

Star SPORT

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Mancini denies Tevez's claims

Manchester City boss Roberto Mancini hit back at rebel striker Carlos Tevez's claims that he was 'treated like a dog' on Wednesday, claiming he probably over-indulged the Argentine.

"I totally disagree with Carlos, what he said, because I never treated him badly. Maybe the opposite, I treated him too well, always," Mancini said.

Tevez has claimed an angry Mancini swore at him during the Champions League defeat at Bayern Munich in September, where the forward's refusal to warm-up incensed his Italian boss.

- AFP



PHOTO: STAR

Explosive Barisal Burners batsman Chris Gayle (L) walks off the field after injuring his groin in the BPL T20 match against Chittagong Kings at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Gayle's limping adieu

Chittagong hand Barisal third defeat

SPORTS REPORTER



Another Chris Gayle storm came to a premature end due to injury as Chittagong Kings sailed to an emphatic eight-wicket victory against Barisal Burners in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The dashing Jamaican, who already lit up the tournament with two explosive hundreds, started off like a rocket smashing three sixes and two fours to entertain the best crowd of the tournament but he had to retire hurt with a 16-ball 30 because of a groin injury which not only resulted in his team's third defeat in five first leg matches but also forced him into cancelling the flight last night.

Gayle was taken for an MRI to Apollo Hospital. He will have to go through further investigation before taking the next course of action and the team management sources said that Gayle may need three weeks to recover from the injury.

The former West Indies captain was supposed to fly for South Africa last night to play for Sunfoil Dolphins in South Africa's MiWAY T20 challenge.

Back to the match, it was once again exposed how dependent Barisal Burners were on Gayle -- although captain Shahriar Nafees disagreed with the notion -- as the departure of the left-hander saw the Barisal innings lose its way before to stutter to a total of 125 for six.

There was another man in Pakistani Ahmed Shehzad who could take charge to give Barisal a fighting total but the right-

hander walked back to the pavilion soon after the departure of Gayle making seven runs off eight balls. After that, the Barisal middle order once again failed to deliver.

Chasing the paltry total, Pakistani opener Nasir Jamshed put the opposition bowlers to the sword during his unbeaten 47-ball 81 that contained ten fours and two sixes as Chittagong Kings posted 126 for two in 12.4 overs to finish the first leg in style with four wins in five matches.

The other opener Jahurul Islam was also in aggressive mood as the right-hander clobbered five boundaries and a maximum during his 21-ball 41.

Jamshed was adjudged man-of-the-match but former Australian batsman Dean Jones, the technical director of the Chittagong Kings, admitted that the Gayle's injury made things easy for them.

Despite the impressive run, the lingering question doing the rounds surrounded the reasons behind Tamim Iqbal's absence, because the supporters definitely miss the batting of the dashing left-hander, who only played the first game.

Jones however made things clear by saying that the Tigers opener has been suffering from groin pain and they are hopeful that the batsman will have every chance to get back on to the field in his home town. The former Australia batsman also dismissed allegations that Tamim was dropped due to disputes with him.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BARISAL: 125-6 in 20 overs (Gayle 30, Hodge 38; Cooper 2-20, Enamul 2-12)

CHITTAGONG: 126-2 in 12.4 overs (Jamshed 81 not out, Jahurul 41; Nazmul 1-28, Hodge 1-25) Result: Chittagong Kings won by eight wickets.

Renewing old rivalry

Abahani, MSC clash today

SPORTS REPORTER

Perennial foes Abahani and Mohammedan will be renewing their rivalry for the first time this season when they face each other in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League first-leg match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

On paper, the archrivals have huge difference in terms of strength and the statistics may indicate that the should-be classical battle between the giants has almost become a one-way affair with Abahani winning three out of the eight matches they played against Mohammedan in all previous editions of the professional football league. Mohammedan won only once while remaining four matches were drawn.

However, the statistics will have less or no impact on a fresh tie between Abahani and Mohammedan because it is something more than just a battle between two sides.

Nevertheless, Abahani, who are one of the major contenders this season, are

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Abu Yusuf new Sheikh Jamal coach

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club yesterday appointed Abu Yusuf as the team's coach after serving a show-cause notice on his predecessor Saiful Bari Titu the day before.

"Yes, I have been given the charge of Sheikh Jamal (Dhanmondi Club) though the agreement has yet to be signed. I am now preparing to train the team in the afternoon," said Yusuf shortly after noon yesterday.

Yusuf, who holds an AFC B-license, last season coached Feni Soccer Club to guide them finish eighth among 13 teams. The former national coach also guided Rahmatganj MFS in 2009 and Sheikh Russel KC in 2008, but abandoned both the teams in the middle of the league

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Sami sinks Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER



Pakistan paceman Mohammad Sami notched the first hattrick of the BPL as Durrant Rajshahi finished their first-leg campaign on a high note when they beat the injury-hit Dhaka Gladiators by 14 runs in an exciting encounter at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Sami bowled Darren Stevens, Aftab Ahmed and Naved-ul Hasan in consecutive three deliveries in the final over to complete the hattrick as Dhaka Gladiators ended on 130 for seven in reply to Rajshahi's 144 for nine.

