

Wahed brace saves MSC blushes

SPORTS REPORTER

A late brace from striker Wahed Ahmed helped Mohammedan SC salvage a 2-2 draw after being two goals down against Team BJMC in the Nitol Tata Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Despite not having hitman Zahid Hasan Emily, who was serving a one-match suspension, Mohammedan created huge pressure on BJMC from the outset but conceded a lead against the run of play. Guinean hitman Ismael Bangoura ran down the left to play a low cross for Shapan inside the box and the unmarked midfielder made no mistake in tapping it in to put BJMC ahead in the 25th minute. Nabib Nawaj Jibon then placed a Samson Ilias square-pass home to double the margin for BJMC in the 56th minute.

After going down, Mohammedan created a couple of chances as substitute defender Ariful Islam whipped a lob inside the box that came off the post to Wahed, who headed the follow-up home to make it 2-1 on the hour mark.

At the halfway mark of the second half, Mohammedan appeared to have found the equaliser but the referee ruled it out as in the build-up to the goal the ball crossed the touchline. Some angry Mohammedan supporters entered the playing arena and play was halted for a few minutes before police intervened.

Mohammedan finally found the equaliser three minutes into stoppage time of the second half with Wahed heading substitute Manik's corner home to save the Black and White from their sixth defeat. Third-placed Mohammedan now have 36 points from 21 matches while seventh-placed BJMC have 21 from as many matches.



Spain's world number one Rafael Nadal celebrates after beating Czech Republic's Lukas Rosol in the second round of the Wimbledon Championships at the All England Tennis Club in London yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Kamal ascends to ICC presidency

SPORTS REPORTER

Former president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) AHM Mostafa Kamal yesterday became the first Bangladeshi to take over the reigns of the ICC's presidential role. Kamal, who was vice-president from 2012 to 2014,

succeeded Alan Isaac and by doing so became the 11th president of the International Cricket Council. The announcement was made during the ICC's Annual Conference in Melbourne yesterday.

An ICC press release quoting Kamal, also the planning minister of the government of Bangladesh, stated: "This is a memorable and historic day for Bangladesh cricket. On this day 14 years ago, Bangladesh became the 10th Test playing country. Today, a Bangladeshi becomes the 11th President of the International Cricket Council. Thank you for bestowing this honour on Bangladesh and me.

"Over the next 12 months, I look forward to working with the ICC Board and ICC Management, and will be delighted to contribute in any way I can. In Mr Srinivasan and David Richardson, I have absolute trust and confidence that we have a combination that will not only strengthen our sport, but will also take this great organisation to a new level."

The wide-scale changes in the ICC's constitution however, have made the position of the president largely a

ceremonial one. As per the recent changes, a majority of the important functions of the ICC will be handled by representatives of India, Australia and England, popularly known as the 'big three' of the ICC.

The approval of the constitutional changes, which stemmed from an ICC Board resolution taken in Singapore on February 8 and finalised on April 10, also meant that a new Executive Committee – which will report to the ICC Board – was formed.

The initial chair of the Executive Committee will be Cricket Australia's chairman Wally Edwards, while the chair of ICC's Finance and Commercial Affairs Committee (F&CA) will continue to be England and Wales Cricket Board chairman Giles Clarke.

From 2016, the ICC Board, which will continue to be the primary decision-making body, will elect the ICC Chairman for a two-year term.

Current BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon conveyed his congratulations to his predecessor. "Today is a momentous occasion because for the

first time we have a Bangladeshi as ICC President. This is an honour for the nation. On behalf of the BCB I extend our very best wishes to Mr Kamal.

"He is a man of cricket and his affection for the game is undying. I am sure the ICC, Bangladesh and the global cricket fraternity would benefit from Mr Kamal's enterprise and dedication," said Papon.



Rafa, Federer sail into Round 3

AFP, London

Seven-time champion Roger Federer breezed into the Wimbledon third round on Thursday with a 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 win over Luxembourg qualifier Gilles Muller.

In the day's other game Rafael Nadal avenged his shock 2012 Wimbledon defeat to Lukas Rosol on Thursday with a tense and hard-fought 4-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-4, 6-4 win over the big-hitting Czech.

