

# Star SPORT

## Vidic a Red Devil for life

Manchester United captain Nemanja Vidic has promised to spend the rest of his career with the Premier League club. "I hope to spend the rest of my career here at United," Vidic told the Sunday Mirror. "I have given the best years of my career to this club and the talk about me leaving here was never correct. "I'm definitely here for the rest of my career now. It never came from my mouth that I would be leaving United. I love it here and I think I show that on



## Mominul saves NCA blushes

SPORTS REPORTER

A half-century by left-hander Mominul Haque Sourav yesterday brightened up an otherwise gloomy GP-BCB National Cricket Academy performance.

After South Africa Cricket Academy plundered 581 runs in their first innings, the hosts fell into a five-wicket hole in the 30 overs they were given to bat on the second day at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

When Shuvogoto Hom Chowdhury fell in the 12th over, the Academy side were 47 for five, with Dane Paterson and Hardus Viljoen running riot.

Mominul's fine unbeaten 51 and a 33 from all-rounder Mahmudul Hasan were the saving grace as the pair somewhat repaired the innings with an 84-run unbeaten sixth wicket stand.

Earlier, the tourists batted out 141.3 overs with Romano Terblanche hammering 95 off 149 balls with sixteen fours. Shaker Ahmed, the left-arm spinner from Sylhet, took three wickets as did paceman Shubhashish Roy who also conceded a hundred runs.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**SOUTH AFRICA CRICKET ACADEMY:** First innings 581 all out in 141.3 overs (Schoeman 212, Terblanche 95; Shubhashish 3-100, Shaker 3-165)

**GP-BCB NCA:** First innings 131-5 in 30 overs (Mominul 51 not out; Paterson 3-48)



**HE'S BACK:** Siddikur Rahman tees off in the final round of the Maybank Malaysian Open golf tournament in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. The 26-year-old was in fine form throughout the four rounds, finishing ahead of more famous names.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## Siddikur trumps World No.1

### Finishes 8th in Malaysian Open

Golf

SPORTS REPORTER

Golfer Siddikur Rahman was once again impressive as he surpassed a more illustrious name in the sport.

After finishing on eighth position in the \$2.5-million Maybank Malaysian Open golf tournament in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, he was placed ahead of 2011 Masters Tournament champion Charl Swartzel, who finished eleventh.

Siddikur also finished above world No 1 Martin Kaymer of Germany who finished on ninth place.

He was the top Asian Tour finisher in the co-sanctioned tournament, posting a final round 69 to end on 279 but was left rueing mistakes on the 13 and 15th. Siddikur won \$62,500 as prize money (Tk 4,556,250) after giving a strong show on all three days of the competition that was won by Italian teen sensation Matteo Manassero.

"The crowd was very supportive and they cheered me on. It felt like I won the tournament after my birdie (18th hole). I had many supporters following me today (Sunday).

"I'm happy to finish in the top-10 and show the world that a player from Bangladesh can perform in such a big event," said Siddikur.

He is now in second position in the

Asian Tour Order of Merit with \$117,607.69 (from four tournaments), behind SSP Chowrasia of India. Last year, Siddikur finished seventh in Asian Tour Order of Merit with \$267,692.96 from 16 tournaments.

Earlier on April 9, Siddikur finished second behind Kiradech Aphibarnrat of Thailand in the Panasonic Open in New Delhi, earning \$32,550.

But Sunday's finish ahead of South African Swartzel as well as every other Asian Tour pro would lift his morale after a quiet start to the year (31st place finish in the SAIL Open in March).

Siddikur's next tournament is the Indonesian Masters that begins on April 21.

### FINAL ROUND SCORES

272 - Matteo Manassero (ITA) 66-71-67-68	\$416,660
273 - Gregory Bourdy (FRA) 71-69-66-67	
274 - Rory McIlroy (NIR) 69-64-72-69	
275 - Alexander Noren (SWE) 64-69-71-71,	Rafael Cabrera Bello (ESP) 69-70-69-67
276 - Felipe Aguilar (CHI) 70-70-66-70	
278 - Simon Dyson (ENG) 70-64-76-68	
279 - Siddikur Rahman (BAN) 68-71-71-69	\$62,500 (BDT 4,556,250.10)
280 - Martin Kaymer (GER) 70-71-67-72,	Alejandro Canizares (ESP) 69-72-68-71
281 - Stephen Gallacher (SCO) 67-70-72-72,	

Meanwhile, Manassero won by one shot over Frenchman Gregory Bourdy to seal his second European Tour victory. Manassero shot a fourth round four-under-par 68 at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club to seal the win with a four-round total of 272.

There was no comeback for world No 9 Rory McIlroy a week on from his last-round collapse at the US Masters.

The Northern Irishman battled bravely on the back nine to give himself a shot at victory but a bogey on the last meant there was no playoff with Manassero as McIlroy finished third on 14-under-274.

Bourdy posted 67 for a 273 total, while US PGA champion and world number one Martin Kaymer was eight shots back in a tie for ninth.

"I really had a good day today. I hit good shots. I am overjoyed," Manassero said.

The youngster said an eagle on the par-five 10th had set him on his victory charge and subsequent birdies on 11 and 14 helped seal the hard-fought win over Bourdy.

"I had to do two birdies to win by one shot. It was a surprise win after the Castello Masters 11 months ago," he said.

