

Ribery slapped with 2-game ban

Bayern Munich's French winger Franck Ribery was banned for two German Cup matches on Thursday after being sent off against Augsburg.

Ribery was shown a straight red card on Tuesday for an altercation with Augsburg's South Korea midfielder Koo Ja-Cheol early in the second-half of Bayern's 2-0 win.

The sports court of the German Football Federation (DFB) has banned the French star for the quarterfinal against Dortmund at Munich's Allianz Arena on February 26 or 27, as well as April's semifinal, should Bayern advance.



Fahad gets 2nd gold

SPORTS REPORTER

Fahad Rahman achieved another gold medal in the Under-9 age group at the close of the sixth game in the Blitz games of the 8th Asian Schools Chess Championship held in New Delhi, India on Wednesday.

Fahad secured 5.5 points from six matches. He earned two gold and one silver in three events of the championship, said a Bangladesh Chess Federation press release yesterday.

Zoar Haque Pradhan finished third in the U-17 group with 4.5 points from five games.

Ziaur the champ

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman became champion of the Shaheed Muktijoddha Mufti Kased International Rating Chess Tournament at the close of the ninth and final round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Hall Room yesterday.

Zia beat IM Imiazuddin Ahmed Sagar to join GM Abdullah Al Rakib at the top, who drew against FM Nasir Ahmed in the last round to secure eight points from nine games. Later the championship was decided through a tiebreaker. Nasir finished third with 7.5 points.

MSC rout Karnaphuli

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Mohammedan SC posted a victory in the CJKS Exclusive-Arriel Hockey League with an emphatic 6-1 win over Karnaphuli Sports Club at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Shahidul and Sujan scored two goals each while Suman and Mishu netted one goal apiece for Mohammedan. Sajib struck the lone goal for Karnaphuli SC.

A six-day hockey league organised by Chattogram Jela Krira Sangstha (CJKS) started on Monday with eight teams, split into three groups, playing the first phase of the league.

WOMEN'S CRICKET Khulna lift nat'l title

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna became champions in the 3rd Women's National Cricket Championship as they beat Narsingdi in the final at the Moulvibazar Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Khulna scored 183 runs in 35 overs.

In reply, Narsingdi finished their 35-over quota at 154 for seven to suffer a 29-run defeat.

A total of 45 districts took part in the first round held at nine different venues across the country.

A total of eight teams, divided into two groups, took part in the final round in Moulvibazar.



An auctioneer conducts the BPL auction at the Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel on Thursday where Dhaka Gladiators' owner Salim Chowdhury (inset L) snared the biggest catch, Shakib Al Hasan, for 365,000 dollars.

PHOTOS: FIROZ AHMED

Chess team UAE bound

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladeshi national chess team will leave today for the United Arab Emirates to take part in the World Cities Chess Championship to be held in Al-Ain from December 21-29.

A total of 25 teams will take part in the preliminary group, 16 of which will qualify for the knockout phase.

The Bangladeshi team comprises Grand Masters Niaz Murshed, Ziaur Rahman, International Masters Minhauddin Ahmed Sagar, Abu Sufian Shakil and FIDE Master Debaraj Chatterjee. GM Abdullah Al Rakib and Enamul Haque Rajib were kept out of the squad following their non-participation in the National Chess Championship while GM Reefat Bin Sattar pulled out of the squad citing personal reason.

BPL AUCTION

Shakib the big fish

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Star Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan was bought for a mammoth 365,000 dollars by Dhaka Gladiators as he hogged the spotlight during the players' auction of the second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20.

Six out of the seven franchisees placed their bids for Shakib, who was originally placed in the 'Golden Category' with a base price of 40,000 dollars. It seemed as though the franchisees were involved in a head-to-head tussle with most of the teams offering six-figure digits. Rangpur Riders bid 160,000 dollars while Chittagong Kings and Duronto Rajshahi bid 172,000 and 213,000 dollars respectively. At the end of the day though, it was the Gladiators' bid, the highest of the day, that stole the show.

The second-highest bid of the day was made by the Chittagong Kings for Pakistan opener Imran Nazir for 280,000 dollars. Nazir is expected to take the place of Tamim Iqbal, who was bought by Rajshahi for 165,000 dollars.

