

Star SPORT

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Muamba on the mend

Bolton midfielder Fabrice Muamba cheered his legions of well-wishers on Friday after releasing a smiling photograph of himself on micro-blogging site Twitter.

In the first image of Muamba since he was stretchered off the pitch at Tottenham two weeks ago following a massive heart attack, the former England Under-21 is sitting up in his hospital bed beaming a smile.

"Fab wanted me to post this pic for you all and to also say thank you for such overwhelming support," an accompanying message said.

- AFP



League's fate in Kamal's hands

CCDM okays Yousuf clearance

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) has put the ball in Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal's court, asking him to take a decision in today's board meeting on the resumption of Dhaka Premier Super League.

In a meeting last evening, the CCDM standing committee could not reach a final verdict, though it has cleared its stance on Mohammad Yousuf's clearance that started all the trouble.

The league was withheld on March 28 after Abahani refused to play in protest of the participation of Yousuf for Victoria Sporting Club, their opponents on the day. Abahani wanted "authentic" clearance papers from his previous club Mohammedan Sporting Club, and their claim was validated by an official of the Motijheel-based club from

which the clearance papers have supposedly come. CCDM suspended the league on the same day and now have urged the BCB chief to give a decision on the continuation.

"It is not possible to run the league without the two big clubs Abahani and Mohammedan. To get them back, we have asked for the board's assistance," CCDM member-secretary Iqbal Yusuf Chowdhury told reporters. "There is a board meeting tomorrow [Sunday] from where we hope a solution will come."

The committee wanted to check whether there is a clash between receiving papers from Mohammedan Limited (from where Yousuf's clearance has come) or from Mohammedan Sporting Club and apparently they found no clash between the two.

"We are not a police organisation, so it's difficult for us to embark on a swift investigation. During the time we got after the league was stopped, we have seen that the papers of

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PHOTO: STAR

Mohammedan Sporting Club defence foil an attempt on their goal by Feni Soccer Club during their Premier League match at the Bhasha Shaheed Abdus Salam Stadium in Feni yesterday. The visitors lost the match 2-1.

Siddikur slips

Still all to play for in Rd 4



Golf

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman slipped to a share of the fourth position with a one-over-par 73 in the third round of the Panasonic Open India on Saturday. The overnight leader returned with three bogeys against two birdies at the Delhi Golf Course to foil some of the good work from the day before when he played a five-under.

However, the 27-year-old is still very much in contention for his second-ever Asian Tour title as he lies three shots off leader Ashok Kumar who is eight-under-par 208. Gaganjeet Bhullar of India lie in second place with 209 while Shankar Das ensured the top three spots were occupied by Indians in the penultimate round of the 300,000-dollar event.

Siddikur, the first Bangladeshi to play and win on the Asian Tour, rued a cold putter yesterday but is still confident of making a final round title charge.

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Feni compound MSC's misery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni



Soccer Club Feni registered their second successive victory yesterday when they condemned fallen giants Mohammedan Sporting Club to a 2-1 defeat in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League at the Bhasha Shaheed Abdus Salam Stadium in Feni.

Feni came into the match on the back of a morale-boosting win against Rahmatganj, and in their own backyard, dominated the game from the very beginning. Their hard work bore fruit when striker Iqbal Hossain Bhuiyan gave the home side the lead in the 31st minute.

The Feni striker shot with his lefty foot from 15 yards out to beat the Mohammedan

keeper. The first half ended with the home side leading by 1-0.

However, the Black and Whites came back in the second minute after the break as Nigerian striker Osueke Joseph took the ball from a goal mouth melee and deposited it at the back of the Feni goal.

But the home side were always threatening to score and restored the lead twelve minutes later courtesy of an Abakporo Rowland shot from the middle of the box which eventually sealed the victory for the Feni side.

Two wins in two matches lifts Feni Soccer Club from the bottom to relative safety in seventh position as they have with eight points from seven matches. Mohammedan though have much to worry about as they

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BKSP edge Ansar

Nat'l archery ends

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP was just a gold medal ahead of Bangladesh Ansar & VDP to emerge champions of the Uttara Bank Limited 5th National Archery Championships which concluded at the Army Stadium in Dhaka yesterday.

