

# Biman blow for holders

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Biman moved atop the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League table with a comprehensive five-wicket win over defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

In the other match of the day, Brothers Union boosted their hopes for a 'Super League' berth with a seven-wicket cruise against Surjo Tarun Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

**BIMAN v MOHAMMEDAN**  
Middle order Sajjad Kadir scored a fine half century as the national airliners, chasing a modest Mohammedan total of 198 in 50 overs, flew home in the 48th overs with five wickets to spare.

Sajjad, the right handed

wicketkeeper batsman, cracked 65 off just 71 balls with ten boundaries to take the pressure off after Biman had lost three early wickets for just 19 runs.

Together with experienced middle order Aminul Islam, Sajjad put on a valuable 86 runs 23 overs for the fourth wicket before he was caught behind off Steve Tikolo leaving Biman on 105 for 4.

The striking feature of the partnership was that Sajjad made all his runs during that time. His innings included a six and ten fours.

Mohammedan fielders didn't do any harm to Sajjad's cause by dropping him twice.

Sajjad was first muffed by Tikolo as slips when he was on 12 and then on 48, Sanwar Hossain failed to hold on to a chance at long on boundary and helped it over the rope for a six.

When Sajjad was out eventually, Hassanuzzaman and Aminul, shared 73-runs for the fifth wicket before Hasanuzzaman departed for 40.

Aminul and Khamled Mahmud then took Biman home without any further loss.

Veteran Aminul played a pains-taking but responsible innings of 53(126).

Earlier, electing to bat first, Mohammedan struggled despite half centuries from the evergreen Mihamzul Abedin and Sanwar Hossain.

Minhazul scored 75 off 80 balls with one six and nine boundaries while Sanwar added 56 off 86 balls with three fours.

Mohammedan's prolific Kenyan batsman Steve Tikolo failed for a change as he was unfortunately run out on 18 while responding to a single from Minhazul.

Biman's left arm seamer Anisur Rahman took three wickets for 32 runs.

It was Biman's eighth win in ten matches that helped them to join Victoria Sporting Club atop the table with each having 16 points. Victoria, however, have played nine matches so far.

POINTS TABLE				
Team	M	W	L	Pts
Victoria	9	8	1	16
Biman	10	8	2	16
Abahani	9	6	3	12
Mohammedan	10	7	3	14
Brothers Union	10	6	4	12
Y Pegasus	9	5	4	10
Kalabagan	10	5	5	10
Surjo Tarun	10	5	5	10
City Club	9	4	5	8
Uttara SC	10	3	7	6
Dhanmondi	10	1	9	2
Y Cricketers	10	-	10	0

On the other hand, it was Mohammedan's third defeat in ten outings that kept them third in the table with 14 points.

## BROTHERS v SURJO TARUN

Former Bangladesh opener Athar Ali Khan and Mahbubur Rahman shared a 125-run third wicket stand as the Brothers, chasing Surjo Tarun's 202 in 50 overs, made it with nearly 16 overs with six wickets to spare.

Athar hit an unbeaten 77 off 98 balls with two sixes and ten fours while Mahbub, the right hander, smashed 72 off 67 balls with five sixes and three boundaries to help their side register their sixth win and secure the fifth spot.

Earlier, Surjo Tarun were all out for 202 in 47.2 overs with the talented middle order Mohammad Ashrafu hammering highest 69 off 65 balls with two sixes and six fours.

Opener salauddin (39) was the other notable run getter.

## SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboards of the two

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PHOTO: STAR

Biman's Sajjad on-drives during his match-winning innings against Mohammedan in the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

# Army score and win

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Chittagong

## NITOL-TATA NAT'L FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The Nitol-Tata National Football League saw the first scoring this season when Bangladesh Army beat Barisal T and T Club by a solitary goal at the MA Aziz Stadium here yesterday.

Midfielder Nasiruddin broke the deadlock 55 minutes into the third game of the meet after Abahani of Dhaka and Sylhet's Chaturanga Club played out the opening match on April 16 to a goalless draw. Two days later the game between Dhaka Mohammedan and Mohsin Club of Narayanganj also ended in the same manner.

The scoring was however cleverly done by the armyman. He was standing inside the box unguarded. Right back Kabir provided him with an accurate through and all he needed to do was putting the ball behind a perplexed T&T goalkeeper and captain Pannu. None of their defenders were seen moving as they set an off-side trap.

In the day's Group A encounter, the physically and technically superior Armymen dominated the match for most of the time and won as the better side.

Nasir also came close to doubling the score-line in the 83rd minute. The strongly-built midfielder was stopped by an opposition defender in a way which many thought was illegal. However the umpire's decision not to hand over any punitive

action against the defender lifted some eyebrows.

The Army team, feeling at home with a large number of supporters, most of whom came from the Chittagong Cantonment, beating drums non-stop, had a good chance to score in the 36th minute. Faruk hit two powerful shots from 30 yards only to be fisted away by Pannu.

Later, Nasiruddin was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Rajshahi Abahani take on Mohsin Club of Narayanganj in today's fixture at the same venue.

Yellow Cards: Kamal (Army).

**TEAMS**  
**BANGLADESH ARMY:** Bivash, Faruk, Kabir, Mojibur, Sony, Rezaul

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PHOTO: STAR

Action from yesterday's Nitol-Tata National Football League encounter between Bangladesh Army and Barisal T and T Club at the MA Aziz Stadium.

# BLAST FROM THE PAST



PHOTO: STAR FILE

**THAT'S NOT FOOTBALL!** World Cup Finals, 1962. Santiago, Chile. 2nd June, 1962. Italy 0 v Chile 2. English referee Ken Aston tries to bring order after fighting broke out between Italian and Chilean players during their group two match dubbed as "The Battle of Santiago". Chile's Sanchez (11) lies injured after being fouled by an Italian player

## Green Delta hockey Mariner crush Wari

SPORTS REPORTER

Mariner Youngs Club outplayed Wari Club 8-1 in a Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League match at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday afternoon.

The winners led the first half 3-0. Mariner's Pakistani forward Yamin Bhatti and defender Yamin Mia scored two goals each while Tabib, Yen, Moksed and Razzak added one goal apiece. On the other hand, Rahat pulled one back for Wari Club.

It was Mariner's third win in a row while Wari have lost all their three matches so far.

In the other match of the day, Sadharan Bima beat Dhaka Wanderers Club 3-1 in a First Division game.

Jahangir, Mamun and Wahab netted one each for the winners while Nayan reduced the margin for Wanderers.

## UI IM Chess Reefat alone atop

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master (IM) Reefat-bin-Sattar maintained his solo lead in the 6th United Insurance International Masters Chess Tournament with a comfortable win in the ninth round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

In yesterday's round, Reefat beat fellow IM Abdullah Al-Rakib to raise his tally to seven and a half points.

IM Leif Johannessen of Norway was in the second position with 6.5 points

He won against Saptarshi Roy of India.

Two Indians Roktim Bandyopadhyay and International Women Master (IWM) Nisha Mohota in the third position with each having 6 points.

The tenth round begins at the same venue at 3 pm today.

## BKSP squeeze into final

SPORTS REPORTER



Holders Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protishthan (BKSP) moved into the final of the Standard Chartered Bank 20th National School Cricket Championship with a nail-biting one-wicket win over New Model High School of Dhaka in the first semifinal at the Bogra Stadium yesterday.

Chasing a paltry New Model's modest 103 in 35 overs, BKSP made 105 for nine in 31.5 overs with Rashid notching up highest 35.

Earlier, Rubaiyat and Shirhan took three wickets each for BKSP to bowl out New Model in 33.5 overs.

BKSP will meet either Comillah High School or Bhola Government High School in April 22 final.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**New Model High School:** 103 all out in 33.5 overs (Akhter 27, Rubaiyat 3-13, Shirhan 3-22)  
**BKSP:** 105 for 9 in 31.5 overs (Rashid 35, Raihan 3-12, Shovon 3-27)

**Result:** BKSP won by one wicket.

# It's over for Pessotto

AFP, Turin

Juventus utility man Gianluca Pessotto will miss the World Cup finals after suffering knee ligament damage during Italy's friendly with Uruguay, his club said on Thursday.

Pessotto pulled up with the injury after just five minutes of Wednesday's 1-1 draw at the San Siro.

