



(From L to R) Maria Manda, Sara Ban Tohura and Anuching Mogini indicate the number of goals they scored during Bangladesh's 10-0 win against Philippines in their opening match of the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers at the Mandala Thiri Stadium in Myanmar yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

U-16 girls hammer Philippines 10-0

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh made a sparkling start to their AFC U-16 Women's Championship Qualifiers (Round-2) campaign with a 10-0 mauling of Philippines in the Group B opener at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Myanmar yesterday.

Striker Sara Ban Tohura scored four goals in the first half before Anuching Mogini added a second-half brace for the rampant girls in red and green. Shamsunnahar Sr, Shamsunnahar Jr and skipper Maria Manda scored once goal apiece while the other one was an own goal.

Golam Rabbani Choton's charges raced to a comfortable 6-0 lead in a dominant first-half display before adding four more goals in the second half. The win will give Bangladesh the boost they need before taking on hosts Myanmar in the second match tomorrow.

The four-team group, which also features China -- the strongest team on paper -- and hosts Myanmar, will see two teams progress

to the final round. The girls in red and green had emerged champions at home in the first round of the qualifiers having scored 27 goals and conceded none.

"I am very happy with the way my team played in the match," said coach Choton. "Our girls played the match positively and played very hard from the beginning. Having scored an early goal, they were able to win by big margin. Since our target is to go to the final round, the next match against Myanmar is our very important for us," the experienced coach added.

Although Bangladesh senior women's team lost against their Myanmar counterparts 5-0 in Olympic Qualifiers three months ago, they are expected to put up a fight against the hosts, who had beaten Philippines 5-1 during the first qualifying round in September last year.

Bangladesh under-16 team had qualified straight for the eight-team final round having won their qualifying round at home in 2016 for the previous edition of this championship.

Sky's the limit in Kiwi-land

SPORTS REPORTER from Hamilton



Much like the scenic views and beautiful weather in New Zealand, watching a cricket match on television beamed from this country is also a tranquil experience for viewers all across the globe.

It is in stark contrast to the oft-criticised broadcasting quality and below-standard graphics that often let down Bangladeshi viewers during local competitions.

The most recent one was the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) during which viewers had a lot of complaints regarding the quality of the broadcast.

What hampers the broadcast quality in Bangladesh is the lack of knowledge as well as the tendency to spend less on broadcasting quality and those are aspects in which Sky Sports' production is way ahead.

"It's very expensive production, as you have to be on the road for a long time. There are 75 crew members, [we have to take care of] their accommodation and flights and we also have three trucks. So, production of cricket is not cheap anywhere in the world," Neil Thompson, the senior technical manager of Sky Sports, told The Daily Star.

In the three-match Test series between Bangladesh and New Zealand starting from today, a total of 32 cameras will be operated by the crew working across the ground with world-class technicians. A few of them have experience of working in the IPL, along with a few motorsport events across the world.

Modern technology is utilised to the fullest to bring out the best quality and when it comes to graphics, Sky Sports has a dedicated team and also state-of-the-art technology to operate the DRS.



Discarded Jafar pounds Sk Jamal

SPORTS REPORTER



After being dropped from the national squad for the FIFA friendly against Cambodia next month, striker Jafar Iqbal torched Sheikh Jamal to propel Saif SC to an emphatic 3-0 win in a Bangladesh Premier League encounter yesterday.

Jafar, who was in the national squad for October's Bangabandhu Gold Cup before being dropped by coach Jamie Day from the 27-member preliminary squad for the friendly on Sunday, wreaked havoc in the Sheikh Jamal defence from the onset as the opposing defenders failed to handle his speed on the right flank.

The striker gave visiting Saif SC a well-deserved lead at the Bangabandhu National Stadium before assisting Colombian midfielder Deiner Cordoba and winning a penalty converted by Russian midfielder Denis Bolshakov to ensure Saif SC's maiden win over Sheikh Jamal in top-flight football. Upon making their top-flight debut last season, Saif SC's best results against the Dhanmondi-based outfit came in two draws in the league last season. However, they suffered a 1-2 defeat to Sheikh Jamal in this season's Federation Cup.

"When I saw that I was not in the preliminary squad, I felt a lot of sorrow. I think the selection committee and the coaches saw my performance today but their decision is final. However, I am confident I will again get called-up for the national team," Jafar said. "I am in the preliminary squad for the AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers and I am hopeful of securing a place in the final squad."

Saif SC captain Jamal Bhuiyan pulled the strings from midfield, providing the ball to the final third as well as foiling the opposition's attacks.

Saif SC came close to taking the lead in the seventh minute as a Jamal free-kick, which was drifting away, was headed back by Jafar. The ball



Saif SC striker Jafar Iqbal was a livewire against Sheikh Jamal, scoring one and playing a key role in two other goals in a 3-0 win in a BPL match yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

came to Andres, who unfortunately saw his header ricochet off the crossbar.

Sheikh Jamal attempted to press Saif SC and Argentina's Luciano Perez saw his glancing header from Omar Farque's cross narrowly miss the far post with the goalkeeper beaten in the 19th minute.

After surviving that scare, Saif stepped up their attack, with Deiner Andres missing the target again before Jafar broke the deadlock in the 40th minute with a left-footed strike from inside the box after availing a pass from Jamal.

Andres headed home a cross from Jafar in the 58th minute before Bolshakov wrapped up the win in stoppage time of the second half after Jafar was brought down by defender Shawkat Russel inside the danger zone.

