

Health scare for Barrios

Paraguay striker Lucas Barrios was taken to hospital for emergency treatment for a gastro-intestinal problem Tuesday, national team doctor Aldo Martinez said after he had suffered from vomiting overnight. "Barrios is under supervision but is not in any danger and in a private facility undergoing a series of tests. They have ruled out appendicitis - it is probably a virus," Martinez told reporters. He later indicated Barrios had been discharged after being checked over as a precaution. "He is fine. It was a normal bout of indigestion and nothing serious."

- AFP



Sk Jamal crowned champions

ANISUR RAHMAN

Grameenphone Bangladesh League 2010
A new league champion was crowned yesterday as debutants Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club wrapped up the coveted title of professional champions in the last game of the season with a 2-2 draw against Brothers Union in their Grameenphone Bangladesh League fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The result meant that the star-studded Sheikh Jamal went out of reach with 51 points from their stipulated 22 matches, four points clear of Muktiyoddha Sangsad who have a match in hand against Farashganj MFS. Although they have no chance of an overhaul, the Reds are guaranteed to finish second after three-time champions Abahani lost to Sheikh Russel on Tuesday.

It also meant that a new name will be etched in the history of professional football after Abahani had won all the previous editions of the Bangladesh League.

In the match yesterday, Nigerian Kingsley Chigozie put Brothers ahead in the 12th minute only to see his effort cancelled by Mohammad Sujan through a spot-kick in the 62nd minute. Cameroonian Sergio Fils Chico gave Sheikh Jamal a lead three minutes later through a header but yet again Brazilian Everton leveled the margin in the 74th minute through a spot kick.

And although the match ended on a draw it could not stop Sheikh Jamal from celebrating their maiden triumph in their first appearance in the professional football league, despite the fact that the Dhanmondi-based outfit has the displeasure of match-fixing allegations hanging over them.

From the off, Sheikh Jamal was under huge pressure of earning at least a single point against Brothers after they beat them 2-1 in the first leg and the pressure was evident when Sheikh Jamal went down in the 12th minute.

Everton worked hard on the left flank

ROLL OF HONOUR

Champions	Runners-up	Season
Abahani	Mohammedan	2007
Abahani	Mohammedan	2008
Abahani	Mohammedan	2009
Sheikh Jamal	Muktijoddha Sangsad	2010



PHOTO: STAR

NEW WINNERS AT LAST: The victorious Sheikh Jamal team celebrate winning the Bangladesh League title after drawing their last match 2-2 against Brothers Union at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Their victory is a change from the usual dominance of Abahani, who have won the previous three editions.

to release a through-pass for Faisal Mahmud who then pushed the ball inside the danger zone for Kingsley to fire home to silence some 2000-strong Sheikh Jamal crowd, who turned the Western Gallery, known as Abahani gallery, yellow.

Sheikh Jamal badly felt the absence of their suspended forward Emmanuel Ayuk and midfielder Yoko Samnick as well as sick defender Ariful Islam but they had begun to re-organise to control the game and launched attacks as the

Brothers defenders looked reluctant to clear the ball from the danger zone.

Sheikh Jamal almost found the equalizer in the 23rd minute from a goal-mouth-melee but defender Nahidul Islam made a goalline save off a tap by Chico while goalkeeper Aminul Haque kept Sheikh Jamal in hunt after foiling two good attempts by Kingsley just before the break.

After the resumption, Packer Ali sent on local striking duo Zahid Hasan Emily and Enamul Haque to sharpen the attack

and the new champions created huge pressure on Brothers to earn the equalizer.

The pressure paid off after Brothers defender Ashrafur Kabir handled the ball inside the box to award a spot kick in the 62nd minute and former national defender Sergio Fils Chico rose high to nod a Femi Orunnimi cross home to provide Sheikh Jamal a lead in 65th minute.

Brothers again bit back after earning a penalty kick when Wali Faisal brought

Everton down inside the box and the Brazilian converted the spot kick in the 74th minute.

With the score tied at 2-2, Sheikh Jamal strengthened the backline sending on Minthu Sheikh in place of hitman Chico to pass the rest of time without any trouble.

"It was a hard game for us as we missed the services of three key players but I am happy at the way the boys fought despite conceding a lead," said Sheikh Jamal coach Packer Ali.

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A first-class mess

Cricket

MOHAMMAD ISAM

First-class competitions in England and Australia are age-old, a part of the social calendar. For generations, the County Championship begins on the first week of April, come rain or shine (and sometimes snow).

It is hardly different in places like New Zealand, West Indies, South Africa and Zimbabwe while in the sub-continent, India's Ranji Trophy begins in November after the Qaid-e-Azam Trophy in Pakistan begins in October. And in rainy Sri Lanka, first-class cricket started in February last season.

