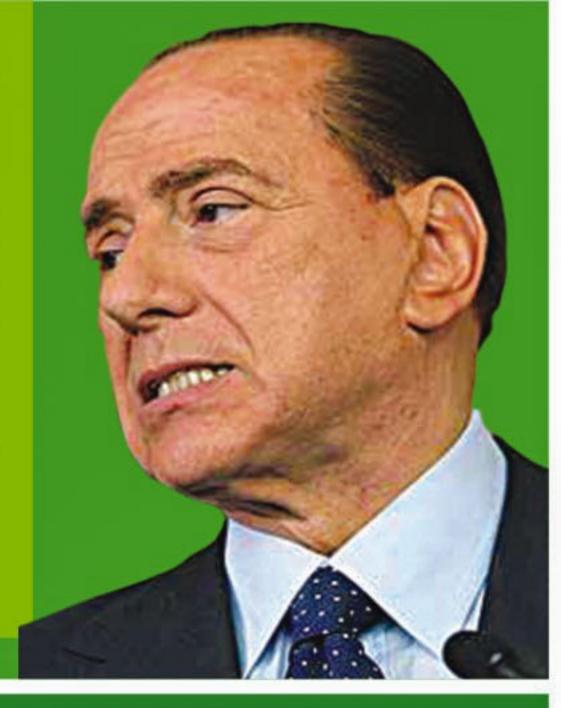
Silvio wants his name in stone **AC Milan president and Italy Prime**

Minister Silvio Berlusconi has set his sights on having a stadium named after himself.

Berlusconi has never been shy to indulge in self-promotion and take credit for his team's on-field success and he was at it again on Wednesday. Milan are on the brink of wrapping up

their 18th league title and need just one more point from their final three games to do so.

"We only talk about the title when it's printed on the club jersey," he told the Porta a Porta TV programme, due to be





WHAT WERE THEY WAITING FOR? Brothers Union striker Nkwocha Kingsley Chigozie (R), who overcame transfer hassles and a four-month wait to make his League debut, celebrates one of his two goals against Arambagh in their Bangladesh League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Short-term coaches aplenty

BCB wants long-term appointment

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has so far made little progress in appointing a new head coach for the national

After the World Cup, the governing five one-day internationals. body decided not to extend the tenure of Jamie Siddons and they already gave advertisement inviting applications from aspiring coaches to succeed the Australian.

It's now a big challenge for the cricket authority of the country to find out a suitable person for the demanding job because for an improving team like Bangladesh it's important to appoint the right man for this crucial job.

"We have received some applications including some well-known faces, but the response so far is not as good as we expected. But you know that we have a deadline till May 15, so there is still a chance that we will receive more applications. And we have also enough time to take decision regarding this matter," said BCB's chief executive officer Manzur

Ahmed, who has been entrusted with the responsibility to deal with the appointment of the head coach as well as the specialist coaches and support

assignment is in July-August when they visit Zimbabwe for one Test and "After May 15 we will review the

The Tigers' next international

applications to make a shortlist and decide the next course of action," he added.

Manzur admitted it's not easy to find out a high profile coach and that's why they are not relying only on applications; rather a head-hunting is also on to find out the right man.

"It's not easy to find out a high profile coach for Bangladesh, so we have to try individually also. Things have become more complicated with the arrival of the money-spinning competition like Indian Premier League. Many showed their interest, but for a short-time. Nobody wants to become a long-term coach, so it's a big problem," explained Manzur, adding that they were looking for a long-term coach.

Manzur was not ready to disclose

any name but it was learnt that the BCB contacted former South Africa captain Kepler Wessels and former Australia all-rounder Tom Moody, but both showed interest in short-term consultancy.

Some BCB high-ups are reported to have said that they are looking for either an Australia or a South African for the post, but Manzur dismissed the notion saying that they were very open about this matter.

"There is nothing wrong if someone has inclination to these countries, but what I can assure you is that we are very much open. Our main target is to appoint a good coach who fulfills our criteria and demands," said Manzur.

It may be mentioned that the board had to sweat in 2007 to find Siddons as the successor to Dav Whatmore, but Manzur was very optimistic that would not be the case this time around.

"It's not easy but I'm hopeful about appointing a suitable candidate," said Manzur.

"It may take time but we are confident about signing a high profile coach," said BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus.

Chigozie makes dream debut

SPORTS REPORTER

Stadium yesterday.

