

Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

WC hero Ahn calls it quits

South Korean striker and 2002 World Cup star Ahn Jung-hwan announced his retirement from professional soccer at a tearful news conference on Tuesday. "No longer as a football player but as a head of a family and as a fan of football, I will cheer on the Korean football. I want to rest," an emotional Ahn told reporters. The 36-year-old became a household name at the 2002 finals when his extra-time header knocked Italy out in the round of 16 as the co-hosts advanced all the way to the semifinals, where they were eventually knocked out by Germany.

- REUTERS



Girls of Moghachari Govt Primary School (L), champions of the Bangamata Begum Fajilatunnessa Mujib Gold Cup Primary School Tournament and boys of the Charbaria Govt Primary School (R), champions in the Bangabandhu Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament look even happier than if they had all obtained golden GPAs as they gleefully sprint in celebration of their victory at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN



Charbaria, Moghachari champs

Festive end to Primary School Football tournaments

ANISUR RAHMAN

The second edition of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament was completed successfully yesterday with Charbaria Govt Primary School of Barisal emerging champions after a 3-2 win over Rangamati Govt Primary School of Dinaipur at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

At the same venue, Moghachari Govt Primary School of Rangamati clinched the title of the inaugural Bangamata Begum Fajilatunnessa Mujib Gold Cup Primary School Tournament beating Paalichora Govt Primary School of Rangpur 2-0.

NAT'L WOMEN'S CRICKET Narail edge past Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Narail defeated Tangail by 26 runs in a final round game of the 2nd National Women's Cricket Championship yesterday at the Jamalpur Stadium.

Batting first, Narail made 134 for seven in 30 overs with Sathia top-scoring with 23 and Suborna, Chameli and Pooja making 22 each. Soheli took four wickets.

In reply, Tangail were bundled out for 108 runs in 29.4 overs.

Suraiya and Happy took two wickets each while Sharmin made 36 for the lossing side.

U-18 semis from Feb 3

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Metro will be up against Barisal in the semifinals of the National Under-18 cricket competition at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore from February 3.

In the other semifinal, BKSP face Dhaka South at the Faridpur District Stadium from the same day.

In the last round matches of the group stage, BKSP, Chittagong and Barisal won their respective matches against Sylhet, Rangpur and Rajshahi while the Khulna-Dhaka Metro game ended in a draw at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

Rangpur even invaded the pitch to halt the girls' final for five minutes in protest of the cancellation of a goal from Paalichora Govt. Primary School.

On their way to the final, the finalists had to play a total of 14 to 15 matches each in the knockout rounds, which started in June involving some 120,000 schools across the country.

However, the event could have been made even more memorable had the organisers, paid a tribute to those schoolchildren who lost their lives in the Mirsarai tragedy on July 11, 2011 while on their way back

home after participating in a match.

Playing football is nothing new for the girls of Rangamati and they dominated the show against the girls from a village 13 kilometres away from Rangpur town who just started playing football eight months ago and only recently learnt to take a shot or head a ball. Even then, there were some individual performances from the Paalichora girls that merit mention. Roksana, Ratna, Mousumi, Swapna, Nargis and goalkeeper Rashida were remarkable performers for Paalichora School. Roksana, who was adjudged player-of-the-tournament and also

became the highest scorer, has been dubbed "Messi" by her teammates for her dribbling skills and speed with the ball. Nargis, the free-kick expert, even got one to bend into the back of the net, but unfortunately it was ruled out. Ayna Chakma and Nadi Chakma struck one goal each for the champions.

In contrast, the boy's final was more entertaining as both sides put in organised displays. The eventual champions Charbaria dominated the first half with three goals by Al Amin, Rimon and Kawsar Ali, but the runners-up enjoyed superior ball possession in the second half and man-of-the-tournament Antan Todu scored both goals in that half.

The champions in both tournaments were awarded Tk 1 lakh each while the runners-up got Tk 75,000.

However, there was a bone of contention as many of the boys looked over-aged and were also reportedly high school students.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Future shines bright

Football

AARONY ZADE

On Tuesday Bangabandhu National Stadium was abuzz with the future of Bangladesh's football. Fifth grader Imran Hossain adores Lionel Messi. He did not have the chance to meet Messi on his rare trip to Bangladesh. But Imran got to play on the same ground as his hero. And he led his team, Charbaria Govt. Primary School, to glory in the final of the 2nd Bangabandhu Gold Cup.

The girls of Moghachari Govt. Primary School of hilly Rangamati district however have their own home-grown idols to take inspiration from and lift the inaugural Bangamata Gold Cup that preceded the boys' final at the same venue where everything turned into more than a mere battle. It echoed the struggle, determination and ecstasy of boys and girls of almost 120,000 primary schools from every corner of the country.

The victorious girls' Moghachari Primary School has a special bond with this beautiful game. National team players Mainu Pru, Suinu Ching, Nubai Ching, Mainu Marma and women's league player Mashi Pru all came from Suihla Mong's coaching academy in Kaukhali. Mong's undoubted dedication towards football paid off yesterday as Rangamati outplayed Rangpur with an intelligent display of tactics.

