

Black cloud over Premier League

SPORTS REPORTER

WESTERN UNION
নাসির আলম
WESTERN UNION FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The Dhaka Mahanagari Football League Committee (DMFLC) yesterday was forced to postpone two Western Union Premier Division matches following a ground invasion and ransacking by a section of Mohammedan Sporting Club supporters.

Nearly a hundred agitated Mohammedan fans carrying flags and banners marched into the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium at Mirpur protesting Monday's DMFLC decision to award Mukti-joddha Sangsad Kriya Chakra full points from Thursday's unfinished match against the Black and Whites.

The league committee also deducted one point from Mohammedan's collection and suspended captain Jewel Rana for one match for unruly behaviour in that eventful game. The clash of the titans saw a premature end when Mohammedan refused to play the last six minutes disputing Mukti-joddha's equaliser which they claimed went inside straight from a Belal throw-in.

Referee Ramkrishna Ghosh had signalled a goal after the ball took a deflection off Mohammedan defender Shuvro's chest. But Mohammedan argued that by the time the ball hit Shuvro, he was standing inside the goalline.

The furious Mohammedan faithful also burnt an effigy of referee Ghosh as they demanded the postponement of the league until the authorities revoked

their decision and awarded Mohammedan full points from the ill-fated match.

The supporters, who entered the stadium at around 12 noon, set fire to the advertising boards, lifted the goalposts at either end, tore the nets apart and broke the flagpoles. They then blocked the gates from inside and didn't let players of Sheikh Russell KC, Badda Jagarani, Brothers Union and Dhanmondi Club in. Sheikh Russell were scheduled to play the day's first match against Badda while table-toppers Brothers were due to take on Dhanmondi in the second fixture.

The matches have been rescheduled for today.

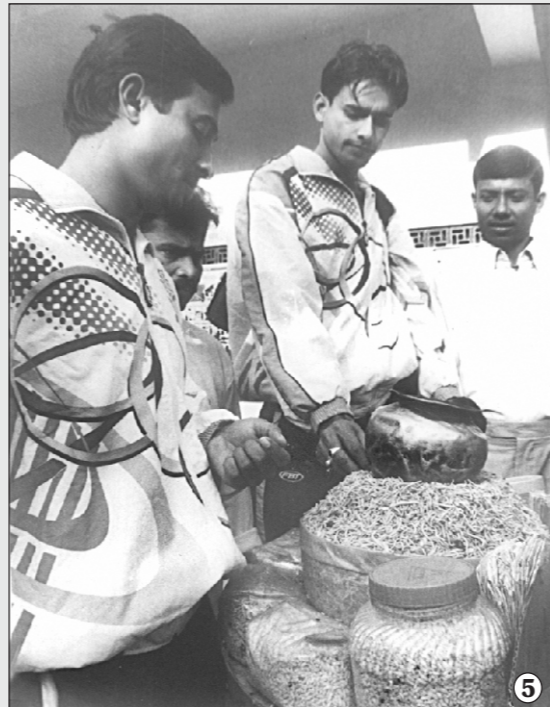
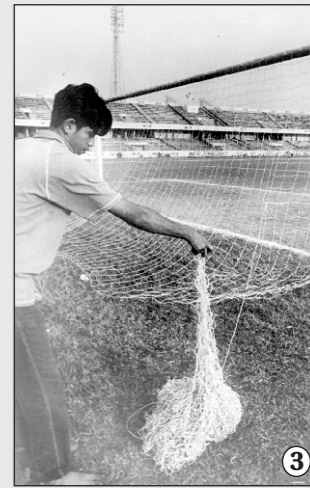
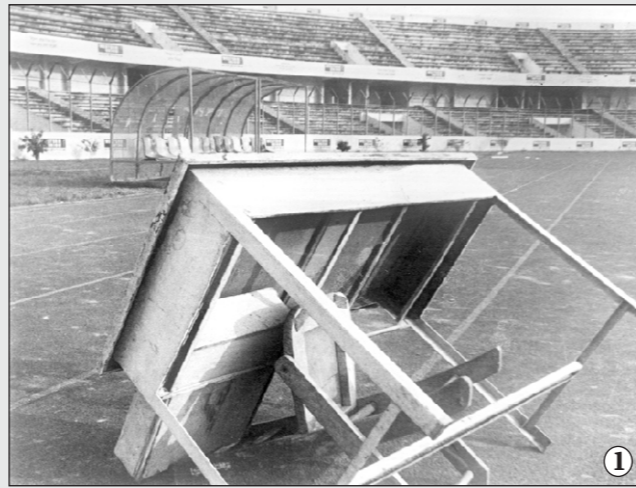
However, the resumption of the league has been thrown into uncertainty following another attack by the Mohammedan supporters on the referees' office at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday evening.

