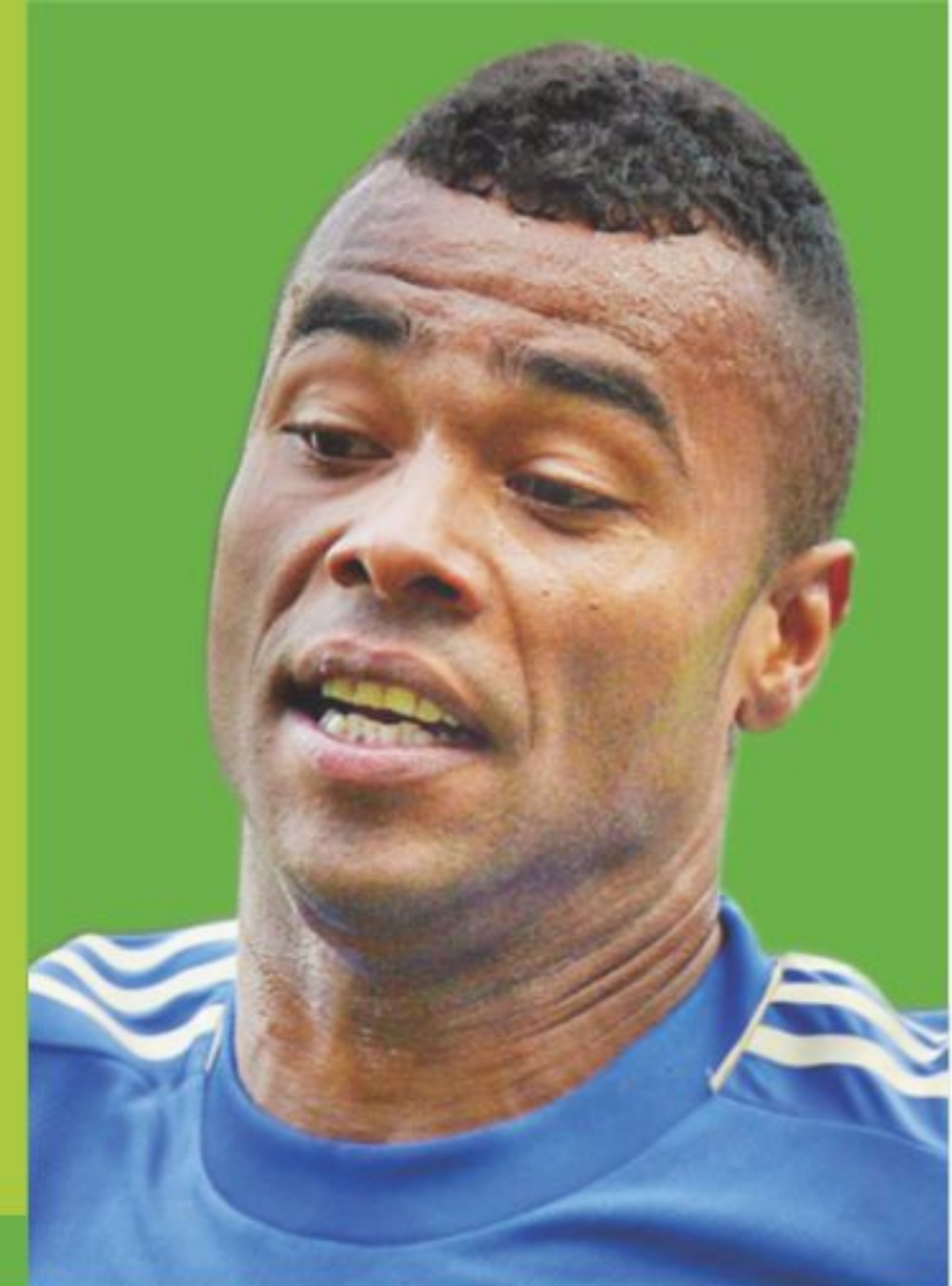


Star SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY OCTOBER 13, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@star.com

Cole admits FA charge

England defender Ashley Cole has admitted a misconduct charge from the Football Association (FA) for an insulting comment he made on Twitter, the governing body said on Thursday. "Ashley Cole has admitted an FA charge in relation to a Twitter comment which was improper and/or brought the game into disrepute," read a statement on the FA website. Cole, who has played 98 times for England, apologised personally to FA chairman David Bernstein for the insult and deleted the tweet a few hours after



Ex-captains bat for Shah

Cricket

NAIMUL KARIM

Investigation regarding the former Bangladesh ICC Panel Umpire, Nadir Shah, may not have officially begun as yet. However, the umpire, who recently found himself at the centre of a match-fixing controversy--following a sting operation by an Indian television channel-- has received widespread support from former Bangladeshi cricket captains. The general consensus amongst numerous ex-captains was that the footage aired on India TV could have been 'distorted' and that it didn't provide a strong enough evidence to convict Shah.

