

# Star SPORT

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## Groenkjaer calls time

Former Danish international striker Jesper Groenkjaer announced Thursday he will retire from football at the end of this season. The 33-year-old will play his final game for champions FC Copenhagen on Sunday. "I'm retiring after mature reflection. I've decided to end my top level career even if the desire and joy to play remains intact," he said. FC Copenhagen reached the Champions League last 16 this season, a unique achievement in Danish football. Capped 80 times, Groenkjaer retired from international football after the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

- AFP



## Title race stays close after goalless day

SPORTS REPORTER



Title aspirants Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club missed a good opportunity to take a lead in the Grameenphone Bangladesh League when the star-studded outfit were held to a goalless draw by Feni Soccer Club at the Shaheed Salam Stadium in Feni yesterday.

In the day's other fixture, Farashganj SC also played out a goalless draw against visitors Chittagong Mohammedan at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

A win against Feni Soccer, whom they beat 1-0 in their home fixture, could have taken Sheikh Jamal to the top of the 12-team points table, but they had to be content with their current second position with 38 points from 17 matches, one less than leaders Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

The outcome between Feni Soccer and Sheikh Jamal broke the title race wide open as three teams are very close; Sheikh Russel KC are in the third position with 35 points from 17 matches while Abahani have the same amount of points, having played one match less than others.

"To be truthful, the opponents played well and we could not open their defense," said Sheikh Jamal manager Anwarul Karim Helal over the phone.

Feni Soccer coach Abu Yousuf expressed his frustration at not getting the full three points but was happy to earn one point.

"We played with on the basis of counter-attack and often broke their backline but luck was not with us as two efforts hit the crosspiece either half of the break. We could even have won the game had Nayan not missed an open net in the dying minutes," said the veteran coach.

Sohel first hit the crosspiece in the first half while Dominic rattled the bar from a free-kick outside the box much to the relief of the country's number one goalkeeper Aminul Haque.

Feni Soccer are still in the red zone having stayed on ninth position with 14 points from 17 matches as Farashganj with 14 points and Chittagong Mohammedan with 13 points are breathing down their neck.

"Getting one point from Sheikh Jamal is a bonus and we

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PHOTO: STAR

Thailand's girls' doubles team proudly pose with their bats after winning the title in the Bangabandhu Invitational International Youth Table Tennis Championship at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday.

## BANGABANDHU INTERNATIONAL TT

# China, Thailand champions

SPORTS REPORTER

China and Thailand won the boy's and girl' doubles titles after thrashing their respective rivals in the finals of the Bangabandhu Invitational International Youth Table Tennis Championship at the Wooden Floor Stadium yesterday.

The Chinese paddlers defied the challenge of the counterparts from India after recording straight 3-0 win

over in the boy's final while the Thailand girls denied their Chinese opponents to win the girl's title with a fierce 3-2 win.

In the boy's final, Zhang Di took on Vivek Bhargav in the first game to beat him 11-5, 11-13, 11-3 and 11-8 (3-1 sets) to put China ahead.

In the second game, Zhang Jia Rui faced a strong resistance from Arnab Adhikari, who bounced back to level the margin 2-2 after going down in the

first two games. But it was Jai Rui who beat Arnab in the final game 13-11 to make the margin 2-0 for China.

Wang Yuanzhe thrashed Rajiv Sarker straight 3-1 (12-10, 11-7, 9-11 and 11-5) to confirm the title.

In the girls event, the Thailand team comprising Pannak Piyaporn, Sangpao Areeya and Rattnavongsha Rattanaporn fought valiantly to overcome the challenges of Liu Xin, Sung

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Action from the Bangladesh League game between Chittagong Mohammedan and Farashganj at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Argentina's India game under cloud

SPORTS REPORTER

Indian media yesterday carried a story on the uncertainty of the Argentina-Venezuela friendly match in Kolkata after the state government said that it is not possible to upgrade the pitch before the September 2 match.

When the matter was drawn the attention to Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin, he said, "So far as I know the officials of Argentina will come to Kolkata to inspect the pitch as well as to see security system and I don't know about the uncertainty of the match."