There was a reasonable police presence during both incidents but surprisingly the law enforcers opted to play the role of mere onlookers.

DMFLC secretary Mozammel Hoque Mukta blasted the inaction of the police.

"I can categorically say that it was the non cooperation of the police that forced us to cancel the two matches today. Had they performed their duties and removed the unruly elements, we could have easily fixed the posts and the poles in ten minutes and started the first match on time," said Mukta talking to The Daily Star Sport on Tuesday.

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PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN
THAT'S NOT THE SPIRIT: (1) The match officials' table bears the brunt of some incensed Mohammedan fans. (2) Mohammedan followers stage a sit-in inside the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. (3) A groundstaff shows the torn net which was taken apart by the invaders. (4) Mohammedan fan club fixed a banner 'declaring' postponement of the Premier Division League at the entrance of the stadium. (5) Given an unscheduled break, Brothers Union stars Liton (L) and Biplab try out some roadside treats outside the stadium.



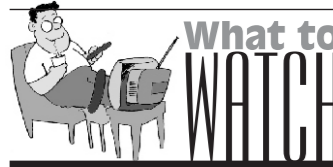
Did U Know?

One of the all-time great innings, 175 not out by Kapil Dev against Zimbabwe was lost to posterity. BBC had gone on strike that day with the result that it was never recorded on video.



Brian Lara

(West Indies cricket captain)
"In the past we have collapsed well before the last day. At least we are fighting hard and reaching the final day now."
Reflecting on a disappointing tour of South Africa.



ESPN
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Sports News
Live at 8.30 pm
STAR SPORTS
Australian Open
Men's/Women's second round
Live at 6 am & 2.30 pm
Sportsline
Sports News
Live at 8 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 205
Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Jan 30, 2004 and draw

- Who won the 25th National Women's Chess Championship title?
Shabana Parveen, Hami Hamid, Zakia Sultana
- Who lifted the Hopman Cup tennis title?
Australia, America, Russia
- Steve Waugh has played how many Test matches?
132, 168, 200
- David Seaman quit football at
Name:
Class: Roll No:
School Address:
Phone: (If any)

Singer chess Four-way lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Four players finished top at the end of the fifth round Singer 30th National Chess Championship yesterday.

Fide Master Khandakar Aminul Islam, Shawkat Hossain Pollob, Abdul Maleq and Biswajit Mondal all secured 4.5 points.

FM Abu Sufian Shakil, FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, Chanchal Kumar Gosh, FM Rezaul Haque, Arman Monir, Aminul Islam Polash, Sheikh Anwar Hossain and Kazi Taherul Islam followed the leading pack with four points each.

In this round Pollob drew with Maleq, Amin drew with Biswajit, Chanchal drew with Lavlu, Shakil beat Debaraj, Nasir beat Shafiq, Anwar beat Emon, Arman beat Enayet, Reza beat Sawpan, Polash beat Ariful and Taher beat Naser.

Nobody's a winner

ISPANHANI Mirzapore Tea
5th National Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER

Draws were the order of the day as neither Dhaka, Sylhet nor Chittagong could force a result in their Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Fifth National Cricket League matches yesterday.

The three teams, however, could be satisfied having collected first innings points.

Dhaka head the table with 28 points. Second-placed Sylhet are on 22 points while Chittagong, Rajshahi and Barisal lag behind in third place on 14 points. Reigning champions Khulna are struggling at the bottom with 12 points.

DHAKA V RAJSHAHI
League leaders Dhaka were left 23 runs short of achieving an outright victory after early morning fog at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium caused a delayed start.

Chasing 125 for victory, Dhaka ended the final day on 103-6 in 13.4 overs.

Earlier, Rajshahi skipper Nuruzzaman scored a patient half-century as his side, who resumed 89-3, still 36 runs behind, were eventually dismissed for 250 in their second innings in reply Dhaka's first innings 374.

Dhaka left-arm spinner Elias Sunny finished with four for 52 in 35 overs and Shahriar Hossain took three for 33 in 6.5 overs.

National discard Mehrab Hossain was adjudged man-of-the-match. He scored 169 in

Dhaka's first essay.
KHULNA V CHITTAGONG

The clash of title-holders ended tamely at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore with Khulna being bowled out for 187 in their second innings.

Off-spinner Sabir Khan captured four for 65 in 31.2 overs.

Chittagong amassed 358 in their first innings in reply to Khulna's 285.

