

Shakib the quiz whiz

Kolkata Knight Riders coach Trevor Bayliss recently arranged a quiz night to lift team spirit in the ranks in the wake of two early defeats. Ryan ten Doeschate wrote of it in his Indian Premier League diary and singled out Shakib as a cricket buff:

"All the questions are cricket-related and there are some real cricket buffs in our squad. Shakib [Al Hasan] is particularly good in our team, but not smart enough to stop [Jacques] Kallis's Kings from winning by half a point."

—CRICINFO



PHOTO: STAR

4-STAR LUCKY: Abahani's Nigerian striker Lucky Paul (L) sends the ball goal-bound over a diving Ariful Islam, the Feni Soccer Club goalkeeper, to score one of his four goals during their Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Abahani get Lucky

SPORTS REPORTER



Nigerian striker Lucky Paul struck four goals as Abahani extended their winning spree in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League with a 5-0 win over 10-man Feni Soccer Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Apart from Paul's strikes, midfielder Arman Aziz netted the other to take the Sky Blues top of the 11-team points table with 23 from nine matches, three points ahead of second-placed Muktijoddha Sangsad.

Feni Soccer, who defeated Abahani 2-1 in a Federation Cup match, struck glued in the seventh position with nine points from as many matches.

Three-time champions, Abahani, toyed with the lone professional football team outside Dhaka, especially after their central defender SM Rajib was sent off for handling the ball inside the area in the 26th minute.

Arman Aziz sent the goalkeeper the wrong way to double the lead from the spot kick before Feni Soccer gave up the first goal following a defensive fumble by Guinean defender Mostafa Kaba, who played the ball to an unmarked Lucky Paul letting the Nigerian striker fire home from inside the box in the 11th minute.

With Arman Aziz and Pranotosh Kumar controlling the midfield nicely, Abahani created many scoring chances through attacking pair Ghanaian Auwdu Ibrahim

and Paul as the 22-year old forward played a one-two with Auwdu to enter the box before making the margin 3-0 in the 37th minute.

Paul then came close to completing his hat-trick but Feni goalkeeper Ariful Islam kept the Nigerian wait after thwarting his effort just before the breather.

But it was only a matter of time as Paul took just eight minutes after the resumption to complete the league's third treble after Arambagh's Kingsley and Muktijoddha Sangsad's Sunday.

Substitute right-back Linkon whipped a low cross and Paul side-volleyed to complete his hat-trick in the 53rd minute. And to add insult to injury, he struck his fourth and ninth goal of the season in the 65th minute from a counter-attack.

Coach Ali Akbar admitted that the sending off of the Feni Soccer defender was the turning point in the game.

"It is very difficult having a player short and it was a vital point in the game," said Akbar. "The boys should have played better in the second half but they could not perform."

"The last match of the first leg (against Muktijoddha) is a crucial match for us if we can win that game, then we will have a good chance to win the title though the second leg is going to be hard," said Akbar.

"After the red card, we could not fill the vacuum of central defender Rajib and that cost us," said Feni Soccer coach Rezaul Haq Jamal.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

East End club defeated BG Press Sports & Recreation Club 2-0 in the Super League stage of the Destiny Group Dhaka Metropolis 2nd Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Khadel Kari put East End ahead in the 39th minute and scored his second in the 51st minute to ensure a convincing win for East End.

Victoria sink Ctg

Abahani

Victoria Sporting Club defeated strugglers Chittagong Abahani 2-1 in their Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League match at the Cox's Bazar Stadium yesterday.

Victoria took a 10th minute lead through Mohammad Ripon before Walid made it 2-0 in the 19th minute. Dhiman Ghosh scored an 88th minute penalty for Chittagong Abahani to reduce the margin.

The win lifted Victoria to fourth position with 12 points while Abahani remain at the bottom with 8 points.

Scholastica,

Viqarunnisa

in final

Scholastica School and Viqarunnisa Noon School & College reached the final of the Plan Metropolis Women's School Football beating their respective semifinal opponents yesterday.

Scholastica beat Aga Khan School 1-0 in the first semifinal at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex, with Samaha scoring the decisive goal in the 22nd minute.

In the second semifinal, Viqarunnisa thrashed sank Rahmatullah Model School 3-0 at the same venue.

Nini scored two goals while Rimi netted the other for the winners. The final will be held at the Bangabandhu National

Australia need 192



CRICINFO, Bridgetown

Australia were set 192 to win the first Test here after they dismissed West Indies for 148 before lunch on the final day. Ben Hilfenhaus finished with four wickets and Ryan Harris ended up with three as the hosts added 77 to their overnight total for the loss of their last five wickets.

The last specialist batsman, Narsingh Deonarine, added only one run to his score and was the first to depart, lbw to Ryan Harris for 21. It was precisely the start the Australians needed if they were to give themselves time to chase down a target, and they had another perfect chance soon afterwards when Darren Sammy skied a chance to long-on.

