



Coca-Cola



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MSC beat Muktis

Defending holders Mohammedan Sporting Club defeated Mukti Joddha Sangsad 2-1 in the crucial second-leg match of the Premier Division football league at Mirpur Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Alfaz gave Mohammedan an early lead in the 26th minute while Bodhi Baba Lola confirmed the victory in the 44th minute. Nakib netted the lone goal for Mukti Joddha in 50th minute.

With the victory, Mohammedans led the points-table, collecting a total of 40 points from 17 encounters. Mukti Joddha dropped to the second position, collecting 37 points from same number of matches.

Abahani Krira Chakra, the other contender of the league title, bagged a total of 35 points from 16 matches.

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Ponir (Nizam, Majumdar), Faisal Ahmed, Nazrul Islam, Monwar Hossain Munna, Joy (Rohul Amin), Arman, Matiur Rahman Munna, Lodi Baba Lola, Don (Mansur Ali), Bodhi Baba Lola and Alfaz.

MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD: Arun Biswas Dewan, Hasan Al-Mamun, Jewel Rana, Barman, Titu, Masud Rana, Iqbal, Golam Gaus, Rakib, Ali Rahaman and Nakib.

Yellow cards: Arman (Mohammedan) and Masud Rana (Mukti Joddha).

Referee: Ahsanul Haq.

Zia Smriti cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 12: Mohanagar Clinical defeated Bandhan Krira Chakra by 10 runs in the second round of the 10th Shaheed Zia Smriti cricket tournament today at the Rajshahi Government College playground.

Winning the toss Bandhan Krira Chakra invited Mohanagar Clinical to bat who made 125 runs for eight wickets in the stipulated 20 overs.

Ranu and Robiul made 29 and 26 runs respectively.

In reply, Bandhan collected 115 runs for six wickets in 20 overs. Pappu and Tito made 25 and 20 runs. **STAR** photo



Khaled Mahmud pounces on a rare short-pitched delivery from Pakistan off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq while stumper Rashid Latif looks on.

— Star photo

Independence Cup notebook

Sports Reporter

NO PM, LET'S LEAVE

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, buoyed by Bangladesh's brilliant performance against India on Saturday, went to the Dhaka Stadium for the second time in three days.

But her enthusiasm quickly turned into dejection after watching the team being bundled out for only 134.

And without much fuss she left during the lunch break at around 1:15 pm and did not return.

However, the security personnel at the VVIP Gallery remained on duty until 3:30 pm.

It was learnt that the Premier was due to be back at the stadium after the break. But for any dubious reason she changed her mind and let the security men know about the decision then and they left.

TIM'S PRESCRIPTION

The Chief Executive of England and Wales Cricket Board Tim Lamb thinks Bangladesh will never reach the dizzy heights of Test playing country unless it starts playing three or four-day matches on a regular basis.

The Englishman who is a special guest of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) was talking this correspondent.

"A three or four day domestic cricket competition is a very important part of any aspiration to play Test match cricket. That's certainly something that the BCB should develop in this country," said Lamb who is on his second visit to Dhaka after three years.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

The ticket touts at the big bowl could count themselves unlucky as the dense fog may have prevented many of their prospective customers from coming.

Some experienced sellers fearing the worst announced a 'grand sale'. A ticket worth Tk 150 for the Western Gallery went for only Tk 50.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Bangladeshis are well known for their hospitality and the Dhaka Stadium crowd was no exception. A section of the spectators yesterday somehow came to know that January 12 was Pammi, wife of Sunil Gavaskar and Asif Iqbal's, former Pakistan captain, date of birth. Cricket fans yesterday hoisted two banners wishing them on the iron grills of the stadium.

Pammi is accompanying her husband who has come here as a guest of BCB while Asif is one of the six WorldTel commentators who are covering the tournament.



cluding three girls to sell different souvenir articles, yesterday experienced a dull day as far as their business was concerned.



SAEED ON SONG: Elegant Pakistani opener Saeed Anwar pulls Zakir Hasan of Bangladesh for one of his thirteen blistering fours. The left-hander scored an unbeaten 73 off only 69 balls.

— Star photo

BANGLADESH, PAKISTAN SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the tri-nation Coca-Cola Independence Cup cricket tournament between Pakistan and Bangladesh played at the Dhaka National Stadium yesterday:

BANGLADESH			
Javed Omar b Mushtaq	17		
Habibul c (sub) M Hussain b Saqlain	15		
Sanwar st Latif b Mushtaq	13		
Aminul run out	6		
Akram c Latif b Afridi	7		
Mahmud Latif b Afridi	19		
Rafiqul b Saqlain	29		
Masud c&b Saqlain	3		
Hasibul b Aqib	7		
Shafiqunnor not out	6		
Zakir lbw b Aqib	0		
Extras: (lb-7, w-4, nb-1)	12		
Total: (All out in 39.3 overs) 134			
Fall of wickets: 1-33; 2-38; 3-52; 4-59; 5-76; 6-100; 7-116; 8-126; 9-134; 10-134.			

