

Bangladesh Premier League
Muktijoddha v Farashganj
Time: 4:30pm
Rahmatganj v Team BJMC
Time: 6:45pm
Venue: BNS

U-19s endure a bad day

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-19 team had a disappointing day out on the field yesterday as they suffered a five-wicket defeat to the Afghanistan Under-19 team in their third Youth ODI encounter at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium. The loss could possibly be attributed to an irresponsible batting display just like what the seniors put up at Potchefstroom, South Africa.

Afghanistan bounced back to level the five-match series 1-1 as they overtook the home side's paltry total of 75 runs in 17.2 overs. Bangladesh won the first match by 145 runs but their batting was not satisfactory as they made a shaky start before reaching 222 runs while in the second match they scored 182 for nine before the match was called off.

"We lost the match just because of irresponsible batting. Our batting is yet to click in the series despite which we won the first match by big margin. You know the boys were in training for quite a long time but they didn't play any international matches, so it could be a reason behind the poor showing," Ehsanul Haque, the junior team selector, told The Daily Star over phone.

The fourth match will take place at the same ground tomorrow.

Paterson in for injured Morkel

AGENCIES, Cape Town

Cape Cobras fast bowler Dane Paterson has been added to the Proteas squad for the second Test against Bangladesh starting at Manguang Oval in Bloemfontein on Friday.

Paterson replaces Morne Morkel, who sustained a grade two tear to his left abdominal oblique muscle during the 333-run victory at Senwes Park in Potchefstroom on Monday.

Herath spins SL to victory

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Rangana Herath became the second Sri Lankan to bag 400 wickets as his six-wicket haul steered Sri Lanka to a thrilling 21-run win over Pakistan in the first Test in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

The veteran left-arm spinner took 6-43 -- 11-136 in the match -- to scupper Pakistan, set a modest 136-run target, for just 114 on a weary fifth day Sheikh Zayed Stadium pitch.

The victory was achieved when Herath trapped last man Mohammad Abbas leg before for nought to give Sri Lanka a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

Herath, a long-time nemesis of Pakistan, also completed 100 wickets in 20 Tests against them, during an innings in which only debutant Haris Sohail fought with some resolve for his 34 runs.

Herath became the 14th bowler in all Test cricket and fifth spinner behind his countryman Muttiah Muralitharan, Australia's Shane Warne and Indian duo of Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh to reach the 400-wicket milestone.

The 136 set Pakistan was Sri Lanka's lowest defended target, improving on the 168 they set the Pakistanis in the Galle Test in 2009. It was also a first defeat for Pakistan at this venue in 10 Tests.

Earlier, leg-spinner Yasir Shah took 5-51 -- his 32nd five-wicket haul in Tests -- to dismiss Sri Lanka for 138 in their second innings.

Niroshan Dickwella ensured Sri Lanka had something to defend with a pugnacious 40.

Pakistan started the chase on a shaky note when Herath dismissed opener Sami Aslam for two before accounting for Asad Shafiq, who made 20.



Chittagong Abahani captain Mamunul Islam (L) celebrates his all-important goal against Sheikh Jamal during their Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Hosts gear up for Asia Cup

SPORTS REPORTER



The Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium is gearing up for the Hero 10th Men's Asia Cup as Bangladesh hosts the apex hockey competition of the continent for just the second time, 32 years after hosting it for the first time in Dhaka.

The top eight teams of Asia -- South Korea, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Japan, China, Oman and Bangladesh -- will vie for the title of the continental competition, to be played from October 11 to 22. All the matches will be telecast live on Star Network channels.

Bangladesh had hosted this competition in 1985 on the grass surface of the Bangabandhu National Stadium, which at that time used to be known as the Dhaka Stadium. Although Bangladesh had managed to finish only sixth out of ten teams, they did put on some spirited performances including a victory over Iran, draws against China and Japan and a narrow defeat against eventual champions Pakistan. And those performances brought a revolution as far as

local interest in the game is concerned.

While Bangladesh has failed to cash in on that interest, thanks to the national team not meeting expectations internationally and also due to the continuous fighting within the federation, the authorities this time are hoping that the hosting of such a prestigious event will provide the much-needed boost to what is regarded as the third-most popular team sport of the country.

As last-ditch preparations at the stadium take place, somewhat running against time, organisers hoped that the tournament will be a success, both in terms of organisation as well as on field performance.

"The last time when we hosted this event, the galleries at the stadium were full with people. Unfortunately people have lost that interest for various reasons. But we hope this tournament will once again create some buzz," hoped Bangladesh Hockey Federation's (BHF) general secretary Abdus Sadeque during a press conference at the stadium yesterday.

"We have already completed the organisational work and we hope to

complete the renovation and preparations by October 8 as the stadium will be handed over to the Asian Hockey Federation officials on the following day," Mamunur Rashid, the tournament committee secretary, informed. "The floodlights have already been installed while the giant screen, which will project the score as well as live broadcast, will be completed within two to three days. We will try to finish the other things within that time too."

