

Star SPORT

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Stramaccioni's dream job

New Inter Milan coach Andrea Stramaccioni spoke of his joy at landing his dream job on Tuesday after being hired to replace the sacked Claudio Ranieri. The 36-year-old guided the club's youth team to the under-19s Champions League equivalent title against Ajax in London last week. But he then became the shock choice of club president Massimo Moratti to replace Ranieri, despite having no first-team coaching experience. He is even younger than some Inter players, such as 38-year-old captain Javier Zanetti.



Pakistanis banned from BPL?

SPORTS REPORTER

In what could be termed an inevitable backlash, newspapers in Pakistan carried a report stating that Pakistani players will not be allowed to participate in the next edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 if Bangladesh do not send its cricket team to tour Pakistan as previously planned.

"The News", a Pakistan daily carried the report titled 'No Pakistani players for BPL', and cited "well-placed sources" as saying that Pakistani players will be barred from participation in case the Bangladesh national team does not make it to Pakistan for an ODI series.

"Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will block its players' participation in the second edition of BPL in case the Bangladeshis decide against sending their team to Pakistan," The News' quoted the unnamed source as saying.

Bangladesh's proposed tour of Pakistan would have been the first international cricket tour to the country since the March 2009 terror attack on the Sri Lanka team in which six Pakistani policemen and a van driver were

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READY, SET... WHERE? Victoria Sporting Club players Shakib Al Hasan (R) and Tamim Iqbal (2nd from R) wait along with the umpires for their opponents Abahani, who failed to show up after the innings break, during their Premier Division Super League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Abahani refuse to play

Claim Yousuf clearance fake, league stopped

SPORTS REPORTER

The ugly side of club cricket was revisited yesterday during the Premier Division Super League match between Abahani and Victoria Sporting Club at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Abahani decided to bat first and were bundled out for 177 runs but suddenly the defending champions didn't turn up at the ground when it was the turn of

Victoria to chase the paltry total. Abahani demanded for proper explanation from Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) regarding registration of Victoria's Pakistani batsman Mohammad Yousuf.

After much drama and long wait, match referee Obaydul Huque Azam declared that he awarded the match to Victoria, which meant the club will get two full points, as according to ICC clause 21.3, Abahani "refused to play" but he mentioned in his report that

the registration issue will be solved by the CCDM.

"The umpires waited for a certain period of time on the field but Abahani didn't turn up, which is considered as 'refused to play' and I took the decision according to the law," explained Azam when asked about why he took too much time to give his verdict.

The drama however did not end with the verdict as CCDM member secretary Iqbal Yusuf Chowdhury informed that

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DOHS stay on top

SPORTS REPORTER

Regardless of what transpired at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, Old DOHS held their place at the top of the Premier Super League points table with a five-run win over Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

After twelve games, they are on 20 points with their tenth win of the competition. Gazi Tank too kept themselves on course with their ninth win, getting to 18 points after their five-wicket win over Mohammedan Sporting Club at the BKSP in Savar.

OLD DOHS-SKJAMAL

Saeed Anwar Jr and Shuvogoto Hom Chowdhury carried Old DOHS to a position of strength. The pair added 129 runs for the third wicket with the local man taking full charge of the partnership. Shuvogoto slammed nine boundaries and hit a couple of sixes in his 75-ball 87 while Anwar missed a fifty by just a run, ending on 49 off 79 balls with the help of a six.

Later it was the impressive wicketkeeper Nurul Hasan who added 57 for the fifth wicket with Adnan Raza, though DOHS could have scored much more in the slog overs and they ended on 264-9 in 50 overs.

Taposh Baisya picked up four wickets while Arafat Sunny ended with two in the kitty.

Sheikh Jamal began beautifully with Shamsur Rahman and Myshukur Rahman adding 88 for the first wicket. The pair fell 34 balls between each other with Shamsur getting a half-century, but the steady progress continued with skipper Mushfiqur Rahim and Mehrob Hossain Jr adding 82 for the third wicket and both getting fifties.

