





Bashundhara Kings players celebrate with the Independence Cup trophy after beating Sheikh Russel KC in the final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The newcomers had also made it to the final of the Federation Cup last month, only to lose against Abahani. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'Happy with substitute appearances'

SPORTS REPORTER



Bashundhara Kings forward Matin Mia said he has no qualms about sitting in the bench if his super-sub appearances are good enough to win his side important

matches.

The national team forward scored the all-important goal for his side in the fifth minute of extra time of the final of the Independence Cup last night after coming on as a substitute in the 17th minute of the second half. Although he got a bit lucky as his national teammate Biplu Ahmed lost possession rather easily inside the box, there is no doubt about the quality of the strike.

The promising forward curled the ball in at the far post with a sweet strike, topping the two exquisite goals at either end earlier in the first half. "If I can give my best as a change, then I'm fine with

substitute appearances. If my coach thinks I can do better this way, I'm fine with that. No matter how much time I spend on the pitch, I try to give my 100 per cent," Matin said after the final. Bashundhara Kings coach Oscar Bruzon gave plaudits

to Matin, who scored three goals in the Independence Cup and three in the Federation Cup, five of those as substi-

"We knew we had fresh legs at the bench who could make an impact towards the end. And with his quality, Matin Mia brings something extra on the pitch," said Bruzon.



Matin Mia came off the bench to score the winning goal for Bashundhara Kings in the final of the Independence Cup against Sheikh Russel KC. PHOTO: STAR

"The first goal that we conceded was superb; the goalie had nothing to do. But the second goal was a gift. True Matin executed it well, but you don't give the ball away in that position like that," Titu said. "In final matches, small mistakes can

the defence unbreached running up to the final. Sheikh Russel continued to show fighting spirit as they

Super-sub Matin, who had scored against Abahani in goal as a gift from his side. The veteran coach rued the lack of Bashundhara's semifinal fixture as well, curled the ball into a moment's concentration from Biplu after his side had kept the far corner of the net from the left side after having easily

Sheikh Russel coach Saiful Bari Titu, however, saw the

make the difference and that is what happened here."

Bashundhara Kings' coronation

ATIQUE ANAM



Newcomers Bashundhara Kings laid their hands on their first silverware in topflight football with a 2-1 win against former champions Sheikh Russel KC in an entertaining final of the Walton Independence Cup at

the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The big spenders, who endured the heartbreak of defeat in the final of season-opening Federation Cup a month ago, tamed an enterprising and spirited Sheikh Russel KC thanks

to an extra-time goal from substitute forward Matin Mia after Marcos Vinicius's early strike was cancelled out by Sheikh Russel's Raphael Odoyin in the stoppage time of the first half. Sheikh Russel had gone through the whole tournament without conceding a single goal, thanks to a compact

defence and the country's number one goalkeeper Ashraful Islam Rana under the bar. So it needed something special to break the Sheikh Russel goal, and Vinicius, adjudged the best player of the final, conjured up that special effort with his left foot in the 17th minute.

The Brazilian received a small pass from midfielder Emon Babu, took a couple of steps forward before unleashing a powerful diagonal shot from 25 yards, picking the

extreme right corner of Rana's net.

The goal came somewhat against the run of play as former champions Sheikh Russel had dominated in terms of shots on target and they continued to threaten the opposition goal with quick attacks.

The Blues' first attempt was in the eighth minute when Odoyin's tap-in was turned out by Bashundhara Kings'

SK RUSSEL **BASHUNDHARA KINGS** VINICIUS 17', MATIN 105' 0D0YIN 45+1

PLAYER-OF-THE-FINAL: Marcos Vinicius **TOP SCORER:** Paul Emile (Arambagh KS) -- 4 goals PLAYER-OF-THE-TOURNAMENT: Anisur Rahman Zico FAIRPLAY AWARD: Abahani

young custodian Anisur Rahman Zico.

The young goalkeeper, who saved four shots in Kings' two tiebreak wins in the knockout rounds, produced an acrobatic save to keep out Odoyin's curling shot on the hour-mark before diving to his left to deny Yeamin launched a number of attacks, but failed to beat Zico for a Munnain the 43rd minute.

However, the 21-year-old was finally beaten a minute was extended.

second time as their five-year long drought for a silverware

veteran defender Nasiruddin Chowdhury.

minutes into the first half of extra time.

dispossessed Biplu Ahmed just inside the box.

There were no more close scoring chances in the remain-

der of the half, but Bashundhara Kings regained the lead five

no chance to Zico.

India dominate Day 1 'Warner asked me to tamper'

Banned Australian player Cameron Bancroft on Wednesday confirmed David Warner asked him to alter the ball during the tampering scandal in South Africa and said he went

AFP, Melbourne

along with it "to fit in". Bancroft was seen using sandpaper to try to rough up the ball in the Cape Town Test in March, receiving a nine-month ban from international and domestic cricket for his part in an incident that rocked the sport.

Warner and then captain Steve Smith were exiled for a year after all three were found to be involved.

A Cricket Australia investigation pointed to Warner as the mastermind and Bancroft revealed more details in an interview with former Australia wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist on Fox Sports.

