

Lionel Messi wants to pick up his first international silverware in the summer, making a wish for success in the 2011 Copa America with Argentina.

"In 2011, I want to win my first title with the national team, so I asked Father Christmas for the Copa America as a gift," the 23-year-old said while in his hometown of Rosario, according to the AFP news agency.

"I will do everything to win. It's the gift that I want to give all Argentines."

Argentina plays host to the 43rd Copa America from July 1 to July



SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY DECEMBER 28, 2010, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Sheikh Jamal dominate in draw

SPORTS REPORTER



Three-time champions Abahani survived scares throughout the game to play out a goalless draw against newcomers Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club in the inaugural match of this season's Bangladesh League at the Bishreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Star-studded Sheikh Jamal, without their Serbian coach Zoran Kraljevic, kept holders Abahani at bay from the very beginning by opening up Sky Blues' backline several times. But unfortunately, their strikers could not avail any of those chances and had to be content with a single point.

It was expected that the two sides would fight neck and neck in their first meeting after their exciting Federation Cup final where Abahani came from behind twice to beat Sheikh Jamal 5-3, but it was almost a one-sided affair in terms of creating opportunities.

Federation Cup champions Abahani were lucky not to lose all three points to Sheikh Jamal, who are yet to conquer the popular Sky Blue outfit in three matches they have played so far, and there would have been no surprise if the defending champions suffered a huge defeat in the Dhanmondi derby.

Striker Towhidul Alam Sabuj squandered at least three easy chances while wingers Zahid Hossain, Atiqur Rahman Mishu and striker Zahid Hasan Emily also joined the rehearsal of missed chances in front of some 2000 spectators at the Kamalapur venue.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club winger Atiqur Rahman Mishu (R) looks to cross with Abahani's Ghanaian midfielder Yusuf Aminu nearby during their Bangladesh League opener at the Bishreshtha Mostofa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP HISTORY

Woolmer death casts a shadow

The 2007 event in West Indies was undoubtedly the worst World Cup from the organisers' standpoint. It was a tournament sodden with controversy, with the ICC taking most of the joy out of cricket in the Caribbean through high ticket prices, banning of musical instruments and kowtowing to sponsors to the extent that spectators were asked to turn t-shirts containing conflicting logos inside out. It all culminated to an embarrassment of a final where Australia beat Sri Lanka in near darkness. Despite all these administrative gaffes, the tournament will forever be remembered for the tragic death of Bob Woolmer, the Pakistani coach and former England cricketer.

On March 18, the day after Pakistan's shock defeat to Ireland, Bob Woolmer was found unconscious in his hotel room and within hours, it was confirmed that he had passed away during the night.

After an autopsy, the Jamaican police revealed that Woolmer's death was due to asphyxiation as a result of manual strangulation, and the case was then treated as murder. Rumours that his death

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Captain still unnamed

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has continued to dither with the announcement of the captain for the 2011 World Cup.

It was said that the announcement would be made yesterday, but the board directors, in their meeting, remained undecided on the announcement mainly because of indecision about the selection of the vice-captain.

After Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's latest knee injury it was all but confirmed that Shakib Al Hasan is going to lead the team in the showcase event, as there are no other choices on hand for the BCB.

The board's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus also hinted that they have confirmed the name of captain but interestingly, they were looking forward to taking the opinion of coach Jamie Siddons, who is now holidaying in Australia.

"Selecting the captain and vice-captain was one of the main agendas in the emergency board meeting besides the Nimbus issue. But the board has decided to take some more days as January 19 next year is the deadline of sub-

mitting the team to the ICC," said Yunus while disclosing the outcomes of the meeting at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

"There was debate as few names have come up in the discussions. There were not too many candidates in the captaincy race and we have more or less decided about the captain but we don't want to disclose the name for the greater interest of the game.

"There has however been a number of names for the vice-captain's post. We want to discuss it with our coach before announcing the names by January 2 or 3," he added.

The names of Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Tamim Iqbal and Abdur Razzak were reportedly discussed for a possible deputy.

It was however learned that the board held back the announcement as they wanted to talk with the captain and vice-captain before announcing their names to avoid embarrassment like they had faced when dramatically announcing Shakib as captain for the Zimbabwe series.

Yunus also informed that they will wait to solve the unresolved issue with Nimbus in mutual discussion and was not ready to go to

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Sheikh Jamal sack coach

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club's Serbian coach Zoran Kraljevic's contract has been terminated, reportedly over selection of the starting eleven on the eve of their Bangladesh League opener against holders Abahani yesterday.

Trainer Davor Berber, who is also a Serbian, also met the same fate.

"The chapter of two Serbians is closed and they are expected to fly home tomorrow [Tuesday] as we failed to reach a consensus on certain issues," said Sheikh Jamal president Manjur Kader after his side played out a goalless draw against the champions.

"It [the disagreement] may relate to financial matters or the selection process," replied Kader when asked about the reason behind such decision.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Nafees stands out

SPORTS REPORTER



Three centuries were scored in the Premier League matches yesterday but only Shahriar Nafees' unbeaten 114 stood out in its impact, as it

helped Gazi Tank overcome Bangladesh Biman by five wickets at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi.

Tamim Iqbal also hit the ton he was threatening for the past fortnight in Mohammedan Sporting Club's easy eight-wicket win over BKSP, while Rony Talukdar's 154 became the highest score in the league so far.

Rony's century came in Abahani's 98-run win over Old DOHS.

BIMAN-GAZI TANK Mushfiqur Rahim struck his fourth successive half-century as he anchored Biman's innings after a rocky start.

The Tigers wicketkeeper-batsman struck an unbeaten 77 against Surjo Tarun, 87 not out against Prime Doleshwar and in the last game, he made

80 against BKSP.

