

Biman too high for Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Biman kept their title challenge going in the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League with a 38-run victory over out of contention Abahani Krira Chakra in a Super Six match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The national airlines, powered by a cracking 124 from Pakistani recruit Imran Farhat and a fine half century from veteran captain Faruque Ahmed, piled up a huge 304 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs after being invited to bat first. Abahani made a spirited attempt to chase the imposing target before being all out for 266 in 49.3 overs. It was Biman's tenth win in 13 matches. They have 20 points and are four points behind leaders Victoria Sporting Club. Holders Mohammedan can join Biman if they beat Young Pegasus today at the same venue.

On the other hand, it was Abahani's sixth defeat in the league against seven wins.

Back to the day's match, aFarhat and Faruque featured in a crucial 126-run second wickets partnership that nullified the Abahani attack.

Farhat, in a belligerent mood took only 73 balls to reach three figures. His innings ended when he was caught by Asadullah Khan at deep extra off pacer Alamgir. Farhat belted six sixes and seven boundaries in his blistering 97-ball innings.

Faruque, the ex-national captain gave Farhat a fine support with a cultured 102-ball 83 which featured a six and seven fours.

Left arm spinner Ahsanullah Hasan was the most successful Abahani bowler taking three wickets for 58 runs while Naimur Rahman and Alamgir Kabir took two wickets each.

In reply, Naimur, opener Moniruzzaman and lower order Mukhter Siddique raised hopes for Abahani but they were always behind the required rate.

Naimur scored a typically aggressive 69 off 59 with two sixes and seven boundaries while Moniruzzaman made 52 off 64 balls. Mukhter chipped in with a 39-ball 40.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League Super Six match between Abahani KC and Bangladesh Biman at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday:

yesterday: **BIMAN** 304

Javed c Arman b Anwar	22
Faruque c H Streak b Naimur	83
Farhat c Asadullah b Alamgir	124
Aminul run out	4
Hasanuzzaman st Mukhter b Naimur	15
Naimur	15
K Mahmud st Mukhter b Hasan	15
Sajjad not out	10
Razzak b H Streak	5
Ziaur c H Streak b Hasan	2
Anis b Hasan	0
Al-Amin not out	1
Extras: (b-2, lb5, nb-8, w-8)	23
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs)	304

Fall of wickets: 1-58, 2-184, 3-203, 4-244, 5-279, 6-283, 7-291, 8-302, 9-302.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
H Streak	10	0	39	1
Alamgir	8	0	44	2
Anwar	7	0	56	1
Arman	6	0	35	0
Naimur	10	0	65	2

Hasan 9 0 58 3

ABAHANI KC

Moniruzzaman c & b Farhat	52
H Streak c Aminul b Al-Amin	5
Mehrab c Hasanuzzaman b Anis	27
Naimur c Aminul b Ziaur	69
Akram c Aminul b K Mahmud	11
Asadullah c K Mahmud b Al-Amin	10
Alamgir run out	12
Mukhter b K Mahmud	40
Hasan run out	4
Arman not out	15
Anwar b Anis	2
Extras: (b-1, lb-7, w-11)	19
Total: (All out in 49.3 overs)	266

Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-72, 3-127, 4-157, 5-181, 6-196, 7-196, 8-217, 9-262.

Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Al-Amin	9	0	39	2	
Anis	8	3	0	55	2
Ziaur	3	0	25	0	
Razzak	10	0	38	0	
K Mahmud	9	0	50	2	
Farhat	10	0	51	1	

Result: Biman won by 38 runs.

Green Delta Hockey Railway floor Farashganj

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Railway spanked Farashganj Sporting Club 10-1 in a Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League match at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

The winners scored five goals in each half.

Indian recruit Sukhbeer Singh and Jahid scored three goals each, Sumon added two while Jobayer and Selim scored one each for the winners while Raza pulled a goal back back for Farashganj.

In the other match of the day, Sadharan Bima outplayed Police 6-2 in a First Division encounter.

City rout Tarun

SPORTS REPORTER

City Club thrashed Surjo Tarun Club by 102 runs in a relegation match of the GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Centuries from opener Wasim Nayeem (155) and Mohammed Salim (114), helped the Mirpur outfit score a mammoth 379 for four in the allotted 50 overs after electing to bat first.

Wasim, the right-handed Pakistani, took 108 balls for his 155 (four sixes and 19 boundaries) while Salim's 114 off 117 balls was embellished with a six and 13 fours.

Wasim's 155 was the highest individual innings of the league this season.

Among others, middle order Tushar Imran made a quickfire 68(39 balls) not out.

In reply, Surjo Tarun were restricted to 277 for 7 in 50overs with former Bangladesh middle order Selim Shahed making highest 77.

