

Sport

Zia finishes
unbeaten

Sports Reporter

International Master Ziaur Rahman of Biman finished top in the 11-round qualifying meet, for the 20th national chess championship at the chess room of National Sports Council yesterday.

Zia, who remained unbeaten in the meet, beat teammate Rezaul Haq in the last round to collect 9.5 points and so qualify for the final round along with thirteen other players.

Last year's champion and runner-up Reesat bin Sattar and Ziaul Kader Tuhin along with the fourteen qualifiers will play in the final round. But the date is yet to be announced.

Pioneer league
now June 15

Sports Reporter

The Pioneer football league which was scheduled to start on the first week of June has been rescheduled for June 15 because of the ongoing SSC examinations, said a DMFA press release issued yesterday.

The decision to defer was made during a meeting of the pioneer football league committee on Tuesday. The meeting also decided to open the Dhaka Metropolis Football Association (DMFA) office from 6 pm to 8.30 pm for registration of players of the affiliated clubs.

Div II qualifying
cricket results

Sports Reporter

Nawabbari SC, Friends Association and Dilkusha SC earned easy wins over in the Lotus-Kamal Second Division cricket qualifying meet at different city venues yesterday.

The originally scheduled 35-over-a-side matches were all curtailed to a considerable margin due to overnight rain.

Nawabbari who recorded a facile seven-wicket win over Purana Paltan Boys Club on the western strip of Dhamondi Cricket Stadium, reached the victory 148 in 26.4 overs for the loss of three wickets with Tayeb hitting an excellent 54.

Azam followed with 35 while Fazlu remained not out on 18.

Earlier, sent in to bat first, Purana Paltan made 146 in 29.1 overs with Sumon contributing highest 35 for the losers.

Hasan, the most successful Nawabbari bowler, finished with four for 36.

At the Jagannath Hall ground Dilkusha SC beat Amatuer Eleven by five wickets in a reduced 20-over-a-side match.

Batting first, Amatuer could muster only 92 runs for the loss of seven wickets.

Shantanu and Rana, the only twenty-plus scorers for the vanquished made 24 and 23 respectively.

In reply, Dilkusha reached 93 in 18.5 overs for five wickets.

In the other match of the day on the eastern strip of Dhamondi Cricket Stadium Friends earned an easy 52-run win over Raktim Sangha.

Batting first, Friends Association scored a modest 134 for eight wickets in the allotted 25 overs with Noor making a swashbuckling 57.

Chasing 135 runs for victory, Raktim Sangha were skittled out for 82 runs in 20.1 overs with extras being the biggest contributor 25.

Referee beats Farashganj

Sports Reporter

Last year's runners-up Abahani Kira Chakra moved into the semi-final of the third Dhaka Metropolis Football Association (DMFA) Cup with an extremely fortuitous 1-0 win over Farashganj at the Dhaka Stadium as the season's curtain-raising meet resumed yesterday after having been held in abeyance for eight days.

Zulfiqar Mahmud Mintu, the new signing of the Dhanmondi outfit from Sadharan Bima scored in the injury time to give Abahani a win which they hardly deserved on an incisively drizzily evening.

Referee Nasir Chowdhury whose highly controversial supervision virtually threw the wet blanket on Farashganj's

on May 20.

TEAMS

ABAHANI KC: Saidul, Imadul, Munira, Sohel, Mansur, Shamim, Zakir, Swapna, Gaus, Mintu and Sohel (Asian).

PARASHGANJ SC: Dilu, Rouf, Babul, Selim, Santosh, Nazrul, Nayan, Liaquat, Monir, Jilani (Tpul), Liton and Ratan.

Referee Nasir Chowdhury.

BU DRAW AGAIN

In the day's first match, Brothers Union drew goalless with Victoria SC held earlier at the same venue.

Only when the veteran Sheikh Mohammed Aslam made his first appearance for Abahani this year that one of the top clubs of the country made their presence felt.

With this tame draw, Brothers' semifinal hopes have



Action from yesterday's second match in the DMFA Cup football tournament between Abahani KC and Farashganj at the Dhaka Stadium. Abahani, last year's runners-up, won 1-0 to reach the last four.

