

MSC crash to Thai club

SPORTS REPORTER

Bek Tero Sasna FC of Thailand brushed aside Mohammedan Sporting Club of Dhaka 4-0 in a friendly in Bangkok yesterday.

The winners led the first-half 2-0 at the Bek Tero Sports Complex, according to a message received in Dhaka.

The Bangladesh National League champions created a number of chances but failed to reduce the margin.

Mohammedan return home tonight.

Tanima, Eva share lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Woman FIDE Master Tanima Parveen and Nazrana Khan Eva took joint lead in the Camellia 27th National Women's Chess Championship with maximum two points after end of the second round at the BCF hall-room yesterday.

Tanima beat Kishwara Shajrin Evana and Eva defeated Samiha Sharmin Shimmi in their second round clashes.

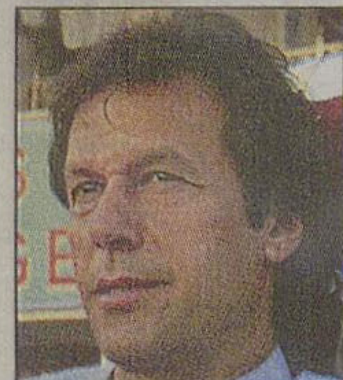
Holder Shamima Akhter Liza and runner-up International Woman Master Rani Hamid won both their matches after first round losses, beating Arifa Khatun Moni and Masuda Begum respectively.

In the other matches, Nipa defeated Sharmin Sultana Shirin and Zakia Sultana beat Mahmuda Haque Moly.



Did U Know?

The smallest bicycle that an adult can ride has wheels made from silver dollars.



Imran Khan

(Pakistan captain legend)

"You can't judge Sachin Tendulkar on one or two failures, he has enough cricket left in him and has the talent to bounce back any time." While dismissing speculation that the Indian master is on the decline.



What to Watch

ESPN
Australia vs Sri Lanka
VB Series First Final
Live at 9:15 am
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports
Sportscenter Update
Sports News
Live at 10:00 pm & 11:30 pm



7th Nat'l Cricket League
Four-Day Matches (Day Two)
Dhaka vs Khulna
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium
Rajshahi vs Chittagong
Venue: Rajshahi Divisional Stadium
Barisal vs Sylhet
Venue: Barisal Divisional Stadium



HIS BAT DOES THE TALKING: Dhaka captain Al Shahriar sweeps one for four on way to scoring a century against Khulna during their National Cricket League tie at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

Another Shahriar reminder

ISPAHANI
MIRZAPORE TEA
7th National Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER

Al Shahriar's bat continued to get broader match by match as the Dhaka captain hammered an explosive century on the opening day of their four-day match of the Ispahani Seventh National Cricket League against Khulna yesterday.

Yet the leaders paid for playing one-day cricket style as they were bundled out for 250 in just 55 overs with Shahriar smashing 102 off 90 deliveries.

Chittagong and Sylhet, also invited to bat first, could not build commanding totals in the first innings in the other two four-round matches.

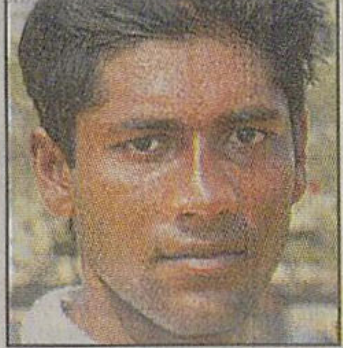
DHAKA-KHULNA

Shahriar, unwisely ignored by the selectors for this month's home series against Sri Lanka despite being in a purple patch that started in the Premier Cricket League, fought a lone battle to propel the

Dhaka innings with yet another authoritative knock at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Visiting Khulna, who lost the one-day match by six wickets on the previous day, put Dhaka into bat and their new ball pair tore apart home side's batting sharing nine wickets between them.

