

# Rajshahi, Dhaka dominate

## Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Shuvogotohom Chowdhury celebrated his call-up to the Bangladesh A side with an unbeaten century in Dhaka's National Cricket League game against Chittagong yesterday.

On the other-hand, Rajshahi left-arm duo Saqlain Sajib and Sanjamul Islam didn't give the Khulna batsmen any chance, both picking up four wickets each as the defending champions dominated proceedings at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium.

### RAJSHAHI-KHULNA

It was a delayed start (2:00 pm) due to over night rain but the 54 overs of play was enough for Rajshahi to dismantle Khulna's batting, finishing the day on 159 for nine.

Saqlain and Sanjamul picked up wickets at regular intervals, the duo sharing eight wickets equally.

Khulna's innings highest came from the bat of No 8 Syed Rasel, an innings of 41 off 79 balls.

### BARISAL-SYLHET

Barisal seemed to be on the driver's seat after the second day as they finished with 210 runs on board with three wickets down.

Nasiruddin Faruque once again batted well for his 70 and was involved in a very slow 108-run third wicket partnership with skipper Shahin Hossain.

Faruque played 210 balls for his 70 while Shahin ended the day playing 240 balls scoring 55.

Already 50 runs ahead, Barisal still have a handful of batsmen left to bat.

### DHAKA-CHITTAGONG

Shuvogotohom Chowdhury, this time with the bat, took down the Chittagong bowlers scoring an unbeaten 124 runs off 180 balls hitting 19 boundaries.

Mehrab Hossain and Shuvogoto added 229 runs for the fourth wicket and both carried the bat through the day with Mehrab only three runs away from his century.

Dhaka now have a comfortable lead of 81 runs with seven wickets in hand.

Earlier, Elias Sunny and Shamsur Rahman perished to Aftab Ahmed's medium pace, both scoring 36 runs each.

### BRIEF SCORES

**RAJSHAHI:** First inns 318 all out (Myshukur 126, Dhiman 50\*; Bishwanath 6-91, Nizamuddin 2-46).

**Khulna:** First inns 154-9 (Rasel 41, Nizamuddin 35; Sajib 4-25, Sanjamul 4-51).

**SYLHET:** First inns 160 all out (Nadif 39, Tasamul 39; Ariful 4-28, Shohag 3-19).

**BARISAL:** First inns 210-3 (Nasiruddin 70, Shahin 55\*; Jayed 2-44).

**CHITTAGONG:** First inns 227 all out (Mominul 56, Irfan 42; Shuvogoto 4-33, Mosharraff 3-31).

**DHAKA:** First inns 308-3 (Shuvogoto 124\*, Mehrab 97\*; Aftab 2-21).



France midfielder Franck Ribery (C) and defenders Patrice Evra (L) and Bacary Sagna (R) run during a training session in Clairefontaine on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Bangladesh face hosts today

SPORTS REPORTER

Smarting from a 2-0 defeat against Palestine, Bangladesh will take on hosts Myanmar in their second match of the AFC Challenge Cup Qualifiers at the Youth Training Centre in Yangon today.

Bangladesh, who last time qualified for the eight-team finals as best runners-up side, have no alternative but to win against Myanmar to stay in the race after a shocking defeat against Palestine in their group opener.

Myanmar, who last time defeated Bangladesh 2-1 to emerge group champions in Dhaka, have a point from one game played against Philippines which ended 1-1. They will be looking to secure full points from this match.

Bangladesh have only managed to beat Myanmar twice and drew once in their nine previous meetings.

# Independence Day b'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Shoeb and Mehedi scored 22 and 14 points respectively in BKSP's win over Bangladesh Police by 64-55 points at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Nitai scored highest 14 points for the Police. The game was evenly poised at half time with BKSP leading 28-24.

Europa Youth won the next match of the day against Flame Boys by 78-62. Shaon top scored for the Youth's scoring 19 points, while Sadman managed to score 15 for the Flame Boys.

# GMCC cut from Div 3

SPORTS REPORTER

One-time giants Greater Mymensing Cricket Club (GMCC) has been relegated from the ongoing 2010-11 Third Division Cricket League after they failed to appear on time for their match against Fear Fighters Sporting Club on Sunday.

At a meeting at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Monday, the standing committee of CCDM (Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan) took the decision.

The match was scheduled to take place at the BKSP-4 and when GMCC failed to be on the field, Fear Fighters were awarded walkover according to the by-laws.

On the basis of the same rules of the by-laws, under section-19 (A), GMCC were relegated from the league.

# Franck says sorry

## Football

AFP, Paris

France playmaker Franck Ribery, back in the national team for the first time since the World Cup fiasco, apologised on Monday for his behaviour in the run up to and during a disastrous 2010 season.

Before his first press conference since the World Cup, Ribery read a statement in which he explained how he "got it wrong in his behaviour as a footballer (during) a horrible 2010 from all points of view."

