

Attention not sought

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Imrul Kayes believes that as crucial as it is to switch focus from white to red ball cricket, it will be the frame of mind that will decide how successfully Bangladesh return to Test

Sachin number

There seems no end to the list of

Sachin Tendulkar admirers and the

is West Indian fast bowling great

latest to laud the Indian batting icon

"For me, Sachin has been the number

has challenged me and at other times

competitive. When we catch up there

one Indian batsman. Sometimes he

I have done so and we were very

is respect from both sides," stated

Walsh, who took 519 wickets in 132

Tests, making him the fifth greatest

one: Walsh

Courtney Walsh.

One half of the country's

second most successful opening combination, Imrul has already begun preparing on his own while also undergoing the fitness camp. "The last time I played a longer version

yesterday. Unlike Mushfigur Rahim, Shafiul Islam or



IMRUL KAYES

time Imrul played for Khulna was all the way back in the 2008-09 season.

Junaed Siddiqui, Imrul didn't

tour South Africa with the A

team this year (he was busy

playing ODIs against

Australia) nor did his first-

class side, Khulna, make it to

the second round of this sea-

son's National Cricket League

so that he could take part in a

match or two. In fact, the last

year now. So it will be slightly uneasy. But I have already started to use the bowling

He admitted that the change from one-day

"We have only played the white ball for a

cricket to Tests would be quite uncomfortable.

machine to get used to the red ball." After a slow start to international cricket,

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Sk Russel's first win over Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER



dium yesterday.

Bitopi/Leo Burnett/190/58/11

Abahani in the professional football

league when they handed a single-

goal defeat to the 10-men Sky Blues

in their Bangladesh League fixture

at the Bangabandhu National Sta-

Sakhnevich struck the all-

to help Sheikh Russel take sweet revenge of their first-leg 2-1 defeat Sheikh Russel against three-time champions KC tasted their Abahani. first win over With their 12th win in 21

matches, Sheikh Russel toppled Abahani to grab third place with 41 points, just one clear of fourthplaced Abahani who though still have two matches in hand.

With Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Russian forward Edward Club on the verge of clinching the title, the battle between the two 'brothers' only had an importance

in terms of standings in the league table and Sheikh Russel took a good step in a bid to finish behind the champions and runners-up.

Without Iranian coach Ali Akbar as well as six regular players, holders Abahani looked a mediocre side in terms of finishing as they yielded a lot of chances but failed to cash in on any of those opportunities.

Abahani should have taken the lead before conceding the decider but their forward Shakawat Hossain Rony missed at least three good

chances in the first 15 minutes while their goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel was guilty of conceeding the decisive goal.

Winger Mobarrak Hossain whipped in a cross from the right and a feeble clearance by goalkeeper Sohel fell to the unmarked Shakhnevich, who did not mistake to latch a left-footer to find the back of the Abahani net inside the danger

After the resumption, Abahani SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Jamal on the cusp of title

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club will be banking on local forwards in the bid for their maiden professional football league title when the starstudded side take on Brothers Union in their Bangladesh League fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

Sheikh Jamal are just one point away from the league title and they just need a draw against a mediocre Brothers, a side they beat 2-1 in the return fixture. But the job could become tricky for Sheikh Jamal due to the

unavailability of three key foreign booters. Midfielder Thomas Yoko Samnick was

sent off against Mohammedan in the previous match, Cameroonian hitman Emmanuel Ayuk, who has scored eight goals in 10 matches, will miss the crucial match due to accumulated bookings while Stephen Loga Bouga with four goals in the bag has been out of practice for the last three days following sickness.

"It is disappointing not to get them, but our local players are very good and they will come in place of them," Sheikh Jamal Sri SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

