

# Star SPORT

DHAKA SUNDAY MAY 22, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Ferguson, Vidic best in England

Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson and skipper Nemanja Vidic landed the Premier League manager and player of the season awards on Friday. Ferguson led United to their 12th Premier League title, and 19th English league success overall, plus the Champions League final while centre-back Vidic has been key in United's defence. Ferguson, 69, lands the top manager award from the Premier League sponsors for a ninth time, while 29-year-old Vidic has now been named player of the season twice in his United career.



## AFC President's Cup Abahani lose opener

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani's bid for a place in the AFC President's Cup final round got off on the wrong foot when they suffered a 2-0 defeat against Neftchi Kochkor-Ata of Kyrgyzstan in Group A opener at the National Olympic Stadium in Phnom Penh, Cambodia yesterday.

Despite having a five-man backline marshalled by Nazrul, Samad, Mamun, Linkon and Arup, Abahani went down early as Neftchi defender Adzhiniyazov Marat put the Kyrgyz side ahead in the tenth minute.

Three-time Bangladesh League champions Abahani conceded the second goal when in the 33rd minute. The second goal was scored by forward Pavlov Pave.

After resumption, Abahani brought three changes and sending on forward Mohammad Robin to join Shakawat Hossain and Awudu Ibrahim, but the threepronged attack failed to fashion a goal as the Sky Blues opened the campaign with a reverse.

## Sabina on a roll

SPORTS REPORTER

Sabina Khatun, the striker of Bangladesh national women's team, took her National Women's Football Championship goals tally to 28 in three matches when she slammed 5 goals in Satkhira's 13-0 drubbing of Magura at the Jessore Stadium yesterday.

Hasiba Siddiqua, Suraiya

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Players of Sheikh Russel KC and Muktijoddha Sangsad observe a minute's silence in respect of Al Musabbir Sadi, the deceased general secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation, before their Bangladesh League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## Bangabandhu Int'l TT starts Tuesday

Table tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation is all set to host the Bangabandhu International Invitational Youth (U-18) Table Tennis Championship that begins on Tuesday at the Wood Floor Stadium.

"We have already completed our preparations to make the championship a success and the teams will be starting to arrive here on Sunday," said Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation's general secretary Shamsul Alam Anu at a press conference at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Anu informed that they had initially invited 16 teams but nine teams have responded. Japan and Singapore pulled out lately due to tsunami and players' exam respectively.

"Our target is to develop our players' standard and spread the game among the new generation through this championship," Anu said. "The players started their preparation in November last year and participated in two national championships to gear themselves up."

Asked whether such international tournaments will be held regularly, BTTF president and principal secretary to

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## Sk Russel down Muktis

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russel KC broke leaders Muktijoddha Sangsad's 13-match unbeaten run in the Grammenphone Bangladesh League when they handed a single-goal defeat to the All Reds at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Ghanaian defender Abass Inusah headed home the all-important goal in the 21st minute to help Sheikh Russel exact revenge for their 3-0 drubbing by the same team in the first leg and give them a hope of a better finish in the 12-team league. Sheikh Russel are in fourth position now with 32 points

from 16 matches.

Despite the second defeat in 16 matches, Muktijoddha stay on top of the table with 38 points, three clear of second-placed Abahani and four ahead of Sheikh Jamal, who have a game in hand.

"We have opened up the title race beating Muktijoddha today (Saturday) and we are hoping to end on higher than our current standing since top three teams Muktijoddha, Abahani and Sheikh Jamal have some vital matches to play," said Sheikh Russel coach Mahmudul Haq Liton adding that the players could only implement 50 per cent of the instructions on the field.

"It was a frustrating result for us but we are still hopeful to finish on top,"

said Muktijoddha coach Maruful Haque.

The match started with a minute's silence in respect of deceased BFF general secretary and eminent sports journalist Al Musabbir Sadi and players of sides wore black armbands.

