

Star SPORT

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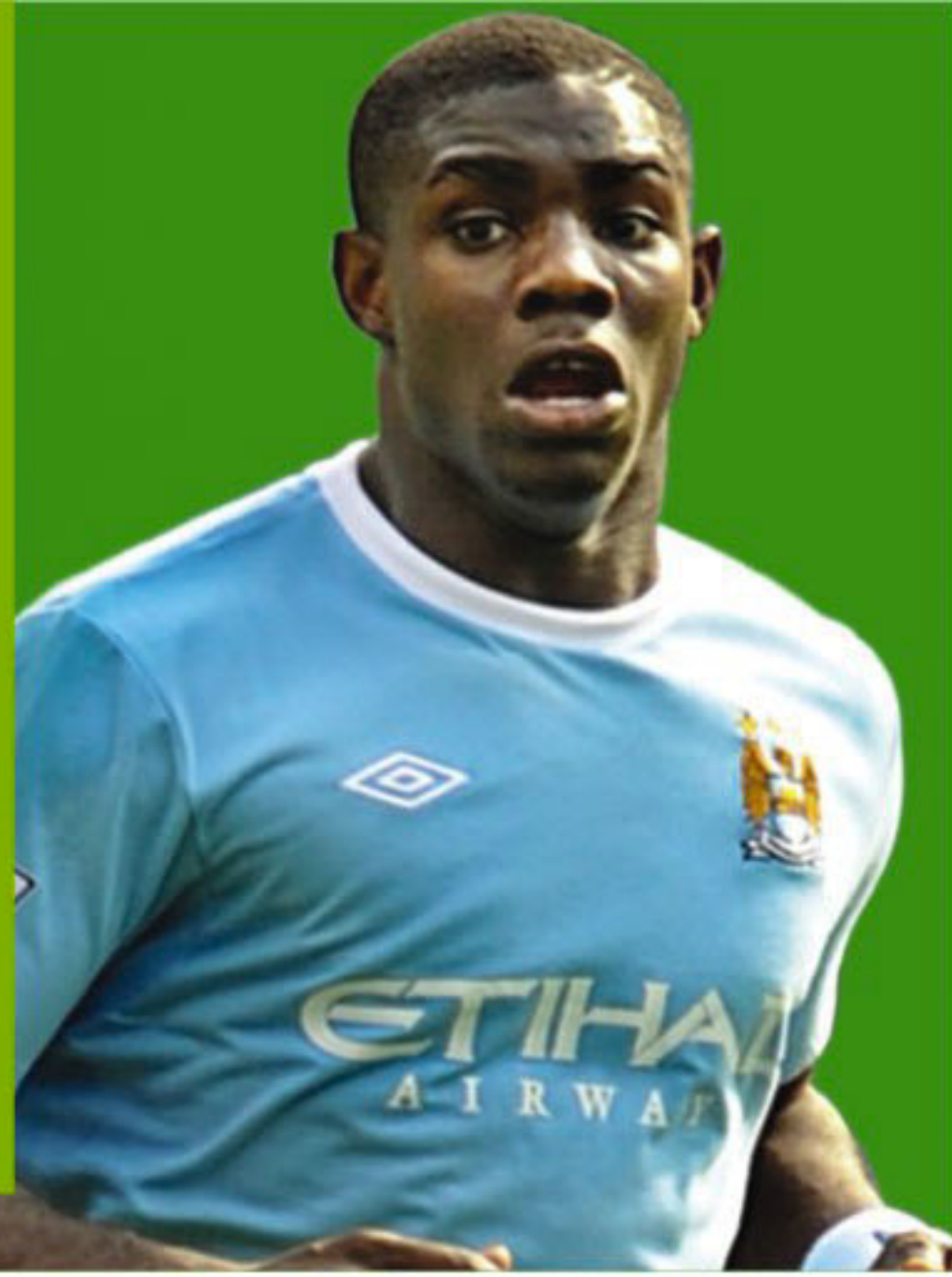
Micah abused on Twitter

Micah Richards has closed down his Twitter account after suffering racist abuse from fans on the social network site.