Nigerian striker Kingsley Chigozie celebrated his Grameenphone Bangladesh Grameenphone League debut with a brace as Brothers Union registered their fourth win with a 3-2 defeat of Arambagh Krira Sangha at the Bangabandhu National

Chigozie, who actually came to Dhaka to play for Farashganj but had to sit idle for the last four months due to the non-availability of his international transfer certificate, made an immediate impact after joining the Gopibagh outfit during the mid-term transfer window that opened last

The curly-haired marksman scored both the goals in the first half that Brothers led 2-1.

The scoreline might give the impression of a ding-dong battle between the two mid-table sides but it was Brothers who almost confirmed a victory when their Brazilian midfielder Everton struck the third in the 67th minute.

Chigozie pounced on a rebounder for his first goal in the 7th minute but it was nullified by Arambagh's Benzamin Cooper after five minutes.

The debutant fired home his second from inside the box in the 16th minute for Brothers, who came into the match on the back of a 4-1 thrashing at the hands of leaders Muktijoddha.

However, after a goal-rush in the first quarter of the game, Arambagh appeared to lack the bite that they showed in a 4-0 **SEE PAGE 17 COL 8**

Muktis up against nemesis Sk Jamal

SPORTS REPORTER



Sangsad will desperately look to improve their profile against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club when they take on the new leviathans in a crucial Grameenphone Bangladesh

Leaders Muktijoddha

League fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today. Although Muktijoddha are four points clear of third-place Sheikh Jamal with 31

points from 12 games, their record against Sheikh Jamal are disappointing. They lost both their previous two games against the star-studded side this season. The All Reds first conceded a 1-0 defeat

against Sheikh Jamal in the Federation Cup semifinal and then lost 2-0 in their first meeting of the Bangladesh League.

However, a win in the weekend will not only allow coach Maruful Haq's team to go five points clear of three-time champions Abahani but also enable them to take a bold step in their quest for their first silverware in the competition.

Abahani are presently stalking them with

29 points after playing one match more than the leaders. The popular Dhanmondi outfit suffered a stunning blow in their first match of the second leg against Sheikh Jamal, who made a flying start with a 3-1 victory against their vaunted neighbours.

Muktijoddha, who were eliminated from the quarterfinals of the Independence Cup, bounced back strongly in the league, thrashing Brothers Union 4-1 in their first match of the second leg with their Sudanese striker James Moga hammering all the four goals.

"I don't think we will suffer again against them, rather we are looking forward to extending our lead through a victory," said a confident Maruf before the big match. "There are reasons to think about a win as the boys have been putting in consistent performances in the league and the forwards are also getting goals regularly."

Muktis striking duo of Moga and Mithun Chowdhury are on song having scored 12 goals each and both hitmen no doubt will be on the opponents' notebook.

"Definitely we will go there with a plan

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5



Twenty20

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The GP-BCB National Cricket Academy started the last leg of their series against the touring South Africa Academy on a positive note, winning the first of two T20s by 26 runs courtesy of brilliant bowling and some lusty hitting from Alauddin Babu at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Chasing a stiff target of 163 in 20 overs, the South Africa Academy seemed to be making a cakewalk of it by racing to 53 without loss in the sixth over. Openers Peter Botha and Lenert van Wyk got off to a flier, but the latter's run-out started a chain reaction that saw them score 29 runs for the loss of five wickets over the next 6.1 overs. The collapse was brought about by the constricting efforts of the spin trio of Sanjamul Islam, Noor Hossain and Soumya Sarkar.

The real star of the day however was pacer Alauddin Babu, who with his opening partner Nasir Hossain, proceeded to strangle the life out of the South African challenge, mounted chiefly by allrounder Hardus Vijoen. Viljoen cracked 38 from 30 balls and was briefly threatening to turn the tables but was bowled by Babu to snuff out all hopes with the scoreboard reading 112 for 6 with only 28 balls left. In all, Babu claimed three wickets while conceding only 14 runs in his spell of 3.5 overs, while Nasir conceded only 19 from his three overs. South Africa

Academy were bundled out for 136.

Earlier, the tourists had sent the hosts in to bat after winning the toss, and were put on the back foot immediately with opener Sarkar blasting a 25-ball 39, inclusive of six 4s and a 6. His opening partner Rony Talukder fell victim to Graham Hume with the score on 29, and was followed swiftly by Anamul Haque for a duck. Nasir then joined forces with Sarkar, and the duo carried the score to 60, when Sarkar was the third batsman dismissed. Nasir fell next to Peter Botha, but not before

he contributed a valuable 27 to the total. With the score on 95 for four, things could have unravelled pretty quickly for the home side, but captain Mohammad Mithun made sure that there were no hiccups as he shepherded the lower order, enabling Man-ofthe-Match Babu to explode with the bat to the tune of 21 from 11 deliveries with the help of three 4s and a 6. The pair added 34 runs off the last 3.2 overs.

