

## A win will do for Sk Jamal

SPORTS REPORTER

A win against Mohammedan SC today will deliver Sheikh Jamal DC their third professional football league title in five years.

The defending champions are on 42 points from 17 matches, eight ahead of second-placed

Mohammedan, with two games remaining after this match. The win will mean the title remains at the Dhanmondi Club, who won the Federation Cup this year after winning Bhutan's King's Cup in December last year.

The league committee has decided to hand over the trophy to Sheikh Jamal at the ground if they can beat Mohammedan today.

## Chelsea, Barcelona sore but ready

AFP, Washington



Reigning English Premier League champions Chelsea and reigning European kings Barcelona exited Tuesday's friendly showdown injured but intensely motivated as they return to Europe to defend their crowns.

Chelsea captured the International Champions Cup victory 4-2 on penalty kicks after the teams were deadlocked 2-2 after regular time thanks to Chelsea defender Gary Cahill's header in the 85th minute.

In the shootout, Alan Halilovic put Barca down with a shot off the crossbar to open the second round. In the third, Chelsea goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois denied Gerard Pique and Chelsea's Ramires and Loic Remy scored after that to settle the outcome.

"The penalties mean nothing for us and I think they mean nothing for Barcelona," said Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho. "This was not about win or lose. They were playing and training the same as us. It was not a tactical game. It was two teams looking for intensity."

No one wanted to see injuries but Mourinho has hamstring fears for striker Diego Costa and a possible broken nose for Cahill, who regardless will not miss Sunday's Community Shield match against Arsenal at Wembley Stadium.

Barcelona fullback Douglas was hurt early and midfielder Sergi Roberto played 75 minutes in a backline role.

"We've shown an acceptable level on the field," Enrique said. "I liked the way we played. We have five players on vacation, but the other players are ready for the season and extremely motivated."



Chelsea's Diego Costa (L) vies with Barcelona's Marc Bartra during their International Champions Cup match in Landover on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## 'Punch' costs Herrera's job

AFP, Mexico City



Mexico coach Miguel Herrera was sacked on Tuesday following allegations of an assault against a television journalist, just two days after guiding them to their seventh Gold Cup trophy in the United States.

The combative 47-year-old -- who also coached Mexico to the last-16 penalty shootout loss to the Netherlands at the World Cup last year -- is alleged to have attacked the journalist, a virulent critic of the coach, at Philadelphia airport hours after Mexico had beaten Jamaica.

Herrera, who has yet to comment on the decision, claims he simply shoved the commentator in question Christian Martinoli.

However, his version was contradicted by

several eye witnesses and left the federation with no option but to sack him.

"We have taken the decision to relieve national coach Miguel Herrera of his duties," said federation president Decio de Maria.

"Our values and principles must be maintained regardless of results."

De Maria did not name a successor.

"Sacking Herrera was a tough decision," said De Maria. "However, violence has no place in society, in the family and even less so in our sport. I believe that Miguel perfectly understands the reason for this decision... all this has made him suffer a lot."

Herrera, a former no-nonsense defender who earned the nickname 'the louse', had been in charge since October 2013 when he took over with Mexico struggling to qualify

## Ali's dig at Platini

AFP, PARIS



Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein said on Wednesday that he thought Michel Platini, who confirmed he will run for FIFA president next year, is "not good for football and football's fans and players deserve better".

The Jordanian prince turned on the Frenchman and said Platini is not the man to run the sport's global affairs.

It now appears the 39-year-old, who is the third son of King Hussein of Jordan, may be plotting a fresh campaign to run against Platini and make a second bid for the high-powered post.

"Platini is not good for FIFA. Football's fans and players deserve better," he said in a statement.

"FIFA is engulfed in scandal. We must stop doing business as usual. The practice of back-room, under-the-table deals must end."

"I believe that the voices of the individual Football Federations must be heard. In the coming week, I will be consulting with them about what is in the best interests of football."

"What is clear is that FIFA needs new, independent leadership, untainted by the practices of the past," added Prince Ali.

## 'Muller will never leave Bayern'

ESPNFC.COM

Thomas Muller "will never leave Bayern Munich," the club's CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has told Sport Bild.

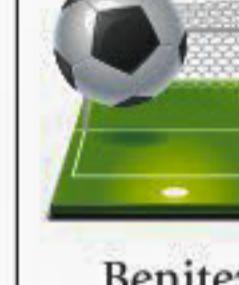
Bayern intend to keep Muller for the long-term, with Rummenigge outlining that talks over extending his existing contract, which expires in 2019, will take place soon.

"Thomas Muller is not for sale," Rummenigge said.

"I have the feeling that Thomas will never leave FC Bayern. When Thomas retires one day, we'd like to integrate him into the club,"

## Jose hits back at Rafa's wife

GOAL.COM



Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has unleashed a stunning attack on Real Madrid counterpart Rafael Benitez, claiming he "destroyed" his Inter team and even poking fun at his weight.

