

Star SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY JULY 9, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Freeman has first child

Australian sprint legend Cathy Freeman on Friday gave birth to her first child, a girl, according to a statement on her website that said the proud mother was doing well. The girl, Ruby Anne Susie Murch, was born at 8:21am in Melbourne. "The proud parents are looking forward to returning home and enjoying the exciting first stages of parenthood," the statement said. Freeman, 38, an Aboriginal sprinter with four Commonwealth gold medals and an Olympic title to her name, first spoke of her pregnancy in February, also revealing it had triggered gestational diabetes. -AFP



Jamal show no love for Brothers

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh League champions Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club made a flying start to their Grameenphone Super Cup campaign with an effortless 6-1 win over Brothers Union in the tournament opener at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Stephen Loga Bouga struck twice while Emanuel Ayuk, Femi Orunnimi, substitutes Atiqur Rahman Meshu and Zahid Hasan Emily struck one goal apiece for Sheikh Jamal while Everton Souza scored the consolation for Brothers Union in front of some 3000 spectators.

Sheikh Jamal, wearing the Sky Blue and white stripes fashioned after the Argentina jerseys instead of their first-choice yellow and blue, toyed with Brothers Union and condemned the Oranges to their worst defeat of the season.

Brothers, who had made the league champions sweat for their 2-2 draw in their last match of the professional league two weeks ago, simply had no answer to the opponents fire power this time. Brothers coach Wasim Iqbal blamed their lack of practice for the defeat and saw no further hope of qualifying for the semifinals of the Tk one-crore tournament.

"Every department collapsed because of a lack of practice, and we could not even give our 50 per cent compared to what we did in the league," Wasim said. "Even we could not expect such a humiliating defeat."

Sheikh Jamal's Sri Lankan coach Packer Ali was also surprised with the scoreline and gave full credit to the players for availing the opportunities that came their way.

"We just came here to win the match but did not expect such a big win. It was possible because the regular players and substitutes availed every chance they found," said Packer Ali.

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Stephen Loga Bouga celebrates after scoring Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club's second goal against Brothers Union in the Grameenphone Super Cup opener at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Archers face early exit

SPORTS REPORTER

Both men and women archers faced early exits in the Individual recurvo-bow events of the World Archery Championship after dropping out from the Elimination round in Turin, Italy yesterday.

Young archer Emdadul Haq Milon was beaten in straight 3-0 sets in the 1/48 elimination round by Viktor Ruban of Ukraine after finishing 93rd in qualification with a score of 1271 while his fellow teammate Ram Krishna Shaha also followed him to be eliminated 3-0 by Gael Prevost of France in the same stage after finishing 75th in qualification round with a score of 1289.

In the women's individual event, Mathui Pru Marma was defeated 3-0 by Chinese Zhu Shanshan while Beauty Roy offered some resistance before suffering a 3-1 defeat at the hands of Justyna Mospinek of Poland.

Women's football

SPORTS REPORTER

Amra Ching Marma slammed a hat-trick to take holders Bangladesh Ansar & VDP to the National Women's Football Championship final with an emphatic 6-1 win over Sathkira in the first semifinal at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Apart from Amra Ching's treble, Nubai Ching Marma struck twice while Mainu Marma scored one for the holders, who came from behind to dominate the first half 4-1. Suriya netted the consolation goal for Sathkira.

Narayanganj and Jessore will play the second semifinal today at the same venue.

National side still benched

SPORTS REPORTER



Zahid Hossain Emily and Zahid Hasan, the two star names of Bangladesh national football team, are perhaps two of the most neglected names too in their club Sheikh Jamal.

Warming the bench of the Sheikh Jamal starcast for most part of the season, those two found a momentary lease of stardom when they scored valuable goals for the national side in their recent 3-0 victory against Pakistan in a World Cup Pre-qualifier. Whatever praise they gained for their performance, it didn't help them get into the first eleven of their club's opening match of the Super Cup against Brothers Union yesterday.

The coach Packer Ali has his conscience pretty clear: "Look, this is not the national team. We are not serving the national side. This is club football and we will adopt the best players in

their position to cater to our demand."

Emily though got a chance to come in the second half and he did his best by registering his name on the score-sheet amidst a goal fest. His namesake Zahid Hassan, the nippy winger, was not as lucky as he was not even in the side's bench.

Zahid was very disappointed at not seeing his name on the team list: "I am very disappointed. I cannot think of a reason why I'm not even in the 18. I thought I proved myself against Pakistan and I should have got a chance to prove myself here again," said the youngster from Tangail.

