

DAY'S EVENT

NATIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE
(Four-Day Match, Day-2)
Khulna v Chittagong
Venue: BKSP 3
Rangpur v Dhaka Metro
Venue: BKSP 2
Sylhet v Barisal

Venue: SBNS
Dhaka v Rajshahi
Venue: KSOAS
Time: 10:00am

KAKA SCORES ON DEBUT

Brazilian Kaka's deflected goal off a free kick in stoppage time helped Orlando City salvage a 1-1 draw with New York City in a battle of Major League Soccer newcomers on Sunday. In his MLS debut, the former AC Milan and Real Madrid midfielder's shot from 25 yards in the 91st minute struck a New York defender before deflecting past goalkeeper Josh Saunders. Earlier, a well-placed goal by midfielder Mix Diskerud in the 76th minute gave New York the lead in front of a sellout crowd of more than 62,000 at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando.



Dhaka, Rangpur dominate

SPORTS REPORTER



The first day of the seventh round of the National Cricket League got underway yesterday with Dhaka and Rangpur dominating proceedings against Rajshahi and Dhaka Metro yesterday.

Dhaka scored 279 for 7 after winning the toss while Rangpur ended the day on 311 for the loss of 4 wickets.

Dhaka were 3 wickets down for only 43 runs before Shuvagata arrived to bat. He scored 111 before being bowled by Sanjamul who picked up 3 wickets.

On the other hand, Rangpur's decision to bat after winning the toss paid dividends as they managed to pile up 311 runs.

Liton opened the innings and scored a hundred before getting out for 107. Naeem Islam was not out for 64 at the end of the day's play.

In other matches, Chittagong's decision to bat first against Khulna backfired as they were bundled out for just 190 in 67.3 overs. Nafees Iqbal top scored with 97 while Mehedi took 4 wickets.

Khulna failed to capitalise as they lost 4 wickets for 54 runs at the end of day's play.

Things were similar for Barisal as they were put into bat by Sylhet.

Though Shahriar Nafees scored 90, Barisal's middle order collapsed as they were bundled out for 167 in just over 65 overs. Sadiqur picked up 4 wickets for just 42 runs.

Sylhet lost 2 quick wickets and were 45 for 2 before the day ended.



The Tigers enjoyed a tremendous fan following in this World Cup down under, and the Adelaide Oval was no exception either.

PHOTO: AFP

Real shift focus

AFP, Madrid



European champions Real Madrid will expect to take another step closer to becoming the first team in 25 years to retain the Champions League when they host Schalke on Tuesday holding a 2-0 lead from the first leg of their last 16 tie.

Madrid have strung together 10 consecutive victories in Europe stretching back to their successful run to their 10th European Cup last season, but have found the going a lot tougher domestically in 2015.

Los Blancos surrendered their lead at the top of La Liga at the weekend as they were beaten 1-0 at Athletic Bilbao, whilst Barcelona thrashed Rayo Vallecano 6-1.

That was Madrid's fourth defeat in 14 games this year with coach Carlo Ancelotti admitting he was at a loss to explain how his star-studded strike force of Cristiano Ronaldo, Karim Benzema and Gareth Bale has so suddenly gone off the boil.

"It seems strange to say Madrid have a problem up front when we have scored so many goals throughout the season, but I think it is the truth," said the Italian on Saturday.

However, captain Iker Casillas has insisted that they won't suffer a hangover from their La Liga woes at the Bernabeu.

"This competition is different. For Madrid fans it means everything," he told the club's website.

Schalke were on the receiving end on Real's run towards the title at the same stage of the competition last season in a 9-2 aggregate hammering.

And Casillas is adamant that Ancelotti's men still have all the qualities required to go all the way once more.

"We know that it will be very difficult but we will fight to achieve it. We are ambitious and we have a mixture of youth and experience so why not?"

"Last year we played against teams that had caused us problems in the past and we were capable to play good football and get to the final. We will give everything to get to Berlin."

"We have the team to do it and we hope to repeat the success of last year."

Madrid will be boosted by the return of Luka Modric after over four months out with a torn thigh muscle.

Martinez blow for Porto

AFP, Porto



FC Porto come into the second leg of their Champions League last-16 tie with Swiss champions Basel on Tuesday with the upper hand but

with serious concerns over the fitness of their leading scorer.