"I took the wrong roads, I lost myself," said Ribery.

The 28-year-old had a season to forget in 2009/2010 as he struggled with injury, is under investigation for his involvement in an alleged under-age call-girl scandal and was banned for the Champions League final defeat to Inter Milan after being sent-off in the first leg of the semifinal against Lyon.

Things did not improve in South Africa at the World Cup and when France failed to qualify for the second round after finishing bottom of their group, Ribery was banned for three games for his involvement in the player revolt after Nicolas Anelka was sent home.

"I hurt people, people who are very dear to me, I disappointed even shocked many others: I blame myself and I apologise," said

the Bayern Munich player.

Ribery also slammed the media for their treatment of him.

"There were things said by you which shocked me, I felt it was spiteful and I was being hounded," he said. "It affected a lot of people. I did things which were maybe not always correct. The World Cup didn't go well, I wasn't good on the pitch, but at no time did I make decisions myself."

"In the bus, we were all there. We were 23, we all suffered together. Now I want to turn the page, I want to forget all that, the France jersey I always have it in my heart. I want to find the pleasure again that I knew in 2006."

Ribery thanked France coach Laurent Blanc for selecting him and said he was determined to repay his confidence.

"I thank him for his placing his confidence in me and for taking me back into the France team. For me the France team has always been a dream and a source of happiness," he said.

"I've learned a lot, matured, changed my behaviour. The World Cup was a bad experience but I've learned a lot. It's made me a lot stronger."

"I had to find the pleasure of playing again and my level. Now I'm really enjoying myself."

France play a Euro 2012 qualifier against Luxembourg on March 25 and a friendly against Croatia four days later.

# France recall Ribery

AFP, Paris

Revised France squad for the Euro 2012 qualifier with Luxembourg on March 25 and friendly against Croatia on March 29 after the withdrawal of Yohan Cabaye on Monday.

Cabaye had originally been called up to replace Abou Diaby after the Arsenal midfielder pulled out with a muscle strain on Friday.

However, Cabaye was forced to withdraw on Monday with an unspecified muscle injury and replaced by St Etienne's Blaise Matuidi.

**SQUAD**

**Goalkeepers:**  
Hugo Lloris (Lyon), Steve Mandanda (Marseille), Cedric Carrasso (Bordeaux)

**Defenders:**  
Bakary Sagna (Arsenal/ENG), Adil Rami (Lille), Philippe Mexes (AS Roma/ITA), Mamadou Sakho (Paris Saint-Germain), Gael Clichy (Arsenal/ENG), Patrice Evra (Manchester United/ENG), Anthony Revellere (Lyon), Laurent Koscielny (Arsenal/ENG)

**Midfielders:**  
Alou Diarra (Bordeaux), Yann Mvila (Rennes), Florent Malouda (Chelsea/ENG), Yoann Gourcuff (Lyon), Blaise Matuidi (St Etienne), Jeremy Menez (AS Roma/ITA), Samir Nasri (Arsenal/ENG), Franck Ribery (Bayern Munich/GER)

**Forwards:**  
Kevin Gameiro (Lorient), Guillaume Hoarau (Paris Saint-Germain), Karim Benzema (Real Madrid/ESP), Loic Remy (Marseille)

# India, Uzbekistan tie

## Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Qualification campaign of the Olympic qualifiers has been prolonged by one match for India and Uzbekistan after they played out a 1-1 draw at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday to finish joint top in Group B.

Both teams stand on four points with identical goal difference after two matches as they had both earlier defeated hosts Bangladesh 3-0. The outcome has forced the teams to take part in a play-off match, as per the bylaws, to decide group winners which will take place at 7:00am today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

However, there is an if as to the timing of the match. According to the FIFA rules, play-off must take place within 48 hours of the original match. But Uzbekistan are scheduled to fly this

afternoon. So they have requested India to play in the morning to which India have agreed. Whether the match will take place at that time is dependent on the consent of FIFA.

In yesterday's match, Uzbekistan showed their class early on with crisp passing to wrest control of midfield and yielded a scoring chance but Indian goalkeeper Sita Sharma saved her side diving to her left to foil a well-struck effort from striker Lyudmila.

Under pressure, India defended their backline well and after resumption stepped up the attack and created two clear scoring chances in the first 15 minutes. Captain Tababi Devi gave India the lead in the 71st minute firing home from inside the box from a corner taken by substitute Rashmita Patra.

But their joy lasted only eight minutes as Uzbek defender Riskieva Kamola jumped to head in a Turdiboeva Feruza corner home to equalise for her side.

# Lionel, Jose top earners

## Football

AFP, Paris

Lionel Messi and Jose Mourinho are the highest paid player and manager in football, according to France Football magazine.

