



PHOTO: STAR

Mohammedan striker Wahed Ahmed celebrates his decisive goal against Abahani in the Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## KFC WOMEN'S FOOTBALL M'singh, N'ganj win zonal crown

SPORTS REPORTER

Mymensingh and Narayanganj emerged zonal champions to reach the final round of the KFC National Women's Football (Super League) yesterday.

Mymensingh beat Rajshahi by 5-0 goals in the final match of Padma zone at the Rajshahi Muktiyoddha Stadium while Narayanganj crushed Khagrchari 7-0 at the Luxmipur Stadium yesterday.

At the Dinajpur Stadium, Rangpur crushed Lalmonirhat 11-0 while at Kushtia Stadium, Khulna beat Magura by 2-0 goals.

## Niaz shares third position

SPORTS REPORTER

Grandmaster Niaz Murshed shared the third position along with two other players after the eighth round of the Capablanca Chess Festival in Pretoria, South Africa on Saturday.

Niaz drew his eighth round game against IM Emojong Elijah of Uganda to secure 4.5 points.

# MSC outsmart Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan bagged three crucial points when they handed archrivals Abahani a single-goal defeat in their Nitol Tata Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Striker Wahed Ahmed struck the all-important goal three minutes before the break to provide his side their second successive win over their archrivals, after the 1-0 win in the semifinal of the Independence Cup last month. The win also brought back the Black and Whites in the title race as they consolidated their position in third with 23 points, just two behind Abahani and eight adrift of leaders Sheikh Jamal DC.

However, it was the Sky Blues who put on a commanding performance right from the word go and yielded at least three scoring chances within the first 10 minutes but midfielder Shahedul Alam and Portuguese winger Leonildo Soares incredibly squandered those opportunities.

Shahed's effort in the third minute floated over the cross-piece while seven minutes

later, Soares saw his diving header sail over. Abahani kept on pressing and the Mohammedan backline seemed to be in trouble with tall defender Obam Henry playing in unusual defen-

sive midfielder's role. Abahani once again came close to taking the lead again in the 14th minute when Soares put a nice low cross from the right flank but defender Arup Kumar's

timely intervention meant Mohammedan remained unscathed.

The Black and Whites, who adopted a counter-attacking strategy in absence of two key players -- Zahid Hossain and Damien Chigozie -- however went close twice but were denied by the Abahani backline.

However, the scenario changed completely in the 42nd minute when Wahed struck his third goal in three successive matches with a well-judged chip. The 21-year-old striker received a lob from Portuguese forward Hardy Pinto and entered the box before dinking it over the advancing Abahani goalkeeper Shahidul Alam, who got a faint touch on the ball but could not stop it from ending at the back of the net.

After conceding the lead, Abahani broke down and could hardly produce any chances. On the contrary, Mohammedan looked the stronger side and defended their lead manfully. Mohammedan's Portuguese coach Jose Rui Rui Capela sent on defender Nahidul Islam in place of winger Towhidul Alam Sabuz, and the fortified backline held on for three valuable points.

## 'Strategy switch paid off'

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan SC once again came out successful with their defensive strategy against archrivals Abahani, which also kept alive their slim hopes of winning an elusive Bangladesh Premier League title.

The Independence Cup champions looked under the cosh against their archrivals Abahani, but took the lead against the run of the play and the single-goal lead was well defended, thanks to a smart switch of strategy.

"Initially we went for attacking football with the formation of 3-2-4-1 but we soon shifted to our previous strategy of going for counter-attacks in the face of several attacks from the opposition," said Wahed. "The decision to shift strategy paid off as we controlled the match in the second half."

"I had also struck in our 2-0 win over Abahani two years ago (fifth edition of the league in 2012) but this time the team won with my single goal and it is a great feeling for me," said the lad from Sylhet.

However, Abahani's Iranian coach Ali Akbar Pourmoslemi was not too optimistic about his side's title chances.

"If Sheikh Jamal does not drop points in future, it will be difficult to close the gap but I can say that our boys will be trying to secure as many point as possible," said Akbar, who blamed his strikers for not taking at least a 2-0 lead in the first half.

## Sharapova sails, Kvitova crawls

AFP, Madrid

Four-time Grand Slam champion Maria Sharapova made light work of the Czech Republic's Klara Koukalova to ease into the second round of the Madrid Open 6-1, 6-2 on Sunday.

Sharapova claimed her first title of the year in Stuttgart two weeks ago and continued her return to form after a difficult start to the year to seal victory in little over an hour.

Last year's finalist in Madrid will next face unseeded American Christina McHale in the second round.

It was a more difficult afternoon for fifth seed Petra Kvitova as she need a final set tie-break to overcome Romanian Sorana Cirstea 6-1, 5-7, 7-6(7/4).

