

## Mamunul show caused

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national football team's captain Mamunul Islam was recently served a show-cause notice due to alleged misbehaviour with an employee of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF). "We have served a show-cause notice to him (Mamunul) after the BFF Press Relations Officer submitted a written complaint alleging that Mamunul misbehaved and hurled abuses at him," said BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag, who issued the show-cause notice.

Shohag said that Mamunul expressed his sorrow for his misbehaviour but demanded an enquiry into the PRO's misbehaviour towards him.

## WGM Chess Rani tastes defeat

SPORTS REPORTER

Fresh from a win over Indian Raga Jyothsna in the first round, WIM Rani Hamid tasted defeat at the hands of Indian IM Vijayalakshmi Subbaraman in the second round of the WGM Chess tournament in Chennai, India yesterday.

WFM Zakia Sultana and Mahmuda Begum also suffered defeats in the second round but Mahmuda Haque Moly and Jahanara Haque Runu won their second-round games. All five Bangladeshi participants have now one point each from two games, said a press release yesterday.

## Agrani Bank youth hockey from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

Agrani Bank 24th National Youth Hockey Championship gets underway from tomorrow at two different venues with 21 teams fighting for the title.

The participating teams, divided into two venues and seven groups, will play round-robin league matches and the top team in each group will advance to the final round to be held in Dhaka.

Rangpur becoming one of the two venues marked the third occasion that a venue outside the capital has been selected in youth hockey history, while the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium will host the matches of nine teams.

Last edition's runners-up Rajshahi will face Natore in one of the three opening day matches at the Rangpur Stadium while hosts Rangpur, Rajshahi Division, Joypurhat, Panchagarh, Rangpur Division, Dinajpur and Noagaon will be playing in Rangpur from tomorrow.

Dhaka, Comilla, Feni, Faridpur, Satkhira, Patuakhali, Chittagong, Jessore, Kishoreganj, Sylhet, Narayanganj and Kushtia will be playing at Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium from November 11.

Meanwhile, champions BKSP are not participating in the championship as they are been playing in the Neheru Cup in India at the moment.

Agrani Bank will provide Tk 36 lakh for three years as title sponsors.



Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi (R) scores his second goal against AC Milan during their Champions League encounter at Nou Camp on Wednesday.

■ PHOTO: AFP

# Barca, Atletico thru'

AFP, Paris



Spanish duo Barcelona and Atletico Madrid became the latest sides to qualify for the Champions League last 16 on Wednesday as Arsenal gained revenge on Borussia Dortmund with a fine win in Germany.

Barcelona made it through to the knockout stage for the 10th consecutive season as they beat AC Milan 3-1 at the Camp Nou in Group H in what was the eighth meeting of the clubs in just over two years.

Lionel Messi - who had been criticised in some quarters for not scoring in three games since the 1-1 draw in Milan last month - scored twice for the Catalans, converting a first-half penalty and then combining with Cesc Fabregas to net a superb goal late on.

In between, Sergio Busquets also scored for the hosts while Gerard Pique turned a Kaka cross into his own net to give Milan hope.

The result, combined with Ajax's 1-0 home win against Celtic, means that

## RESULTS

**Chelsea (ENG) 3** (Eto'o 31, 54, Ba 83) Schalke (GER) 0  
Basel (SUI) 1 (Sio 90+1) Steaua Bucharest (ROM) 1 (Piovaccari 17)  
**Napoli (ITA) 3** (Inler 22, Higuain 24, 75) Marseille (FRA) 2 (A. Ayew 10, Thauvin 64)  
Borussia Dortmund (GER) 0 **Arsenal (ENG) 1** (Ramsey 62)  
**Atletico Madrid (ESP) 4** (Miranda 11, Raul Garcia 25, Filipe Luis 45, Diego Costa 82) Austria Vienna (AUT) 0  
Zenit Saint Petersburg (RUS) 1 (Hulk 28) Porto (POR) 1 (Lucho Gonzalez 23)  
**Ajax (NED) 1** (Schone 51) Celtic (SCO) 0  
**Barcelona (ESP) 3** (Messi 30-pen, 83, Busquets 40) AC Milan (ITA) 1 (Pique 45-o.g.)

Barcelona are five points clear at the top of the section and cannot now be denied a place in the top two with two games to come.

Meanwhile, Atletico are through to the knockout stages for the first time since 2008-09 after making it four wins

out of four in Group G to guarantee top spot.

Cholo Simeone's side outclassed Austria Vienna, winning 4-0 at the Vicente Calderon with Miranda, Raul Garcia and Filipe Luis scoring in the first half before Diego Costa - who had earlier had a penalty saved - scored his 16th of the season late on.