Had luck favoured the Gladiators though, they would have had both Bangladesh's top stars, Tamim and Shakib, in their team. Both

Top ten earners at the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 players auction

Team	Player(Country)	Auction price (US dollars)
Dhaka	Shakib Al Hasan (Ban)	365,000
Chittagong	Imran Nazir (Pak)	280,000
Dhaka	Shahid Afridi (Pak)	275,000
Rangpur	Nasir Hossain (Ban)	208,000
Sylhet	Mushfiqur Rahim (Ban)	205,000
Rajshahi	Tamim Iqbal (Ban)	165,000
Sylhet	Shohag Gazi (Ban)	156,000
Barisal	Azhar Mahmood (Pak)	150,000
Dhaka	Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (Ban)	141,000
Rajshahi	Ziaur Rahman (Ban)	137,000

Rajshahi and Dhaka had made equal bids for the dashing left-hander. A coin-toss sent Tamim to Rajshahi. Sylhet bought the Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim for 205,000 dollars and vice-captain Mahmudullah Riyad was bought by Chittagong for 125,000 dollars.

West Indies mystery spinner Sunil Narine,

who'll be available from January 22 to 24, was

bought by Barisal Burners for 75,000 dollars.

They also bought Saeed Ajmal, who'll be avail-

able till January 20, for 115,000 dollars. As per the rules of the tournament, players unavailable for the entire competition will be paid according to the number of matches they play. The Burners, who rode on Chris Gayle in the last edition, will be counting on their T20 specialists Brad Hodge and Azhar Mahmood, who were bought for 125,000 and 150,000 dollars respectively.

Last year's champions, Dhaka Gladiators seemed on a roll in yesterday's auction as they bought a number of valuable players. English players Luke Wright, Owais Shah and Sri Lankan Tillakaratne Dilshan were bought for 75,000 dollars each. All these players though will have a late entry to the league. They also bagged the deadly Lasith Malinga for 115,000 dollars who'll be available after January 30. Bangladesh fast bowler Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was their second-most valuable local player after Shakib as he was bought for 141,000 dollars.

The Chittagong Kings, apart from bagging

Nazir and Mahmudullah, got good deals with

Ryan ten Doeschate from the Netherlands and New Zealand all-rounder Jacob Oram. They also spent 120,000 dollars on slow left-armers

Enamul Haque Jr who plays for Sylhet in the

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Abahani's chance to break away

SPORTS REPORTER



Holders Abahani will be looking to extend their dominance over Sheikh Russel KC when the four-time champions take on one of the pre-league favourites in a crucial encounter of the 6th Bangladesh Premier League today.

The game will start at 4:30pm at the Bangabandhu National Stadium and Bangladesh Television will carry live telecast of the match.

Abahani has a good record against Sheikh Russel in the professional football league since its introduction, the Sky Blues winning eight out of ten encounters with a draw and a loss each.

Apart from the statistics, Abahani are in good form in the ongoing league and are currently sharing the top spot with Sheikh Jamal with 10 points from four outings and will be looking to break away from the pack by winning against Sheikh Russel today.

"The match is important for both sides and a win puts us a step forward in the title race, so the boys are eager to win the game," said Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu yesterday.

"Abahani are still unbeaten but our best is yet to come and we are expecting that the boys will give their best against Sheikh Russel," said Rupu. "However, there are some problems in the forward line, which is our main concern ahead of the game."

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A sense of vulnerability

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The bidding prices of the local players during the auction of the second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), till a certain extent, did overshadow the international players. It was a case which should have ideally pleased majority of the local cricketers. However, despite the high bids, there seemed to be a sense of vulnerability that prevailed throughout the auction.

The worry was escalated later in the night, when members of the BPL

V-Day tennis semifinalists confirmed

SPORTS REPORTER

The men's singles semifinal lineup of the Runner Victory Day Open Tennis Tournament was completed yesterday with Amol Roy, Anwar Hossain, Alamgir Hossain and Delwar Hossain moving to the last four at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

Amol beat Arif Hossain, Anwar beat Munir

Hossain, Alamgir beat Ranjan Ram and Delwar

beat Hanif Munna.

The semifinal lineups of the men's doubles and women's doubles were also completed. The Amol Roy-Ranjan Ram pair, Kanchan Ram-Munir Hossain pair, Alamgir Hossain-Delwar Hossain pair and Dipu Lal-Anwar Hossain pair moved into the men's doubles semifinal beating their respective rivals.



Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra winger Zahid Hossain goes through a fitness drill during a training session at the BUET ground yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



The players of Khulna celebrate after winning the third National Women's Cricket Championship at Moulvibazar. They defeated Narsingdi in the final by 29 runs.

PHOTO: BAGNAROCHOKH.COM

A total of eight teams, divided into two groups, took part in the final round in Moulvibazar.