

Sachin played hookey

As much as the runs he has scored, India master batsman Sachin Tendulkar is known for his dedication to practising his art. But it turns out that Tendulkar was not very different from an ordinary teenager, and he even used to bunk cricket practice!

"Teachers are very important in a person's life. I remember my cricket coach in particular. Ramakant sir (Ramakant Acharya) was always an inspiration. In fact, me and a few friends bunked practice a few times but he always used to ride his scooter to find and get us back," he said while speaking to children at NDTV's Coca Cola Support My School



UNSTOPPABLE: Sheikh Russel KC's Haitian playmaker Sony Norde (L) dazzles past a Team BJMC defender during their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Norde struck twice and set up the other two for his side's thrilling 4-3 win.

PHOTO: STAR

Sony rescues Russel

Team BJMC 3 : 4 Sk Russel

SPORTS REPORTER



Haitian playmaker Sony Norde scored two crucial goals and created two more as Sheikh Russel KC came from two goals down to beat Team BJMC 4-3 in a pulsating encounter of the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The 23-year old Haitian's exploits helped Sheikh Russel regain the lead in the table, albeit for two hours, with 22 points from nine matches. They were later overtaken by Abahani who handed a 2-0 defeat to Arambagh KS. Team BJMC meanwhile stayed at sixth position with 12 points.

The focus was on Sheikh Russel's old warrior Alamu Bukola, who returned to the fold yesterday after being bought in the mid-season transfer window. The Nigerian striker though could not provide the services his team needed, and Sheikh Russel had to turn to Sony for inspiration after going two goals down inside the first 15 minutes.

Eleta Kingsley gave BJMC the lead in

the fifth with a close range drive before Taklis Ahmed doubled the margin with a tap-in, nine minutes later.

Sheikh Russel slowly started to get their game right, with Sony spearheading the attack, and the Haitian twice came close to reducing the lead, only to be thwarted by BJMC goalkeeper Aminul Haque.

But his persistence paid off after the break as conjured up a wonderful goal in the 55th minute with a solo effort from a counter attack. Having received the ball from the midfield, Sony ran down the left towards the goal, and seeing BJMC goalkeeper Aminul Haque on that post, Sony cleverly swung the ball to find the back of net after hitting the far post.

Two minutes later, Sony drove a powerful shot from outside the box which Aminul could only manage to parry towards Zahid's path, who needed a simple tap-in.

Sony gave Sheikh Russel the lead in the 64th minute with a curling effort from outside the box on a short pass from Zahid which gave Aminul no chance to react.

The lead lasted only two minutes as Guinean striker Ismael Bangoura headed in a fierce-drive from Abul Hossain to bring BJMC back in the match.

But as the clock was ticking down,

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ASIAN ZONAL CHESS Winning start for BD

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi players made a good start in the Asian Zonal Chess Championship which started at the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo yesterday. National Champion GM Niaz Murshed, GM Ziaur Rahman, GM Reefat Bin Sattar and GM Enamul Hossain Rajib won their respective matches of first round against their Sri Lankan counterparts Priyankara Chamil, Kavinda Akhila, TSS Peiris and Thrimavitharana Ravin respectively.

In the women's section, national champion Shrimin Sultana Shirin and WIM Shamima Akter Liza won their respective matches too, against the host country's Senarath Kavindi and Jayathilake Mihirani respectively.

34 players from Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri

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Abahani stay on top

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Abahani 2 : 0 Arambagh; Muktijoddha 1 : 1 Brothers

SPORTS REPORTER



Defending champions Abahani maintained their lead in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League with a 2-0 win over Arambagh KS at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, thanks to a brace from Nigerian striker Lucky Paul.

The four-time champions went into this match being topped by Sheikh Russel earlier in the day, and needed nothing but a win to regain the top position. And they earned all the three points by dominating against a side they have won 12 times out of 12 in the professional football league.

The win took Abahani to 23 points from 10 matches while Arambagh remained one place above bottom-of-the-table Feni Soccer Club with six points from 10 matches.

Back to the game, Nigerian hitman Paul, playing his second match of the ongoing league, put Abahani ahead in the 39th minute with an angular shot from inside the box after capitalising on a through-pass from Shakhawat Hossain Rony.

Paul wrapped up the victory with his second goal nine minutes into the second half as he drove a Pranotosh Kumar through-pass home from the edge of the danger zone.

Away at the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj, Brothers Union held hosts Muktijoddha Sangsad to a 1-1 draw.

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BPL returns to Dhaka today

Game timings changed; 1st match at 3:30pm, 2nd 7:30pm

SPORTS REPORTER



Following a packed reception at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong, the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) returns to Dhaka today for its final leg at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. The timing of the rest of the matches of the competition has been rescheduled. The first game will now begin at 3:30 pm and the second game will begin at 7:30 pm.