— Star photo

semifinal dream, however, gave Abahani their second successive victory following a 3-1 victory against Victoria Sporting Club in their tournament opener.

A controversial official with a legacy of incompetent handling yesterday robbed Farashganj a legitimate penalty when he awarded the eventual losers only a free kick outside the box when Mahmudul Huq Liton, perhaps the pick of the players on the night, was tripped from behind inside the box in the 57th minute of the match.

Abahani too had their share of chances but most of their attempts were made from outside the danger zone and Farashganj custodian Dilu pulled off some fine saves to keep his side afloat till Zulfiqar's angular left footed grounder from outside the box beat the tenacious custodian in the injury time with the stipulated period well over.

Abahani's skipper and prime defender Monir Munna got his second consecutive yellow card of the meet and will be out of action in the next match against Brothers Union

become uncertain. They will have to beat Abahani KC in their remaining match to confirm their semi-final berth.

As in their inaugural match, Brothers Union dominated most of the play today but poor marksmanship was their undoing.

TEAMS

BROTHERS UNION: Panir, Pijush, Moon, Mizan, Ruhul Amin, Rupu, Uttam, Bhutto, Ripon (Biplob), Bakhtiar and Ranjan (Mushtaq).

VICTORIA SC: Pannu, Aman, Wakil, Farhad, Iqbal, Shaheen, Shimul, Fayez Babu (Chandan), Rinku, Angur and Amin Khan.

Referee: Moazzaf Hossain.

TODAY'S MATCHES

B Boys vs Arambagh 4 pm

MSC vs Muktijuddha 6 pm

Malaysia move into final

JAKARTA, May 18:

Defending champions Malaysia powered into the Thomas Cup final by beating China in Tuesday's semifinals to scotch claims they could only win at home, reports AFP.

The Thomas Cup final is to be played on Saturday.

This victory proves that Malaysia is not a home winner. We are really to meet any team," said team manager Punch Gunalan said.

Malaysia, winners in Kuala Lumpur in 1992, were nicknamed "home winners" because none of their players had

secured winning 3-0 leads on Tuesday before finishing their matches 4-1.

Indonesia's surprising win over the favourites South Korea secured a berth in the women's final on Friday against China or Sweden.

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Malaysia number one Rashid Sidek came from 7-13 down against Liu Jun to win the first game 18-16. The Chinese player fought back on to level terms by winning the second game 15-12 but then could win only two more points.

Malaysia pair Cheah Soon Kit and Soo Beng Kiang Shook off a sluggish start to beat Chen Kang and Chen Hongyong 15-12, 15-6, 15-6.

Then Ong Ewe Hock overpowered Dong Jiong 15-11, 15-6 to ensure his team a place in the final.

Afterwards New Zealand's delighted cricket manager Geoff Howarth said he was looking forward to ramming odds for the one-day internationals, which have England 11-4 on favourites for victory, down on bookmakers' throats.

Howarth said: "The last two games against Northants and Leicestershire have been good performances.

"We have bowled tightly, fielded well and batted extremely well."

Fourth-wicket pair, Adam Parore and Stephen Fleming, shared a stand of 67 here in nine overs, hitting 57 runs off 35 balls after tea.

Left-handed Fleming made an unbeaten 35 off 27 balls with two sixes off Adrian Pierson, plus four fours.

The foundations were laid with an opening partnership of 71 in 17 overs between Blair Hartland and Bryan Young.

It was broken when young left-arm spinner Matthew Brimson had young smartly taken at slip by West Indian Phil Simmons for 36.

Pierson bowled Hartland and when Brimson had the Kiwis captain Ken Rutherford out for eight to make it 103 for three, there was a glimpse of a breakthrough for the county side. But Parore and Fleming slumped the door shut.

Leicestershire were bowled out for 169 in 53.3 overs after being put in, with left-arm spinner Matthew Hart bowling impressively to finish with three for 27 in 11 overs.

Paceman Danny Morrison confirmed his fitness with nine lively overs, which brought him two for 23 and Dion Nash, his new-ball partner, also picked up two wickets.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

