team pose with the DRU-Pepsi Media Cricket tournament after their victory over Daily Destiny in the final at the Maulana Bhashani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

SPORTS POLL
WEEKLY QUESTION
Who do you think should be Bangladesh's captain in the World Cup?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast your vote

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www.twitter.com/dspsport

What to WATCH

TEN Sports
Asian Games Day One
Live from 8:00am

NEO Cricket
India v New Zealand Second Test, Day 2
Live from 10:00am

TEN Cricket
Pakistan v South Africa First Test, Day 2
Live from 12:00pm

ESPN
English Premiership Aston Villa v Man United
Live from 6:40pm
Man City v Birmingham City
Live from 8:55pm
Stoke City v Liverpool
Live from 11:25pm

STAR Sports
English Premiership Tottenham v Blackburn
Live from 8:55pm