



PHOTO: STAR
Mohammedan defender Hasan Al Mamun (L) tries to intercept Farashganj's sensational striker Sohul Rana during their Bangladesh League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Sk Russel earn full points

MSC, Farashganj share spoils

SPORTS REPORTER

Grameenphone Bangladesh League 2010
Mohammedan and Farashganj shared the spoils when they played out a 1-1 draw in their Grameenphone Bangladesh League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Mohammedan's 35th minute lead, given by Nigerian striker Sunday Chizoba, was cancelled by Farashganj's Siyo Zunapio in the 78th minute, with both sides wasting a host of scoring opportunities.

The result did little good to either team, as they stayed in their positions,

Mohammedan in fifth with 18 points from 14 matches and Farashganj in 11th with 10 points from 13 matches.

The other match played at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium between Sheikh Russel KC and Chittagong Mohammedan ended 2-1 in favour of the Dhanmondi based club.

Sheikh Russel took the lead in the 29th minute through Mohammad Yusuf, but three minutes later Liberian Jerry Odesco equalised for the Chittagong outfit. Russian striker Eduard Sakhnevich ensued three points for Russel striking late in the eightieth minute. The win takes the Dhanmondi club to 25 points from 13

matches, while Chittagong Mohammedan are in 10th position with 11 points from 14 matches.

In the match at the BNS, Farashganj had the early chance, but Sohul Rana, the young striker who made a name for himself in the Independence Cup recently, missed the target narrowly on the eighth minute as he chipped the ball over the bar from an acute angle. Mohammedan also came close two minutes later, as Amani's shot fizzled past the cross bar. Chizoba missed a glorious opportunity for the Black and Whites, this time heading in the wrong direction from a beautiful cross from

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

Miandad can be an option

Cricket

MOHAMMAD ISAM

We have had all sorts so far. In the early nineties, Mohinder 'Jimmy' Amarnath made the players run up the newly-built 24-storied Sena Kalyan building in Motijheel but failed to win the ICC Trophy. After his walk-out, came a menacing Barbadian, a terror to fast bowlers and part of a cricketing dynasty.

He ended up in tears after the win over Holland in a do-or-die game.

After Gordon Greenidge's departure, Bangladesh cricket began the Test era with a genuine father figure in Eddie Barlow. But his reign was cut short by illness and was followed up by two coaches who were nothing more than cheapest bargains. BCB quickly made amends by hiring two good coaches, one of whom left behind a burgeoning mentality that was duly tapped by his successor. Jamie Siddons could always look back to giving the Tigers a shove forward with his hands-

on, straightforward approach.

As Bangladesh prepare for another assault on their reputation in the next three years, they need a stern hand on the wheel. A coach holds a lot of importance for the Tigers as they are a young team with vulnerable characters despite their performances.

Since the middle of 2010, there has been a perception that the Tigers, especially the settled ones, need mentoring and monitoring. They have had short bursts of successes with only a few consistently making big contributions. After the blockbuster 4-0 win over New Zealand, there was a whole new strut among the Tigers. It would have been refreshing but the strut, unwittingly, symbolised complacency and it was quite aptly reflected in the World Cup. In a flighty tournament, the Tigers went from one extreme to the other, ending up with just a few positives and not much progress.

In Test cricket, the Tigers have taken very few steps forward. A solid opening partnership apart, Siddons has left behind an undesirable record (19

games, two wins, 16 losses) as well as many questions unanswered.

The Tigers do have a settled one-day side for almost two years, but imagine anyone other than Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal and Imrul Kayes holding a regular place. Form and injuries haven't always been kind with just a few slowly making important comebacks.

If people with the power to select a coach are willing to look out of the box and beyond staid options, it could be time for a man who has the pedigree, nous, coaching experience and the mouth. As much as he is excellent with batting techniques, the man will be a challenge to those flying too high.

Javed Miandad may not be everyone's cup of tea but the 1992 World Cup winner is a legend in his own right and is regarded as the sharpest tool in the shed.

Though he is currently a director general at the Pakistan Cricket Board, Miandad's role is nothing more than an embellishment for the board to be able to say that they have him. An approachable man, Miandad does possess a

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



PHOTO: AFP
Kolkata Knight Riders left-arm spinner Iqbal Abdulla (C) is congratulated by his teammates after getting rid of Chennai Super Kings batsman Murali Vijay at Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday.

Women's club cup cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani and Mohammedan won their respective matches in the Women's Club Cricket League yesterday.

Abahani posted a 15-run victory over hosts BKSP while Mohammedan outclassed Dipali Sangha by nine wickets at the City Club ground.

Deciding to bat first, Abahani scored 130 for nine in their stipulated 40 overs. Shamima made 33 off 40 balls that featured two fours and a six while Shahnaz contributed 30 off 68 balls with the help of a six.

