

# Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2011

## Banega's brake horror

Valencia's Argentine star Ever Banega will be out of action for around six months after reportedly being run over by his own car.

Sports daily Marca said that the international midfielder had forgotten to apply the handbrake when he stopped at a petrol station following a training session and his car rolled backwards over his foot.

A club spokesman would only confirm that Banega had broken his tibia and fibula in his left leg in a car accident and



## Junaed breaks local duck

BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong

A mightier explosion from Junaed Siddiqui eclipsed the one from Phil Mustard as Duronto Rajshahi chased down a formidable total quite comfortably to script a massive 9-wicket victory against Barisal Burners in the BPL T20 at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday.

The tournament had been crying out for an innings like Junaed's as the foreigners have been dominating the proceedings. The Rajshahi left-hander did it in emphatic fashion during his unbeaten 89 as Rajshahi overtook Barisal's 192 runs with 2.5 overs to spare.

After two defeats in the first two matches, Rajshahi have bounced back strongly to win five matches in a row, thus increasing their chances of playing in the semifinals with ten points from seven matches. Barisal are on six points from the same number of outings.

It was a very entertaining match for the smallish crowd in terms of power-hitting as 33 boundaries and 18 sixes were deposited, thanks to Barisal's Ahmed Shehzad and Mustard and Rajshahi's Junaed, Shahzaib Hasan and Marlon Samuels.

But in the end it was Junaed who became the hero of the match. Many might have dismissed Rajshahi's chances after Barisal's 192-3 but Junaed said that he was confident of success once he hit the first six through square-leg off Yasir Arafat in the first over.

Chasing the challenging target, Rajshahi made a perfect start as Shahzaib, who smashed six fours and two sixes in his 22-ball 46, and Junaed made use of the indiscipline bowling during their 93-run opening stand in 6.4 overs to set the tone for an easy sail.

Samuels joined the party with an unbeaten 30-ball 54, which saw four boundaries and three sixes, to finish the job in style.

"The first six gave me the confidence. It was actually my day as I could do whatever I wanted to do in the middle. I'm really happy

with today's performance because it has boosted my confidence," said Junaed, who smote five sixes and seven boundaries during his 51-ball unbeaten knock.

Junaed got back his rhythm after a long break and his whirlwind knock also brought back memories of his 134-run knock in the Premier Division Cricket T20 tournament back in 2005-06 at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

"I had been going through a long bad patch, so this innings helped me get my confidence back. You know my 134 runs innings for Mohammedan against Sonargaon Cricketers made me known as a cricketer and today's innings gave me a new lease of life to some extent. Now my job is to continue my good performance in the tournament and I'm not thinking about anything other than Duronto Rajshahi," said an excited Junaed.

"The unity and team spirit was the main reason behind Rajshahi's success after losing the first two matches," said Junaed when asked how it was possible for Rajshahi to bounce back in the tournament so strongly.

Earlier, Rajshahi got off to a good start when skipper Mushfiqur Rahim took a stupendous catch to send his opposite number Brad Hodge back to the pavilion with Barisal's score on one, but Phil Mustard joined Shehzad to seize the initiative.

The 29-year-old Englishman smote ten fours and three sixes during his unbeaten 58-ball 88 while Shehzad contributed with a 33-ball 44 with two fours and three sixes as Barisal set a daunting task for Rajshahi.

But in the end it was proved that no score is safe in T20s.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**BARISAL:** 192-3 in 20 overs (Shehzad 44, Mustard 88 not out, Mithun 21, Rameez 26 not out; Sami 1-33, Monir 1-19, Sabbir 1-18)  
**RAJSHAHI:** 193-1 in 17.1 overs (Shahzaib 46, Junaed 89 not out, Samuels 54 not out; Shehzad 1-26)  
**Result:** Duronto Rajshahi won by nine wickets.



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Duronto Rajshahi opener Junaed Siddiqui whacks one over long on during his whirlwind knock of 89 against Barisal Burners in their BPL T20 encounter at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

## India's vital tie against SL today

PTI, Brisbane

India are grappling with a selection dilemma and a prolonged form slump of their batsmen as they go into the crucial tri-series match against Sri Lanka here on Tuesday without the services of their in-form captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Dhoni has been handed a one-match ban for slow over-rate in India's last match against Australia, which they lost by a huge 110 runs at the Gabba here on Sunday.

Sachin Tendulkar also appears to be a doubtful starter after he received a blow on his head from a bouncer by Brett Lee. While fielding in the slips, Tendulkar also took a hit on his shin thanks to an edge from Peter Forrest, which kept him out for 25 of Australia's 50 overs.

Barely a couple of points ahead of Sri Lanka in the table but already having played an extra game, India's best chance is to maximise their winning options in the two remaining games against Sri Lanka.