The organisers also informed that all the participating teams will arrive by October 8 and the teams will be accommodated at three hotels -- Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Hotel Purbani and FARS Hotel. The Bangladesh team, which is currently in camp at the BKSP, will come to Dhaka tomorrow and will likely play a 40-minute practice match against Japan on either 8th or 9th October.

The press conference was attended, among others, by BHF vice presidents Shafiqul Al Munir, Abdur Rashid Shikdar, Khaza Rahmatullah and local sponsors First Security Islami Bank's senior vice president Shahzada Basunia.

Ferdinand plans on one fight

Rio Ferdinand has revealed that his aim in boxing stretches little further than having one fight. The former footballer, who played for Manchester United and England, announced last month that he is attempting to switch sports at the age of 38. Ferdinand had previously said he had ambitions of challenging for a belt but has now admitted he does not see the move into boxing as a change of career. "I am not looking to have a career here. I am looking to have a professional fight and I will see where I go then," he said. If Ferdinand successfully obtains a license from the British Boxing Board of Control, he will follow fellow former footballers Curtis Woodhouse, Leon McKenzie and Leo Roget in doing so. However, his career plans more closely mirror former England cricketer Andrew Flintoff, who won his only professional fight over four two-minute rounds against American Richard Dawson at Manchester Arena in 2012. —AGENCIES



Ctg Abahani go 5 clear

SPORTS REPORTER



Brothers Union produced an excellent fightback with ten men, yet failed to avoid their fourth straight defeat as the Bangladesh Premier League resumed after a 17-day break at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The Oranges have been in a desperate fight to move out of the bottom two positions of the table, and have seen three new coaches this season. Yet their fortunes have not changed as they suffered their fourth straight defeat, losing 3-2 against defending champions Abahani, with the ninth round of the league getting underway.

With five points from nine matches, Brothers remain one point above Farashganj, who have played eight matches so far.

However, Nikola Vitrovic's side gave Abahani a run for their money by scoring twice after Abahani had forged a 3-0 lead within the first 41 minutes.

After Brothers striker Siyo Zunapio missed an easy chance in the 14th minute, the Sky Blues grabbed the lead when Waly Faisal's corner kick was inadvertently turned in into his own net by Brothers skipper Ashraf Karim.

The lead was doubled by Emeka Darlington 15 minutes later when the Nigerian striker nodded in Emon Babu's cross. And when Nabib Newaz Jibon expertly

headed in Waly's corner eight minutes later, Brothers looked dead and buried.

But Augustine Wilson's powerful strike from the edge of the box reduced the margin as Brothers went to the breather with a bit of self-belief restored.

However, they were dealt a crucial blow when Arif Khan received his marching orders early in the second half, yet the Oranges kept fighting till the end. Former Abahani striker Twum Frank scored with a header against his old side in the 87th minute but, as Brothers failed to find the equalising goal, Abahani survived a scare.

The win took Abahani to 20 points from nine matches and placed them in third position alongside Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, who later in the day, lost a top-of-the-table clash against Chittagong Abahani by a solitary goal.

Skipper Mamunul Islam's left-footed strike two minutes after the break proved decisive in the keenly contested fixture. Chittagong Abahani should have won by a bigger margin had it not been for the open net miss by the league's top-scorer Tawhidul Alam Sabuz later in the half and another one by the same striker towards the end of the game. However, one goal eventually proved to be enough to see the port city side take a five-point lead over their rivals.

ABAHANI 3 - 2 BROTHERS
CTG ABAHANI 1 - 0 SK JAMAL

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:

Isco stars in politicised Madrid win

Isco scored twice as Real Madrid reduced the gap on La Liga leaders Barcelona to seven points courtesy of a 2-0 win over Espanyol on a day where football was dragged into violent political clashes in Catalonia.



Post-Ancelotti Bayern surrender two-goal lead

Bayern Munich again surrendered a two-goal lead in a 2-2 draw at Hertha Berlin in their first match since Carlo Ancelotti's shock sacking, slipping to five points behind leaders Borussia Dortmund.



Third round ends without results

SPORTS REPORTER



The third round of the 19th National Cricket League ended without any results courtesy of inclement weather. The three of four matches which managed to hit the field concluded in draws while the Tier-2 game between Sylhet and Chittagong at the Shaheed Chandu stadium in Bogra was abandoned without a ball being bowled.

In the Tier-1 encounter at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury stadium, Chittagong yesterday, Khulna displayed a lot of patience with the bat and managed to salvage the game against Dhaka.

Khulna, resuming the final day on seven without loss and trailing by 265 runs, finished on 180 for four in 83 overs. Experienced batsman Tushar Imran faced 189 balls during his three hour stay at the crease and became the highest scorer with 63 runs which included seven fours while opener Anamul Haque faced 172 deliveries for his 35 before being trapped leg before to off-spinner Shuvagata Hom, who later picked up Tushar's wicket as well.

Earlier, Dhaka declared their first innings after posting a huge 519 for 9 with a century each from Nadif Chowdhury (166) and Mosharraf Hossain (125) as the pair added 227 runs for the seventh wicket.

