

Star

SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY MAY 19, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thecitizenstar.net

Defoe unsettled at Spurs

England striker Jermain Defoe has said he would consider leaving Tottenham if he fails to make it back as a regular starter in the side. Defoe has dropped out of Harry Redknapp's first-choice team this season as he has struggled for goals, with only four in the league all campaign. "I want to help the club achieve things, win trophies and get in the Champions League, but when you feel like you are working hard, training hard and being professional, and then for some reason you are not playing, it is difficult," Defoe told Sky Sports News.

- AFP



PHOTO:STAR

Brothers Union striker Syed Rashed Turjo (R) is at full stretch as he tries to get a boot on the ball before the Mohammedan defender during their Bangladesh League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Sylhet: Draws deliver bronze

The 12th National Cricket League has concluded on May 14, bringing an end to the country's first-class season. Eight months ago, The Daily Star Sport ran previews of all six divisional sides taking part in the competition and now as part of its evaluation of the campaigners, today it is publishing the fourth episode, that of Sylhet's. Tomorrow, the fifth part of this series will be published.

Cricket

MOHAMMAD ISAM

Before the season began, Sylhet had to break the jinx of a 25-game winless record. That streak has been extended by eight more games and another year, but that would hardly put off anyone related to cricket in the north-western division.

As the third-placed side in the National Cricket League this season, Sylhet walked away with Tk 3 lakh and recognition for being the most improved team in the competition after they finished sixth last season.

When the NCL was first scheduled to begin (in September last year), the players trained at the stadium where the facilities are well below required standards. Since the rainy season was at its peak during the camp, the indoor facility was the only resort and there too, the



RAJIN SALEH

SYLHET
Position in 2010-11: Third (no wins)
Top scorer: Rajin Saleh (569 runs)
Most wickets: Shaker Ahmed (30 wickets)
High point: Tasamul Haque
Low point: Collapse against Rajshahi

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Mizan propels Rajshahi to final

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Mizanur Rahman slammed an unbeaten hundred as Rajshahi reached the final of the 31st Inter District Cricket Championship with a comfortable seven-wicket victory against Sylhet in the second semifinal at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Rajshahi will play Friday's final against Mymensingh at the same venue.

Sanjamul Islam set the platform for Rajshahi to coast to an easy victory as the left-arm spinner claimed four wickets for 33 runs in a ten over spell to dismiss Sylhet for 196 in 49 overs.

In chase of the paltry target, Rajshahi opener Mizanur Rahman and Asif Naeem foiled any attempt of



Rajshahi opener Mizan acknowledges the cheers after reaching his century against Sylhet in the second semifinal of the 31st Inter District Cricket Championship at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Tk 11.4 lakh in Sadi fund

Different organisations and personalities have come forward to extend their helping hands in support of ailing sports reporter Al Musabbir Sadi, who is currently fighting against cancer.

So far, an amount of Tk 11,40,000 has been donated to the account opened with South East Bank for his treatment.

Amongst the latest to donate are: Bangladesh Cricket Board with Tk 2 lakh, Matin Chowdhury, managing director of Malek Spinning Limited and event management company Masthead PR with Tk 1 lakh each.

Bangladesh Sports Writers Association and Enayet Hossain Seraj, a director of BCB, have each donated Tk 50,000 to the fund.

The appeal to save Sadi,

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Nat'l camp from June 4

SPORTS REPORTER

The national cricketers will start their fitness training from June 4 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The Akram Khan-led new national selection committee will pick a 30-member preliminary squad for the camp in their first assignment. The camp will be conducted under the guidance of trainer Grant Luden for the Tigers next assignment against Zimbabwe in July-August.

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Brothers boss over MSC

SPORTS REPORTER

Grameenphone
Grameenphone Bangladesh League 2010
Mohammedan Sporting Club extended their losing streak when they were beaten 3-1 by fellow strugglers Brothers Union in the Grameenphone Bangladesh League fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nigerian recruit Nkwocha Kingsley Chigozie gave Brothers a 51st minute lead only to be cancelled by Uwiringiyi Amani in the 67th. However, Brothers regained the lead through Brazilian Rafael Vivaldo ten minutes from time before Kingsley struck his second in the stoppage time.

It was Mohammedan's seventh league defeat and their third defeat of the season at the hands of Brothers. Mohammedan lost to the Oranges 2-0 in the Federation Cup and also went down 2-0 during the first leg of the league.

The sixth victory in 16 matches mean Brothers go up to the fifth position with 22 points while Mohammedan slip to sixth with 21 points from 16 outings.

Brothers Union, who came into the game from a frustrating 4-0 drubbing at the hands of Sheikh Russel KC, looked determined to bounce back and they almost took the lead in the 11th minute but their creative Brazilian midfielder Everton Santos squandered a relatively easy opportunity from a one-on-one situation before his dipping shot from 30 yards narrowly missed the target on the half hour mark. However, Everton would make amends in the second half turning provider for the last two goals for Brothers.

The first goal came when Tonmoy Hossain Toru danced down the left to cut it back for Kingsley, who tapped the ball home from close range in the 51st minute.

Mohammedan stepped up the

attack and found the equaliser in the 67th minute when Nigerian forward Sunday whipped in a cross from the left and Amani pushed the ball home.

The match seemed headed for a draw as the ball was mostly confined to the midfield but Brothers shaped out a win utilising their last two corners to continue their dream run

against Mohammedan.

Defensive midfielder Danilo slammed a diving header off an Everton corner home in the 80th minute to restore the lead before Kingsley headed in the third from another Everton corner in the stoppage time to guide the Oranges to morale-boosting victory.

Slide saddens Emeka

SPORTS REPORTER

In the late 80s he was a vibrant presence on the Dhaka football scene, but he was shocked to see his beloved Mohammedan SC struggling in the ongoing professional football league.

The man is Emeka Ezeugo, who played for Mohammedan in the 1988 and 1989 seasons and helped the Black and Whites clinch the league title twice. He watched the Bangladesh League fixture between Mohammedan and Brothers Union at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

But he was disappointed to see his old club going down 3-1 to the men in orange.

"I'm really frustrated to see the match. The players looked stagnant and they are not performing their off the ball duties.

"It is really very shocking to see the country's number one club now at number six in the

league. It is heartbreaking for someone who loves the team so much," said Emeka, who came here on May 13, the day after Mohammedan's reunion.

After the game Emeka and his wife entered the venue to wave towards a couple of hundred Mohammedan fans.

"It is painful to see that the game has lost its glamour. I remember in my playing days here a Mohammedan-Brothers match pulled a big crowd but now it is a different story and obviously it is not a pleasant one," said the 46-year old Nigerian.

"The role of a comprehensive development policy is very important to revive Bangladesh's football and from my viewpoint, I am ready to help the football federation if they want me to get involved because I really want to see Bangladesh football going up," said Emeka, who was in the Nigerian FIFA World Cup squad in 1994.

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