Speaking about his effort, he mentioned how he mortgaged his wife's jewellery to fund his academy. Nodi Chakma, one of the girls from Mong's academy, scored the second goal in their 2-0 victory from a sudden counterattack.

Mong's pupils, who had to endure a lot of hurdles with transport and accommodation and funding, hardly understand what the success would bring to them. They were just happy that they could at last play in their 'dream venue'. With most of their parents being hardworking farmers who can ill afford any financial assistance during their long travels, Mong said that his students had to spend the night crammed in one of the players' distant relative's house for their matches in Choddogram.

Runners-up Paalichora Govt. Primary School from Rangpur have been devoted to football ever since the tournament started in June and fancied a great chance of winning, but with 3 shots bounced off post and one goal gone offside, their luck ran out. Their coach, Mohammad Asaduzzaman Sarkar said "The missed chances really shook our confidence and moreover, the Rangamati girls are physically stronger than us due to geographical environment. We stood a great chance but we are happy to have come all this way".

Asked about whether the girls faced any restrictions from the community, headmistress Begum Munni Raihana said, "The parents were reluctant at first because they

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Victoria, DOHS sitting pretty

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Star-studded Victoria Sporting Club thrashed Brothers Union by six wickets at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium to secure the top spot in the points table of the Premier Division Cricket League yesterday.

After the ninth round, Victoria and Old DOHS have sixteen points each while Gazi Tank, Abahani, Mohammedan and Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club all have twelve points in nine matches.

At the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, Cricket Coaching School (CCS) secured an important victory against Prime Doleshwar in their pursuit to avoid relegation. A strong batting display enabled CCS to

earn a comfortable 68-run victory.

VICTORIA-BROTHERS

Brothers got off to a disastrous start after deciding to bat first with the first five batsmen failing to reach double digits.

Then it was Sohail Ahmed who averted total embarrassment, the number seven batsman scoring 47 off

SCORES IN BRIEF

BROTHERS UNION: 124 all out in 42.5 overs (Sohail 47, Dhiman 29; Al-Amin 2-22, Shakib 2-21, Mosharraf 3-27)

VICTORIA: 130-4 in 30.2 overs (Tamim 49, Jahurul 55 not out)

Result: Victoria won by six wickets.

CCS: 270-7 in 50 overs (Robiul 65, Amit 87, Suleman 60, Jubayer 30 not out; Monir 4-38)

PRIME DOLESHWAR: 202-9 in 50 overs (Mehedi 28, Kamran 26, Manvinder 20, Nadif 39, Sumon 35 not out, Taijul 26; Rashid 3-36, Robiul 2-37)

Result: CCS won by 68 runs.

74 deliveries with four boundaries and a six while Dhiman Ghosh added 29 off 72 balls with the help of four boundaries.

Pacer Al-Amin started the carnage claiming two wickets, and then left-arm spinners Shakib Al Hasan, who captured two wickets, and Mosharraf Hossain with three wickets wrapped up the Brothers innings for 124 runs.

In reply, Victoria scored 130 for four in 30.2 overs thanks to Tamim Iqbal, who missed his half century by just one run, and an in-form Jahurul Islam, who was not out on 55.

CCS-PRIME DOLESHWAR

A 126-run opening stand between Robiul Islam and Amit Majumder laid the platform for Pakistani Suleman Khan to accelerate as CCS piled up 270 for seven in their share of 50 overs.

Robiul hit 65 while Amit was the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Surjo Torun expelled?

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Surjo Torun face expulsion from the Dhaka Premier League after they failed to turn up for the match at BKSP in Savar against Kalabagan Krira Chakra yesterday.

Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) held a meeting last night and came to the conclusion that Kalabagan would be given a walkover and Surjo Torun stopped from participating in the rest of the competition.

The extraordinary situation occurred when their team bus was stuck in a long traffic jam near the EPZ intersection where a garments worker of a nearby factory was killed on the spot by a Naogaon-Dhaka bus which struck his bicycle at around 7:30am.

As the news of his death spread, workers of the victim's factory and other factories blocked the Nabinagar-Kaliakoir road for two and a half hours, halting traffic movement on the road. And after interference of the local police, the road was opened for traffic at around 10:30am.

The Surjo Torun team bus was stuck in the long tailback for nearly two hours after they began from Dhanmondi at 7:00am and only arrived at the BKSP ground at 9:58am, according to the match referee's report.

"The road was blocked following a road accident which killed one person. That was the reason Surjo Torun failed to appear at the ground on time. I talked with both captains but none was ready to play a curtailed match, which is the reason I referred the issue to CCDM as per the bylaws," said match referee

Samiur Rahman.

The CCDM sat with officials from both Surjo Torun and Kalabagan in the evening and debated for almost three hours before reaching the decision.

Tanjib Ahsan Saad, a Surjo Torun official, said the club wasn't satisfied with the verdict. "We presented our case and even the match referee's report doesn't mention the walk-over," he said.

CCDM used the 12.1 clause of the bylaws to eject the club from the top division. The next clause, 12.2, however states that in an extraordinary

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