The chase fell apart in the 40th over when Shuvogoto trapped the left-hander leg-before for 53 off 61 balls. Mushfiqur held firm for a while as wickets fell at the other end but he too succumbed to the pressure of the run-rate, stumped off Pakistani left-arm spinner Jalat Khan for a 64-ball 58.

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INTER-DIST CRICKET Faridpur ride on Talha

SPORTS REPORTER

The 32nd Inter District Cricket Championship began yesterday at different venues over six districts around the country.

Manikganj took on Faridpur at the Sariatpur venue where the latter won the toss and elected to bat first. They put up a score of 267-9 in 50 overs with Imran top-scoring for Faridpur with 47 runs.

But even a good score of 79 runs by national cricketer Nadif Chowdhury could not hold back Manikganj from losing all their wickets by 46.2 overs for 247 runs, losing by 20 runs.

Talha Jubair contributed effectively in the win of Faridpur, taking three wickets for 35 runs.

In the match between Chittagong and Noakhali held at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong, Noakhali was defeated by the home team by a margin of 147 runs.

Jessore beat Chuadanga by 112 runs in Kushtia while in Magura, Kushtia won against Meherpur by 133 runs.

Khulna defeated Magura with a similarly large difference of 164 runs, in Narail.



Mohammedan SC players and officials celebrate with the Independence Day Hockey Tournament trophy after their 2-1 victory over Usha KC in the final at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Police and Shadhinata Krira Sangha played out a 1-1 draw in the Destiny Group Dhaka Metropolis Second Division Football League yesterday.

In the sixth day of the competition at the Bir Shreshtha Sepoy Mostofa Kamal Stadium, Kabir opened the scoring for Police in the third minute. They held the lead till the lemon break though Shadhinata struck the equaliser in the 51st minute through Dewan.

Independence Day Kabaddi

Bangladesh Army became champions of the Independence Day Kabaddi competition after a 40-19 win over Bangladesh Police at the Kabaddi Stadium.

It was their higher points tally that got them the title after they were tied on three wins each with Border Guards Bangladesh.

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Mohammedan win volatile battle

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

A star-studded Mohammedan SC clinched the title of the Dhaka Bank Independence Cup Hockey Tournament with a 2-1 win over Usha Krira Chakra in the final at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

However, a scuffle between supporters of two clubs in the middle of the game marred the enthusiastic atmosphere at the VIP gallery though police interfered to calm down spectators.

Midfielder Kamruzzaman Rana and striker Rasel Mahmud Jimmy struck one goal each for the Black and Whites, who proved their worth clinching the season's first trophy after spending a lot of money this season, courtesy of record sums of 6.5 lakh each to striker Rasel Mahmud Jimmy and penalty corner specialist Mamunur Rahman Chayan.

Rabbi Salehin pulled one goal back six minutes from time but could not avert a defeat for Usha KC. However, Usha, comprised of the students from BKSP as well as three loan-players from Abahani, gave Mohammedan a run for their money.

Usha played comparatively well in the first half and created two scoring chances but they

could not avail any of them, failing to convert the lone penalty corner of the first half.

"Mohammedan is a better side than us but we played better and yielded more chances than them but we could not capitalise on those chances due to inexperienced players. However, we are happy with the way our team fought against Mohammedan," said Usha manager Rafiqul Islam Kamal.

After resumption, Usha again came close to taking the lead but Iqbal Nader Prince squandered a good chance with only the goalkeeper to beat and then they failed to convert two successive penalty corners that was a wake-up call for Mohammedan.

Mohammedan regrouped to launch an attack and snatched a penalty corner and took a lead in the 48th minute with Kamaruzzaman Rana converting the penalty corner. Jimmy doubled the lead 10 minutes later to raise his goal tally to 14 from four matches.

Usha showed some signs to pull one goal back but could not overcome the Mohammedan backline comprised of national defenders Chayan, Pintu, Biplob and Tapash Barman.

"We could not play well in the first half and came with a new strategy in the second half to attack from the middle and finally became successfully," said Mohammedan's prolific striker Rasel Mahmud Jimmy.




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