

## 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

## Chigozie makes dream debut

SPORTS REPORTER

Nigerian striker Kingsley Chigozie celebrated his Grameenphone Bangladesh 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 Stadium yesterday.

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 month.

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

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## Muktis up against nemesis Sk Jamal

SPORTS REPORTER

Leaders Muktijoddha 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 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

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National Academy pacer Alauddin Babu bowls during his sterling show against the South Africa Academy in the first T20 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. Babu's late-order hitting and excellent figures of 3-14 helped the hosts take a 1-0 lead. PHOTO: STAR

## Academy win first 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 Viljoen. 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-of-the-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 one-dayers 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 National Stadium.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
GP-BCB NATIONAL CRICKET ACADEMY: 162 for 7 in 20 overs (Sarkar 29, Mithun 34 not out, Nasir 27, Babu 21; Masekela 2-22, Piedt 1-18)  
SOUTH AFRICA ACADEMY: 136 all out in 19.5 overs (Viljoen 38, Botha 34; Babu 3-14, Noor 2-23, Sanjamul 2-35)  
Result: GP-BCB National Cricket Academy won by 26 runs.

## 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 on Thursday to spice up the race for the play-offs in the Indian Premier League.

Chasing 157, Kolkata were cruising at 69-0 but pacesman 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 pacesman 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 runs.

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

## Sehwag shuts Deccan out

AFP, Kochi

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 single-handedly 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;

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