



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Action from yesterday's Asian Games football's Group B match between Bangladesh and Uzbekistan at the Ansan Wa Stadium in Incheon.

# Booters lose, face uphill battle

ANISUR RAHMAN from Incheon



After their creditable lone goal victory against Afghanistan, Bangladesh went into their second group B game of the 17th Asian Games in the football discipline against a vastly superior Uzbekistan side with an ambition to enforce a draw at the Ansan Wa Stadium in Incheon yesterday. But the U-23 booters suffered the same fate against the same opposition, a 3-0 defeat, the same result they managed at the Guangzhou Asiad four years ago. The defeat not only doused the high adrenaline that has been pumping around after the Afghan victory, but also decimated Bangladesh's chances of a maiden passage into the next round, which at the moment looks like a battle between Uzbekistan and Hong Kong, with both having four points from two games. Hong Kong beat

Afghanistan 2-1 in another game which means Bangladesh will have to defeat Hong Kong in their final group league game to claim a place in the second round. Bangladesh, placed 170th in the FIFA Rankings, employed as many men as possible in defence to keep 51st ranked Uzbekistan at bay. But the skilful Uzbeks sealed a victory even before the game reached the halfway mark with goals in the 14th, 21st, and 34th minutes. Uzbekistan, who never lost to Bangladesh at any level, enjoyed the freedom of going all out after Bangladesh's Dutch coach Lodewijk de Kruif drafted five men in the backline keeping only Toklish Ahmed up front. The ploy was to avail the opportunity in counter attack but it hardly worked against Uzbekistan, who looked desperate after their disappointing 1-1 draw against Hong Kong. The speedy Uzbekistan players used the left flank to build their attacks and successfully cracked the

Bangladesh defence on a number of occasions. The lead in the 14th minute however raised the question of whether it was a 'fair play'. With Uzbekistan striker Vadimir Kozak lying inside the Bangladesh D-box, the confused Bangladesh players stood their ground anticipating Davronbek Khashimov, who was galloping down the left flank, would pay heed to their calls for sending the ball out. But Khashimov did not stop and whipped a cross for a lurking Vokhid Shodiev, who was denied twice before, to stab the ball into the net from close range. The goal broke the hearts of some 100 Bangladeshi spectators, most of them students and businessmen who were rooting for their beloved team. The goal from Uzbekistan shattered Bangladesh's confidence. It took another seven minutes for the Uzbeks to double the lead through yet another attack down the left with Sardor Rashidov releasing an inch-perfect cross for an unmarked

Vokhid, who nodded the ball home from inside the box. Uzbekistan kept on attacking and made it 3-0 with Sardor Rashidov beating Bangladesh goalkeeper Liton with an impressive side volley off a low free-kick from Fozil Musaev in the 34th minute. Bangladesh, who were busy defending their goal throughout the one-sided game, could muster only one shot on target when Hemanta let loose a 25-yarder, but the Uzbek goalkeeper Eldorbek Suyunov did not face any trouble in gripping it in the 43rd minute. After resumption, the margin could have been bigger in the face of constant waves of attacks from Uzbekistan if goalkeeper Liton was not brilliant under the posts. BANGLADESH Rasel Mahmud Liton, Yeamin Munna, Rayhan Hasan, Yeasin Khan, Kesto Kumar Tapu Barman, Shohel Rana, Jamal Hossain, Mamunul Islam, Hemanta Vincent and Toklish Ahmed (Zahid Hasan).

## McCullum to testify against Cairns

IANS, Wellington

Brandon McCullum's lawyer says the New Zealand cricket captain is determined to give evidence about alleged match-fixing approaches from a former teammate, believed to be Chris Cairns. McCullum is currently caught in a legal battle, with a High Court injunction put out to stop a newspaper in New Zealand from publishing confidential information involving him and Kerry Schwalger, a mental skills coach, according to The New Zealand Herald. McCullum has been interviewed by the International Cricket Council's (ICC) anti-corruption unit and a leaked report revealed he claimed to have been approached for fixing matches by a former teammate, dubbed "Player X".

# Asian Games officially kick off today

ANISUR RAHMAN from Incheon

The 17th Asian Games formally kick off today as the opening ceremony of the second biggest multi-sports competition after the Olympics takes place at the new purpose-built Incheon Asian Main Stadium in this South Korean city with the slogan 'Diversity Shines Here'. The 78-minute gala ceremony will be telecast by TEN Sports from 3:00pm (Bangladesh time) from the Asiad Main Stadium, which has a floor area of 113,620 square metres and a crowd capacity of 62,818. Incheon is the third city of South Korea to stage the continental extravaganza after Seoul (in 1986) and Busan (in 2002) and the port city is ready to host 45 nations during the 16-day tournament at 49 different venues. Around 9,000 athletes will be competing for 437 gold medals while 200 million people worldwide are expected to watch the Games on television. The 2014 Incheon Asian Games Organising Committee (IAGOC) has strived to make these Games the most economically effective in history, which will be the stepping stone for Incheon's growth as a hub city in Asia and an occasion for all the Asians to celebrate peace and harmony. Despite lack of interest among Korean people and low ticket sales raising the prospect of swathes of empty seats at the venues, the organisers are confident the economic Games can put Incheon on the map as the city hopes to become an Asian financial hub, constructing 17 new venues and facilities including the 500-million-dollar Main Stadium. With just over 2 billion dollars spent, the Incheon Games are spending only one-tenth of what China spent on Guangzhou 2010 and is minuscule compared to the estimated 40 billion dollars and 50 billion dollars spent on the Beijing and Sochi Olympics respectively. "It will be a more economical and efficient Asiad than ever before and we hope that Asian Games in Incheon will be a role model for other countries seeking to host future Games," were the words from the chief organiser. The mascots of the Games are designed to resemble three spotted seal siblings -- Barame, Chumuro and Vichuon meaning wind, dance and light respectively in Korean -- in accordance with the theme of the main venue. The mascots have been chosen as symbolic figures to the future hopes of peace between South and North Koreans, according to organisers. The last Asian Games in Guangzhou had 42 sports to compete in but this time Incheon will have 36 sports, of which 28 are Olympic sports and eight -- baseball, bowling, cricket, kabaddi, karate, sepaktakraw, squash and wushu -- are non-Olympic sports while sports such as athletics, badminton, baseball, basketball, football, swimming, table tennis, and volleyball are expected to be the most popular at the Games. Of the 45 participating nations, Bangladesh will be participating in 13 disciplines -- cricket (men and women), football, hockey, kabaddi (men and women), shooting, gymnastics, archery, fencing, taekwondo, wushu, beach volleyball, golf and karate while Commonwealth Games silver medalist Abdullah Hel Baki will bear Bangladesh's national flag in the march-part of the opening ceremony where Korean pop superstar Psy, singer of the popular song Gangnam Style, will perform.