Rookie pacer Mohammad Shiplu, who replaced national star Mashrafe-Bin-Mortuza in the line-up, took the first five wickets to



MOHAMMAD SHIPLU ... 5 for 69

finish with 5-69 from 18 overs while Ziaur Rahman destroyed the tail bagging 4-75 from his 18 overs.

Coming to the wicket at 27-2, Shahriar began where he had left off in a 38-ball 49 in Wednesday's limited-overs game at the same venue, launching a counter attack during a 112-run third wicket stand with Kamrul Islam. He cracked 15 fours and two sixes in less than two hours but Dhaka lost their way after the right-hander edged Shiplu to wicketkeeper Sahagir Hossain in the 34th over.

Dhaka lost wickets at regular intervals but it was Mohammad Sharif who gave the total some respectability, the number nine blasting his way to 48 off 38 balls with six fours and two sixes and putting on 36 runs for the last wicket.

Khulna made a decent start but Sharif once again played a crucial role, taking two quick wickets bowling as first change. From a comfortable 39-0, the visitors crashed to 54-3 before opener Nazmus Sadat (48) and Sahagir Hossain (16) took the total to 91 at stumps without further damage.

RAJSHAHJ-CHITTAGONG

Rajshahi pace quartet shared the honours as the home side bowled out Chittagong for 214 at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium. After Alamgir Kabir made early inroads and Forhad Reza dismissed national cricketer Nafees Iqbal, Ehsanul Haque's patient 94 off 145 balls steadied the innings.

But the Chittagong skipper, who hit 13 fours and two sixes in his three-hour vigil, was denied a deserved hundred when international Mushfiqur Rahman had him caught by Farhad Hossain. Mushfiq took 3-52 while Forhad was the pick of the attack with 3-33 from 10 overs.

Rajshahi, in reply, lost Jahurul Islam to reach 68-1 at close of play.

BARISAL-SYLHET

Bottom-table Barisal were in the driving seat at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra when they shot out Sylhet for 193 before openers Imran Ahmed and Hannan Sarker wiped out 46 of those runs by the end of the first day.

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Jr Tigers group champs

ICC U19 CRICKET WORLD CUP
SRI LANKA 2006

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh handed a thumping 171-run defeat on ICC associate members Uganda yesterday at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo to emerge Group A champions in the ICCU-19 Cricket World Cup with three out of three wins.

Having beaten New Zealand and Pakistan in earlier encounters, the Junior Tigers must have had run into complacency as they were reduced to 81-4 after being put into bat.

It was the third occasion the top-order failed to live up to their billing and it could have been worse when captain Mushfiqur Rahim was bowled on 11 with the total on 108, only to be let off the hook by the umpire who called a no-ball.

Fresh from his match winning 46 in a four-wicket victory against Pakistan on the previous day, Rahim went on to score 64 off 80 balls before Bangladesh were bowled out for 255 in 49.4 overs.

Ugandan occasional bowler Ronald Ssemanda, whose overstepping gave Rahim a new lease of life, returned to dismiss the Bangladesh captain but not before the wicketkeeper-batsman with one Test-match experience had struck half a dozen boundaries.

Rahim was adjudged man-of-the-match while Ssemanda finished with an impressive 4-43 despite poor efforts from his teammates on the field.

Opener Tamim Iqbal, not among the runs in the last two games, made a sedate 39 off 54 balls while newcomer Ishraq Sonnet blasted three fours and six in a cameo 25-ball 37 before being the last man out.

Later, Sonnet ripped through the Ugandan top order with 3-26 from a 5-over spell as the weakest nation of the 16-team tournament were skittled out for 84. Arthur Kyobe was the only player to reach double figures apart from 32 extras.

In the day's other matches, Australia survived a hiccup to beat USA by four wickets and become Group B champions while Namibia

beat Scotland by seven wickets and Nepal defeated Ireland by 60 runs.

Bangladesh coach Allister de Winter later told Cricinfo that he was satisfied with the performance but admitted the start had been sloppy.