Federer will go on to face either 30th-seeded Marcel Granollers of Spain or Santiago Giraldo of Colombia for a place in the last 16.

Federer, seeded fourth, completed his match under the Centre Court roof after rain brought an early halt to play on the outside courts.

Federer sent down 25 aces and won 91 percent of the points on his first serve. He completed the game in an hour and 31 minutes.

"It is nice to get those aces and those wins like that. But I'd better keep working hard."

World number one Nadal won the hard way as he dropped the first set and then trailed 2-4 in the second before having to save a set point in the tiebreaker.

But the 2008 and 2010 champion, who lost in the first round to Steve Darcis in 2013, wrapped up a place in the third round for the first time since 2011 on a third match point.

His mighty roar and extravagant fist pump at the moment of victory, which shook Centre Court to the core, spoke volumes as the hurt and humiliation of two years ago was finally vanquished.

Five-time women's champion Serena Williams handed South Africa's Chanelle Scheepers a 49-minute thrashing to race into the third round with a 6-1, 6-1 victory.

Top seed Williams next faces French 25th seed Alize Cornet.

The 32-year-old American, a 17-time Grand Slam champion, overwhelmed Scheepers with 26 winners, compared to five from the world number 94, and eight aces.

Serb 11th seed Ana Ivanovic defeated China's Zheng Jie 6-4, 6-0 to avenge her defeat of four years ago.

A few weeks after capturing her lone Grand Slam title at the 2008 French Open, and in her first tournament as world number one, Ivanovic fell to Zheng in straight sets in the third round of Wimbledon.

Zheng went on to become the first Chinese to reach a Grand Slam semi-final.

Later Thursday, seven-time champion Roger Federer takes on 31-year-old Luxembourg qualifier Gilles Muller while Australian Open champion Stan Wawrinka, the fifth seed, was facing Lu Yen-Hsun of Taiwan who made the quarter-finals in 2010.

No end

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been a fantastic strike pairing with Sergio Aguero has been confounded by the latter's frequent injury troubles -- he went off in the 38th minute against Nigeria and was subsequently ruled out of the tournament.

With the Albiceleste conceding three goals against Bosnia & Herzegovina and Nigeria, the signs are not brightest for when they come up against tougher opposition in the coming days.

From Ghana and back

The twists and turns keep coming. Hours before their crucial match against Portugal, which the latter need to win by a big margin, Ghana sent home their two star midfielders Sulley Muntari and Kevin-Prince Boateng for reportedly assaulting a federation official and verbally abusing a coach, respectively. A day earlier, Ghana players refused to train because of a payment row with their federation. While this may give Cristiano Ronaldo's team a glimmer, it serves to remind us that even in the glitz and glamour of the greatest show on the earth, there are some teams for whom all is not well back home. And that is one of the reasons why this tournament is so important, especially for them. With the group stages drawing to a close, many of the smaller teams will head back, but they should do so in the knowledge that they made Brazil 2014 a richer event.

Aguero

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father of Diego Maradona's first grandson.

Argentina next play in Sao Paulo on July 1, a last 16 knockout game against Switzerland. Fellow strikers Ezequiel Lavezzi or Rodrigo Palacio could take Aguero's

Srini new ICC chairman

AFP, Melbourne

Suspended Indian cricket chief N Srinivasan was on Thursday appointed as the new ICC chairman at the world body's annual conference.

The powerful 69-year-old industrialist was elected despite being suspended by India's Supreme Court as the country's cricket chief after being named in a damning report into corruption allegations in the Indian Premier League.

Srinivasan was nominated by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for global cricket's top position and will take charge following the ICC Annual Conference in Melbourne this weekend.

"It is an honour to be confirmed as the chairman of the International Cricket Council," Srinivasan said.

"I will leave no stone unturned in trying to strengthen the pillars and foundations of our sport, both on and off the field. I want to ensure that cricket retains and grows its popularity, and that the ICC plays a leading role in this global growth."

