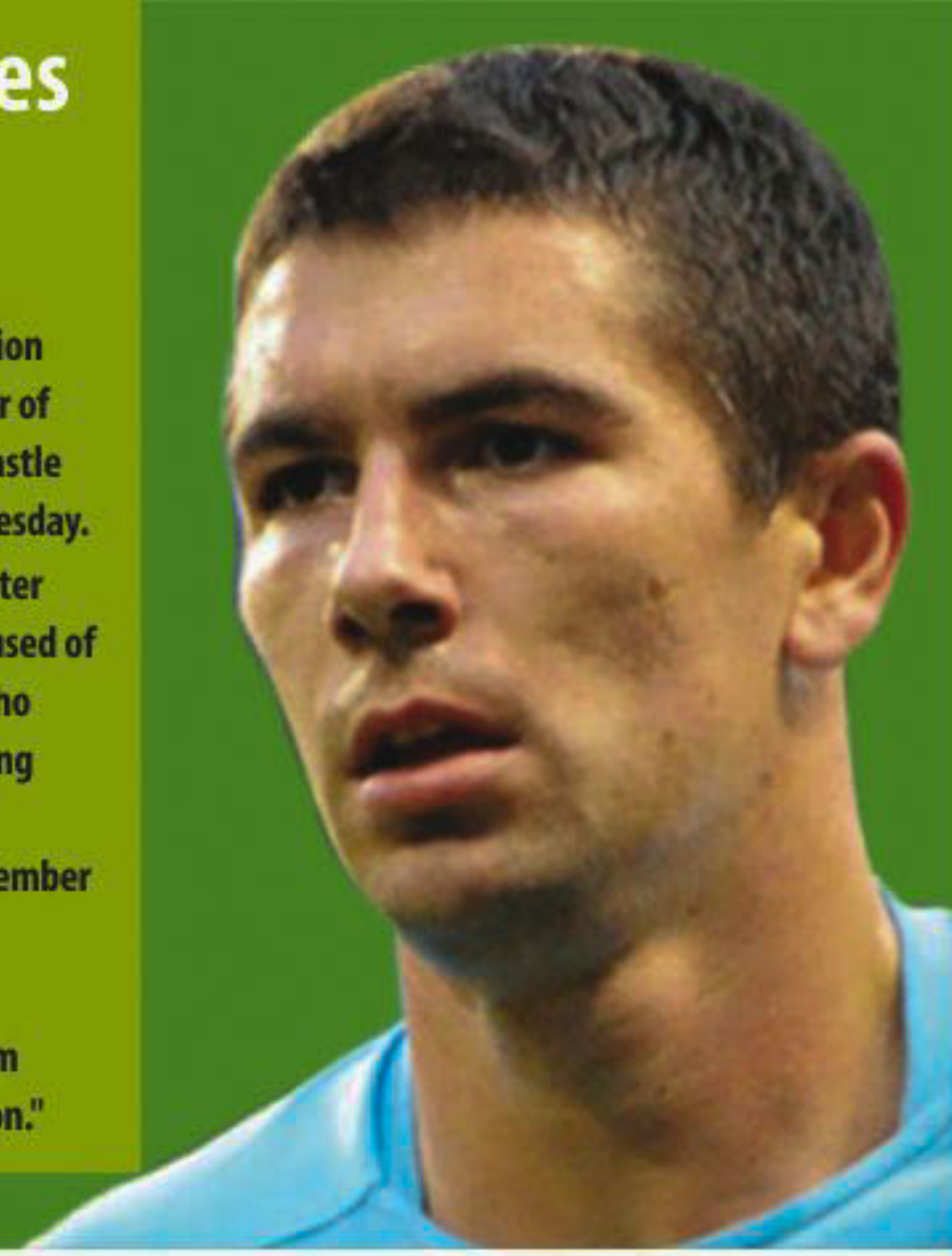


Star SPORT

WAKA FRIDAY JANUARY 11, 2013, E-MAIL: star@dailystar.net

Kolarov escapes racism claims

Manchester City's Serbian left-back Aleksandar Kolarov will face no action over claims he racially abused a pair of supporters during a game at Newcastle United, police announced on Wednesday. Police launched an investigation after the former Lazio defender was accused of getting into a row with two fans who were holding an Albanian flag during City's 3-1 Premier League win over Newcastle at St James' Park on December 15. However, a Northumbria Police spokeswoman said: "We can confirm there will be no further police action."