Nathan Lyon put down the sitter to give Sammy a life on 12, and nobody was happier than Lyon when Sammy played on to Shane Watson for 14, accidentally kicking the ball on to his stumps as he tried to prevent it rolling back. Carlton Baugh chipped a catch to mid-on from the bowling of Hilfenhaus (4 for 27) for 23 and West Indies were in trouble at 116 for 8.

Fidel Edwards defended solidly for a while before he played a surprisingly rash stroke and skied a catch to mid off for 3 from 17 balls to give Peter Siddle his second wicket, and that brought the No.11 Devendra Bishoo to the crease. Bishoo defended calmly and together with Kemar Roach set about eating up time and adding some important runs to the total.

Their 23-run stand pushed the session beyond the scheduled lunch time but eventually ended when Roach was bowled by Harris for 25. That left the Australians with 192 to chase in two sessions and while the pitch had shown some variable bounce, they were firm favourites.

Afp adds, on Tuesday some fine batting by Harris and an electrifying spell of bowling from Hilfenhaus looked to have turned the Test in Australia's favour on an engrossing fourth day.

West Indies finished the day on 71 for five in its' second innings, leading by just 114 runs after Australia's tail wagged and Hilfenhaus knocked over their top order.

Earlier captain Michael Clarke declared Australia's first innings at 406 for nine with his side still trailing by 43 runs.

It was an aggressive move allowing his bowlers to attack the West Indian batsmen either side of tea and Hilfenhaus took advantage in the 25 minutes leading up to the break removing the top three.

Harris - who had earlier hit an unbeaten 68 - added the important scalp of Shivnarine Chanderpaul shortly after tea.

"To get him out second innings for not many was a huge wicket because I think they batted around him a fair bit," said Harris.

He thought that the declaration had set the West Indies on the back foot.

"To declare and put them in straight away, it probably didn't give them a chance to get their head around batting."

"I think it showed, obviously, taking three or four quick wickets. I think it was a good declaration. We want to win the Test match."

West Indies' coach Otis Gibson thought that the 145 overs in the field had an impact on the top order.

"Hilfenhaus came out and bowled a great spell, some tired legs, batsmen didn't move their feet and so on and he got a couple of wickets."

"This is why it's called Test cricket."

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MAYBANK MALAYSIAN OPEN Past inspires Siddikur



SPORTS REPORTER

An in-form Siddikur Rahman looking for an elusive second Asian Tour title when he tees off today at 12.30pm local time in the Maybank Malaysian Open in Kuala Lumpur. The vaunted golfer from Bangladesh, who won his first tour title in the Brunei Open back in 2010, has come close a number of times to winning his second, but just could not manage it so far. His latest near miss was at the Panasonic Open in New Delhi last week when he finished joint second. Siddikur too knows that a second title is just round the corner as he exuded confidence at the practice at the Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club.

"I've been struggling to win a second title. I came close two weeks ago so I hope I can win again soon," a confident Siddikur told the Asian Tour website.

Siddikur's previous record at this event will be an inspiration for him as he finished in eighth position last year, the top among Asian golfers. He hopes the positive memories will guide him to a long-awaited second Asian Tour title "I always enjoy coming and playing in Malaysia. When I see the crowd following and cheering for me, it gives me more energy to play," said Siddikur.

However, the 27-year old golfer's bid will not be an easy one as he will have to contend with an elite field of stars which

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BFF receives complaints

on voters' list

SPORTS REPORTER

Ten affiliated bodies of the Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday lodged complaints about the draft voters' list for the BFF's upcoming polls which is to be held on April 30.

Of them, eight are district football associations -- Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Gaibandha, Kishorganj, Jessore and Sirajganj while the other two are Bangladesh Referees' Association and Shantinagar Club.

Kishorganj, Siranjanj, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat raised questions about their respective delegations as executive committees of those DFAs are not legal while Rajshahi and Mymensingh lodged complaints that the names of their delegations were not sent accordingly. Gaibandha questioned why their delegation's name was not in the draft list despite being sent within deadline. Shantinagar Club raised allegation against the councillors of BG Press and T & T

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Hockey ropes in ATN Bangla

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) and private satellite channel ATN Bangla yesterday signed an agreement in a bid to find out budding hockey players through holding competitions at grass-root level.

BHF president Air Vice Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman and ATN Bangla chairman Mahfuzur Rahman signed on behalf of their respective organisation at a press conference at the Bangladesh Olympic Association auditorium.

The speakers at the press conference also assured that crucial domestic hockey league and tournament matches will be telecast live on the channel this year. Speakers also informed that ATN Bangla would air an advertisement on hockey to increase its popularity in the country.



PHOTO: MCC/WISDEN

This striking image of children playing cricket on Marina Beach in Chennai with storm clouds gathering has won SL Shanth Kumar the Wisden-MCC Cricket Photograph of the Year 2011. The Times of India photojournalist said that it made him realise "the importance and love for the game my country has".