

Ziaur jolts Biman

SPORTS REPORTER



Ziaur Rahman scored an electrifying unbeaten half-century as Kalabagan Krira Chakra crushed Bangladesh Biman by six wickets in their opening Super Six match of the GrameenPhone Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The tall Pakistani right-hander blazed his way to a 73-ball 90 as Kalabagan, chasing fighting Biman total of 217 for nine in 42 overs, rattled up 218 for the loss of four wickets and with 4.1 overs to spare. The match was curtailed because of rain.

Kalabagan, who lost the first round battle against the national airline outfit by five wickets, exacted a sweet revenge with Ziaur calling the tune of the match.

Ziaur set the park alight with some awesome stroke-play that featured half a dozen sixes and three boundaries. He was particularly savage against off-spinner Aminul Islam, who had the misfortune of conceding 21 runs in one prodigal over. The powerful right-hander hammered three successive sixes in that eventful over including an extraordinary shot over the extra-cover boundary.

The elder brother of former Pakistan paceman Ata-ur Rahman took the match away from Biman's grip putting on 132 runs for the unbroken fifth wicket with his captain Mushfiqur Rahman. Mushfiq played a perfect foil at the other end with a 49-ball 40.

The defeat, Biman's third from 12 games, served a big blow to their bid for the coveted League title. Biman are now trailing leaders Victoria Sporting Club by four points.

The win on the other hand kept Kalabagan's outside chance of finishing runners-up alive, if not they go all the way to lift their maiden title.

It was yet another professional display for a rejuvenated Kalabagan, who did not lose a single match since defeating Mohammedan in the first round. They have aggregated seven wins, five of which came on a trot in 12 games.

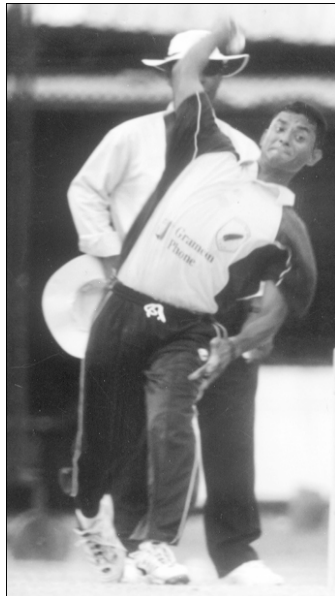
Kalabagan regrouped themselves well after their two new ball bowlers—Talha Jubair and Musfiqur Rahman—went for 29 runs in the first two overs to restrict Biman to an attainable target.

The Biman top-order as usual contributed useful runs with their captain Faruque Ahmed scoring 35 and Aminul Islam highest 42.

Their Pakistani left-hander Imran

Farhat scored a run-a-ball 35. Opener Javed Omar scored a submissive 80-ball 39.

But Biman failed to exploit the last five overs, managing only 25 runs for four wickets. Kalabagan off-spinner Imran Parvez with his



IMRAN PARVEZ ... 5 FOR 37

occasional suspect deliveries did the damage to finish with five for 37 runs in his nine overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League 'super six' clash between Kalabagan Krira Chakra and Biman at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday:

BIMAN

Javed lbw b Imran	39
Faruque c Talha b Mosaddek	35
Farhat b Talha	35
Aminul sr b Imran	42
Aftab lbw b Talha	0
Hasanuzzaman c Rafiqul b Imran	17
K Mahmud b Imran	0
Sajjad st Luvlu b Imran	10
Razzak c Imran b Mushfiq	2
Anis not out	1
Aminuljr not out	1
Extras: (b-2, lb-6, nb-1, w-26)	35
Total: (For 9 wickets in 42 overs)	217

Fall of wickets: 1-77, 2-122, 3-148, 4-148, 5-191, 6-193, 7-200, 8-212, 9-215.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mushfiq	8	1	25	1
Talha	6	0	51	2
Mosaddek	8	0	46	1
Manzarul	9	1	41	0
Imran	9	0	37	5
Anisur	2	0	9	0

KALABAGAN KC

Rafiqul c K Mahmud b Farhat	31
Rajin b Anis	1
Anisur b Anis	3
Nasirul c Aminul jr b K Mahmud	41
Ziaur not out	90
Mushfiq not out	40
Extras: (lb-8, w-4)	12
Total: (For 4 wickets in 37.5 overs)	218

Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-11, 3-70, 4-86.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Aminuljr	6	0	26	0
Anis	8	1	35	2
Farhat	8	0	38	1
K Mahmud	7.5	0	47	1
Razzak	6	0	40	0
Aminul sr	2	0	24	0

Result: Kalabagan KC won by six wickets.



