

Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2001, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com



Did U Know?

The Ranji Trophy for national cricket championship in India is named after K S Ranjitsinhji of England.



ESPN

Pakistan Tour of New Zealand
Pakistan vs New Zealand
Third ODI
Highlights at 11:30 am
UEFA Champions League
Liverpool vs Borussia Dortmund
4:00 pm
Western Union World Football

7:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi

Sport News

Live at 8:30 pm

World Cup Soccer Mix

9:00 pm

STAR Sports

English Premier League
Weekly Highlights at 8:30 am

Sportline Tonight

Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm

Futbol Mundial

9:30 pm

Gillette World Sports Special

Intl Sports News

10:00 pm

Boycott's Best

Cricket Classics

England vs India

Second Test, 1986

11:00 pm



PHOTO: STAR
Mohammedan striker Alfa (R) and Abahani midfielder Bidut are in pursuit of the ball during the last match of the National Bank Premier Division Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Abahani put icing on cake



SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani Krira Chakra celebrated their eleventh League title in a befitting way, defeating arch rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club 1-0 in the last match of this season's National Bank Premier Division football league at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday.

Mahmudul Hasan scored a spectacular goal for the popular Dhamondi outfit in the 33rd minute of the first half to ensure victory.

Abahani, undoubtedly the form team of the year, finished the League with an astonishing 14-point advantage from second-placed Mohammedan.

Hasan's sudden volley from 25-yards that crashed into the upper right-hand corner of custodian Bijon's post also presented Abahani their third successive victory over Mohammedan in the Super Three phase of the league.

It was a dream season for Abahani. They not only have played fantastic football in the League, but also maintained a clear edge over Mohammedan, who lost all their four clashes this season including one in the tiebreaker.

The 10,000 strong Abahani supporters, present at the stadium, celebrated in style after the game was over while the players went for a lap of honour.

Hasan was adjudged match of the match for his superlative effort and also for making a goal line save in the second half. The only disappointment for Abahani in the match

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champions	Runners up
1973	BIDC	Abahani/Mohammedan SC/Dhaka Wanderers
1974	Abahani	Dilkusha SC
1975	Mohammedan SC	BJMC
1976	Mohammedan SC	Abahani
1977	Abahani	Rahmatganj MFS
1978	Mohammedan SC	Brothers Union
1979	BJMC	Abahani
1980	Mohammedan SC	BJMC
1981	Abahani	Not decided
1982	Mohammedan SC	Abahani
1983	Abahani	Mohammedan SC
1984	Abahani	Mohammedan SC
1985	Abahani	Brothers Union
1986	Mohammedan SC	Abahani
1987	Mohammedan SC	Abahani
1988-89	Mohammedan SC	Abahani
1989-90	Abahani	Mohammedan SC
1991	Abahani	Mohammedan SC
1992	Not held	Abahani
1993	Mohammedan SC	Abahani
1994	Abahani	Mohammedan SC
1995	Abahani	Mohammedan SC
1996	Mohammedan SC	Abahani
1997	Mukti Joddha Sangsads	Mohammedan SC
1998	Not held	Mohammedan SC
1999	Mohammedan SC	Abahani
2000	Mukti Joddha Sangsads	Abahani
2001	Abahani	Mohammedan SC

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was the sending off of their captain Arman, who picked the dreaded red card in the 81st minute for a cynical tackle on Mohammedan's Nigerian forward Sunday.

Playing with ten men in the last nine minutes, Abahani however successfully thwarted some menacing Mohammedan moves.

Abahani on the other hand was a study in contrast. The club put faith in Momen Munna, a former national captain, for a second successive year as manager.

Munna returned the confidence by aptly motivating and guiding the team to championship.

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parted his relationship with the team in the middle of the league. Mohammedan also had their share of problems in the management.

There were allegations that team manager Amirul Islam, who had no background in football, did more harm than good to team morale.

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Mohammedan would like to forget the year as they never did any justice to their image and tradition as a top force.

The black and whites not only lacked the necessarily firepower on the field, but were also engaged in many off-field controversies.

Their Sri Lanka coach Pakir Ali

A team to be named today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh A team for India tour next month would be announced today.

Chief selector Mainul Haq had a meeting with his other two colleagues at Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) new office in Gulshan yesterday.

The team is expected to be announced at a press conference at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The Bangladesh A will play four three-day matches and as many limited-over matches against different western India selections in Mumbai, Pune and Baroda during their month long tour, starting from October 13.

Khaled Mahmud has been named captain of the team.