The Manchester City defender asked police to investigate before reluctantly deciding to shut his account @officialMR2.

A source said: 'Micah thought about closing it in November because of racist abuse from a small but persistent number of people, but decided at that time to carry on because he enjoyed being able to communicate directly with City fans. 'Unfortunately it continued and he has decided now that enough is enough.'

-- INTERNET



Shakib & Russell carry Khulna

Barisal win two in two

SPORTS REPORTER



Khulna Royal Bengals and Barisal Burners won their respective matches in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 in front of a cheering crowd at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The tournament finally came to life as the stands finally got the anticipated number of spectators on the second day of the competition where Khulna beat Dhaka Gladiators by 19 runs and Barisal Burners posted their second consecutive victory with a 22-run success against Durgam Rajshahi, who suffered their second defeat in the one-sided affair. It is believed that the reduction in ticket prices and a hurricane hundred from Chris Gayle on the opening day changed the scenario after a frustrating turnout in the opening ceremony and opening day's matches.

Though there was nothing like Gayle's innings on the second day there was no shortage of entertainment in terms of big-hitting display.

KHULNA-DHAKA

A win could have brought relief for Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, who is going through a tough time following the disclosure of spot-fixing allegation, but Dhaka Gladiators were short of discipline in their bowling and then lacked fireworks in the batting, which helped Shakib Al Hasan's Khulna Royal Bengals secured a 19-run victory in the first game.

Andre Russell, the 29-year old all-rounder from Jamaica, was the hero of the

match taking four wickets after an unbeaten 15-ball 37 cameo.

"They (Khulna) played better cricket. It would be fantastic for me if we could win the match. I'm not worried with anything because I know how to handle tough situations in life," said Mashrafe when asked about whether he was under pressure with the off-field happenings.

Dhaka sent the two experienced campaigners Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Herschelle Gibbs back to the pavilion cheaply but Shakib joined another West Indian Dwayne Smith to set the platform for a score of 175 for five.

Shakib, who later also contributed with the leather by taking one for 25 runs in four overs, batted brilliantly during his 31-ball 42 that contained four sweetly timed boundaries while Smith added 37 off 31 balls with three fours and a six.

Then the job was perfectly finished by Russell and Nasir Hossain who was unbeaten on a 12-ball 22 that saw two fours and a massive six.

Dhaka desperately needed a flying start in reply but their openers Imran Nazir and Nazimuddin failed to do that the players like the dashing Kieron Pollard were nowhere near their best.

Requiring 34 runs from the last two overs, all eyes were on the big West Indian but Dhaka could manage only nine runs from the penultimate over to make the job difficult as they needed 25 runs from last over.

Russell picked up two wickets off the first

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Khulna Royal Bengals captain Shakib Al Hasan celebrates one of four Andre Russell (R) wickets in their 19-run win over Dhaka Gladiators in the Bangladesh Premier League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Barisal Burners opener Ahmed Shehzad smacks one through mid-wicket during his 67 against Durgam Rajshahi in the Bangladesh Premier League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

MSC off the blocks

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan Sporting Club sprinted off the blocks as they scored a 25th second goal on way to registering a 2-1 win over Brothers Union in the Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The goal from Nigerian Basden Wilcox was cancelled by Brothers Union youngster Abdul Malek in the 72nd minute. But the Black and Whites had the last laugh as their winger Mobarak Hossain came off the bench to score a superlative goal which ensured them the full three points in their first match of the league and also brought

cheer to the under-fire coach Emeka Euzegio.

"We got three points from the match and that is what matters. I give all the credit to the players for the win," said the Nigerian who has been much maligned for assorting some mediocre recruits from home since their ignominious exit from the Federation Cup. But the former star player defended his signings by saying, "They are new in this environment. They need time to adjust. You've got to give them the benefit of the doubt."

Emeka also suggested that the Nigerian recruits are better than the local ones which is why he persevered with them.

However, the picture was quite different on the pitch. Apart from scoring the

opening goal which came in the first minute, courtesy of a back volley from the six-yard box by Basden Wilcox, Mohammedan's four Nigerians did very little throughout the match to impress.