Durrant Rajshahi bounced back strongly from the defeats in the first two games to win the last three matches of the first leg to secure six points from five matches while Dhaka Gladiators remained on six points from the same number of outings.

Pakistan opener Imran Nazir hit an unbeaten 54 off 45 balls with four boundaries and one six, but his effort went in vain.

During Dhaka's chase, the play was suspended for nearly fifteen minutes due to power failure.

Earlier, Rajshahi lacked fireworks from

the top order though the top three batsmen looked good out in the middle. Left-arm spinner Elias Sunny removed both openers - Shahzaib Hasan (23 off 19 balls) and Junaed Siddiqui (25 off 17 balls) -- to give Dhaka a bright start. All were looking forward to a special display from one-down Marlon Samuels but the West Indian was not at his best as the right-hander played 38 balls to score 36 runs with three fours and a six.

Dhaka played the match without regular skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, who has been suffering from groin pain, and Pakistan all-rounder Azhar Mahmood who was also rested due to a minor back injury. Bangladesh national pacer Nazmul Hossain and Netherlands' Alexei Kervezee replaced the injured duo.

The teams will now go to Chittagong where a total of eight matches will take place at the Zohar Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, before returning to Dhaka on February 23.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJSHAHI: 144-9 in 20 overs (Shahzaib 23, Junaed 25, Samuels 36, Mushfiqur 10, Sabbir 15; Nazmul 2-21, Sunny 2-18)

DHAKA: 130-7 in 20 overs (Nazir 54 not out, Anamul 20, Pollard 16; Sami 3-23, Monir 2-22) Result: Durrant Rajshahi won by 14 runs.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Durrant Rajshahi speedster Mohammad Sami is ecstatic after taking a hattrick, all bowled, to destroy Dhaka Gladiators' hopes in their BPL T20 match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.



Sheikh Russel striker Alamu Bukola (C) celebrates after scoring the third goal against Arambagh KS in their Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Sk Russel back in goals, points

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Russel KC tasted their maiden victory in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League with a comprehensive 3-0 win over Arambagh KS at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Ghanaian Moro Mohammad, Mohammad Yousuf and Nigerian Alamu Bukola struck one goal each to take Sheikh Russel to third place with five points from three matches.

Coach Maruful Haq's side had no bite in the previous two matches and were forced to play out draws against minnows Feni Soccer Club and Rahmatganj MFS but Sheikh Russel yesterday shrugged off their poor performance to put up spirited show that resulted in an emphatic triumph over the Motijheel-based outfit, Arambagh KS.

Striker Bukola was the main architect behind Sheikh Russel triumph as the Nigerian hitman, who struck 19 goals in his first appearance in the professional football league for Mohammedan, came out from his shadow performance to score one of three goals and provide the assist for another for

local striker Yousuf.

Bukola was unstoppable upfront and frequently unsettled the Arambagh backline with his movement, strength and presence.

After an even start to the game, it was Arambagh who launched the first attack in the 27th minute when Nigerian Elita Kingsley streaked down the left flank to enter the area and unleash a shot that was blocked by Sheikh Russel goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee.

Soon after though Sheikh Russel took the lead when Yousuf squared a Faisal corner to Moro Mohammedan inside the box and the Ghanaian defensive midfielder placed the ball home from the edge of the six-yard box.

After the breather, Arambagh also played attacking football but could not split the backline of Sheikh Russel as Moro Mohammedan impressively marked their Nigerian striker Kingsley throughout the game.

Seven minutes into the second half, Bukola nearly doubled the margin availing a fumble by defender Biplob Das but the Nigerian striker struck straight at goalkeeper Biplob Kumar.

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LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Cox's City FC recorded a 2-1 win over Agrani Bank SC in the Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League encounter at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Saad put Cox's City ahead in the 15th minute before Saifuddin doubled the lead two minutes later. Gofur struck the lone goal for Agrani Bank in the 57th minute.

With their first win in two matches, Cox's City are in second position along with Wari Club on four points each while it was the second defeat for Agrani Bank in their third match.

2nd Div Football

Bashabo Tarun Sangha registered a 4-0 win over Dipali Juba Sangha in the Destiny Group Second Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Selim Reza struck a brace while Mansoor Ahmed and Sumon netted one goal apiece for the winners.

School Hockey

Armanitola Govt High School retained the title of Shah Sports 2nd Dhaka Metropolis School Hockey Tournament with an emphatic 4-0 win over Fatullah Pilot High School at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.