

Ctg Abahani shoot Sheikh Russel out

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong Abahani moved into the semifinals of the Walton Federation Cup with a 4-2 win over Sheikh Russel KC in penalties at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The second quarterfinal rolled into the shootout after regulation and extra time produced a 1-1 draw as Chittagong Abahani cancelled out Sheikh Russel's 10th minute lead in the 13th minute.

Sheikh Russel handed Biplob Bhattacharjee the gloves just before the final whistle of extra time, but the former national goalkeeper was unable to stop a single shot from Chittagong Abahani while his teammates Kawsar Ali Rabbi and Uttam Kumar Banik fluffed their chances as the port city outfit sealed their last-four berth.

Though Chittagong Abahani's Udoka Alison, Mashuk Mia, Sohel Rana and Towhidul Alam Sabuz perfectly converted their spot-kicks, the team was really poor during regulation and extra time, with the exception of winger Zahid Hossain, who put on a dazzling performance throughout the match.

Chittagong Abahani should have sealed their victory during regulation time for the way

they created opportunities, but Nigerian striker Afeez Olowale Loadipo, Sabuz and Zahid squandered at least three easy scoring chances.

The first half was an even affair with Sheikh Russel succeeding in their first attempt of the match during the 10th minute when Eleta Benjamin headed down a free-kick from Atiqur Rahman Meshu in front of Mehbub Hasan Nayan inside the box and the former Rahmatganj midfielder fired home from close range.

The lead lasted only three minutes though as goalkeeper Ziaur Rahman looked in hesitation to grip a long-ball and Zahid stepped up to tap the ball into the open net.

Chittagong Abahani established full control after restart with Zahid exposing the Sheikh Russel defence time and again from the right flank. Oladipo failed to connect to a Zahid cross in the six-yard box before Sabuz saw his miscued attempt go wide off the target.

Zahid found the easiest chance of the match in the 76th minute when Nurul Nayeem provided a defence-splitting through ball for the winger, who nutmegged one defender but failed to beat the goalkeeper from a one-on-one situation. Oladipo then incredibly floated the ball over the post four minutes into the first half of extra-time as the tie rolled into the penalty shootout.



Chittagong Abahani players run for joy after beating Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra in shootout in the quarterfinal of the Walton Federation Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

CTG ABAHANI 1 (4)-(2) 1 SK RUSSEL KC
(ZAHID13') (MEHBUB10')

Grieving Man Utd seal CL

AFP, Stockholm



Paul Pogba dedicated victory to the victims of this week's Manchester terror attack after propelling Manchester United towards a 2-0 victory over Ajax in Wednesday's Europa League final.

A night that began with a moment of silence, then applause, in memory of the 22 people who died at Manchester Arena on Monday ended with United completing their trophy collection through goals from Pogba and Henrikh Mkhitaryan.

"We played for the people who died," Pogba told BT Sport.

"These things are terrible all over the world, in London and in Paris. We went out focused to win and we won

for Manchester and the country."

Reminders of the attack were everywhere at Stockholm's Friends Arena, from United's black armbands to the chants of "Manchester!" from their fans, while Pogba, too, was grieving, following the recent death of his father.

United manager Jose Mourinho told reporters: "If we could, we would obviously change the people's lives for this cup, immediately. We wouldn't think twice. Does this cup make the city of Manchester a little bit happier? Maybe. But we just came to do our job."

Victory enabled Mourinho, who said prior to the game that he and his players were struggling not to think about the tragedy, to bring his maiden Old Trafford season to a successful conclusion.

He had already guided United to

TRIVIA

The Europa League win saw Zlatan Ibrahimovic win his first European trophy.

The victory ends 1,363 days of only Spanish clubs winning European titles.

Jose Mourinho became the first manager to win both the European Cup/Champions League (2) & UEFA Cup/Europa League (2) more than once.

Manchester United are the fifth team to win all three major European trophies (UEFA Cup/Europa League, Champions League/Europa Cup & Club World Cup).

17-year-old Ajax defender Matthijs de Ligt became the youngest player ever to feature in a major European final.