Behind Atletico, Zenit St Petersburg held on to second place by coming from behind to draw 1-1 with 2004 European champions Porto in Russia, Hulk scoring against his former side to cancel out Lucho Gonzalez's opener.

Hulk was a hero and a villain for Zenit, however, as he saw his second-half penalty saved.

Elsewhere Arsenal took a huge step towards the next phase with a fine 1-0 win away to Borussia Dortmund.

The Premier League side gained revenge for a 2-1 defeat when the sides met in London last month, soaking up plenty pressure and snatching a winner when in-form Aaron Ramsey scored his 11th of the season just after the hour mark in Germany.



Arsenal midfielder Aaron Ramsey celebrates his all-important goal against Borussia Dortmund during their Champions League clash in Dortmund on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Rampant Rambo

REUTERS, London



During the long hours in the gym as he fought his way back to fitness from a horrific leg injury, Arsenal midfielder Aaron Ramsey must have wondered whether he still had a future in football.

The February 2010 injury, when he shattered two bones in a tackle by Stoke City's Ryan Shawcross, was a distant memory on Thursday as England's media hailed the 22-year-old Welsh international as Arsenal's Champions League hero.

Ramsey's headed goal in the 62nd minute gave the Londoners an important 1-0 win over last season's runners-

up Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday, putting them firmly on the road towards qualification for the last 16.

Inevitably dubbed "Rampant Rambo" by the tabloids, Ramsey celebrated his 11th Arsenal goal in 17 games this season, equalling his entire scoring tally from his previous five seasons with the club.

"Where on earth would Arsenal be without him?" asked the Daily Mirror.

"Quite simply, the Welsh midfielder has taken everyone's breath away this season as he has been transformed into a world beater who last night stunned Borussia Dortmund in their own backyard."

While Dortmund tried to digest what coach Juergen Klopp called a

"nasty, vicious" defeat, Arsenal enjoyed the view from the top of Group F where they have nine points, equal with Napoli but ahead of the Italian side on goal difference.

A home victory against Olympique Marseille, who have yet to score a point, on Nov. 26 would all but clinch qualification for Arsenal whose domestic form has put them five points clear at the top of the Premier League.

Wednesday's win extended their unbeaten away record to 15 games and Ramsey, who has been at the club since joining from Cardiff City at the age of 17, was given much of the credit.

"Aaron Ramsey can do no wrong," said the Guardian. "Everything he touches turns to goals right now."

# Messi back scoring

AFP, Barcelona



Barcelona coach Gerardo Martino has said he never doubted that Lionel Messi would soon be back amongst the goals as the Argentine struck twice to put Barcelona into the last 16 of the Champions League with a 3-1 win over AC Milan.

Messi had failed to find the net for three consecutive games after scoring Barca's equaliser in the 1-1 draw between the sides in Italy two weeks ago.

But he ended his drought on Wednesday with a first-half penalty and then took his tally to six goals in just three Champions League appearances this season with a lovely dinked finish over Christian Abbiati seven minutes from time to seal the three points.

"I always saw him in the same way. Evidently, making comments about Leo when they are negative has its risks," said Martino.

"He played a phenomenal game. He had spark, speed, ability in one-on-ones, everything. He is one of the few players in the world that you have to be careful with when you see him in a bad light because he can turn everything around in three days and put in a performance like today."

Victory moved Barca onto 10 points after four games, five ahead of Milan with Ajax and Celtic one and two points further back respectively.

And with progress to the knockout stages assured, Martino wants to wrap up first place in the group when Barca visit Ajax in three weeks.

"To finish first is what we are looking for. Moreover, one begins to think, because there are no great surprises in the groups that the favourites will be the group win-

## Siddikur shares lead

ASIANTOUR.COM

Bangladesh golfer Siddikur Rahman fired a flawless six-under-par 66 to share the opening round lead at the Hero Indian Open yesterday after adopting a more attacking style of play.

Rahil Gangjee of India saved par on the last and was among the leaders which included Mardan Mamat of Singapore, winner of the 2004 Indian Open, Asian Tour rookie Carlos Pigem of Spain and Thai duo Pariya Junhasavasdikul and Chapchai Nirat.

Siddikur traded his conservative approach with a more attacking flair after playing and learning from Major champions Keegan Bradley and Bubba Watson at the CIMB Classic in Malaysia a fortnight ago.

A victory this week for the slightly built Bangladeshi will sweeten his impressive track record at the Delhi Golf Club where he has six top-10 results including two runner-up finishes since 2011.