



2015 WORLD CUP Scotland and BD in same group

CRICINFO

Preston Mommsen led Scotland into Group A for the 2015 World Cup, as his second century of the tournament secured an emphatic 41-run win over United Arab Emirates in the final of the qualifiers. UAE, who are the other team to make it to Australia and New Zealand, will join Group B.

Scotland join Afghanistan in Group A along with Australia, New Zealand, England, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh and get the benefit of a less tiring travel schedule. UAE will tussle with South Africa, India, Pakistan, West Indies, Zimbabwe and Ireland in Group B.

Gibraltar Chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Grandmaster Ziaur Rahman earned three points to share the third position along with 43 other players after the end of the 4th round of the Masters event of Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival in Gibraltar, yesterday. Zia drew his fourth round match against GM Sutovsky Emil of Israel.

Tigers mull changes

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh and Sri Lanka cricket teams reached Chittagong yesterday amid tight security to play the second Test of the two-match series, which will be followed by two T20 Internationals, at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

Smarting from a massive innings and 248-run defeat in the first Test at Mirpur, the Tigers will be looking for a major turnaround in the second Test starting from February 4, to prove to themselves that the first Test was just a minor blip in a period of growth going back one and a half years.

Mushfiqur Rahim's men must have learnt the lessons of their poor batting approach in the first Test, because of which they lost control of the game from as early as the first day. A new opener, Shamsur Rahman, was given a debut but the right-hander failed to impress. But the line of thinking in the team think-tank has been that it would be unwise to drop a batsman after just one bad performance. Set against that logic is the experience of the left-handed Imrul Kayes, who was once a regular in the Test setup. The management will have to decide whether it is the experience of Imrul they go with or whether Shamsur's promise will win the day.

A change in the bowling combination, which conceded 730 for six in the first Test, is likely. The team management is likely to go with their traditional spin-heavy attack instead of a three-pronged pace attack and in that case Mahmudullah Riyad may come into the team in the place of a pace bowler to bolster the batting line-up as well as the spin attack.

Our Chittagong correspondent added: the local administration provided the level-1 security to the visiting side Sri Lanka team as they reached Chittagong yesterday afternoon. The teams were escorted with heavy security on their way from the airport to Hotel Peninsula where special security measures have been taken.

"Level-1 security is being provided to the Sri Lankan team. We are giving the highest concentration in assuring security to Sri Lankan team in Chittagong," said Banaj Kumar Majumder, additional commissioner (crime and operation) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).



Bangladesh cricketers Imrul Kayes (R) and Shamsur Rahman arrive at the team hotel yesterday, ahead of Tuesday's second Test against Sri Lanka in Chittagong. The two openers will fight for the same spot as Shamsur failed to impress in the first Test.

PHOTO: STAR

18TH IFA SHIELD Sk Jamal take on Kolkata MSC today

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club will begin their campaign in the 118th IFA Shield in Kolkata today by taking on Kolkata Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Salt Lake Stadium.

The match will start at 6:45pm (Bangladesh time) and will be beamed live on satellite television channel Star Jalsha Movies.

The 2010 Premier League champions are expected to field six foreign players including the attacking trio of Sony Norde, Emeka Darlington and Wedson Anselme -- according to a club official. Regular skipper Mamunul Islam is not fit enough to take the field.

Sheikh Jamal have been pitted in Group B and were scheduled to take on Kolkata giants Mohun Bagan on Wednesday, but due to a delay in securing Indian visas, the Dhanmondi giants had to go to Kolkata on Thursday, forcing the organisers to reschedule the group fixtures of one of the oldest football tournaments of the world.

Their second match is on February 4 against United Sikkim, who drew 1-1 against Mohammedan on Thursday, and will take on Mohun Bagan in their last group phase match on February 6.

Giles likely to succeed Flower

AFP, Melbourne

England Cricket Board chairman Giles Clarke hinted Saturday that Ashley Giles would succeed Andy Flower as Test coach after the former Zimbabwe international quit following their Ashes whitewash.

Flower resigned on Friday to allow the team to rebuild after their disastrous tour of Australia, where they lost the Test series 5-0.

However, he is remaining a selector "for the time being", with British reports saying the decision to stand down was his alone and not prompted by the Ashes humiliation.

Flower had already ceded coaching control of England's one-day team to former England spinner Giles, and said he had come to the conclusion that a man in his position needed to be "responsible across all formats".

Clarke suggested Giles could take over all three formats, without putting a timeframe on any appointment.

Last month British press reports, denied by Flower, suggested he was not prepared to carry on as England coach so long as Kevin Pietersen remained in the team.

Pietersen has signalled he intends to keep playing international cricket until at least the 2015 Ashes, with a clearer indication of his future coming this week when England name their squad for the one-day series in West Indies and World Twenty20 in Bangladesh.

England play their final Twenty20 international in Sydney today.

Mohammedan leap to fifth

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan Sporting Club returned to winning ways and leapfrogged to fifth position in the Bangladesh Premier League table after a 2-0 victory over struggling Chittagong Abahani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The two-time Super Cup champions, who came into this match on the back of a defeat followed by two consecutive draws, took the lead in the 38th minute through Tawhidul Alam Sabuj before veteran national striker Zahid Hasan Emily sealed the fate of the match with a header in the 47th minute. The second win in seven matches took Mohammedan to 10 points, six behind leaders Abahani, who have played a match less than their arch-rivals.

In the first match of the day, promoted Uttar Baridhara held Feni Soccer to a 1-1 draw. Midfielder Shahidul Islam Shopon put Uttar Baridhara ahead in the 7th minute with an angular shot from the edge of the box, but the lead was cancelled on the half-

hour mark from Feni's Gambian defender Mathew Mendy's powerful left-footer from inside the box.

