



PHOTO: STAR

Sheikh Jamal striker Zahid Hasan Emily (C) attempts to cut past Feni defenders during their Bangladesh League match at the Birshreshtha Mostofa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

# Jamal scrape past Feni

SPORTS REPORTER

An early strike from Mamunul Islam helped Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club edge Feni Soccer Club 1-0 in their Grameenphone Bangladesh League match at the Birshreshtha Mostofa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday. Winger Shakil Ahmed ran down from the left to enter the box before cutting it back for playmaker Mamunul Islam, who nudged the ball home from close range in the ninth minute to give the star-studded side their fourth victory in six matches. Two straight victories under the newly recruited Sri Lankan coach Packer Ali takes Sheikh Jamal to the third position along with Sheikh Russel KC on 11 points. Muktijoddha Sangsad lead the table with 15 points with hold-

ers Abahani in second position with 13. Apart from the decisive goal, the game was insipid as Sheikh Jamal with their national booters looking far from motivated, tired and aimless. They made numerous miss-passes and even failed to muster one shot on target after taking the early lead against lowly Feni Soccer Club, who now lie second from the bottom. Sheikh Jamal's national striking duo Zahid Hasan Emily and Enamul Haq disappointed the few hundred spectators again with their poor show and are yet to find the target in their sixth match of the league. Enamul could have broken his duck had he not failed to connect on a close-range cut-back from Atiqur Rahman Mishu in the second minute of the game. An ineffective Enamul was later taken off in the second half to make way for striker Towhidul Alam Sabuj, who also missed an open net. Sheikh Jamal looked more disorganised in the second half to allow Feni Soccer Club to come into attacks and the visitors nearly snatched an equaliser when a flick by Bulbul off a Dominic square-pass seemingly crossed the goaline with goalkeeper Aminul stopping it with his chest but referee Jasim Uddin ignored the claims of Feni Soccer's players. Packer Ali was satisfied after securing full three points yet was unhappy with the performance of his charges. "Maybe the players took the opponents lightly and took the win for granted which affected our own game, but fortunately we won the game," said Sheikh Jamal coach Packer. Feni Soccer coach Abu Yousuf said, "I still can't change the mindset of the players. They don't believe that can beat the big sides. The boys actually lost the game before the kick-off."

# Clemon's Big Bat

SPORTS REPORTER

Clemon, a brand of Akij Food & Beverage Limited (AFBL), is going to launch the world's biggest mobile cricket bat which will have signatures of cricket fans from over the country. The bat named Clemon Big Bat will be displayed at various points around the country where people will be able to express their wishes to the Bangladesh cricket team during the World Cup, said a press release from AFBL yesterday. M. Shaukat Ali MP, the deputy speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament will inaugurate the launching ceremony at 10.30am tomorrow at the South Plaza of the parliament building in Manik Mia Avenue. Several former cricketers of the national team will also be present at the occasion.

# BFCA wants

KS when the coach went to calm Arambagh's Mustafa Kaba and Sheikh Russel's Chohrout Youssef, who were involved in a bust-up. Protesting the incident, the BFCA urged football's governing body to take proper action and demanded punishment of Arambagh players Kaba and Deen Mohammad.

# Beggars to be

are disabled and many have families and their children studying in schools and colleges.

According to a 2005 study, Bangladesh has about 700,000 beggars, with those in urban areas earning an average of 100 taka a day from donations.

# Barca untouchable

AFP, Madrid

Lionel Messi struck twice as Barcelona beat Hercules 3-0 on Saturday to clinch a record-equalling 15th consecutive Spanish league win as the champions moved seven points clear of Real Madrid. Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola said he was honoured to match the long-standing record of the great 1960-1961 Real Madrid side which was captained by Alfredo di Stefano. "It is a tremendous honour to win 15 consecutive league games and equal the record of (Alfredo) di Stefano's Real Madrid side," said Guardiola. Barcelona can claim a record 16th win in a row if they defeat Atletico Madrid at home next weekend. Spanish international Pedro Rodriguez scored his 12th league goal of the season to open the scoring on 43 minutes on Saturday before Ballon d'Or winner Messi struck

