

# 118TH IFA SHIELD

## Sk Jamal lose opener

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club began their 118th IFA Shield campaign on the wrong foot as they suffered a 1 - 2 defeat against Kolkata Mohammedan SC in the opening match at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata yesterday.

The Federation Cup champions of Bangladesh took the lead in the 41st minute through their inspirational Haitian striker Sony Norde, but second half strikes from Ashim Biswas and Josimar made sure the Black and Whites of Kolkata secured full points from the match.

The win lifted Mohammedan to the top of the table with six points from two matches, while Sheikh Jamal are at the bottom with zero points, along with United Sikkim who have no points from two matches. Mohun Bagan, the other side in the group have three points from one match after beating Sikkim 1-0 earlier in the day.

Sheikh Jamal took the field with a 4-3-3 formation, with Sony, Wedson Anselme and Emeka Darlington forming the attacking trident and filling the three-foreign player quota allowed for the tournament. Skipper Mamunul Islam played in his usual centre-of -midfield position while Ziaur Rahman stood under the bar.

According to an Indian football website,



SONY NORDE

Kolkata Mohammedan put some early pressure but Sheikh Jamal weathered that onslaught and earned two successive corners in the first ten minutes, but both the set-pieces went in vain as the strikers failed to capitalise on the chances. Midfielder Shohel Rana was unlucky as his shot rattled the upright in the 14th minute.

The 2010 Bangladesh Premier League champions intensified their attack and Sony saw his goal-bound effort cleared by a Mohammedan defender. The Haitian hitman though gave Sheikh Jamal the lead in the 41st minute with a dipping shot from 25 yards out.

After resumption, Mohammedan upped the ante and earned a penalty in the 48th minute, but the spot-kick from their Brazilian forward Josimar was saved by Ziaur.

However, Mohammedan's persistent pressure paid off as Ashim unleashed a bicycle kick from inside the box to level the margin in the 58th minute. The five-time IFA Shield champions ensured their victory when Josimar made amends for his earlier mistake by dinking the ball over onrushing Ziaur to snatch the winner in the 85th minute.

Sheikh Jamal will now have an uphill task as they will need to win both their matches against Sikkim United (Tuesday) and Muhan Bagan (Thursday) to ensure their semifinal berth.

## Akmal released on bail

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan cricket star Umar Akmal was released on bail Sunday, a day after his arrest for violating traffic rules and scuffling with a policeman.

The 23-year-old was charged with interfering with government work and "scuffling" with the policeman after he failed to stop at a traffic signal and refused to show documents on Saturday.

Traffic policeman Mohammad Zeeshan accused Akmal of tearing his uniform and assaulting him, charges the batsman denied.

Akmal's lawyer said the court allowed bail in the sum of 100,000 rupees (around 950 dollars).

"Akmal's bail has been confirmed," lawyer Wasim Mumtaz told reporters outside the court. "We will register our protest as Akmal was kept under unlawful detention."

A visibly upset Akmal later told reporters he had tried his best to comply with the law.



Liverpool striker Daniel Sturridge celebrates scoring the opening goal against West Bromwich Albion at the Hawthorns yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Seedorf remains unbeaten

REUTERS, Rome

Clarence Seedorf maintained his unbeaten start as AC Milan coach with an entertaining 1-1 Serie A draw against a flamboyant Torino at the San Siro on Saturday.

Milan came back from a poor start to draw level through Adil Rami's deflected long-range strike five minutes into the second period, but failed to snatch a winner to stay in ninth place on 29 points, four behind Inter Milan in fifth.

"I'm very happy because it's come at a pretty complicated time for me, after four or five months without playing," Rami told reporters after scoring his first goal in Italy.

French international Rami agreed in October to sign for Milan on loan from Valencia in the January transfer window but asked the La Liga club to be immediately allowed to train with the Italian club.

## Australia's clean sweep

AFP, Sydney

England's sorry tour of Australia finally ended with a whimper Sunday -- a crushing 84-run defeat to give the hosts a clean sweep of the three-game Twenty20 series.

The Australians, with man-of-the-match George Bailey smashing an unbeaten 49 off 20 balls, scored 195 for six after winning the toss in Sydney.

The home side then dismissed the psychologically-scared tourists for 111 in the 18th over to sweep the series.

It completed a disastrous 103-day tour for England, who lost the Ashes Tests 5-0 and the one-day international series 4-1, meaning Australia won 12-1 across the three formats.

In between the losses, the international careers of spinner Graeme Swann and coach Andy Flower have been ended.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**AUSTRALIA:** 195 for 6 in 20 overs (White 41, Finch 30, Cutting 29, Bailey 49 not out, Wade 19 not out; Broad 3-30)

**ENGLAND:** 111 all out in 17.2 overs (Morgan 34, Bresnan 14, Jordan 10 not out; Coulter-Nile 2-21, Maxwell 2-31, Muirhead 2-13)

**Result:** Australia won by 84 runs and clinched 3-match series 3-0.

**Player-of-the-match:** George Bailey.

## Corinthians fans invade training

REUTERS

Around 100 furious Corinthians fans, armed with sticks and iron bars, invaded their team's training ground in Saturday, demanding to speak to the players about the 5-1 mid-week defeat by Santos, the club said.

Started club directors considered calling off Sunday's match against Ponte Preta before declaring that it would go ahead, and said that employees were attacked and robbed during the invasion.

Photographs showed the fans, many of them shirtless and some hooded, forcing their way into the training ground in Sao Paulo after making a hole in the fence, just as the team were about to start a practice session.

Brazilian media reported that the players fled to their dressing room and locked themselves in before police reinforcements arrived and negotiated with the supporters for two hours.

Coach Mano Menezes agreed to hold a meeting with five representatives of the supporters.

## El Cashico tonight

AFP, Manchester



Manchester City's status as Premier League title favourites will pass beneath an unforgiving microscope tonight when Jose Mourinho's Chelsea travel north for a seismic clash at the Etihad Stadium.

City moved to the top of the table after crushing Tottenham Hotspur 5-1 on Wednesday and having already plundered 115 goals in all competitions this season, they are widely seen as the country's outstanding team.

With a run of five consecutive league victories, Chelsea had been keeping pace, but a frustrating 0-0 draw at home to West Ham United in mid-week saw them fall three points behind their rivals.

Mourinho has lauded City as clear title favourites in recent weeks, but with Monday's match drawing closer, he has started to fire off some characteristically pernicious barbs.

The Chelsea manager dismissed Tottenham manager Tim Sherwood's claim that City were the best team on the planet and went on to allege that Manuel Pellegrini's side were benefiting from favourable officiating.

Spurs, Newcastle United and Liverpool have all had goals disallowed for offside in recent losses to City and Mourinho said: "They are lucky. The reality is they have many crucial decisions in their favour."

While Mourinho has repeatedly drawn a distinction between his supposedly embryonic team and Pellegrini's "finished prod-

uct", Chelsea beat City 2-1 when they met at Stamford Bridge in October.

City are a vastly different prospect on home turf, however, having won all 11 of their league matches at the Etihad, where they score goals at a rate of close to four per game.

Manchester United, Everton, Tottenham, Arsenal and Liverpool are among the teams to have been ruthlessly dispatched in front of City's fans, for an aggregate winning margin of 21-6.

While Mourinho's tactics tend to be more cautious, Pellegrini refuses to criticise the approach taken by the man who succeeded him as manager of Real Madrid in 2010.

Chelsea's chances of victory appear to have been enhanced by the news that City's top scorer, Sergio Aguero, will miss the game after sustaining a hamstring problem during the victory at Spurs.

However, Alvaro Negredo is fit again after a shoulder injury, while fellow striker Edin Dzeko has scored seven goals in his last six appearances.

Pellegrini can also now call upon Montenegro international Stevan Jovetic, who claimed his first Premier League goal at Spurs after an injury-plagued start to his time in England.

Aguero joins midfielders Samir Nasri and Javi Garcia on the sidelines, but James Milner could feature after overcoming a groin problem.

Chelsea, meanwhile, could hand a debut to 21-year-old Egyptian winger Mohamed Salah, who completed an £11 million (\$18 million, 13.2 million euros) move from Swiss side Basel last weekend.

## Anichebe holds Liverpool

AFP, West Bromwich



Victor Anichebe came off the bench to rescue a point for West Bromwich Albion as they hit back to draw 1-1 with Liverpool in the Premier League on Sunday.

Former Everton striker Anichebe capitalised on a mistake by Liverpool defender Kole Toure in the 67th minute, three minutes after he had been introduced, to cancel out Daniel Sturridge's first-half opener.

The result left Albion a point above the relegation places, while fourth-place Liverpool's lead over Merseyside rivals Everton is now only two points following the Toffees' 2-1 defeat of Aston Villa on Saturday.

West Brom manager Pepe Mel made five changes to the team beaten 4-3 by Aston Villa in the mid-week derby.

Right-back Billy Jones, centre-back Gareth McAuley, midfielder Zoltan Gera and forwards Saido Berahino and Matej Vydra came into the side for Steven Reid, Diego Lugano, James Morrison, Nicolas Anelka and Anichebe.

Liverpool's starting line-up was unchanged from the 4-0 Merseyside derby victory over Everton, with midfielder Joe Allen fit enough for a place on the bench.

Brendan Rodgers's side enjoyed the bulk of the possession early on but it was Albion who carved out the first chance when Youssef Mulumbu struck a low angled shot from 18 yards that was blocked by

Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard.

However, Liverpool seized control of the contest with the opening goal in the 24th minute as strike partners Luis Suarez and Sturridge combined to devastating effect.

Raheem Sterling's pass found Suarez inside the penalty area and the Uruguay international jinked his way through the hosts' defence before crossing for Sturridge, who was left with a simple tap-in at the back post.

West Brom's players appealed to referee Kevin Friend for offside but television replays suggested that Jones had been level with Sturridge when Suarez crossed.

Liverpool could have doubled their lead from a Philippe Coutinho corner a few minutes later after a scramble inside the six-yard box, but Toure could only shoot straight at Albion goalkeeper Ben Foster.

West Brom were dealt a blow in the 41st minute when defender Jonas Olsson limped out injured and was replaced by Lugano.

The hosts could have been on level terms going into the break, though, when Gera found space to shoot just outside the area, only to screw his effort wide of Simon Mignolet's goal.

Liverpool were punished for their profligacy in the 67th minute after Toure's mistake allowed Albion to equalise.

The Ivorian passed the ball across the edge of the penalty area and Anichebe was alert enough to intercept before emphatically striking a low shot past Mignolet and into the bottom-left corner of the net.

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