The draw left both sides in their previous positions, as Uttar Baridhara stay in eighth position of the ten-team table with six points from seven matches while Feni Soccer remain bottom of the pile with only three points from the same number of matches.

Meanwhile, Mohammedan were desperately looking for their second victory, having drawn four out of their previous six matches, winning one and losing the other. Their only win thus far had come against Team BJMC three matches ago and since then they had only bagged two points from three matches. Mohammedan did not play very convincing football, but were good enough to eke out two goals either side of the break.

Mohammedan coach Jose Rui Capela Batista was relieved to have bagged three precious points, having already dropped 11 points out of the maximum 18.

"I am satisfied with the win. We played good football for 40 minutes in the whole match and that was good enough for the victory," said the Portuguese.

Umar Akmal arrested

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan's middle-order batsman Umar Akmal was arrested Saturday for violating traffic rules, interfering in government work and "scuffling" with a traffic official.

Police said the 23-year-old Akmal, whose brothers Kamran and Adnan also play for Pakistan, did not stop at a traffic signal in the commercial Firdous market area in Lahore, and later engaged in a scuffle with a traffic warden.

"Three wardens tried to stop him after he violated a traffic signal but he did not. And when he finally stopped, he scuffled with a warden and tore his uniform," senior local police official Zahid Nawaz told reporters.

"Umar is under arrest and a case has been filed against him."



Bangladesh cricket superstar Shakib Al Hasan (R) is presented a bat after being announced as the new brand ambassador of telecom operator Banglalink by CEO Ziad Shatara in a press conference at a city hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Rajshahi ride on Taijul spin

SPORTS REPORTER



Young left-arm spinner Taijul Islam spun Rajshahi to a 93-run victory over Sylhet on the third day of the four-day National Cricket League match at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Chasing a 169-run winning target Sylhet were caught in the spin web of Taijul, who got six wickets to wrap up Sylhet's second innings for 75. Taijul returned with a 10-wicket match haul and also had a notable contribution with the bat to receive the man of the match award. Another left-arter, Saqlain Sajib, also made made substantial contributions by taking eight wickets to put Sylhet's left-arm spinner Enamul Haque's nine-wicket haul in the shade.

At the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi, Dhaka were on the brink of a victory against Rangpur. Following on in reply to a mammoth first innings total by Dhaka, Rangpur's tail-enders denied Dhaka an extra day of rest by taking the match to the final day.

At the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna, the hosts were in a comfortable

position after taking a 128-run lead with eight wickets in hand in the second innings against Barisal. Chittagong, meanwhile, need 253 more runs with eight wickets in hand on the final day against Dhaka Metro at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

KHULNA: 357 and 232-2 in 9 overs (Tushar 17 not out; Kamrul 2-18)
BARISAL: 252 all out in 84.1 overs (Nuruzzaman 51, Kamrul 63; Mashrafe 2-35, Rajibul 5-95)
DHAKA: 616 for 7 dec.
RANGPUR: 351 all out in 84.1 overs (Pappu 78, Ariful 64, Sajedul 61 not out; Shahadat 2-38, Sharif 3-49, Sabbir 3-47) and 190-7 in 39 overs (Saymon 61, Tanvir 43 not out, Ariful 34 not out; Shahadat 2-23, Sharif 3-45)
DHAKA METRO: 221 and 289 all out in 90.5 overs (Shohid 64; Aftab 4-28)
CHITTAGONG: 195 and 63-2 in 19 overs (Nafis 30 not out; Shohid 2-20)
RAJSHAH: 217 and 195 all out in 70.4 overs (Taijul 43, Forhad 37; Enamul 5-85)
SYLHET: 244 and 75 all out in 29 overs (Ejaz 26; Taijul 6-33, Saqlain 2-7)
Result: Rajshahi Division won by 93 runs.

Negre inaugurates school hockey

Makes assurances about astro-turf

SPORTS REPORTER

Leandro Negre, the president of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), yesterday inaugurated the First Security Islami Bank Limited National School Hockey Tournament through a colourful ceremony at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium. The nationwide school hockey tournament, first of its kind in Bangladesh, will be contested by 102 schools from all 64 districts of the country.

"We acknowledge that there are great possibilities in Bangladesh hockey and they have performed very well in the World Hockey League last year. This school tournament will add to the pace of development of hockey in this country. I can also say that the installation of the astro-turf (for which the Bangladesh Hockey Federation had approached the FIH a year ago) is



PHOTO: STAR

Leandro Negre (2nd R), the president of the International Hockey Federation (IHF) received a colourful welcome from school children as he inaugurated the First Security Islami Bank Limited National School Hockey Tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

almost a reality," said the world hockey governing body's chief after inaugurating the tournament.

The opening ceremony was pre-

ceded by speeches from chief guest Biren Shikher MP, state minister for youth and sports, president of the BHF Air Marshal Enamul Bari, Negre, man-

aging director of sponsors First Security Islami Bank AAM Zakaria and tournament committee chairman Mahfuzur Rahman. The colourful opening ceremony included a theme song by SI Tutul, display performance from the girls of Brishreshtha Abdur Rauf Girls' College followed by an exhibition match.

A total of 29 teams will qualify for the final round that will begin in the capital on 24 February. At the end of the tournament on March 7, 65 players will be selected for intensive higher training with a view to grooming them for the future.

Earlier in the day, Negre visited the Bangladesh Kriya Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP) in Savar, along with the managing director of the turf-providing company SIT, Stephen Niven and inspected the various facilities of the sports school.