Former captain and chief selector, Faruque Ahmed was of the opinion that the discussion between Shah and the undercover journalists, seemed 'extremely casual' for a match-fixing negotiation.

"He (Shah) looked like he had a few drinks and in my opinion the discussion displayed on TV was just a small portion of the many talks that they had. On the whole the footage looked a little suspicious" said Ahmed.

Shah, who was one of the two Bangladeshi umpires contacted by the television channel, was shown to be willing to give doctored decisions in lieu of money, in the video.

"We played a lot of cricket together in the early days. Nadir might have been a little undisciplined while playing cricket... he came to the ground late now and then, but his umpiring career was spot on," said Ahmed.

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PHOTO: STAR

Sheikh Russel KC striker Zahid Hasan Emily (R) celebrates his goal with teammates during the Grameenphone Federation Cup match against Mohammedan SC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Siddikur stays 4th

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's ace golfer Siddikur Rahman maintained his joint fourth position in the US\$750,000 Venetian Macau Open after playing a three-under-par 68 in the second round at the Macau Golf and Country Club yesterday.

Siddikur, who Thursday played five-under-par with a rare hole-in-one, scored overall eight-under-par 134 to stay with Brazilian Adilson Da Silva, Australian Kieran Pratt, Angelo Que and Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee after the second round.

The 27-year old golfer added four birdies on the third, eighth, tenth and eleventh holes and bogeyed on the fifth hole to end up with a three-under-par to be trailed by three strokes of leader Gaganjeet Bhullar.

Indian Bhullar also played a three-under-par in the second round but his brilliant eight-under-par performance in the first round still kept him on the top of the leader board with an 11-under-par 131.

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Razzaq in doubt for HK Super Sixes

ANI, Karachi

Pakistani all-rounder Abdul Razzaq, who was supposed to lead his team at the Hong Kong Super Sixes this month, has become doubtful of his participation in the event as he faces disciplinary action from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

Razzaq's name was proposed along with Umar Akmal, Junaid Khan, Yasir Shah, Hammad Azam, Tanvir Ahmed and Ovais Zia. An official of the PCB said the decision of Razzaq's inclusion was subject to his clearance on disciplinary offence.

"The board is yet to announce the team. As far as Razzaq is concerned, he requires clearance as he is facing disciplinary action for code of conduct breach," The Express Tribune quoted

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Clash of titans starts today

PTI, Johannesburg



After their not so memorable outing in the just-concluded ICC World T20 in Sri Lanka, it will be a test of character for the Indian boys in the Champions League Twenty20 which enters the business stage from Saturday.

There are four Indian Premier League teams in the fray in the cash-rich tournament, including defending champions Mumbai Indians and this season's IPL winners Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). The other two IPL sides are Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Daredevils (DD).

But the interesting to watch in the tournament will be the desperation of the Indian cricketers, who will be eager to erase the scars of their Super Eight elimination in the

Twenty20 World Cup.

While KKR and DD have been placed in Group A, the other two IPL teams -- MI and Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led CSK -- are in Group B, raising the hopes of an all India clash in the semis, as the top two teams from each group will qualify for the knock-out stage. However, in no sense it would be an easy task for the Indian outfits as they will be up against some of the best T20 outfits of the world.

And with Titans and Highveld Lions, both from South Africa, enjoying home advantage, the task for the Indian units will be even more cut out.

Apart from the two African teams the championship also hosts Australia's Perth Scorchers, which boasts of players like Shaun Marsh and Herschelle Gibbs in their ranks.

The other Aussie side in fray is Sydney Sixers and with the presence of Shane Watson along with young pace sensation Mitchell Starc and skipper Brad Haddin in their line-up, they the Sixers definitely look a side to be watched out for.

The tournament will also witness Auckland Aces and Yorkshire, both of

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Delhi Daredevils paceman Morne Morkel bowls during training at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on Wednesday ahead of their Champions League T20 match against the Kolkata Knight Riders.

PHOTO: AFP

Russel win battle of biggies

SPORTS REPORTER



Big-budgeted Sheikh Russel KC emerged as Group A champions in the Grameenphone Federation Cup with three successive wins after they handed a 2-0 defeat to Mohammedan SC in their final group match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

On-song striker Zahid Hasan Emily and winger Zahid Hossain struck one goal each in the entertaining clash on the slippery pitch under the floodlights. Mohammedan now finish as Group A runners-up and will possibly face Team BJMC in their quarterfinal match.

Both Sheikh Russel and Mohammedan came into the group-deciding match on the back of two convincing victories against the minnows and the tie turned into a real test for both giants.