Meanwhile, chief age-group selector Tanjeeb Ahsan Saad said yesterday that the under-19 team would be announced early next week.

It would take another three to four days to finalise the team which would go to Australia for a six-week tour on October 11, Saad said.

During the first ever trip down under, the under-19 cricketers are scheduled to attend a three-week training at the famous Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy in Adelaide and would play at least four matches against different provincial selections and Australia under-19 team.

Bhutan Federation Cup Arambagh lose to Thai selection

SPORTS REPORTER

Arambagh Krira Sangha suffered a lone goal defeat against a team from Thailand in the Bhutan Federation Cup on Wednesday.

But despite the defeat the Federation Cup runners-up still moved into the semifinals of the invitational tournament for their 2-0 victory against Air India in their opening match on September 15.

According to a fax message received here last night Arambagh conceded an 84th minute goal.

Arambagh will take on Nepal in the first semifinal today.

Andy Flower stays on top

REUTERS, London

Zimbabwe's Andy Flower has consolidated his position at the top of the PricewaterhouseCoopers batting ratings after hitting a half-century in the drawn second Test with South Africa.

South African batsman Jacques Kallis moved up two places to number nine after hitting an unbeaten 189 in the same match.

Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak dropped out of the top ten in the bowlers' ratings after finishing wicket-less in Bulawayo.

TOP 10 BATSMEN

Player	Points
Andy Flower	897
Steve Waugh	877
S Tendulkar	866
Inzamamul Haq	818
M Jayawardene	805
Rahul Dravid	798
Adam Gilchrist	790
Brian Lara	769
Jacques Kallis	744
Mark Waugh	743

TOP 10 BOWLERS

Player	Points
Glenn McGrath	919
Shaun Pollock	893
M Muralitharan	864
Allan Donald	801
Darren Gough	746
Shane Warne	736
Wasim Younis	686
Saqain Mushtaq	678
Chris Cairns	663
Jason Gillespie	661

SA Cricket

Left-arm paceman Ashish Nehra has become India's latest injury casualty for a one-day triangular series in South Africa next month, an Indian cricket official has said.

"He has been found unfit by (sports medicine expert) Dr Anant Joshi," Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Secretary Jaywant Lele told Reuters.

Nehra's absence from the South African tour follows earlier injuries to fellow pace bowler Zaheer Khan and batsmen Vangipurappu Laxman and Hemant Badani.

The Indian squad leaves for South Africa on September 24 to play in the tri-nation tournament, which also involves Kenya, over October 5-26.

India are also scheduled to play a three-Test series against South

Africa in November after the one-day series.

Nehra, 22, has been struggling to recover from a groin strain which forced him to miss the three-Test series in Sri Lanka that ended Dennis Lillee.

Lele said medium-pacer Harvinder Singh would come into the tour squad for Zaheer and Jacob Martin for Badani.

Chief selector Chandu Borde said Nehra's replacement will be chosen from among three medium-pacers - uncapped Rakesh Patel, Debasish Mohanty and Ajit Agarkar.

He said the trio would be assessed by national selectors when the South Africa-bound squad undergo fitness tests in Bombay on Saturday and Sunday.

Borde, a former Test all-rounder, criticised players who continued to play despite injuries, leaving them with little time to recover ahead of tough tours like the one to South Africa.

"We are helpless. Players should know whether they are injured and immediately take precaution, not continue playing," he told the news agency on phone from the western city of Pune.

"Now there is not enough time to recover. If some of them continue playing with injuries, this is the fruit," he said.

Laxman suffered a right knee ligament tear in July during the early phase of India's Sri Lankan tour, but went on to play in a one-day tri-series in Colombo which India lost to the hosts in the final.

He then underwent arthroscopy in Australia last month and informed the BCCI he was withdrawing from the one-day squad because he had not fully recovered.

Zaheer, who has performed consistently since making his India debut late last year, complained of pain on his landing right foot in Sri Lanka but played in both the one-dayers and in a subsequent Test series.

Nehra also complained of pain in his left groin in the final phase of a Test tour of Zimbabwe which ended early in July, but played in the Sri Lanka one-dayers before being asked to rest.

Asked who should hold responsible, Borde said: "They (the players) themselves must decide and come out truthfully."

Football's new fight



HASAN MASOOD

There may be hundreds of gold medals up for grabs in the South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, but nothing is sweeter than football's.

Bangladesh won only two golds in the eighth SAF Games in Nepal in 1999. But their poorest ever performance in the regional meet was forgotten when they clinched the football gold for the first time beating the hosts 1-0 in the final.