"We weren't too happy with what happened early, we wanted to make sure that we respected the opposition and I don't think we respected their style of play as much as we should have," said de Winter.

"They bowled quite well in the first hour and we paid the price with a few early wickets, but it has been the bottom of our order that has saved us more than once. We don't want to have to rely on that going into the Super League."

Bangladesh now wait and see who they will face in the Super League quarterfinals, either England or Zimbabwe, but on current form they will fear no-one.

"We've played well against both sides and are just conscious of sticking to our own game plans," he added.

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Int'l Jr Tennis ends today

SPORTS REPORTER

Lee Hsin Han and Peng Hsien Yin set an all-Taipei boys' singles final after winning their respective semifinals of the Dhaka Bank 20th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championship at the National Tennis Complex yesterday.

Han defeated Ceban Achima of Moldova 6-3, 6-4 while Yin beat Rungkat Christopher of Indonesia 6-1, 6-2 in the semifinals.

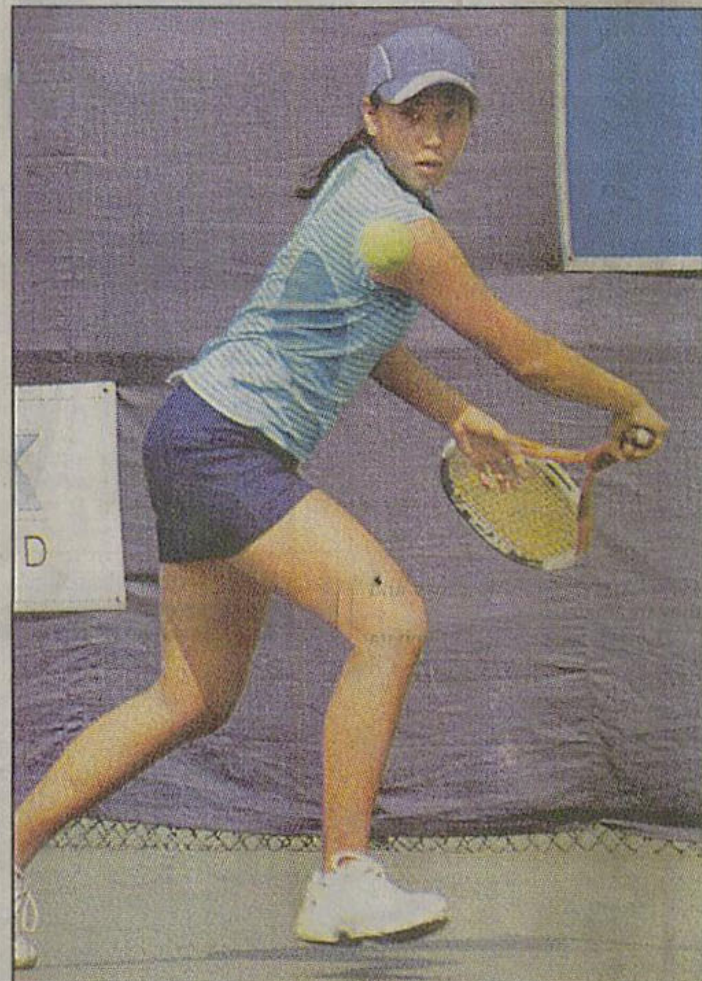
Like the boys' event, the girls' final would also be a competition between two compatriots -- Budharto Aris and Silfany Vivien of Indonesia.

Vivien ended Russian wildcard entry Viktoriya Kamenskaya's dream run with a 7-6, 6-2 win while Aris ousted Korea's Shin Jung-Yoon 6-1, 6-4.

The last Bangladesh hopes were dashed when Henry Prithul Mondol and his Taipei partner Huang Hsuehchun crashed 6-2, 6-3 to Taipei duo Lee and Huang, who take on compatriots Chen and Peng in the boys' doubles final.

Meanwhile, Kikuchi of Japan and Lertcheewak of Thailand were handed the girls' doubles title after Zhou, who paired with fellow Chinese Guo to reach the final, was ruled out for a knee injury.