The former Wimbledon champion looked well on course for the second round after racing through the opening set, but was then broken four times in the second as the world number 27 levelled the match.

Elsewhere, 11th seed Ana Ivanovic overcame Madison Keys in straight sets 6-1, 7-6 (7/4).

## North on track to topple Central

SPORTS REPORTER



Nasir Hossain-led North Zone are on it's way to overtake leaders Central Zone after they took a strong hold of their game against the latter on the second day of the Bangladesh Cricket League at the BKSP yesterday.

Mahmudullah Riyad's Central currently top the group with 31 points and are one point ahead of North Zone. With the third-placed South Zone just 13 points away, Central need to avoid a follow-on and thereby earn bonus points to grab at least the second position and book a place in the finals of the competition.

Carrying on from an overnight score of 287 for 4, North zone rode on a series of contributions from their lower order to post 457. In form batsmen Tanvir Haider and Forhad Reza shared an 81-run stand for the sixth wicket and helped his side recover after both Naeem Islam and Nasir Hossain were dismissed early yesterday.

In reply, Central finished on a nervous 116 for 3, still trailing by 341 runs. Shamsur, who remained not out on 35, will be Central's key hope of booking a place in the finals, due to take place at Mirpur later this month.

In the other game at the BKSP, East Zone put up a better batting display in their second innings to give them some hope of a possible come back in the game. After getting bowled out for 135 in the first innings, East Zone's Enamul Haque took a five-wicket haul to bowl South Zone out for 376. Youngsters Mithun Ali and Soumya Sarkar scored half centuries at the top to lead South Zone's batting. Spinner Shohag Gazi came in at number nine and scored a typically aggressive 64 off 55 balls to inflict more pain over their opponents.

East Zone now trail by a 103 runs.

**NORTH ZONE:** 457 all out in 149.2 overs (Forhad 109, Tanvir 66; Elias 4-111)  
**CENTRAL ZONE:** 116 for 3 (Shamsur 34; Taijul 2-25, Forhad 1-9)  
**EAST ZONE:** 135 and 138 for 1 (Shadman 56 not out, Liton 47 not out; Gazi 1-41)  
**SOUTH ZONE:** 376 all out in 90.3 overs (Mithun 77, Soumya 71; Enamul 5-126, Mosaddek 3-65)

## Nadal down after defeats

AFP, Madrid

World number one Rafael Nadal admitted shock defeats to David Ferrer and Nicolas Almagro in recent weeks have shaken his confidence as he looks to defend his Madrid Masters title this week.

The 13-time Grand Slam champion has appeared almost unbeatable once he hits the red clay of Europe in recent years, but comes into Madrid having lost at the Monte Carlo Masters for only the third time in his career and for the first time at the Barcelona Open since 2003.

"Losing always creates doubts, anyone who tells you the opposite is lying," he said on Sunday.

"There is no benefit in losing. The easiest thing is to keep winning because everything comes naturally without thinking."

"When you lose you think more about where to move on the court, where to hit the ball, but that is what has happened and as I have said various times you cannot win in Monte Carlo or Barcelona 12 times.

"To lose twice in the quarterfinals is normal. Perhaps what has been abnormal is what has happened in recent years."

# URUGUAY 1930

## Stabile, the fleeting wonder

World football's first great scoring hero, Argentina's Guillermo Stabile left an indelible mark on World Cup history by finishing as top scorer at Uruguay 1930, having scored a remarkable eight goals in four games.

The record of the fast, scoring centre-forward, who could have been an Olympic sprinter but chose soccer, was not bettered for 24 years.

As with every great legend, there are plenty of juicy anecdotes concerning Stabile. Not only did he arrive in Uruguay as a replacement, he had never even donned Argentina's famous blue and white strip before.

Stabile, a modest 1.68m tall, was nicknamed El Filtrador ('The creeper') on account of his ability to infiltrate powerful opposition defences using his low centre of gravity. Other attributes included his blistering acceleration and dazzling natural pace. It comes as no surprise then that he started his career in athletics and clocked up a personal best of 11 seconds in the 100 metres - quite a feat in those days.

First-choice striker Roberto Cherro kept Stabile on the bench in Argentina's opening match at Uruguay 1930 and the Huracan marksman could not have had the slightest inkling of the role he would play during the next four games as



PHOTO: STAR PHOTO ARCHIVES

Argentina's Guillermo Stabile scored eight goals in four matches during the 1930 FIFA World Cup in Uruguay.

the spearhead of the Argentine attack.

Cherro suffered an anxiety attack before their second game of the tournament and allowed Stabile to step forward for what proved to be a dream debut. On 19 July, Argentina served up a 6-3 drubbing to Mexico and El Filtrador netted a hatrick.

On the crest of a wave, Stabile went on to register again as Argentina won

their final group game, beating Chile 2-1. He added two more to his tally in the 6-1 win over United States in the semifinal to set up a meeting in the final against the hosts, where he scored one but Argentina lost 2-4.

At least Stabile could console himself with the title of tournament top scorer, achieving an impressive average of two goals per game. Little did he know, however, that he would never again wear the Argentina national shirt. After his exploits in Uruguay, he tried his luck in Italy, joining Genoa. And just to prove that his FIFA World Cup performances had been no flash in the pan, he celebrated his debut in Europe by chalking up a hatrick against Italian league leaders Bologna.

Stabile ended his playing career in the Parisian suburbs at Red Star, a club run for many a year by Jules Rimet, the architect of the FIFA World Cup. After hanging up his boots, he stayed in football as manager of his former club Huracan and also Racing Club of Buenos Aires, while at the same time coaching the Argentina national side to repeated successes.

Between 1939 and 1960, he won the Copa America six times and managed the Albicelestes for 127 games. Later appointed director of Argentina's coach training school, Stabile died in late December 1966 at the age of 60.

# BCB's time to right the wrong

SPORTS REPORTER



While a number of issues will be on the agenda at the Bangladesh Cricket Board's headquarters in the board meeting today afternoon, none will top the discussion between BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon and coach Shane Jurgensen regarding the latter's resignation.

The president is scheduled to meet Jurgensen at 11:30 before going on to meet his board of directors.

While the word around Mirpur is that the Australian is unlikely to reverse his decision, the BCB is likely to make one last attempt to clear the air with the 38-year-old. Jurgensen tendered his resignation last week following reports in the media quoting an anonymous BCB director that the board, understandably disappointed with the Tigers' performance in the Asia Cup and the ICC World T20, was looking for a new coach.

BCB directors, Jalal Yunus and Akram Khan had described the decision as 'emotional' and stated that there was no official move to send Jurgensen out. The president had earlier told The Daily Star that, while he would not force Jurgensen to stay, he would reassert the fact that there was no official decision taken. He then criticised the board director's move to make such statements to the media.

There has been plenty said regarding the Australian's resignation in the past week. Some BCB officials have said that the Australian should not have resigned based on mere media reports while a few others reckon that it's time to bring on a local coach.

However, a majority of the board are for keeping Jurgensen until his contract ends in 2015. The president himself had stated that it would be 'difficult' to find a head coach for Bangladesh with the World Cup just nine months away.

Speaking on anonymity, a board director told The Daily Star that he believed keeping Jurgensen would be 'the best possible solution' to the problem.

"At this point of time keeping Jurgensen will be the best possible solution for Bangladesh's cricket. There are just nine months remaining for the World Cup and it's not the best of ideas to name an interim local coach for the biggest ICC event."

"The other aspect here is that, whether he stays or not, the separation between the coach and the BCB should be done in a peaceful manner so that the board's image is not hurt," he said.

From the recent events that have taken place, it is quite obvious that the BCB is not in the position that they wanted to be nine months before a mega event. Apart from Jurgensen, Richard McInnes and David Dwyer, two other vital members of their staff resigned in April and at the moment it seems the BCB is in a thick soup.

The manner in which the entire scenario was handled by the cricket operations chairman Akram Khan can also be questioned in this case. Instead of taking a more pro-active role and trying to get to the bottom of why the Australian resigned, the former Bangladesh captain merely described it as an 'emotional' decision and left the verdict to the president.

Jurgensen in his resignation letter had said that he could work with the national team until the India series in June. However, with the three-match ODI series still not confirmed, if the Australian sticks to his decision, he might as well leave without another international game.

And if that happens, the board will have to literally rebuild its entire team management from scratch, a programme that the BCB can ill afford at this crucial juncture.

## IOC hails Gay ban

AFP, Colorado Springs

US sprint star Tyson Gay's one-year doping ban has been welcomed by the International Olympic Committee.

Gay received the ban from the US Anti-Doping Association (USADA) on Friday and returned his 2012 London Olympics silver medal to the US Olympic Committee.

USADA announced that the 31-year-old American had tested positive for a banned anabolic steroid in two random out-of-competition tests and one event doping test in urine samples taken last year by both USADA and the world governing body IAAF.

An IOC statement on Saturday said: "The IOC welcomes the decision taken by USADA following the confession of Tyson Gay. We note the athlete accepted responsibility for his actions and returned the medal from the London Olympic Games."

"The IOC supports clean athletes and defends the integrity of sport against those who cheat."

Gay accepted a one-year period of ineligibility that began on June 23 of last year, the day his sample was collected at the US Outdoor Track and Field Championships.