A Juventus spokesman said an examination on Thursday had shown the 31-year-old had severely damaged the cruciate ligament in his right knee and would be out for up to six months, ruling him out of the World Cup finals which start on May 31.

The absence of Pessotto, who had only been called into the Italian lineup at short notice because Francesco Coco of Barcelona sustained a knock in training, presents Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni with a new selection



GIANLUCA PESSOTTO

problem after he lost AC Milan's central defender Demetrio Albertini to an Achilles tendon problem.

## 60,000 Sino guests!

AFP, Beijing

World Cup organisers have boosted China's ticket allotment for the upcoming soccer finals, with up to 60,000 Chinese fans clamouring to witness the nation's first-ever appearance first-hand, travel operators said Friday.

FIFA has already almost doubled China's allotment from 10,700 tickets after their Group C rivals failed to sell their share, and South Korean organisers will be in Beijing on April 22 to discuss diverting as-yet undedicated tickets to a Chinese public that has suddenly gone football mad.

Unconfirmed press reports say an incredible 20,000 Chinese are preparing to travel to the friendly with South Korea on April 27, with perhaps three times that number set to visit the finals themselves.

"From the information that we have at present, we believe that between 40,000 and 60,000 Chinese fans will be going," said Huang Yi, a director of the China International Sports Travel Company (CISTC), the country's official World Cup ticket broker.

"So far FIFA has given us 18,900 or so tickets."

These tickets have already been fully booked by Chinese fans on two- or three- day package tours that include one match per tour.

The massive expense does not seem to have put anyone off. The package tours cost between 4,500 yuan to 7,200 yuan (\$40 dollars to \$70 dollars) -- more than the average urban household's disposable income for a year.

The allotted tickets are for China's first-round Group C matches in South Korea, but more will be available if China goes through to the knock-out stages, Huang said.

"Most of the people buying the tickets come from either Beijing, Shanghai or Guangzhou, China's richer cities," said Jin Ping, also of CISTC.

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**GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League**  
Abahani KC v Young Pegasus  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium  
**Nitol-Tata National Football League**  
Mohsin Club v Rajshahi Abahani (5:30 pm)  
Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong  
**Green Delta Premier Hockey League**  
Abahani KC v Ajax SC (4 pm)  
Venue: Maulana Bhasani Stadium  
**United Insurance IM Chess Tournament**  
Round Ten  
Venue: NSC Chess Room

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

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days to go



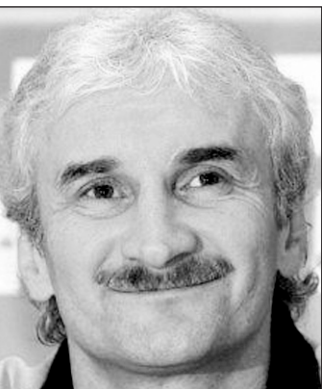
## Did U Know?

The record for the fastest World Cup goal is held by Vlastislav Masek, who scored for Czechoslovakia against Mexico in 1962 after just 15 seconds.



**BTV**  
Nitol-Tata Nat'l Football League  
Mohsin Club vs Rajshahi Abahani  
Live at 5:30 pm  
**ESPN**  
English Premier Football League  
West Ham United vs Man United  
Repeat at 11:00 am  
Cricket Programming  
Super Selector  
Repeat at 2:00 pm  
**English Premier Football League**  
Chelsea vs Man United  
Live at 4:55 pm  
&  
Liverpool vs Derby County  
Live at 7:55 pm  
&  
Southampton vs Everton  
Live at 10:15 pm

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**Rudi Voller**  
(Germany soccer coach)  
"Perhaps we had too much respect for this Argentinian team."  
After losing the World Cup warm-up match.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 169

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm April 26, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who clinched the Indian Wells Masters Series tennis title?  
Hewitt Henman Agassi

2. Who won the Bangladesh Games hockey title?  
Dhaka BDR BJMC

3. How many balls did Nathan Asle face to score Test cricket's fastest double century?  
1532 0 0

212

4. Who lifted the Bangladesh 'Games football' title?  
Chittagong Dhaka Army

5. How many gold medals did Doly Akhter win in Bangladesh Games?  
Nine Seven Ten

Name .....

Class. .... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....