

Sylhet BKSP cries for attention

ANISUR RAHMAN from Sylhet

At a glance, the Sylhet Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP), just 11 kilometers from the downtown and on the highway bypass road of North Sylhet, appears calm and quiet like its Savar's headquarter, giving an impression that this is the right place to groom athletes.

A four-story administrative building stands on the right-hand side of the entrance and that pale building follows another four-story worn-out students' dormitory, a tarnished gymnasium and a rusty swimming pool before the boundary on the north side with another four-story staff building.

Opposite to the administrative and dormitory building, there are two big grounds -- one for football and another for cricket which were supposed to be full of action with the presence of budding athletes. However, that is not the case for the Sylhet BKSP, which was established in 2005.

The institute came to some life in April last year due to the activities of 33 budding footballers after the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) suspended the activities of the BFF Academy, having run it for only eight months (Nov 2014 - June 2015) out of its five-year contract from 2012 to 2016.

After training in the calm and quiet environment, the Bangladesh under-16 team, comprising mostly players



Unrecognisable and dilapidated, the swimming pool at the Sylhet BKSP has been neglected for so long that plants have begun to bloom through the broken tiles that line the bottom of the structure.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

from the BFF Academy, clinched the SAFF U-16 Championship to justify BFF's decision to run the academy.

BFF Academy-grown right-back Bishwanath Ghosh and winger Rabiul Hasan are now representing the national team in the ongoing Bangabandhu Gold Cup while another

of the academy players, Saad Uddin, missed the squad due to a motorbike accident.

Although it has been a long demand from all quarters to have a full-fledged football academy to meet the increasing demand of quality footballers, the local game's governing body wrapped

up its activities under the FIFA Goal project to frustrate all quarters.

Now the authorities of BKSP are running their own programme at its Sylhet branch by picking 33 footballers from across the country but the effort of producing comparatively good footballers seems to be going in vain

due to lack of facilities at the institute.

The football ground is still uneven and does not even have proper grasses. The ground even turns unusable from heavy shower, forcing the players to have indoor training at the gymnasium.

The gymnasium is totally empty, not having a single dumbbell to maintain the fitness or build muscles to fight on the ground as the players depend on only stretching to keep themselves fit and gather strength.

Swimming is now an important component for athletes of any disciplines but there is no water at the swimming pool, which is full of dust and broken tiles instead of water.

Sylhet BKSP's deputy director (in charge) Shahinul Haque informed that there are 30 footballers at the moment and 19 BKSP staff including himself are taking care of those footballers.

"As we started afresh, there may be some problems but we have been doing well with the boys. The central authority of BKSP is planning to change things and everything will be solved after the plan is approved," said AFC A licensed coach Haque, who added that the swimming pool was property of the National Sports Council (NSC).

"As far as I know an astro-turf will be installed here to avoid water clogging while the gymnasium will be well-equipped soon."

43RD CHESS OLYMPIAD Men surprise Romania

SPORTS REPORTER

64th seed Bangladesh sprung a massive surprise by defeating 21st seed Romania by 2.5-1.5 game points in the eighth round of the men's section of 43rd World Chess Olympiad in Georgia on Tuesday.

FM Fahad Rahman won against GM Vajda Levente, GM Abdullah Al Rakib drew against GM Constantin Lupulescu, GM Ziaur Rahman drew against GM Parigras Mircea-Emilian and GM Enamul Hossain Razib drew against GM Chirila Ioan-Cristian. Bangladesh earned 11 points from eight matches.

Meanwhile, in women's section, Bangladesh beat Wales by 2.5-1.5 game points. WFM Sharmin Sultana Shirin beat WCM Venetia Sivarajasingam, WIM Rani Hamid beat WCM Camp Imogen, WFM Zakia Sultana drew against Sivarajasingam Shayanna while WFM Tanima Paireen lost against Richmond Jane. The Bangladesh women have earned nine points from eight rounds.

Meanwhile, WIM Rani Hamid received Journalists' Choice Award from Journalists of the press centre of 43rd World Chess Olympiad for her contribution to the game.

'Don't want to make a mistake like Sohel's'

SPORTS REPORTER from Sylhet

Even though Ashraful Islam Rana looked short in confidence in the opener of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup against Laos, the 30-year-old Bangladesh goalkeeper does not want to repeat the mistake his teammate Shahidul Alam Sohel made against Nepal during the SAFF Championship last month.

The exclusion of Sohel, who made a terrible blunder against Nepal in the SAFF Championship which effectively ruled his team out for running for the semifinals, has paved the way for Rana to show his worth as the first-choice keeper in the ongoing tournament.

"I made a few silly mistakes in the first match against Laos. I watched video of those mistakes and I had a talk with the coach.

Today (Wednesday) the coach worked with me to rectify those mistakes," Rana said after returning to training at the Sylhet BKSP yesterday, having enjoyed rest on Tuesday following their 1-0 win over Laos.



"I didn't have any pressure from the beginning of that match. I don't like to take any pressure but I prefer challenge. I don't want to make the same mistake that Sohel made against Nepal though that was part of the game," said Rana, who is likely to stand under the post for the home side in their second and final group match against Philippines.