Mallik captured three wickets for 28 runs and Morsheda took two wickets conceding 18 runs.

In reply, Farzana Haque hit an unbeaten 43 off 81 balls but her effort was not good enough for BKSP, who were all out for 115 runs in 36.1 overs.

Rupa, Lata and Bristy claimed two wickets each. In the day's other match, Salma smashed an unbeaten 30-ball 44 with ten boundaries as Mohammedan scored 75-1 in 11.1 overs in reply to Dipali's 73.

Dipali were bundled out for 73 in 33.3 overs after deciding to bat first.

Montaha was the top scorer with 22 runs.

Shaila picked up three wickets for 13 runs.

Selectors asked to be proactive

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

There will be a specific job description for the newly-appointed national selection committee led by former national captain Akram Khan.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board CEO Manzur Ahmed met with the three new selectors -- Akram, Minhajul Abedin and Habibul Bashar -- yesterday to discuss the terms and references for the committee whose tenure would be effective from June 1.

"We gave them offer letters today (Sat-

day) and they told me that they have no objections on it. There are no major changes in the terms and references from the previous one but we have specified their job descriptions this time," informed Manzur after the meeting.

"They don't have any demand even about the financial package. Rather they expressed their desire to contribute something for Bangladesh cricket which is really fantastic.

"We will definitely show due respect to them so that they feel comfortable to do the job and what we believe is that above everything, their commitment is the most important thing,"

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR
Nazrana Khan Iva (R) makes a move against Zakia Sultana during the National Women's Chess Championship at the Chess Federation yesterday.

SA badminton training camps in Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh has been chosen as the South Asian training centre by the Asian Badminton Confederation (ABC) for this year, informed Rubaba Dowla, president of Bangladesh Badminton Federation (BBF), at a press conference at the National Sports Council auditorium yesterday.

Bangladesh will host at least three international training camps this year, the first of those starts on May 9 with 14 local and two overseas shuttlers taking part.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Comilla, Rangpur stroll to victories

SPORTS REPORTER

Comilla and Rangpur won their respective second round group matches in the 31st Inter-district Cricket tournament yesterday.

At the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, Comilla beat Chapainawabganj by six wickets with Swapan taking his side home with an unbeaten 45 as Comilla

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Kolkata win in rain

NDTV, Kolkata



Kolkata Knight Riders beat Chennai Super Kings by 10 runs on Duckworth-Lewis Method at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

In reply to Chennai's 114 for 4 in 20 overs, Kolkata made 61 for 2 in 10 overs. Going by the D-L method, Kolkata were 10 runs ahead of Chennai when rain stopped play. Jacques Kallis remained unbeaten on 21 runs.

For Chennai, Ravichandran Ashwin picked two wickets for 12 in 3 overs.

Earlier, a strangling performance by Kolkata in the field kept Chennai to under 120 on a difficult pitch at Eden Gardens. Subramaniam Badrinath's carefully crafted half-century only held the Chennai innings together.

The match was delayed by drizzle for 60 minutes but both captains thought the weather would have little impact on the pitch. They identified it as a strip that would be good for batting but were proved wrong when Chennai's openers arrived at the crease.

It was a slow, low wicket that didn't allow the ball to come on to the bat and Brett Lee and Iqbal Abdulla exploited that perfectly. Both bowled tight lines, with Lee using the slower ball well, and didn't give the batsmen room to break away. Pressure built and M Vijay succumbed. Abdulla saw him charging down the track, dropped one short and was offered an easy caught and bowled.

Lee bowled a three-over spell up front, instead of usual two, and while he pulled the noose at one end, another wicket fell at the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Club Cup Mukti Sangha's

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi's Mukti Sangha became Inter-district Club Cup champions when they beat Yamin Krira Chakra of Sylhet by 44 runs in a rain-curtailed final at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Batting first, Mukti Sangha notched up 243-9 in 50 overs, but due to the afternoon shower, the Sylhet side's target was reduced to 136 runs from 20 overs. Their reply was nothing impressive as they were bowled out for just 92 runs in 17.5 overs.

For the winners, Rahat Sadek struck four boundaries and a six in his 99-ball 66 while with the ball, Kamrul Hasan, Sanjamul Islam and Sabbir Rahman took three wickets each.

Taposh Baisya took four wickets for 47 runs while Shaker Ahmed picked up three wickets.

Later, Kamrul was adjudged man-of-the-match while Ruksin Azad of the same team bagged the man-of-the-tournament award for his 209 runs from five games in the tournament. Shafaq Al Zabir was the highest wicket-taker while Fazle Rabbi was the highest run-scorer with 211 runs with a top-score of 115 off 99 balls.