Bowling			
O	M	R	W
Aqib	7.3	1	27
Mahmud	8	1	22
Saqlain	8	0	33
Mushtaq	8	0	20
Afridi	8	1	25

PAKISTAN			
Anwar not out	73		
Afridi c Sanwar b Shafiqunnor	11		
Sohail not out	37		
Extras: (b-1, lb-1 wb-12, nb-1)	15		
Total: (For one wicket in 24.2 overs)	136		
Fall of wicket: 1-43			

Bowling			
O	M	R	W
Hasibul	6	0	26
Shafiqunnor	6	0	42
Zakir	4	1	18
Mahmud	2	0	19
Rafiqul	5	1	18
Aminul	2	0	11

Result: Pakistan won by nine wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Saqlain Mushtaq (Pakistan).

Khulna cricket

KHULNA, Jan 12: Four matches of the Second Division cricket league played at different venues today, reports BSS.

Railway Eleven beat Rajapur Juba Sangha by 41 runs at the JBS ground.

Winning the toss, Railway Eleven decided to bat and scored 128 runs losing nine wickets in the stipulated 30 overs.

In reply, Rajapur were all out for 87 runs.

In the second match of the day, Kishore Cosmos Eleven defeated New Unique Boys Club by five wickets at the Khulna University ground.

Kishore Cosmos won the toss and invited New Unique to bat. New Unique scored 122 runs losing all the wickets.

In reply, Kishore Cosmos reached their target losing only five wickets.

In the third match BRSS Cricket Club defeated Young Suchana Club by 17 runs.

Winning the toss BRSS scored 117 runs for the loss of nine wickets in the stipulated 30 overs.

In reply, Young Suchana were all out for 100.

In the fourth match at the Khulna Stadium, Liverpool Club defeated Pabla Cricket Clinic by 10 runs.

Liverpool batted first winning the toss and scored 133 runs.

Relying to their opponents, Pabla Cricket Clinic were all out for 123.

Perth to beef up security

PERTH, Jan 12: Organisers of the World Swimming Championships have called in extra police and banned the use of ethnic flags after Yugoslavia were drawn to play Croatia in the semifinals of the men's water polo tournament, reports Reuters.

The executive chairman of the championships, Tom Hoad, said the decision to beef up security had been made after a series of flare-ups between rival fans during the preliminary stages of the competition.

The Yugoslav-Serbian-Croatian problem has a lot of history to it, Hoad said today.

"As you know some of them are fanatics and we can't stop that."

"We've already had a few problems with these people and we expect there will be some more when they play each other."

Police were called in to break up a fight between Yugoslav and Croatian fans last Friday.

Although the two countries did not face each other in the round-robin phase of the competition, their matches were usually held at the same venue on the same day.

There were no arrests but tensions were pretty high, Hoad said.

"It wasn't bad but it might have been if we'd step in."

Croatia and Yugoslavia were drawn to face each other in the semifinal stage after both finished second in their respective preliminary groups.

Croatia came second behind Russia in Group A while Yugoslavia were runners-up to Hungary in Group B.

Hoad said security levels would be doubled for the match at Challenge Stadium on Tuesday.

Pitch told Ashraf nothing

The Animadverter

It appeared quite interesting when the two unequal rivals on the day opted for a choice of striking contrast. A wise man should have put his money on the decision of Bangladesh

derway, it was Pakistani judgement which prevailed. The wicket clearly favoured the spinners, much to the surprise of Bangladesh think tank. Off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq and the leg-spin duo of Mushtaq Ahmed and Shahid Khan Afridi shared seven wickets among them in 24 overs.

During the post-match session, when Gazi Ashraf Hossain was asked about their decision to take an additional seamer, the surprisingly exasperated manager replied, "Nobody knew what the pitch would behave."

Ashraf, who was the coach-cum-manager of the Bangladesh team in its humiliating tour of New Zealand, justified the inclusion of seamer Zakir by saying, "We tried with (spinner) Shariful Haq in the previous match, but he did not perform well. So we thought..."

But when his Pakistani incumbent, Haroon Rashid, appearing before the press, said they determined the wicket as a turner when they had a look at it in the morning. And that was why they opted for four spinners in the team.

So, it seemed that all but Ashraf knew about the pitch.

ASHRAF HOSSAIN ... wise team management because hosts determined the pitch characteristics. It is a common practice across the globe.

But when the match got un-