BKSP won six gold medals, three silvers and two bronze medals as opposed to Ansar's five gold, five silver and three bronze medals. Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club finished a distant third with two silver medals.

The country's biggest sports institute took a giant stride by making a clean sweep of the bamboo-bow events. BKSP archers won gold in all the five categories of bamboo bow, the men's singles, the women's singles, the mixed men's team, the women's team and the mixed team. Ashikuzzaman Anoy of BKSP won gold in the men's bamboo bow event while Swapna won gold in the women's category.

Sheikh Sajib of BKSP won the men's recurve bow gold when he beat Ruman Saha Sujan of Mariner Youngs in 6-4 sets. The remaining five categories were won by Ansar archers as Mathui Pru won women's recurve bow while Sazzad Hossain and Omi Chakma won the men's and women's compound bow events respectively.

Later Chief of Army Staff

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Rain has India short of target

SA clinch Friendship Cup



Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

A blazing innings by India's Gautam Gambhir could not prevent a South African win in a rain-hit one-off Twenty20 international at the Wanderers Stadium on Friday.

Gambhir slammed 49 not out off 28 balls as India raced to 71 for no wicket in 7.5 overs in reply to South Africa's 219 for four in 20 overs. But South Africa's big total meant that India were 11 runs short of the Duckworth-Lewis par score when a thunderstorm broke over the ground.

Jacques Kallis and Colin Ingram shared a rapid century partnership as South Africa posted a formidable total.

"That gave us a really good platform," said stand-in South Africa captain Johan Botha. "A hundred partnership in any form of cricket is great but in Twenty20 cricket it is even better."

Kallis made 61 off 42 balls and the left-handed Ingram raced to 78 off 50 deliveries after South Africa were sent in to bat. The pair put on 119 of 80 balls for the second wicket.

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni used eight bowlers but runs flowed as the batsmen took advantage of a good batting pitch, short boundaries and a fast outfield.

Richard Levi gave the hosts a fast start, hitting four boundaries before being caught at slip for 19 off seven balls.

The Kallis-Ingram stand enabled the later batsmen to go for their shots, with new cap Farhaan Behardien hitting an unbeaten 20 off 11 balls and Justin Ontong 22 off seven before Albie Morkel, coming in with only three balls remaining, hit Suresh Raina for two sixes and a four.

The run feast continued when India started their innings, with Gambhir hitting seven fours and a six. But opening partner Robin Uthappa could only manage 18 off 19 balls, while South Africa opening bowler Lonwabo Tsotsobe conceded only 15 runs off three overs.

"The match was quite evenly poised," admitted Botha. He praised Gambhir and Uthappa for the way they batted but said the South Africans had remained confident.

"Although they batted well, they were only scoring at nine runs an over and they would have needed to score at more than 12 runs an over for the rest of the match."

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South Africa all-rounder Jacques Kallis drives one during their one-off T20 match against India in Johannesburg on Friday. The Proteas won the match by 11 runs by Duckworth-Lewis method.

PHOTO: AFP

Pak tour not on agenda



Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The directors of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) are not scheduled to discuss the proposed Pakistan tour when they sit for a meeting today.

In the long list of agendas that was handed over to the directors ahead of the 35th meeting, the Pakistan tour or the security report has not been mentioned. In early March, a security team headed by BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal visited Pakistan for three days, but the report has not been made public neither will it be discussed at the start of April, the proposed month for the weeklong tour. It is likely that the board is now looking at the International Cricket Council (ICC) for support in the decision-making process.

The BCB meeting on Sunday will, instead, be inundated with several ex post facto approvals, one of which is related to the deal between Game On Sports and the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) governing council.

The meeting will also discuss the various sponsorship

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Khulna's 4th women's title

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna became the champions of the 5th Women's National Cricket League after crushing Dhaka by 86 runs at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium yesterday.

It was their fourth such title after excellent performances from Shaila Sharmin, Sukhtara Rahman and Rumana Ahmed at their home ground.

Batting first, Khulna made 163-8 in 50 overs with Shaila making a patient 63 off 132 balls. The nearly three-hour innings saw only four boundaries, but the opener held the innings together after the middle-order failed completely. Tahin Tahera's 20 and Tazia

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