Saif SC remain fourth with 17 points from

eight games while Sheikh Jamal, on the back of a third defeat from nine matches, are sixth with 12 points.

Meanwhile, the crucial encounter between perennial rivals Abahani and Mohammedan was postponed due to the heavy showers at the Big Bowl.

The referee and match commissioner inspected the venue twice over the course of an hour before postponing the match.

"The match was postponed due to unplayable conditions following rain. According to the bylaws, the match commissioner inspected the venue thrice within one hour before taking the final decision. We will decide later when this match will take place," said Jaber Bin Taher Ansari, the manager of the professional football league.

SHORT CORNER

England hit record 24 sixes to post 418

England blasted a world record 24 sixes in the fourth One-Day International against the West Indies at Grenada's National Stadium on Wednesday. Jos Buttler had the honour of smashing the record 24th six over deep midwicket in the last over, bringing up his 150 in the process. West Indies had set the previous record of 23 sixes in an innings just seven days ago in the first match between the two sides in Bridgetown. England eventually totalled 418 for six after being put into bat.

UEFA charges Ramos for deliberate booking

European soccer's governing body UEFA has charged Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos with "receiving a yellow card on purpose" in the club's Champions League tie against Ajax Amsterdam earlier this month.

Ramos fouled Kasper Dolberg in the 89th minute of the last-16, first leg tie in the Netherlands,

which the holders won 2-1. As a result, the 32-year-old is suspended from next Tuesday's second leg.

UEFA decided to investigate the incident after Ramos told reporters he would "be lying if I said I didn't force (the booking)".

Although Ramos later said: "I was referring to forcing the foul, a foul that was inevitable. Not to forcing the booking. That's why I said that I would lie if I said I did not know that I was carrying a penalty, just as I knew that I had no other choice than to make a mistake. And that's what I meant when I said that in football you have to make complicated decisions."

If a player is found to have been deliberately booked he can be banned for two games.

Nantes taking Sala transfer dispute to FIFA

French club Nantes has referred their dispute with Cardiff City over the transfer fee of Emiliano Sala to FIFA, sources close to the Ligue 1 side said

Wednesday.

The clubs are wrangling over payment of the fee following the tragic death of Argentinian Sala in an airplane accident in January.

The sources said Nantes referred the matter to world football's governing body after the Welsh side declined to pay an initial six million euros (\$6.8 million) of the 17 million euros total fee.

Rodgers predicts exciting future for Foxes

New Leicester City manager Brendan Rodgers has promised his players there are "special things on the horizon" after watching them beat Brighton and Hove Albion 2-1 in the Premier League on Tuesday.

Rodgers' appointment was confirmed an hour before kick-off, with the Northern Irishman replacing Claude Puel.

"He spoke to the lads in the dressing room. He was proud of them and liked the spirit. He promised them there are special things on the horizon," interim Leicester manager Mike Stowell told reporters.

--Reuters



Organisers and sponsors of the City Bank American Express Chittagong Open hold a replica cheque of the tournament during the title sponsorship declaration at a hotel in Dhaka yesterday. The event will take place at the Bhatiary Golf and Country Club in Chittagong from March 6 to 9. Among the others, BPGA president Lt Col Khandaker Abdul Wahed (3rd from L), Riz Events' chairman Rizwan Bin Faruq (3rd from R) and City Bank's deputy managing director Sheikh Mohammad Maroof (2nd from R) were present.

PHOTO: RIZ EVENTS



An imperious Rafael Nadal cruised past Mischa Zverev in straight sets in the Mexican Open on Tuesday.

PHOTO: ATP

Rafa sets up Kyrgios clash

AFP, Acapulco



Rafael Nadal powered into the second round at the Mexican Open Tuesday, breezing past Germany's Mischa Zverev in straight sets to advance to a meeting with Australia's Nick Kyrgios.

World No. 2 Nadal, playing in his first event since losing to Novak Djokovic in last month's Australian Open final, was always in control during a 6-3, 6-3 victory.

The 17-time Grand Slam champion completed the victory in 1hr 20min, defeat-

ing his 76th ranked opponent with ease.

"I'm happy for the victory. It's never easy against Mischa, especially without competing for a while," said Nadal.

"I'll try to enjoy this moment for the next few hours and then be ready for tomorrow," added Nadal, who said he is wary of the threat posed by the mercurial Kyrgios.

"Nick is one of the most talented players on tour," Nadal said. "It's a big challenge for me and I hope to be ready for it."

Elsewhere Tuesday, Zverev's younger brother Alex had little difficulty in advancing to the second round, defeating Alexei Popyrin 6-3, 6-3.

Maxwell ton fires Aus to series sweep

AFP, Bangalore

Glenn Maxwell hit a breathtaking century to single-handedly lead Australia to a 2-0 series sweep over India with their seven-wicket win in the second Twenty20 international on Wednesday.

Maxwell smashed 113 off 55 balls as the tourists chased down their target of 191 with two balls to spare at Bangalore's M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Maxwell's knock laced with 7 fours and 9 sixes eclipsed Indian skipper Virat Kohli's 72 off 38 balls that lifted the hosts to 190 for four after being put into bat first.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: 190 for 4 in 20 overs (Rahul 47, Kohli 72 not out, Dhoni 40; Behrendorf 1-17, Short 1-29)

AUSTRALIA: 194 for 3 in 19.4 overs (Maxwell 113 not out, Short 40; Shankar 2-38)

Result: Australia won by 7 wickets and took the series 2-0