Kings snap up Tait

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahmudullah Riyad has been retained as captain of the Chittagong Kings for the second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 which will get underway from January 17.

The Kings got the approval from the BPL governing council to include Australian pace bowler Shaun Tait as a replacement for Pakistan's Saeed Anwar Jr, who was unavailable because of injury. Kings won the battle against Dhaka Gladiators and Duronto Rajshahi to include Tait in the squad.

And to bolster the squad, the sport city franchise also included in-form middle-order batsman Mehrab Hossain.

Chittagong Kings acquired Tait and Mehrab at their base prices of 75,000 dollars and 10,000 dollars respectively.

Meanwhile, defending champions Dhaka Gladiators confirmed yesterday that South African pacer Alfonso Thomas has been recruited. The 35-year old has replaced another Gladiators' foreign recruit, Sri Lanka's Lasith Malinga.

Thomas was bought at his base price of 75,000 dollars and will join the squad once he completes his services for the Big Bash League side Perth Scorchers.

Malinga was bought by the Gladiators from the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

A dazzling hundred by Tarek Ahmed powered Partex Sporting Club to a comfortable 79-run victory against City Club in the First Division Cricket League at BKSP yesterday.

Tarek hit 145 off 77 balls, an innings studded with 13 boundaries as Partex posted 240 for five in 29 overs. In reply City finished their 29-over quota for 161 for seven.

In the day's other matches, Uttara Sporting Club defeated Indira Road Krira Chakra by 40 runs at the Jahangirnagar University ground, Bangladesh Boys Club beat Biman by 34 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium and Kathalbagan Green Crescent Club registered a 37-run victory against Orient Sporting Club at the City Club ground.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PARTEX SPORTING CLUB:

240-5 in 29 overs (Tarek Ahmed 145, Rubel Karim 42; Sajjadul Hoq 2-33, Abdur Rashid 1-33, Shipon 1-35).

CITY CLUB:

161-7 in 29 overs (Mohaiminul Khan 27, Hasibul Hossain 23, Samiur Rahman 23; Nihaduzzaman 2-22, Jahangir Alam 2-23, Al-Imran 2-26).

Result:

Partex Sporting Club won by 79 runs.

UTTARA SPORTING CLUB:

178-6 in 33 overs (Habib Mobarleb 64, Ranik

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



BCB North Zone captain Mushfiqur Rahim plays a square-cut on the third day of the Bangladesh Cricket League match against Prime Bank South Zone at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Race for finals heat up

No more records at Bogra

SPORTS REPORTER



No further records were created through the mammoth batting efforts of Marshal Ayub and Mehrab Hossain during the third day's play of the third round of the Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

Left-arm spinner Nabil Samad trapped Mehrab in front to put an end to the record-breaking 494-run partnership, dashing the duo's hopes of eclipsing the record for the highest fifth wicket stand in first-class cricket currently held by the Indian pair of Ravindra Jadeja and Cheteshwar Pujara, who added 520 runs in their undefeated stand for Saurashtra in the Ranji Trophy in 2008.

Mehrab was dismissed for 218. It was however a frustrating finish to a great knock by

right-hander Marshal, who missed out on becoming only the second Bangladeshi to score a first-class triple hundred by just 11 runs.

Marshal Ayub and Mehrab Hossain fell short of all-time fifth-wicket record by 26 runs.

Central's final place all but confirmed.

South faced with big chase, but draw will be

The outstanding batting effort of the two batsmen helped Walton Central Zone to declare their innings on 655-7 against Islami Bank East Zone and all but confirmed their

place in the final of the inaugural edition of the country's second first-class competition.

At the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, BCB North Zone finished the third day's play in an advantageous position to make the final, but Soumya Sarker and Fazle Rabbi kept hopes alive for Prime Bank South Zone, who scored 84 for two in their second innings. South Zone still need 365 runs to win the match but a draw would be enough for them to qualify for the final.