Ajax's starting XI last night was the youngest ever in a major European final.

glory in the League Cup and despite a sixth-place finish in the Premier League, success in the Europa League means his side will return to the Champions League next season.

United became only the fifth club -- after Juventus, Ajax, Bayern Munich and Chelsea -- to have won the Champions League, the Europa League and the now defunct European Cup Winners' Cup.

Mourinho, a UEFA Cup winner with Porto in 2003 and two-time European champion, has now won all four of the major European finals he has contested.

Ajax were appearing in their first continental showpiece match since the 1996 Champions League decider and fielded a team with an average age of 22 years and 282 days -- the youngest to have ever started a major European final.

Peter Bosz's effervescent team caused United some uncomfortable moments, but without ever threatening to pull off an upset.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Manchester United turned a poor season into a good one, winning their second trophy of the year by defeating Ajax in the Europa League final on Wednesday -- a triumph that takes them into the Champions League.

Southgate leaves out Rooney

AFP, London

All-time top-scorer Wayne Rooney was Thursday left out of the England squad for next month's World Cup qualifier against Scotland and a friendly against France.

The 31-year-old was similarly omitted from Gareth Southgate's England squad announced in March, although he was carrying a knee injury at the time, but is now completely fit, featuring in his team's Europa League final on Thursday.

Rooney had hoped to end his international career by captaining England at next year's World Cup in Russia.

Ronaldo facing tax probe

AGENCIES, Madrid



Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo is facing possible charges of tax fraud in Spain. Prosecutors have passed a file to the country's tax office, which will decide whether to press charges against the Portuguese striker.

Reports in Spain say Ronaldo, 32, is suspected of defrauding 15m euros between 2011 and 2014.

In December, leaked documents suggested Ronaldo had avoided tax on income from image rights allegedly held in offshore accounts. He subsequently denied the claims.

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho was also implicated in those claims -- published after an international consortium of journalists obtained a trove of about 18 million documents. He also denied the claims.

According to Cadena SER, Ronaldo held money earned from his image rights in the Virgin Islands, but he fully regularised his

situation with the tax authorities in 2014, prior to any investigation being started. At that point the player paid six million euros of tax, which were paid in relation to the tax year 2014.

However, according to some of the tax inspectors, the player should have filed a complementary tax return for all the years involved, not simply lumping it all together in relation to 2014.

There is a second point of discrepancy between the inspectors, relating to a complex tax question of the classification of income. Ronaldo declared certain amounts as having been paid as image rights, while the tax inspectors believe it should have been treated as royalties, with a higher tax generally applying.

At the moment, the tax inspectors involved in drawing up the report are not in agreement on whether criminal proceedings should be started against the player or whether a simple administrative procedure would be appropriate. That decision will left up to the prosecutors.



Eight clubs demand dues again

SPORTS REPORTER



Eight clubs of the Bangladesh Premier League have once again asserted their demand that the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) clear their dues by skipping yesterday's scheduled meeting of the Professional Football League Committee (PFLC).

The PFLC meeting, which was supposed to discuss issues of the league scheduled to begin next month, was suspended as the representative clubs decided to hold a meeting among themselves instead.

Representatives of six clubs -- Sheikh Jamal DC, Mohammedan SC, Chittagong Abahani, Brothers Union, Arambagh KS and Saif SC -- met at a city hotel where they claimed their dues, demanded a rise in participation money and championship money in the league and to play matches only in FIFA/AFC standard stadiums.

Muktijoddha Sangsad and Team BJMC, although not present, gave their consent to

the demands while Abahani, Sheikh Russel KC, Rahmatganj MFS and Farashganj SC did not turn up.

The demands were supposed to be placed before the game's governing body yesterday, just 16 days before the start of the 10th edition of the top-tier professional league, scheduled to get underway from June 16.

"BFF must to clear the due payments to the clubs within 30 May, 2017 and have to pay Tk 50 lakh to each of the BPL Clubs as participation money for the professional football league," said a statement prepared by the clubs, who also demanded that the clubs be informed about the league committee meetings 72 hours in advance.

The clubs have so far been paid an average of Tk 25 lakh each out of the promised Tk 40 lakh as participation money. The clubs also have dues from previous seasons but the actual amount of the dues cannot be confirmed as neither the PFLC chairman Abdus Salam Murshedy nor BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag attended to phone calls despite repeated attempts.

Pique backs Valverde

AGENCIES, Madrid



Barcelona defender Gerard Pique has given his backing to former Athletic Bilbao coach Ernesto Valverde to become Luis Enrique's successor, saying the former Camp Nou player is a "good option" to become the Camp Nou's new coach.

Pique would welcome the arrival of the former Barcelona player, who stepped down from his managerial position at Athletic Bilbao earlier this week as rumours of his move to Barcelona intensified. Pique said that he would welcome the coach, but that it was not his decision.

"Ernesto has done a great job at Athletic the last few years," he said. "He played here for Barcelona as a player and I think he could be a good option, as could others."

I can't decide myself on anyone and I don't know who will be the next manager. It's not my job and I haven't put a lot of thought into it."

Valverde led Espanyol to the UEFA Cup final in 2007 before leading Olympiacos to three league titles and two

Portugal drop Euros hero

AFP, Lisbon

Cristiano Ronaldo will lead Portugal at the Confederations Cup in Russia but there is no place for Euro 2016 hero Eder.

Coach Fernando Santos kept faith with the squad that stunned hosts France last summer, but Eder paid the price for a poor season with Lille.

PORTUGAL SQUAD

- GOALKEEPERS**
Rui Patrício (Sporting), Beto (Sporting), Jose Sa (Porto)
- DEFENDERS**
Nelson Semedo (Benfica), Cedric Soares (Southampton/ENG), Pepe (Real Madrid/ESP), Bruno Alves (Cagliari/ITA), Luis Neto (Zenith/RUS), Jose Fonte (Southampton/ENG), Raphael Guerreiro (Borussia Dortmund/GER), Eliseu (Benfica)
- MIDFIELDERS**
William Carvalho (Sporting), Danilo Pereira (Porto), Joao Moutinho (Monaco/FRA), Pizzi (Benfica), Joao Mario (Inter Milan/ITA), Andre Gomes (Barcelona/ESP), Adrien Silva (Sporting), Bernardo Silva (Monaco/FRA)
- ATTACKERS**
Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid/ESP), Ricardo Quaresma (Besiktas/TUR), Gelson Martins (Sporting), Andre Silva (Porto), Nani (Valencia/ESP)

Swimmers to bring more laurels: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Mentioning that Bangladesh is making its mark in sports in the international arena alongside its growing economy, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday hoped that the country's talented swimmers will bring much more laurels for the nation.

"We hope that the swimmers of our riverine country will have their dignified position on the global stage," she said.

The Prime Minister was addressing the concluding ceremony of 'Bangladesh in search of best swimmers', a countrywide talent hunt, at the Navy Headquarters.

The Prime Minister distributed awards among the selected best swimmers and handed over cheques of Tk 5 lakh to eight swimmers each in four different age-based categories for their performance.

Hasina noted that once there was no so much for the country's swimmers to receive support from the government and receiving training. "But, today, we've been able to ensure that."

QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

Dead parrot leads to Black Cap Bracewell's conviction

New Zealand fast bowler Doug Bracewell was sentenced to 100 hours of community service after pleading guilty to drink-driving after dogs ate his pet parrot.

Barca 'fully support' Messi after fraud sentence

La Liga club Barcelona have expressed their support for

Argentine striker Lionel Messi and his father after the Spanish Supreme Court upheld their prison sentences over tax fraud charges, although neither are expected to go to jail.

Totti hints at new challenges

Roma legend Francesco Totti has dropped a hint that he may not lay down his boots after his Roma career comes to an end.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

MCQ Test for the post of Trainee Assistant Teller

The MCQ test for the post of Trainee Assistant Teller will be held on **Friday 02 June 2017, at 10:00 a.m.** Details of the test will be available in the Admit Card.

The candidates are requested to download and print their Admit Cards for the MCQ test from the website of the Bank:
www.pubalibangla.com/career.asp

Admit Cards will be available at the website only for the short-listed candidates.



Human Resources Division
Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.