

Star SPORT

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Terry says sorry

Chelsea captain John Terry apologised for his red card moment of madness against Barcelona on Tuesday that will rule him out of next month's Champions League final.

"Sanchez was darting in behind me. I've seen the replay and it does look bad," Terry told Sky Sports.

"I'm not that type of player to intentionally hurt anyone. I've raised my knee, which I maybe shouldn't have done in hindsight. But hopefully people who know me as a person, as a player..."



Collectivism vs individualism

Rajshahi, Khulna clash in NCL final

SPORTS REPORTER

It will be a case of Rajshahi's collective effort taking on the individual might of Khulna when the sides meet in the National Cricket League final, which begins today at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. The five-day game in Mirpur will be shown live on BTV World from 9:30am.

The defending champions have a chance to win four first-class tournaments in a row after winning the last three while Khulna was the last team other than Rajshahi to win the tournament, and that was back in the 2007-08 season.

Khulna will rely on the likes of Anamul Haque, Tushar Imran, Soumya Sarkar and Mithun Ali who have scored in excess of 450 runs while Dollar Mahmud, Al-Amin Hossain, Murad Khan and Abdur Razzak have picked up more than 30 wickets. Such performances have helped Khulna remain at the top of the points table and dominate wins and drawn games. Rajshahi however banks on several performers and team spirit which is second to none. Though they have the likes of Mizanur Rahman, Farhad Hossain and Junaed Siddique making the runs, it is the percentage players like skipper Forhad Reza, Jubair Ahmed and the strong

bowling attack comprising of Saqlain Sajib, Sanjamul Islam and Mukhtar Ali which keeps them ahead of the rest.

Rajshahi have so far won seven out of the ten games, losing the other three; clearly, they have a positive approach. "We always set out to win," said Forhad ahead of the game, "but we are up against a good team like Khulna who has several in-form players."

"I think we did lose a few players to Rangpur. Naeem Islam, Dhiman Ghosh and Sohrawardi Shuvo have won a lot of games for Rajshahi but we were always confident that our next lot, the likes of Sabbir Rahman and Sanjamul Islam, have done really well," he added. Interestingly, Rajshahi won the last two finals (after the format was introduced in 2009-10) on the first innings lead.

There will be mini battles aplenty as well with the in-form Anamul expected to be a handful for the disciplined Rajshahi bowlers. The right-handed BKSP alumni who was in the Asia Cup squad has scored plenty of runs this season as well as hitting centuries in the last two of his three innings in domestic cricket. Soumya Sarkar and Imrul Kayes will complement Anamul while skipper Tushar and Mithun are also among runs. Mithun and Anamul will have a battle within the team with both having scored three

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GUN-BATSMEN: Khulna mainstays Anamul Haque (L) and Imrul Kayes stretch during a training session yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, on the eve of their National Cricket League final against defending champions Rajshahi at the same venue.

PHOTO: STAR

Ballantine's C'ship from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman will be hoping to maintain his consistent form in the Asian circuit as he tees off for the Ballantine's Championship at the South Korean capital of Seoul today.

Siddikur will be one of 156 golfers from across the globe to take part in the three million-euro event, co-sanctioned by the Asian and European Tour.

Siddikur recently finished the CIMB Niaga Masters event in Indonesia in joint 14th position last week.

He will be looking to go for a top-ten finish in the Ballantine's Championship which features Spaniard Miguel Angel Jimenez, Australian Adam Scott and Asian Tour stars such as China's Liang Wen-chong, Singapore's Mardan Mamat and Korean-American rookie David Lipsky.

BU surrender to R'ganj

SPORTS REPORTER

Ugandan striker Idris Kasirye slotted a hattrick as high-flying Brothers Union surrendered to a 0-4 defeat against bottom-club Rahmatganj MFS in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Shirfin Hossain Rony netted the other goal in the match where Brothers surprisingly seemed to lack any urgency against a side who were pounded by every other team in the first phase of the league. Interestingly enough, Rahmatganj's four goal haul in this game matched their four-goal haul that they have managed throughout the entire tournament in nine games. A second triumph in 10 matches propped Rahmatganj out of the relegation zone and onto the ninth position with nine points.

It was also the first defeat for Brothers Union since Indian coach Syed Naeemuddin took over charge following their back-to-back losses in the first two games of the league. Under the guidance of Naeemuddin, Brothers had improved their performance gradually and stunned title contenders Muktijoddha Sangsad and Sheikh



Rahmatganj striker Idris Kasirye (C) celebrates his hattrick against Brothers Union in their Bangladesh League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Russel KC and forced Abahani to drop points in a seven match unbeaten run. But yesterday's showing was a shadow of those performances.

Even more surprisingly, Brothers officials, who are usually very vocal against contentious decision, were very reluctant as they did not even protest a decision of spot-kick awarded

against them yesterday.

"The opponents played better than us and we could not avail the chances. Malek squandered at least seven opportunities. That's why we went down," said Naeemuddin after the game.

"It was just a bad day for Brothers.

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BFF polls taken to court

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

A Dhaka court yesterday asked Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) to explain within 24 hours why the April 30 BFF elections should not be cancelled.

The fourth assistant judge's court of judge Faizunnesa passed the order following a petition jointly filed by Chuadanga district football association president Shafiqul Islam and Gaibandha district football association general secretary Biman Kumar Sarker.

In the petition they sought an order to halt the BFF elections. BFF president Kazi Salahuddin, acting general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag and chief election commissioner Mesbahuddin Ahmed were made respondents in the petition.

The plaintiffs said the acting general secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation is a salaried official and he cannot declare any date of publishing voter lists, date for casting votes and activities. But he had announced a schedule for election, published a voter list and fixed a date for election violating the provisions of Bangladesh Football Federation.

CEC Mesbahuddin said that they would fight the petition legally. "Those who failed to obtain voting rights in the election have filed the petition. However, we will reply to through the legal procedure. We had earlier faced a similar petition at the Jhenaidah court and got the verdict in our favour."

"There is a specific guideline of FIFA to settle issues like this within the jurisdiction of the organisation. If a party is aggrieved, they can take the matter to BFF, then AFC and if

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BFF Polls Rahim calls off campaign

SPORTS REPORTER

Kazi Salahuddin's bid for another term in the president post of Bangladesh Football Federation became virtually unopposed after the other candidate Abdur Rahim decided to call off his campaign in support of the incumbent president.

Rahim met the incumbent president at the BFF House last night and pledged his support for the Combined Consensus Panel led by Salahuddin for April 30 election.

Rahim said as it is not possible to withdraw his name officially, he is withdrawing from the campaign.

"Since my ambitions and that of Salahuddin are same, I am calling off my campaign. However, I want to work with Salahuddin and will try to contribute towards the development of the game" said Rahim.

Salahuddin welcomed Rahim's gesture. "I hope Rahim will be beside me to develop the game in the country with his knowledge" said Salahuddin.

Yousuf takes fitness test

ANI, Lahore

Former Pakistan captain Mohammad Yousuf has undergone a fitness test in a bid to make an international comeback, insisting that he can still compete at the highest level.

The 37-year-old played the last of his 90 Tests against England at Lord's in 2010.

Yousuf was not been considered for selection in the last two years because he has not played in domestic matches in Pakistan, but he took part in a workout led by new Pakistan coach Dav Whatmore on Tuesday.

"I have given a fitness test, and now, the result is in the hands of the PCB. I am ready to play for my country and still have enough cricket left in me," Yousuf said.

Yousuf rose from a poor background to become one of the most stylish batsmen Pakistan has ever produced, smashing 1,788 Test runs in

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PHOTO: STAR

Oli boli (L) and Iqbal boli are seen jousting in the championship bout of the historic Jabbarer Boli Khela at the iconic Laldighi Maidan in Chittagong yesterday.

JABBARER BOLIKHELA

Grocer Oli new champ

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY & TYMUR JAHAN CHOWDHURY, Chittagong

Oli Hossain of Brahmanbaria became the new champion of the century-old Jabbarer Boli Khela after he beat local lad Iqbal in the 103rd edition of the event at the Laldighi Maidan yesterday. After successfully winning the first two sessions of wrestling, Oli beat Iqbal in 4-minute duel to claim the coveted title.

Oli said his father Haris member was also a professional wrestler. Oli took part in traditional wrestling competitions in his village and thana earlier.

"I have taken preparation for the last 8 years to participate in this famous event", Oli said.

"My family members, especially my two kids will be very happy after hearing the news of my victory", said an emotional Oli, who is grocer by profession.

Iqbal, who secured the runners-up trophy in the competition, said that he had expected to win the title.

Abdul Jabbar Smirti Kusti Pratijogita O Boishakhi Mela Parishad organised this year's with the slogan "let us rejoice the

indomitable spirit of historical Boli Khela with great enthusiasm". A total of 78 bolis (wrestlers) from all over the country took part in the competition. Thousands of enthusiastic visitors thronged at Laldighi Maidan to enjoy the duels from 2 pm.

The event started at 4pm in a festive mood with the music of 'Dabor' (one kind of folk drum) 'Sanai' (folk flute).

The match was separated in two sessions where 74 bolis participated in the first session and of them 37 bolis were awarded.

Four qualifiers took part in the second session. Known as Champion Boli, participants were -- Liakhat from Mirsarai, Iqbal from Raojan, Jashim from Comilla and Oli from Brahmanbaria. The second session was followed by the final, which Oli won eventually.

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor M Manjur Alam inaugurated the programme while Channel i director and head of news Shaikh Siraj was present as chief guest.

Mobile telecom operators Banglalink sponsored the event and Channel i telecast the programme live.