WALTON CENTRAL ZONE v ISLAMI BANK EAST ZONE

A draw is the only realistic result in this match with East Zone replying solidly to Central's mammoth first innings. They rode on the in-form Nafis Iqbal's unbeaten 81 to finish the day on 161 for one.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

PREVIEW: CHITTAGONG KINGS

Balance key for Kings

SPORTS REPORTER

The Chittagong Kings did not exactly have the best of runs in the inaugural edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20. From being at the wrong end of last year's semifinal controversy to the franchise's rift with the port city's heartthrob Tamim Iqbal, things just did not click for Saber Quader Chowdhury and company.

This year, having built a team with a number of T20 specialists, the Kings will hope for a change of fortunes. The tide, it seems, is already changing as the Kings have received a boost in their pace attack as yesterday they managed to sign Australia fast bowler Shaun Tait, who was reportedly in high demand from two other franchises apart from the Kings.

KEY PLAYERS

The second most valuable player at the pre-tournament player auctions, Imran

Nazir, can make life difficult for any bowling attack on a given day. With no Nasir Jamshed or Tamim Iqbal to open the innings this year, Nazir seems to be the perfect replacement. Netherlands all-rounder Ryan Ten Doeschate can prove to be another good buy for the port city. His performance in the Indian Premier League and the HRV cup, over the years, shows that the player can be more than just handy. The big-hitting Jacob Oram, who usually bats down the order, has the ability to change the game under any scenario. Oram's T20 experience can be vital for the Kings.

STRONG POINT

Chittagong seem to have hit the right note with their bowling line-up. With Oram, Tait, Wahab Riaz and Rubel Hossain in the side, their pace attack has a good balance.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5



Mohammedan's Ghanaian recruit Osei Morison (R), who scored the lone goal for the winners, is under pressure from a Feni Soccer Club defender during their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

India need to regroup

ODI series against England starts today



AGENCIES, Rajkot

Their egos battered after the debacle against arch-foes Pakistan, India hardly have any time to reflect and plug the loopholes but an inexperienced England attack gives the hosts a slight edge in the five-match ODI series starting in Rajkot on Friday.

The 1-2 loss to Pakistan had exposed chinks in the Indian batting armour, forcing the selectors to omit off-colour opener Virender Sehwag

and replace him with in-form local hero Cheteshwar Pujara in the squad to take on England in the first three games.

The consolation victory over Pakistan in a low-scoring thriller in the final game in bitterly cold conditions was a desperately-needed shot in the arm for the Mahendra Singh Dhoni's men ahead of the rubber against England, which earlier whipped the hosts 2-1 in the four-game Test series.

England will again be led by their victorious Test skipper Alastair Cook

but their bowling attack, without the presence of several key Test bowlers, appears inexperienced and could be just the tonic needed by the bruised Indian batting line-up to get back into the groove.

Barring Dhoni, who scored a ton and a half ton in totalling 203 runs in the three games against Pakistan, it was a collective batting failure by the Indian top-order in which Suresh Raina, with a modest tally of 92 runs with 43 as his best score, emerged as the second-best batsman.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8

Sheikhs seek solo lead

SPORTS REPORTER



Title contenders Sheikh Jamal DC and Sheikh Russel KC will be vying for the solo lead in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League when they lock horns in today's crucial match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Both are in at the top of the nine-team table with Sheikh Jamal and Abahani leading the field with 16 points from six matches, just one point ahead of Sheikh Russel KC. An outright victory for either side will take them clear of joint leaders Abahani, who have played a match more than today's contestants.

Former champions Sheikh Jamal DC are the only unbeaten side in the league and have been consistent, posting two consecutive victories after dropping points in a goalless draw against Abahani. Federation Cup champions Sheikh Russel meanwhile have gradually been regaining their Federation Cup form and four successive victories since a 3-1 reversal against Mohammedan is ample evidence of their rise.

Sheikh Russel have been taking inspiration from their 2-1 triumph in the Federation Cup final over Sheikh Jamal as well as their league biggest 6-0 win over Arambagh KS in their previous match. The absence of winger Zahid Hossain is certainly

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1