



A goalmouth melee during yesterday's Karnaphuli Garden City Club Cup tournament match between Mohammedan SC and Sadharan Bima KS at the Hockey Stadium.

—Star photo

Three more in zonal finals

Sports Reporter

Mymensingh, Rangpur and Rajshahi Education Board moved into the zonal finals of the Gazi Tank 17th national youth cricket championship yesterday after winning their respective matches held at different venues across the country.

At the Tangail Stadium, Mymensingh recorded an impressive 72-run victory over Manikganj.

Put into bat, Mymensingh scored 193 in 45 overs. Imran hitting highest 38 followed by Shuvo with 35. Sumon and Saif added 29 and 25 runs respectively.

Away in Dinajpur, Rangpur earned an exciting one-wicket victory over Thakurgaon.

Russell of Manikganj captured three wickets for 21 runs. He was equally supported by Firoz and Lalchi who shared four wickets between them.

In reply, Manikganj were bundled out for 121 in 40 overs. Babu was the notable run-getter with 28.

Naim, the man behind Manikganj's debacle, captured three wickets for 19 runs. Masud and Robin chipped in with two wickets each.

The winners will play in the Zone D final on March 12 against winners of tomorrow's match between BKSP and Bogra.

Chasing a paltry Thakurgaon total of 120 in 45 overs, the Rangpur top order made heavy weather of the total requiring to wait until the 39th over to finish the job.

The victory ensured Rangpur a berth in the March 12 final.

The other finalist in Zone F will be decided from three teams — Kurigram, Nilphamari and Rajshahi.

In Pabna, Rajshahi Education Board (REB) recorded a convincing 83-run victory over Satkhira.

Electing to bat, REB were all out for 166 in 42.1 overs with Shameemul hammering highest 33. Baki (26) and Siraj (22) were the other notable run-getters. In reply, Satkhira were shot out for only 83 in 28.4 overs.

Faisal was the most successful REB bowler capturing three wickets for 12 runs while Imtiaz took two wickets.

REB will play the March 11 final against the winners of today's match between Dinajpur and Jessor.

Besides, Barisal, Pabna and Chittagong also won their respective zonal encounters and moved to the next round.

In Chittagong, Barisal began their Zone B campaign with a 78-run victory over Narasingdi.

Opting to bat, Barisal amassed 243 for eight in the stipulated 45 overs with Mangu scoring highest 60. Besides, Baba (35) and Sumon (30) were the other notable batsmen.

On the other hand, Narasingdi were all out for 165 in 39.2 overs.

Sohel made a valuable 28 while Shafiqul and Jhantu added 27 and 26 runs respectively.

In the day's other two matches, Chittagong handed Rangamati a crushing nine-wicket defeat in a Zone A engagement at the Comilla Stadium while Pabna eliminated Sherpur by 170 runs in Zone C at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium.

Vacek earned his place with a 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 victory over 63rd-ranked Italian Renzo Furlan.

Club Cup hockey

MSC storm into semis

Sports Reporter

Title-chasers Mohammedan Sporting Club romped into the semifinals of the Karnaphuli Garden City Club Cup hockey tournament after thrashing Sadharan Bima 10-0 in one of the two first round engagements at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Mohammedans, who are leading one of the four groups in the 14-team meet, with this win, their second successive victory, stormed into the last four as Group A champions. The black and whites, one of the two giants in the domestic circuit, will take on the winners from Group C in the first semifinal on March 15.

In a lop-sided affair, second match of day's fixture, Mohammedans took an unassassable 3-0 lead at the breather.

An ageing yet agile Shafiqul Islam Litu, opened up the floodgates converting a nice field goal in the 19th minute before captain Mahfuzul Alam Nixon made it 3-0 from two dead balls.

The Mohammedan central defender first stepped up to convert a penalty stroke awarded in the 24th minute and then celebrated his second goal ten minutes later driving home a short corner.

Mohammedans, who had earlier won their group opener against Victoria by seven goals to nil, then went on to yet another goal-feast, punching in seven more goals past a hapless Bima custodian Aminul Islam.

Centre forward Slam-e-Noor, who tuned up the second half for the goal-hungry Mohammedans scoring the fourth in the 49th minute, quite fittingly ended the Bima run scoring his third and his side's tenth goal one minute from the final whistle.

Slam apart, Zahid struck twice while Litu scored his second goal in the 61st minute and Ashiqur Rahman, the Mohammedan play-maker, added the fifth ten minutes into the second half.

In the first of the day, Bangladesh Sporting Club pulled off a stunning 2-0 victory over fancied Ajax Sports Club.

Mir opened the winners' account in the 27th minute through a nice field goal while Masud confirmed the victory in 57th minute converting a penalty corner.

It was Bangladesh Sporting's first win after their defeat against Mariners while for Ajax, it was their first defeat after their impressive win over Farashganj in the four-team Group D.

Strengths: Government and public support; good facilities; historic sites and ambience; projects to build new airport and improve metro and roads.

Weaknesses: Worries over air pollution, high temperatures and possible transportation problems.