India have three remaining games, one of them against Australia in Sydney on February 26 besides the two matches against their sub-continent neighbours.

As far as the team combination is concerned, the early momentum of the series has given way to confusion because their most redoubtable batsman, Dhoni, is not available.

As things stand, Virender Sehwag is set to lead and

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PHOTO: STAR

A disconsolate Tamim Iqbal looks at the blade after being dismissed for five in his comeback innings for the Chittagong Kings against Khulna Royal Bengals in their BPL T20 clash at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

## Khulna gatecrash Tamim's party

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

Tamim Iqbal finally returned to action yesterday after an injury absence shrouded in controversy, but failed to entertain the home crowd. The more frustrating fact for the near-capacity crowd was that the home side, Chittagong Kings, put on yet another below par batting performance to suffer a 44-run defeat at the hands of Khulna Royal Bengals at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

Khulna, led by inspirational all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, again proved their worth as a good bowling unit when they defended a total of 137 to snatch the victory to avenge their six-wicket defeat in the first leg as well as improve their semifinal chances, securing ten points from seven matches. Rajshahi are the other team to have ten points from same number of outings.

The Chittagong batsmen made the same mistakes that they did against Duronto Rajshahi in the previous match, in which they suffered a nine-run defeat while chasing a paltry total of 126, as they were bundled out for 93 runs in 18.1 overs, the lowest score in the tournament.

Leg-break bowler Marshal Ayub captured four wickets conceding 20 runs, including three scalps in one over.

Though the team management earlier said that Tamim had been rested till the knockout stage, his appearance in yesterday's match only indicated that the 'rest' was nothing to do with his injury but a rift with technical director Dean Jones, who left yesterday.

The Chittagong Kings match attracted a near-capacity crowd once again but their local hero Tamim frustrated them when the left-hander was undone by a yorker from Dwayne Smith soon after cutting the ball through backward point for four.

Chittagong's batting was pathetic, with

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## LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

In quest of renovating the sports infrastructures of Japan which were seriously damaged by a devastating Tsunami last year, Bangladesh Olympic Association handed over 10,000 dollars to the Japanese Olympic Committee yesterday.

BOA secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed handed over the bank-draft as well as three best drawings on Tsunami-affected Japan, painted by the children in a competition, to Masayuki Taga, counsellor for development cooperation and economic affairs of the Embassy of Japan in Dhaka at the BOA auditorium.

BOA vice-president Rafia Akhter Dolly, deputy secretary generals AK Sarkar, Anisur Rahman Dipu and BOA chief executive officer Col. (ret) Waliullah were among others present on the occasion.

### Shaheed Smriti Hockey

Bangladesh Navy registered a 4-2 win over Bangladesh Police in the Exim Bank-Noorjahan Group Shaheed Smriti Hockey tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. Rimon struck two goals while Murtoza and Titu netted one goal each for Bangladesh Navy while Turjo hit the board twice for Police in the match which was locked at 2-2 in the first half.

### DFA polls on

Bangladesh Football Federation has decided to complete the polls of all district football associations by 18 March and divisional football associations by 28 March. The decision was taken at an

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## Redemption Rahmatganj

SPORTS REPORTER



Change of coach failed to bring any change of fortune for Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club as the defending champions were subjected to a 0-1 defeat at the hands of Rahmatganj MFS in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Ugandan striker Idris Kasirye struck the decisive goal in the 63rd minute that subjected the defending champions to their second defeat in four matches and ensured Rahmatganj's first victory in three, taking them to fourth place along with Sheikh Jamal, Mohammedan and Team BJMC on four points.

The match was at the centre of attention for another reason as it was the first meeting between the two sides after their 'compromised match' last season where Sheikh Jamal won 5-2 which eventually confirmed their title. So the Old Dhaka outfit had a point to prove and they did it admirably to make the start of the Sheikh Jamal's new coach Abu Yousuf a forgettable one.

Rahmatganj MFS, who had a tag of giant-killers for upsetting heavyweights over the years, lived up to that reputation by taming defending champions with better allround football and they even might consider themselves unlucky for not ensuring a greater margin of victory, as striker Lucky Divine wasted two good opportunities in the second half.

"I must give credit to the opponents for playing the better football as they played with good spirit and fighting attitude which was absent for my charges," said Sheikh Jamal coach Abu Yousuf after the match.

Despite dropping eight points out of 12, Abu Yousuf said he was optimistic about bouncing back but believes he would have to work hard with his charges to stay in the title race.

Sheikh Jamal dominated the first ten minutes of the match but failed to create space in front of the opposition danger zone and after that initial period, Rahmatganj took control. They came close to opening the account on the 13th minute when a close-range header from Idris went inches over the crossbar.

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Sheikh Jamal and Rahmatganj players jostle for possession during their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR