

## INIESTA RETURNS TO NOU CAMP

There was a reunion in Barcelona, where club great Andres Iniesta met up with Lionel Messi and his former team-mates. World Cup winner Iniesta left Barca for Japanese side Vissel Kobe in May after 16 trophy-laden seasons at Camp Nou. But the 34-year-old star paid his ex-club a visit on Monday, ahead of Barca's Champions League clash against Tottenham. Iniesta was pictured with Messi, Luis Suarez and others as he enjoys the J.League off-season.

-- AGENCIES



# Brothers KO champs in high-scoring thriller

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union sent defending champions Arambagh KS packing from the Walton Independence Cup by handing a 4-3 defeat in shootout in a nerve-racking and eventful first quarterfinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The win took the Gopibagh-based outfit into the semifinals of any tournament for the first time in nine years, with their previous last-four appearance had come way back in 2009 during the inaugural Super Cup. Arambagh KS, who were eliminated from the quarterfinals of the Federation Cup last month as well, faced an early exit despite twice taking the lead.

The match between the two lightweights was by far the best



**Veteran goalkeeper Sujan Chowdhury was the toast of his teammates after his brilliant performance gave Brothers Union a breakthrough win over defending champions Arambagh KS in the first quarterfinal of the Walton Independence Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.**

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

**BROTHERS 3(4) - 3(3) ARAMBAGH**  
 LIMA 43', RABBI 65', DANIELS 78' | RABIUL 14', 54', EMILE 86'

contest of the ongoing tournament as both sides displayed some entertaining football and scored spectacular goals and had one player each sent off.

The regulation and extra time ended in a 3-3 draw and first five shots each of tiebreak also failed to separate the sides before the match was decided in sudden death, with Brothers goalkeeper Sujan Chowdhury stopping Chinedu Mathew's sixth shot to send the Oranges into wild celebration.

Man-of-the-match Sujan had also stopped another shot from Arambagh captain Rabiul Hasan

during shootout after having made some excellent saves during regulation and extra time, keeping his side in the match after Jack Daniels of Panama was sent off in the 78th minute for a second bookable offence soon after giving Brothers a 3-2 lead. Two minutes from time, Arambagh's substitute striker Sarwar Zaman Nipu was sent off following an off-the-ball offence.

Coming from a morale-boosting 3-1 win over Saif SC in the first group-stage match, Arambagh started the quarterfinal strongly and took the lead in the 12th minute, with Rabiul firing home from close range but Brothers hit back in the 43rd minute, thanks to a header

from Brazilian Lima Leonardo. Arambagh kept their dominance to restore the lead with a spectacular left-footed drive from Rabiul nine minutes after restart, but the lead lasted only 13 minutes as Mannaf Rabbi volleyed home brilliantly after Shafiqul Islam had put a perfect cross from the left flank.

Brothers then stunned Arambagh to take the lead from a counter-attack, with Daniels scoring from outside the box and the striker pulled off his jersey to celebrate the goal. His joy, though, turned into grief as he was booked for a second bookable offence and was sent off.

With one player short, Brothers held the lead for only eight minutes

before Paul Emile, who scored a hat-trick in Arambagh's previous match, headed his side level to take the game into extra time.

"We took the match very seriously as the boys spent almost sleepless nights over the last three days, thinking of the match against the champions. Despite the sending off, I was confident that we would win the match as we had a spirit and the boys fought really hard," said Brothers' Indian coach Syed Nayeem Uddin.

Arambagh coach Marful Haque blamed his players' complacency, inexperience and immaturity for the defeats as his charges failed to cash in despite producing a lot of scoring chances.

# Good start for male, bad for female

SPORTS REPORTER

Even though the country's two top male shuttlers crossed the first-round hurdle in the Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh International Challenge, the top two female shuttlers were eliminated from the first round at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Gourav Singha, the country's top-ranked shuttler, handed a 22-20, 21-15 defeat to Melvin Appiah of Mauritius in men's singles while Salman Khan, the national champion, posted a straight-forward 21-8, 21-6 victory over Mauritius's Tejraj Pultoo to move into the second round.

Veteran shuttler Ahsan Habib Parash registered a 21-8, 21-8 win over Mohamed Raffah of Maldives while Abdul Khaleq beat Saheer Ramrakhan of Mauritius 21-14, 21-16. Ariful Islam Tuhiin beat Maldives' Mohamed Aakif 21-5, 21-8.

Apart from these winners, Mangal Singha and Chand Lal got walkover while 10 other

Bangladeshis were defeated in the first round. In women's singles, there was frustration as country's top-ranked Elna Sultana suffered a 21-19, 21-13 defeat to Indian-born American Ruhi Raju while national champion Shapla Akter failed to produce any resistance against tournament's top-seed Thuy Linh Nguyen in a 21-2, 21-10 defeat.

However, there was an unexpected win for Rehana Parvin, who beat Jimimah Leung of Mauritius 21-18, 20-22, 21-18 while Bristhi Khatun, Afrina Islam, Fatima Begum, Dulali Halder, Urmi Akter lost their respective first-round matches.

Bangladesh's Malaysian coach Arvind Verma was, however, happy with the performance. "I am happy with whatever performance they put up with a short-period of preparation. I think it is a learning tournament for the players as I have seen some potentially good players like Sibghat Ullah and Gourav Singha, who have the ability to go far. I will try to push them as much as I can in the training," said the coach, who joined the training camp on November 24.