Quote: "The real fight starts now... The people of Greece want these Olympics and we will do everything in our power to give it to them." — Dimitris Avramopoulos, mayor of Athens.

Strenghts: Government and public support; good facilities; historic sites and ambience; projects to build new airport and improve metro and roads.

Weaknesses: Worries over air pollution, high temperatures and possible transportation problems.

Quote: "This is an incentive for all of Africa. It is recognition from the IOC that we have reached the democratic and non-racial world. We would have been devastated if we hadn't been chosen." — Sam Ramsamy, president of South Africa's national Olympic committee.

Weaknesses: Significant anti-bid sentiment on economic and ecological grounds.

Quote: "We are so very happy. I had tears in my eyes. We were very nervous and it was a great relief. I believe we have a very good chance. We have such a good concept, even better than the other cities." — Mats Hult, mayor of Stockholm.

Strengths: Sentimental pull of helping South Africa's post-apartheid transition; backing of President Nelson Mandela; beautiful natural setting.

Weaknesses: Crime rate; uncertain public support; environmental challenges; major transportation improvements needed.

Quote: "It is a recognition from the IOC that we have reached the democratic and non-racial world. We would have been devastated if we hadn't been chosen." — Sam Ramsamy, president of South Africa's national Olympic committee.

Weaknesses: Significant anti-bid sentiment on economic and ecological grounds.

Quote: "We are so very happy. I had tears in my eyes. We were very nervous and it was a great relief. I believe we have a very good chance. We have such a good concept, even better than the other cities." — Mats Hult, mayor of Stockholm.

Strengths: Sentimental pull of helping South Africa's post-apartheid transition; backing of President Nelson Mandela; beautiful natural setting.

Weaknesses: Crime rate; uncertain public support; environmental challenges; major transportation improvements needed.

Quote: "It is an incentive for all of Africa. It is recognition from the IOC that we have reached the democratic and non-racial world. We would have been devastated if we hadn't been chosen." — Sam Ramsamy, president of South Africa's national Olympic committee.

Weaknesses: Significant anti-bid sentiment on economic and ecological grounds.

Quote: "We are so very happy. I had tears in my eyes. We were very nervous and it was a great relief. I believe we have a very good chance. We have such a good concept, even better than the other cities." — Mats Hult, mayor of Stockholm.

Strengths: Sentimental pull of helping South Africa's post-apartheid transition; backing of President Nelson Mandela; beautiful natural setting.

Weaknesses: Crime rate; uncertain public support; environmental challenges; major transportation improvements needed.

Quote: "It is an incentive for all of Africa. It is recognition from the IOC that we have reached the democratic and non-racial world. We would have been devastated if we hadn't been chosen." — Sam Ramsamy, president of South Africa's national Olympic committee.

Weaknesses: Significant anti-bid sentiment on economic and ecological grounds.

Quote: "We are so very happy. I had tears in my eyes. We were very nervous and it was a great relief. I believe we have a very good chance. We have such a good concept, even better than the other cities." — Mats Hult, mayor of Stockholm.

Strengths: Sentimental pull of helping South Africa's post-apartheid transition; backing of President Nelson Mandela; beautiful natural setting.

Weaknesses: Crime rate; uncertain public support; environmental challenges; major transportation improvements needed.

Quote: "It is an incentive for all of Africa. It is recognition from the IOC that we have reached the democratic and non-racial world. We would have been devastated if we hadn't been chosen." — Sam Ramsamy, president of South Africa's national Olympic committee.

Weaknesses: Significant anti-bid sentiment on economic and ecological grounds.

Quote: "We are so very happy. I had tears in my eyes. We were very nervous and it was a great relief. I believe we have a very good chance. We have such a good concept, even better than the other cities." — Mats Hult, mayor of Stockholm.

Strengths: Sentimental pull of helping South Africa's post-apartheid transition; backing of President Nelson Mandela; beautiful natural setting.

Weaknesses: Crime rate; uncertain public support; environmental challenges; major transportation improvements needed.

Quote: "It is an incentive for all of Africa. It is recognition from the IOC that we have reached the democratic and non-racial world. We would have been devastated if we hadn't been chosen." — Sam Ramsamy, president of South Africa's national Olympic committee.

Weaknesses: Significant anti-bid sentiment on economic and ecological grounds.

Quote: "We are so very happy. I had tears in my eyes. We were very nervous and it was a great relief. I believe we have a very good chance. We have such a good concept, even better than the other cities." — Mats Hult, mayor of Stockholm.

Strengths: Sentimental pull of helping South Africa's post-apartheid transition; backing of President Nelson Mandela; beautiful natural setting.

Weaknesses: Crime rate; uncertain public support; environmental challenges; major transportation improvements needed.

Quote: "It is an incentive for all of Africa. It is recognition from the IOC that we have reached the democratic and non-racial world. We would have been devastated if we hadn't been chosen." — Sam Ramsamy, president of South Africa's national Olympic committee.

Weaknesses: Significant anti-bid sentiment on economic and ecological grounds.

Quote: "We are so very happy. I had tears in my eyes. We were very nervous and it was a great relief. I believe we have a very good chance. We have such a good concept, even better than the other cities." — Mats Hult, mayor of Stockholm.