Kalabagan's Pakistani recruit Ziaur Rahman sweeps one on way to scoring a match-winning 90 not out against Bangladesh Biman in the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

U-19 boys win in Kolkata again

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh recorded their second win in the All-India Under-19 Invitational Inter-State Cricket tournament with a comfortable 83-run victory over Assam at the Saltlake Stadium in Kolkata yesterday.

Winning the toss, touring Bangladesh batted first and made 175 runs for 9 in 30 overs. One down batsman Nazimuddin highest 45 runs off 57 balls.

Skipper Kamrul Islam scored 34 runs in 48 deliveries while Meer Iftekharul Islam and Kafi Khan quick-fired 23 and 21 runs off 19 and 17 balls respectively.

Raj Kapoor Yadav grabbed four wickets for 25 runs in six overs while Rajiv Kalita two wickets for 23 runs in five overs.

In reply, Assam were all out for 92 runs in 27 overs with Opener Parvez Aziz making team highest 30 runs off 36 balls.

Kafi, Rubaiyat, Iftekharul and Ziaul of the touring side took two wickets each while Arafat claimed one.

BD A team in Malaysian tourney

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh A team will take part in a four-nation limited overs tournament in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from April 20 to 26.

The tournament is being organised by the Malaysian Cricket Board.

This was revealed by Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) director Mahmud Ul Haq yesterday.

Mahmud also disclosed that apart from the second string side of Bangladesh, the national teams of USA, World Cup qualifiers Namibia and hosts Malaysia will compete in the tourney.

After the robin league phase, the top two placed teams will play in the final.

Mahmud informed that the board has already sent a letter to chief selector Mainul Haq yesterday select the A team.

BCB U-13 cricketers off to Shiliguri

UNB, Dhaka

A 16-member BCB Under-13 team left yesterday for Shiliguri in West Bengal to participate in the Chand Ballav Memorial All-Bengal Sub Junior (Under-13) Cricket tournament.

They will play their first match against a local team on Friday (May 3).

All-rounder Iftekhar Nayeem Ahmed, a Class VIII student of Scholastica, is leading the team and Nadimuddin Mintu has been made his deputy.

TEAM

Iftekhar Nayeem Ahmed, Nadimuddin Mintu, Mahmudul Islam Lincoln, Ali Hossain, Salomon Ahmed, Nuruzzaman, Zahidul Islam Shovon, Nur Hossain Munna, Sakib Khan Tusher, Delwar Hossain, Moazzem Hossain, Tasamul Haque, Abul Bashar, Shams Arifin, Ali Noman, Ehsan Ali Tipu.

Officials: NS Bahauddin Ahmed (manager) and Wahidul Gani (coach).

Gaibandha soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Reuter Sporting Club defeated Natun Bangla Krira Chakra 7-4 (3-0) in tie-breaker in the First Division Football League at the local stadium yesterday.

The two sides finished the regulation 90 minutes' play at 4-4.



GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League

Super Six

Abahani KC v Mohammedan SC

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Relegation League

City Club v Young Cricketers

Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

Green Delta Premier Hockey League

Usha KC v Bangladesh SC (4 pm)

Venue: Maulana Bhasani Stadium.

BLAST FROM THE PAST



PHOTO: STAR FILE

The Italian team raises aloft coach Vittorio Pozzo after their victory in the 1934 FIFA World Cup Final against Czechoslovakia. The legendary coach led the Squadra Azzurra in 95 internationals.

CUP CORNER



AFP, Dakar

Senegal's African footballer of the year El Hadj Diouf accused his national federation of doing nothing to help his country prepare for their World Cup finals debut in May.

The 21-year-old, nicknamed the 'serial killer for his clinical finishing, said it was ridiculous the federation had not organised more World Cup warm-up matches as the African side prepare to take on holders France in their opening match on May 31 in Seoul.

The Senegalese have played only Bolivia, winning 2-1, since losing on penalties to Cameroon in February's African Nations Cup final.

"It is a farce what is going on round the national team, our preparation has been sabotaged," he told Senegalese newspaper L'Info 7.

"The federation and the company responsible for promoting the national side were charged with finding worthy and numerous adversaries for us.

"Football is now a sport for professionals and not amateurs and sadly there are two many amateurs around the national team," added Diouf, whose goals for French side Lens have taken them to the brink of the title this season.

ITALIANS GO FOR AUSSIE MEAT

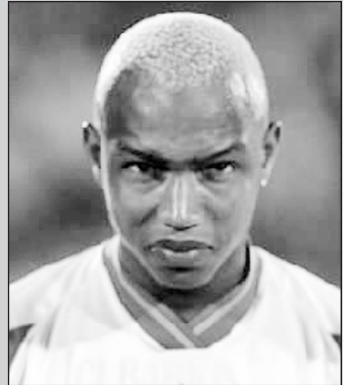
Rome The Italian World Cup squad will eat Australian meat at the World Cup finals it was revealed on Tuesday as all European meat is banned from Japan because of fears over mad cow disease.

The Italian Football Federation's doctors decided that the imported Australian meat was the most similar to Italian meat.

Aside from that the Italians will feast on traditional home delicacies such as pasta, Parmesan cheese and olive oil which will be brought in to their base for the first round group phase at Sendai by plane on May 15.

The plane will also bring in gymnasium equipment, pinball machines and medicine.

The three-time world champions face debutants Ecuador, 1998 semi-finalists Croatia and Mexico in Group G.



EL HADJ DIOUF

Relegation league

Uttara cruise past Tarun

SPORTS REPORTER



Uttara Sporting Club defeated Surjo Tarun Club by 42 runs in a relegation league match of GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

In a rain-reduced 30-over-a-side affair, Uttara, riding on a decisive unbroken 174-run sixth wicket partnership between middle orders Nilanth Tilkeratne and Rashed-bin-Azad, scored a commanding total of 194 for five after being put into bat first.

Rashed played an aggressive 80 off 70 balls with four sixes and six fours while Tilkeratne hit a run-a-ball 76 as Uttara recovered from a precarious five for 20.

In reply, Surjo Tarun, facing a daunting task of scoring 6.5 runs per over to win, could muster only 152 before being bowled out in 23.5 overs.

Sumon Barua and Shahidul Haq took three wickets each for the winners.

With the win, Uttara remained jointly second from the bottom with Dhanmondi Club having eight

Green Delta hockey Sonali Bank rout Farashganj

SPORTS REPORTER

Sonali Bank outplayed Farashganj Sporting Club 5-0 in a Green Delta Premier Division hockey league match at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 1-0. Javed and Mamun struck two goals each while Shahjahan added the other.

Earlier, in a First Division match, Sadharan Bima registered a 3-2 win over Barnak Samaj.

Rajib, Samad and Jewel scored one each for Bima while Mamun and Sabbir reduced the margin for Barnak.

points each. Surjo Tarun, however, are still two points ahead of them.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the relegation league match of GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket between Surjo Tarun Club and Uttara Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday:

UTTARA SC	
Moniruzzaman c Shariful c Ahmed	6
Mahfuz c Ashraf b Shafaq	0
Narayan lbw b Ahmed	7
Barua c Jashim b Shafaq	0
Faisal c b Ahmed	0
Tillekeratne not out	76
Rashed not out	80
Extras: (b-4, lb-7, w-14)	25
Total: (For 5 wkts in 30 overs)	194
Fall of wicket: 1-6, 2-7, 3-8, 4-9, 5-	

20.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Ahmed	6	0	43	3
Shafaq	6	1	11	2
Shariful	5	0	18	0
Iqbal	4	0	38	0
Hannan	2	0	21	0
Rafiqul	4	0	32	0

SURJO TARUN

Hannan c b Barua	5
Iqbal c Narayan b Barua	0
Jashim b Rabbani	21
Ashraf b Barua b Shahidul	40
Sohail st Rashed b Mahfuz	22
Shariful c Rashed b Shahidul	5
Ahmed c Niaz b Shahidul	10
Rafiqul b Tillekeratne	22
Saikat not out	2
Shafaq b Tillekeratne	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-11)	16
Total: (All out in 23.5 overs)	152
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-6, 3-15, 4-70, 5-90, 6-102, 7-119, 8-139, 9-152.	