He added: "I want to see more strong teams in international cricket. For this to be achieved, we all need to work hard to develop local talent in our countries."

Srinivasan was among 13 people named in a report into corruption claims in the Indian Premier League Twenty20 competition, which has been embroiled in allegations of illegal betting and spot-fixing, including against his son-in-law.

Srinivasan said that rather than being suspended, he had voluntarily stepped aside as BCCI chairman.

"I've done nothing wrong, my conscience is very clear and there is no taint on me," Srinivasan told a media conference as his appointment was announced.

Srinivasan's ascension to the head of the ICC follows controversial changes last February to the governance of the global body, which handed the majority of the powers and revenue to the sport's "big three" nations -- India, Australia and England.

Algeria make history

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while, at the other end, Ki Sung-yueng had a rasping long-range shot well saved by keeper Thibaut Courtois. Belgium coach Marc Wilmots made seven changes from the team that beat Russia, with captain Vincent Kompany and fellow defender Thomas Vermaelen dropping out due to slight injuries, while playmaker Eden Hazard started on the bench.

The Belgians are considered "dark horses" by many pundits to go all the way in Brazil after their star-studded squad went through World Cup qualifying unbeaten.

But they looked far from fluent in their group games, coming from behind late to edge Algeria 2-1, beating Russia through Origi's 88th-minute goal and only just edging past the Koreans.

Away at Curitiba, Islam Slimani headed an ecstatic Algeria into the last 16 of the World Cup for the first time with a 1-1 draw against Russia that dumped Fabio Capello's team out of the tournament.

On a momentous night for the North Africans, who were the last team through to the knockout rounds with Belgium already qualified as Group H leaders, Algeria recovered from an early Alexander Kokorin goal to advance.

The point, in a tense match at the Baixada Arena with everything still at stake and 2018 hosts Russia needing a win to go through at Algeria's expense, was all the 'Desert Foxes' needed to make history.

The draw was all they deserved but it came after an early setback, with Kokorin meeting a beautifully-flighted Dmitry Kombarov cross to nod in a perfectly-executed header in the sixth minute.

Algeria, whose Bosnian-born coach Vahid Halilhodzic had called the match the most important in the country's soccer history, rarely threatened in the first half and looked a shadow of the side who thumped four goals past the Koreans.

Slimani had an effort tipped over the bar by goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev in the 30th minute but the linesman had already flagged for offside and Algeria's other tame attempts had Halilhodzic gesticulating furiously on the touchline.

It all changed in the second half, though, with Algeria looking far sharper before the goal and then resisting the pressure.

Slimani seized his chance in the 60th minute with a powerful header at the near post from a Yacine Brahimi free kick that Akinfeev failed to reach.

Capello had made just one change to the side who lost 1-0 to Belgium, handing a first start of the tournament to veteran striker Alexander Kerzhakov in place of Maxim Kanunnikov but the goals failed to flow.

Suarez punished

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Uruguayan officials had previously insisted there was not enough evidence to take action against him.

Suarez bit Chiellini during Uruguay's 1-0 win over Italy in World Cup Group D on Tuesday.

The referee did not immediately see the incident but FIFA ordered an inquiry straight after the match following protests by Chiellini, who claimed he was bitten and who showed off teeth marks on his shoulder. Images of the bite spread on the internet.

Suarez had initially shrugged off the incident. "These are just things that happen out on the pitch. It was just the two of us inside the area and he bumped into me with his shoulder," Suarez told Uruguayan television.

Suarez was dubbed 'the cannibal of Ajax' after he bit PSV Eindhoven's Otman Bakkal

shoulder in a Dutch league game in November 2010. Suarez was later handed a seven game ban.

In April 2013, he bit Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic's on the arm in a Premier League match. He was given a 10 game suspension for that offence.

The Uruguayan has also been in trouble over on the field comments. He hurled racial abuse at Manchester United's Patrice Evra during a Premier League game in October 2011.

The English FA banned him for eight matches and fined him 40,000 pounds. He refused to shake hands with Evra when the two teams met later that season.

His ban will run until the end of October, meaning he would miss around two months of the 2014/15 Premier League season.

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