Star Sport

DHAKA, MONDAY MAY 15, 2000 Email: dssports @ bdonline.com

Column One

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Competition-130

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Competition closes at 8 pm May 26, 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

1	Who replaced David Lloyd as England cricket coach?		
	Fletcher	Woolmer	Richardson
2	Which country will host the Euro 2004 Championship?		
	Portugal	Germany	Spain
3	Which Kiwi batsman hit 214 on his Test debut against West Indies?		
	Sinclair	Fleming	Crowe
4	Which country won the four-nation football tourney in Maldives?		
	Sri Lanka	Bangladesh	India
5	Who won the national chess title this year?		
	Reefat	Zia	Tipu

Name .....

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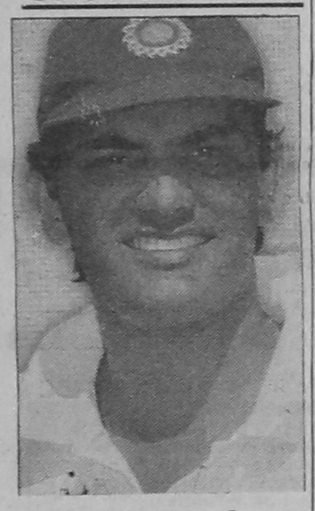
SPORTS TALK



Mohammad Azharuddin

(Indian Test cricketer)

"It is sad that I have to prove myself all the time after playing for the country for more than 16 years. These days, people can write anything and get away with it."

On his alleged involvement in fixing matches.

Fahad slaughters City Club

Sports Reporter

A sensational unbeaten century by opener Fahad Khan guided Victoria Sporting Club to a massive eight-wicket win over City Club in their last Premier Division Relegation League clash at the Dhanmondui Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Fahad, the right handed Pakistani opener, smashed 102 as Victoria chasing a paltry City Club total of 164 in 50 overs, reached 165 in just 19 overs with eight wickets to spare.

Fahad's extraordinary knock came off a mere 56 balls. He blasted eight fours and six sixes.

Fahad apart, middle order Rashed Hanif scored 25 followed by opener Sajjad Ahmed who added 20.

Earlier, electing to bat, City Club were all out in 41.5 overs with Pakistani opener Wasim Nayeem making the highest 29. Rehan Rafique (26) was the other notable rungetter.

For Victoria, Rashed Hanif took three wickets for 23 runs with his left arm spinners while Alok Kapali bagged two wickets for 19 runs.

With yesterday's win, Victoria finished the Relegation League with highest 16 points from 16 matches, two points more than City Club. Both comfortably survived the threat of demotion.

BRIEF SCORES

City Club v Victoria SC
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.
City Club: 164 all out in 41.5 (Wasim 29, Rehan 26, Lipu 17, Jewel 16: R Hanif 3/24, Alok 2/19).
Victoria SC: 165 for 2 in 19 overs (Fahad Khan 102 n.o., R Hanif 25 n.o).
Result: Victoria Sporting Club won by eight wickets.

MSC become Super last

Sports Reporter

The miserable Mohammedan Sporting Club cricketers ended yet another disappointing season conceding a 58-run defeat at the hand of Surjo Tarun Club in their last Janakantha Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The popular Motijheel outfit, who has been a source of prolonged disappointment for its strong band of loyal supporters for the last few years, with this defeat, finished sixth in the 12-team race.

ATHAR ...60

Although the aspirants-turned-pushovers ended up at par with Brothers at the bottom of the six team Super League, Mohammedan experienced the last ignominy of finishing sixth behind the Gopibagh outfit on inferior net run rate. Mohammedan have +.10 against Brothers' +.15.

The victory enabled Surjo Tarun to secure the fourth position.

A success-lorn Mohammedan finished fifth last year and were never looked a firm contender for the title this season. Though they somehow managed a berth in the Super League, Mohammedan had been a pale shadow both on and off the field throughout the tournament. The otherwise crowded dressing room wore a desert look with their officials apparently deciding not to be a part of the disgraced team.

There were only a few hundred never-say-die supporters at the ground expecting vainly the prospect of a fitting revenge against Surjo Tarun, who defeated Mohammedan by five wickets in their first leg clash. But, with a broken-heart, they haplessly witnessed their heroes, chasing a commanding Tarun total of 240 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs, could manage 182 before getting themselves out in 44.5 overs. Neeyamur, who bruised his finger while fielding, did not turn up to bat.

The absence of Neeyamur however would hardly matter for Mohammedan, who in recent past developed the reputation as a bunch of chokers.

Standing at the wrong side of his career, Athar Ali Khan however did something to cheer in his first stint as Mohammedan captain when he hammered 60. His first fifty in sixteen matches was not enough for Mohammedan to avoid eighth defeat against as many wins.

The tall former national opener shared 89 runs for the fourth wicket with Shamsul Arefin after Mohammedan lost three top-order batsmen for only 23 runs on the board.

Former national left-arm seamer Anisur Rahman made the breakthrough in the first over by uprooting the middle stump of Hannan with the very second ball. Anis also had Nasirul Alam for a duck and a menacingly poised Imran Hamid caught and bowled for 18.

Imran threw caution to the wind hammering three successive fours in the second over off Morshed Ali Khan.

Mohammedan were reduced to 42 for four when Rashedul Haq edged an attempted cut against left-arm spinner Suja Erfan into the safe hands of wicketkeeper Khaled Masood.

Athar, the last hope of Mohammedan, got an unlikely partner in Shamsul Arefin to take his side to 131 before perishing meekly. The former national opener, who offered a tame catch at short mid-wicket, hammered five fours and a magnificent sixer against Anis over square leg.

Arefin scored a watchful 40, his highest score in this season, before running himself out. Rafique then fought a lost battle with a run-a-ball 32 that included a quartet of fours and a six.

Earlier, winning the toss and electing to bat, Tarun got off to a horrible start, losing three wickets for 23 runs on the board. Tarun were taken aback when Matin, playing his first match, led the demolition claiming the first three wickets of Ashraful, Al-Shahriar and skipper Minhazul Abedin.

But Tarun recovered well as Pakistani Akhter Sarfaraz and Khaled Masood produced 96 runs for the fifth wicket. The left-handed Sharfaraz scored a breezy 62 off 78 balls inclusive of four fours.

Masood hammered a fluent 52 with the help of half a dozen fours. It was Masood's sixth fifty in the League.

The two apart, opener Rafiqul scored a vital 40 off 60 balls.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Janakantha Premier Division Cricket Super League match between Surjo Tarun and Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday:

SARFARAZ ... 62 n.o.

SURJO TARUN

Ashraful c Athar b Matin	9
Rafiqul c Matin b Athar	40
Al-Shahriar c Imran b Matin	5
Minhazul c Hannan b Matin	0
A Sharfaraz not out	62
K Masood c & b Rafique	52
M Elahi c Hannan b Arefin	33
Enamul c sub b Rafique	0
Morshed b Rafique	12
Anis c Athar b Arefin	3
Suja not out	5
Extras: (lb-6, nb-2, w-11)	19
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs)	240

Fall of wickets: 1-13; 2-23; 3-23; 4-91; 5-187; 6-187; 7-218; 8-231; 9-240

Bowler	O	M	R	W

See page 14

Final round starts today

Sports Reporter

ANZ Grindlays National School Cricket

The final round of the ANZ Grindlays Bank 18th National School Cricket Championship begins in Mymensingh today.

On the inaugural day of the 16-team final round, which will be played on a knock-out basis, Governmnent Laboratory School of Dhaka will take on Comilla Zila School at the Circuit House ground while Mymensingh Zila School will face The Aided School of Sylhet at the Mymensingh Stadium.

The other schools taking part in the final round are: Shariyatpur Gurudas High School, Rajshahi Collegiate High School, Barnamala Adarsha High School, Tangail Bindubashini High School, Dinajpur Zila School, Chittagong Police Institution, Dhaka T&T High School, Satkhira Palashpole High School, BKSP, Khulna Aga Khan High School, Patuakhali Latif School and Islami University Boy's High School.

The final will be held at the Mymensingh Stadium on May 23.

Serie A

Lazio king of Italy

ROME, May 14: Lazio were crowned Italian champions on Sunday after they beat Reggina 3-0 here and overnight leaders Juventus lost 1-0 at Perugia, reports AFP.

Lazio, who won their only other league title back in 1974, finished the season with 72points.

Juventus stayed on 71points - their two point-lead over Lazio evaporating with their shock defeat against Perugia.

They had been nine points clear at the top in late March but a run of defeats saw them caught by Lazio, who could do the league and Cup Double. The Rome club beat Inter Milan 2-1 in the first leg of the Italian Cup last month.

Sher-e-Bangla Cup kicks off tomorrow

Sports Reporter

The first round of the 21st Sher-e-Bangla Cup National Football Championship begins at diferent zonal venues across the country from tomorrow.

Sixty-three districts and four sevrvices teams will take part in the first round which will be held in ten zonal venues. The services teams: Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh Air Force and Bangladesh Navy will play in the Sheba Zone while the other zones have been named after the venues.

The winners of ten zones will join holders Dhaka University and hosts Noakhali in the final round. This is for the first time teams will play on league basis instead of the usual knockout format.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has already announced the venues of nine zones--Moulvibazar, Noakhali, Barguna, Naogaon, Bagherhat, Dinajpur, Gopalganj, Narshingdi and Dhaka Army Stadium (Sheba Zone).

The zonal venue for teams involving Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Tangail, Kishoreganj, Netrokona and Sherpur districts is yet to be named after Mymensingh at the eleventh hour declined to play host.

According to tournament committee secetary Fazlur Rahman Babul, a new venue will be announced within a few days.

In Dinajpur Zone, matches will start from May 18 while the Sheba and Naogaon Zone matches will start from May 19. The other zonal matches in Narshingdi and Gopalganj will start from May 20.

Following teams will take part in the first round:

Moulvibazar Zone: Moulvibazar, Sylhet, Sunamganj, Habiganj and Comilla.

Noakhali Zone: Feni, Chandpur, Chittagong, Rangamati, Bandarban, Khagrachari, Laxmipur and Cox's Bazar.

Barguna Zone: Barguna, Barisal, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Bhola and Jhalakathi.

Naogaon Zone: Naogaon, Gaibandha, Bogra, Rajshahi, Nilphamari, Natore, Chapainawabganj and Sirajganj.

Bagerhat Zone: Bagerhat, Narail, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Khulna, Magura and Satkhira.

Dinajpur Zone: Dinajpur, Panchagar, Joypurhat, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Kurigram, Thakurgaon and Pabna.

Gopalganj Zone: Gopalganj, Faridpur, Madaripur, Rajbari, Shariyatpur, Narail, Jessore and Kushtia.

Narshingdi Zone: Narshingdi, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Dhaka, Munshiganj, Brahmanbaria and Manikganj.

Sheba Zone: Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Air Force and Bangladesh Police.

The matches of the Moulvibazar and Noakhali Zones will start tomorrow while the matches in Bagerhat Zone begins on May 17.

Premier cricket league

Title decider today

Sports Reporter

Top of the table Abahani Krira Chakra will battle Kalabagn Krira Chakra in the title-deciding match of the Premier Division cricket league at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

A win in the last Super League engagement will hand the championship to Abahani, who are leading the table with 26 points. On the otherhand victory by a formidable margin will leave Kalabagan with a chance to pip Abahani on net run rate and lift the title. Kalabagan have 24 points to date. Abahani though, remains favourites as they enjoy a superior run rate.

Abahani have a net run rate of 1.28 against Kalabagan's 0.60 after the completion of 15 matches.

Abahani, who have surprisingly lost their last two matches after winning 13 on the trot, will miss the services of their dependable national opener Mehrab Hossain who suffered a knee injury during their Super League clash against Mohammedan on April 23. They will also be without injured regular wicketkeeper-Mizanur Rahman.

POINTS TABLE (Super League):

Teams	M	W	L	Pts
Abahani KC	15	13	2	26
Kalabagan KC	15	12	3	24
Biman	16	12	4	24
Surjo Tarun	16	10	6	20
Mohammedan SC	16	8	8	16
Brothers Union	16	8	8	16

South African all rounder Lance Klusener kisses his bride Isabelle after their wedding ceremony at the Westville Catholic Church in Durban on May 13. — AFP photo

Seven left out from 25

Sports Reporter

PEPSI ASIA CUP

The national selectors yesterday short-listed 25 cricketers to 18 after running the primary camp for the forthcoming Asia Cup for 18 days.

The mega event starts in Dhaka from May 28 with Bangladesh taking on Sri Lanka.

Among the seven players axed is injured national opener Mehrab Hossain.

The selectors ruled out Mehrab for the four-nation meet along with young right-arm seamer Aminul, also on ground of injury.

The duo apart, Nasirul Alam, Rajin Saleh, Halim Shah Motker Siddiki and Mizanur Rahman Patwari failed to impress the selectors in the training at the BUET ground.

