

Star SPORT

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'Germany can win WC'

Germany can win the 2014 World Cup, team manager Oliver Bierhoff believes, pointing to the presence of three Bundesliga sides in the Champions League last 16 to support his assertion. "Naturally we want and we can win the title," he said in an interview in the German weekly Focus on Saturday. "We've got lots of young players blessed with enormous potential, we've learned from the mistakes at Euro 2012 and because the international experience we've gained will give our ambitious team an extra



Mohammedan Sporting Club's Ghanaian forward Osei Morrison celebrates what he thought was his second goal in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League match against Arambagh Krira Sangha at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Morrison's 73rd minute strike was however called off side, and he had to settle for his solitary goal which secured victory.

PHOTO: STAR

Pak tour awaits its final assessment

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) agreed that the Tigers will embark on a short two-match tour of Pakistan next month.

But the BCB president said that the tour is hinging on two aspects -- a final security assessment and a response from the International Cricket Council (ICC) on the series.

BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon told BBC Radio in an interview yesterday that they will send the team to Pakistan only when they feel that the security is enough for the trip.

When asked about his opinion regarding the opposition to the tour that has come from various quarters due to security issues, he said that the security is a big issue and there is every reason to be concerned, which is why they will take the final decision when they confirm that the security is adequate for the tour.

He also said they learnt that the security team, which visited Pakistan in March this year, confirmed that the security is adequate. "But still we will assess everything again before taking the final deci-

sion," insisted Papon.

Papon also informed that they are waiting for a response from the ICC regarding their security assessment and allocation of match officials and he hoped that they will be able to take the final decision regarding the tour within the next three-four days. The final decision, according to the BCB boss, will also depend on ICC's assessment.

He however firmly believed that they should keep the commitment made to their Pakistan counterparts.

"We made a commitment and I think we should keep it if the security is sufficient for the tour. We are an emerging cricketing nation and it will set a bad example if we don't meet our commitment because in future people may bring it up as a reference," he said.

The PCB had already sent a security plan and the BCB expressed their satisfaction over the security measures while also agreeing in principle to the schedule as earlier this week they said that Bangladesh will play a Twenty20 International and a One-Day International on January 12 and 13 respectively, both in Lahore.

"We were in constant touch with the BCB officials and they have conveyed to

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Fun day for intellectually challenged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

The Shaheed Miraz-Tapan Stadium in Manikganj witnessed 200 intellectually-challenged children fight it out in an eventful competition organised by the Society for the Welfare of the Intellectually Disabled, Bangladesh.

The five-event athletics meet, which saw children participate from all the 21 units of the organisation, turned out to be a fun day out for the participants who were given a chance to display their 'track and field' skills. Manikganj DC Masood Karim and the municipality mayor Md Ramzan Ali were present in the meet.

Mohammedan join leaders

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan Sporting Club joined league leaders

Abahani and Sheikh Jamal DC when they handed a 1-0 defeat to struggling Arambagh KS in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Ghanaian forward Osei Morrison's 16th minute header, his sixth in the league, decided the match in favour of the Black and Whites and took them to 10 points from 5 matches.

Mohammedan took the game to the opposition right from the word go as their Ghanaian forward Mustapha Ibrahim posed a constant threat in the opposition backline. It took only two minutes for the burly Ghanaian to break the Arambagh defence as he danced past a couple of players to drift into the box, but his

final shot went just wide of the target.

After a few more positive movements, Ibrahim provided his compatriot Morrison with a perfect cross from inside the box in the 16th minute. Ibrahim's cross took a slight deflection off an Arambagh defender and looped nicely for Morrison who headed in, giving no chance to the Arambagh keeper Mitul Hasan to react. This was the sixth goal for the goal-poacher in Black and White stripes, which puts him top of the goal-scoring chart. Morrison should have made it his seventh some seven minutes later, when Ibrahim delivered a minus from the same position for Morrison, but the tall forward this time failed to keep his shot on target, with the goal agape.

Arambagh imposed some authority in the second half and the closest they came to equalising was in the 70th minute, when a sudden counter-attack found Idris Kasirye and Khalid Ahmed close to the Mohammedan

box. The two players played one-two between themselves as they advanced into the box, but took a little too much time, allowing a host of Mohammedan defenders to pounce on them. Khalid's shot in the end was easily intercepted by a Mohammedan defender and the danger was cleared. Mohammedan goalscorer Morrison put the ball at the back of the Arambagh net again in the 73rd minute, but this time he was rightly flagged offside. Mohammedan held their fort comfortably for the rest of the time to eke out a 1-0 win.

The defeat for Arambagh meant they stayed on 3 points from four matches and were joined by Feni Soccer Club, who defeated fallen giants Brothers Union 2-1 at the Bhasha Shaheed Salam Stadium in Feni.

Striker Touhidul Islam scored in the 28th minute while forward Akter Hossain Riddon doubled the lead in

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A tiny tot performs during a speed skating competition organised by the Roller Skating Federation to mark the 41st Victory Day at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

BCB election demanded in a month

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh District and Divisional Sports Organizers Council (BDDSOC) has demanded election of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) within one month.

The BDDSOC took the decision unanimously during an Extraordinary General Meeting (AGM) attended by 55 general secretaries yesterday at the National Sports Council (NSC) conference room.

They also threatened that a strong movement will be launched if the election is not held within one month.

The organisation also sought Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and state minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarkar's intervention in the current crisis regarding the BCB.

Victory Day hockey on

SPORTS REPORTER

South East Bank Victory Day Hockey Competition took off at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. In the opening match, Hockey Federation XI, comprising national players, blanked Bangladesh Police 11-0 thanks to three goals each from Pushkor Khisha Mimo, Krishno Kumar, Moinul Islam Koushik and a brace from Russel Mahmud Jimmy.

Khorsheer Rahman powered BKSP to a 4-2 win over Bangladesh Navy, scoring all four of the goals. Shihab and Rabbani scored one apiece for Navy. Bangladesh Army edged out Bangladesh Navy 2-1 in the last match of the day.

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The Matrix at MCG!

ANI, Sydney

Cricket broadcasting is famous for its gizmos and tricks but the latest innovation to the Test summer, which would be rolled out at next week's Boxing Day Test at the MCG is a virtual Matrix-inspired 3D replay that will be part of Channel Nine's latest broadcasting gimmick for Australia's second Test against Sri Lanka.

Playing on the famous bullet-dodging scene, featuring Keanu Reeves, in The Matrix, the technology will allow the network's production crew to give viewers a slow-motion, rotational panoramic view of replayed moments, whether they be wickets, pull shots or mid-pitch confrontations.

The groundbreaking effect, which is made possible by combining the shots of the broadcaster's on-field cameras, was

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A HELICOPTER AND A CAMERA! A coptercam hovers over Melbourne's Docklands Stadium pitch before the start of the Big Bash League match between Melbourne Renegades and Brisbane Heat on Saturday. While use of cameras is nothing new in the sport of cricket, coptercam is the latest addition to an ever-expanding list of innovations.

PHOTO: INTERNET

5 franchisees sign deals

SPORTS REPORTER



A two-party agreement between the Bangladesh Premier League's (BPL) governing council and five out of the seven franchisees of the league was signed at the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) headquarters in Mirpur yesterday.

Member-secretary of the governing council, Dr IH Mallick, revealed this latest development but was unwilling to divulge any further details regarding the deal; those details will be revealed at a press conference that will take place upon the arrival from England of the board's president Nazmul Hassan Papon.

The deal represented the first 'official' agreement between the two parties. "It was a revised version of the proposal given to us before last year's BPL," said Salim Chowdhury, owner of Dhaka Gladiators.

As per the agreement the franchisees would continue paying their yearly fee for 12 years, after which the owners would have to pay a portion of their revenue to the council. "In my case, I'll have to pay 1.05 million dollars to the board every year for 12 years. After that period gets over I have to pay 20 per cent of our revenue to the board," said Chowdhury. "Before this agreement, most of the deals were made in good faith," he added.

Sameer Quader Chowdhury, owner of the Chittagong Kings also signed the agreement and the franchisee owner, similarly, has to pay a yearly fee of 1.2 million

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