

LOCAL SNIPS

Jessore, N'ganj
reach last four

SPORTS REPORTER

A 78th minute strike by Bely Khatun gave Jessore a lone goal win over Narayanganj in one of the two KFC Women's Football Super League fixtures at the Bishreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

However, despite the defeat Narayanganj moved into the semifinals, along with Jessore, from Group B as runners-up.

Satkhira and Ansars & VDP completed the last-four quota from the other group.

Meanwhile, Thakurgaon bowed out of the championship with flying colours defeating Kishoregonj 3-0 in an inconsequential match of the DIVIKABADDI

Sonali Bank Recreation Club and Manikganj Unnayan Samity warmed up well ahead of their Saturday's title-deciding clash when they won their respective games in the First Division Kabaddi League at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

The bankers ambled past Arbachin KC by 55-35 points while Manikganj gave Institute of Kabaddi a real lesson with a 36-9 thrashing.

MINHAZ'S 2ND

IM NORM

National champion Minhz Auddin won his second IM (International Master) norm in the Verges International Open Grand Masters chess tournament held in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

Minhz, who needs another norm to become an IM, produced an inspiring performance in the meet where he floored two GMs and a high-profile Indian IM, according to a message received here last night. He finished 17th in the standings with 7.5 points after 11 rounds, one point behind eventual winner Indian GM Avijit Gupta. Bangladesh's first GM Niaz Mursheed also finished on 7.5 points.



Holding the coveted Karbonn SAFF Championship Trophy at Delhi's India Gate are (L-R) Chimi Dorji of Bhutan, Sujal Shrestha of Nepal, Rohana Ruwanthilaka of Sri Lanka, Ariful Islam of Bangladesh, Climax Lawrence of India, Naveed Ahmed of Pakistan and Hassan Adham of Maldives.

PHOTO: COURTESY

DELHI BELLY

SPORTS REPORTER from Delhi

Goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee is the lone player of the Bangladesh squad with the experience of playing all six tournaments of the SAFF Championship so far and he is eagerly waiting for his seventh appearance.

After Biplob, captain Mohammad Sujan, striker Zahid Hasan Emily and winger Abdul Baten Komol are the most senior players in the squad in terms of taking part in the SAFF Championship. The seventh edition of the regional football tournament will be the fourth tournament for them.

LOST IN TRANSLATION

Except Bangladesh, the captains and the coaches of all participating nations are more or less fluent in English. It showed in the official press conference at Green Tree Hilton Hotel where Bangladesh took very little time to finish making their point.

It was seen that Maldives appointed an interpreter for their captain Ali Ashfaq at the press conference but Bangladesh did not take such an initiative. Coach Nikola Ilevski, who can speak only passable English mostly avoided journalists with the convenient excuse that he would not speak about his charges. It caused more than a few sniggers

from the other competitors but worse was to come in the form of captain Sujan whose inability to complete a proper sentence could have been easily avoided had the team management appointed an interpreter.

BAD HOST?

Bangladesh manager Arif Khan Joy alleged that the hosts are not giving proper treatment of Bangladesh as they waited for a long time at the airport following their arrival in New Delhi.

He also alleged that no officials of the All Indian Football Federation or South Asian Football Federation were present to receive the Bangladesh team at airport. The Bangladesh team were also given an uneven field on the first day for practice and were denied the chance to practice at the main venue yesterday before their opening match against Pakistan.

UNHAPPY COACH

Coach Nikola Ilevski is not happy with the accommodation of the squad as all participating squads have been kept in an isolated location on the outskirts of New Delhi. "There is no park or market around here and the players have nothing to do rather than eating, sleeping and practicing. It will bore all the players," said Nikola.

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