"Dave suggested to me to carry the action out on the ball given the situation we were in the game and I didn't know any better," said Bancroft, whose ban runs out this weekend.

"I didn't know any better because I just wanted to fit in and feel valued really. As simple as that.

around my values, what I valued at the time, and I valued fitting in ... you hope that fitting in earns you respect and with that, I guess, there came a pretty big cost for the mistake."

AFP, Melbourne



Powerhouse Indian pair Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli built on an impressive 76 from

debutant Mayank Agarwal to pile pain on Australia in the crunch third Test Wednesday. On a docile, batsman-friendly Melbourne Cricket Ground wicket, India ground their way to 215 for two at stumps on day one with the rock-like Pujara not out 68 and superstar

hot conditions for little reward. Pat Cummins was the pick of the attack,

taking two for 40. India came into the Boxing Day clash with a new pair of inexperienced openers.

But the exciting Agarwal rose to the challenge in front of 73,500 fans after India won an important toss and opted to bat on a pitch that is expected to deteriorate as the match wears on.

He stroked 76 -- the highest score by an Indian on debut in Australia -- and was looking impregnable before Cummins had him caught behind by Tim Paine as he gloved the last ball before tea down the leg-side.



Seven-year-old Archie Schiller (R) examines the players' list with India skipper Virat Kohli before the toss of the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne yesterday. PHOTO: ICC

SCORES IN BRIEF

India: First innings 215 for 2 (Agarwal 76, Pujara 68 not out, Kohli 47 not out; Cummins 2-40)



India skipper Virat Kohli (R) and Cheteshwar Pujara made Australia toil with an unbroken 92-run third-wicket stand on the first day of the third Test in Melbourne yesterday.

Nayeem's 8 destroys Central

SPORTS REPORTER



Naveem Hasan has already made headlines at the highest level of the game by becoming the youngest player to take a Test five-

for on debut against West Indies in the recently concluded home series and the lanky off-spinner continued to impress as his career-best bowling spun East Zone to a mammoth 321run victory against Central Zone on the third day of the final-round Bangladesh Cricket League match yesterday.

The 18-year old spinner caught the Central batsmen in a spin web with outstanding figures of 20-9-47-8 after captain Mominul Haque and Yasir Ali hit hundreds in the second innings to

SCORES IN BRIEF

EAST ZONE V CENTRAL ZONE

EAST ZONE: First innings 425 all out and Second innings 254 for 3dec in 43 overs (Rony 24, Mominul 100, Yasir 101 not out; Taskin 1-37, Shahadat 1-19, Mosharraf 1-89)

CENTRAL ZONE: 224 all out and 134 all out in 42.2 overs (Saif 31, Nazmul 36; Nayeem 8-47, Jayed 2-8) Result: East Zone won by 321 runs

Player-of-the-match: Nayeem Hasan **NORTH ZONE V SOUTH ZONE** NORTH ZONE: First innings 293 and

Second innings 186 for 5 in 58 overs (Junaid 77, Naeem 67; Shafiul 1-31, Monir 1-26, Mahedi 1-71, Razzak 1-45, Nahidul 1-8)

SOUTH ZONE: First innings 541 all out in 125.3 overs (Anamul 180, Al-Amin 128, Mahedi 84, Monir 33, Razzak 35 not out; Ebadat 2-88, Sunzamul 6-158, Saglain 1-126, Ariful 1-41)



NAYEEM HASAN... 8 for 47

target for Central.

East finished with 29.14 points to keep their title hopes alive but South Zone ended the third day against North Zone in Chattogram with high hopes of spoiling East's party on today's final day. North were still trailing by 62 runs with five wickets intact after making 186 for five in their second innings at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium. A vic-South enough points to overtake East's tally as they started the match with 20.63 points.

In Sylhet, after East resumed the day on two without loss and Mominul and Yasir took charge after openers Rony Talukdar and Imrul Kayes were dismissed early. Mominul's 106-ball 100 and Yasir's unbeaten 109-ball 101 helped East to declare their second innings on 254 for three, setting Central a monumental challenge to save the match.

It was then the story of the Central batsmen's meek surrender to Nayeem, though few of their batsmen

set an improbable 456-run winning like Saif Hasan and Nazmul Hossain got starts. Nayeem surpassed his previous best figures of eight for 106 for Chittagong Division against Dhaka Division in the National Cricket League this October and his figures also ensured that he now holds the records for best bowling figures by an off-spinner in the country's first-class cricket, outshining Jamal Babu's eight for 67.

tory and the bonus points will give failed to make a double-hundred as he was dismissed for 180 while Al-Amin returned to bat after retiring hurt on the second day and scored 128. Their efforts and a late surge from Abdur Razzak -- who hit a 22ball 35 -- helped South add 134 more runs to their overnight score of 407 for five.

> avoiding an innings defeat as they scored 186 for five in their second essay. The last recognised batsmen in Ziaur Rahman and Dhiman Ghosh were at the crease, and they will have to do something special today to deny South's second successive title.

In Chattogram, Anamul Haque

North were still 61 runs away from "The decision was based