

Star SPORT

DHAKA FRIDAY DECEMBER 30, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thecitizenstar.net

Diego open to coaching UAE

Diego Maradona says he'd open to coaching the United Arab Emirates national team.

The Argentine great, who since May has coached the UAE professional side Al Wasl, has been mentioned as a potential candidate in the local media after Srecko Katanec of Slovenia was fired following the team's 3-1 loss to Lebanon in September. Maradona did not say Wednesday whether the country's soccer association had approached him about the job, though he said he would accept the post "with pleasure."

The 1986 World Cup-winning Argentine said he could envision doing both jobs.

- AP



Uzbekistan gymnast Asal Saparbaeva is all grace as she puts in a winning performance in the individual all-around event of the Sultana Kamal 4th Central South Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships at the Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Women gymnasts shine

SPORTS REPORTER

Although there was not much expectation from Bangladesh women's gymnastics team in the Sultana Kamal 4th Central South Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships, they shone in the competition to win the silver medal on Wednesday at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium.

Indian Ashish Kumar won the gold medal with a score of 83.70 while Uzbek gymnast Daulet Narmetov scored 83.20 to win the silver medal.

"Syque had a good opportunity to win the gold but he could not perform well in the Pommel Horse which hurt his chances," said Bangladesh Gymnastic Federation general secretary Ahmedur Rahman.

Syque will take part in his favourite Parallel Bar event today and the 21-year-old gymnast expects a gold medal from the event.

Bangladesh had a bronze-medal hope in the men's team championship but they disappointed with their mis-

shie the women's team's success as the US-born Bangladeshi gymnast had to be content with a bronze medal in the Individual All Around Competition with a score of 82.65 points.

On way to winning the silver medal, the Bangladesh side made 98.45 points, just .05 more than Sri Lanka who had to be content with the bronze.

India won the gold medal with a score of 147.90 points. Favourites Uzbekistan faltered because the scores of their two women gymnasts could not match those of the three gymnasts participating for the other teams.

Uzbekistan however enjoyed better times in the women's All Around event with Asal Saparbaeva winning the gold medal with a score of 53.25 points followed by Indian Dipa Karmakar who made 51.40 points to win the silver medal.

Dipa's teammate Meenakshi finished third with a score of 46.70 points.

VICTORY DAY TENNIS Qtrs lineups finalised

SPORTS REPORTER

The quarterfinals lineups in the Runner Group Victory Day Open Tennis Tournament were confirmed after the third day's play at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

Amol Roy, Mofazzal Hossain, Munir Hossain, Rustam Ali, Dipu Lal, Anwar Hossain, Biplob Roy and Ranjan Ram won their respective matches to qualify for the last eight.

In the men's doubles, the pairings of Omar Faruk Sunny and Sheik Hasibur Haq and Mohammad Anwar Hossain and Dipu Lal advanced to the quarterfinals.

In the women's singles segment, Sharmin Alam, Bhabna, Nupur, Ayesha Sultana, Ishita Afroz and Nadia Afrin won their respective matches to advance to the round of eight.

Feni cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Brothers Club defeated Pubali Shangshad by 118 runs in their First Division Cricket League encounter at the Feni Stadium on Wednesday.

Batting first Brothers made 145 losing all their wickets. But Pubali, while chasing, were nowhere in the match as they were skittled out for a meagre 27.

Schools football underway

SPORTS REPORTER

Government Laboratory High School started their National School Football Islami Bank Tournament on a winning note when they came from behind to defeat Kakoli High School 3-1 on the opening day of the Dhaka Metropolis zone at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Sakib Hossain put Kakoli High School ahead in the very fourth minute only to be cancelled by Nion in the 15th minute of the 20-minute first half.

After the breather, Koushik gave Govt Laboratory a lead in the 31st minute with an angular shot before Nion struck his second goal one minute from time to seal the victory and ensure a second-phase berth.

The 50-minute (20+10+10) game seemed equivalent to a full-length match for the school boys, who appeared tired after play-



Action from yesterday's National School Football Tournament match between Government Laboratory High School and Kakoli High School at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Giants upstaged on opening day

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Premier Division Cricket League got off an unusual start as both the two traditional heavyweights Abahani and Mohammedan faltered on the opening day at the hands of two promoted sides at different venues yesterday.

Brothers Union showed in their very first match why they were considered one of the best-balanced sides in the competition when they handed a 29-run defeat to defending champions Abahani at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club also made their presence felt in the first game when they posted a five-wicket victory against a mediocre Mohammedan, last year's runners-up, at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium while Gazi Tank expectedly made a good start with a five-wicket victory over Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club at BKSP.

BROTHERS UNION-ABAHANI
Indian Mithun Manhas's sparkling half-century was not good enough for Abahani to avoid the defeat as they were bundled out for 195 runs in 46.2 overs in reply to Brothers' 224 for seven.

Brothers rode on Taposh Ghosh's all-round performance to secure the



PHOTO: STAR
Brothers Union bowler Abdur Razzak smiles after having an appeal turned down during his side's Dhaka Premier Division League match against Abahani at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

victory. Taposh scored an unbeaten 47 off 64 balls that featured three boundaries and one six and later picked up

the two vital wickets of Manhas, who scored a 39-ball 50 with fours boundaries and three sixes and Anamul Haque (25). Manhas was particularly brutal on left-arm spinner Shaker Ahmed, off whom he hit two sixes and one boundary in one over.

After a solid start, as Nazimuddin (42) and Nafis Iqbal (22) associated 61 runs in the opening stand, Brothers managed a 200-plus total thanks to Abdur Razzak who smashed five boundaries and one six during his unbeaten 27-ball 38.

Spinner Mahmudullah Riyad bowled brilliantly to finish with two for 35 while Saqlain Sajid also took two for 21.

Abahani's batsmen had no answer against Brothers' disciplined bowling on a lively pitch. Pakistan left-arm paceman Sohail Tanvir provided the early breakthrough trapping Peter David in front for a duck and the two run-outs of captain Mahmudullah Riyad and Narendar Singh deepened the crisis for the Dhanmondi outfit.

As many as six batsmen got starts but nobody could carry on their innings to take the team to safety.

Sohail, Taposh, Razzak and Tushar Imran claimed two wickets each.

SK JAMAL-MOHAMMEDAN
A 131-run opening partnership between Deepak Joon and Shamsur Rahman

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