

MSC writing underdog story

SPORTS REPORTER



Former champions Mohammedan SC reached their third consecutive final of the Super Cup, outplaying Muktiyoddha Sangsad KC 2-0 in the second semifinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday thanks to two high quality goals.

In Tuesday's final, they will face treble-winners Sheikh Russel KC.

The Motijheel outfit, who finished lowly fifth in the league and exited from the semifinal stage of the both Federation Cup and Independence Cup, showed no signs of their recent troubles as they negotiated the group stages without

conceding a single goal.

The Black and Whites dominated play in yesterday's crucial encounter with Wahed and Mobarak linking up well upfront to decide the outcome. Mobarak was especially outstanding with his skill and darting runs through the right wing, which resulted in both the goals.

The first goal came in the stroke of half time when Mobarak danced into the box, outfoxed Muktiyoddha defender Prodip Barua before releasing an inch-perfect cross for Wahed Ahmed, who leaped high and headed powerfully, giving keeper Ziaur Rahman no chance to react.

Both sides had wasted an opportunity each before that goal, with Mohammedan skipper Rajani Kanta Barman failing to connect to a rolling free-kick and Muktiyoddha

midfielder Shamol Ahmed Rony heading wide on a corner.

A dull second half was lit up again by the brilliance of Mobarak on the hour. The son of former winger 'scooter Gafur', Mobarak showed his skill and vision to outsmart the Muktiyoddha keeper. Receiving a pass on the right side of the box, he darted into the box, and deftly, yet deliciously, chipped the ball over an out of position goalkeeper into the back of the net. The two goals gave Mohammedan a stranglehold on the game and thanks to the lack of bite from Muktiyoddha attackers, they held on to book a place in the final.

This was unthinkable before the tournament began, as the club was unwilling to even participate. Ravaged allegations of non-

payments against club-owners and counter-allegations of giving up a match by the players in the premier league, the side were expected to struggle. But Mobarak, as well as his teammates, have managed to silence their detractors with their performances.

"The club did not have faith on us, so we wanted to prove them wrong by performing as well as we could," said man-of-the-match Mobarak. "The credit is not only mine but the whole team. We have the unity and determination to do well in the Super Cup."

"The club owes each player at least one or two lakhs. The club has promised us to pay our dues if we reached the final, and we believe they will stay true to their word."



Mohammedan SC striker Wahed Ahmed (C) is the toast of his teammates after scoring the opening goal against Muktiyoddha Sangsad in the second semifinal of the Super Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

CITYCELL BASKETBALL

Europa keep winning

SPORTS REPORTER

Europa Youth thrashed Flame Boys by 111-64 points in their match of the Citycell Premier Division Basketball League at the Dhanmondi Indoor Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

The winners led the first half by 55-32 points. American recruits Eves and James scored highest 30 points each for the defending champions while Habib scored highest 16 points for Flame Boys.

Meanwhile in Friday night's matches, Europa Youth had defeated Rangers by 111-52 points while newly-promoted Old DOHS edged Bakshi Bazar by 72-64 points.



The onus is on Bhubaneswar

AFP, Birmingham

India will bank on young seamer Bhubaneswar Kumar to contain England's batsmen when the Champions Trophy one-day final is played at Edgbaston on Sunday.

The lean 23-year-old has made such rapid strides since his debut six months ago that captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni regularly hands him the new ball over the faster Umesh Yadav or the more experienced Ishant Sharma.

Kumar has justified his skipper's faith with his accuracy and ability to swing the ball both ways, helping the world champions reach the final as the only unbeaten team in the eight-nation Champions Trophy tournament.

Left-arm seamer Ravindra Jadeja may be India's leading bowler with 10 wickets in four matches, but the early breakthroughs provided by Kumar have left several opponents rattled.

Niaz finishes fourth

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Niaz Murshed finished fourth in the Dr. Nazrin Shah Invitational Masters Chess which concluded in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia yesterday. Niaz drew against IM Demakiling Oliver of Philippines in the last round to earn 5.5 points from 10 games. GM Tiviakov became champion with nine points and Luther Thomas of Germany became runner-up with 7.5 points.

THE FINALISTS' PERFORMANCE SO FAR

Team	Won/lost	Bat ave	Run rate	Bowl ave	Econ rate	100s/50s	100/50 p'ships
India	4/0	65.46	5.93	23.89	4.66	2/5	3/4
England	3/1	35.00	5.65	28.40	5.33	0/6	2/5

No one is a favourite

Dream England-India final today

AFP, Birmingham



Reigning World Cup holders India clash with hosts England in an intriguing Champions Trophy one-day final on Sunday that promises to be a thriller.