## Bravo fined for abusing Tigers

CRICINFO, St Lucia

Darren Bravo, the West Indies batsman, has been found guilty of a Level 1 breach of the ICC Code of Conduct for verbally offending the opposition batsmen during the fourth and final day's play in the second Test against Bangladesh in St Lucia. Bravo was found to have breached Article 2.1.8 of the code, which relates to "...Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that either: (a) is contrary to the spirit of the game; or (b) brings the game into disrepute. An ICC release stated that Bravo had been warned on several occasions not to approach and verbally offend the opposition batsmen and repeatedly failed to heed the umpires' instructions. Bravo disputed the offence and a formal hearing was then conducted by match referee Roshan Mahanama, with the charge having initially been brought by on-field umpires Steve Davis, Richard Illingworth, third umpire Marais Erasmus and fourth umpire Peter Nero. Mahanama found Bravo guilty and issued a fine of 30% of his match fee. "The umpires felt that the player's behaviour brought the game into disrepute and he was reminded of his responsibilities to extend respect at all times to both his opponent and to match officials," Mahanama said.

## 'Give us 5-10 yrs to reach there'

SPORTS REPORTER from Incheon



Coach Lodewijk de Kruif thinks Bangladesh may need five to 10 years to reach the level of football that was on display by Uzbekistan against his side in the Asian Games at the Ansan Wa Stadium here yesterday. De Kruif also praised Uzbekistan for the way they played against his charges and said that he would be happy if he was the coach of the Uzbekistan team. "The Uzbek team is a very good team and they are very organised. I was previously impressed with their performance in their match against Hong Kong. The first half was very difficult for us but in the second half we did better," said the Dutchman at the post match conference yesterday. "If you analysed the moments leading up to the first goal, the ball was on the side line and one of them [Uzbeks] got injured in the area when they scored. As a professional, it was an unfortunate goal because when referees do not blow the whistle, you have to continue the game but I won't blame them," said the Bangladesh coach. "When you concede two very easy goals against a very good opponent, it is very difficult to get your own goals. So for me, I have to coach them, keep them hundred per cent concentrated and keep them playing football at a good level. We can learn a lot from this match, we need five to 10 years to come to the rank of 52 or 53 on the FIFA rankings," said de Kruif adding that against Hong Kong they would go for a victory. Replying to a query, Uzbekistan coach Irdjalal Kasimov said, "We kept playing in line with the FIFA fair play policy and our first goal was not the decisive one in the match as we had scored two goals after." After having played a goalless game against Hong Kong in the first match, Uzbekistan pressed hard against Bangladesh to keep them in the race and the Uzbek coach said they would have shown the same character against Bangladesh even if they had won their previous match against Hong Kong.

## Li Na retiring?

AFP, Wuhan



China's two-time Grand Slam-winner Li Na is poised to retire, state media reported Thursday, in a move which would bring down the curtains on Asia's most successful tennis career. The sports channel of state-owned CNTV cited Li's agency, IMG, as saying the tennis star would hold a briefing on Sunday to announce the news but also said she might make an official announcement on Friday via social media. A separate report by CCTV-5, the sports channel of state broadcaster China Central Television, quoted unnamed insiders as saying Li, 32, will announce her retirement because of injuries on Friday. "According to insiders, Li Na will officially announce her retirement on September 19," CCTV-5 said on its verified microblog. "She is reportedly retiring because she is unable to continue competing due to her physical condition," it said. The broadcaster did not give any details about its sources. An employee at the Beijing office of IMG told AFP that Li's manager was in a meeting and unable to confirm. The world number six won the Australian Open in January but her season has been troubled by injury and she has been sidelined since late July with a knee problem. She was ranked a career-high second in the world after January's Grand Slam win,



but has slid down to sixth after missing a string of tournaments including the US Open. In July, Li also split with her influential coach Carlos Rodriguez. She initially planned to return at the inaugural WTA Wuhan Open, in her home city, which begins Sunday. The Beijing News reported that Wuhan Open officials had received a confirmation letter from Li dropping out of the tournament. Organisers however told AFP no letter was received and to their knowledge Li was still playing. A press conference has been arranged for Sunday in Wuhan, AFP understands. Li originally played badminton after being encouraged in the sport by her father who played professionally. However, she switched to tennis after being convinced by her childhood coach. She took a break in her career early on to study journalism at university only to return to tennis.

QUBEE™

Info 16296 from mobile devices www.qubee.com.bd

ব্যাপারটা খুবই QUBEE

More volume or speed for all QUBEE users

YOU HAVE TO বুঝতে ২০

Bitopi Leo Burnett/401/Qubee/2014