Strengths: Sentimental pull of helping South Africa's post-apartheid transition; backing of President Nelson Mandela; beautiful natural setting.

Weaknesses: Crime rate; uncertain public support; environmental challenges; major transportation improvements needed.

Quote: "It is an incentive for all of Africa. It is recognition from the IOC that we have reached the democratic and non-racial world. We would have been devastated if we hadn't been chosen." — Sam Ramsamy, president of South Africa's national Olympic committee.

Weaknesses: Significant anti-bid sentiment on economic and ecological grounds.

Quote: "We are so very happy. I had tears in my eyes. We were very nervous and it was a great relief. I believe we have a very good chance. We have such a good concept, even better than the other cities." — Mats Hult, mayor of Stockholm.

Strengths: Sentimental pull of helping South Africa's post-apartheid transition; backing of President Nelson Mandela; beautiful natural setting.

Weaknesses: Crime rate; uncertain public support; environmental challenges; major transportation improvements needed.

Quote: "It is an incentive for all of Africa. It is recognition from the IOC that we have reached the democratic and non-racial world. We would have been devastated if we hadn't been chosen." — Sam Ramsamy, president of South Africa's national Olympic committee.

Weaknesses: Significant anti-bid sentiment on economic and ecological grounds.

Quote: "We are so very happy. I had tears in my eyes. We were very nervous and it was a great relief. I believe we have a very good chance. We have such a good concept, even better than the other cities." — Mats Hult, mayor of Stockholm.

Strengths: Sentimental pull of helping South Africa's post-apartheid transition; backing of President Nelson Mandela; beautiful natural setting.

Weaknesses: Crime rate; uncertain public support; environmental challenges; major transportation improvements needed.

Quote: "It is an incentive for all of Africa. It is recognition from the IOC that we have reached the democratic and non-racial world. We would have been devastated if we hadn't been chosen." — Sam Ramsamy, president of South Africa's national Olympic committee.

Weaknesses: Significant anti-bid sentiment on economic and ecological grounds.

Quote: "We are so very happy. I had tears in my eyes. We were very nervous and it was a great relief. I believe we have a very good chance. We have such a good concept, even better than the other cities." — Mats Hult, mayor of Stockholm.

Strengths: Sentimental pull of helping South Africa's post-apartheid transition; backing of President Nelson Mandela; beautiful natural setting.

Weaknesses: Crime rate; uncertain public support; environmental challenges; major transportation improvements needed.

Quote: "It is an incentive for all of Africa. It is recognition from the IOC that we have reached the democratic and non-racial world. We would have been devastated if we hadn't been chosen." — Sam Ramsamy, president of South Africa's national Olympic committee.

Weaknesses: Significant anti-bid sentiment on economic and ecological grounds.

Quote: "We are so very happy. I had tears in my eyes. We were very nervous and it was a great relief. I believe we have a very good chance. We have such a good concept, even better than the other cities." — Mats Hult, mayor of Stockholm.

Strengths: Sentimental pull of helping South Africa's post-apartheid transition; backing of President Nelson Mandela; beautiful natural setting.

Weaknesses: Crime rate; uncertain public support; environmental challenges; major transportation improvements needed.

Quote: "It is an incentive for all of Africa. It is recognition from the IOC that we have reached the democratic and non-racial world. We would have been devastated if we hadn't been chosen." — Sam Ramsamy, president of South Africa's national Olympic committee.

Weaknesses: Significant anti-bid sentiment on economic and ecological grounds.

Quote: "We are so very happy. I had tears in my eyes. We were very nervous and it was a great relief. I believe we have a very good chance. We have such a good concept, even better than the other cities." — Mats Hult, mayor of Stockholm.

Strengths: Sentimental pull of helping South Africa's post-apartheid transition; backing of President Nelson Mandela; beautiful natural setting.

Weaknesses: Crime rate; uncertain public support; environmental challenges; major transportation improvements needed.

Quote: "It is an incentive for all of Africa. It is recognition from the IOC that we have reached the democratic and non-racial world. We would have been devastated if we hadn't been chosen." — Sam Ramsamy, president of South Africa's national Olympic committee.

Weaknesses: Significant anti-bid sentiment on economic and ecological grounds.

Quote: "We are so very happy. I had tears in my eyes. We were very nervous and it was a great relief. I believe we have a very good chance. We have such a good concept, even better than the other cities." — Mats Hult, mayor of Stockholm.

Strengths: Sentimental pull of helping South Africa's post-apartheid transition; backing of President Nelson Mandela; beautiful natural setting.

Weaknesses: Crime rate; uncertain public support; environmental challenges; major transportation improvements needed.

Quote: "It is an incentive for all of Africa. It is recognition from the IOC that we have reached the democratic and non-racial world. We would have been devastated if we hadn't been chosen." — Sam Ramsamy, president of South Africa's national Olympic committee.

Weaknesses: Significant anti-bid sentiment on economic and ecological grounds.

Quote: "We are so very happy. I had tears in my eyes. We were very nervous and it was a great relief