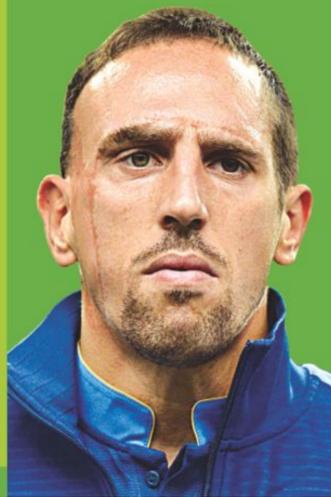


Star SPORT

DHAKA FRIDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2013, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Ribery dogged by angry fan

Franck Ribery was on Wednesday involved in a slanging match with an angry fan at Bayern Munich's training ground, the club said, amid reports that the player had been asked to look after the supporter's dog. The Bundesliga leaders said that the fan talked his way past security staff and into the team's dressing room in south Munich and the pair argued in French before the impostor was ejected and banned. The club contacted the police, who identified the fan as French from his



Clash of titans

Race to the Finals today

SPORTS REPORTER

The business end of the second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 starts today with the 'Race to the Final' match between the defending champions Dhaka Gladiators and the impressive Sylhet Royals at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

As per the new format, similar to that of the Indian Premier League (IPL), the winner of today's clash between the two top group-stage finishers will go to the final, which will take place at the same venue on February 19.

All however will not be lost for the losing team, as it will face the winners of the first semifinal between the third- and fourth-placed teams in the second semifinal on February 17. The first semifinal will be held on February 16.

Today's game is expected to be a high-octane encounter as both sides have shown their mettle in the tournament. There is little to separate the teams as they won one game each against one another in the league battles.

Gladiators will be bolstered by the arrival of two explosive West Indies cricketers in Chris Gayle and Kieron Pollard and their coach Ian Pont said that it would be interesting to see the revival of the battle between Gayle and Bangladesh and Sylhet Royals off-spinner Shohag Gazi, who had amazing success against the left-hander during the home series against West Indies in November-December last year.

"With those two players (Gayle and Pollard) coming in it is really great for our side. Chris Gayle is an amazing cricketer. His form has not been as he would wish but he loves Bangladesh. Last time he was here, I remember he went crazy at the crease and I think the Shohag Gazi-Gayle battle will be resumed tomorrow, which I guess will be interesting to see. And Pollard is on fire. He got a hundred against Australia and took three wickets in the last game, he is in fantastic form," said Pont, adding that Sylhet is a very good side as they have played good cricket under the leadership of Mushfiqur Rahim so far in the tournament.

Sylhet Royals coach Mohammad Salahuddin however was not ready to give too much attention to the opposition's new recruits and he was confident about his team's success against Gladiators in today's match.

"Without any doubt, these two West Indies players are very dangerous in the T20 format but we are not focusing too much on them; rather we want to play our normal

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



Cricketers Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (C), Shakib Al Hasan (2nd from R) and Mohammad Ashraful join the rest of the country in a candlelight vigil to express solidarity with the mass demand for death penalty to war criminals. The players lit the candles before the 2nd BPL T20 match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Barisal win it for Rajshahi

SPORTS REPORTER

An opening burst from Barisal Burners' Afghanistan pacer Hamid Hassan denied Rangpur Riders a semifinal berth in the second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) yesterday. But Barisal's 26-run victory served the purpose of Duronto Rajshahi, who -- equal on points from with Barisal and Rangpur -- qualified for the first semifinal against Chittagong Kings on February 16 by virtue of a better head-to-head record.

Rajshahi, Barisal and Rangpur completed their league mission with ten points each but Rajshahi has the most number of wins in the matches the trio played against each other -- they won three while Rangpur won two and Barisal won one. There were

no doubts over Rajshahi's qualification as per the bylaws but Barisal skipper Brad Hodge and Rangpur captain Abdur Razzak said after the match that they were not sure about who qualified for the semifinal, which brought back memories of the

semifinalists farce in the first edition.

Back to the match, the Rangpur bowlers created a good chance for the second edition's debutant franchise to make it to the knockout stage as Barisal were restricted to 139 for seven after deciding to bat first.

But Hamid Hassan dashed the hope, initiating an early collapse which led to Rangpur losing four wickets for 17 when they began their chase. Hamid started the carnage by removing Junaed Siddiqui with the fourth ball of the innings and then took the prize scalps of Shamsur Rahman, who has had a tremendous tournament, and Nasir Hossain.

Cameron Borgas and Danza Hyatt saved some face with a 47-run partnership, but it was too little as Rangpur folded for 113 in 20 overs.

Earlier, the Barisal innings was built on two knocks from Sri Lankan

SCORES IN BRIEF

BARISAL BURNERS: 139 for 7 (Hodge 19, Kapali 25, Mustard 18, Maharooof 34 not out, Sunny 30 not out, extras 8; O'Brien 2-31, Saju 3-23).

RANGPUR RIDERS: 113 all out in 20 overs (Borgas 32, Hyatt 25, O'Brien 29, extras 5; Hamid Hassan 3-22, Nazmul 2-19, Maharooof 2-30).

Result: Barisal Burners won by 26 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Hamid

Dhaka tune up well

SPORTS REPORTER

It was a perfect warm-up for Dhaka Gladiators before their 'Race to the Final' against Sylhet Royals today as the defending champions finished their league campaign with a 29-run victory over Chittagong Kings at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur last night.

Though the final league game bore no importance as both the teams had already confirmed their places in the final four, Shakib Al Hasan entertained the crowd most with a match-winning all-round performance. The left-hander's sparkling second half-century of the meet took the Gladiators to a fighting total of 168 for six after Sri Lankan Tillakaratne Dilshan had set the tone.

In reply, young Nurul Hasan (43 off 30 balls) along with

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

TOP FOUR

Team	M	W	L	T	Pts	Net RR
Sylhet Royals	12	9	3	0	18	+0.081
Dhaka Gladiators	12	9	3	0	18	+0.928
Chittagong Kings	12	6	6	0	12	+1.170
Duronto Rajshahi	12	5	7	0	10	-0.557

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

U-18 CRICKET

Ctg calling the shots in final

SPORTS REPORTER

A six-wicket haul by Ashfaq Ahmed Rohan put Chittagong Division on top against Khulna Division after the end of the second day's play of the Young Tigers U18 National Cricket Competition final at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi yesterday.

Rohan also shone with the bat, making 43 runs in the second innings as Chittagong stretched their lead to 167 runs with seven wickets in hand before stumps were drawn for the second day.

Chittagong took a 96-run first innings lead as Khulna were dismissed for 175 runs in reply to 271 runs. Rohan did the maximum damage, claiming six wickets for 26 runs while Shamrat Sajahan captured three wickets

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

MSC-BJMC split points

SPORTS REPORTER



A last-gasp strike from Osei Morison helped Mohammedan to a 1-1 draw against Team BJMC in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nigerian hitman Eleta Kingsley put BJMC ahead in the first half only to see his effort cancelled by Morison two minutes from time. The event was a repeat of their first meeting where BJMC

went ahead with a strike from Ismael Bangoura before Morison leveled the margin in the dying moments.

The outcome also helped both sides stick to their previous positions of the nine-team table with Mohammedan remaining fourth with 17 points from 12 matches while BJMC stayed behind Mohammedan with 16 points from 12 outings.

Mohammedan came into the game on the back of a morale boosting win over title contenders Sheikh Russel KC but the Black and Whites failed to keep their

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6



Team BJMC defender Obaidur (R) clears the ball before Mohammedan's Ghanaian forward Osei Morison could pose any threat during their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League match that ended in a 1-1 draw at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Dull draw again

SPORTS REPORTER

The Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League produced another barren result when Wari Club and Dhaka United Sports Club played out a goalless draw at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

It was the second draw in four matches in the second-tier professional football league.

BOA to host rickshaw fest

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association with the assistance of the Japan Embassy, Dhaka will hold a two-day Rickshaw Festival at the Manik Miah Avenue from March 15.

Rickshaw, the country's most used vehicle driven by human, is believed to be invented in Japan and Japan Embassy has taken

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

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