

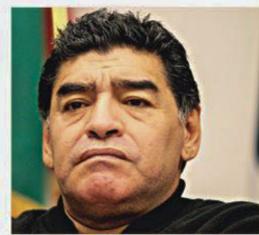


A Bangladeshi player (L) tries to outwit his South Korean opponent during their Junior Asia Cup match at the Wisma Belia Hockey Stadium in Kuantan, Malaysia yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

DIEGO HAS SURGERY AGAIN

Football legend Diego Maradona underwent a second gastric bypass operation after his doctor warned that the 55-year-old is 75 kg over his ideal weight. Maradona had his first gastric bypass 10 years ago, but has since gained weight and developed complications. "He [Maradona] told me he was feeling fine, that he wasn't in any pain," the 1986 World Cup champion's doctor Carlos Felipe Chaux was quoted as saying by BBC. He will stay in the city for at least eight days before travelling



JUNIOR ASIA CUP HOCKEY

Bangladesh stun South Korea

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh hockey experienced one of its most memorable days yesterday as the under-21 team stunned Asian powerhouse South Korea 2-0 in the final Pool B match of the Junior Asia Cup at the Wisma Belia Hockey Stadium in Kuantan, Malaysia.

The win helped Mahbub Harun's charges, who had started the campaign with a 1-3 defeat before beating Oman 5-4, finish second in the pool with six points, three behind eventual pool-winners Pakistan. Bangladesh will take on the third-place finishers from Pool A in the quarterfinal on Thursday.

Sarwar Hossain and Milon Hossain -- both members of senior teams -- struck one goal in each half to notch up Bangladesh's biggest win in hockey since the senior team's 3-2 win against China in the World

Hockey League (Round-2) in Delhi. Since that win two years ago, Bangladesh have been struggling at the senior level, including a 0-7 defeat to South Korea Asian Games last year.

This is the first time Bangladesh managed to beat South Korea at any level even as their previous best result was the senior team's 1-1 draw against the Koreans in the 1993 Asia Cup. The under-18s, too, had held their Korean counterparts to a 3-3 draw in the 2001 U-18 Asia Cup.

Sarwar put the men in red and green ahead in the 25th minute before Milon confirmed the victory in the 46th

minute. "My teammates were fully motivated to go out there and win against Korea. And it was our determination that won us the match," captain Asim Gope was quoted as saying on the official Facebook page of the tournament.



MILON HOSSAIN

BPL PREVIEW: CHITTAGONG VIKINGS

A well balanced unit

SPORTS REPORTER

When Chittagong Vikings take the field against the Rangpur Riders in the Bangladesh Premier League's opening fixture on Saturday, there's no doubt that the franchise's pacers -- who will possibly open the attack -- will garner the most attention.

For one, they have in their side the talented Mohammad Amir who will be playing his first international tournament since the lifting of his ban. The 23-year-old has been in brilliant touch lately, picking up four five-wicket hauls in his last five fixtures, including a seven-for.

While Amir is expected to steam in from one end, Bangladesh's Taskin Ahmed will charge in from the other and this is likely to be a lethal partnership. With two other former national pacers -- Shafiqul Islam and Robiul Islam -- in the side, Chittagong's pace attack, it seems, has been sorted.

Their spin department isn't that far behind either with a variety of players. The foreign players they have got South African left-arm spinner Robin Peterson, who averages just 18.79 in T20s. However Chittagong will have to plan for

most of the tournament without him since the player will only be available after December 10. Apart from the 36-year-old, the side also includes Jeevan Mendis and Saeed Ajmal. While it's still not certain how effective Ajmal will be with his new action, Mendis, who recently took part in the Caribbean Premier League, can be quite a useful player.

The two Bangladesh left-arm spinners, Elias Sunny and Enamul Haque Jr, complete the spin list.

Chittagong's batting setup seems set with the franchisee having made several calculated buys. Their likely opening combination will be that of Tamim Iqbal and Tillakaratne Dilshan with Anamul Haque coming in at three. That will be followed by the Akmal brothers, both of whom were signed before the players' draft programme.

They also have Naeem Islam and Asif Ahmed, both of whom will be looking to make the most of the tournament, in the side. Also in the batting department is Sri Lanka's Chamara Kapugedera.

Apart from Dilshan, the Vikings have signed up all-rounders Ziaur Rahman and Elton Chigumbura, both of whom can be quite a handful in this format of the game.

On the whole, it seems Chittagong have covered most of their bases. Pacer Taskin, who spoke to the media during the team's training session at the Mirpur academy ground, said that he expects this side to 'at least reach the semifinals'.

"All the players here will be looking to do well since the World Cup is ahead. They will want to get noticed and that's why I feel that this is going to be a very competitive tournament," said Taskin.



SQUAD

Tamim Iqbal, Anamul Haque, Taskin Ahmed, Ziaur Rahman, Elias Sunny, Naeem Islam, Enamul Haque Jr, Yasir Ali Chowdhury, Shafiqul Islam, Asif Ahmed, Nafees Iqbal, Robiul Islam

FOREIGN PLAYERS: Tillakaratne Dilshan, Robin Peterson, Saeed Ajmal, Jeevan Mendis, Umar Akmal, Kamran Akmal, Mohammad Aamir, Chamara Kapugedera, Elton Chigumbura

HK fans boo Chinese anthem

AFP, Hong Kong



Hong Kong fans booed the anthem they share with China on Tuesday while some turned their backs and held up "boo" signs in a show of defiance before a crunch World Cup football qualifier with their mainland rivals.

Home supporters also swore at the visiting Chinese supporters and showed them their middle fingers in a rowdy start to proceedings at the sold-out, 6,000-seat Mong Kok Stadium.

Loud jeers rang out during the "March of the Volunteers" anthem, which the semi-autonomous territory shares with China, and held up white signs saying "boo" in English -- following warnings against audible jeering.

"Because we don't like the Chinese national anthem, we have to go against it," Hong Kong student Jerry Wong, 20, told AFP. "Because Hong Kong is not part of China, I don't feel like I am Chinese."

The booing was also in defiance of orders from world body FIFA.

RESULTS

GROUP A	
East Timor 0	Saudi Arabia 10 (Al Sahlawi 29-pen, 42, 55-pen, 70, 89, Hawsawi 34, Al Shehri 35, Al Jassim 85, Hazazi 90, Al Muwallad 90+2)
GROUP C	
Hong Kong 0	China 0
Bhutan 0	Qatar 3 (Muntari 22, Al Haidos 36, 90)
GROUP D	
Guam 0	Iran 6 (Taremi 12, 63, Kamyabinia 32, Rezaian 49, Shojaeli 52-pen, Ansarifard 53)
GROUP E	
Singapore 1	(Safuwani 89-pen) Syria 2 (Khribin 20, 90+3)
Cambodia 0	Japan 2 (Khoun 51 OG, Honda 90)
GROUP F	
Taiwan 0	Iraq 2 (Ismail 19, Mahmud 85)
GROUP G	
Laos 0	South Korea 5 (Ki Sung-Yueng 3-pen, 33, Son Heung-Min 35, 67, Suk Hyun-Jun 43)
GROUP H	
North Korea 2	(Pak Kwang-Ryong 45+1-pen, Jong Il-Gwan 90+3) Bahrain 0

IM Minhaz clinches nat'l chess title

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Minhaz Uddin Ahmed Sagar clinched the title of SAIF POWETEC 41st National A Chess Championship after beating Saiful Islam Chowdhury in the 13th and final round at the National Sports Council auditorium yesterday.

Minhaz earned 10.5 points from 13 matches to ensure his second national title after he won it in 2010.

GM Abdullah Al Rakib and GM Enamul Hossain Razib earned 10 points each and a play-off match will take place on Thursday to decide the second and third positions.

No play on Day 4

AFP, Bangalore

Play was abandoned without a ball being bowled for the third successive day on Tuesday as the rain-ravaged second Test between India and South Africa in Bangalore turned into a damp squib.

With just the final day's play remaining -- weather permitting -- the Test is headed for a tame draw.

Messi returns to training



AFP, Madrid



Barcelona star Lionel Messi returned to training with his team-mates on Monday following a knee injury, ahead of the league leaders' trip to Real Madrid this weekend.

Messi hasn't featured for Barca since sustaining knee ligament damage in a 2-1 victory over Las Palmas at the end of September, but is in line to make his comeback in Saturday's first Clasico of the season at the Santiago Bernabeu.

"(Monday's training) session included the presence of 'Leo' Messi, who is in the process of recovering from a left knee injury suffered on September 26," read a post on Barca's club website.

Barca have performed well in the absence of the four-time Ballon d'Or winner, with four straight league victories propelling Luis Enrique's men to the top of La Liga, three points ahead of arch-rivals Madrid in second.

Neymar and Luis Suarez have scored 10 goals apiece since the Argentine was sidelined, and the duo could again lead the line at the weekend with Spanish media suggesting that Barca may not rush Messi back into the starting line-up as a precaution.

Zim A take initiative

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A took a 99-run first innings lead against Zimbabwe A but the home side bounced back strongly in their second innings on the third day of the second and final four-day match at the Harare Sports Club ground yesterday.

Brain Chari was not out on 121 and shared an unbeaten 215 runs with Peter Moor for the second wicket as Zimbabwe A finished the day on 223 to ensure a 124-run lead. During his 210-ball knock, Chari smashed 10 fours.

Left-arm spinner Saqlain Sajib trapped Hamilton Masakadza in front in the second over to provide an early breakthrough for the visitors, but Moor and Chari relieved all the pressure and took Zimbabwe to a strong position.

Resuming the day on 274 for four, Bangladesh A ended their innings at 402. Opener Tasamul Haque was the first victim of the day, but not before he completed his hundred. Tasamul resumed the day on 96 and added six more runs yesterday before being trapped by pacer Trevor Garwe.

However, Mosaddek Hossain and Nurul Hasan ensured Bangladesh the lead by hitting half centuries. Mosaddek continued his good form by hitting 85 off 93 balls, smacking nine fours and two sixes, while Nurul blasted six fours and a six for his 54-ball 52.

Pacer Donald Tiripano and leg-spinner Natsai M'shangwe claimed three wickets each for the hosts.

England take lead 2-1

REUTERS, Sharjah

James Taylor made a calm unbeaten 67 to lead England to a comfortable six-wicket victory over Pakistan in Sharjah on Tuesday and a 2-1 lead in the four-match one-day international series.

Taylor shared an unbroken fifth-wicket stand of 117 with Jos Buttler (49 not out) to steer the visitors to their target of 209 with nine overs to spare.

Pakistan slumped from 132 for two to 208 all out off 49.5 overs.

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