The change, according to the BPL's governing council, was made to attract more spectators for the matches.

The battle for the all important fourth spot will take place between the Rangpur Riders and Duroto Rajshahi as the teams, both tied on six points each, will face off in the day's first match. The Riders, who lost their last game against league leaders Sylhet, will want to bounce back at the business end of the competition. They'll rely on Nasir Hossain, their top-scorer who has maintained an impressive batting average of close to 60 so far in the competition. Rajshahi on the other hand, rode

on a match-winning knock from Jaharul Islam to overcome the Barisal Burners by four wickets in their last game at Chittagong. They'll also hope that their most expensive player, Tamim Iqbal, hits form in the final leg of the tournament.

The evening match will witness a battle between the teams occupying the wrong end of the leader board with Barisal Burners taking on the Khulna Royal Bengals. Both the teams will look to make amends in their strategies and will want to make the last round count. Khulna, so far,

have won two matches and have heavily relied on their skipper Shahriar Nafees for both those wins. They may be at the bottom of the table, but their record-breaking stand of 197 against Rajshahi last month is proof enough of the team's capabilities.

Despite having a number of talented players in the side, Barisal haven't performed well as a team lately. Brad Hodge, who in this edition of the BPL became the first player ever to cross the 5000-run mark in T20 cricket, has been one of the few consistent batsman in the side. Young Sabbir Rahman with his aggressive batting style has impressed as well, but the team have frequently failed to reach the finish line and will hope for a change of fortunes.

Sylhet with 12 points in seven matches are currently at the top of the table. Dhaka have scored 10 points in seven games while Chittagong and Rangpur, with six points each are third and fourth respectively. The highest wicket-taker of the tournament so far is Shohag Gazi who has taken 12 wickets in 7 games. Zimbabwe's Brendan Taylor leads the runs column with 249 runs in 7 matches.

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Teams	Mat	Won	Lost	Tied	Pts
Sylhet	7	6	1	0	12
Dhaka	7	5	2	0	10
Chittagong	7	3	4	0	6
Rangpur	6	3	3	0	6
Rajshahi	7	3	4	0	6
Barisal	7	2	5	0	4

Steyn: aggressor on field, humble off it

Cricket

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Dale Steyn produced one of the fiercest spells of fast bowling seen to tear through the Pakistan batting and reduce the visitors to their lowest Test score, though the man himself considers he is just part of a nicely balanced attack.

Steyn bagged figures of six for eight as the Proteas dismissed Pakistan for 49 on Day Two of the first Test at the Wanderers on a wicket that although helpful to the seamers, was certainly no minefield.

It is the third time in two seasons South Africa have bowled another team out for under 50, a run of success last achieved by England 125 years ago.

South Africa also skittled Australia for 47 at Newlands in November 2011, and New Zealand for 45 at the same ground

last month.

The attack, led by Steyn, is drawing comparisons with the venomous West Indies pace battery of the 1970s and 1980s.

Pakistan coach Dav Whatmore said he had never seen such ferocity from fast bowlers as Steyn, Morne Morkel and Vernon Philander left his batsman unable to score runs and powerless to keep hold of their wickets.

Steyn's on-field persona is one of aggression, but off it he is a laid-back surfer who does not enjoy the attention.

"I just want to do well for my country and for the team, we are pushing to create something

really special," he told reporters. "When this team puts its mind to it, we feel like anything is achievable."

Although he refuses to be drawn on comparisons between himself and the West Indian and Australian fast bowlers of

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DALE STEYN



PHOTO: STAR

Shakib Al Hasan, a Dhaka Gladiator, leads his team out of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

Oshadee contract extended

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh women's cricket team coach Oshadee Weerasinghe received a six-month extension to his contract and will be coaching the side till July 16. The former Sri Lankan all-rounder was brought in on a six-month contract as the head coach of the women's side in July last year. The Sri Lankan, however, hasn't yet been given the notice to remain with the side for the T20 world cup which will take place in 2014.

The last six months under Weerasinghe witnessed the national side win against a number of sides including that of Ireland, South Africa and Sri Lanka. Apart from playing a competitive series against the South Africans at home, the women's team also reached the semifinals of the T20 Asia Cup, which took place at Guangzhou in October last year.

Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

A fine century by Arif Reza led City Club to a resounding 259-run victory over the Bangladesh Boys Club at the City Club Ground in the First Division Super League yesterday. Batting first, Reza propelled City to 334 for 9 in 50 overs. In reply, the Bangladesh Boys were bowled out for a paltry 75 runs. Monjur Rashid with four for 6 was the team's highest wicket taker.

In the day's other game, Indira Road Kriya Chakra defeated Orient Sporting Club by three wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Orient Sporting Club were bowled out for 167 after they elected to bat first. Indira Road reached their target with three

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