Mehrab, a key member in Bangladesh batting line-up, sustained ligament-damage in his right knee while fielding for his team Abahani against Mohammedan in a Premier League match last month.

The selected 18 players would join the residential camp, starting at the BKSP in Savar from May 16. They have been asked to report to coach Sarwar Imran at the BCB office at 5 pm on May 16.

The national selectors are expected to announce a 14-man Bangladesh squad within the next seven days.

The selected 18 cricketers are: Aminul Islam (captain), Javed Omar, Shahriar Hossain, Habibul Bashar, Al-Shahriar, Akram Khan, Naimur Rahman, Khaled Masood (wk), Khaled Mahmud, Mushfiqur Rahman, Mohammed Rafique, Enamul Hoque, Fahim Muntasir, Sabbir Khan, Hasibul Hossain, Bikash Ranjan Das, Safiuddin Ahmed and Monjurul Islam.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Super League
Abahani KC v Kalabagan KC
Venue: Bagabandhu National Stadium
Relegation League
Agrani Bank v Sadharan Bima KS
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

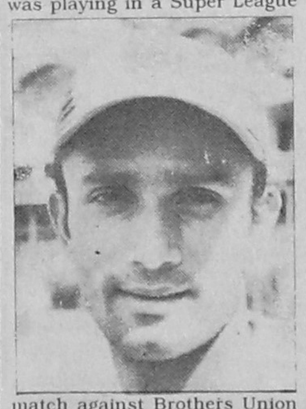
Dacoity at in-law's house of Masood

Sports Reporter

Dacoits made off with taka three lakh in cash and valuables from the residence of national wicketkeeper Khaled Masood's father-in-law in Pallabi, Mirpur yesterday.

A group of four armed men entered the house at around 12:20 pm when only Masood's wife, his mother-in-law, a driver and two maids were present. The gutsy cricketer from Rajshahi stays at his law's house whenever he is in the capital.

The Surjo Tarun gloveman was playing in a Super League



match against Brothers Union at the Bangabandhu National Stadium when the incident took place. His father-in-law, Omar Faruk, was out of town.

On entering the house the gang, who came by a yellow taxi cab, got all but Masood's wife Deeba bound with ropes and took away one lakh sixty-five thousand taka in cash, twelve bhories of ornaments, two cameras and other valuables before quickly making their escape.

Talking to The Daily Star, Masood said that the money he received from his club two days back was robbed by the gang.

"This was done by the locals. They knew well that my father-in-law and I would be absent at that time," said the dejected cricketer last night.

A case has been filed in this regard with Pallabi Thana.

Shoaib's WI tour over

BRIDGETOWN, May 14: Shoaib Akhter, one of cricket's most explosive talents, has been plunged into a new "chucking" controversy, prompting the tour management to replace him with fast bowler Shabbir Ahmed in the touring party here, say Internet reports.

Shoaib, in Barbados with the touring Pakistanis, was pulled out of the current match against the West Indies A side at Kensington Oval at the last minute on the instructions of the International Cricket Council, who want to take another look at his action.

Shoaib missed last week's first Test in Guyana with a groin injury, and even though the Pakistan captain, Moin Khan, announced on Thursday that one of the fastest bowlers in the world would play against West Indies A, he was withdrawn on Friday with what was said to be a side injury.

The Electronic Telegraph revealed the ICC asked for Shoaib not to play until they see film taken of the "Rawalpindi Express" in the only match he has so far played on Pakistan's tour.

SHOAIB AKHTAR

That came in the deciding match of the one-day triangular series final against West Indies in Trinidad, when Shoaib took two wickets in his 10 overs despite, according to Moin, being reluctant to bowl, citing various injures.

Now the film will be viewed by the ICC's throwing committee, whose powers were drastically reduced by the president, Jagmohan Dalmiya, at the start of this year when Shoaib's action was first questioned.

That came in Australia when, after the third Test of Pakistan's series in Perth, umpires Darrell Hair and Peter Willey, and the match referee, John Reid, said in their report that his action was suspect, particularly when he delivered his bouncer.

The throwing committee immediately suspended Shoaib from international cricket, but Dalmiya overruled their decision and said that the committee could only act in an advisory capacity in future.

Shoaib, who was about to leave Australia for Pakistan, re-routed to Brisbane and went straight back into one-day international action before undertaking remedial work with Dennis Lillee.

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Wasim's timely century

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, May 14 (Reuters/AP): Pakistan opener Mohammad Wasim completed a morale-boosting century against West Indies A team on Saturday, virtually assuring himself of a place in the second Test starting next week.

Wasim, under scrutiny after scoring just four in his only innings in the drawn first Test against West Indies, hit 111 to put his team in control on the second day of the four-day match at Kensington Oval.

Pakistan, 154 for two overnight, were all out for 346 at the close in reply to the A team's first innings of 160.

Wasim faced 210 balls in 375 minutes and struck 12 fours before he was caught by wicket-keeper Sylvester Joseph off Mervyn Dillon.

Wasim has never been able to cement a regular place in the Test side, having played in 13 of his country's last 32 Tests since making his debut against New Zealand in 1996.

Wasim shared half century stands with Younis Khan and Shahid Afridi that formed the backbone of Pakistan's total.

Khan made 26 off 67 balls in a third wicket stand of 57 before he drove a catch to cover off-spinning all-rounder Marlon Samuels.

Samuels also accounted for fellow teenager Imran Nazir for six, Daren Ganga clutching a catch at backward point.

Afridi replaced Nazir and was soon in typically aggressive mood, lashing five fours and a six off Samuels in 38 off 42 balls. The 20-year-old dominated a fifth wicket partnership of 50 before Mervyn Dillon removed him to a wicket-keeper's catch.

M WASIM ...111

Dillon, in the space of an impressive spell, had Waqar Younis bowled next ball and dismissed Wasim nine runs later to a top-edged pull.

Dillon finished with three for 52 off 24 overs.

The Pakistan's lower order rallied to add 66 runs for the last three wickets.

Saqlain Mushtaq, wrecker of the home team Friday with six wickets, lashed 31 with three fours. Fellow off-spinner Arshad Khan chipped in with 15 and pacer Shabbir Ahmed, scored 18.

Arshad was the only wicket to fall to spin , losing his bat and his wicket to leg-spinner Mahendra Nagamootoo as he was caught at backward point trying to swing over the leg side.

Left-arm pacer Pedro Collins wrapped up the innings by having Saqlain caught and bowled and Shabbir caught in the gully.

Collins finished with three for 84 off 20 overs while Samuels took two for 65 off 21 overs.

Only 62 overs were possible on a day where intermittent showers caused delays of almost two hours.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the four-day cricket match between West Indies A and Pakistan at Kensington

See page 14

Sirajganj cricket

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, May 14: Sirajganj Muktijoddha Sangsad Ekadosh beat Shajadpur Upazila Cricket Club Ekadash by 1 wicket at Shaheed Shamsuddin

Stadium today.

Winning the toss, Shajadpur decided to bat first and collected 151 runs losing all wickets in 40 overs.

In reply, Muktijoddha made 152 runs losing 9 wickets in 37 overs. Rupom of Muktijoddha Sangsad declared man-of-the-match.

Lara tells of anguish

LONDON, May 14 (Internet report): Brian Lara has spoken of the mental pressures which saw him quit as captain of the West Indies and take a total break from the game.

The world's number one-ranked batsman hit the headlines this week when finally agreeing to tour England this summer, after initially considering pulling out due to the ill-health of his mother.

But his own problems have also caused Lara to seek stress therapy and psychiatric consultation before returning to the international arena.

"It was not like I was stressed out or losing weight or letting my hair grow down to my knees," he told the Mail on Sunday. "It wasn't that bad. I was just seeking someone who would be able to help me.

"I am a person who needs reassurance, not in my ability as a player but maybe in life.

"I need to know that there's an appreciation of what is happening inside me.

"What I wanted to achieve from going to seek counselling was to express my feelings to a professional and see if he could point me in the right direction to ensure that I could do the right things.

BRIAN LARA

"The kind of scrutiny I have been under does change you. The sporting world tends to be that way.

"You get built up to a certain point and then, when they think that there is no further this guy can go, it's well let's get him back down as quickly as possible."

Lara's decision to tour England this season has been greeted with widespread approval in this country, but the left-handed batsman is still unsure of his long-term future in the game.

He added: "I cannot say whether I have fully discovered my passion for international cricket. Who knows how long that sort of thing can take? All I can say is that I'm determined to try.

"Cricket has brought great joy to my life. I never looked at it as a job. I never looked at it as something that paid the bills.

"Whatever happens I will never lose my sheer love of the game."