"The national coach needs to see us more in play, to be sure of his team and to have us prepared well for the upcoming matches (against Lebanon)."

And this neglect is not confined to the two Zahids only, Atiqur Rahman Meshu and Rezaul Karim, the two stalwarts in defence for the national side, were also subjected to the same

treatment. Meshu was only a substitute while Reza was left out altogether.

And it is needless to say that it does not bode well for the national side ahead of their most crucial match in years to remember, the second phase matches of the World Cup pre-qualifiers against Lebanon.

The national side will be virtually flying off after the end of the Super Cup leaving them no scope for practice apart from match play. But as long as the national stars in Sheikh Jamal camp, who make up half the number, keep warming the bench, it might be hard to expect a decent performance from them against Lebanon.

The man in charge of the national side, Nikola Ilievski, was diplomatic in his reply when asked about this quandary for the national team. "Well, I know these players only 40 per cent. But the coach of the club (Packer) knows them full 100 per cent. He probably has his reason not to play them and lets hope that is a justifiable reason."

Butt blames Afridi



AFP, Karachi

Pakistan cricket chief Ijaz Butt has said former one-day captain Shahid Afridi will never lead the national side again, blaming him for losing matches against the West Indies in May.

"In my opinion, perhaps considered wrong by some people, he made us lose the fourth and fifth one-dayers," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Butt said in an interview to television channel Geo Super broadcast late Thursday.

"As far as I am concerned he is not captaincy material for the PCB anymore," said Butt of Afridi, who was dumped as captain after Pakistan won the overall series against the West Indies 3-2.

Afridi subsequently breached his contract by announcing his retirement from international cricket and criticising the PCB for mistreating senior players.

The PCB suspended Afridi's contract, revoked his permission to play abroad and directed him to appear before a disciplinary committee.

Afridi took the PCB to court but finally agreed on an out-of-court settlement that saw him fined 4.5 million rupees (52,000 dollars) but granted permission to play for Hampshire in the

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Ascent Corporate soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

HSBC made a flying start on the first day of the 6th Ascent Corporate Soccer Cup with a massive 73 win over Radio Foorti at the STM Hall in Uttara yesterday.

Apart from the bankers, 14 more teams won their respective matches.

Apollo Hospital thrashed Grey Bangladesh 3-1, Standard Chartered Bank beat Ericsson 2-1, Trust Bank beat HRC 2-1, Union Capital beat BRAC Dairy 1-0, ASCENT beat Bangla Cat 2-1 Robi thrashed OK Cement 4-2, IIDFC outplayed EnergyPac 3-0, Lanka Bangla overwhelmed Multimode 4-1, Asiatic 360 beat Chevron 1-0, Metlife Alico won 2-1 over Therap BD, Bexi Textile beat

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Basketball the great leveller

Europa Youth win Premier Division title

SPORTS REPORTER



It is the Premier League that has a place for everyone. Basketball's highest competition in the country is a field for young enthusiasts, semi-pros, amateurs as well as experienced professionals from home and abroad.

In the concluding day of the Citycell Premier Division Basketball League, the two best teams lined up but it was Europa Youth who powered past The Gregarious 86-57 at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

The quality of play waned as the clock ticked into the fourth quarter and Europa banked on their early onslaught when they took a 28-11 lead in the first and extended it to 39-22 in the second.

Europa relied mostly on their local players though Sanjay from India was a major threat to The Gregarious in the first three quarters. Both teams had foreign exports with the runners-up side Gregarious fielding three from Nepal while two from the Ivory

Coast were in the Europa line-up.

But it was Shoaib and Sanchay who did all the running. They led the points tally for the winners with 21 and 18 respectively, giving their side a ninth straight win in the 10-team league and Tk 30,000 as prize money.

Earlier in the afternoon, there was a different sort of celebration by Rangers, a club made of students and residents of the Bakshi Bazar and BUET area. They finished fourth after climbing into the Premier League after becoming First Division champions last year. Another Bakshi Bazar club is the well-known Dhumketu club which finished third in this year's competition.

There was an adventurous air in the Rangers' game against Mohammadpur Basketball Club, as opposed to the more systematic approach taken by teams like Europa Youth who have a professional presence in their midst.

"We all live around the BUET area and for a month and a half during the basketball season, we concentrate on the game," said Maksudur Rahman.

A man who has played four sports --

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State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Captain AB Tajul Islam (retired) presents the Citycell Premier Division Basketball League champions' trophy to Europa Youth yesterday at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium.

PHOTO: COURTESY