

Star SPORT

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Win or die: Ranieri

Monaco coach Claudio Ranieri has warned his players they have no option but to win their next Ligue 2 game after they lost top spot in the standings with a 3-0 defeat at Caen on Tuesday.

"I am angry. Physically we were second best and here is the result. I want to win. We have to win. Otherwise, I am going to kill them," the former AS Roma and Juventus coach, who joined last May, told a news conference on Wednesday.

- REUTERS



PHOTO: STAR

Mohammedan's Ghanaian recruit Osei Morison (L) takes off to celebrate his strike, his team's third and last, against Sheikh Russel at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Mohammedan won the match 3-1.

MSC dominate Sheikh Russel

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan SC returned to winning ways in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League by beating the big-budget outfit of Sheikh Russel KC 3-1 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Shariful Islam, Nigerian Augustine Chizoba and Ghanaian Osei Morison struck one goal apiece for Mohammedan before Zahid Hasan Emily pulled one back for Sheikh Russel in the keenly contested match under floodlights.

It was also sweet revenge for Mohammedan's 2-1 defeat to Sheikh Russel in the Federation Cup semifinal. The win is hardly a surprise as Mohammedan has dominated the new powerhouse Sheikh Russel in the professional football league with five wins from their 11 matches, while Sheikh Russel have won only two.

Smarting from a 1-0 reversal against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club in their previous game, Mohammedan looked determined to turn the tide and took firm control of the midfield before taking a third-minute lead through winger Shariful Islam.

The diminutive right-winger, availing a square pass from Mezbabul Haque Manik, cleverly chipped the ball to the far post from the right side over goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee to give the Black and Whites an unexpected lead.

The early lead served to increase Mohammedan's energy levels with five players working hard in the midfield. Sheikh Russel came close to levelling the score at the half-hour mark but Emily narrowly failed to connect a free-kick from Haitian midfielder Sony Norde.

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HC stays BCB constitution



SPORTS REPORTER

The High Court on Thursday issued a rule nisi on the National Sports Council (NSC) asking them why the amended constitution of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) should not be considered illegal.

A High court bench comprising Justice Naima Haider and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar also issued a stay order on the amended constitution for three months.

"The court issued a rule nisi and granted a stay order for three months. That means the board can't function under the new constitution for the next three months; rather they should work under the 2008 constitution," Barrister Mahbub Shafique, who is the lawyer for writ petitioners Mobasher Hossain, the architect and former BCB director, and Yousuf Jamil Babu, president of the Bangladesh District and Divisional Sports Organisers' Association, told The Daily Star over phone last night.

"NSC inserted some clauses out of motion and they didn't follow the procedure, which is why we challenged this latest amendment," he added.

The NSC recently approved BCB's new constitution, bringing in major changes to the one that had been sent to them after an extraordinary general meeting of the

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CWAB happy

SPORTS REPORTER

The Cricketers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB) hailed the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) new constitution as they believe that the amendments uphold the rights of the cricketers.

"The cricketers are the main stakeholders of the game but unfortunately a certain quarter tried to abolish the clauses which ensure cricketers councilorship rights. We want to thank everybody who helped to retain the rights of the cricketers in the approved 2012 constitution," said CWAB vice-president and member of BCB's ad-hoc committee Khaled Mahmud at a press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

"CWAB arranged this press conference to thank everybody who supported

everybody who supported

everybody who supported

everybody who supported

everybody who supported

everybody who supported

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Honours even on Day 1



AGENCIES, Nagpur

India bowlers let England off the hook and allowed the visitors to recover from a difficult position as they reached 199 for five at stumps on the opening day to leave the crucial fourth and final cricket Test evenly poised here on Thursday.

The home team had England in a real spot at 139 for five soon after tea but failed to seize the initiative as debutant Joe Root and the experienced Matt Prior batted for nearly 30 overs to add 60 runs for the unbroken sixth wicket stand.