twice in the 87th and 89th minutes as Barcelona made it a perfect 10 league away wins. Messi now has 21 league goals this season. "He (Messi) has scored 164 goals at the age of 23 and is fourth in Barcelona's all-time scorer's list, but if he continues like this he is going to break all the records," said Guardiola. Hercules were the only side to beat Barcelona in the league this season having won 2-0 at Camp Nou, but the champions had their revenge to maintain their 100 percent away record. In other matches, 10-man Sevilla drew 3-3 at Deportivo La Coruna in a thrilling game at the Riazor Stadium. The result leaves Sevilla, who face Real Madrid in the Kings Cup semifinal second leg on Wednesday, 10 points off the top four. Levante moved off the foot of the table with a 2-0 home win over Getafe on Saturday. Malaga replace Levante at the foot of the standings after a 2-1 loss at home to fellow strugglers Real Zaragoza.

RESULTS	
Real Mallorca 0	<b>Sporting Gijon 4</b> (Diego Castro 3, Kevin 60-og, Andre Castro 63, Novo 86)
Malaga 1 (Duda 15)	<b>Real Zaragoza 2</b> (Bertolo 39, Sinama Pongolle 86)
<b>Levante 2</b> (Valdo 47, Caicedo 54)	Getafe 0
<b>Real Sociedad 2</b> (Ansotegui 45, Tamudo 79)	Almeria 0
<b>Hercules 0</b>	<b>Barcelona 3</b> (Pedro 43, Messi 87, 89)
Deportivo La Coruna 3	(Lassad 15, 62, Laure 88)
Sevilla 3	(Negredo 63, 79,

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# Let's plan

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now relieved of his mandatory duty of going through all the rigorous sessions. He will also not be a part when Bangladesh play two warm-up matches that includes a tough outing against Pakistan. He was not picked then and we still believe it was not the worst decision. With only 20-odd days to go before the World Cup, the board should come up with a bold statement that Mashrafe is not in plan A, B or C of the World Cup 2011. It will not only help the team think-tank to peacefully focus on the battle ahead but also relieve Mashrafe from possible embarrassment.

# It's World

FROM PAGE 16

help to them but it is down to the individual to do his own job. I hope the team does well through my contributions. "That [2007 World Cup team] was the best during that time and this is the best team we've got at the moment. Of course there are differences as cricket in this country is improving day by day," he said. Razzak was also aware of the added excitement attached to a home World Cup. "We are playing at home so the excitement is more for everyone including you guys and the countrymen."

# First ball

FROM PAGE 16

victory over Pakistan. In the Bangladeshi domestic scene, and to a lesser extent in the international scene, Hasibul was known as a bowler who could move the ball both ways and on his day could trouble the best of batsmen. He celebrated his debut with the big wicket of Roshan Mahanama in the 1995 Asia Cup, caught behind off an away-swing. He was briefly the highest wicket-taker for Bangladesh in ODIs. His biggest nemesis was his tendency to bowl no-balls and the occasional bout of waywardness that eventually saw him pass out of the Bangladesh national team as a new generation of bowlers took his place.

# Series goes to Aussies

Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

Australia claimed the one-day international series against England with a 51-run win in the fifth match at the Gabba in Brisbane on Sunday. After winning the toss Australia made 249, with second-gamer Chris Woakes picking up a record-equalling six wickets. It seemed insufficient, but the tourists slumped to 145-9, before a late flurry from Steve Finn (35 off 24 balls) boosted their score to a more respectable 198. The result gave Australia an unbeatable 4-1 lead in the seven-match series, ending England's run of five straight ODI series wins, and the match also raised more than 6 million dollars for victims of the recent Queensland floods. The English were in early trouble in the chase at 22-3, when Brett Lee (2-21) was on a hat-trick. Kevin Pietersen (40) and Ian Bell (36) put on 73 to revive their hopes but when the pair, and Eoin Morgan, fell in quick succession, they were 103-6 and all but beaten. England captain Andrew Strauss lamented another poor batting display. "It was another poor performance with the bat," he conceded. "There were too many soft dismissals."

