

## Four DSAs make it to final round

Sports Reporter

Mymensingh, Patakhali, Sylhet and Rajshahi advanced to the final round of the Biman Cup national under-14 football championship yesterday.

At Mymensingh, the hosts emerged zonal champions when they beat Narayanganj 2-1 in a keenly-contested zonal final.

Biplab scored both the goals for Mymensingh while Bidyut pulled one back for the losers.

Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah gave away the prizes after the keenly-contested.

The hosts clinched the zonal title by beating Barisal 3-0.

Malek, Nuruzzaman and Badru netted once each for the winners.

At Sunamganj, Sylhet became the zonal champions, edging out the hosts 5-3 in tie-breaker. The regulation period ended goalless.

Rajshahi emerged the Pabna zone champions when the edged past the hosts 3-1 in tie-breaker.

The scheduled time finished one-all.

Hosts Satkhira squeezed out a solitary goal triumph over Jessoro to move into the final.

Satkhira play Khulna in the final tomorrow.

## Twenty-five atop in nat'l jr chess

Sports Reporter

Twenty-five players topped the points table with two points each at the end of the second round of the fifteenth national junior chess championship at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

National champion Reefat bin Sattar, who is one of the top favourites in this meet along with his coeval and Biman teammate International Master (IM) Ziaur Rahman, beat Qamrul Hassan to be in the cavalcade of table leaders.

His arch-rival Ziaur Rahman was another notable winner of the day. He dismissed the cerebral challenge of Bahaudin while Tanima Parveen, one of the top female chess players of the country who too plays for Biman in local league, defeated Marshid in another of the many ties held yesterday.

## Squash squad leaves for KL today

Sports Reporter

A six-member Bangladesh squash team leaves Dhaka for Malaysia to take part in the week-long Perrier seventh Asian Championship.

Bhola Lal Chowhan, Ram Jagadish, Muhith Chowdhury and Viswanath will represent Bangladesh in the meet while Shahidul Haque will accompany the squad as its manager.

Anwarul Huq, the vice-president of the Bangladesh Squash Racket Federation, will also be on the tour to participate in the 14th Asian Squash Federation, scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur on January 15 and 16.

## Rain ruins SL tour opener

NEW DELHI, Jan 13: Sri Lanka lost the first day's play on their cricket tour of India on Thursday to bad weather that has blighted preparations for the three-Test series starting next Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Overnight rain and early morning fog that cleared only a little during the day meant a delayed start and two inspections of the pitch before the umpires decided no play was possible.

Prospects for a full day's play on Friday in Sri Lanka's three-day game against an Indian Board President's XI seemed poor with weathermen forecasting more of the same.

Rain seems to be dogging the Shri Lankans, who had little practice at home because of wet weather and then arrived in Delhi early this week to find more rain hampered their practice sessions.

The match is the only one scheduled before the first Test in Lucknow beginning next Tuesday and Sri Lankan manager Anuruddha Polonowita said he was seriously worried about his side's lack of practice.

The Indian players were equally anxious to play. Most of them are on the fringes of the Test squad and hoping for a chance to force their way in.

## Best can rest a while

CAPE TOWN, Jan 13: Former West Indies Test batsman Carlisle Best has been given permission by cricket chiefs in the Caribbean to extend his stay in South Africa playing for Western Province, reports Reuter.

Best originally agreed to return to West Indies at the end of December to represent Barbados in the Red Stripe Cup but felt so strongly he had not done justice to his South African side that he asked to be released from his home commitment.

## Bulbul BCCB Eleven's hero

Sports Reporter



Aminul Islam Bulbul produced an almost incredible all-round performance to reverse touring BCCB XI's fatal pattern as country's cricketers beat a Karachi outfit named AOC at the Asghar Ali Shah Stadium yesterday — a laud message received at the BCCB office last night revealed the long-awaited reversal of fortune for the itinerants.

Bulbul, who only recently returned to form, scored a superb century and then turned one better with the ball bagging five wickets for 31 runs.

He hammered 104 before being caught by Irfan off Ali Shah as BCCB XI, bolstered by a couple of more useful knocks from skipper Faruque Ahmed and consistent Akram Khan, amassed 286 for four wickets from 50 overs.

Returning after a fairly long lay-off because of illness, Faruque hit 66 while Akram Khan, whose awesome average in the tour of Pakistan now goes to 232 with five unbeaten knocks at a stretch after a duck, remained unbeaten on a stormy 54. Akram, who played three unbeaten innings in BCCB's tour of Hong Kong, has so far remained unbeaten on five occasions.

Enamul Huq Moni with 20 was the other batsman who returned to the pavilion unconquered along with Akram.

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BULBUL... allround show

promoted as regular opener

Athar Ali Khan missed his second consecutive match, made 16 while his partner Jahangir Alam scored ten before being run out.

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returned to the pavilion unconquered along with Akram.

Kamal Ali Shah and Rizwan

took one wicket apiece for AOC.

Irfanullah responded in the true spirit of a run feast with an unbeaten knock of 105 but his side was all out for 207 in 50 overs with none of the other batsmen being able to unravel the mystery of the fingers of Bulbul, the dark, dapper cricketer from Bangladesh.

Bulbul took five wickets for 31 runs from seven overs of guileful off spin bowling.

Irfan, skipper, Rizwan Ahmed and Amir Ishaq got among some runs before Bulbul turned on his devilish diablerie. Rizwan made 39 and Ishaq 18.

Al Shahriar Rokon, the young leggie of the BCCB XI, followed Bulbul in the statistics with figures of two for 55. Anis, the left arm new-ball bowler handled the task fairly well in experienced Golam Nawsher Prince's absence capturing one for 29 while the consistent Mizanur Rahman Babul gave Anis good support with figures of one for 21.

BCCB XI, who have just one more match in hand in the 15-day tour of Pakistan undertaken as a prep programme for the ICC Trophy starting in Kenya from next month, have so far recorded three wins in nine matches.

## Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Titu sparked with the willow but still ended up at the wrong end of the table as East End Club, chasing Mirpur Nabin KC's total of 207 for eight in 40 overs, fell eight runs short in one of the two Second Division cricket league matches on the western strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Batting first Nabin KC, powered on by two half centuries from Pavel and Bablu, who scored 57 and 56 respectively, set a victory target of just over five runs an over for the eventual losers.

Titu almost snatched a win for his side, leading the charge with a superb 74, but fortunate for the Nabin KC cricketers, East End ran out of overs, stopping at 199 for eight.

They evenly shared six wickets between themselves with Rafiq spending only 14 runs and Mamun three runs more, having completed their nine-over quota each.

Batting first, Shantinagar B were all out for 89 in 35.2 overs with just three batsmen — Nehal, Papu and Titir — making it to the double figures with scores of 11, 18 and 11 not out respectively.

Apart from Dipu, Shimul, who later flashed with the ball to finish with fantastic figures of four for 18, Sajeib and Shahid found themselves among the runs with scores of 24, 23 and 23 respectively.

In reply, Eastern never really found the rhythm in the face of Shimul's accurate bowling and folded their innings on 115 in 31.5 overs.

Limon top-scored for the vanquished with 31.

In the other match of the day, Dipu designed a huge 87-run victory for Nirman XI over Eastern Sporting Club with a glittering 89 at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Nirman XI, making the first use of the wicket, piled up 202 in the stipulated 40 overs.

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Shantinagar's Rupu conjured up an effective spell of leg spin to take four wickets for 14 runs but Evergreen struttled, stumbled home, making 83 for six wickets from 30.5 overs.

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