SCORES IN BRIEF

City Club: 379 for 4 in 50 overs (Wasim 155, Salim 114, Tushar 68 n.o., Iqbal 2-59)

Surjo Tarun: 277 for 7 in 50 overs (S Shahed 77, Hannan 53, Ashraf 38, Iqbal 36, Jamaluddin 2-41)

Result: City Club won by 102 runs.

Saad prefers age-gp job

SPORTS REPORTER

National cricket selector Tanjeev Ahsan Saad, who is also the chairman of BCB's age-group selectors, wants to be relieved of his duty from the senior selectors panel owing to excessive work load.

In a letter to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asghar on May 1, Saad a director of the BCB, has requested the board to discharge him from the national selection committee to allow him to concentrate more on his age-group commitment.

"I am very busy with the under-13, under-15 and under-19 selections now. That is why I am unable to spare time to select the A team and the senior team. I have requested the president to allow me to work with only the junior selection process because it is getting increasingly difficult for me to continue with two duties at the same time", said Saad while talking to The Daily Star Sport yesterday.

Meanwhile, the first meeting of the selection committee in connection with announcing the A team for the Malaysia trip this month, was held on Wednesday without Saad.

The committee is likely to name the A team on Sunday for the four-nation one-day tournament to be held in Kuala Lumpur from May 20 to 26. USA, Namibia and hosts Malaysia are the other three teams.

DAY'S EVENT

GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League Super Six

Mohammedan SC v Young Pegasus Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Relegation League Dhanmondi Club v Young Cricketers Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

Nitol-Tata National Football League

Muktijoddha Sangsad vs Mohsin Club

Green Delta Premier Hockey League

Abahani KC v Bangladesh SC (4 pm) Venue: Maulana Bhasani Stadium.

BLAST FROM THE PAST



Aerial view of the Maracana Stadium, still under construction at the time of the kick-off of the 1950 FIFA World Cup Brazil. The Brazilian authorities had decided to build the biggest stadium in the world with a capacity of 220,000, but the work schedule, begun in 1948, proved unrealistic, so the competition got underway in an unfinished stadium.

CUP CORNER



AFP, Paris

French defender Christian Karembeu is out of the World Cup finals after tearing a groin muscle last weekend, he told L'Equipe newspaper on Friday.

French national coach Roger Lemerre discussed the injury with the 31-year-old and instead decided to take Bayern Munich defender Willy Sagnol to the finals in South Korea and Japan, the report said.

"I'm out," said Karembeu. "I accept the decision of the coach. We had a long discussion about it and he made another choice."

"Now I'm going to get treatment in order to be ready in case they need me," he said.

The former Nantes, Sampdoria, Real Madrid and Middlesbrough player was injured in his current side Olympiakos' defeat by AEK Athens in the Greek Cup final on Sunday.

Karembeu was a member of the French squad which won the 1998 World Cup and the 2000 European Championships.

LAST SPOT FOR ROMARIO?

Rio de Janeiro

Brazil's 1994 World Cup winning hero Romario's dreams of making it to this year's finals were kept alive Thursday when national coach Luiz Scolari revealed he had just one vacancy left in his final squad.

Scolari has tried to avoid giving in to enormous pressure at including the 36-year-old former Barcelona star but according to a correspondent from the normally well-informed newspaper 'O Globo' Romario's name will be on the final squad list when it is named next Monday.

"Of the 23 players who will be going to the finals there just remains one doubt," Scolari said.

Romario, who has had a successful season with Vasco da Gama, had launched an emotional appeal in April to be included in the squad but Scolari was reluctant to select him as he regards him as being a disruptive influence in the dressing room.

However the debate over his inclusion reached such levels that even Brazilian president Fernando Cardoso declared the striker should be selected.

LEMERRE EXTENDS CONTRACT

Paris

French national coach Roger Lemerre has prolonged his contract until 2004, the president of the French Football Federation (FFF), Claude Simonet announced on Friday.

Lemerre, who took over from Aime Jacquet after France won the World Cup in 1998, is preparing his squad for the defence of their world crown in South Korea and Japan later this month.

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Baggio's message for Trap

AFP, Rome

Veteran Italian stiker Roberto Baggio has not given up hope of impressing Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni and earning a dramatic late World Cup recall.

Despite a far from impressive performance in last Sunday's Italian league game when his side Brescia where hammered 5-0 by Juventus, the "divine ponytail" hopes to make an impression in this weekend's make-or-break tie against Bologna, which is crucial to keep Brescia in the top flight.

Baggio has undergone a series of medical tests which have proven that at 35 years he is in top physical condition after making a near-miraculous recovery from a serious knee injury suffered in January.

