

Youth cricket Sylhet in the finals

Sports Reporter

Sylhet booked a berth in the eight-team final round of the Gazi Tank 17th national youth cricket championship after winning the Zone B final beating Barisal by one wicket at the Chandpur Stadium yesterday.

Sylhet who began play on the overnight score of 48 without loss in 25 overs, needed a further 208 runs to win in the remaining 55 overs, lost nine wickets before reaching the target with only two balls to spare.

Sylhet joined Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Rangshahi Education Board together with defending champions Narayanganj and runners-up Khulna in the last round.

Meanwhile, in the yet undecided Zone C, Tangail and Comilla began their hunt for the last spot in the finals at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Put into bat, Tangail were all out for only 142 in 51.1 overs with Md. Alim hammering highest 36. Sami (20) and Tapash (14) were the other notable rungetters.

In reply, Comilla were themselves struggling at 48 for three in 16 overs at stumps. Tangail new-ball bowler Nirmal was responsible for damage capturing all the all wickets to fall for 21 runs.

Chess trials begin

Sports Reporter

Six girls won their respective boards as the qualifying round of the 18th national women's chess championship began at the NSC chess room yesterday.

On the inaugural day of the five-round Swiss league format involving 14 players; Masuda Begum beat Nurunnahar; Zakia Sultana defeated Shahzah Khan Shampa; Afzana Parveen Nira tamed Viquarunnissa Tithi; Nazrana Khan Iva outplayed K M Sayeeda; Zahara Haque Runu beat Farzana Khan Ava while Rukhsana Gulshan Nikpon overcame Shahna Akhtar.

In the other board, Faizunisa Poly earned walk-over against Eliza Kamal.

DU football

Sports Reporter

Department of Law will take on Applied Physics and Electronics department in the opening match of the Dhaka University inter-department football championship that begins at the central sports ground this morning.



A group of angry Mohammediens players stage protest against the poor umpiring of Ramiz Ahmed (R) during yesterday's Karnaphuli Garden City Club Cup semifinal at the Dhaka Stadium.

— Star photo

Hooliganism halts hockey

Sports Reporter

A controversial ruling by Ramiz Ahmed led to a premature end of what would have been an absorbing first semifinal of the Garden City Club Cup tournament between Mohammediens Sporting Club and Usha Krira Chakra at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Ramiz, one of the two umpires in the middle, switched on the frustration and fury among the players of both teams when he awarded Mohammediens a goal early in the second half and then, after consulting with the third umpire, went on to revoke his decision in the face of some adverse reactions from Usha Krira Chakra.

Although the decision, which enabled Mohammediens a 3-1 lead, hardly justified its merit as the powerful hit from captain Mahfuzul Alam Nixon from a short corner crashed against the Usha net seemingly without a deflection, the reaction from Usha was by any standard a painful exhibition of vulgarity. The players soon rushed to protest the decision and some of them were seen pushing and punching a hapless Ramiz vigorously before he was rescued by the police.

But that was only the beginning of a sad episode. Ramiz started the match without showing any caution to those culprits as if nothing had happened. His compromised at-

tempt, however, only helped to spark off protests from Mohammediens players and more decisively let loose a furor at the stand from where the black and white supporters started pelting stones on the newly-laid artificial turf which eventually put an end to the match.

And with the members of the tournament committee in complete disarray, a hosts of Mohammediens officials then intervened into the happenings, seizing the stage with a shameful demonstration of hooliganism.

Among those unwanted guests, perhaps Tariqul Islam Titu did the heroic (or villainous?) job of slapping Ramiz for his wrongdoing. The Mohammediens cricket manager, without having the authority to enter into the ground, led the invasion of the pitch along with some supporters and sent Ramiz down on his knees with a sudden stinging and loud slap on his face. This single act not only bemused the audience, but also raised a uproar in support of his shameful act.

At one stage it was felt that there were hardly any law and order situation despite the strong presence police.

"I have requested the police to drive away those people who did not have the permission to enter the ground," said the tournament committee secre-

tary Rehanul Karim while Shamsul Bari, the general secretary of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) appeared like a mere onlooker during the troublesome atmosphere.

But the most interesting revelation was made by Mahabob, a duty officer of the police at the ground. While contacted he said that they had repeatedly requested the authorities in vain to identify those people who made unlawful entry, but their urge failed to enter into the deaf ears of the committee members.

Meanwhile, Mohammediens in the letter threatened that they would stay off the tourney if the BHF fails to comply with their three conditions. Firstly, they will play the remaining of the proceedings only if the goal is allowed. Secondly, the incompetent tournament committee secretary must be sacked and thirdly, the safety of the players must be ensured.

On the other hand, the umpires are yet to come up with their reports for an emergency meeting expected to be held today.

Meanwhile, the authorities have deferred today's second semifinal between Abahani Krira Chakra and Mariner Young's Club.

However, apart from the sad episode, it was a see-saw battle before the match fell through seven minutes in to the second half.

National centre-forward Kamal put Usha into the lead in the 14th minute after being fed by Sadeq. But their joy was short lived as Mohammediens bounced back strongly in the 22nd minute with Nixon scoring from a penalty corner. The Mohammediens captain then stepped up to convert a penalty stroke with aplomb to enable Mohammediens a 2-1 lead in the 28th minute. Mir Monwar Ali pointed to the dreaded spot when Sadeq tried to thwart a goal-bound drive from Nixon unlawfully.

In addition to that Sadeq, who was instrumental for the early lead of Usha, also had his share of misfortune when his penalty stroke was brilliantly saved by Mohammediens custodian Javed in the third minute before the hell broke loose.

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Tennis circuit begins today at Rangpur

RANGPUR, Mar 15: The first-phase of a five-day national tennis circuit begins at the local tennis ground here tomorrow, reports BSS.

A total of 68 players, including 11 female, are to participate in the meet from Rajshahi, Natore, Pabna, Joypurhat, Naogaon, Kurigram, Rajbari, Naogaon, Dhaka Federation and hosts Rangpur districts.

Meanwhile, Station Club, Rangpur has arranged a tennis tournament for the elderly athletes from tomorrow at the Water Development Board tennis ground.

Twenty one competitors from across the country are to take part.

At the same time, Shahid and Kajal reduced the margin for Lalmata with goals in the 40th and 66th minutes respectively.

In the day's second match at the same venue, Mohakhal Ekdash defeated City Club by two nil.

At the Mirpur Stadium, Jura-

rain Janata Club also recorded a 2-0 win over Muslim Institute.

Striker Ripon netted both the goals in the 47th and 53rd minutes.

The other match between Adamjee SCC and Little Friend's Club ended in a draw.

In a see-saw encounter, Tuku scored in the 6th, 19th and 71st minutes to grab the first treble of the season.

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Opener Mahanama topped the list of the tourists with a diligent 45 while lower-order batsmen Chaminda Vaas, with 28, and Kumar Dharmasena, with 27, put their heads down to grind out a seventh wicket stand of 53 in two hours.

Aravinda de Silva's dismal show continued when he made just one to lift his run aggregate from his last three innings to four before Vettori captured his

place of the day.

He relished playing on his home ground to display good control and flight in the air and again underlined the big role he may play in the resurgence of the New Zealand team.

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