Rana is, however, confident about performing better in the second match as he has a good understanding with the defence as he has played a total of eight matches with these defenders except for Wali Faisal.

Philippines, Bangladesh through

SPORTS REPORTER from Sylhet



Philippines began their Bangabandhu Gold Cup campaign in style with an emphatic 3-1 win over Laos in their Group B encounter at the Sylhet District Stadium yesterday.

The win not only put Philippines into the last-four but also took hosts Bangladesh to the semifinals as Laos were eliminated with two consecutive defeats.

Bangladesh and Philippines will play the group-deciding match on Friday, with the later avoiding the prospect of being eliminated from the group stage like last month's SAFF Championship.

Jovin Bedic, Javier Augustine Gayoso and Misagh Bahadoran scored one goal apiece before Phithack Kongmathilath pulled one goal back for Laos.

Philippines, who brought a second-string side following an October 13 international friendly against Oman, were still too strong for Laos and gave a strong message to the home side ahead of their match.

Five players of Philippines team arrived in Sylhet yesterday and two of them were in the starting eleven while one played as a substitute. Even they trained among themselves without the coaching staff, who also arrived with the players yesterday.

Despite those odds, Philippines showed their



Philippines players celebrate one of their three goals during their Bangabandhu Gold Cup match against Laos at the Sylhet District Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

PHILIPPINES 3 - 1 LAOS
BEDIC 43', GAYOSO 53', KONGMATHILATH 88'
BAHADORAN 81'

character to put pressure on Laos from the word go. Bedic put Philippines ahead from a spot-kick after Souksun Souksavath brought him down inside the danger zone in the 43rd minute. Gayoso made it 2-0 after heading home a Minegish Hikaru cross from the right flank in the 53rd minute.

Laos gave away a second penalty after Souksun handed a cross from Paolo Selenga and captain Misagh converted from spot in the 81st minute while Laos scored a consolation goal when Phithack Kongmathilath converted the third penalty of the match two minutes from time.

Goal-shy Real rocked by CSKA

AFF, Milan



The last time Real Madrid went three games without a goal was in January 2007 and at the end of the season Fabio Capello was

sacked. Few deficiencies irk the fans at the Santiago Bernabeu more than shyness in attack and after an encouraging start under Julen Lopetegui, Madrid have drifted off course.

Their 1-0 defeat by CSKA Moscow on Tuesday left them three games without a win, even if none of those were straightforward, the previous two coming away to Sevilla and at home to Atletico Madrid.

"The atmosphere in the dressing room is not good," Luka Modric said. "When you do not score in three consecutive games, it is a bit of a worry."

In terms of position, the dip has barely made a scratch, with Madrid still level on points at the top of La Liga with the equally out of form Barcelona.

In the Champions League, they sit third in Group G, behind CSKA and Roma, but with a pair of games against the weakest side, Viktoria Plzen, coming up next. As they have proven in the last two seasons, group stage stumbles are easily corrected.

But there is concern about the team's bluntness up front, a complaint that instantly references Cristiano Ronaldo, the decision to sell and the failure to sign an elite replacement. "Sindrome Cristiano," El Pais called it on Wednesday.

"Cristiano set the bar very high," Keylor Navas added. "You cannot cover the sun with your finger. He

scored many goals while he was here, but it's already the past and we cannot live in the past."

Bayern held by Ajax

In another match, Noussair Mazraoui's superbly worked first-half equaliser stunned an out-of-sorts Bayern Munich on Tuesday, as Ajax held the German giants to a surprise 1-1 draw in Bavaria.

After a draw at home to Augsburg and a shock 2-0 defeat to Hertha Berlin last week, Bayern's miserable form continued as they struggled against Ajax, who stay top of Group E.

"It wasn't an easy game today, but we've only scored two goals in our last three games, and that is not enough by

our standards," Bayern captain Manuel Neuer told DAZN.

In the 21st minute, Noussair Mazraoui linked up brilliantly with Dusan Tadic and lashed the ball past Neuer. Unsettled, Bayern completely lost their rhythm and, other than a handful of half-chances for Hummels and defensive midfielder Javi Martinez, created little of note before half-time.

"We started well with a lot of momentum, but we let Ajax into the game," Bayern midfielder Thomas Mueller told DAZN. "Our commitment was good, but we were trying to get forward too quickly and kept losing the ball too easily."

