# **DHAKA TUESDAY JUNE 25, 2019, ASHAR 11, 1426 BS**





## All-weather Mushy drives Tigers

City

SPORTS REPORTER from Southampton

Bangladesh were faced with an unusual situation in their World Cup match against Afghanistan in Southampton yesterday. Having played five matches on pitches that were mostly true and had good pace, allowing for easy strokeplay, Bangladesh were given conditions much closer to Mirpur than the Ageas Bowl. Yet, when batting, perhaps because of the habits adopted over five matches, Bangladesh's batsmen found it hard going against the Afghan spinners on a slow wicket, before their most well-rounded batsman Mushfiqur Rahim set them back on the right path.

Instead of Soumya Sarkar, the right-handed Liton Das was sent to open the innings along with Tamim Iqbal, presumably to prevent giving off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman two left-handers to bowl at. Liton was out driving early against Mujeeb, Tamim was bogged down and fell trying to force the pace. Shakib Al Hasan, the form batsman not just for Bangladesh but in the wider tournament, continued his good form with 51, but was a little slow by the lofty standards he has set himself in this edition

his 68th ball. When Tamim was out, Bangladesh

before being adjudged leg-before off

were on 82 for two after 17 overs and with Afghanistan's spinners in full flow, there was a danger of the innings stalling. Mushfiqur, the batsman in Bangladesh with the best technique and therefore the one who finds it easiest to adjust when conditions change, took the mantle of keeping the score ticking over. In a stand of 61 off 79 deliveries, Mushfigur's share was 32 off 37 when Shakib was out to Mujeeb.

Soumya had given the side fast starts in all of the games so far on true pitches, but having to bat at five because of the change in tactics at the top, failed to transfer his game to a slow pitch in the middle order.

The other aspect making it difficult for the Bangladesh batsmen was that, having played on grounds with much shorter boundaries, boundaries were hard to come by at the big ground in Southampton. There were only 17 fours and one six in the entire innings. Mushfiqur hit the one six but just four boundaries in his 87-ball 83 -- just 27 per cent of his runs in boundaries as compared to the 41 per cent during his 102 against Australia on a much smaller ground.

Through the middle overs, he was the batsman intent on taking the singles and even though Mahmudullah Riyad was suffering from a calf strain, ran hard during

Bangladesh's Mushfigur Rahim (R) plays an improvised scoop over the wicketkeeper's head during his 87-ball 83 in a World Cup match against Afghanistan

PHOTO: REUTERS

a 56-run fifth-wicket stand with the right-hander.

at the Ageas Bowl

in Southampton

yesterday.

There were not just forceful shots from Mushfigur -- his all-weather batting came through in scoops played against the Afghan spinners, only yesterday the slowness of the

wicket and the size of the boundary prevented them from going for boundaries. There was still the superb reverse sweep late in the innings and an exhibition of his deceptive power when he launched Dawlat Zadran over long on for six.

He was helped by a willing partner in Mosaddek Hossain after Mahmudullah limped off after giving a catch to midwicket at the end of the 43rd over. The two ran the Afghans bedraggled with stolen singles as Bangladesh scored 68 runs in the

last 10 overs. Mushfigur was finally dismissed in the penultimate over, 17 runs short of a second successive century, but as Bangladesh's allweather man, he ensured that his innings made a difference on a different wicket.



Argentina striker Lautaro Martinez (L) runs to celebrate as Sergio Aguero chases him following the former's opening goal against Qatar in their Copa America fixture at the Gremio Arena in Porto Alegre on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Argentina sneak into quarters

AFP, Porto Alegre



An early goal by Lautaro Martinez and Sergio Aguero's late second gave Argentina a 2-0 win over Qatar on Sunday that qualified them for the

Already-qualified Colombia beat Paraguay 1-0 in the other Group B match to secure a place in the last eight for both Peru, who finished third in Group A, and Uruguay, currently second in Group C.

Copa America quarterfinals.

Argentina, who finish second in Group B behind Colombia, will play Venezuela at Rio de Janeiro's iconic Maracana stadium in the quarterfinals, while tournament debutants and guests Qatar are out.

Paraguay, on two points, must wait and see what happens in Monday's Group C clash between Japan and Ecuador before finding out if they qualify as one of the two best third-place finishers.

Peru, with four points, are sure of that while only a draw between Japan and Ecuador would see Paraguay progress. Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni

recalled Manchester City forward Aguero for the crunch tie while Martinez kept his place at the expense of Angel Di Maria.

"The goal came early and that allowed us to approach the game with greater calmness," said Martinez.

"There was pressure, we had to win to progress and we're happy. Now we have to work hard," he added.

## Abahani to bring change in strategy

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Premier League champions Abahani are planning to bring change in strategy in their final group game of AFC Cup against Minerva Punjab as

Nigerian striker Sunday Chizoba is still uncertain about joining the team due to visa complications.

Abahani had their first practice session in Guwahati yesterday ahead of tomorrow's match, and the signs are the coach field Saad Uddin upfront while draft in Wali Faisal in defence as the group leaders might need a victory against the I-League champions to advance to the zonalfinal play-off stage.

Saad played in right-back position against Manang Marshyangdi in the last match in Dhaka while Wali was on the bench. "Sunday is an important player and

make some changes in the team, play a bit differently and get three points,' Lemos said over phone yesterday. "It's possible [to win the match without Sunday] but it will be hard.

he played every match. But we must

Minerva are a team that have not lost yet and we must be concentrated and tactically perfect to win this match," said the 33-year-old coach.

