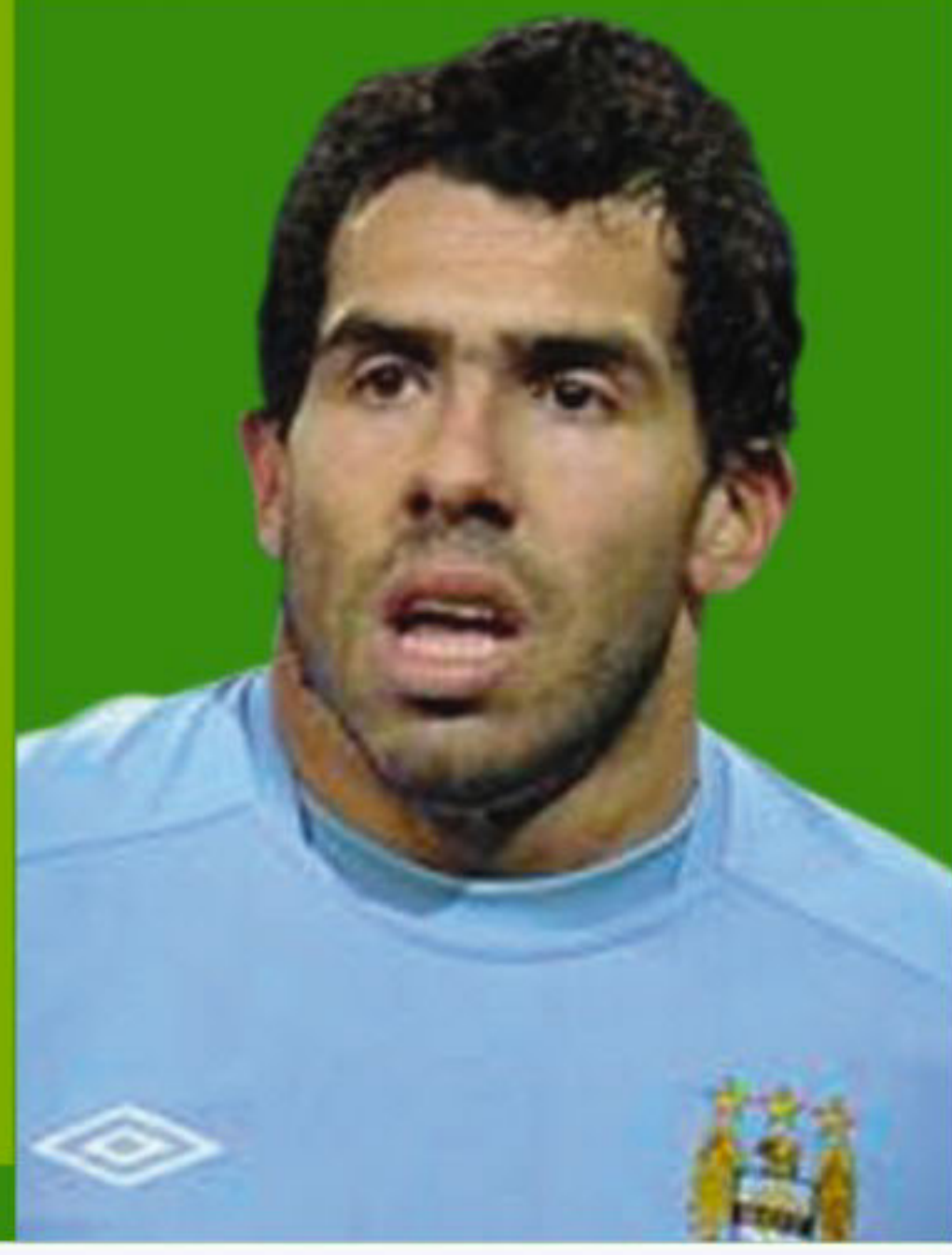


Star SPORT

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2012 www.dailystar.net

Tevez says sorry

Manchester City striker Carlos Tevez looks set to return from his self-imposed exile after apologising to the club for his conduct in recent months. Tevez has also withdrawn his appeal against City's fine of six weeks' wages for gross misconduct, which was due to be heard by the Premier League in the coming days. City's statement read: "Carlos Tevez has today apologised to all concerned for his recent conduct. "He has since begun a training programme designed to return him to optimum fitness."



Mominul takes Barisal home

BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong

Young Mominul Haque brought Khulna Royal Bengals down to earth as Barisal Burners snatched an exciting four-wicket victory in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium here yesterday.

The little left-hander scooped Dwayne Smith for a six over fine-leg as Barisal reached the winging target of 162 for the loss of six wickets with three balls to spare and brightened their semifinals chances with eight points from eight matches.

It was Khulna's first defeat in four matches in the port city and they remained on ten points from eight matches.