KHULNA V BARISAL
Khulna all-rounder Tamim Bashir, who hit a defiant 89, was adjudged man-of-the-match.

BARISAL V CHITTAGONG
Barisal's Jamal Faisal denied their opponents an outright win as they

finished on 201-5 chasing impossible 341 runs. The opener smashed an entertaining 90 off 110 balls that included eleven fours and a six.

Sylhet, who enjoyed a healthy 158-run lead, added another 84 runs their overnight total before declaring their second innings at the Barisal Stadium.

Nasirul Alam hit his second consecutive half-century as Sylhet scored 183-7.

The right-hander converted his 16 to 85 off 145 balls to be adjudged man-of-the-match.

SCOREBOARD
Final scorecards of the three four-day Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Fifth

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PHOTO: STAR
Rajshahi captain Nuruzzaman pulls on way to scoring 62 on the final day of their Ispahani Mirzapore Tea National Cricket League encounter at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Vermeulen has skull fracture

REUTERS, Melbourne

Zimbabwe's Mark Vermeulen fractured his skull while batting in a VB Series triangular match against India in Brisbane on Tuesday.

The 24-year-old top-edged a bouncer from Irfan Pathan and the ball struck him above the right eye, wedging between the visor and peak of his helmet. Although the batsman was wearing a new protective helmet, the ball somehow managed to squeeze between the peak and the protective grate.

Vermeulen, who suffered a hair-line skull fracture during a net session at last year's World Cup, was taken to a Brisbane hospital in stable condition on Tuesday night where a depressed skull fracture was diagnosed.

He is expected to have reconstructive surgery in Brisbane this week and will play no further part in the series.

Roy bites the dust Quarterfinals today

Tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

The quarterfinal line-up of the Sheltech Group-3 Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championship was completed at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

But one thing is for sure it will miss any local ingredient after Amol Roy bowed out of the boys' singles, conceding a 6-0, 6-3 defeat against Indian Navdeep Singh.

Navdeep was one of four Indian players who advanced to the last eight.

While India made their strong presence felt both in the boys and girls events, Great Britain's Farris Khatib continued his fabulous run

with a 6-1, 6-2 second round win over Sri Lanka's Neshendiran.

The Briton, who won the Rajshahi leg singles title, will however face the biggest challenge so far when he takes on top seed Michael Leong of the Solomon Island in one of the four quarterfinal matches this morning.

Leong strolled past Indian Kaushik Raju 6-1, 6-2.

Navdeep, who romped past a hapless Amol, set up a quarters clash against compatriot Jeevan who came from behind to beat South Korea's Kim Jin Soo 4-6, 6-4, 6-0.

Australian Myles Blake crossed the second-round barrier with a 6-3, 6-3 defeat of Indian Karthik Raju, but he faces the challenge of another Indian Rupes Roy today to

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U-17 Asia Cup cricket Colts thrash Saudis

UNB, Dhaka

The Bangladesh Under-17 team registered their second consecutive victory in the U-17 Asia Cup Cricket Tournament when they outplayed Saudi Arabia by 162 runs in Hyderabad, India yesterday.

The colts, who handed UAE a nine-wicket win on Monday, batted first and posted 246-4 in the stipulated 45 overs.

Mehrab Hossain top scored with 47 not out and GR Chowdhury added 47.

In reply, Saudi Arabia were all out for 84 in 25.5 overs with Jalal making highest 18.

Mohammad Suhrawardy of Bangladesh grabbed four wickets for 23 runs in nine overs while Sakib Al Hasan claimed three for 11 runs in 5.5 overs.

Osman protests McInnes' remarks

SPORTS REPORTER

National cricket coach Osman Khan protested the incredible remark made by Bangladesh Under-19 coach Richard McInnes about the standard of local trainers on Monday.

In a statement, the National Cricket Council (NSC) coach said that it was unwise for the Australian to make such kind of remarks without adequate knowledge about the local coaches and their successes.

The veteran coach even issued a challenge to the Under-19 coach saying that he could achieve better results with the juvenile team than McInnes himself.



Western Union Premier Division Football League

Badda Jagarani vs Sheikh Russell (2.30 pm)
Brothers Union vs Dhanmondi (4.30 pm)
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur
Patron's Trophy (Day 3)
Bangladesh A vs Khan Research Laboratory
Venue: UBL ground, Karachi

India tame brave Zim

Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

A brave Zimbabwe clocked up its first point of the triangular international one-day cricket series at the Brisbane Cricket Ground on Tuesday but couldn't quite claim the major prize of a first-up victory over an in-form India.

The minnows of world cricket showed plenty of zeal but fell short at the final hurdle paying a hefty price with a serious injury to opening batsman Mark Vermeulen.

It was a bitter early blow for Zimbabwe as they set off in pursuit of India's tally of 255 for six on a very good batting wicket.

In the end, the Africans fell just short of the mark in their best performance of the tour to date, losing by 24 runs after their last wicket fell at 231 runs just one ball into the 48th over.

Despite the loss, Zimbabwe were awarded their first point of the three-nation series for not conceding a bonus point to India.

Zimbabwe had shown great enthusiasm in the field to restrict India to a manageable total in wake of their record-breaking innings of 303 for four at the same ground just two days earlier.

That innings was the highest one-day scored at the venue.

India took to the field without the injured pair of star opener Sachin Tendulkar and prolific batsman Virender Sehwag.

Both teams observed a minute's silence before the match in memory of former Test batsman David Hookes who died on Monday.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the VB Series triangular cricket one-day international between India and Zimbabwe at the Gabba on Tuesday:

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Patel b Streak	10	1	48	2
Laxman c Taibu b Ervine	7	1	44	0
Dravid c Streak b Ervine	6	0	39	0
Yuvraj b Price	10	0	47	3
Gavaskar b Streak	10	0	43	1
Badani not out	7	0	31	0
Pathan not out	5	0	10	0
Extras: (lb-3, w-6, nb-1)	10	0	255	0
Total: (For 6 wickets in 50 overs)	255	0	249	6-249

Did not bat: Nehra, Kumble, Balaji
Bowler
Streak 10 1 48 2
Blignaut 7 1 44 0
Hondo 6 0 39 0
Ervine 10 0 47 3
Price 10 0 43 1
Flower 7 0 31 0
ZIMBABWE

Team	M	W	L	B/P	Pts
Aus	4	3	1	2	18
India	4	3	1	1	17
Zim	4	0	4	0	1

(Win with bonus point 6; win without bonus point 5; loss but not conceding bonus point 1; loss conceding bonus point 0)

TRI-SERIES TABLE

Result: India won by 24 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Yuvraj Singh.
Toss: India.
Next match: Australia v India, Jan 22.

SA take series 3-0

Cricket

AFP, Centurion

South Africa snatched victory between showers on the fifth day of the fourth and final Test against the West Indies at Centurion Park Tuesday.

South Africa's ten-wicket win wrapped up a 3-0 series triumph.

Almost four hours of play was lost because of rain but South Africa were able to claim the last seven West Indies wickets for 85 runs before, with more rain threatening, they knocked off the 46 runs they needed in just 21 minutes off 3.4 overs.

Shaun Pollock took four wickets and bowled unchanged through three brief periods of play.

After claiming only one wicket in 64 overs Monday, when rain and bad light cut play, South Africa's hopes of completing the series with a win were re-ignited when they took three wickets in 22 balls before lunch. Two more wickets after lunch left the tourists precariously placed before the rain returned.

Finally, with a nominal 24 overs remaining, the players returned after tea and South Africa were able

to wrap up the innings, although they had some anxious moments as Corey Collymore and Fidel Edwards put on 26 runs in 29 minutes for the last wicket, with an ever-increasing likelihood that bad light might stop play.

The floodlights were on throughout the day and were used on each of the five days of the match.

Play started 100 minutes late but man of the series Makhaya Ntini, armed with the second new ball, gave South Africa an ideal start when he had Chris Gayle (107) caught at gully with the last ball of the fifth over.

Gayle and Ramnareesh Sarwan put on a record 174 for the fourth wicket. Shaun Pollock trapped Sarwan leg before wicket in the next over for 119 before Ntini bowled Dwayne Smith for nought.

Sarwan equalled his previous highest Test score, made against Bangladesh in Dhaka in 2002/03, before he went back on his stumps against Pollock, played across the line and was adjudged lbw by umpire Srinivas Venkatraghavan. Replays suggested the ball would probably have gone over the top of the stumps.

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No play on Day Two

SPORTS REPORTER

The second day's play of the four-day Patron's Trophy match between Bangladesh A and Khan Research Laboratory (KRL) was washed out at the UBL ground in Karachi yesterday.

The second string national side were all out for 198 after deciding to bat in their last match on the opening day.

In reply, KRL had scored 11 runs without loss at stumps on Monday.

Schools cricket Lorretto, Uni Lab, Maple Leaf win

SPORTS REPORTER

Loretto School, University Laboratory School and Maple Leaf International School recorded victories in the Dhaka Zonal matches of the Standard Chartered 22nd National Schools Cricket Championship that began at different venues in the city yesterday.

Loretto defeated Motijheel Ideal School and College by two wickets at

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