"We thought 250 was very chaseable. We need to finish this series off strongly heading into the World Cup." Adding to the pain for England was an apparent hamstring injury to young pacer Aijmal Shahzad while bowling late in the Australian innings. Shahzad, a member of England's World Cup squad, limped off at the end of his eighth over, having pulled up sore four deliveries earlier. Australian captain Michael Clarke, who made an overdue return to form with a half-century, said it was a gutsy effort from the Aussies. England's poor batting squandered the stellar effort by Woakes, who was recalled to replace spinner Michael Yardy and claimed 6-45. The 21-year-old Woakes became just the second England bowler to claim six wickets in an ODI, the other being Paul Collingwood (6-31) against Bangladesh. His victims included four of the top six batsmen, Clarke among them. However, Clarke finally showed signs of a long overdue return to form by top-scoring for the Australians with 54 from 74 balls. Leading the side in the absence of the injured Ricky Ponting, Clarke was booed by local fans when he came out to bat. It was the culmination of a poor season where he had previously posted just one score over 50 for Australia,

having been out of form in Test cricket, ODIs and Twenty20s.

He finally broke the shackles of a dreadful summer when he hit pace-man Steve Finn, making his ODI debut, for successive boundaries early in his innings. However, the loss of Shaun Marsh and the underperforming Cameron White, both for 16, after opener Brad Haddin had earlier thrown his wicket away, restrained Clarke and he had to settle for trying to patiently rebuild the Australian innings. The experiment of promoting Marsh up the order failed for the third match in succession when he fell to Collingwood in the gentle seamer's first over, while White was removed by Woakes. When Clarke did decide to take on the bowlers late in the innings, he fell to a poor shot, advancing down the wicket to Woakes and skying a catch to Strauss.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
AUSTRALIA: 249 (Clarke 54, Haddin 37, Hussey 34, Smith 24 not out; Woakes 6-45)  
ENGLAND: 198 (Pietersen 40, Bell 36, Collingwood 18, Anderson 20 not out, Finn 35; Watson 3-25, Lee 2-21, Boller 2-57, Hastings 2-35)  
Result: Australia won by 51 runs and take 4-1 winning lead in the 7-match series.  
Man-of-the-match: Chris Woakes.

# Axe falls on Yousuf & Malik

ANI, Karachi

Pakistan's cricket selection committee has omitted names of senior players Mohammad Yousuf, Shoaib Malik, Danish Kaneria and Navedul Hasan from the proposed list of 30 players, who will be awarded fresh central contracts this year. According to sources close to the selectors, the list has been submitted to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), which in turn has forwarded it to the Integrity Committee for clearance. "The reason the selectors didn't recommend the names of Yousuf, Malik, Kaneria and Naved is varied," the Daily Times quoted a source, as saying.

# Sarwan happy at return

First SL-WI ODI today

Cricket

CRICINFO, Colombo

Ramnaresh Sarwan, the West Indies batsman, has said he is happy to return to the national fold after being named in the 15-man squad for the World Cup, and is keen to hit form during the ODI series against Sri Lanka starting on January 31. Sarwan last played for West Indies in the ODI series at home against South Africa in May and June 2010. He was subsequently dropped due to fitness issues and indifferent form on the domestic circuit. He also

wasn't offered a West Indies central contract. "It feels really great to be back," Sarwan said in Colombo. "We had a really good workout today and so far I am just happy to fit into the team again. We have a very good team vibe going and it is very important that we maintain that and build on that. It is also important that we get off to a good start in this series and try to get that early momentum."

West Indies play three ODIs on their tour of Sri Lanka. The series was postponed because of poor weather during West Indies' tour late last year, with the Test series being marred by persistent rain. The matches during the ODI series were initially scheduled to be held in Hambantota and the renovated Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, two of the three Sri Lankan venues for the World Cup, but the ICC didn't permit the venues to be used for international games just prior to the quadrennial event. Instead, all three ODIs will be played at the SSC. "The pitch at the SSC is normally a good one for batting," Sarwan said. "I have done well here [in Sri Lanka in Tests] before. I am just hoping to maintain the same level of success I have had before, make a major contribution to the team, and try to bat us into winning positions."