Barisal needed 18 runs from last two overs and Kabir Ali and Mominul managed eleven runs from the penultimate over of Nasir Hossain to turn the tables on them leaving seven runs to score from the last over of Smith.

Kabir managed one run from the first ball and after that Mominul failed to collect any run from the second, but finished the job in the third ball in style.

Mominul, who was dropped by wicketkeeper Niall O'Brien when on 26 and then by Marshal Ayub on 40, played a match-winning knock of 53 not out off 28 balls that contained three fours and four sixes.

Earlier, Khulna won the toss and decided to bat but wickets fell at regular intervals that restrained them from freeing their arms before number nine batsman Nazmul Hossain Milon showed his big-hitting abilities to score an unbeaten 42 off 31 balls. He hit two sixes and as many fours. Milon's innings helped them put up a fighting total of 161 runs for seven wickets.

Khulna fell in big trouble when Dwayne Smith and captain Shakib Al Hasan were dismissed for noughts after a flying start by Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Herschelle Gibbs.

Chanderpaul pulled his hamstring before retiring hurt for

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Barisal Burners youngster Mominul Haque (L) is being congratulated by teammate Phil Mustard after playing a match-winning knock of 53 not out against the Khulna Royal Bengals at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Sylhet still winless

BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong

The Mashrafe Bin Mortaza-led Dhaka Gladiators outclassed winless Sylhet Royals by eight wickets to bounce

back strongly in the race of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium here yesterday.

Dhaka's win however did not come without a cost as opener Imran Nazir had to retire hurt after being hit by a Peter Trego bouncer behind his right ear. The severity of the blow magnified because he was batting without a helmet. The team management informed after the match that it was nothing serious.

Nazir was taken to a local clinic for some examinations as a precautionary measure. His franchise later issued a statement saying Nazir's head injury had no notable problem. The medical reports showed that the right-handed batsman suffered soft tissue damage only. He will be kept under observation for next 24 hours at a local hospital in Chittagong and the medical team is expecting a quick recovery by the Pakistani cricketer.

With the easy sail, Dhaka not only came back strongly from their defeat in the previous game against Khulna Royal Bengals but also improved their semifinals chances with eight points from seven matches while Sylhet continued their poor run in the tournament, suffering their seventh defeat in a row. Dhaka won their first-leg game against the same opponents by seven wickets.

Sent in to bat, Sylhet got off to a good start before Mashrafe removed Pakistani Kamran Akmal with the scoreboard reading 22 for one and after that pacer Azhar Mahmood dis-

missed Imrul Kayes and Sohail Tanvir in quick succession. And Sylhet, who missed the services of Alok Kapali due to fever, never really recovered from the early damage and were restricted to 128 for seven. Trego top-scored with 35 off 33 balls with four boundaries.

In reply, Nazir and Mohammad Ashraf laid the foundation for the emphatic victory, collecting 73 runs for the opening stand in quick time before the former left the field after hitting a 16-ball 31 that contained three fours and two sixes.

Ashraf raced to 40 off 33 balls with six boundaries as Dhaka rushed to 132 for two in 12.5 overs.

Sylhet were completely shattered as they dropped a few easy catches in the match.

"It was a very important game for us to keep our semifinals hopes alive. It was a must-win game and we are happy that we won the match quite comfortably," said Mashrafe.

The paceman was however disappointed with the turnout of fans. "The fans didn't respond to the tournament as expected and it's a bit surprising because the quality of the game has not been bad. I hope things will change in the semifinals and final.

"I think Sylhet's problems lie in their top-order failure. I had an expectation that the local players would take the opportunity but the foreign players actually are dominating the tournament," opined Mashrafe.

National team and Sylhet batsman Naeem Islam blamed the performances of their foreign recruits behind their poor showing in the tournament.

"Look at the other teams where the foreign cricketers are giving tremendous services but it didn't happen to us. And you know the local

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8

Nasir fined Tk 45,000

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna Royals all-rounder Nasir Hossain has been fined Tk 45,000 for his inappropriate gestures towards fans during his team's BPL T20 match against Chittagong Kings on February 20.

A one-match ban could have been enforced but since it was his first offence of this kind, the officials kept it to the fine.

Nasir was found guilty of displaying provocative gesture and inciting the crowd after each of his three catches in that game despite repeated warnings from umpire Sharfuddin Ibne Shahid Saikat. Match referee Mike Procter concluded that he had brought the game into dispute and imposed the fine.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Hasanuzzaman Khan Bablu and Satyajit Das Rupu were elected unopposed president and general secretary of the Football Coaches' Association of Bangladesh for a four-year term yesterday.

Amal Sen and Kazi Sattar were elected vice presidents of the 19-member committee while Ahsanullah Montu and BA Jubair Nipu became joint secretary and treasurer respectively.

Championship League

Uttar Baridhara Club and Agrani Bank played out a 1-1 draw in the Premier Bank Championship League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Zahir put Agrani Bank ahead on the 43rd minute while Swapon restored the parity in the 83rd minute to raise their points tally to six from six outings. Agrani Bank have four points from as many matches.