Baishakhi TV will telecast today's three final matches live.



Silfany Vivien of Indonesia goes for a backhand return during her girls' singles engagement of the Dhaka Bank Junior Tennis Tournament against Kameshkaya Viktoriya of Russia at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna on Thursday.

First Aus-SL final today

Aussies aim to stop flying Jayasuriya

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

Australia are looking to prevent Sri Lanka from getting away to a flying start should the visitors bat first in Friday's opening triangular one-day cricket series final match at Adelaide Oval.

Captain Ricky Ponting said opening batsman Sanath Jayasuriya can expect some short-pitched deliveries from firebrand Brett Lee as the Australians try to stop the Sri Lankans' free-wheeling batting.

Adelaide's short square boundaries and the forced withdrawal of bowler Glenn McGrath provide scope for a rapid Sri Lankan get-

away that could gather momentum when Stuart Clark, Nathan Bracken and James Hopes follow spearhead Lee to the bowling crease.

Lee refused Thursday to give away Australia's plans to combat Jayasuriya, but Ponting was more forthcoming on how his bowlers had to cater for Sri Lanka's cavalier top order in the first of three scheduled final matches.

"You can't afford to give him width, (Kumar) Sangakkara is similar as well in that they're very strong square of the wicket. And Adelaide Oval, the way it is, you've got to look to bowl pretty straight," Ponting said Thursday.

"We'll use some changes of pace through the innings and Sanath can expect some short stuff as well.

"It's important we start the game off well, they're a very good front-running side and when they get started they can be hard to peg back with bat and ball so we've got to start really well."

Sri Lankan coach Tom Moody has welcomed an Australian short-pitched pace assault on Jayasuriya. Moody suggested such an attack could prove foolhardy when attempted on a ground like the elongated Adelaide Oval.

"I know teams in the past have targeted that area (with short balls) with Sanath and there's times he may have felt uncomfortable and others when he's got runs very quickly," Moody said.

"So if that's the plan, that's the

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Munna's 1st death anniversary to be observed today

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national football captain Monem Munna's first death anniversary will be observed by his family at his Narayanjanj residence today.

Munna, one of the finest footballers the country has ever produced, died at a young age of 39 on February 12 last year due to kidney ailments. His family has decided to observe the death anniversary on the day of holy Ashura. A milad mahfil and Qurankhwan will be held on the occasion.

His wife Yasmin Monem Suravi has requested relatives, friends and well-wishers to attend the programme at 64 HM Sen Road, Bandar, Narayanjanj.

Toughest time of Arthur's life

Cricket

REUTERS, Johannesburg

South Africa coach Mickey Arthur said on Wednesday the disappointing tour of Australia had been the toughest time of his professional life.

"It was the toughest learning curve of my life, tougher than I expected," Arthur told a press conference.

His team lost the Test series 2-0 to Australia before being eliminated in the round-robin phase of the one-day VB Series with the hosts and Sri Lanka.

"The tour was not a huge success but the team must learn from it. They can go home and sulk or stand up and be counted," Arthur said. The coach said the poor results in the limited-overs triangular

series, where the Proteas won three of their eight matches, were caused by South Africa having to field a second-string attack due to injuries.

"The back-up bowling was a real problem. We had a whole attack out with injury and someone like Andrew Hall, who is normally on the fringes, was leading the attack."

"Before the injuries, we were a tight unit with the roles clearly defined. But once we lost players, all the roles had to change," Arthur said.

The coach refused to criticise South Africa's batsmen, who scored fewer than 200 runs in four of their eight matches in the VB Series.

"Our batting was not a problem. The amount of talent in our top six is frightening, but because they

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HOW WILL IT PLAY? (L) Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq learns about the Rawalpindi pitch from local boy Shoab Akhtar while India captain Rahul Dravid (R) inspects it during their practice sessions at the Pindi Cricket Stadium on Thursday. The arch-rivals meet in the second ODI here on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP