

Maradona on UAE shortlist

Diego Maradona is reportedly among the candidates to take over as coach of the United Arab Emirates national team. Yusuf Al Serkal, chairman of the UAE's Football Association interim committee, was quoted Monday in the local media as saying the Argentine great is on a short list that contains at least three names. A decision is expected before the UAE's league season wraps up in May. Last month, Maradona said would accept the job "with pleasure." He has coached Dubai-based Al Wasl since last year.

— AP



Ziaur flays Abahani

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Two hours of hitting from Ziaur Rahman ensured Old DOHS a major slay in their championship pursuit of the Dhaka Premier League yesterday.

The league leaders beat Abahani by eight runs at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, taking them to 16 points from nine games -- two ahead of Victoria Sporting Club and four better than the defending champions.

Gazi Tank too kept themselves in the hunt through a fine 50-run win over Mohammedan Sporting Club while Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club brushed past Bangladesh Biman by 39 runs.

OLD DOHS-ABAHANI

Big-hitting Zia took an instant liking to the Abahani bowlers, especially the seamers as he went about taking them apart in his 91 that helped Old DOHS to 257 all out in 50 overs.

He smashed Elias Sunny in the fourth over before cracking Abul Hasan for two sixes and another one off Peter Trego. Apart from the sixes, Zia hit ten boundaries in his 93-ball whirlwind before falling to Saqlain Sajib in the 31st over.

Zia and Rameez Aziz added 107 for the second wicket with the left-handed Pakistani scoring 42 off 57 balls.



Ziaur Rahman ... 91 off 93 balls

Both batsmen fell in quick succession with Abahani threatening to come back but Adnan Reza (41) and Nurul Hasan (28 not out) took them past the 250-mark.

Trego took three expensive wickets in his ten overs while Sunny picked up two.

Abahani made a disastrous start, losing openers Anamul Haque and Fazle Rabbi as well as one-down Trego for 58 runs. After Marshall Ayub was run out by Faisal Hossain, skipper Mahmudullah Riyad and Mithun Manhas staged yet another fightback.

The pair added 136 runs for the fifth wicket but both fell in the space of ten balls. Abahani needed 44 off the last five overs but it became 32 off twelve balls after three good overs from Enamul Haque, Jalat Khan and Mohammad Ashraful. Nabil Samad then got smashed for 17 in the penultimate over with Hasan hammering him for a six. Shuvogoto Hom Chowdhury however pulled it back for Old DOHS, conceding seven and picking up a wicket in the final over.

GAZI-MOHAMMEDAN

Nasir Hossain's 92 off 106 balls helped Gazi Tank to 273-8 in 50 overs at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. The all-rounder struck seven boundaries and a six, and added 119 runs for the fourth wicket with Mominul Haque

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Nasir Hossain has had a lean patch with the bat ever since he became the highest-paid among the local players in the BPL auction two weeks ago. The gutsy right-hander however hit form for Gazi Tank in a Premier League match against Mohammedan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. Here he drives the ball through the covers on way to making a swashbuckling 92.

PHOTO: STAR

Eng U-19s make it 2-3

SPORTS REPORTER

England Under-19 stayed alive in the seven-match one-day series when they posted a 28-run victory against their Bangladesh counterparts in the fifth match at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh Under-19 is now leading the series 3-2 and will play the sixth match at the same venue today.

Man-of-the-match Brett Hutton guided the visitors to the comfortable victory, ripping through the home side's top order by taking three wickets. Bangladesh Under-19 lost wickets at regular intervals to be bundled out for 167 runs chasing 196. Number seven batsman Zakaria Masud was not out on 38 off 60 deliveries with three boundaries.

Brett Hutton conceded 34 runs in ten overs for three wickets while Adam Ball took two wickets for 23 runs.

England Under-19 scored 195 for eight in 50 overs after being sent in to bat. Sam Kelsall was the top-scorer with a 74-ball 43 that featured five boundaries while Rammy Singh added 38 off 57 balls that saw only one boundary.

Nayeem Islam claimed three wickets for 31 runs.

BRIEF SCORES

ENGLAND UNDER-19: 195-8 in 50 overs (Kelsall 43, Singh 38, Wood 32, Overton 22; Nayeem 3-31)

BANGLADESH UNDER-19: 167 all out in 45.1 overs (Soumya 18, Aslam 15, Mosaddek 17, Zakaria 38 not out, Nayeem 19; Hutton 3-34, Ball 2-23)

RESULT: England Under-19 won by 28 runs.

Khulna crush Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Khulna rode on Shaila Sharmin's all-round performance to outplay Bogra by 121 runs in the final round of the 2nd National Women's Cricket Championship at the Jamalpur Stadium yesterday.

Tahin Tahera hit 47 and Shaila Sharmin added 45 as Khulna posted 164 for two in 30 overs.

Tadia Akter was the other notable scorer with 30.

