



Abahani captain Rafikul Islam (L) and his Farashganj counterpart Noyon Hossain have their sights on the title of the Walton U-18 Club Cup football tournament.

Abahani up against Farashganj again

SPORTS REPORTER



Abahani and Farashganj Sporting Club will fight for the title of the Walton U-18 Club Cup football Tournament in the final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

Both sides navigated through the same group even though Farashganj's progress was much more complicated than it should have been. The Old Dhaka-based side beat Abahani on the opening day, but the result was reversed in favour of the Sky Blues after it was found that Farashganj had fielded an over-aged player by falsifying documents.

Farashganj, however, beat Muktiyoddha to emerge runners-up in the group behind Abahani.

They later beat Team BJMC 1-0 in a quarterfinal before getting a sudden death tiebreaker win over Brothers Union in the semifinal.

The Sky Blues, on the other hand, posted wins over Sheikh Jamal and Arambagh – both in sudden death tie-breakers – in the quarterfinals and semifinals to seal their

final berth.

Both coaches were looking forward to winning the title of the third edition of the youth tournament, with Mohammedan the winners of the previous two editions.

"We are playing with players from the Third Division. We have improved every match. We will not play for revenge, rather we want to win the title," Farashganj coach Abu Faisal said during a pre-match press conference yesterday.

"We had won against Abahani in the group stages, but the points were taken off. We will play to win again this time," said the team's captain Noyon Hossain.

Abahani skipper Rafikul Islam was happy to make it to the final. "I'm happy to be playing for such a big club. Our team has been formed in a short time, but the coach worked well. We want to play to win the title."

The match will get underway at 4:30pm and entry into the stadium has been made open to the public. The champion team will receive prizemoney of Tk 5 lakh while the runners-up team will get Tk 3 lakh.

PHOTO: STAR

Neymar 'proud' to give Paris joy

AGENCIES, Paris



Brazil forward Neymar posted a picture of himself wearing the 2018-19 Paris St Germain home shirt on Saturday amid growing speculation that he could leave the French champions at the end of the season.

"Proud to wear the new jersey and to continue giving you joy," the 26-year-old striker, who is recovering from foot surgery, posted on his verified Twitter account.

Media reports around Spain claim that Neymar, who joined the Ligue 1 club from Barcelona for a world record 222 million euros last August, has told PSG directors he wanted to leave the club after only one season.

The most recent articles say the Brazilian wants to move to Spanish giants Real Madrid, who originally tried to sign him in 2013 before he opted to join Barcelona from Santos.

Spanish newspaper Marca reported on Friday that the player's father and agent, Neymar Sr, had told PSG his son wanted to leave immediately.

It said his father met Real directors in December on the day Cristiano Ronaldo received the Ballon d'Or in Paris.

Neymar has been out of action since spraining his ankle and fracturing his fifth metatarsal on Feb. 25, which led him to undergo surgery in Brazil as he bids to regain fitness in time for the June-July World Cup in Russia.

NEYMAR TO START TRAINING?

Neymar's doctor Rodrigo Lasmar said on Friday that the injured Brazilian star could return to training as early as next week if he responds well to scheduled tests on Saturday.

"The idea is that he can return to working on the field from next week provided that he responds favourably to tomorrow's test," Lasmar told some media, including AFP, in Paris. "He's recovered well and his physical state has evolved as we expected it to from the beginning."

The Brazilian team doctor, in France for Neymar's tests, also ended up diagnosing the knee injury of PSG and Brazil right-back Dani Alves which ruled the 35-year-old out of the World Cup.

Neymar is not expected to play for his club again this term, although he will be at the Parc des Princes this weekend as PSG lift the Ligue 1 trophy.

The Brazilian will have to get back to fitness by July 15, when he will undergo the final tests before the World Cup.

Jimmy, Arbinder propel MSC

SPORTS REPORTER

Rasel Mahmud Jimmy and Arbinder Singh scored a hatrick each as Mohammedan beat Azad SC 8-1 to notch their fifth win on the trot in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League yesterday.

The Mohammedan skipper scored four goals, two in each half while Arbinder scored twice in the first half before adding another in the second to record this massive win. Nasir Hossain scored the other goal for the Black and Whites.

This win lifted the Motijheel-based outfit to the top of the table, alongside Abahani and Mariner Young's Club, on 15 points from five matches.

Mohammedan had earlier beaten Ajax SC, Shadharan Bima, Victoria SC and Wari Club.

NAT'L CRICKET C'SHIP Finalists want full quota

SPORTS REPORTER

Everyone will hope that weather does not play foul when Govt. Jubilee High School of Sunamganj meet Bogra's Police Lines School and College in the final of the Prime Bank National Cricket Championship at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium today.

The national round matches so far have been marred by rain and most of the knockout matches were decided through coin tosses.

"Today's [Saturday's] weather is fine and we hope it will also be okay tomorrow. Our main expectation is to play the full match," said Jubilee High School captain Binayak Roy Opu yesterday. "We are also excited that we are going to play the match at an international venue; it will be a new experience for all our players," he added.

His counterpart, Rakibul Islam Sojib, captain of Police Lines School and College, meanwhile, focused solely on his side putting their best foot forward.

"We are looking forward to playing our best cricket," Rakibul said.

Kiev hotel price shock awaits fans

AFP, Kiev



Fancy shelling out 3,500 euros for a night in a budget hotel?

Liverpool and Real Madrid fans who do not may end up sleeping rough for the night when they come to Kiev for the Champions League final. The Ukrainian capital is the focus of fan fury after its hotels had been revised from the usual 29 euros to 100 times their standard rates for the big match on May 26.

modest places are charging sometimes look like a misprint.

A hotel called Harmony on Andriyivskiy Descent offers a room with a double bed and a miniature TV set balanced on a windowsill for 3,534 euros.

Another two euros gets you breakfast. A person at reception asked AFP to write to management when asked why the price had been revised from the usual 29 euros.

Fans who thought they were being clever by booking long in advance also had trouble getting answers after discovering they had no places to stay.



While Liverpool and Real Madrid fans would have been happy to reach Kiev well ahead of the Champions League final, the extortionate hotel room prices are sure to put a damper on their mood.

PHOTO: REUTERS

And some supporters lucky enough to book their beds before they turned into luxury items were aghast to discover their reservations annulled.

The Liverpool FC supporters club even posted a "rough" guide on Facebook that included overnight stays in the Polish city of Wroclaw. The trek back out of Kiev was set for 3:00 am.

The European football governing body UEFA issued a diplomatic statement to AFP agreeing it might be wisest to just pop in and out of town on match day.

The rates some of the city's more

"Booked my hotel for Kiev months ago," a Liverpoolian named Stephen wrote on Twitter. "Now @bookingcom decided that they are going to cancel it for me free of charges so I can re-book it for 15 grand!"

Spanish daily Marca published accounts of similar stories befalling Real fans. One received a message from his hotel asking him to cancel his reservation "because we will not have electricity and water for the dates indicated". Another place said "a virus attack" was responsible for a cheap room being offered when in fact there were none.

Motson to hang up mike

AFP, London

Legendary BBC commentator John Motson retires on Sunday after half a century of loyal service that made him and his trademark sheepskin coat a fixture of English football fans' weekends.

The 72-year-old – who has commented on 29 FA Cup finals and six World Cup finals – will receive an award from Crystal Palace and manager Roy Hodgson in recognition of his longevity after the final whistle has been blown on Palace's game with West Brom.

Kolkata climb to fourth

STAR SPORT DESK

Kolkata Knight Riders beat Kings XI Punjab by 31 runs in the Indian Premier League yesterday. After put into bat on a hot day in Indore, Kolkata increased the heat with some brutal hitting all over the park. Led by opener Sunil Narine's 75 off 36, KKR made a mockery of the boundary ropes as they posted a mammoth 245 for 6.

Punjab's hopes would have been punctured in the first innings itself but if they had to chase the daunting 246, Chris Gayle (21) and KL Rahul (66) needed to fire. The openers did give them a blazing start before Gayle and Mayank Agarwal were dismissed on consecutive balls by Russell. Rahul (66) fought a lone battle before getting bowled by Narine. Once Rahul was gone, it was a matter of reducing the margin of defeat for Punjab and Ashwin's 45 and Aaron Finch's 34 did help as Punjab finished with 214 for 8 in their quota of 20 overs.



Barcelona legend Andres Iniesta celebrated his 34th and last birthday at the club on Friday with his teammates. Here, Luis Suarez (R) and Iniesta share big smiles in front of two balloons that read '34'. The Don had dedicated more than half of his life to the Nou Camp faithful, spending 22 glorious years in Catalonia before finally deciding it was time to move on last month.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



প্রাইম ব্যাংক স্কুল ক্রিকেট টুর্নামেন্ট ২০১৮

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