In fact, Brothers Union had more of the possession for large parts of the match, and they should have gone level had Kingsley Chigozie done a better job of connecting a header on a Shah Alamgir Anik cross on the 14th minute. Anik, the youngster who played for the Bangladesh national side in their SAFF campaign, was diligent down the right wing and provided some dangerous crosses for the strikers.

However, it was Anik's substitute and another youngster Abdul Malek who made the impact as he came off the bench and immediately snatched a fortuitous goal. Malek pounced on a lethargic header from Mohammedan skipper Motiur Munna and chipped it to the back of the net before the goalkeeper Arifuzzaman Himel, who replaced injured Titumir Chowdhury in the first half, could get to the ball.

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Mohammedan's match-winner Mobarak Hossain (L) gets a congratulatory hug from a teammate for scoring the decisive goal against Brothers Union at the BNS yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Sport best in Daily Star

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Two timely big hits from Mohammed Al-Amin, The Daily Star Sport's editor, took Sport Stars into the final which they eventually won in the inter-department cricket tournament at the DU playground yesterday.

The more crucial one, a huge six over long-on with seven required off two balls in the semifinal against Team Business (who meant business), was hit in the direction of Old Dhaka, the sports boss's stomping ground. Some described the big hit as Javed Miandad-esque which no one disagreed with.

In the final, Sport Stars chased 35 runs in four overs after TDS Cric-Freaks, the most enthusiastic participants, was halted by the spin brigade of the champions.

Team Megabyte which was made up of mostly sub-editors (known popularly as the gatekeepers of The Daily Star), felt the absence of their inspirational leader in the desk.

Rocky of Team Business picked up the man-of-the-tournament award for his big hits and accurate left-arm deliveries. Isam was the man-of-the-final, though he could lay claim to plenty of credit for the 14 wickets picked up by the slow, loopy Quazi Zulquarnain Islam.

The sporting order of the newspaper was restored as members of the sports section and two other guest players nonchalantly walked through the matches, Faisal standing apart with his languid mannerisms.

The day saw early exits for Youngkeys, the administration team, and Sportans, who had among them a defector from the sports section. Employees of all sections participated in the tournament.

The small crowd was treated to some Noakhali-style commentary during the matches with photographer Amran Hossain and Selim SH Chowdhury, donning his movie director's hat, taking up the microphone. AFM Jamaluddin, general manager admin, was ever-present during both days of the competition.

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Shakhawat Hossain Sohel's first outing after becoming a full card winner at the Asian Tour ended abruptly after he failed to make the mid-way cut at the ICTSI Philippine Open on Friday. Sohel recently became the second Bangladeshi after Siddikur Rahman to earn a full card for the Asian Tour's 2012 season after he successfully qualified for the Tour in Thailand earlier this year.

The 27-year old is being sponsored by leading real estate developer Building Technology & Ideas Limited.

Agrani Bank beat Beanibazar

Agrani Bank rode on a brace from striker Toufiq Hasan Gofur Gafur to beat Beani Bazar 2-0 in their Premier Bank Championship League encounter at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Agrani Bank took the lead in the 44th minute when striker Gafur placed the ball at the back of the net from a cross by Jahirul Islam. The striker doubled the lead at the hour mark with a right-footed volley on a cross from Nadir.

Div-II football

Friends Social Welfare Organization thrashed Dipali Jubo Sangha by 8-1 goals in their Destiny Group Dhaka

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Sorry Siddikur in Manila

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman dropped to 40th position in the leader board of the ICTSI Philippine Open after managing a three-over-par 75 in the third round yesterday. The 27-year old golfer took his aggregate to six-over 222 as he starts the last round, trailing the leader by 13 strokes at the wind-swept Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Manila. Siddikur failed to manage a single birdie in the day's play against three bogeys to endure another frustrating day on Saturday.

The other Bangladeshi in the event, Shakhawat Hossain Sohel, failed to make the cut.

Meanwhile, local veteran Mardan Mamat held the lead at seven-under-par 209, one stroke ahead of fast-charging Filipino Miguel Tabuena.