In reply, Bogra were bundled out for 43 runs in 24 overs. Ritu Moni was the top-scorer for Bogra with 10.

Shaila Sharmin claimed three wickets for eight runs while Tahin Tahera captured two wickets for six runs.

Tamim in IPL auction

Cricket

CRICINFO

Tamim Iqbal is the only Bangladeshi cricketer to make it to the final list of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2012 auction when the preliminary list was curtailed to a 144-player final list yesterday.

Earlier, Bangladesh Cricket Board had submitted a list of nine players to the IPL.

Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Abdur Razzaq, Imrul Kayes, Rubel Hossain, Jahurul Islam and Nasir Hossain apart from the former vice-captain Tamim were on the list. Former captain Shakib Al Hasan is already under contract with Kolkata Knight Riders which runs upto 2013.

India's VVS Laxman, S Sreesanth and Brendon McCullum of New Zealand have commanded the highest reserve price of 400,000 dollars in the final auction shortlist. The Kochi trio joins England off-spinner Graeme Swann, who is yet to feature in the IPL, as the four players to command the maximum reserve price.

On January 20, the Board of Control for

Cricket in India had released a preliminary list comprising of 183 players, who hadn't participated in earlier seasons of the IPL. That has been pruned further by the IPL organisers based on the feedback received from the franchises. The Kochi players, who weren't part of the earlier list, were expectedly included, and the entire roster of players will go under the hammer on February 4 in Bangalore.

"The shortlist comprises some outstanding cricket talent," the IPL chairman Rajeev Shukla said. "Given that it was prepared on the basis of the feedback of the franchises themselves, the stage is set for an exciting and eventful player auction, this Saturday. The franchises purchased the bulk of their respective squads in 2011. Their aim at the upcoming auction will be to bring in some players who can make a difference to their prospects in the tournament. The auction will mark the formal opening of IPL 2012."

In all, 16 Kochi players feature in the list including the newly-appointed Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene (reserve price 300,000 dollars) and the retired off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran (200,000 dollars). The

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A young woman is happy to have received her tickets for the upcoming Bangladesh Premier League at the Dhaka Bank branch in Motijheel yesterday. Tickets worth over Tk 773,000 were sold on the first day of ticket sales in the capital.

PHOTO: STAR

Carlos to end career in 2012

Football

AFP, Madrid

Brazilian World Cup winner Roberto Carlos has told a Spanish sports paper he will finish his playing career in December this year at Russian club Makhachkala Anzhi.

The 38-year-old, a World Cup winner in 2002 and finalist in 1998, as well as a legendary former player at Real Madrid, says his player/manager contract at the Russian club lets him hang up his boots this year.

"My contract as a player with Anzhi ends in June 2013. But in December I have the possibility to stop playing," he was quoted as telling Spain's biggest-selling sports daily Marca.

"After that I will carry on in the club as assistant to the chairman Suleyman Kerimov ... He has asked me to help create a structure in the club for the next 10 years," he said in the interview.

"I am not going because I am injured. But I am going because my sporting career is already complete. I have been with Palmeiras, Inter, Real Madrid... I have lived everything I had to live as a player."

As well as the World Cup, Carlos took three Champions League titles and three Spanish championships with the Real Madrid of fellow Brazilian Ronaldo and French international Zinedine Zidane.

If one match stood out in his career, the left-winger told Marca, it would be the Real Madrid-Juventus Champions League final in 1998, which delivered the Spanish club's seventh Champions League win after a long drought.

"It meant a lot to me and to all the Madrid fans. We won the title after 32 years... the only thing that annoys me is that I could not win the Cup," Carlos said.

"Two goals will stay with me. The one I scored with Brazil against France from a free kick (in the 1997 Confederations Cup). The effect was fantastic. And the one I scored from a corner with Real Madrid against Tenerife (bending the ball from the corner into the net in February 1998)."

Carlos said he believed he and fellow Brazilian great Cafu had shown that that wingers can do more than defend. "We were very much on the offensive but they criticized us, too."

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BFF wants DFAs to vote

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is keen to keep the voting rights of the District Football Associations (DFA) in the next election, even though the FIFA and AFC advised the BFF in 2008 to keep all DFAs out of the 2012 election.

"We unanimously believe that the country's football will not improve and prosper without the involvement of the districts. To uphold the democratic procedure at the BFF, we feel the representatives of the DFAs are needed and we will try to keep their voting rights in the next election," said BFF senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshedy after a marathon five-hour meeting at the BFF House yesterday.

Before the 2008 election, the then BFF president SA Sultan guaranteed the AFC and FIFA that DFAs would be members of the Divisional Football Associations only and not automatic members of the BFF. The structure of DFAs in the new format should come into force from the next election to be held by end of April 2012.

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An AFP file photo shows Brazilian Roberto Carlos, who has announced that he would end his football career this year, holding a traditional drinking horn while travelling on a plane to play for his cash-rich Russian club Anzhi Makhachkala in April last year.