Yesterday, the right-hander made 80 off 87 balls with ten boundaries and in the process, added a crucial 125-run fourth wicket stand with Sri Lankan Bathaiya Perera (45).

It was however Shafiul Islam's devas-

tating 50 off 26 balls with three sixes and six boundaries that had the most impact. He took full advantage of the third Powerplay that yielded 53 runs as Biman gave Gazi Tank a target of 242 runs.

Shahriar Nafees then gave a good

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



Mohammedan's Tamim Iqbal (R) drives the ball during his sparkling 135 not out in the Premier League match against BKSP at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday. On the left is Abahani's Rony Talukdar who hammered 154 against Old DOHS at BKSP.

V'Day hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP rode on Ripan Kumar Mahanta's hat-trick to thrash Bangladesh Air Force by 7-1 goals in their match of the Dhaka Bank Victory Day Hockey Tournament at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday. National team's striker Pushkar Khisha scored two while Milon Hossain and Taher Ali added one each for the winning team. Zahid Hossain scored the consolation goal for Air Force.

In the other match of the day, Bangladesh Army blanked Barnak Samaj 3-0.



HERE IS ANOTHER ONE: England batsman Jonathan Trott lifts his bat in delight after reaching his century on the second day of the fourth Ashes Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday.

Trott takes Eng closer



AFP, Melbourne

Jonathan Trott posted his third century in five Ashes Tests to take England closer to a historic series victory in the fourth Test against Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Monday.

The South African-born right-hander helped swell the tourists' lead to 346 runs as they batted for the entire second day to press home their advantage after Australia were skittled out for 98, their lowest total in 133 years of Ashes Tests at the famous ground.

Trott, who hit 119 on his Ashes debut at The Oval last year, has been a constant menace to Australian bowlers this series and notched an unbeaten 135 in the first Brisbane Test.

Andrew Strauss's team need to win only one of the final two Tests to retain the Ashes and capture their first series down under in 23 years.

With the Ashes urn appearing to slip away from his side, under pressure Australia captain Ricky Ponting clashed with match umpires over a disputed decision. His outburst resulted in a fine of 40 per cent of his match fee.

At close, England were 444 for five with Trott defiant on 141 and Matt Prior on 75 in a ground record unbroken sixth-wicket stand of 158 that all but kills off the Australians' hopes of winning the match.

"It's an important Test match and it's one that I will definitely savour," Trott said. "The Boxing Day Test has all the hype around it and the crowd and the support of the English fans put it right up there.

"I work hard on my game and it's good to be able to contribute to put the team in a good position."

The pair eclipsed the previous English record wicket partnership at the MCG of 140 between "Patsy" Hendren and Maurice Leyland in 1928-29.

Trott, who has now amassed 418 runs for the series at 104.5, had some luck along the way

and needed a referral to avoid a tight run-out decision on 46, just beating home Ponting's throw from the deep.

The number three recharged the England innings after fast bowler Peter Siddle had revived Australian hopes with three wickets and two catches.

The paceman had single-handedly kept the Australians in the contest with the wickets of Alastair Cook, Strauss and Kevin Pietersen, before taking two fine catches in the deep off Mitchell Johnson's bouncers.

Siddle had Cook caught at first slip by Shane Watson for 82 to end an English opening stand of 159, and then had Strauss caught brilliantly by a leaping Michael Hussey in the gully for 69.

Talismanic batsman Pietersen was trapped lbw to Siddle for 51 after raising his 21st Test half-century.

Pietersen was given out and conferred with batting partner Trott about whether to seek an umpire's review, but walked from the wicket after a few words.

Pietersen sparked Ponting's ire, after an Australian referral for caught behind off Ryan Harris failed to see him off.

Replays showed Pietersen did not edge the delivery and he stayed at the crease, prompting Ponting to argue with both umpires and exchange sharp words with England man about the decision, believing he had made contact with the ball.

Prior also enjoyed a slice of luck when he was called back to the crease by umpire Aleem Dar after being caught in the slips when on five.

Dar consulted with the third umpire and found that Johnson had over-stepped for a no-ball, giving the England wicketkeeper a reprieve.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 98 all out (Hughes 16, Ponting 10, Clarke 20, Harris 10 not out, Siddle 11; Anderson 4-44, Treblett 4-26, Bresnan 2-25)

ENGLAND: First innings 444 for five (Strauss 69, Cook 82, Trott 141 not out, Pietersen 51, Prior 75 not out; Johnson 2-103, Siddle 3-58)

Mahbub's family gets money

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Athletics Federation handed over the promised cheque of Tk one lac to the family of the late sprinter Mahbub Alam at the Bangladesh Athletics Federation hall room on Friday.

President of BAF ASM Ali Kabir handed over the cheque to the family where the general secretary Mohammad Shah Alam and other officials of the federation were present.

Mahbub Alam, a gold medalist at the 7th SAF Games and a member of the executive committee of the federation, met a tragic death in a road accident on the 4th of this month.

Young Tigers cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Rangpur defeated Nilphamari by seven wickets in the Gaibandha region match of the Standard Chartered Young Tigers cricket tournament at the Gaibandha stadium yesterday.

Bating first, Nilphamari scored 124 runs losing all their wickets in 42.1 overs. Rangpur reached the target in 26.3 overs losing three wickets. Babu of Nilphamari scored the highest 44 runs in the innings.

SPORTS POLL WEEKLY QUESTION

Which Bangladeshi sportsman was the best in 2010?

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

Follow The Daily Star Sport on



www.twitter.com/dssport

Erratum

In our Sunday's report titled 'Shakib top ODI wicket-taker', it was written that the left-arm spinner became the first Bangladeshi to complete the feat.

In fact, paceman Mashrafe Bin Mortaza had earlier done it in 2006 with his 49 wickets.