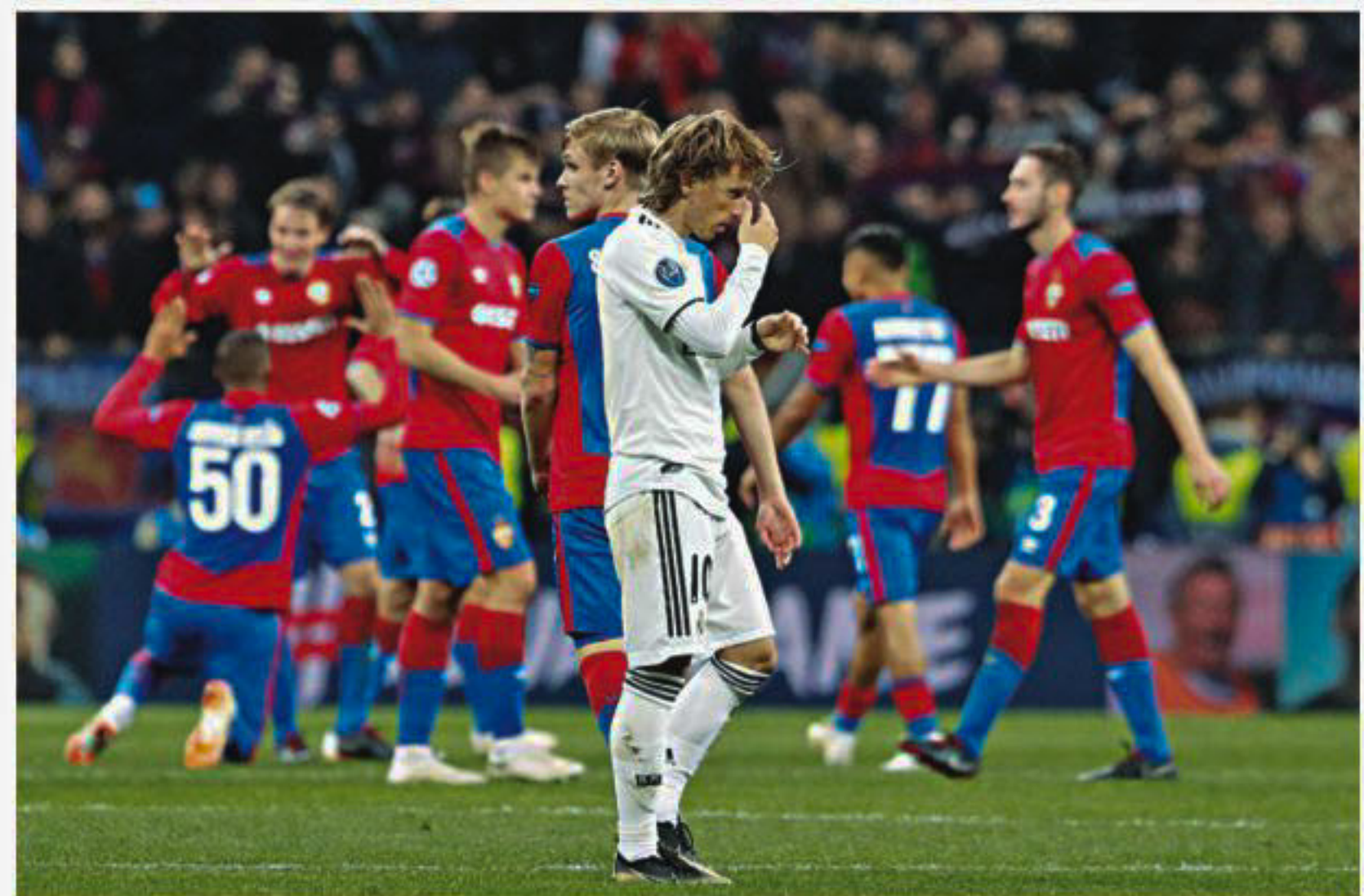


PHOTO: COLLECTED

World Cup finalist Luka Modric is left shell-shocked after CSKA Moscow scored the decisive goal against Real Madrid in their Champions League encounter on Tuesday. The Spanish giants fell to a 1-0 defeat as they failed to score in three straight games for the first time since the 2006-07 season.

Tahir, Steyn crush Zim

STAR SPORT DESK

Leg-spinner Imran Tahir took six wickets including a hat-trick as South Africa crushed Zimbabwe by 120 runs in the second one-day international at the Mangaung Oval in Bloemfontein yesterday.

The 27-year-old cleaned the Zimbabwe lower-and-middle order to stifle the run-chase as the visitors were bowled out for 78 in 24 overs chasing a challenging target of 199.

Earlier, Dale Steyn shone with the bat on his return to ODI cricket, helping South Africa to 198 with a career-best 60. The veteran fast bowler came in to bat with South Africa reeling at 101 for seven.

He and Andile Phehlukwayo (28) added 75 for the eighth wicket, a record for South Africa against Zimbabwe, and Steyn went on to take the hosts past their all-time low of 185 against the neighbouring country. Playing in his first one-day international in two years, Steyn hit eight fours and a six in an 85-ball innings.

The fast bowler later dismissed both Zimbabwe openers before Tahir cleaned up the rest of the batting.

THE LARGEST PREMIUM WATER & WASTEWATER EXHIBITION IN BANGLADESH

BANGLADESH WATER EXPO 2ND EDITION

An Exclusive Event Dedicated to Water Management

4th, 5th & 6th OCT 2018
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CITY
BASHUNDHARA (ICCB), DHAKA

BE A PART OF THIS MEGA EVENT!



For More Details: + 88 01916397133
Email: info@watertoday.org | Web: www.bangladeshwaterexpo.biz