

Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY MARCH 28, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

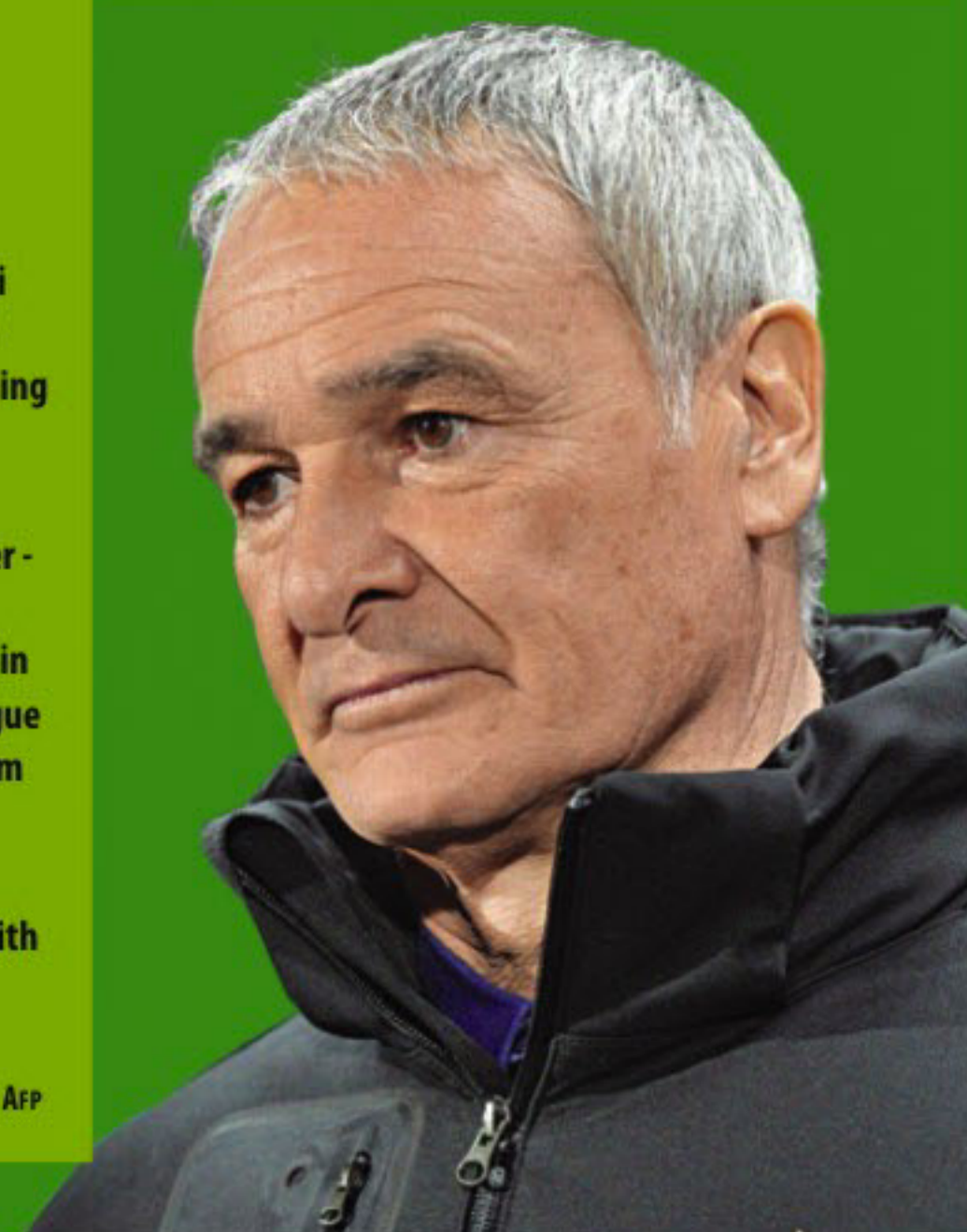
Inter sack Ranieri

Inter Milan sacked coach Claudio Ranieri on Monday after a string of poor results which has left the Serie A giants struggling to qualify for next season's Champions League.

The former Chelsea and Valencia handler - who has guided the side that won the treble including the Champions League in 2010 to just one win in their last 10 league games - has been replaced by youth team coach Claudio Stramaccioni.

The final straw for Inter president Massimo Moratti and the board came with the 2-0 defeat at Juventus on Sunday leaving them in eighth in Serie A.