However, Abahani can emerge as emerge group champions even if they lose to Minerva Punjab if secondplaced Chennaiyin FC drop points against hosts Manang Marshyangdi

on the same day. Manager Satyajit Das Rupu

informed that the fate of Sunday will be known by today afternoon but the team is prepared to play the match without Sunday. "Every player is convinced about

the importance of the match against Minerva. The players are determined to give their best because they worked hard to come to this stage and they don't want to give up until the final whistle," said Rupu.

Minerva Punjab are the only unbeaten team in the group, having drawn all five games so far. They had twice taken the lead against Abahani in Dhaka, but goals from Sunday and Nabib Newaj Jibon secured a point for the Dhanmondi outfit.

#### Benitez to leave Newcastle

AFP, London

Rafael Benitez will leave Newcastle United after three years as manager when his contract expires next week, the Premier League club confirmed on Monday.

"It is with disappointment that we announce manager Rafael Benitez will leave Newcastle United upon the expiry of his contract on 30th June 2019," Newcastle said in a statement.

Despite failing to keep Newcastle in the top flight shortly after taking over, Benitez earned hero status on Tyneside as he led Newcastle back to the Premier League at the first time of asking and then stabilised the club by finishing 10th and 13th in the last two seasons.

However, the Spaniard did not hide his displeasure at the lack of backing he was afforded by Newcastle owner Mike Ashley and was believed to be seeking assurances over the budget he would have to work with before committing his future to the club.

#### WHAT TO WATCH

GTV, BTV & MAASRANGA

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP ENGLAND V AUSTRALIA LIVE FROM 3:30PM

### Becker auctions trophies

AFP, London



Trophies and personal souvenirs belonging to German tennis star Boris Becker will be auctioned online from Monday by British firm Wyles Hardy to partially clear the bankrupt

champion's debts.

The youngest winner in Wimbledon's history, who claimed the first of three titles aged just 17, is auctioning off 82 items including medals, cups, watches and photographs. The sale will end on July 11,

Wyles Hardy said on its website. Some of the trophies up for grabs include a replica of a Challenge Cup awarded to Becker following one of his Wimbledon wins, and the three-quarter size replica of the Renshaw Cup presented after he became the youngest ever Grand Slam singles champion.

His Wimbledon finalist medal from 1990, when he was beaten by Swede Stefan Edberg, and a replica of the US Open silver cup made by jeweller Tiffany for his 1989 victory over Ivan Lendl, will also be included in the sale.

The indebted 51-year-old champion was declared bankrupt in 2017.

Becker now focuses on commentating, as he attempts to use his fame to wipe out his debts.

#### Mallorca win promotion

**Nadal watches** 

AFP, Madrid

Spanish tennis star Rafael Nadal watched his local side Real Mallorca win promotion to La Liga on Sunday, overturning a 2-0 first-leg deficit to triumph 3-2 against Deportivo La Coruna in a play-off.

Nadal applauded as Ante Budimir, Salva Sevilla, with a free-kick, and Abdon Prats took his home club back to the top flight.

## Lopez king of Queen's

AFP, London



Feliciano Lopez became the oldest Queen's singles champion on Sunday when the 37-year-old Spaniard defeated

Frenchman Gilles Simon in a thrilling three-set clash, 6-2, 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (7/2). Lopez, the first wildcard to win

the key Wimbledon warm-up event since Pete Sampras in 1999, is also the lowest-ranked player to claim the title at 113 since 108th-ranked Australian Scott Draper in 1998. While Lopez has had an

exhausting week -- he still has to play the doubles final with Andy Murray -- 34-year-old Simon also played inspired tennis despite all his matches going to three sets.

However, he just fell short of becoming the first Frenchman to win the title.

Lopez was the second 37-yearold to win an ATP tournament on Sunday after Roger Federer claimed his record-extending 10th Halle title.

"I don't know how I did that,"



Spain's Feliciano Lopez poses with the winner's trophy following his single's final victory over France's Gilles Simon at Queen's in London on Sunday. The Spaniard on Monday won the doubles title, too, pairing with Andy Murray of Britain. PHOTO: AFP

said Lopez after receiving the trophy.

"The whole match was very exciting. I took the early set but then he (Simon) got better and better. It was tough for me to find a

trophy in 2017 but it's not. It's right now." Lopez broke Simon in the first

way to win points. "I thought the best moment of my career was when I held this

in the tie-break.

game of the match with his second break point. The Spanish veteran looked to be in complete control as he broke Simon again to go 4-1 up, netting the first break point but clinched

volley. Lopez took the first set with an ace but Simon was the faster of the two out of the gate in the second set, breaking the Spaniard for a 2-0 lead.

the second one with a sublime

Lopez broke back immediately and it stayed with serve before a tie-break which featured a 33-stroke rally.

Simon rallied and retrieved a mini-break and then broke again to hold a set point on the Lopez serve which he converted with aplomb.

The third set went with serve and despite their respective ages, and the length of time they have spent on court this week, both showed remarkable agility. Lopez hoped to close out the

match at 6-5 and had a match point which he dumped into the net.

However, he made no mistake





The 6th Convocation of Eastern University will be held on 16 November 2019. Students who have completed all requirements for graduation in Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Summer 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Summer 2018, Fall 2018 and Spring 2019, are eligible for the Convocation.

: 10 July 2019 Registration reopen : 30 September 2019 Registration close

For online registration and details, please visit the university website: www.easternuni.edu.bd

Please contact the Registrar's office for further information Room 609, Building 1, House 26, Road 5, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1205.

Registration helpline: 01819701501, 9676031-5 Ext. 208, 209 Registrar



**Eastern University** 

E-mail: deputyregistrar@easternuni.edu.bd, info@easternuni.edu.bd