**The performance of the country's top-ranked shuttler Gourav Singha was one of the highlights of the opening day of the Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh International Challenge at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Ashrafal, Rony tons put East on top

SPORTS REPORTER

Rony Talukdar and Mohammad Ashrafal displayed a strong batting performance as they both hit unbeaten hundreds to put East Zone on top against North Zone on the first day of their Bangladesh Cricket League's fourth round match at the Shahid Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi yesterday.

The pair added 241 runs in an unbeaten fourth-wicket stand as East finished the day on 354 for three.

Imran Ali gave North a good start, removing Sadiqur Rahman in the second over but another opener, Rony, stayed cool at the other end and got some good support from Mominul Haque (26) and Mahmudul Hasan (29) to steady the ship before Ashrafal joined to to make sure that East ran riot on the first day.

28-year-old Rony, who has played only one T20I against South Africa after making his international debut in 2015 but possess a good first-class record with 4000-plus runs in 75 matches, struck three fifties in his last six first class matches after scoring a career best unbeaten 228 for Dhaka Division against Chittagong Division in a National Cricket League match last October at Fatullah.

The man from Narayanganj was outstanding yesterday as he created a good opportunity for another double hundred as he remained not out on a 241-ball 183-run knock featuring 19 fours and five sixes.

The century was a special one for Ashrafal though as he was not included in the first ever players' draft due to poor form.



ASHRAFAL...107 not out



RONY...183 not out

## SCORES IN BRIEF

### CENTRAL ZONE V SOUTH ZONE

**CENTRAL ZONE:** First innings 234 for 8 (Shadman 60, Marshall 44, Shuvagata 27, Taibur 43 not out; Al-Amin 3-51, Mahedi Hasan 2-50, Razzak 2-69)

### EAST ZONE V NORTH ZONE

**EAST ZONE:** First innings 354 for 3 (Rony 183 not out, Mominul 26, Mahmudul 29, Ashrafal 107 not out; Imran 1-39)

However, he was called to play in the third round at Bogura, where he showed signs of form by striking 64 runs against Central Zone. The 34-year-old right-hander followed up with an unbeaten 186-ball 107 laced with 13 boundaries.

In the other match at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram, bowlers dominated the day as pacer Al-Amin Hossain's three-wicket haul and two wickets each from Mahedi Hasan and Abdur Razzak helped South Zone restrict Central Zone to 234 for eight. After 16 for two, Central could only manage a respectable total on the day thanks to opener Shadman Islam, who scored a 138-ball 60 before being run out.

# Bayern meet Ajax with top spot at stake

AGENCIES, Amsterdam

A resurgent Bayern Munich head to Ajax for Wednesday's Champions League group showdown with clear winners and losers among the star-studded squad after Niko Kovac's decision to end rotation.

Bayern need just a point at Ajax's Johan Cruyff Arena to win Group E with the Bavarian giants currently top of the table, two points ahead of their Dutch rivals, and both teams already into the last 16.

Most of the other games on the day will be dead rubbers. AS Roma take on Viktoria Plzen while Real Madrid face CSKA Moscow in Group G games. Real are three points ahead of Roma at the top and the Italians will need a six-goal swing and for Real to lose in order to top the group.

Juventus, on 12 points and top of Group H, face Young Boys. Manchester United, already through as the second-placed team, take on Valencia.

Shakhtar, with five points, take on Lyon, who have seven points, in Group F. The winner will join Manchester City, who take on Hoffenheim tonight, in the next round.

**Nikki Thai Aluminium Ind. Ltd.** সর্বাধুনিক Computerized Machineries, উন্নতমানের 6063 Billet, জার্মানীর প্রযুক্তিগত Anodizing পদ্ধতিতে উৎপাদিত বিশুদ্ধতার সেরা Aluminium Profile এবং High Cu S.S Strip দ্বারা তৈরি Stainless স্টীল পাইপ বাজারজাত করছে। "নিক্কি" ব্র্যান্ড ISO (9001:2015) সনদপ্রাপ্ত এবং BUET কর্তৃক পরীক্ষিত। "নিক্কি" PWD সিডিউলে তালিকাভুক্ত, BSTI কর্তৃক মান নিয়ন্ত্রিত ও লাইসেন্সপ্রাপ্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান।

বাজারের নিম্নমানের অ্যালুমিনিয়াম প্রোফাইল এবং এস. এস পাইপ ব্যবহার না করে শুনে ও মানে সেরা নিক্কি ব্র্যান্ডের অ্যালুমিনিয়াম প্রোফাইল এবং এস. এস পাইপ ব্যবহার করে আপনার স্থাপনার দীর্ঘ স্থায়িত্ব নিশ্চিত করুন।

## QATAR VISA CENTER INAUGURATED IN DHAKA

Beginning mid December 2018, work visa applicants to the state of Qatar will be required to complete the following process at the Qatar Visa Center in Dhaka

**PROCESS AT QVC**

Obtain your visa reference number from employer

Appointment scheduling on website

Security Check at entrance

Verification & Token Generation at reception

Biometrics Enrolment  
• Face  
• Iris  
• Finger Print

Medical Screening  
• Blood Test  
• X-Ray  
• Physical Check-Up

Track application online, call center & email support

**Details of the Qatar Visa Center**  
 Rupayan Trade Centre, 11th Floor, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Bangla Motor, Dhaka - 1000, Bangladesh

**Business Days:** Sunday - Thursday | **Business Hours:** 0830 HRS - 1630 HRS

**Helpline:** +88 09 666 777 101 | **Email:** info.bgd@qatarvisacenter.com

For more details on visa requirements, procedures and appointments please log on to [www.qatarvisacenter.com](http://www.qatarvisacenter.com)