Benitez's wife, Montserrat Seara, caused a stir when she claimed her husband is always tidy up after Mourinho, having coached Inter, Chelsea and now Madrid after the Portuguese.

"The lady is a bit confused, with all respect," Mourinho said.

"I'm not laughing. Because her husband went to Chelsea to replace Roberto Di Matteo and he went to Real Madrid and replaced Carlo Ancelotti."

"The only club where her husband replaces me was at Inter Milan, where in six months he destroyed the best team in Europe at the time."

"And for her also to think about me and to speak about me, I think the lady needs to occupy her time and if she takes care of her husband's diet she will have less time to speak about me."

## SNIPPETS



Rezwan Ahmed (L) and Ali Akmal at BFF House.

## Enamul sinks Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER



Muktijoddha Sangsad tasted their first win in the second leg of the Manyavar Bangladesh Premier league after inflicting a single-goal defeat on Abahani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Enamul Haque scored the deciding goal in the 61st minute from the spot to give the All Reds a much-awaited win losing four and drawing three matches in the second leg thus far.

The win lifted Muktijoddha to 25 points, in sixth position, but made Abahani's chances of a second-place finish bleak as they languish in fourth position with 31 points from 17 matches.

The Sky Blues raised their chances recently after thrashing Sheikh Russel KC 5-0 in the farewell match of George Kottan, but since then they have put up inconsistent performances, having been held to a goalless draw by

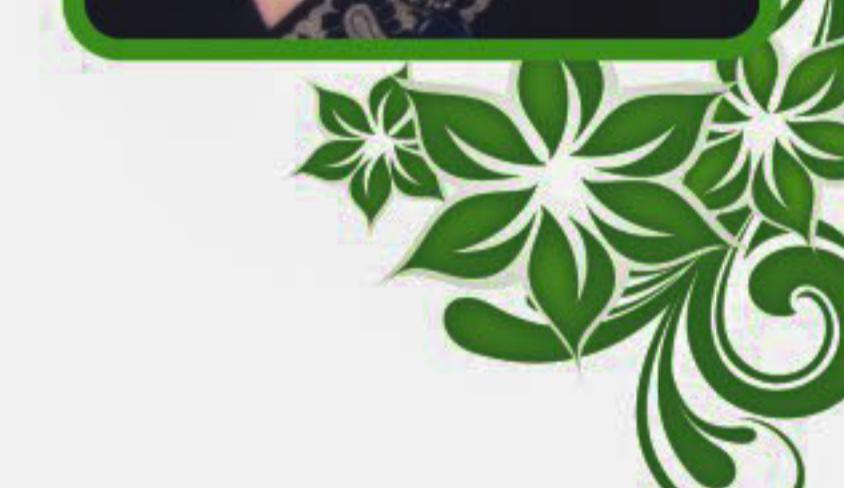
Brothers Union before this debacle yesterday.

Abahani went close to grabbing the lead in the 16th minute when a cross from Abdul Baten Komol struck the woodwork while Sunday Chizoba and Osei Morison played one-two to break the backline of Muktijoddha in the 26th minute but could not beat goalkeeper Titumir Chowdhury.

With the match meandering along, Enamul broke Abahani's hearts with a perfect spot-kick on the hour-mark after Atiqur Rahman Fahad had brought down his teammate Hasanuzzaman Kayes inside box.

### TEAM BJMC PIP RAHMATGANJ

Team BJMC leapfrogged to seventh position with a 3-1 win over Rahmatganj in the first match of the day. Nabib Newas Jibon, Eleta Kingsley and Mehdi Hasan Tapu scored one goal each for the winning side while Didarul Alam pulled one goal back for Rahmatganj. The win took Team BJMC to 15 points, equal with Feni Soccer Club while Rahmatganj lie in ninth position with 14



## Congratulations to

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## Sana in world archery pre-quarters

Archer Ruman Sana moved into the pre-quarterfinal round of the World Archery Championships after beating Pak Yongwon of North Korea and Popovic Luka of Serbia in Copenhagen, Denmark yesterday.

With experienced archers Emdadul Haque Milon and Mohammad Sujan failing to qualify for the elimination round, Sana secured his place in the elimination round by dint of finishing 33rd in the ranking round and produced good performance in the first two elimination rounds to set his pre-quarterfinal tie against Italy's Nespoli Mauro, a gold medallist in the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Ruman first handed a 7-3 defeat to Pak Yongwon and then beat Popovic Luka 6-2 to advance into the 1/16 round.

## JFA U-14 women's football

Mymensingh and Dinajpur moved into the semifinals of the JFA U-14 Women's National Football Championship yesterday.

Mymensingh overwhelmed Satkhira 10-0 to emerge Group A champions, thanks to a four-goal haul by Sajeda. Dinajpur, meanwhile, handed a 4-0 defeat to Khulna to become Group A runners-up as Bilkis, Asha, Madhurzo and Runa Laila scored one goal each.