Barcelona's two time world footballer of the year Messi's income from his salary and publicity deals in 2011 amounted to 31 million euros, while Real Madrid boss Mourinho topped the manager's rich list with an income of 13.5mn euros.

Messi's income, while making him the top paid footballer in the world, still falls a long way short of Tiger Woods, who with a revenue of 53mn euros is the highest paid sportsman of them all.

Messi's nearest rival in the footballer's income stakes is Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo with 27.5mn euros, with Manchester United's Wayne Rooney in third with 20.7mn euros.

The English Premier League appears the most lucrative league of all with seven representatives in the top 20 list of highest paid players.

Two former Premier League stars, David Beckham and Thierry Henry, now playing in the MLS in the United States, are ranked fifth and 11 with salaries of 19mn and 13.6mn respectively.

Among the manager's ranks Mourinho tops the list ahead of Barcelona's Pep Guardiola with 10.5mn and former Inter Milan coach Raphael Benitez (10.2mn).

# Focus only on quarter

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quarterfinal, I don't think like that. We will not take the West Indies lightly because any team is capable of winning on their day and there is no second chance in a knock-out match. I think they are a very good side," said Afridi, the leading wicket-taker of the tournament with 17.

Afridi however was hardly bothered about the fact that West Indies bowled Bangladesh out for 58 runs in their last match at Mirpur, saying: "That was Bangladesh and this is Pakistan, match is different, team is different, condition is different for us as well, we played two games, especially a warm-game against Bangladesh. So we know the condition, we know the pitch how it will play."

Speedster Shoab Akhtar's chances of playing the game appeared slim as the Pakistan skipper said that he was not willing to break the winning combination.

"I told you before we want to go with the winning combination. But we will see, but I think we are happy with this winning combination," he said.

The Pakistan captain was also looking forward to coming good with the bat in the semifinals.

"I am not really performing well with the bat, but I know all the important games are coming. So I will be more focused. I know how important my batting is for my team. So let's see," said a confident Afridi.

# Real after De Rossi

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid are eyeing up Roma captain Daniele De Rossi to reinforce the Spanish giants' midfield next season, sports daily Marca reported on Tuesday.

The nine-time European champions are already planning for the 2011-12 season and their priority is to sign a midfielder who is similar to Xabi Alonso, the newspaper reported, with De Rossi topping the list of candidates.

"He has the profile that coach Jose Mourinho wants," said the paper. Real and Roma could close the deal for 25 million euros (\$35.6 million), Marca added.

De Rossi, 27, is one of the brightest stars in Serie A and scored in the penalty shoot-out to help Italy win the 2006 World Cup.

# Ashraful

FROM PAGE 16

Sohrawardi Shuvo and Elias Sunny have all been considered as standbys for the five one-dayers.

### SQUAD

Mohammad Ashraful (captain), Samsur Rahman (vice-captain), Nazimuddin, Mehrab Hossain, Shuvagatahom Chowdhury, Nasir Hossain, Nadif Chowdhury, Sahagir Hossain (wicketkeeper), Shahadat Hossain, Robiul Islam, Syed Rasel, Kamrul Islam Rabbi, Noor Hossain, Saqlain Sajib.

# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Triangular sail  
4 PBS science show  
8 Item on stage  
12 Exist  
13 Newspaper page  
14 Volcanic flow  
15 Sheepish remark?  
16 1980 Robbie Dupree hit  
18 — Valley (1960 Olympics site)  
20 Periodical, for short  
21 Part of SMU (Abbr.)  
24 Former larvae  
28 2000 Tom Hanks movie  
32 Otherwise  
33 Shade  
34 Forbidden

**DOWN**

6 Lubricate  
7 List-ending abbr.  
9 Formally relinquish  
41 Page number  
43 Even  
44 Loud dance  
46 Proclamation  
50 To start prematurely  
55 Twosome  
56 PC picture  
57 Portrayal  
58 Work unit  
59 Wild and crazy  
60 Couldn't keep a secret  
61 Lawyers' org.  
22 — the night before ...  
23 Custom  
25 Furrow maker  
26 Largest of the seven  
27 Slithery  
28 Kitchen bigwig  
29 Car  
30 Caulk  
31 Boo-boo's mentor  
35 Like a Cyclops  
38 Lengthy recitation  
40 Toss in  
42 Erstwhile acorn  
45 Section  
47 Concept  
48 — Your Enthusiasm"  
49 Frat party outfit  
50 Job, jocularly  
51 HDTV brand  
52 A billion years  
53 Court  
54 Every last bit

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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### CRYPTOQUIP

X HWRK RHSD MHJCZ QIDGXFQW  
IDQC OXMZDM MDGSDO ZHC.  
X VQGCFJRQGRK ODMVXMD  
FZXRRK FZXRD FZXRX.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE FELLOW STARTED INCLUDING MORE GRAIN HUSK IN HIS DIET, HE FELT LIKE A BRAN-NEW MAN.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals I