

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Mohammedan Sporting Club suffered their worst defeat of the season when a rampant Bangladeshi Biman thrashed them by nine wickets in the Super League of the Janakantha Premier Division at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Pakistani pace bowler Shahid Nazir ripped through the Mohammedan batting with a blistering five-wicket haul as Mohammedan were bundled out for 94 after electing to bat first.

In reply Biman cruised to their victory target with half of the allotted 50 overs to spare for the loss of one wicket.

Biman, with their tenth win in 13 matches, now share the second spot with Kalabagan Krira Chakra with each having 20 points. Last year's runners up Abahani are leading the league table with 26 points from 13 matches. A win against Surjo Tarun Club today will ensure Abahani the league championship with two matches in hand.

On the other hand, it was the sixth loss for Mohammedan, which kept them glued at the bottom of six-team Super League table along with Brothers Union Club with each having 14 points from 13 matches.

Mohammedan in their innings, were in trouble from the start when they lost opener Imran Hamid in the second over without any run on the board. The left handed opener tried to sweep off spinner Ziaur Rashid but mis-timed giving a simple catch to Habibul Bashar at mid four.

Javed, the leading scorer of

services of Sri Lankan recruits Ruwan Kalpage and Hashan



NAZIR ... 5/22

Tillekeratne, never recovered and were eventually bowled out in 34.1 overs.

Nasirul Alau scored highest 17 of 30 balls followed by lower middle orders Neeyamur Rashid and Shamsul Arifin who added 13 and 12 runs respectively.

Shahid Nazir, who took three wickets in his first spell of seven overs conceding 19 runs, finished with five for 22 from his 9.1 overs while his compatriot leg spinner Manzoor Akhtar took two wickets for 24 runs.

In reply, Biman reached their target in 25 overs with opener Javed Omar hammering highest 41 off 69 balls with six fours.

Javed, the leading scorer of

TODAY'S MATCHES

Super League

Abahani KC v Surjo Tarun Club

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Relegation League

Sadharan Bima KS v Gopibagh FA

Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

the Premier League, has now scored 560 runs so far in 13 innings with two centuries and three fifties.

One-down Habibul Bashar was unbeaten on 39 off 52 balls with four boundaries.

Biman captain Faruque Ahmed, who opened the batting, had to retire hurt after bruising his big toe on the right foot.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Premier Division Super League clash between Biman and Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday:

MOHAMMEDAN SC

Rashed c Hasanuzzaman b S Nazir	9
Imran c Habibul b Ziaur	0
Samaraweeru c Habibul b S Nazir	3
Nasirul c Faruque b M Akhtar	17
Athar Ali lbw b S Nazir	4
Neeyamur c Attar b M Akhtar	13
Shamsul b S Nazir	12
Rafique c Ziaur b Shariful	9
Mortaza run out	6
Firoz b S Nazir	2
Monjurul not out	4
Farhat, Attar, Rashid and Shamsul Arifin	1
Extras: (b-4, lb-5, nb-1, w-5)	15
Total (All out in 34.1 overs)	94

Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-10; 3-20; 4-28; 5-45; 6-56; 7-69; 8-88; 9-89.

BOWLER

S Nazir	9.1	1	22	5
Ziaur	6.1	1	20	1
M Akhtar	8.2	24	2	
Shariful	8.1	10	1	
Farhat	3.0	9	0	

BIMAN

Javed Omar c Firoz b Shamsul	41
Faruque retired hurt	9
Habibul not out	39
Monjurul not out	1
Farhat, Attar, Rashid, Shahid Nazir, Hasanuzzaman and Shariful Haque	5

Did not bat: Ziaur Rashid, Manzoor Akhtar, Imran Farhat, Attar Rahman, Shahid Nazir, Hasanuzzaman and Shariful Haque.

Fall of wicket: 1-89.

BOWLER

Monjurul	7.0	0	29	0
Shamsul	3.0	0	15	1
Rafique	7.1	27	0	
Firoz	2.0	12	0	
Neeyamur	6.0	11	0	

Result: Biman won by nine wickets.

Four-nation soccer

SL defeat India

Sports Reporter

Sri Lanka surprised India by a solitary goal in the four-nation Golden Jubilee International Football Tournament at the National Stadium in Male yesterday, according to a report available on the Internet.

Striker KM Anees scored in the fifth minute for the islanders.

Khaled Jamil of India was named man-of-the-match.

The winners will take on Bangladesh in their last match tomorrow while India meet hosts Maldives on May 8.

Bangladesh have already been held 1-1 by both India and Maldives. Sri Lanka also drew 1-1 against Maldives in their opening match.

Asia Cup

Saurav named India skipper

BOMBAY, May 5: India's cricket selectors on Friday retained Saurav Ganguly as captain for the four-nation Asia Cup in Bangladesh later this month, reports AFP.

The elegant left-hander, currently playing English county cricket for Lancashire, took over from Sachin Tendulkar earlier this year and led India to a 3-2 win over South Africa in a one-day series at home.

Ganguly also captained India in a tri-nation tournament in Sharjah in March against Pakistan and South Africa.

The selectors also named 24 other probables to attend a camp before the squad was pruned to 14 for the May 28-June 7 tournament in Dhaka against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

There is no place in the probables for pace spearhead Jagaval Srinath, who wanted a break from one-day internationals to concentrate on Test cricket.

Also excluded in Srinath's long-time pace partner Venkatesh Prasad, but left-hand batsmen Vinod Kamblu, Sadagopan Ramesh and Hrishikesh Kanitkar are back in favour.

Rahul Dravid and Anil Kumble, the other Indians playing county cricket in England, will be available for the tournament, Indian cricket board secretary Jayawant Lele said.

The final squad will be chosen on May 22 after the week-long camp in the western Indian city of Pune.

THE PROBABLES

Saurav Ganguly (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Mohammad Azharuddin, Ajay Jadeja, Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble, Jacob Martin, Hemant Badani, Mohammad Kaif, Shiv Sunder Das, Robin Singh, Reetinder Singh Sohdi, Vinod Kamblu, Ajit Agarkar, Thiru Kumaran, Amit Bhandari, Zaheer Khan, Sved Saba Karim, Nayan Mongia, Nikhil Chopra, Sridharan Sriram, Sadagopan Ramesh, Sunil Joshi, Hrishikesh Kanitkar, Murali Kartik.

MELBOURNE

May 5: Australian cricket captain Steve Waugh said an overabundance of limited-overs internationals was partly to blame for the match-fixing scandal which has rocked the sport, reports AP.

Waugh, who guided Australia on their winning World Cup campaign in England last year, said the proliferation of one-dayers meant the game risked degenerating into a pure revenue-raising exercise.

"As cricketers you want to play for your country and you want to play every game possible," he said. "But perhaps there's some tournaments that probably don't mean a lot and I think they can be dangerous."

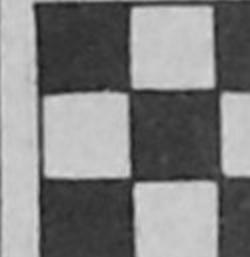
That's probably where some of the problems have occurred



Sri Lankan players celebrate after K Anees scored the lone goal against India in the four-nation Golden Jubilee Football Tournament in Male yesterday. —Internet photo

Reefat the man to beat

Sports Reporter



Title aspirant International Master (IM) Reefat bin Sattar of Biman recorded his ninth win in the Professor Abdur Razzak 26th national chess championship defeating Syed Rubul Kabir Shiplu of Titas Club in the tenth round held at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Playing with white pieces against the Sicilian defence of Shiplu, Reefat checkmated his counterpart after 46 moves.

The win kept Reefat atop the table with nine and a half points from ten games.

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long-time pace partner Venkatesh Prasad, but left-hand batsmen Vinod Kamblu, Sadagopan Ramesh and Hrishikesh Kanitkar are back in favour.

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"Everyone has had suspicions over the years about certain games," he said. "There has probably been one or two games that I've played where you think 'maybe things weren't quite right in that game.'

But Waugh said he had never been approached by anyone

Rajib of Leonine beat Ansars' Shawkat Hossain Pallab, Arifuzzaman Sikdar of Titas Club defeated Taibur Rahman Sumon of BUET while Saifuddin Lovlu of Leonine beat his teammate Abul Kashem Bhuiyan.

STANDINGS

9.5 points—Reefat, 8 points—Zia, 6.5 points—Monir, 6 points—Rakib, Shakil and Mainuddin, 5.5 points—Shiplu, 5 points—Rajib and Pallab, 4.5 points—Amin, 4 points—Tipu, 3.5 points—Arif, Lovlu and Sumon, 2.5 points—Nasir and 1.5 points—Kashem.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Zia v Mainuddin, Monir v Rajib, Nasir v Pallab, Kashem v Arif, Lovlu v Shakil.

The eleventh round clash between Reefat and Rakib will not be held today. The match will be held tomorrow on the rest day.

Waugh's prescription



Cricket was plunged into turmoil last month when South African skipper Hansie Cronje admitted to receiving money from an Indian bookmaker in exchange for team information during a three-nation tournament in South Africa.

Waugh, speaking Friday in Melbourne after the Australian Cricket Board announced it would appoint an investigator to look into match-fixing and bribery, said he never doubted the integrity of the Australian team.

"Everyone has had suspicions over the years about certain games," he said. "There has probably been one or two games that I've played where you think 'maybe things weren't quite right in that game.'

But Waugh said he had never been approached by anyone

wanting him to influence the outcome of a game, adding that he hoped the Australian public believed the national team had never thrown a match.

"Every game I've played in, we've played 100 per cent—that's the way we have always played and I think the Australian public know that," he said.

The Australians notched a record unbeaten stretch of 14 limited-overs internationals before losing the last match of a series to New Zealand in March. The Aussies are also on a 10-match winning stretch in Tests.

Waugh said he hoped the strict penalties announced by the International Cricket Council this week, including life bans for players found guilty of match fixing, would restore some credibility to the game.

Cronje's shocking admission came after police in India filed charges against him and his teammates Herschelle Gibbs, Nicky Boje and Pieter Strydom for allegedly fixing a match in a limited-overs series against India.

The Indian police case was based on audio tapes of a telephone conversation in which police say Cronje discussed payments for himself and others in return for throwing a match.

The cricketers have denied match-fixing.

Munna comes home

Sports Reporter

Former national captain and star Abahani defender Monem Munna returned home last night after a successful kidney transplant in Bangalore, India.

Munna, who damaged both of his kidneys, went to Bangalore three months ago.

Munna underwent his transplant at the Karnaatak Nephrology and Transplant Institute in on April 3 under the supervision of famous surgeon Dr. Ajit Hulgol.

The elder sister of Munna donated one of her kidneys.

Upon his arrival, BFF member and Abahani director Ashraffuddin Ahmed Chunnu received him at the airport. Munna's father and mother in law were also present at the ZIA.

Munna has been advised by his doctors to lead a controlled life during his recovery period.

He will again go to Bangalore for checking after six months.

