

## Dhaka Mohammedans play today

## Sports Reporter

Dhaka Mohammedans take on Titanium of Kerala to start their campaign in the All India Sports Journalists Federation invitational tournament at the East Bengal Club around today.

Abhaya Krira Chakra, another Dhaka outfit will also meet Calcutta Mohammedans today at the same venue.

The two football giants from Dhaka along with six Indian teams — divided into two groups — are taking part in the fund raising tournament for the distressed Indian journalists.

Dhaka league champions Mohammedans who play their first match have been placed in one group along with East Bengal, Titanium and Food Corporation of India (FCI).

Abhaya who won their opening encounter against IFA XI by the odd goal in three will have a testing time in today's match against in-form Calcutta Mohammedans.

Meanwhile, PTI adds East Bengal defeated Food Corporation of India (FCI) by the odd goal in three in their second league match to virtually assure themselves of a semi-final berth.

Singer Carlton Chapman put East Bengal in the lead midway through the opening session while striker Sisir Ghosh struck the second goal after the interval in a rather one-sided contest.

The hard-working Sudip Chakraborty reduced the margin for FCI with a consolation goal just two minutes before the long whistle but the late effort was not enough to change their fate.

A minute's silence was observed before the start of the match in memory of P N Sundarshan, veteran sports journalist and former Sports Editor of the Hindu who passed away on Sunday and Chandranath Banerjee, a former Bengal Ranji Trophy player who died of a heart attack while batting for his club.

## Progoti win

## Sports Reporter

Tushar scored a splendid 73 to help Dhanmondi Progoti Sangha to a three-wicket victory over Kathalbagan GCC in the Second Division super league play-off at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Dhanmondi Progoti Sangha, needing 169 to win, scored 171 for seven in 36.2 overs. Their opener Tushar knocked 73 runs off 87 balls in his innings. He sent the ball five times across the fence before being bowled by Munna with the total on 156 in the 34th over.

Liton with 31 and Pilkhu with 26 were the other notable scorers for Dhanmondi while the extras amounted to 17.

Zaman was the pick of the Kathalbagan bowler with three for 31.

Earlier, put in to bat, Kathalbagan posted 168 for nine in the stipulated 40 overs.

Tanvir, Rawnak and Turki were the mainstays with scores of 36, 35 and 21 respectively.

Cento captured three for 35 while Rahel took three for 29 for the winners.

## Fleet cruise

## Sports Reporter

Fleet Club, trailing 41-44 at the first half, fought back gallantly to register a 91-73 victory over The Hornets in the Partex First Division basketball league at the wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Mahmudur, who top scored with 23 for the winners, was closely followed by Mizan, Rana and Fazle who had scores of 18, 14 and 14 respectively.

Fahabi, with 25, was the major scorer for the losers.

## Lentini's payola problems

ROME, Mar 5: AC Milan winger Gianluigi Lentini has been questioned by magistrates probing alleged financial irregularities over the deal which took him to the Italian champions from Torino, state radio reported on Friday, reports Reuter.

Lentini, who joined Milan for an estimated 16 million dollar in 1992, was interviewed for an hour on Thursday evening as a witness in an investigation into alleged undeclared payments.

Milan had no comment to make on the reports.

The case is part of a wider inquiry into the affairs of former Torino president Giampaolo Borsano. He has alleged that Milan made a secret payment of some 3.5 million dollar to a Swiss bank account to help secure the services of Lentini.

The Lentini inquiry, initially conducted by magistrates in Turin, is expected to pass into the hands of Milan public prosecutor Gherardo Colombo.

The 24-year-old Lentini, an Italy international, has been restricted to a few brief appearances this season following a near-fatal car crash last August.

## Dhaka in nat'l youth final

## Sports Reporter

Defending champions Dhaka DSA moved into the final of the 14th BEXIMCO national youth cricket championship eliminating Chittagong by seven wickets in a crucial match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Dhaka finished top from Group A winning all their three round robin league matches and will face the winners from Group B in the final to be held on March 9.

Chittagong, who had a fair chance to qualify for the final with two straight wins to their credit, surprisingly elected to bat after winning the toss.

The decision of their skipper Rezaul proved disastrous for them as they were bundled out for 145 in the stipulated 45 overs.

Barring opener Tarek and middle order Manna none could cope with the Dhaka attack.

Tarek scored a patient 53 — his second successive fifty — with three boundaries while Manna who held to one end up with unbeaten 37 did not get any support from others.

New-ball bowler Bappi finished with two for 13 in his nine-over spell. Spinner Rana who also bowled very economically, took one wicket with extras contributing 33 in winners' collection.

Chasing an easy target of 146 for a win Dhaka reached 149 in 37.1 overs losing only

Laiq, Apu, Babu and Asi-

three wickets.

Openers Biplob and Adil built a solid foundation for Dhaka and later skipper Opee batted soundly to rule out any possibilities of hiccups.

Biplob contributed 45 runs before being run out with Dhaka on 105 in the 28th over.

Adil departed hitting a quick fire 32 with the help of four hits to the fence.

After Chayan (15), the third batsman was out with the total on 106. Opee cruised Dhaka to the final scoring 31 off just 33 balls. He executed four hits to the fence.

Jessore and Dinajpur, who were virtually out of the competition conceding two defeats, played their last round robin league encounter from the same group with Jessore winning the match by nine runs at the Jagannath Hall ground.

In a low scoring match, Jessore scored 151 before easily bowled out in 44.4 overs and 30 runs in their nine over spell.

Shimul, who made 20 for Jessore, was the other notable run-gather.

Life was the most successful Dinajpur bowler claiming three wickets for 19 runs.

Chasing an easy target of 142 in 42 overs.

Babu with 32 top scored for the losers while Pappa (not out 26), Tushar (22), Life (21) and Chhoton (11) figured in a double-digit scorers.

Laiq, Apu, Babu and Asi-

quzzaman shared two wickets each for Jessore.

In the other match of the day, Comilla kept their hopes alive for a berth in the Group B final registering a massive 141-run victory over Sathkira at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Batting first, Narayanganj piled up 239 for seven in the stipulated 45 overs. Their innings was mainly guided by the two half-centuries from Bappy with 69 and Anup (67).

Mona and Wahid, with scores of 44 and 18, were the other notable contributors for Narayanganj.

Altab was the pick of the Faridpur bowlers with a spell of five for 63.

Chasing a huge target of 240 to win, Faridpur were all out for 225 with four balls to spare.

Highlights of the Faridpur innings were Tariq's half-century (60), Biplob and Nasim made 37 and 22 respectively, and extras with 34 contributed to the Faridpur total.

Zia had a devastating bowling figure with three for 16 while Khokon took two for 28 for the winners.

Comilla joined as the last team with the seven other zonal team — Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Jessore, BUET, Sathkira, Dinajpur and Dhaka — who became zonal champion to qualify for the final scheduled to be held in Dhaka later on.

Besides, these eight teams, last year's four semifinalists will also vie for the 12-team final round to have a go at the title.

The four teams, who will play directly as last year's semifinalists, are Chittagong, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Sylhet and Dhaka University.

## N'ganj in Pepsi Cup final round

## Sports Reporter

Narayanganj emerged zonal champions of the Pepsi Cup 20th national cricket championship when they beat Faridpur by a narrow margin of 14 runs at the Comilla Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Narayanganj piled up 239 for seven in the stipulated 45 overs. Their innings was mainly guided by the two half-centuries from Bappy with 69 and Anup (67).

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## England face the music again



PORTE-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Mar 5: With three consecutive losses to the West Indies in the past nine days, England's touring cricketers face a crucial weekend.

Caddick has recovered from a septic toe that kept him out of the second and third internationals.

England hit their highest total in one-day internationals against the West Indies in the second match in Jamaica, 253 for eight off their 50 overs, and the West Indies only won through Jimmy Adams' brilliant, unbeaten 52 off 46 balls in the closing stages when their target was reduced by 23 to 237 off 47 overs.

West Indies captain Richie Richardson warned his team would not let up.

"We're going to the approaching these matches with the same sort of enthusiasm and positiveness and expect the results will be the same," he said.

The West Indies have retained the same roster of 13 they had in St Vincent from which they will choose their final 11.

England had scheduled a Friday afternoon practice session and manager Keith Fletcher said their team would be announced afterwards. The team is expected to make changes, introducing batsman Mark Ramprakash, Chris Lewis, Steve Watkin, Alan Iglesias, Phil Tufnell, Angus Fraser, Andy Caddick and Ian Salisbury.

WEST INDIES: Richie Richardson (captain), Desmond Haynes, Phil Simmons, Brian Lara, Keith Arthurton, Jimmy Adams, Roland Holder, Roger Harper, Andy Cummins, Winston Benjamin, Curly Ambrose, Kenny Benjamin and Courtney Walsh.

## TEAMS

ENGLAND: Mike Atherton (captain), Alex Stewart, Robin Smith, Graeme Hick, Matthew Maynard, Nasser Hussain, Mark Ramprakash, Chris Lewis, Steve Watkin, Alan Iglesias, Phil Tufnell, Angus Fraser, Andy Caddick and Ian Salisbury.

"We had a bad start there," Richardson explained. "I don't think we were quite ready and thinks didn't run for us. But we knew that once we got rid of that match, we'd be back. We've got a lot of talent and, once we play to our potential, we'll win."

All reserved tickets for Saturday's match have been sold and a capacity crowd of 25,000 is expected at the largest cricket stadium in the Caribbean.

Just as important, the team needs to put up a strong performance, win or lose, to boost their morale for the Test series that resumes March 17 in Georgetown, Guyana.

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## STANDINGS

Final standings (tableau under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

India 5 4 1 0 18 3 9

South Africa 5 3 1 1 17 4 7

Egypt 5 3 1 1 10 9 7

Kenya 5 2 0 3 5 10 4

South Korea 5 0 2 3 5 17 2

Japan 5 0 1 4 3 15 1

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South Korea 5 0 2 3 5 17 2

Japan 5 0 1 4 3 15 1

India 5 4 1 0 18 3 9

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