The sold-out game at Edgbaston will please organisers and fans alike as a finale to what has been billed as the last edition of the eight-nation tournament before it is replaced by a Test championship in 2017.

The final, worth 2 million dollars to the winners and 1 million to the runners-up, will be contested by teams who've justified their status as the top-ranked one-day sides in the world.

India, winners of the World Cup at home in 2011, proved worthy of their number one ranking by cruising to the final with four straight wins -- the last three by emphatic eight-wicket margins.

Second-ranked England, looking for their first major one-day title, made it to the final with three wins out of four, including a seven-wicket defeat of South Africa in the semifinal at The Oval in London.

Few would hazard to predict the outcome of the dream final between a young and ruthless Indian side and a typically gritty England in front of boisterous supporters from both sides.

If the weather holds -- light rain has been forecast for Sunday -- a classic contest is in store between India's batting firepower and the crafty seam and spin attack of the hosts.

Left-handed opener Shikhar Dhawan has taken the tournament by storm with 332 runs in four matches at an average of 110.66, making him the competition's leading scorer.

Dhawan's scores of 114, 102 not out, 48 and 68, which leave him a strong contender for the player of the tournament award, and

valuable opening stands with Rohit Sharma have boosted India at the top of the order.

Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja has been the pick of the bowlers with 10 wickets -- joint-second in the tournament with England spearhead James Anderson behind New Zealander Mitchell McClenaghan's 11 scalps.

Jadeja and fellow-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin have been backed admirably by the three-pronged seam attack of Ishant Sharma, Bhubneshwar Kumar and Umesh Yadav in containing opposition batsmen.

England, who begin an eagerly-anticipated Ashes series against Australia next month, will be desperate to bag a major one-day international title after suffering defeats in three World Cup finals in 1979, 1987 and 1992, as well as losing the 2004 Champions Trophy final to the West Indies at The Oval.

Their batting revolves around skipper Alastair Cook, Ian Bell and Jonathan Trott, who has answered critics of his perceived slow scoring in the ODI game by emerging as England's highest run-getter in the tournament with 209 runs.

But the hosts' hopes will rest on how well the brilliant Anderson and his new-ball partners, Stuart Broad and Steven Finn, are able to contain the Indian batting.

Off-spinner James Tredwell, whose three for 19 in seven overs wrecked South Africa in the semifinal and won him the man-of-the-match award, has ensured England do not miss the injured Graeme Swann.

England have lost eight of their last 10 one-day internationals against Dhoni's men, but all of them were on Indian soil.

When India last played in England in 2011, they were not only blanked 4-0 in the Test series, but lost the one-dayers 3-0. A World Cup game in Bangalore in 2011 between the two sides ended in a sensational tie.



Don't rush on Trott

AFP, Birmingham

Whether it's the care with which he scratches out his mark, or the way he builds an innings, England's Jonathan Trott is not a man to be rushed.

Yet for all his success, the speed with which Trott, a key figure in England's top-order for Sunday's Champions Trophy final against India at his Warwickshire home ground of Edgbaston, scores his runs remains a talking point.

The England number three's career one-day strike rate of 77 has been reckoned by some observers to be too slow for the demands of the modern game.

Yet England have made it clear they want the rest of the side to bat round 'anchor man' Trott who has been in fine form at the Champions Trophy.



NEWYWEDS Bangladesh cricketer Tamim Iqbal and his newlywed Ayesha Siddiqua are seen in full regalia during their wedding ceremony at the Chittagong Club yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Tamim now married

TANZIN CHOWDHURY, Chittagong

The most talked about big budget wedding of the country's dashing left-handed opener Tamim Iqbal Khan took off amidst much glitz and glamour in the port city of Chittagong yesterday.

The Tiger made a grand entrance at the Chittagong Club premises at around 10:30pm.

Dressed traditionally in sherwani and a turban, Tamim walked all the way from his home to the wedding venue accompanied by his borjatri of near and dear ones.

The entourage included eminent figures from the cricketing fraternity like

Tamim's brother Nafees Iqbal; his uncle and former national skipper Akram Khan; his uncle and BCB Director Sirajuddin Md Alamgir; former national captains Habibul Bashar, Khaled Masud, Minhajul Abedin Nannu; and commentator Atahar Ali Khan. The entourage also included an army of cricket fans on the streets and around the venue.

His bride Ayesha Siddiqua waited for him elegantly clad in a customised lehenga from India.