Across the cricketing spectrum, first-class competitions get top priority in domestic cricket with their scheduling immaculate. Hardly would there be a change to the traditional October start to the Sheffield Shield but it is usually split into two so that other competitions -- one-day and Twenty20 -- can be accommodated. But the heart of the domestic season is the first-class tournament.

The National Cricket League's scheduling over the past eleven years could best be described as a dog's breakfast.

The competition has begun on October (2007-08, 2008-09, 2010-11), November (2000-01, 2005-06, 2006-07), December (2003-04, 2002-03, 2001-02), January (2009-10) and February (2004-05). On average, the league has taken up three months with large breaks in the middle to fit in the Premier League or the NCL one-day competition. It shows that there has never been any

consistency, hardly a tradition in place and worse, it is given the least priority.

The irregular schedules are popularly blamed on international cricket being played during that time and also on the lack of grounds. The latter issue is purely infrastructural and has not been solved by any of the previous cricket boards.

Domestic cricket is run smoothly in other Test-playing nations during international series there, but in Bangladesh, the practice has been quite unreasonable: when a foreign team tours, most of the domestic tournaments are shut off, depriving 95% of cricketers in the country.

Usually, the international matches are played in two venues (Dhaka and Chittagong) while the others remain idle.

THEIR LAST NCL GAME

Tamim Iqbal -- November 2007
Shakib Al Hasan -- December 2008
Rokibul Hasan -- December 2008
Imrul Kayes -- December 2008
Rubel Hossain -- December 2008
Mashrafe Bin Mortaza -- January 2010

are free. Simply put, when the national team plays, the ones who are supposed to form the second string are asked to sit and wait.

Interestingly, the current crop of national players has had little time for the NCL in the past three seasons. Shakib Al Hasan, Mahmudullah Riyad, Rokibul Hasan, Shafiqul Islam and Rubel Hossain hasn't played a NCL longer version game since December 2008 while Tamim Iqbal's last NCL outing was on November 10, 2007.

Mushfiqur Rahim, Shafiqul Islam, Junaed Siddiqui, Mahmudullah Riyad, Naeem Islam and Mohammad Ashrafur turned up for this year's final after having played none of the matches during the season.

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Tigers' safari stopover

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is planning to send the national team to South Africa to play a four-day practice match as part of their preparation for the Zimbabwe tour in July-August.

BCB's technical committee in its meeting yesterday recommended the stopover in South Africa for a four-day practice match as they believed that it would help the Tigers get reacquainted with the longer form.

During the month-long tour, Shakib Al Hasan's men will play one Test and five one-day internationals against Zimbabwe, who will end their self-imposed Test exile with the match against the Tigers.

"The Bangladesh team is likely to go to South Africa on July 19 to play a four-day match against South Africa's High Performance unit players. The committee recommended the match as we believe it will be helpful for our players who will return to Test cricket after a long gap," said BCB's director and chairman of the technical committee Enayet Hossain Siraj after the meeting.

Siraj also informed that they are planning to arrange one four-day and three limited-over practice matches at home.


"The practice matches will be held between the national team and the Bangladesh A team. We will announce the 15-member final squad for the Zimbabwe tour by the first week of the next month," said Siraj.

The national players are now doing their fitness training under the guidance of trainer Grant Luden, and they will go to Cox's Bazar on June 26 where the conditioning camp will finish on June 30.

When asked who they have in mind to conduct the skill training after the conditioning camp, Siraj said that they have decided to give Imran Sarwar the responsibility until the head coach is appointed.

"Imran will do the job and we will also involve the other local coaches. We are hopeful that we will appoint the head coach and other supporting staffs in time," hoped Siraj.

BCB is now waiting for confirmation from Australian Stuart Law, who is all set to become the Tigers new head coach if everything goes smoothly.



'বিদ্রোহী' কবিতার ৯০ বছর
আন্তর্জাতিক নজরুল সম্মেলন ২০১১

90th ANNIVERSARY OF THE POEM 'BIDROHI'
INTERNATIONAL NAZRUL CONFERENCE 2011
24-25 June 2011/২৪-২৫ জুন ২০১১

আমি যুগে যুগে আসি আসিয়াছি পুন মহাবিপ্লব হেতু

কবি শেখ হাসিনা

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২৪ জুন ২০১১ সকাল ১০:০০টা
ওসমানী স্মৃতি মিলনায়তন

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মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা

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২৪ ও ২৫ জুন বিকাল ৫:০০টা
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স্থান : নলিনীকান্ত ভট্টশালী মিলনায়তন
বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর, শাহবাগ, ঢাকা

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সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

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