And he sent a message to Trapattoni Friday: "I'm in better shape than in 1994 and I've worked hard to achieve this."

Trapattoni has refused to rule out Baggio from the Italian squad for the finals in Japan and South Korea, starting May 31.

"You can never say never. I will be keeping an eye on Baggio," said Trapattoni last week.

The Italy coach had earlier this month appeared to shoot down the veteran star's hopes of a fourth World Cup when he named his complement of attackers for the finals.

Baggio, once the world's most expensive player when he joined Juventus from Fiorentina, has had a glittering career but is best remembered for his penalty miss in the 1994 World Cup final penalty shoot-out that handed victory to Brazil.

Italy play Ecuador, Mexico and Croatia in the first phase Group G of the World Cup finals.



Did U Know?

Throughout the Second World War the Italian Vice-President of FIFA, Dr. Ottorino Barassi, hid the FIFA World Cup trophy in a shoe-box under his bed and thus saved it from falling into the hands of occupying troops. Meanwhile, the qualifying competition for the 1950 competition turned into something of a farce with teams qualifying then withdrawing - and teams already eliminated being offered places. India withdrew because FIFA would not let them play in bare feet. So only 13 teams participated in the final tournament.



ESPN

Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Repeat at 5:00 pm
STAR SPORTS
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Repeat at 1:00 pm
West Indies vs India
Third Test, Day Three
Live at 8:05 pm



Ferenc Puskas

(Hungarian football legend)
"I'm grateful to my father for all the coaching he did not give me."



Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes.
Competition closes at 8 pm May 10, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

1. How many Test tons has Tendulkar scored so far? 30 25 29	A U B
2. Who won the Standard Chartered Bank National School Cricket Championship? Comilla High Scholastica BKSP	A U B
3. Who became champions in the AUB Cup inter-private university cricket tournament? AUB NSU	A U B
4. Who clinched the New White Plus GM chess tournament title? Zia Reefat Sermek	A U B
5. Which sport does Paolo Maldini play? AUB NSU	A U B
Name.....	
Class..... Roll No.....	
School Address.....	
Phone: (If any).....	



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Biman's Pakistani recruit Imran Farhat hoists one over long off during his knock of 124 against Abahani in a GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League Super Six encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Pakistan thrash NZ



AFP, Lahore

Leg-spinner Danish Kaneria snapped up five wickets to seal Pakistan's biggest win in Test history by an innings and 324 runs against New Zealand in the first Test here Friday.

Kaneria took 5-110 at the Gaddafi Stadium as the tourists were dismissed for 246 in the last over before stumps on the third day, marking their worst ever Test defeat.

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming topscored with a pugnacious 66 and Lou Vincent made 57, but none of the Kiwi batsmen were able to put up any real resistance to the Pakistani onslaught.

A ninth wicket stand of 18 between Daryl Tuffey and Brooke Walker delayed the inevitable until Kaneria took Tuffey for 12 and Saqlain Mushtaq dismissed Chris Martin for nought to secure the victory.

"It was a tough day in the office, especially when you go and chase the ball for two days, but we are hurt after disappointing batting," Fleming said.

"The conditions were not unplayable and we need to be much better in the next Test."

Pakistan captain Waqar Younis said he was delighted at breaking a jinx at the venue.

"It is great to break the barrier. We have won our first Test here for 12 years and it was outstanding play by Inzamamul Haq and fiery bowling by Shoaib Akhtar that played key roles," Younis said.

"When the pitch turned it was Kaneria who guided us to the win," he said.

Express paceman Akhtar, who missed the second innings due to a swollen ankle, took a career best 6-11 off 8.2 overs to help dismiss New Zealand for a paltry 73 in their first knock.

Inzamam's memorable 329 was the cornerstone of Pakistan's formidable first innings total of 643.

This becomes the fifth biggest

defeat in Test cricket's 127-year history and marks the Black Cap's heaviest humiliation.

Vincent hit two boundaries off Kaneria to reach his fourth half century but fell seven runs later when he edged one to Latif of Kaneria for 57.

Left handers Fleming and Chris Harris then defied a depleted Pakistan attack through some cau

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PHOTO: INTERNET

Pakistan speed-merchant Shoaib Akhtar successfully appeals for an lbw decision against Brooke Walker of New Zealand on the third day of the first Test in Lahore yesterday.

which is justly rich in its diversity."

Ghanaian-born Desailly, who plays for Chelsea in England, said the fact the squad came from different cultural backgrounds was a strength.

Pires, a player at English Premiership giants Arsenal, also waded into the fray, suggesting that many French players would find it

impossible to play for their country in the World Cup if Le Pen wins this weekend's election.

Pires has already been ruled out of making the trip to Japan and South Korea because of a knee injury.

But he warned: "Of course we

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