- AFP



Spin rules 2nd day

Cricket

AFP, Galle

England bounced back after being spun out cheaply by Sri Lanka to leave the first cricket Test evenly poised at the Galle International Stadium on Tuesday.

At the end of an eventful second day's play in which 17 wickets tumbled on a slow pitch, Sri Lanka led the tourists by 209 runs with five second innings wickets in hand.

Left-arm spinner Rangana Herath grabbed six wickets as England were bowled out for 193 in their first innings after skipper Mahela Jayawardene's 180 had lifted Sri Lanka to 318 earlier in the day.

But the hosts slumped to 84-5 in their second knock, four of those wickets falling to off-spinner Graeme Swann, to set up a thrilling finale.

Swann, who had failed to take a wicket in the first innings, ripped through the top-order in the final session of play.

At stumps, Dinesh Chandimal was unbeaten on 17 and Suraj Randiv was on two.

England lasted just 46.4 overs as the world's number one Test side, still to recover from a 3-0 thrashing by Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates earlier this year, once again fumbled against spin.

Ian Bell top-scored with 52, but England lost their way before defiant batting by the tailenders pushed the total from a shaky 92-6.

Stuart Broad smashed 28 in a 30-run partnership for the seventh wicket with Bell, taking 18 runs in four balls from seamer Suranga Lakmal that included three bound-

aries and a six.

Swann's 24 runs came from six fours and England's tail prospered further when James Anderson (23 not out) and Monty Panesar (13) put on 36 runs for the last wicket.

England will slip to number two behind South Africa in the official rankings if they lose the two-Test series.

The tourists lost opener Alastair Cook in the second over of the innings before a run had been scored when he was trapped leg-before by Lakmal.

Jonathan Trott and captain Andrew Strauss put on 40 for the second wicket, before both fell in successive overs from Herath.

Trott was stumped for 12 and found himself knocked to the ground after colliding with celebrating wicketkeeper Prasanna Jayawardene.

Strauss departed in Herath's next over for 26, given out leg-before by the TV umpire after on-field official Asad Rauf turned down a loud appeal by the Sri Lankans.

Kevin Pietersen failed to add to his lunch score of three when he was bowled off the inside edge of the bat by an incoming delivery from seamer Chanaka Welegedara.

Earlier, Sri Lanka added 29 runs to their overnight score of 289-8 before being dismissed 30 minutes after the start of play.

Anderson finished with a five-wicket haul when he ended Mahela Jayawardene's 394-minute knock through a catch by wicketkeeper Prior.

The Sri Lankan captain hit 22 boundaries and three sixes in his 30th Test century which helped the hosts recover from a disastrous

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Sri Lanka spinner Rangana Herath successfully appeals for the wicket of England batsman Matt Prior during the second day of the opening Test at the Galle International Stadium yesterday. Herath took six wickets to dismiss England for 193 in the first innings.

PHOTO: AFP

Super League's key day today

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Old DOHS and Victoria Sporting Club have to pick up wins in today's Premier Super League matches but are up against teams that have reasons to keep them at bay.

The Abahani-Victoria game, to be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, promises to be yet another cracker after their rivalry in the first part of the competition. It was a classic at the same venue in which the Motijheel outfit prevailed in a see-saw battle.

It won't be easy for Old DOHS, the league leaders with 18 points, as they take on Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium. Sheikh Jamal are having the better bargain of the momentum scale after they beat Victoria by nine runs in a high-scoring game on March 25.

Defending champions Abahani are on twelve points from eleven games after being defeated by Gazi Tank but the Sky Blues would like to avenge the loss to Victoria back in January which their fans took to heart.

Gazi Tank, who are level on points with Victoria with 16 points from eleven games, take on Mohammedan Sporting Club at the BKSP in Savar. The erstwhile giants are the giant-killers in this year's Premier League, a fine showing for a team that is quite behind in the spending stakes.

Meanwhile, Pakistan batsman Mohammad Yousuf will be playing for Victoria while it is likely that Abahani will go into the game without any foreigners. The former Pakistan captain, who has played 90 Tests and 288 ODIs in a 12-year international career, will add to the batting firepower that includes Shakib Al Hasan and Jahurul Islam.

It will be the second club that Yousuf will be playing for in the Dhaka league after his participation for Mohammedan a few seasons ago.

Star-studded MSC start against Usha

SPORTS REPORTER

The start-studded Mohammedan Sporting Club will once again bank on striker Raseel Mahmud Jimmy when they face Usha Kriya Chakra in the final of Dhaka Bank Independence Cup Hockey tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium today.

The game starts at 3:00pm.

