

Star SPORT

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Barca go corporate

Spanish giants Barcelona have replaced their shirt sponsors Qatar Foundation with Qatar Airways, and will display a purely corporate advertisement for the first time under a 210-million dollar deal approved last year.

Qatar Airways will feature on the Barca shirts for the 2013-2014 season, the Catalan club said. The airline will replace the Qatar Foundation, which currently features on the front of the Barcelona jersey with the United Nation's children's fund UNICEF



A big-hearted return

NAIMUL KARIM



The post-Test match headlines on Sunday were expectedly dominated by the performance of Bangladesh's newbie Shohag Gazi, who was by far the most effective Bangladeshi bowler in the first Test.

Outside the radar though was a bowler - making a comeback to the international scene after almost a year -- who shrugged aside the 'obstacles' of bowling on a wicket that was flat and rarely assisted the bowlers. Rubel Hossain's two wickets for 53 during the West Indian second innings at an economy rate of 2.78 may be hugely undervalued when compared to the debutant's six-wicket haul, but it was Rubel's burst late on the fourth day that initiated the West Indian collapse.

The 22-year-old pacer hit the deck in the right areas and rose to the challenge and put in a far better performance as compared to the initial sessions of the game.

"I was returning to Test cricket after a while, so initially I might have been a little jittery. But I tried to give my best effort right from the first innings. I was more confident in the second innings and hence put the ball in the right spots," Rubel told the Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

Of the two wickets that Rubel got on the fourth day, one of them was the prized scalp of Chris Gayle, who was beaten with a short of a length delivery that landed on middle and jagged away just enough to find the edge of the danger man's bat.

"I think I bowled quite a good delivery to get rid of Chris Gayle. Gayle is someone who'll no doubt punish you if you are a fraction wide. His wicket also gave me a lot of confidence," Rubel said.

That was the lone bright spot for the hosts in that particular session as the visiting batsmen piled on the runs following the wicket. The second-wicket partnership between Darren Bravo and Kieran Powell was looking deadly and took the West Indies over the 200 mark.

Rubel, however, continued to plug the runs and eventually compelled Bravo to play a shot away from his body and nick one to the keeper. "At that point of the game, my target was not to allow them to score too many runs. So I just kept on bowling in the right areas and tried to make it hard for them to score boundaries. The wicket eventually came," explained Rubel. Bravo's wicket changed the entire scenario of the game. The visitors lost their last 8 wickets for just 62 runs and gave the home side a sniff at a rare victory.

Rubel's effort in the first Test also

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Superstar Chris Gayle leads the West Indies contingent out of the Jessore Airport yesterday morning. The team then moved to Khulna where they will play the second Test and two one-day internationals against Bangladesh.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

WI, Tigers in Khulna

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The West Indies cricket team arrived in Khulna yesterday morning to play the second and final Test and first two ODIs of five against Bangladesh, who also reached here in the evening.

The Test match begins at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium on Wednesday while the one-day internationals will also be held at the same venue on November 30 and December 2.

The Caribbean cricketers checked in at the City Inn hotel at around 11am after having a bus ride from the airport in neighbouring Jessore district. Both teams will be staying at this hotel during the tour.

Nadir's fate in two days

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) director and disciplinary committee chairman Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir said that the three-member committee formed to investigate the allegations of corrupt conduct by the board's umpires will submit a report and their suggestions to the BCB based on their findings in two days' time.

"We have talked to all the people who were involved in this case and have also received their statements. We'll make the report in a day and submit it to the board along with our suggestions. The rest of the steps will be taken by the board," said Alamgir, who is also the convener of the committee. 0

A sting operation conducted by journalists of India TV, a private Indian television channel accused Bangladesh umpire Nadir Shah of willing to provide doctored decisions in lieu of money.

Khulna on its mark, set & ready to go

ZAHAID HOSSAIN, Khulna



A festive atmosphere has been prevailing over the last few days throughout this metropolis centring around the upcoming Test match and one-day internationals between Bangladesh and the West Indies which begins in four days time at Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium here.

The second Test of the two-match series will begin on the 21st while the first two ODIs of five will be played on November 30 and December 2 at the same venue.