Star-studded Sheikh Russel showcased their early dominance as Mohammedan adopted a mostly counter-attacking strategy leaving the opponents with room to penetrate. The tactic was hardly successful and Mohammedan only changed their game plan after conceding two goals inside five minutes in the second half.

From the outset, Sheikh Russel launched attacks with midfielders Mamunul Islam, Moroccan Tarik El Janaby and Haitian Sony Norde dominating the midfield superbly. Zahid, Emily and Sony were denied by Mohammedan goalkeeper Mamun Khan thrice before the Black and Whites mustered their first shot on target in the 35th minute as a header from Kali Osman narrowly missed the target.

After the resumption, Sheikh Russel kept the momentum with them and went ahead in the 47th minute, availing a defensive lapse as Zahid snatched the ball from Kali Osman to strike a grounder that found the far side of the net.

Emily then made sure of the points as he struck his fifth goal of the tournament on 51 minutes. Put through by the Haitian Sony, Zahid hammered a powerful left-footed curler from outside the box that found the back of the net via the inside of the post.

Sony should have made it 3-0 for Sheikh Russel but the attacking midfielder failed to beat Mohammedan goalkeeper Mamun Khan in one-on-one situation while a powerful Shohel Rana shot was parried by Sheikh Russel goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee in the 78th minute.

Meanwhile, in the first match at the

BNS, Brothers Union kept their quarterfinal hopes alive with a 2-0 win over Jessore DFA while Bangladesh Police and Rampur Boys Club of Feni ended their campaign with a 1-1 draw at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium.

Brothers Union now need a draw against already-through Abahani in their last match to ensure their last eight berth. After being held in the first half, Brothers Union, who had earlier played out a goalless draw against Rahmatganj MFS, sent on Abul Malek in place of Subair Mohammad in the second half to strengthen the attack.

The striker of National U-19 squad put an immediate impact on the game through his speed. He finally broke the deadlock in the 73rd minute after placing a Mohammad Any cut-back home while another U-19 player, Yousuf Sifat, wrapped up the victory eight minutes from time.

At Kamalapur, ten-man Bangladesh Police came from behind to play a 1-1 draw with Rampur Boys Club. Aminul cancelled Polash's 16-minute lead in the 60th minute despite being reduced to ten men when Rashidul was sent off in the 30th minute. Both of Police and Rampur Boys lost to Sheikh Russel KC and Mohammedan SC in their first two matches.

Mahanama completes Khulna inspection

SPORTS REPORTER

International Cricket Council (ICC) match referee, Roshan Mahanama, inspected the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium at Khulna yesterday. Mahanama, who arrived on Thursday will now submit a report to the ICC regarding the stadium's facilities and infrastructure.

The report will decide whether the SANS will witness its first international Test match, when the West Indies arrive in November. BCB officials claim that a decision would be made within a week's time.

"He (Roshan Mahanama) inspected everything quite thoroughly. Starting from the toilets and the grand stand to the media centre and the hotels where players could possibly be accommodated," said Kazi Abdus Sattar, venue manager

It took the former Sri

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LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Dilkusha SC registered a 2-1 win over Rayerbazar SC in the Green Delta Insurance Second Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. Rahim and Sayed scored for Dilkusha while Dipu pulled one goal back.

Table Tennis

Baizid Steel Federation Cup Table Tennis tournament got underway yesterday at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium with eight teams winning their respective matches in the men's team event.

Sheikh Russel, Biman-B, Armania Sports, Armanitola JS, Palalic, TT Academy, Molar TT an Ekata Sripur Samity won their respective matches while Bangladesh Chemical, Narail district and Destiny TT Club won their respective matches in the women's team event. Inter-club Tennis

Magura Tennis Club and Manikganj Tennis Club moved into the next round of the Inaugural National Inter-Club Tennis Competition beating their respective rivals at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday. Magura defeated Dhaka Club 3-0 while Manikganj beat Jamalpur Tennis Club 2-1 on the opening day.

Junior Chess

Sub-Junior Champion Ikramul Haque Siam and Mohammad Fahad Rahman shared the lead in the 33rd National Junior Championship at the close of the seventh round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall

Titu hangs up his boots

SPORTS REPORTER

Firoz Mahmud Titu, former Bangladesh international and current Muktiyoddha Sangsad KC defender, is set to call time from all forms of football after the Grameenphone Federation Cup tie between Muktiyoddha Sangsad and Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Titu, who was a proud member of Bangladesh's winning squad of 2003 SAFF Championship, represented the national team from 1999 to 2008 and captained the U-23 squad in the 2005 SAFF Games in Sri Lanka.

The former BKSP defender also represented Bangladesh U-16, U-19, U-20 and U-23 teams in his colourful career which had started through Youngmens Club of Fakirerpool in 1994-95 seasons after being admitted at BKSP in 1991. He also played for Abahani, Mohammedan, Brothers Union, Dhanmondi Club

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