Manassero received the winner's cheque of \$416,660 and became the Malaysian Open's youngest winner and the first Italian to win the tournament.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

# Barisal bat strongly

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Barisal were in a commanding position against Dhaka in their second phase National Cricket League match at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

At the end of the second day, Dhaka were precariously placed at 50 for three in reply to Barisal's first innings score of 438 runs. Skipper Shahin Hossain struck his first century of the season and later it was seamer Towhidul Islam who rocked the Dhaka top-order as Barisal took control.

Sylhet too were dominating Rajshahi after they had made 316 runs in the first innings.

### BARISAL-DHAKA

The Shahin-Iftekhar Nayeem partnership took Barisal's total from 292-2 (overnight) to 308 runs before Nayeem was caught behind off Mohammad Sharif for 149 off 276 balls as the 196-

run third wicket stand came to an end. Shahin continued on from his 77 not out, scoring 104 off 196 balls with the help of thirteen boundaries, taking his side close to the 400-run mark.

And that job was done by their late-order batsmen as the Dhaka bowlers had to be patient. Mosharraf Hossain



IFTEKHAR...149



SHAHIN...104

Rubel took three wickets while Sharif and Saju Dutta took two each.

Dhaka's batting started disastrously when Uttam Sarkar was removed for a duck in the third over by Towhidul, who also removed Anwar Hossain for 16.

Marshall Ayub and Mehedi Hasan were the not out batsmen when stumps

were drawn for the day, Dhaka having a massive recovery work in their hands.

### SYLHET-RAJSHAHI

Sylhet added just 48 runs to their overnight 268 for six before being bowled out. Ijaz Ahmed finished on 63 while Nabil Samad hammered two sixes in his 45-ball 22 as Sylhet managed a competitive first innings total.

Rajshahi began well with Avishek Mitra hitting eight boundaries in his 60, also adding 64 for the first wicket and 52 for the third with Anisur Rahman. But once Avishek fell in the 44th over to left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed, Rajshahi lost the momentum.

They ended the day on 212 for seven with Mohymenul Islam and Mukhtar Ali the unbeaten batsmen as they trail by 104 runs in the first innings.

For Sylhet, Nasum took three wickets while Abu Jayed Rahi picked up two.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**BARISAL:** First innings 438 all out in

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

# Shakib misses treble narrowly

SPORTS REPORTER



Shakib Al Hasan's left-arm spin was again the star for Kolkata Knight Riders as his two wickets sunk Rajasthan Royals in their Indian Premier League encounter at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata last night.

After bowling three tight overs during Kolkata's dominant display, Shakib got into the act with two late strikes to restrict the visitors to 81 all out in 15.2 overs.

First it was Amit Singh who was done in by Shakib's arm ball, rattling the tail-ender's stumps. Next ball, Shaun Tait missed a tossed up delivery as the ball went straight and Shakib was on a hat-trick. Last man Siddharth Trivedi managed to put out the last ball but next over, he too fell to Brett Lee that put an end to Rajasthan's innings.

Earlier, Lakshmiipathy Balaji nailed Shane Watson with a beauty to trigger the Royals collapse during the return game at the Big Bowl.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5



**Shakib Al Hasan (L) put up yet another impressive show for Kolkata Knight Riders. Here the Bangladesh captain, who took two wickets off successive deliveries, celebrates the fall of last Rajasthan Royals wicket at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata last night.**

PHOTO: AFP



PHOTO: STAR

**Muktijoddha striker James Moga is chased by two of his teammates after the Sudanese recruit scored one of his three goals in the Independence Cup match against Arambagh at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.**

## INDEPENDENCE CUP FOOTBALL: QUARTERFINALS TODAY

# Moga slams hat-trick

SPORTS REPORTER

Sudanese striker James Moga slammed a second-half hat-trick as Muktijoddha Sangsad thrashed Arambagh Krira Sangha 4-1 in the last match of Group C at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday to complete the quarterfinal lineup for the Independence Cup football tournament. Muktis finished top of the group with maximum points and were joined in the quarters by Feni Soccer Club who edged Arambagh on goal margin.

The match was initially scheduled for Saturday and was on course for 65 minutes before a nor'wester forced it to be postponed.

In the rematch yesterday, Muktijoddha came out of the blocks early and almost scored in the first

minute, but Rokonuzzaman Kanchan's header missed the goal by a whisker.

Arambagh had an excellent opportunity to score in the 24th minute when Khalilur Rahman found ample space and time inside the penalty box, but his shot at the goalie was easily gathered.

Muktijoddha broke the deadlock at the 28-minute mark when Arambagh defender Mustapha Kaba failed to clear an innocuous ball inside the penalty box before it fell to Nasiruddin who placed the ball nicely past the diving keeper on the far corner of the net.

Muktijoddha coach brought in Sudanese striker James Moga towards the end of the first half and it gave the Reds an extra edge in attack. Nine minutes into the second half, Moga conjured up a wonderful free kick to take his side to a 2-0 lead. The Sudanese

striker dipped the ball over the wall and into the far corner, giving the goalie no chance to react.

Moga then made it 3-0 in the 72nd minute laying a feather touch of his head on an angular shot from Kanchan.

Rezaul Karim Liton earned and converted a penalty for Arambagh in the 82nd minute, but five minutes later Moga restored the three-goal cushion and earned a well-deserved hat-trick by blasting the ball into the net shouldering the challenge of two opposition defenders.

There are two quarterfinals to be played today. In the first of those two, the star cast of Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club will take on a powerful Brothers Union at 5:00pm at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The new powerhouse of Dhanmondi

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5