The stadium is set to become the seventh Test venue of the country after it received the International Cricket Council's approval on match referee Roshan Mahanama's recommendation. The former Sri Lanka captain visited Khulna in October this year.

To mark the historic occasion, the Khulna City Corporation has decorated different important points of the city with lighting, festoons, banners and pictures of historical places of the division.

The stadium itself has been given a facelift for the games. At least 36 close circuit cameras and a heavy air-

conditioning system have been installed while decorative lights have been put up in and around the venue. Ceremonial arches have been erected at various points on the Jessore-Khulna highway to welcome the guests.

Bangladesh Cricket Board director Syed Zahid Hossain said that they were not leaving anything to chance.

"We are very busy doing the checking and re-checking so that not a single thing goes wrong. We are doing all this to uphold the image of the newest Test venue of the world as well as the country," said Zahid, adding the city would take a look that was never seen before.

The players of both teams will be staying at the newly-built posh City Inn hotel at the heart of the city.

"We are working round-the-clock with 10 groundsmen to keep the outfield and wicket fit. The media box and the TV commentary room are ready for the occasion," Abdus Sattar Kochi, the venue manager, said. He also informed that over 10,000 spectators are expected to watch the match from inside the stadium.

The holding of international matches at their own backyard has created huge enthusiasm among the young generation

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Windies name one-day side

CRICINFO, Dhaka

West Indies have retained left-arm spinner

Veerasammy Permaul and opener Kieran Powell for the limited-overs series against Bangladesh, starting November 30. Permaul made his Test debut in the opening game of the two-Test series against Bangladesh in Mirpur and picked up four wickets. He is yet to play an international limited-overs game. Powell made a century in each innings of the Mirpur Test, which West Indies won by 77 runs.

Kemar Roach, who is not playing the Tests due to a knee injury, has been passed fit for the five ODIs and one Twenty20 international on this tour.

Six players from the current Test squad will be returning home. They are: Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Narsingh Deonarine, Fidel Edwards, Kirk Edwards, Assad Fudadin and

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PHOTOS: STAR

The lush green of Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna (above) is all set to become the newest Test venue in the world and the seventh in the country. (L) Cricket fans queue up for tickets in front of the Social Islami Bank branch in Khulna yesterday.



International Cricket Council president Alan Isaac called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday. During the meeting the prime minister told the ICC chief that her government was keen to make the World T20 in Bangladesh in 2014 a grand success. She also informed that two new stadia would be constructed in the country, one of which would be in the tourist town of Cox's Bazar.

PHOTO: PID

Razzak on a roll

SPORTS REPORTER



Two of the four fourth round matches of the 14th National Cricket League 14th National Cricket League 12

Cricket League (NCL) were headed for a result after the third day's play while draw was the possibility in the other two if batsmen in those games can tough it out on the fourth and final day today.

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Failure the pillar of success



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's 5-0 drubbing at the hands of Thailand in their FIFA International Friendly on Saturday might have been a disappointing result, but this served the purpose of playing such friendlies, which is to judge the standard of the national team and find out the areas to work on for improving.

The margin of defeat might have been even bigger had Thailand not made as many as 10 substitutions, but nonetheless the result and the performance helped the team management and officials identify the weak points of the side. The BFF president himself witnessed the match and was quick to point out some of the loopholes. The defeat will certainly give the game's governing body material to think deeply about the improvement of the national team, which hardly gets any chance of playing international fixtures except for the matches of the SAFF Championship, a regional football meet, AFC Challenge Cup, a third-tier Asian football meet, and the Qualifiers of FIFA World Cup, Olympics and Asian Games. The defeat against Thailand should be an eye-opener for the football officials, who concentrate on the immediate results

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Vettel in pole position

AFP, Austin

Sebastian Vettel would line up for his 100th Formula One race in pole position on Sunday after dominating Saturday's United States Grand Prix qualifying session with a dazzling display of pace in his Red Bull car.

The 25-year-old German, who needs to out-score nearest rival Fernando Alonso of Ferrari by 15 points to become the youngest triple champion in F1 history, was fastest throughout the session after topping the times in all three practice sessions.

He clocked a final best lap time of one minute and 35.657 seconds to leave nearest rival Lewis Hamilton adrift by a tenth of a second in his McLaren.