Primary and mass education minister Dr Afsarul Ameen and BNP vice-chairman Abdullah Al Noman were also present to bless the two on their wedding.

T20 WC HOSTING RIGHTS

Unnecessary panic

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon's sensational disclosure on Friday regarding problems with the hosting of next year's ICC World

Twenty20 has surprised all, including his colleagues in the board.

On condition of anonymity, many said that the BCB boss unnecessarily added another issue to an already formidable list of problems. These include the Anti-Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) report on match-fixing in the country, uncertainty over arranging the Dhaka Premier League, the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) non-payment issue and the slothful approach towards the preparation of big events like next year's Asia Cup and World Twenty20.

"We can't understand why he told it to the media. It's really embarrassing. There is no point highlighting the issue. He could discuss with the board members before going to public if he felt the issue is so serious. It is also not decent to make something public which is in the agenda of an ICC board meeting," said a member, adding that "It's ridiculous to say that we are in danger of losing the rights."

Many believed that this kind of mistake happened because of the president's go-alone policy. There have been previous occasions when the president had unilaterally decided to go to the press about certain issues.

Questions have also been asked about why the president has suddenly linked the issue of the Dhaka Premier Cricket League

with the ACSU report.

A board official informed that it is normal practice for the ICC to have an alternate venue lined up for any multinational event and the situation is not so dire that Bangladesh will lose the hosting rights for the mega event.

There have been concerns about the Sylhet Divisional Stadium but BCB's acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury said that the venue will get the approval when an ICC team visits in September.

"The ground is ready. The structure for media facilities is there and all the internal arrangements will be completed on time. The pavilion was the main concern for the ICC inspecting team but work for the four-storied pavilion has already started. The galleries are there. So we will be able to hand over the venues to the ICC by October as per ICC's deadline. We have a plan to arrange two international matches in the venue during New Zealand's tour to Bangladesh in October," informed Chowdhury.

A high-placed official from the National Sports Council (NSC) however had doubts about the handover of the Sylhet venue by October.

"We started working from June 10. We had to go through the various official formalities before starting the work and you all know how the government system works. They keep saying to finish it by October, but ultimately we think it will be done by November and the drainage system and some other works will be worked on after the World Cup," said the NSC official on condition of anonymity.

Siddikur at 22nd

SPORTS REPORTER



Siddikur Rahman fell one spot further to joint 22nd position after the third round of the Worldwide Holdings Selangor Masters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Bangladesh's premier golfer had an uneventful day at the challenging Seri Selangor Golf Club on Saturday as he traded one bogey for one birdie, going par in the sixteen other holes, ending the day at par-71. That took his aggregate score to one-over-par (214), having racked up 70 and 73 in the first and second rounds respectively.

Despite Siddikur's indifferent performance over the three rounds, he was only nine shots behind leader Pariya Junhasavasdikul of Thailand, who was on eight-under-par (205), due to the challenging nature of the course. Pariya hung on to his one-shot lead over Korea's Baek Seuk-hyun after shooting a level par 71 in the third round of the 400,000 dollar event. Like Siddikur, Pariya too is chasing his second Asian Tour title.

Siddikur began positively, finishing in tenth position in the first round. The second round proved to be his undoing when he fell to 21st position with a round of two-over-par. In his previous tournament Siddikur wasted a golden opportunity to win his second Asian Tour title at the Queen's Cup in Thailand by failing spectacularly after starting the last round in pole position.

Olympic Day Run observed

SPORT REPORTER

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) observed Olympic Day Run, a global programme of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), in the capital and divisional and district headquarters yesterday.

The run began early in the morning from Ramna National Tennis Complex and concluded at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Youth and Sports secretary Nur Mohammad inaugurated the run at the Ramna National Tennis Complex in the early morning which concluded at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

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Spot Interviews in Dhaka

By Mr. Satish Bisht, Recruitment Manager- South Asia.

Bring original and two sets of photocopies of academic documents.

Tuesday , 25 June ' 2013

10am-1.30pm

T P N L

Cell: 01833103125

info@tpnl.org

2.30pm-5.30pm

Shaheda Edu Consultants

Cell: 01819237567

ms.sahmad@gmail.com

Wednesday, 26 June ' 2013

10.30am-1.30pm

I E C C-Banani

Cell: 01762379512

study@iecc.co.uk

3.00pm - 6.00pm

Australian Education Service

Tel 02-9122938

australian.eduservice@gmail.com

Thursday , 27 June ' 2013, 2.30pm-5.30pm

I D P

Tel: 04478 667788 , infobd@idp.com