

# Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY MAY 23, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## President keeps his promise

Montpellier beat Auxerre over the weekend to win its first-ever Ligue 1 title much to the chagrin of its oil-rich rivals at Paris Saint-Germain.

On April 15, Montpellier's outspoken president Louis Nicollin told French TV channel TF1 that he would sport a mohawk like PSG winger Jeremy Menez if his club finished first. He also said he would dye it orange and blue to match his club's colours.

True to his word, Nicollin appeared Monday on TV channel France3 sporting a haircut that isn't quite befitting of a portly 68-year-old French businessman.

- INTERNET



## Kolkata's first final

AGENCIES, Pune

Kolkata Knight Riders breezed into the final of the Indian Premier League (IPL) after scoring a thumping 18-run win over Delhi Daredevils in the first Qualifier here on Tuesday.

It was an interesting clash between the two IPL heavyweights but Kolkata emerged winners as they bowled with more discipline with each and every bowler taking at least one wicket.

Kolkata Knight Riders recovered from regular blows to post a fighting 162 for four after electing to bat and then stopped Delhi to 144 for eight at Subrata Roy Sahara Stadium.

It is for the first time that KKR have made it to the summit clash in five editions of the glitzy tournament so far.

Yusuf Pathan, who was going through a lean patch so far, struck form just at the right time for Kolkata as his uneaten 40 and a crucial 56-run stand with Laxmi Ratan Shukla (24 off 11) in just four overs helped his side cross the 150-run mark.

The top three KKR batsmen -- Gautam Gambhir (32), Brendon McCullum (31) and Jacques Kallis (30) batted well but could not convert the starts into big knocks.

It was a mixed beginning to the run-chase for Delhi as they started off with Virender Sehwag and David Warner taking the attack to the Kolkata bowlers. However, Delhi were jolted as both the openers fell off consecutive deliveries and the score read 24 for two in 2.1 overs.

One would have expected Delhi to consolidate and get into a shell, but Naman Ojha and Mahela Jayawardene counter-attacked. In the fourth over, the duo took Shakib Al Hasan

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



Mohammedan scorers Sohel Rana (L) and Wahed Ahmed celebrate one of their goals against Abahani in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Women's hockey final today

SPORTS REPORTER

Narail District team and Dinajpur Municipal School will face off in the final of the UCB First Women's Hockey Tournament after they beat their respective rivals in the semifinals at the Moulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Dinajpur Municipal School beat Bandarban District team 1-0, thanks to Rima Akhter Sathi's goal from a penalty corner in the 29th minute.

In the other semi, Narail District team defeated Quamrunnessa School by the same margin, courtesy of Nahid Akhter's 44th minute strike.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury will be present as the chief guest in today's final which will start at 3pm.

## Consensus effort fails

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite a series of meetings the last three days, the two panels in the upcoming Bangladesh Chess Federation polls have failed to reach a consensus which means the two panels will fight it out as they are. A few of the candidates, who had earlier submitted two nominations each, have withdrawn one of their nominations on the last day of withdrawal yesterday.

The much-hyped polls are scheduled for May 31 when 24 office bearers will be elected by 117 councillors, majority of who are from the District and Divisional Sports Associations.

Five Grandmasters have united under an umbrella to bring back life in the game and offered a panel opposing the one backed by the District and Divisional Organisers' Association (DOA), whose candidates have very little association with the game. Except for Mushfiqur Rahman Mohon, incumbent general secretary Moka'desh Hossain, Shakil Meraj of Biman, KM Shahidullah of Sheikh Russel Chess Club and journalist Morshalin Ahmed, the other candidates of the DOA-backed panel are barely known to the chess related people.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



MAN-OF-THE-MATCH: Yusuf Pathan is in full flow on way to hitting a 21-ball 40 not out during Kolkata Knight Riders' IPL Qualifier 1 against Delhi Daredevils at the Subrata Roy Sahara Stadium in Pune yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Narrow wins for GYC, Orient

SPORTS REPORTER

Gulshan Youth Club and Orient Sporting Club won their respective matches in the 4th Women's Club Cricket League at BKSP yesterday.

Lata hit 62 off 90 balls with twelve fours and later picked up two wickets for 19 runs as Gulshan Youth defeated Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club by 24 runs.

Gulshan Youth scored 154 for nine in 40 overs. Sanjida (22) and Suborna (22) were the other notable scorers.

Shorifa Khatun captured two wickets. In reply, Sheikh Jamal were all out for 130 runs in 33.5 overs.

The highest score, 35, belonged to the extras column while Ayesha Akter made 30 and Chameli Khatun added 32 runs. Suborna grabbed four wickets for 25 runs.

In the other match, Orient beat Rising Girls' Cricket Academy by three wickets.

Orient scored 115 runs for seven wickets in 37.3 overs in reply to Rising Girls' Cricket Academy's 114 all out in 35.5 overs.

## Abahani slip at MSC

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan Sporting Club brought down high-flying Abahani with a 2-0 defeat on their perennial rivals in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League champions at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Left-winger Sohel Rana and striker Wahed Ahmed struck one goal each in the first-half to entertain around 5,000 spectators under the floodlights.

This was the first defeat for the leaders and their first defeat against their arch-rivals since 2009.

The fourth win in 12 matches take Mohammedan to fifth position with 17 points while Abahani, despite their first defeat in 13 matches, remain on top with 27 points.

Abahani came into the game as favourites and enjoyed lion's share of procession but could hardly breach the Mohammedan backline which comprised three defenders in Rajani Kanta Barman, Hasan Al Mamun and Cameroonian Nyeck Nyobe. Mohammedan's new-signing Nigerian Ogbodo Augustine Chizoba and Beninese Oladikpiko Okalawon too proved key players in midfield.

The game got off to a blistering start with Mohammedan coming close to taking a lead in the third minute, but winger Shariful Islam's 30-yarder failed to find the target despite the goalkeeper being out of position.

Afterwards Abahani started to gain confidence to control the midfield but they faced tough challenge from the opposition defenders and even goalkeeper Titumir Chowdhury stood solid under the bar to

thwart three attempts.

Mohammedan went ahead in the 26th minute with a strike from young winger Sohel Rana. Sohel side-volleyed a rebounder off goalkeeper Shohidul Alam to find the near post from the left side of the box.

Mohammedan came close to doubling the lead in the next minute but Wahed, availing a through-pass from Okalawon advanced to the area to send the ball wide with only the goalkeeper to beat. However, the young striker made amends to increase the margin three minutes before the break.

Okalawon this time put a lob on the edge of the box and Abahani defenders stood still thinking of off-side and Wahed availed the opportunity to round off defender Samad Yousuf to drive a powerful shot past goalkeeper Shohidul Alam.

After resumption, it was Abahani who dominated the proceedings and created three to four chances but the Sky Blues could not overcome the last hurdle of goalkeeper Titumir Chowdhury, who brilliantly saved two free-kicks from Awudu Ibrahim and Zahid Hossain and he blocked a close-range header from Twum Frank on 78th minutes.

With seven minutes remaining, Mohammedan were reduced to 10 men as goal-scorer Sohel picked up his second yellow card before goalkeeper Titumir once again foiled a Shakawat Hossain Rony shot.

"The better side won the game," said Mohammedan coach Emeka Euzigo.

"We knew we were going to win the game against Abahani after the performance against Brothers as boys are in right frame of mind," said Emeka claiming that Mohammedan are now the best side in the league.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8

## PM announces special sports complex

### Inaugurates Special Olympics 5-a-side football

SPORTS REPORTER

The First South Asian Special Olympics 5-a-side Football Tournament was inaugurated yesterday at the Army Stadium with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina declaring the five-team tournament open as chief guest.

Bangladesh-A and India-A were supposed to play the opening match but it could not be held due to malfunctioning floodlights, informed national director of Special Olympics Faruqul Islam yesterday.

Islam also informed that Nepal, one of the participating teams, pulled out of the tournament citing the political instability in Nepal and that the tournament will have five teams -- two each from Bangladesh and India and one team from Pakistan.

"The senior teams from Bangladesh and India will play best of three games while the junior teams from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan will play in another group and both groups will have separate champions," said

Faruqul adding that the tournament will end today at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishtan.

BSS adds: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also announced that a special sports complex would be built in the country to create facilities for intellectually challenged persons to train and practise for sports events.

The complex will identify the intellectually handicapped persons, evaluate their position in society and make arrangements for their vocational education and rehabilitation as well as provide training and practice facilities, she said.

"I have come here to enjoy your game. Your slogan 'We can also do it' inspires us. So I have come here today to express my solidarity with you," the Prime Minister said while addressing participants of the South Asian countries.

Minister for Social Welfare Enamul Haque Mostafa Shahid, President of Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



PHOTOS: STAR

Dancers perform their art during the inauguration of the Special Olympics 5-a-side Football Tournament 2012 at the Army Stadium yesterday. (INSET) Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (C) watches the proceedings enthusiastically.