The new-look Indian bowling attack had kept the high-flying England batsmen under tight leash and made them struggle for every run in the first two sessions before Prior, batting on 34, and Root, undefeated on 31, added valuable runs in the final hour.

Kevin Pietersen was the top-scorer for England with an innings of 73 while debutant Ravindra Jadeja got two wickets for 34 runs having bowled 25 overs.

England captain Alastair Cook won the toss for the first time and the visitors were rocked back by twin strikes within the first

hour by Ishant Sharma, but recovered briefly to get past the 100-run mark.

However, they got bogged down by the loss of three more wickets -- two of which were claimed by 24-year-old debutant Jadeja and the other by comeback man Piyush Chawla, before staging their second recovery of the day through Root and Prior.

The sixth wicket pair, whose unfinished partnership has lasted five minutes under two hours, came together when Pietersen was dismissed by Jadeja trying to play towards mid-wicket as Pragyan Ojha took a low catch diving forward.

By close of play on the first day, the sixth wicket pair had ensured England ended the day on even keel. England scored 61, 72 and 66 runs in the three sessions. In the morning, Sharma packed off England's leading run-getter Cook and his opening partner Nick Compton cheaply to leave them gasping at 16 for 2 before Pietersen along with Jonathan Trott staged a recovery.

Compton nicked a slow rising delivery from Ishant to skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni behind the stumps as England were reduced to three for one. It soon

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England superstar Kevin Pietersen pulls one on way to scoring 73 on the opening day of the fourth and final Test against India in Nagpur yesterday.

PHOTO: CRICINFO

Siddikur 94th Elements halt proceedings at Johor Open

SPORTS REPORTER

Heavy thunderstorms and lightning caused a truncated first day at the Iskandar Johor Open yesterday as 84 of the 120 golfers will have to complete their first round early this morning at the Horizon Hills Golf and Country Club in Malaysia.

Bangladesh golfer Siddikur Rahman could complete only three holes of the front nine before thunderstorms halted play at 1:34 pm local time. He carded two bogeys and a par in the holes he played, ending the truncated day in joint-94th position.

Siddikur, who has

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PHOTO: AFP

Australia captain Michael Clarke (L) and his Sri Lanka counterpart Mahela Jayawardene pose with the Warne-Murali Trophy at the Bellerive Oval in Hobart yesterday, ahead of the first Test that starts here today.

Hobart Test from today

Mahela bucks up batters; Aussies drop Mitchell



AFP, Hobart

Rookie Dimuth Karunaratne was picked to open the Sri Lankan batting with veteran Tillakaratne Dilshan in the first Test against Australia in Hobart on Friday.

The 24-year-old will be making only his second Test appearance on an expected lively Bellerive Oval wicket in the first of three Tests.

Nuwan Kulasekara, Shaminda Eranga and Chanaka Welegedara will lead the pace attack supported by left-arm spinner Rangana Herath and the swing bowling of Angelo Mathews in a team announced Thursday.

Former Australian fast bowler Rodney Hogg has rubbished the Sri Lankan quicks as the "worst ever" to come to Australia, with Kulasekara, Eranga and Welegedara only having 38 Tests and 99 wickets between them.

Skipper Mahela Jayawardene said injuries and retirements had forced Sri

Lanka to overhaul their new-ball attack, but he was confident his pace brigade could do the job against the third-ranked Australians.

"Teams have to start somewhere. I think we've lost some fast bowlers in the past and some with injuries and this is an attack that is probably different," Jayawardene said.

"We don't probably have the pace that you [Australia] think is required to win Test matches in Australia, but we've got guys who will bowl good line and length and create opportunities and if we keep to that I think we stand a good chance."

Meanwhile, paceman Mitchell Johnson has been left out of the Australian team with Ben Hilfenhaus and Peter Siddle returning to bolster the side.

The 31-year-old left-armer, who has 196 wickets in 48 Tests, missed out despite taking six wickets against South Africa in Perth last week.

Australia go into the series opener with a three-prong pace attack of Hilfenhaus, Siddle and left-armer Mitchell Starc.

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