Salahuddin, however, said they would start the upgradation of Bangabandhu

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## MSC ELECTIONS

# Murshedy throws his name in the pot

SPORTS REPORTER

Former booter Abdul Salam Murshedy has appeared in the scene and bought a nomination paper to declare himself as a presidential candidate in the much talked about Mohammedan SC Limited poll which is changing colour everyday.

On the last day of the nomination papers' selling, a total of 71 nomination papers against 17 posts (16 directors and one president) were sold with 51 people buying nominations.

There are five presidential candidates and they are former president Mosaddek Ali Falu, Abdus Salam Murshedi, Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan, Obaidul Karim and Mostafa Kamal.

Imtiaz Sultan Jonny, Badal Roy, Sayed Hasan Kanon, Rummon Bin Wali Sabbir, Sajed AA Adel, Enayet Hossain Siraj, Anwarul Haq Helel, Dr Nizamuddin, Lutfur Rahman

Badal, Hanif Bhuiyan, Mahbub Anam, Barkatullah Bulu, Janial Abedin Faruque, Protap Sankar Hazra, Khalid Hossain and MA Salam and Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan are competing for various other posts.

The submissions of the nomination papers have been fixed on Saturday while the withdrawal is set for Tuesday. The final candidatures will be published on May 1 before 213 members cast their votes on May 5 at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

There are apparently two panels in the scene with Falu leading one side and former general secretary Lokman the other panel that has already divided the existing 17-member directors' board into two groups.

And, the latest move saw some familiar organizers, who had been backing up Falu till Tuesday, backtrack to join the Lokman panel

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## SL hold firm till tea

SPORT DESK

After rain washed out the entire first session and a good part of the second session of the first Test between England and Sri Lanka in Cardiff yesterday, the Lankan openers Tharanga Paranavitana (16 not out) and captain Tillakaratne Dilshan (18 not out) started off on the right foot by going to tea on 35 for no loss.

It was attritional cricket after Dilshan won the toss and chose to bat. In the 16 overs possible in the second session, England captain Andrew Strauss used three bowlers - seamers James Anderson, Stuart Broad and Chris Tremlett.

## WOMEN'S CRICKET

# Easy win for Sk Jamal

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club posted a 36-run win over Abahani in the final round of the 3rd Women's Club Cricket League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Riding on Suborna Islam's 91-ball 47, Sheikh Jamal scored 164 for nine in their stipulated 40 overs and then restricted Abahani to 128 for nine. It was Abahani's first defeat in the competition.

Suborna also shone with the leather as she claimed three wickets conceding 15 runs in 8 overs.

At the City Club ground, a four-wicket haul by Suktara Rahman helped Mohammedan to secure a

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## Mumbai look beyond today's RCB clash

PTI, Chennai



Their campaign back on track with consecutive victories over Kolkata Knight Riders, a charged up Mumbai Indians would be eyeing an encore of last year's final with a win over Royals Challengers Bangalore in the Qualifier 2 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) on Friday.

Mumbai would be desperate to avenge their last year's final defeat at the hands of title holders Chennai Super Kings, who have already made it to the summit clash by defeating RCB in Qualifier 1 on Tuesday.

But for that to happen, Mumbai will have to first quell the challenge of RCB, who in spite of losing to Chennai, will get yet another chance to qualify for the final by virtue of finishing at the top of the 10-team points table.

Going into the match, Mumbai would be

brimming with confidence from the fact that their batting and bowling line-up clicked as a unit in their previous two matches.

The opening slot which has been a cause of concern for Mumbai right from the start of then tournament finally clicked with Sachin Tendulkar getting an able partner in Aiden Blizard.

Chasing Kolkata's modest 147 for seven yesterday, the Tendulkar-Blizzard opening duo gave a blazing start to the Mumbai innings, putting on 81 runs in 7.5 overs to set the platform for the victory.

And Mumbai would be looking for a repeat performance from Blizzard and Tendulkar as their middle-order looked a bit shaky in the last few matches.

Rohit Sharma and Ambati Rayudu have fizzled out with the bat after their impressive start to the tournament.

To add to it, big-hitting Keiron Pollard has been a big let down for Mumbai in IPL 4,

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Players of Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club celebrate after beating Abahani in the final round of the 3rd Women's Club Cricket League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR