

MSC survive a scare

SPORTS REPORTER



Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club made heavy weather of an easy chase before notching a four-wicket victory over Young Pegasus in a GrameenPhone Premier Super Six match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

With this win Mohammedan joined Bangladesh Biman in the second position, both having collected 20 points from 13 games. Victoria maintained a solo lead with 24 points.

Chasing a modest Pegasus total of 130, Mohammedan lost six wickets before reaching home and dry in 27.3 overs.

They were almost in for an upset while trying to get the job done quickly as the two slow bowlers of Pegasus, Saifullah Khan and Mahabub, exposed the fragile tail, sharing five wickets among them.

Mahabub captured three wickets within a space of eight deliveries to inflict a spectacular Mohammedan collapse when it appeared that the popular Motijheel outfit were running away with the easy win.

Still, it could have been a different story for Mohammedan had not Mahabub dropped wicketkeeper Anwar.

An early thunder from in-form opener Ehsanul Huq, who took the Pegasus bowlers to the sword after both captains agreed for an extended pre-lunch session, set the tune of the Mohammedan chase.

The right-hander scored a blazing 65 off 45 balls as Mohammedan raced to 90 for one in only 14 overs. Ehsanul hammered 10 boundaries and a six for his sixth fifty in the League before being dismissed by slow left-armed Saifullah Khan.

Saifullah also deceived Kenyan star batter Steve Tikolo with his trademark 'super slow' deliver to finish with two for 38 in 10 overs.

Habibul Bashar survived an early close call to take Mohammedan home with an unbeaten 25 off 57 balls.

Earlier, the Pegasus total was built around a defiant 34 by their captain Hasan and 31 from opener Humayun.

Steve Tikolo, though failed with the bat, was the most successful Mohammedan bowler with three for 18 in seven overs. It was the best bowling performance for the Kenyan in this year's League.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the GrameenPhone Premier League Super Six match between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Young Pegasus played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

YOUNG PEGASUS

Humayun st. Anwar b Sabbir	31
S Ahmed b Taposh	6
Shamsul run out	0
Hasan st. Anwar b Sabbir	34
Majed lbw b Tikolo	23
Jamal c Sanwar b Tikol	6
Mahabub run out	3
Tanvir lbw b Rafique	11
Shahjada c & b Tikolo	0
Saifullah b Taposh	0
Sohel not out	0
Extras: (b-2, lb-5, w-9)	16
Total: (All out in 42.4 overs)	130

Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-21, 3-62, 4-107, 5-107, 6-114, 7-123, 8-124, 9-130

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Taposh	6.4	0	14	2
Safuiddin	8	0	25	0
Ehsanul	3	0	10	0
Sabbir	10	1	36	2
Rafique	8	1	20	1
Tikolo	7	0	18	3

MOHAMMEDAN

Rashedul c Majed b Sabbir	11
Ehsanul c sub b Saifullah	65
Bashar not out	25
Tikolo c Tanvir b Saifullah	4
Kiron c & b Mahabub	13
Sanwar c & b Mahabub	0
Sabbir c Hasan b Mahabub	0
Anwar not out	6
Extras: (lb-1, nb-2, w-4)	7
Total: (For 6 wks in 27.3 overs)	131
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-90, 3-97, 4-122, 5-122, 6-124	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shahjada	4	0	22	0
S Ahmed	4	0	21	1
Saifullah	10	1	38	2
Sohel	2	0	24	0
Majed	3	0	8	0
Mahabub	4.3	1	17	3

Result: Mohammedan SC won by 4 wickets.



IT'S TIME TO RELAX: Mohammedans' heroes of the day Ehsanul (R) and Steve Tikolo (C), along with teammate Shafuiddin, having a chat inside the dressing room after they overcame Young Pegasus in a GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League Super Six clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Of contrasting charmers

Cricket

REUTERS, London

If proof were needed, Inzamamul Haq and Shoaib Akhtar provided it in dramatic fashion in the first Test against New Zealand. Cricket clearly caters for all shapes, sizes and speeds.

The imperious Inzamam is a well-padded man-mountain, with a large appetite and a suspicion of too much unnecessary movement. He lives life at his own leisurely pace.

His favourite place during training sessions is a sun-shaded deckchair, preferably hidden from his coach and captain behind a sight-screen, with his bottle-green Pakistan cap tucked firmly over his eyes. He is a quiet man of few words.

Pace bowler Shoaib, in contrast, is all knotted muscle, a man delighting in his own youth, energy and larger-than-life profile.

He has tree-trunks for thighs and a bowling elbow so loose and flexible that it threatens to come out of its socket whenever he unleashes his quick ball.

His favourite party trick is to lean on to his arm and allow the elbow joint to swivel wildly in alarming directions.

Inzamam's 329 against New Zealand in the first Test, out of a total of 643 which set up a crushing innings and 324-run win, was all the

more extraordinary because of his ample physique.

The popular man from Multan -- nicknamed 'aloo' (potato) and loved almost as much for his village-cricket running between the wickets as his craftsmanship at the crease -- toiled for nine hours 39 minutes in sauna-like conditions.

He faced 436 deliveries -- more than double the number of balls faced by New Zealand in their entire

team.

Shoaib, who took six for 11 in 8.2 overs as New Zealand were routed for 73 in their first innings before following on a gargantuan 570 runs adrift, is a hurtling red Ferrari in comparison to the Inzamam delivery van. Here to tortoise.

His rubber bowling arm means he will never fully escape controversy, despite expert analysis backing the legality of his action.



INZAMAMUL HAQ



SHOAIB AKHTAR

first innings -- and, always wary of too much unnecessary dashing around, hit 206 of his runs in boundaries.

The innings, the 10th highest individual score in Test history, was also the highest by a Pakistan player on home territory. Only Hanif Mohammad, with 337 in West Indies 44 years ago, ever made more for the

But in recent months he has decided to stop worrying about the doubters and concentrate on his bowling, with devastating effect.

In January he took a Test-best five for 24 against West Indies in Sharjah.

In April, there was a one-day best of six for 16 against the New

Flemo stays unflappable

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming was stoic in the face of his country's worst ever Test defeat here Friday, after the Kiwis went down by an innings and 324 runs against a rampant Pakistan.

"It was not an embarrassing defeat because we were outplayed and outsmarted by a better team," Fleming, 31, said after the match ended just before stumps on the third day.

"It was especially a tough job in the office after we were made to chase the ball for the first two days." But he admitted the crushing defeat was a body blow to the tourists.

"It would be very hard to find positives after being outplayed in the one-day series 3-0 and then in this Test."

Pakistan made 643 runs in the first innings with Inzamamul Haq hitting a memorable 329, before

"It was a combination of heat, a better show by the opposition and some poor batting by us," he said, adding that his team now had to regroup for the next Test in Karachi beginning on May 8.

"I know we have a mountain to climb ... and I hope that we try our best on the last five days of the tour and put up a better show in the second Test," Fleming said.

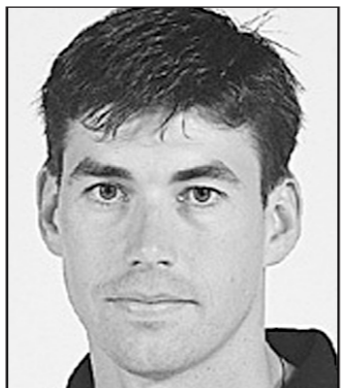
The Black Caps skipper said his team had shown its mettle when they came close to beating Australia in the three-match series there last year, but he said conditions were vastly different in Pakistan.

"I don't think it's a turnaround because you can't compare the conditions of Australia and what we have here. The conditions suit us more in Australia and fortunes are different," he said.

New Zealand head to the West Indies next month and Fleming is hoping an injection of fresh blood will see them back to winning ways.

"We hope to get some more players coming back from injury

defeat were manifold.



STEPHEN FLEMING

BLAST FROM THE PAST



Just before the opening match of the 1954 FIFA World Cup in Lausanne between France and Yugoslavia (0-1), 81-year-old FIFA chairman and event creator Jules Rimet officially opens the tournament. The 1954 finals in Switzerland was to be his last. On June 21 of the same year, Rimet completed his term of office and became FIFA's first honorary chairman. He passed away in 1956.

Green Delta hockey Abahani beat BD Sporting

UNB, Dhaka

Abahani Krira Chakra outplayed Bangladesh Sporting Club 8-1 in the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half by 2-1 goals.

Shamim Reza, Shishu, Nakib, Sarwar, Rana, Alim Raza, Alamgir Alam and Ramiz Ahmed netted one goal each for the Dhanmondi outfit. Mahmud scored the only goal for Bangladesh SC.

The day's First Division match between Victoria Sporting Club and Dhaka Wanderers Club ended in a goalless draw at the same venue.

First win for Muktijoddha

UNB, Dhaka

NITOL-TATA NAT'L FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra tasted their first victory in the Nitol-Tata National Football League crushing Narayanjan Mohsin Club 5-0 at Jessore Stadium yesterday.

The Dhaka league giants failed to earn any point from previous two matches as they lost 0-1 to Chittagong Abahani and 1-2 Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club.

Mohammedan and Chittagong Abahani are jointly leading Group-B collecting five points from three matches.

Muktijoddha will play their last first-round match against hosts Rajshahi KC on May 9.

In the day's match, Muktijoddha dominated the first half 2-0. Striker Farhad scored two goals in 56th and 68th minutes and was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Mizanur Rahman Don also struck twice in the 18th and 64th minutes. Mukti's Nigerian recruit Salsu netted the other goal in the 30th minute.

WI score 394

SPORTS REPORTER

West Indies made 394 in their first innings in the third Test against India on the third day in Bridgetown yesterday.

India, conceding a 292-run deficit on the first innings, went into lunch at seven without loss in three overs.



GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League Relegation League Brothers Union vs City Club Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium Green Delta Premier Hockey League Ajax Sporting Club vs Mariner Youngs Club First Division Azad Sporting vs Muktabhanga Nitol-Tata National Football League T & T Club vs Chaturanga Sangha

CUP CORNER



AFP, London

England captain David Beckham is making good progress in his bid to overcome a foot injury in time for the World Cup, Manchester United confirmed.

Beckham broke the metatarsal bone in his left foot during last month's Champions League quarterfinal, second-leg tie against Deportivo La Coruna of Spain.

"His latest X-ray, taken this week, has shown that there are signs that his bone is healing satisfactorily," read a statement on United's website.

The 27-year-old Beckham hopes to be fit for England's opening World Cup match against Sweden in Saitama, Japan on June 2.

AFP, Glasgow

Veteran Argentina forward Claudio Caniggia's chances of playing in this summer's World Cup appeared to suffer a setback when he went off injured in the Scottish Cup final on Saturday.

Rangers striker Caniggia was obstructed by Celtic's Johan Mjallby in the 19th minute and appeared to fall awkwardly at Hampden Park.

Reports said Caniggia had aggravated an existing knee injury. While Caniggia was receiving treatment Celtic took the lead through John Hartson before the Rangers substitute Shota Arveladze could come on.

AFP, Asuncion

Paraguay coach Cesare Maldini of Italy insisted keeper Jose Luis Chilavert had not interfered with the selection of the World Cup squad as the country's media had reported.

Maldini was speaking at a press conference where he was due to announce a squad to leave for Italy on Monday but claimed bureaucracy prevented him naming players.

Maldini also said Chilavert, one of the high-profile characters of the 1998 finals in France, had not interfered in picking the squad, saying he had not made a me-or-him ultimatum about midfielder Julio Cesar Enciso, with whom he has not seen eye-to-eye in the past.

Reuters, Moscow

CSKA Moscow winger Roman Gusev, voted by the media as the league's best player for April, remains pessimistic about his chances of being included in Russia's World Cup squad by coach Oleg Romantsev.

"I have a minimal chance of going to Japan and South Korea," the 24-year-old Russian international was quoted as saying in Saturday's edition of Sport-Express newspaper.

"I already said why I think I was left out of the national team and I won't take my words back."

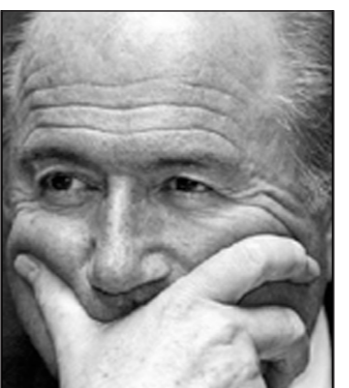
Earlier this year, Gusev accused Romantsev of phasing him out of Russia's team because he chose to move to CSKA from city rivals Dynamo instead of joining champions Spartak Moscow, who are also coached by Romantsev.



AFP, Zurich

Beleaguered FIFA president Sepp Blatter risks facing criminal charges for corruption, according to a bombshell report delivered here on Friday by the organisation's secretary general Michel Zen-Ruffinen.

In the most explosive document



SEPP BLATTER

ever delivered to a FIFA ruling executive committee, Zen-Ruffinen outlined allegations of a trail of deception, mismanagement, illegal payments and cronyism against the 66-year-old Blatter.



MICHEL ZEN-RUFFINEN

In the report stamped 'strictly confidential' but obtained by AFP, Zen-Ruffinen revealed a secret presidential group within football's governing world body that is answerable only to Blatter, in con-

Politics NSC's first priority!

SPORTS REPORTER

Politics became the priority number one of the National Sports Council (NSC) when the ruling body of the country's sports put aside its job of governing games only to accord a reception to the newly elected mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation, Sadek Hossain Khoka.

The NSC in a surprise move on Saturday night ordered the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) to suspend the Super Six match of the GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League between Abahani Krira Chakra and leaders Victoria Sporting Club to pave the way for the ceremony at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The match was scheduled to start in the morning today.

This is however not for the first time that the NSC would be using the BNS for reasons other than sports. But a reception at the expense of sports has never happened before.

The outrageous plan for a reception is reported to have occurred in the brain of Maj. (Retd.) Enam, the director of Admin of the NSC. The reception to Sadek, also a former state minister for youth and sports of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), would commence as soon as he takes oath at the Prime Minister's office in the afternoon today.

Enam, who has a long track record of controversy and scandal during the nine-year rule of Ershad, made his come back in the NSC after fighting a legal battle following his ouster during the Awami League regime.

U-19 boys in final

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting Bangladesh youth team reached the final of the All-India Under-19 Invitational Inter-State Cricket tournament eliminating Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) by one wicket in the semifinal at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata yesterday.

They will play the final of the prestigious meet on Monday. The name of its opponent is yet to be known.

In the day's semis, hosts CAB batted first after winning the toss and were all out for 137 runs in 36.3 overs in a 40-over-a-side match with Avik Chowdhury making 55 and

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Relegation cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Opener Safiul scored an unbeaten half-century as Dhanmondi Club recorded a nine-wicket victory over Young Cricketers in a Relegation League match of the GrameenPhone Premier League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Safiul struck 63 off 54 balls as Dhanmondi raced to 95 in 15.2 overs after the bowled out Young Cricketers for 94 in the battle of the two bottomers.

Michel bombshell for Sepp



AFP, Zurich

And he warned that the FIFA president had one week to reply to the charges or he would hand the dossier to the Swiss authorities.

The 21-page dossier comes only four weeks before a FIFA congress in Seoul which will decide whether to reelect Blatter for another four years or give football's most powerful post to his sole challenger, Issa Hayatou, a FIFA vice-president and president of the African Football Confederation (CAF).

The first allegation claimed Blatter paid a European executive committee member, who was elected in 2000, two years backdated remuneration to 1998 of 100,000 US dollars.

The second charge was over a payment to former Niger referee Lucien Bouchardeau for giving evidence against CAF vice-president Farah Addo, who in March accused Blatter supporters of bribing FIFA members to vote for him in the 1998 presidential election in Paris.

"The president handed out to him in front of two FIFA employees a cheque of 25,000 US dollars mentioning that Bouchardeau would receive additional 25,000 dollars if the information he provided would suit the purpose of the president," said Zen-Ruffinen in his report.

The secretary general also produced a damning indictment of FIFA vice-president Jack Warner of Trinidad, a staunch Blatter supporter.

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2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

2 6

days to go



Did U Know?

The FIFA World Cup, staged in Switzerland at the foot of the Alps, was to soar to new heights in 1954. The qualifying rounds featured a higher number of nations than ever before and with the AFC founded in 1954, the finals included several teams from Asia (Japan and Korea) and Africa (Egypt), giving the event a truly global dimension.



What to WATCH

- ESPN
- Cricket Programming
 - Super Selector
 - Repeat at 9:00 am
 - World Cup Soccer Mix
 - Repeat at 5:00 pm
 - UEFA Champions League
 - Weekly Highlights
 - Taped Version at 6:00 pm
 - Cricket Programming
 - Super Selector
 - Repeat at 11:30 pm

SEE PAGE 15



Socrates (Former Brazil soccer captain) "Football became popular because it was considered an art, but now too many pitches are becoming battlefields."

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

1. How many Test tons has Tendulkar scored so far?

30 25 29

2. Who won the Standard Chartered Bank National School Cricket Championship?

Comilla High Scholastica BKSP

3. Who became champions in the AUB Cup inter-private university cricket tournament?

AUB NSU ATUB

4. Who clinched the New White Plus GM chess tournament title?

Zia Reetat Sermek

5. Which sport does Paolo Maldini play?

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (If any)