

Al Amin's dream: A goal and a celebration with Hamza

A few years ago, the thought of seeing English Premier League midfielder Hamza Choudhury don the Bangladesh national football team jersey seemed like a distant dream. However, that is no longer the case as the Sheffield United star touched down in Bangladesh yesterday to represent the red and green in the Asian Cup Qualifiers.

The 27-year-old, along with his family members, reached his ancestral village Snaughat of Bahubal upazila, Habiganj – yesterday afternoon after landing at Sylhet Osmani International Airport amid huge enthusiasm among football fans and its stakeholders. Officials from Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), Sylhet DSA, Civil Aviation, and people of Sylhet greeted Hamza with flowers.

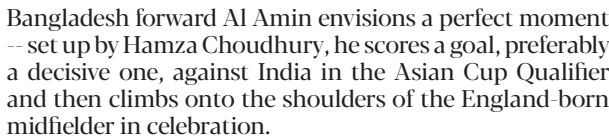
Hamza, who once played for the England U-21 team, was overwhelmed upon his arrival as many enthusiastic



The energy was electric, but with so many eager faces around him,

As the sun set, the celebrations

captains and coaches from the proposed English-medium school football tournament before getting some much-needed rest.



against India in Shillong on March 25. Meanwhile, rookie forward Al Amin is focused on securing a spot in the final 23-member squad and breaking into the starting eleven.

His words reflect the aspirations of an entire nation, which is eager to reach new heights with a player like Hamza now in the squad.

Al Amin was in top form during the first leg of the Bangladesh Premier League, scoring seven goals – an impressive performance that saw coach Javier Cabrera include him in the preliminary squad for the first time.

BCB still undecided on Rana's PSL stint

Meanwhile, IOC members will elect Bach's successor on Thursday.

Even though the Test series is not part of the World Test Championship cycle, due to the schedule clash with PSL, the board is pondering whether to give Rana NOC for one phase of the



How the PSL franchise would manage Rana's workload is also an important issue. The speedster has so far played two out of Abahani's five matches in the Dhaka Premier League

Barcelona battled back from two goals down to beat Atletico Madrid 4-2 and land an important blow in the Spanish title race on Sunday. Lamine Yamal struck in the 92nd minute and Ferran Torres scored his second goal in the 98th to help take the Catalans back to the top of the table. Barca have 60 points and a game in hand after last week's postponement of their home game with Osasuna. They are level on points with Real Madrid, who won 2-1 at Villarreal on Saturday. "I am happy and proud of this team," Barcelona coach Hansi Flick told a press conference. "They never give up... It's a great three points and we are happy to be top." Atletico remain third on 56 points from 28 games. With goals from Julian Alvarez on the stroke of halftime and substitute Alexander Sorloth's brilliant close-range finish in the 70th minute, Atletico went 2-0 up in the contest before Robert Lewandowski and Torres struck late in the game sparked a fightback at the Metropolitano stadium.

PHOTO: REUTERS



"We were desperate to try and win the trophy after all the years of hurt. We are breaking new ground, I thought we were magnificent today."





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