The Portuguese club have the edge in the tie after a 1-1 draw in Switzerland in the first leg last month but were dealt a potentially serious blow when Jackson Martinez came off with a thigh injury in Friday's 1-0 win at Braga that could keep him out for up to three weeks.

The Colombian star has scored 17 goals in the Portuguese league this season and six times on Porto's run in

the Champions League, so it is little wonder that the Dragons are sweating on his fitness.

"We are talking about a player who is mentioned for his goals but he is about so much more than that. He is an example to everyone for his character and his professionalism," said coach Julen Lopetegui, who has Cameroon forward Vincent Aboubakar waiting in the wings after he came off the bench against Braga.

"If he came off it wasn't for nothing. The squad needs to be ready and Aboubakar gave a good response."

However, Porto's outstanding performer in recent weeks has been the Spanish winger Cristian Tello, who got the winner at Braga after netting a hat-trick in the previous week's defeat of Sporting Lisbon.

The two-time European champions are aiming to return to the quarter-finals of the Champions League for the first time since 2009, when they were eliminated by a Cristiano Ronaldo-inspired Manchester United.

Porto came from behind to draw with Basel at the St Jakob-Park as a Danilo penalty cancelled out Derlis Gonzalez's opener for the Swiss side.

The match will be a special occasion for Basel's Portuguese coach Paulo Sousa, who came up against Porto as a player for Lisbon giants Benfica and Sporting.

He is hoping to lead Basel into the last eight in Europe's elite club competition for just the second time, with their previous appearance ending in a 6-5 aggregate loss to Celtic in 1974.

Time to celebrate

FROM PAGE S1

they could do to appease all of them while a win against a higher-ranked opposition was thought to be a stretch of their maximum ability.

But here the Tigers are, already in the quarterfinals with three wins out of four completed matches, making a serious statement about their ability and intent. It is not just the results in itself which makes this achievement commendable rather the way they have achieved those results that are more worthy of praise.

Here was Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, walking like a wounded warrior with braces on his knees and pain showing right through his face. But every time he took the ball in his hand, the skipper unleashed fire. Who would have thought that Bangladesh, so heavily reliant on their army of left-arm spinners, would turn the game on its head by the pace and swing of the white ball? Who would have thought that Rubel Hossain, the man embroiled in an unwanted off-field controversy right before the World Cup, would turn out to be the hero when Bangladesh were desperately looking for one? The speedster had earlier beat the Lankans in the speed-game and yesterday it was the English bowlers' turn to bow to Rubel's pace. But there was more to it than pace. Rubel worked up two vicious reverse-swings right at the death -- something which has proved to be difficult to master with two new balls even for the bests in the business -- to knock off the English tail? And who would have thought that Mahmudullah Riyad, the man people took too much liking to deride rather than analyse his importance to the side, to play the most important knock in Bangladesh's ODI history? And then there was Mushfiqur Rahim -- the ever so dependable and classy batsman who made batting so ridiculously easy.

It is performances like these and more that made the Tigers achieve something that was thought to be beyond their ability. Now is the time to celebrate.

Postscript: As the Tigers head back to New Zealand and into the quarterfinals with all the good vibe and confidence, it might be the easier way out to sweep under the carpet some apparent causes of concern, namely the lack of depth in batting, the haphazard state of fielding due to poor fitness levels, the inability of spinners to suit themselves on pitches which offer bounce and a bit of turn. But once the wave of euphoria subsides, these are the issues that must be addressed in order to turn these one-off moments of jubilation into regular occasions of celebration.

Riyad...

FROM PAGE S3

belt by then and also performed well in the practice matches.

Against Scotland, he took over Tamim Iqbal's role and had become the aggressor and ended up scoring a fine 62. Yesterday, he ensured that he was there during the most crucial phases and let everyone play around him. In a sense, Riyad's step-by-step improvement in the last few months has been as astonishing as his slump in form in 2014.

Unlike Shakib Al Hasan or Mushfiqur, there wasn't any hurrah among the fans regarding Riyad's role in the Cup. Unlike Tamim or Anamul Haque, Riyad never stated his World Cup target on air. All he did was silently work on his technique and get himself out of the rut.

And that's fine because he has just guided Bangladesh to a win like no other.

Rubel terms...

FROM PAGE S1

I had a dream that I would take four to five wickets in a big match like this and my dream is fulfilled," said Rubel in his instant reaction.

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Lemon Fresh
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New Lifebuoy Lemon Fresh
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*Up to 10 hours, based on clinical test.

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