

Nova’s ‘dream came true’

SPORTS REPORTER

Piash Ahmed Nova’s dream to strike against India in SAFF U-20 Championship came true when the BKSP student struck a brace to power Bangladesh to a 2-1 win over the neighbouring nation in their second match at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, India yesterday.

Fresh from a single-goal win over Sri Lanka in their tournament opener, the boys in red and green came strongly against the hosts to notch up consecutive victories in the inaugural U-20 Championship, which previously was a U-18 tournament where India beat Bangladesh 2-1 in the final to win the title in 2019.

Nova, also a player of Bashundhara Kings, gave Bangladesh the lead in the 29th minute with a brilliant left-footed strike inside the box after Indian defenders fumbled to clear a long ball from Bangladesh, who rattled the woodwork twice prior.

Six minutes later, Gurkirat Singh levelled the margin with an eye-catching header inside the box but Bangladesh restored the lead with the 10-grade student - Nova - converting from the spot one minute into the stoppage time of the first half.

“I had a wish to score against India and I thought of it almost the whole night. Even I thought of how I would celebrate after scoring goals against India. I’m really happy that I have struck against India and my dream came true,” Nova told The Daily Star from Odisha over the phone after match.

Nova also informed his elder brother Pial Ahmed phoned him from Bangladesh to inspire him to score against India before the match day.

“My elder brother named Pial Ahmed called yesterday [Tuesday] to inform me that India is a large country which has big provinces like Bangladesh and they have a lot of footballers across the country.

“He asked me to show India that Bangladesh also possess talented footballers by scoring goals. I am also happy to keep the words of my brother,” said the 6-feet-height forward from Amla of Kushtia.

Nova also knows the tale of Bangladesh U-18 team’s defeat to the Indian counterparts in the SAFF U-18 Championship but he believes the current group of the players are better than the previous squad.

“I have learnt from seniors that Bangladesh created more chances than India in that final but the players tried individually instead of playing as a team, thus squandering the chances to miss the title,” Nova added.

“However, we are a team who are determined to play the final of the ongoing tournament. Each of the players are also trying to give their level best from their respective positions. All three departments are also functioning as a unit because we first want to ensure the final berth.”

Coach Paul Smalley said: “We’ve got young elements in the squad. It’s a mixture of our Elite Academy players and Under-20 players. We’ve had a small period of time for preparation and did a little bit when we got here in India. We researched all of the teams who are in the competition and spent a lot of time on the analysis. I think we’ve got depth and width in all our positions.”

Bangladesh will play their third match against Maldives tomorrow.



Bangladesh team's striker Piash Ahmed Nova (L) celebrates with teammates after one of his two goals during their 2-1 win against India in the SAFF U-20 Championship at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

Home conditions at 2024 T20 World Cup embolden Salma



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will host the 2024 ICC Women’s T20 World Cup, the first time the country will host a major women’s event, and it is expected to be a great opportunity for the Tigresses, who are looking to take the next step in world cricket.

Despite Bangladesh’s disappointing performance in previous T20 World Cups, T20 skipper Salma Khatun said that the Tigresses were looking forward to the challenge and preparing accordingly.

“Playing host always gives you an added advantage and motivates the team to give their best. Since we will host the T20 World Cup in 2024, I think it is important for us to prepare from now. It might seem like we still have a lot of time, but the fact is that we need a long-term vision for the mega event,” Salma told The Daily Star yesterday.

The tournament will be held between September and October in 2024. It will be the second time Bangladesh will be host a T20 World Cup, previously staging the men’s 2014 edition.

Bangladesh can also take positives from the fact

that the Tigresses are defending Asia Cup champions. Coupled with home conditions and support from a local crowd, those factors could play big roles as the Tigresses attempt something extraordinary.

“It is too early to comment on whether we can win the title or not. The thing that we need to do is give our best on the field. Another thing to remember is that we are the defending Asia Cup champions, so we do have the ability to do something special. But at the moment it is important to stick to our process and not look too far beyond,” Salma said.

According to Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) women’s wing manager Tawhid Mahmud, Bangladesh will have a busy schedule leading up to the 2024 World Cup. He hoped that would prepare the hosts well enough before the mega event.

“Although it is the ICC who announce all future schedules officially, at the moment I am not able to comment on the number of matches and series we are going to play. But I can say that the Bangladesh national women’s team has a very busy schedule till January 2025. We will be playing a lot of matches before the 2024 World Cup,” Tawhid said.

Commonwealth Games get underway today

AFP, Birmingham

The 22nd edition of the Commonwealth Games opens in Birmingham on Thursday, bringing together around 5,000 athletes from 72 nations and territories -- mostly former British colonies -- to compete in 19 sports over 11 days.

Some track and field stars will be absent when the competition gets under way -- just days after the end of the world championships in Eugene, Oregon.

But there will still be plenty of big names on show at the event, which features sports as diverse as lawn bowls and marathon running.

The Commonwealth Games are not on the scale of the Olympics that Birmingham once aspired to host -- the city was beaten by Barcelona for the right to put on the 1992 Games -- but officials hope they can provide a big economic boost for the area.

According to the Financial Times, the West Midlands Combined Authority estimates the event will be worth £1 billion (\$1.2 billion) to the regional economy.

SL 9 wickets from levelling series

REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka set Pakistan a record target of 508 and then restricted them to 89-1 to keep alive their hopes of a series-levelling victory in the second test on Wednesday.

The hosts declared their second innings on 360-8 but were robbed of precious time as only six overs could be played in the final session before bad light stopped play.

Opener Imam-ul-Haq was batting on 46 at stumps with Pakistan 419 runs behind the improbable target.

The onus would be on Pakistan skipper Babar Azam, batting on 26, to help his team bat out the final three sessions for a draw that would also secure a 1-0 series victory for the tourists.

West Indies own the record for the highest successful fourth innings chase in tests having overwhelmed a target of 418 in a 2003 test in Antigua.

Earlier, Dhananjaya de Silva smashed 109, his ninth test hundred, to help Sri Lanka consolidate their position at the Galle International Stadium.

Muktis hold Ctg Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha Sangsad were held to a 1-1 draw by Chittagong Abahani in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj yesterday.

A fourth draw in 21 matches helped Muktijoddha Sangsad to raise their points tally to 16, but they still remain in the relegation zone with just two points more than Uttar Baridhara Club.

Muktijoddha Sangsad and Uttar Baridhara Club will play their final matches of the season against Abahani and Saif SC respectively.

Meanwhile, Mohammedan SC also played out a 1-1 draw against Bangladesh Police at the Shaheed Smriti Stadium in Rajshahi. Both Police and Mohammedan sit on equal 30 points from 21 matches.

At the Birshreshtha Shaheed Flight Lt Matiur Rahman Stadium in Munshiganj, Sheikh Russel beat Rahmatganj MFS 3-2 to jump to the seventh place with 28 points from 21 matches.

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Bangladesh coach Paul Smalley

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
National Headquarters (NHQ)
684-686 Red Crescent Sarak, Bara Moaghbazar, Dhaka-1217.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Bangladesh Red Crescent Society invites application from the suitable professional candidates for the position of **Deputy Secretary General** on contractual basis based in Dhaka.
He will be responsible for implementing the decisions of the Board and oversee its country-wide projects and programs. Planning, budgeting, budgetary control, supervision, monitoring, evaluation, reporting, human resources development and Management are some of the key responsibilities. The person we are looking for should be able to maintain effective interrelations with Government of Bangladesh, UN agencies, national and international Organizations, especially with humanitarian organization.
Age 50 years & above as on 07 August 2022 but not over 62 years. The incumbent should possess a minimum Bachelor degree in any discipline with minimum 20 years of job experience, of which 8 years in any Senior Management Position of any reputed organization. A computer literate, fluent in spoken in English and very high proficiency in written English are absolute requirements. Red Crescent Society being a voluntary humanitarian organization, experience and knowledge of crisis Management, Disaster mitigation, attending and participating in international conference at home and abroad and working experience in Humanitarian field will be given preference.
Applications should be submitted with full CV mentioning two references, two recent passport size photographs and necessary documents to The Chairman, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, 684-686 Red Crescent Sarak, Bara Moaghbazar, Dhaka-1217 by 07 August 2022. Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview. Salary and other facilities are subject to negotiation.
Chairman

Ronaldo doesn’t fit Bayern’s ‘philosophy’

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich chief executive Oliver Kahn said on Wednesday that making a move for Cristiano Ronaldo in the transfer market would not fit the club’s “philosophy”.

Ronaldo arrived back at Old Trafford on Tuesday ahead of talks with Ten Hag over his future.

But Europe’s top clubs, including Bayern, have not been scrapping for the Portuguese star’s signature.

“We discussed this topic -- otherwise we wouldn’t be doing our job properly,” Kahn told German daily Bild.

“Personally, I think Cristiano Ronaldo is one of the greatest-ever footballers.

“But we came to the conclusion that, despite the esteem that we hold him in, he wouldn’t have fitted our philosophy at the moment.”

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