The unofficial two-Test series between the two sides were drawn 1-1, while the onedayers went to the tourists by a 2-1 margin. The second T20 and the last game of the tour will take place today at the Sher-e-Bangla

SCORES IN BRIEF

for 7 in 20 overs (Sarkar 29, Mithun 34 not out, SOUTH AFRICA ACADEMY: 136 all out in 19.5 overs (Viljoen 38, Botha 34; Babu 3-14,

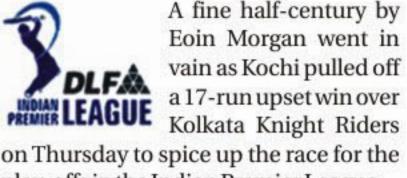
National Stadium.

won by 26 runs.

GP-BCBNATIONAL CRICKET ACADEMY: 162 Nasir 27, Babu 21; Masekala 2-22, Piedt 1-18) Noor 2-23, Sanjamul 2-35) Result: GP-BCB National Cricket Academy

Kochi keep hopes alive

AFP, Kochi



A fine half-century by Eoin Morgan went in vain as Kochi pulled off a 17-run upset win over Kolkata Knight Riders

play-offs in the Indian Premier League. Chasing 157, Kolkata were cruising at 69-0 but paceman Raiphi Gomez grabbed two wickets in two balls and Vinay Kumar sent back Morgan (66) and Yusuf Pathan in the 19th over to

restrict the visitors to 139-7 at the Nehru Stadium. The victory moved Kochi to fifth in the points table and brought them back into contention for a place in the knock-

out rounds, while Kolkata remained in second place with 12 points. England's Morgan impressed the most among the Kolkata batsmen, hitting eight fours and two sixes in his 51-ball knock after Jacques Kallis made

45 opening the innings. Kolkata paceman Jaidev Unadkat earlier struck a double blow after skipper Gautam Gambhir won the toss and elected to field, dismissing opener

Brendon McCullum (one) and Parthiv Patel (21) inside the first six overs. New Zealander McCullum was caught in the slips by Kallis and Patel top-edged to Rajat Bhatia, who ran

backwards to latch on to the catch at

the third attempt.

Coming in to bat at number four, skipper Mahela Jayawardene (55) rebuilt the innings in the company of Australia's Michael Klinger (29) with a 51-run stand for the third wicket.

The former Sri Lankan captain hit two fours and two sixes in his 41-ball knock before being run out in the 19th over.

Brad Hodge boosted the total with a late assault off the final over bowled by his Australian teammate Brett Lee,

clobbering two sixes and two fours to finish on an unbeaten 35 off just 19 balls. **SCORES IN BRIEF**

KOCHI TUSKERS KERALA: 156-5 in 20 overs (Jayawardene 55, Hodge 35 not out, Klinger 29; Unadkat 2-25)

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: 139-7 in 20 overs (Morgan 66, Kallis 45; Gomez 2-14, Kumar 2-28)

Result: Kochi Tuskers Kerala won by 17

Man-of-the-match: Brad Hodge.



Kochi Tuskers Kerala captain Mahela Jayawardene caresses the ball through the off side during his innings of 55 against the Kolkata Knight Riders at the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium in Kochi yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Deccan out AFP, Kochi

Sehwag shuts

Skipper Virender Sehwag smashed 119 off just 56 balls in a stunning counter-attack as Delhi Daredevils snatched a four-wicket victory over Deccan Chargers in the Indian Premier League on Thursday.

Chasing 176, Delhi were reeling at 86-4 but Sehwag whacked six sixes and 13 fours on way to his maiden Twenty20 century to singlehandedly fashion a thrilling win for his struggling side at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Hyderabad. The victory, Delhi's

fourth from 10 games, kept alive their chances of progressing to the knockouts while it was curtains for Deccan, who slipped to eighth in the points table.

A sloppy Delhi earlier allowed Deccan to pile up 175-5 after winning the toss and electing to field.

SCORES IN BRIEF DECCAN CHARGERS: 175-5

in 20 overs (Duminy 55, Sangakkara 44, Dhawan 29, Christian 27 not out; SEE PAGE 17 COL 3