Div-II Football

City Club recorded a comfortable 3-1 win over Matuul

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

What's in agreements!

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

BPL governing council chairman Gazi Ashraf Hossain has more faith on the spoken word than pen on paper when it comes to crucial agreements.

"We are yet to sign contracts with the franchises. But we do not see a problem in that because we have a good understanding and there are no problems between the concerned parties in principle," Ashraf told reporters yesterday, a day after news leaked that none of the six franchises taking part in the tournament have signed a formal tripartite agreement that also involves the BPL governing council and Game

On Sports Management.

It was a naïve statement from Gazi Ashraf, who is sitting on the hot seat of a tournament where millions of dollars are expected to change hands. With the agreement signing, which was supposed to have been completed before the start of the tournament, being stalled other issues like proper documentation of players' contracts with franchises, mode of payment of the foreign players and BCB's commitment to franchises regarding profit-sharing, have all been left unclear two weeks into the tournament.

To Gazi Ashraf, it seemed, these are unimportant issues.

"There are some trivial issues which will hopefully be resolved in the course of time. Before the tournament started

we did not realise that there would arise so many legal issues; we are learning as we go along.

"I would like to ask everyone to be patient. We are here for the long haul, and none of us will vanish everyone involved in this venture has an identity. We will resolve a lot of issues within the next two, three days," added Gazi Ashraf.

There have been doubts, since the beginning of the BPL, about the governing council properly observing all the legal formalities related to undertaking such a massive financial venture. And now it appears the BPL is in a mess.

"Our real focus was to get the tournament underway and the cricket started on the field, and we have been hundred per cent successful in that.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



Dhaka Gladiators batsman Imran Nazir falls to the ground after being knocked on the head by a delivery from Sylhet Royals allrounder Peter Trego in their BPL T20 encounter at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Security team off on Mar 2

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has confirmed that a ten-member security team will travel to Pakistan on March 2. The assessment reporter after this short trip will determine whether the Tigers will tour there in April.

The two-day trip will be conducted by five members of the Bangladesh Cricket Board including president AHM Mustafa Kamal and five others -- joint secretary from the home ministry, a deputy commissioner of metropolitan of police, assistant senior secretary of sports ministry and National Sports Council general secretary.

The talk of this proposed tour began in December when, apparently part of a deal with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) boss Zaka Ashraf, Kamal agreed to send a security team to apprise of the situation in Pakistan, though several national cricketers have voiced their concerns.

PCB have reportedly formed two itineraries that include a three-match series of ODIs or a series of two ODI and one Twenty20 International during a week in April.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



Muktijoddha Sangsad striker Sunday Chizoba (L) celebrates his hat-trick against Arambagh KS in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Reds ride on Sunday

SPORTS REPORTER

Nigerian striker Sunday Chizoba slammed season's first hat-trick as league leaders Muktijoddha Sangsad came from behind to beat Arambagh KS 4-1 in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

It was Muktijoddha's fourth win in as many matches and puts them firmly on top with 12 points, five clear of second placed Abahani who have a game in hand. On the other hand, a third consecutive defeat for Arambagh meant they stayed on eighth position with only three points from four outings.

Eleta Kingsley put Arambagh ahead early

in the first half before defender Ariful Islam levelled for Muktijoddha. Sunday gave the Reds the lead from a dubious penalty decision to take a 2-1 lead in the first half. The Nigerian then scored two more in the second half to complete his hat-trick which took him to the top of the scorers' chart with four goals.

Muktijoddha dominated the proceedings from the outset with crisp passing and quick movement but Arambagh went ahead in the 14th minute, against the run of play, availing a fumble from the Muktijoddha backline.

Brazilian defender Rafael De Androde played a back pass to central defender Dami Emmanuel, but before Dami could get to the ball, Arambagh striker Eleta Kingsley

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Nat'l athletics from tomorrow

Electronic scoreboard working

SPORTS REPORTER

Electronic board is all set to feature again after a gap of one year when the Walton 37th National Athletics Championships get underway at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow.

The electronic board, which was installed at country's premier venue during the 2010 South Asian Games, remained dysfunctional due to various technical inadequacies for the last one year. However, it has been brought back to a functional state now.

"The electronic board has already been trialled and it looks all right. We expect that the correct timing of the athletes will be reflected on the board," said BAF's acting general secretary Manzur Morshed at a press conference yesterday.

However, a major cause for concern remains for the organisers which is the holes on the turf dug out to stage a concert during the ICC Cricket World Cup. The organisers fear that athletes may sustain serious injuries due to the holes during the three-day meet.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8

আজ থেকে বিপিএল-এর সকল খেলার টিকেট টাকা ব্যাংক ও মিরপুর সুইমিং কমপ্লেক্স টিকেট বুথ থেকে পাওয়া যাবে।