RELEGATION LEAGUE TAB

Brothers Union	13	7	6	14
Surjo Tarun	13	5	8	10
City Club	12	5	7	10
Dhanmondi Club	13	4	9	8
Uttara SC	13	4	9	8
Young Cricketers	12	-	12	0

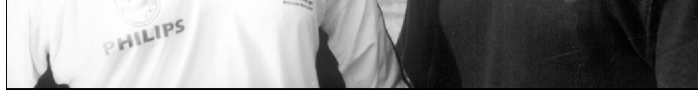


PHOTO: STAR

AFRICANS OF ARCH-RIVALS: Mohammedans' Kenya star Steve Tikolo (L) and Abahani's ex-Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak pose for a photograph during their practice sessions at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The two giants clash in the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League today.

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

3 0

days to go



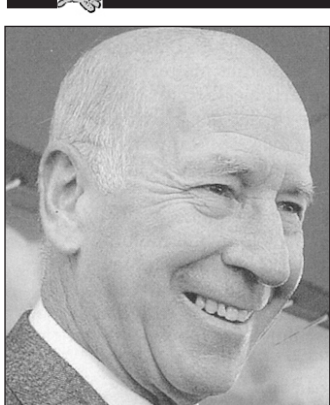
Did U Know?

As a retort to the many withdrawals of European teams four years earlier, several South American nations, such as Argentina and Brazil, did not send their best teams to Italy for the 1934 FIFA World Cup. Most importantly, Uruguay declined to participate and defend their title, the first and only occasion a champion team have done so.



ESPN

Football Focus
Repeat at 9:00 am
Pakistan vs New Zealand
First Test, Day One
Live at 9:55 am
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
UEFA Champions League
Real Madrid vs Barcelona
Semifinal, Leg-2
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)
SEE PAGE 15



Sir Bobby Charlton

(Former English international)
"Some folks tell me that we professional players are soccer slaves. Well, if this is slavery, give me a life sentence."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 170

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm May 10, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- How many Test tons has Tendulkar scored so far?
30 25 29
- Who won the Standard Chartered Bank National School Cricket Championship?
Comilla High Scholastica BKSP
- Who became champions in the AUB Cup inter-private university cricket tournament?
AUB NSU ATUB
- Who clinched the New White Plus GM chess tournament title?
Zia Reefat Sermek
- Which sport does Paolo Maldini play?
Soccer

Name

Class. Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Test time in Pakistan



REUTERS, Lahore

Pakistan launch their bid to end four years without a home series victory when they take on a depleted New Zealand in the first cricket Test from Wednesday at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

Pakistan have lost to Australia, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka and England

in their last four series.

Though they beat the West Indies 2-0 in a home series in February, the matches were played at the neutral venue of Sharjah because of security concerns.

"The morale of the team is sky high," Pakistan captain Waqar Younis told reporters.

"But they are also wary of the fact that New Zealand are used to playing without front-line players and thus know they have to be on the top

of their game."

New Zealand arrived in Pakistan without world-class all-rounder Chris Cairns, pace bowlers Shane Bond and Dion Nash and spinner Daniel Vettori.

Their problems were compounded when several players went down with stomach problems before top batsman Nathan Astle flew home last week after suffering a right knee ligament injury.

Vettori, a left-arm spinner with 130 wickets from 30 Tests, has at least returned to bolster the tourists.

"He is a world class spinner," Younis said. "His inclusion will boost their fire power and I don't think the Tests will be runaway games for us like in the one-day series."

Pakistan won the just concluded one-dayers 3-0.

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming said his side took heart from the fact that one of New Zealand's only two victories in Pakistan in seven visits came in Lahore in 1996-97.

"It is a big motivation for us that we won at this venue last time," he said. "But it is a setback losing key players on the tour and before it. Nevertheless, we are prepared as well as we can."

"We have been here before and know what to do to compete with Pakistan who are full strength and playing well. It is a good challenge for us and the younger boys who