In reply, Khulna were all-out on 247 in their first innings despite a century from Ziaur Rahman who smashed his sixth first class ton before being dismissed on 104.

In the Tier-2 encounter at the Sheikh Abu Naser stadium, Khulna, Dhaka Metro took the first innings lead and declared on 329-9 after Rajshahi were all-out on 220.

After resuming the fourth day on 106 for 3 overnight batsman Marshall Ayub, who already earlier scored fifty, went on to smash his 15th first class hundred. The right-hander was dismissed after scoring 131 off 292 balls with 13 fours and two sixes while partner Mehrab Hossain scored 89 as the pair added 175 runs for the fourth wicket.

Rajshahi's left-arm spinners Sanzamal Islam and Saqlain Sajib did some damage though as the former bagged five wickets while the latter scalped two. During their second innings, Rajshahi scored 11 for one at stumps as the game also ended in a draw.

Meanwhile, the Tier-1 game between Barisal and Rangpur at the Shahid Kamruzzaman stadium in Rajshahi was abandoned without a ball being bowled after 16 overs of cricket were played in the third day where Rangpur scored 61 for one before rain once again halted the match.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KHULNA VS DHAKA DIV
DHAKA: 519 for 9 declared in 147 overs (Nadif 166, Mosharraf 125; Mahedi 3-103, AL Amin 2-44, Ziaur 2-46)
KHULNA: 247 all-out and 180-4 in 90 overs 2nd innings (Ziaur 104; Nazmul 4-79, Shuvagata 3-55)
Result: Match drawn.
RAJSHAHI VS DHAKA METRO
RAJSHAHI: 220 all-out in 77.1 overs and 11-1 2nd innings (Zunaid 85, Mizanur 56; Dollar 3-35, Sharif 3-57)
DHAKA METRO: 329 for 9 declared in 120 overs (Marshall 131, Mehrab 89; Sanzamal 5-124)
Result: Match drawn.
CHITTAGONG VS SYLHET
Result: Match abandoned due to rain.
BARISAL VS RANGPUR
RANGPUR: 61 for 1 in 16.1 overs (Sohrawardi 34 not out, Jahid 24 not out; Kamrul 1-20)
Result: Match Drawn after the fourth day was abandoned due to wet-out-field.

Barca cast 'blank vote'?

STAR SPORT DESK



Tensions in Catalonia erupted on Sunday afternoon as the La Liga encounter between Barcelona and Las Palmas took place behind closed doors following civil unrest in the city where police clashed with voters during the Catalan independence referendum.

The Spanish government had earlier pledged to stop all related polls and declared the referendum illegal and so, in a shocking yet somewhat expected turn of events, instructed security forces to disallow ballots from taking place.

This left an emotional Gerrard Pique questioning the government's views on democracy after the match while he also offered his resignation from the national team if needed. The Barcelona defender offered to retire from football if his support for the people voting on Catalan independence is regarded as a problem.

"I think I can continue. But if the board really thinks I'm a problem, I will take a step back and leave the national team before 2018," Pique said. "Despite how much they are incited, and despite how much they (the Spanish authorities and security forces) want them to fall into the trap, they have demonstrated peacefully and sang loud and clear."

Pique described the match, played in near-silence, as the "worst professional experience" of his career.

The fixture, which ended 3-0 in favour of the Blaugrana, was played behind closed doors despite Barcelona's attempts to have it postponed and this understandably caused uproar amongst fans.

In farcical scenes, official confirmation was delivered to fans just 15 minutes before the official kick-off.



Barcelona defender Sergi Roberto is in action in front of an empty stadium as the game against Las Palmas is played behind closed doors at the Nou Camp on Sunday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Some fans made their feelings clear outside the ticket office, venting their fury at staff who delivered the announcement.

Apparently, there were even disagreements between board members about participating in the match as Barca vice-president Carlos Vilarrubi handed in his resignation.

"The board tried to suspend the match, but it wasn't possible. We debated it and the club decided we should play," Pique informed.

However, former Barcelona president Joan Laporta was completely against the stance as he believed it can be regarded as a 'blank vote'.

"Playing the game behind closed doors is inhibiting. It is a blank vote, it is to be an accomplice of those who practice indiscriminate violence," Laporta wrote on Twitter. "Playing the

game behind closed doors is to be an accomplice of those who impede the peaceful exercise of democratic rights and freedoms."

Similarly, former Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola felt that the game should not have taken place at all, echoing the sentiments of many disgruntled fans. The Catalan-born coach expressed dismay on Monday at the violence that marred Catalonia's independence vote, which he said should have led the club to postpone their match.

"Barcelona against Las Palmas should never have been played, not at all," said Guardiola, now manager of Premier League high-fliers Manchester City, told Catalan radio station RAC1.

Catalan officials said 840 people had been injured while trying to cast their ballots.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: First innings 419 all out
PAKISTAN: First innings 422 all out
SRI LANKA: Second innings 138 all out (Dickwella 40 not out; Shah 5-51)
PAKISTAN: Second innings 114 all out (Sohail 34; Herath 6-43, Perera 3-46)
Result: Sri Lanka won by 21 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Rangana Herath.

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