"The greatest dream is to win the World Cup for all the people of the Caribbean and all those around the world who support us. We have to give Darren (Sammy) our full support. Obviously, he is still a bit new to the job as captain so it is important that he gets our full backing. We need to be consistent as a team and that would give us a really good chance of winning." West Indies and Sri Lanka have, unsurprisingly, picked their World Cup squad for the three-match series.



Bangladesh cricket captain Shakib Al Hasan and Raghuvir U Krishnan (2nd from R), country manager of GSK Bangladesh Limited, shake hands after the former signed a contract to become the brand ambassador of energy drink Boost during a function in the city recently.

PHOTO: COURTESY

# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>38</b> Tosses in	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>11</b> Jerry's longtime partner
<b>1</b> Radar signal	<b>39</b> Seesaw quorum	<b>1</b> "Ha" time	<b>16</b> Intimidate
<b>5</b> Type measures	<b>41</b> 4-Down, e.g.	<b>3</b> Research facility (Abbr.)	<b>20</b> Wife of Osiris
<b>8</b> Trudge along	<b>43</b> Storefront feature	<b>4</b> Rolls-Royce requirement	<b>22</b> Cheese choice
<b>12</b> Top-notch	<b>46</b> George Eliot's Mr. Marnier	<b>5</b> Actress	<b>23</b> Starbucks request
<b>13</b> Square root of XLIX	<b>50</b> Line of fashion?	<b>6</b> Office part-timer	<b>25</b> Mandible
<b>14</b> Michigan, e.g.	<b>51</b> Desperate final effort	<b>7</b> Wire measure	<b>26</b> George's brother
<b>15</b> Bartender's announcement	<b>54</b> Office part-timer	<b>8</b> Lustrous fabric	<b>27</b> Smith or Jones
<b>17</b> Largest of the seven	<b>55</b> Type	<b>9</b> Aristotle's teacher	<b>29</b> Carte
<b>18</b> Preamble	<b>56</b> Walk in the woods	<b>10</b> Most fashionable example	<b>31</b> Started deg.
<b>19</b> Young cat	<b>57</b> Praiseful verses	<b>34</b> Symbol of craziness	<b>32</b> Dentist's deg.
<b>21</b> Payable	<b>58</b> Chesapeake, e.g.	<b>42</b> "Guinness Book" suffix	<b>38</b> Dismount
<b>24</b> Piglet's mama	<b>59</b> Folk-music byline abbr.	<b>43</b> Regarding	<b>40</b> Cowardly sorts
<b>25</b> Jack's companion		<b>44</b> Garden intruder	<b>45</b> Smooth-talking
<b>28</b> Actress Moore		<b>47</b> Den	<b>48</b> "— silly question, ..."
<b>30</b> In need of repair		<b>49</b> Raced	<b>52</b> Chicken-link
<b>33</b> Coach		<b>53</b> Firmament	

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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P	U	S	H	O	V	E	R	D	R	A
	O	N	E	I	D	I	O	M	S	
B	L	U	R	I	T	P	L	U	G	
L	I	R	E	R	O	L	L	O	V	E
A	M	A	D	E	W	E	I	V	E	
H	O	L	D	O	V	E	R	A	S	E
	O	D	O	R	G	N	A	R	L	
S	C	H	O	O	L	A	U	G		
H	O	E	D	T	U	R	N	O	V	E
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W	A	R	D	D	O	S	A	T	I	D

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**CRYPTOQUIP**  
BKHFQR CTM CFLMZ CTSC LA  
CSFX XMZZ UMC HNB MQCZ  
RMC MKUTNHFPSXXA MXSCMB,  
F PSXX CTML RFBBA UFRZ.  
Yesterday's Cryptiquip: I SUPPOSE ANY  
SCULPTOR CAN ONLY CREATE SO MUCH. AFTER  
ALL, THERE IS A STATUE OF LIMITATIONS.  
Today's Cryptiquip Clue: C equals T