National striker Jimmy was the chief architect of Mohammedan's all three victories including the semi-final after scoring a total of 13 goals including two hat-tricks. The big-budgeted Black and Whites, who scored a total of 21 goals in three games, will rely on Jimmy to bring their season's first trophy home.

Mohammedan this season spent a lot of money to

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Willes Little Flower Dhaka champions

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Willes Little Flower School & College became Dhaka Zone champions of the Standard Chartered Young Tigers National School Cricket with a comfortable 63-run victory over Mirpur Bangla High School in the final at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

An all-round performance from man-of-the-match Mahub Morshed helped Willes Little Flower to essay a win. Mahub first made the team second-highest, 44 off 55 balls containing four boundaries and a six, and then took two wickets for 22 runs.

Number six batsman Raju Ayub was the top scorer with a 49-ball 47 that saw five boundaries and his effort helped his side put up a fighting total of 240 for eight in the stipulated 45 overs.

Saddam Hossain was the other notable scorer with 39 off 51 deliveries that featured four boundaries.

Mamun Kabir and Asif Adnan took two wickets each.

In reply, Mirpur Bangla School were all out for 177 in 42.3 overs. Captain Tanmoy Hasan was not out on 45 from 59 balls with the help of four boundaries.

Kazi Anik claimed two wickets for 18 runs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WILLES LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL & COLLEGE: 240-8 in 45 over (Mahub Morshed 44, Raju Ayub 47, Saddam Hossain 36,

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Inter-dist cricket from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The 32nd Inter District Cricket Championship will kick off today at different venues across the country.

A total of 64 districts will play the first round matches in sixteen different venues--Sariatpur, Chittagong, Kushtia, Magura, Narail, Jessore, BKSP, Mymensingh, Moulvibazar, Barisal, Bogra, Pabna, Nilphamari, Thakurgaon, Madaripur, Noakhali -- on a league basis.

A total of eight teams -- two from Dhaka Division, one each from Chittagong Division, Rajshahi Division, Rangpur Division, Khulna Division, Barisal Division and Sylhet Division -- will qualify for the second round and will be divided into two groups. The top two teams from two groups will play in the final.

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Feni off the bottom

SPORTS REPORTER



Feni Soccer Club tasted their first victory in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League when they handed a 2-0 defeat to Rahmatganj MFS in their away match at the Bangabandhu National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Cameroonian hitman Atangana Paulin and Nigerian marksman Abakporo Rowland struck one goal apiece to help the Feni outfit leapfrog from the foot of the table.

Rahmatganj MFS, on the other hand, slipped to the bottom on goal difference only five points from six matches.

After a nine-day break, the professional football league rolled into the field but the battle of the two bottom teams could hardly impress a couple of hundreds spectators.

Visitors Feni Soccer from enjoyed superior ball possession from the outset with the return of national midfielder Shahedul Alam Shahed.

Feni came close to taking the lead in the 11th minute when Shahed's cut-back to captain Lutfur Rahman Nayan, who saw his dipping shot from outside the box go inches over the bar.

On the half-hour mark, Feni captain Nayan saw his shot at the near post tipped by the opponent goalkeeper while Rahmatganj yielded two half-chances but failed to avail

any of them.

After the resumption, Shahed ran from the right to whip a nice cross for Rowland and the Nigerian striker cut it back for an unmarked Paulin, who hammered a low drive to find the back of Rahmatganj net in the 77th minute while Rowland doubled and sealed the margin two minutes from time after getting a through-pass from substitute Pintu Kumar Das.



Feni Soccer Club's Nigerian striker Abakporo Rowland (R) is under pressure from a Rahmatganj defender during their Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Archery C'ship from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The Uttara Bank 5th National Archery Championship gets underway from tomorrow at the Army Stadium with 175 archers including 70 women from 51 teams taking part.

Of the 51 participating teams, 37 are clubs and most of them are from Dhaka while eleven district sports associations are taking part in the three-day meet which will be inaugurated by sponsor Uttara Bank managing director Sheikh Abdul Aziz.

"Archery is an expensive discipline as a team comprising only four members need at least Tk 20,000. District sports association can't bear all expenses and run all the events, that's why the clubs have been included in the national championship," said Bangladesh Archery Federation general secretary Razibuddin Ahmed Chapal

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PHOTO: STAR

Students of Willes Little Flower School and College celebrate after becoming Dhaka Zone champions in the Standard Chartered Young Tigers National School Cricket Competition defeating Mirpur Bangla School in the final at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

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