

SPORT



NOVELTY FOOTBALL: With Chittagong gearing up for an invitational football tournament, starting tomorrow, former footballers of the port city are seen engaged in a five-a-side game at the Tiger Pass intersection yesterday to drum up the eight-team meet.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Khulna ride on Mahedi

SCORES IN BRIEF



A century from 20-year-old Mahedi Hasan combined with a tidy performance from Khulna's bowlers brought the league leaders back into the game in their vital top-of-the-table clash against Dhaka. Having been bowled out for just 117 on Day One, skipper Abdur Razzak and national pacer Mustafizur Rahman shared seven wickets to restrict Dhaka to just 154 on the second day in Fatullah yesterday.

While Khulna did concede a 37-run lead, their top-order batsmen put in a good effort and ensured to end the day on a high. Opener Mahedi smacked a run-a-ball 104 while Anamul Haque, who batted at three, remained unbeaten on 61.

Mahedi's knock was an entertaining one that included 18 fours. The youngster's speedy innings put the pressure back on second-placed Dhaka. With two more days to go, the match is heading towards an intense finish.

If Dhaka wins, they will replace Khulna at the top of Tier One.

The other match in the same tier though hasn't managed to display a similar sense of entertainment and is likely to end in a draw. Nasir Hossain's Rangpur finished the second day on 241 for 6 after bundling out Dhaka Metro for 242 at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna. Rangpur's batsmen will hope to hit some quick runs on Day Three and push for a win.

However, a close contest has ensued at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra with Barisal and Sylhet battling neck-and-neck. After Barisal were bowled out for just 155 on Day One, Sylhet's batsmen could only post 172 and were bundled out in 68.2 overs yesterday.

Barisal put in a much better display in their second innings and ended the day on 151 for 3. They rode on half-centuries from former national opener Shahriar Nafees and middle-order batsman Salman Hossain.

Meanwhile, Tamim Iqbal's Chittagong finally has a chance to secure a victory as they are in prime position against Rajshahi. Half-centuries from Tamim and Tasamul Haque led Chittagong to 238 for 4 before stumps, in reply to Rajshahi's first innings score of 208. Tamim, who had scored a century in his last match, gritted it out for almost two hours for his 62. It initially seemed like he was going to reach the three-figure mark yet again, but he was trapped in front by slow left-armed Sanjamul Islam. Tamim hit six fours and a six while his partner Salman remained unbeaten on 72. Sanjamul finished the day with an impressive four-wicket haul.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KHULNA V DHAKA	DHAKA METRO V RANGPUR	BARISAL V SYLHET	RAJSHAHI V CHITTAGONG
Khulna: 117 and 205 for 4 (Mahedi 104, Anamul 61; Masum 2-64); Dhaka: 154 all out in 67.4 overs (Joyraz 65; Mustafizur 4-46; Razzak 3-60)	Dhaka Metro: 242; Rangpur: 241 for 6 (Tanveer 42 not out, Naem 40; Arafat 2-57)	Barisal: 155 and 151 for 3 (Salman 72 not out, Shahriar 67; Khaled 3-33); Sylhet: 172 all out in 68.2 overs (Rumman 69; Shohag 3-24, Golam 3-41)	Rajshahi: 208; Chittagong: 238 for 4 (Tasamul 66 not out, Tamim 62; Sanjamul 4-59)

BD A seek good start

SPORTS REPORTER

Shuvagata Hom-led Bangladesh A will hope to make a winning start when their tour of South Africa begins against the Irene Villagers Club today.

The second-string side will play two one-day matches and a three-day game against Irene Villagers Club and end the South Africa-leg of their tour with a one-day game against Gauteng Strikers, another South African domestic team.

They are playing these matches in South Africa in order to warm-up for their series against Zimbabwe A which begins next month. The visitors will leave for Zimbabwe at the end of the month to play three one-dayers and two four-day games.

While the current squad includes a number of national players such as Soumya Sarkar, Sabbir Hossain and Liton Das, they might be called back home to take part in the ODIs and T20Is against Zimbabwe scheduled to take place next month. Manager Habibur Bashar said that his team hopes to enjoy the grassy wickets at the Irene Villagers Club and wants his pacers to fully utilise the conditions.

Siddikur finishes at 17th

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman finished at 17th position in the Venetian Macao Open after a one-under-par (70) final round yesterday. Having started the day in 22nd position, the 30-year-old golfer endured an up-and-down fourth round at the Macau Golf and Country Club, chipping in five birdies alongside four bogeys yesterday for an overall six-under-par (278).

Australia's Scott Hend romped to the title, his second Macao Open win in three years, after holding off title holder Anirban Lahiri and Chiragh Kumar of India with an impressive final round of five-under-par (66). It was sweet revenge for the 42-year-old Aussie who was pipped by Lahiri last year and he collected the winner's cheque of 180,000 dollars.

Ctg to renew cross-border rivalry

SPORTS REPORTER



After Australia postponed their scheduled tour, sports lovers in Bangladesh were deprived of enjoying an action-packed October. But for those who love football and desire to be a bit nostalgic, the eight-team invitational football tournament, starting in Chittagong tomorrow, could be a perfect dose.

The reason being that the event will feature the two most popular clubs from across the border -- East Bengal and Mohammedan -- alongside the two traditional giants of Bangladesh. The last time they were here to play the BTC Club Cup in 1992, they returned home empty-handed, leaving the title battle to be decided between the

biggest rivals in Bangladesh -- Abahani and Mohammedan.

Abahani won that title and interestingly, the current tournament named after Abahani's founder Sheikh Kamal, will reignite the cross-border rivalry in a completely changed scenario.

The Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup, organised by Chittagong Abahani, will also feature Pakistan league champions Karachi Electric FC, Sri Lankan league champions Solid FC and De Spin Ghar Bazan FC of Afghanistan apart from the home team, which will perhaps get the best chance to showcase their credential as a competitive team.

Abahani will kick off the tournament against Karachi Electric while hosts Chittagong Abahani will face East Bengal in the second match under floodlights. Channel 9 will

beam all the matches live from the MA Aziz Stadium.

Although five foreign clubs from South Asia are taking part in the meet, the focus will be on East Bengal and Kolkata Mohammedan.

The Indian and Bangladeshi teams entered a new era of professionalism almost ten years ago but neither of them have faced each other so far even though Bangladesh's new powerhouse Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club played East Bengal, Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan in the last edition of IFA Shield. In that tournament Sheikh Jamal played exceedingly well before losing to Kolkata Mohammedan in the final.

Unfortunately, Sheikh Jamal snubbed this invitational tournament, which could have been more exciting with them.

"It is a good chance for the

spectators to watch teams like East Bengal, Kolkata Mohammedan, Dhaka Abahani and Dhaka Mohammedan from the gallery and they will surely enjoy good fights between the traditional outfits," said former Bangladesh international and BFF vice president Badal Roy while reflecting on his battle against Mohun Bagan wearing the famed Black and White jersey.

"When clubs like Mohammedan or Abahani played against Mohun Bagan and East Bengal during our time, stadiums used to be jam-packed. I hope fans will turn up in Chittagong," added Roy.

Meanwhile, organisers have been working extra hours to make the tournament a success. They have accommodated the eight participating teams at different hotels with security beefed up for the safety of

Morkel derails India

REUTERS, Rajkot



Opening batsman Quinton de Kock provided the early flourish with the bat with his seventh century while fast bowler Morne Morkel applied the finishing touch with four wickets as South Africa beat India by 18 runs on Sunday to take a 2-1 series lead.

22-year-old de Kock continued his purple patch in ODIs against India, scoring his fourth century in seven innings against the opponents to set up South

Africa's total of 270-7 in 50 overs after they chose to bat on winning the toss.

The hosts lost opener Shikhar Dhawan early to Morkel but looked well poised for a victory charge with half-centuries from Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

Opening batsman Rohit and Kohli added 72 for the second wicket before the former fell to a smart return catch from part-time off-spinner JP Duminy.

Kohli then added 80 for the next wicket with his captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni to keep India in the hunt before Morkel

returned to strike.

The South African plan of bowling short at the batsmen's bodies while packing the leg side boundary with four fielders proved effective.

After Dhoni failed to negotiate a short delivery from the tall Morkel, Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane holed out deep on the mid-wicket fence on consecutive deliveries in the paceman's final over, which dashed India's hopes of chasing down the total.

India could only manage 252 for six in their 50 overs.

Earlier, De Kock, who hit 11 fours and a six in his knock, added 118 for the third wicket with Faf du Plessis to set up a solid platform for South Africa for a late assault.

Du Plessis lived a charmed life on his way to his third consecutive 50 in the series. Suresh Raina and Dhawan dropped him twice while another dismissal was chalked off due to a no-ball.

His dismissal to Mohit sparked a mini-collapse and South Africa were suddenly reduced from 205-2 to 210-5 in the space of nine deliveries.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: 270 for 7 in 50 overs (De Kock 103, Miller 33, Du Plessis 60, Behardien 33 not out; M Sharma 2-62, Harbhajan 1-41, Mishra 1-38)

INDIA: 252 for 6 in 50 overs (R Sharma 65, Kohli 77, Dhoni 47, Harbhajan 20 not out; Morkel 4-39)

Result: South Africa won by 22 runs and lead 5-match series 2-1
Player-of-the-match:

IPL seeks two new teams

Pepsi pulls out

AGENCIES, New Delhi

The BCCI on Sunday decided against terminating the suspended Indian Premier League franchises of Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals at its working committee meeting, instead suspending the teams for two years and inviting fresh bids for two new franchises, who will compete from 2016 onwards.

The IPL was also rocked as news broke that their titles sponsors Pepsco Co decided to pull out of the scandal-hit tournament. However, the blow was softened as new sponsors Vivo, a Chinese mobile company, looked set to take Pepsi's place.

While the two teams are set to be replaced, the BCCI did not confirm if the IPL would be a ten-team tournament from 2018, when Rajasthan and Chennai are set to return.

Majority of the BCCI members were not too keen on termination of the two IPL franchises, which were involved in the spot-fixing scandal in 2013.

The decision was also in consonance with president Shashank Manohar's statement that BCCI won't be vindictive towards any of its state units.

In a statement regarding their sponsorship issues, the BCCI said, "The IPL title sponsorship right has been assigned to M/S Vivo mobiles. Vivo is to give the bank guarantee in next ten days."



Khulna opener Mahedi Hasan executes a well-timed drive through the covers during his run-a-ball 104 against Dhaka at Fatullah on Day Two of the National Cricket League.

PHOTO: STAR



South Africa opener Quinton de Kock plays a defensive push on way to scoring 103 during the third one-day international against India in Rajkot yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

IN A NUTSHELL

Scorsese snubs Ronaldo

Hollywood producer Martin Scorsese has reportedly decided against using Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo in one of his upcoming films. According to reports, Ronaldo had been "promised" a role in his upcoming movie titled "The Manipulator."

A luxurious loft in Manhattan's Trump Tower Building, which is owned by Ronaldo, has been chosen as a location by the film's producers. As part of the deal to allow producers to use the loft, Ronaldo was reportedly offered a small role in the film.

However, Scorsese has now decided he doesn't want Ronaldo involved.

Scorsese apparently did not want the star power of the Portugal forward to overshadow his movie and thus cancelled the deal. However, it's not all bad for Ronaldo as reports claimed he was given 10m euros to compensate for losing the role.

Boars raid cricket club

Yorkley Star cricket club, a 135-year-old village cricket club, has been forced to close after wild boar destroyed the pitch.

They play on the edge of the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire, where the animals population has risen rapidly.

The animals threat turned real, as boars churmed up their pitch. The league-toppers then had to abandon the rest of their games and were sadly relegated.

Organisers miss winner

The first-place finisher in the Yantai International Marathon will receive his prize after organisers admitted they failed to see the runner cross the finish line.

Gong Chao finished first but his result was cancelled as organisers could not see him in the official recording.

Gong said he was innocent, and upon review, it was found that he did not cheat.

Compiled by Star Sport Desk