Sheikh Russel started with all out attack, and after a few decent efforts grabbed the opener in the 21st minute when Inusah rose high on a Mohammad Yousuf corner and finished with a powerful header.

Without suspended forward Mithun Chowdhury, Muktijoddha had little bite in their attack and Russian midfielder Boris Kochikin struggled to hold the ball.

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## Deccan win makes things simple for KKR, Mumbai

AGENCIES, Dharamsala



Shikhar Dhawan cracked an unbeaten 95 and Amit Mishra took a hat-trick as Deccan Chargers knocked Kings XI Punjab out of the Indian Premier League (IPL) with an 82-run victory on Saturday.

Punjab's loss also simplified the points table math in the IPL, putting Kolkata Knight Riders and Mumbai Indians in the play-offs.

Meanwhile, the match between Delhi Daredevils and Pune Warriors in Delhi ended in a no result due to rain.

Delhi were 56 for three after 10.1 overs when rain stopped the proceedings at

Feroze Shah Kotla ground. Colin Ingram (13) and Y Venugopal Rao (0) were at the crease for the hosts when skies opened up.

Delhi skipper James Hopes had won the toss and elected to bat in their last IPL clash. Punjab had staged a late turnaround in their title bid, winning their last four matches. They needed to win Saturday to retain an outside chance of making the play-offs at the expense of either Mumbai or Kolkata.

Chennai (18 points), Bangalore (17), Kolkata (16) and Mumbai (16) are the four teams in the play-offs.

Left-handed opener Dhawan, who hit one six and 14 fours in his 57-ball knock, put on 131 for the opening wicket with Ravi Teja

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## Sadi laid to rest

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh sports, specifically football, suffered a terrible loss as a genuine champion of its cause left his earthly bonds. Noted sports journalist and general secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation Al Musabbir Sadi was laid to rest yesterday noon at the Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard after two separate namaz-e-janazas. The first janaza was held at the Bangladesh Football Federation at 10am and the second one was held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 12noon.

## Why didn't you come?

SPORTS REPORTER

Aryan is hardly 10 years old and just lost his father the day before. He is the elder of two sons sports journalist and organiser Al Musabbir Sadi left behind.

Aryan, along with his mother and other relatives, yesterday went to the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) House where the game's ruling body held a namaz-e-janaza for Sadi, the general secretary of the federation.

His to and fro movements and childish murmurings evidenced that little could he realise about the gravity of the loss he has just suffered. He says that his father has died, but he doesn't

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Floral wreaths adorn the coffin of Al Musabbir Sadi, the deceased general secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation, as hundreds expressed their condolences before he was laid to rest yesterday noon.

bers, friends, colleagues, and well-wishers paid their last tribute to their beloved 'Pommel'. Kazi Salahuddin, the president of BFF paid his tribute to his colleague:

"I did not personally know Sadi for long before I nominated him for the position of general secretary of the federation. And it was his vast knowledge of football and his vision to take forward the game in our country that encouraged me to take him in the federation."

Sadi's elder brother, a Canada-resident physician Al Muttafi Sadi said:

"From young and old, Pommel was loved and respected by all who knew him. He was made the general secretary of BFF not only for his good work, but he had a vision which the BFF president spotted in him," said Al Muttafi.

"The love for sports grew in Pommel from a very early age. Me and my brother used to run to the national sta-

dium as soon as our classes were over to watch the football matches there. He showed promise and vision in everything that he did from a very young age. But I believe, and it is agreed by everyone, that it was the friendliness and the generosity that made him dear to everyone," concluded Al Muttafi as his voice choked.

Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Sadek Hossain Khoka, president of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Russel, sports secretary Mahub Ahmed, BFF president Kazi Salahuddin, senior vice president and vice-presidents of the federation, Bangladesh Cricket Board's senior-vice president Mahub Anam, vice-president Sazzadul Alam, director Enayet Hossain and sports organisers from other disciplines were present at the janazas.

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