

Corporate cricket Battle for Cup from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The second GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League resumes today at three venues with all 12 teams competing on the opening day of the second phase.

The six top teams of the first phase, which ended on Monday, play in the Cup competition while the bottom half vie for the consolation Plate group.

Each venue will host two matches, at 10 am and 1 pm.

GROUPING

CUP: RobinTex, AKTEL, CityCell, Araf, Biman and GrameenPhone. **PLATE:** Partex, Acme, Epyllion, BEXIMCO, Gazi Tank and Ispahani.

TODAY'S MATCHES

RobinTex v CityCell and Araf Apparels v GrameenPhone (Bangabandhu National Stadium); Partex v Epyllion and Biman v AKTEL (BKSP); BEXIMCO v Ispahani and Gazi Tank v Acme (Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium).

Chess Olympiad Mixed day for Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh men's team returned to winning ways after two rounds beating Mongolia 3-1 in the 36th Chess Olympiad at Calvia, Spain, on Tuesday.

After 11 rounds, Bangladesh pushed their tally to 23.5 points, thanks to International Master Reefat bin Sattar who inspired the side defeating Mongolian Grand Master Dashzeveg Sharavdorj.

IM Enamul Hossain Rajib beat Fide Master Erhembayar Duurenbayar while Sheikh Nasir Ahmed beat FM Zulzaga Byamba but IM Abdullah Al Rakib lost to GM Bazar Hatanbaatar.

The women's team, however, lost to Denmark 2-1. Shabana Parveen Nipa beat WIM Oksana Vovk but Bangladesh WIM Rani Hamid lost her board to WIM Evgenia Hansen. Denmark secured the victory when Miriam F Olsen beat Nazrana Khan Eva.



Did U Know?

The first flood light one-day match was played between Australia and West Indies at Sydney on November 27, 1979.



Moin Khan

(Pakistan wicketkeeper) "I am a fighter and will fight to take my place back because I have enough cricket left in me."



STAR Sports

Bangladesh vs New Zealand
Second Test, Day Three
Live at 9:20 am

DD Sports

India vs Australia
Third Test, Day Three
Live at 10:00 am

TEN Sports

Pakistan vs Sri Lanka
Second Test, Day One
Live at 11:00 am

ESPN

Football Crazy
Live at 5:00 pm
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm

'Tomorrow is vital'

RABEED IMAM from Chittagong



Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore was regretting the loss of Rajin Saleh in the last over of Day Two, but was still hopeful that something positive might come out of the second Test despite the fact that the Tigers need another 264 runs to avoid follow-on with seven wickets in hand.

"We would like to draw it and yes, it is possible. It's Day Three tomorrow and cracks might open up. But the pitch still should be okay. However, it will require some good, solid batting," said Whatmore at the end of the day.

"We lost three wickets which is not an ideal situation. It was very unfortunate to lose that last wicket.

The two boys (Nafees Iqbal and Aftab Ahmed) who got out before that were very young so in some ways they can be excused but that last wicket was very costly I think," the coach added.

Whatmore said that the unusually aggressive batting by opener Javed Omar, who cracked five fours in his 45 not out, was not part of the team plan but thought it was a positive move.

"The plan was to get a start and bat a long time. Javed was very confident today but the way he played was his personal strategy."

The Australian also justified the decision to send two 19-year-olds Nafees and Aftab to bat in the first three considering their potential.

"That's okay. We feel they have got potential. I understand that there would be some frustration with

inexperience but they are worthy of going through that frustration because they are going to be good players."

Whatmore thought that debutant Aftab was one for the future. "Some of the shots he played showed that he has got some class. He certainly got what it takes. He just needs to get it right in his head a bit more."

Stand-in skipper Khaled Mashud stressed on the need to remain aggressive without getting reckless.

"I would prefer the batsmen to be positive in their approach like Javed was today because going into a shell I believe will not be an ideal strategy for us. Javed has to carry on and he will need to find another reliable partner. Tomorrow is a vital day and we have to bat it out if we want to go for a draw."



PHOTO: STAR

PARTING SHOT: Akram Khan (L), who played for popular side Abahani for the last 14 years, signs for Old DOHS on the third and last day of the inter-club cricketers' transfer at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Akram, Abahani part ways



SPORTS REPORTER

Too much pressure on his ageing shoulders has forced Akram Khan to leave Abahani after 14 years. Akram, who joined the sky blues in the late 80s and only switched to Brothers Union for one season in the 1990-91 season before returning to the Dhanmondi outfit again, finally signed for Old DOHS yesterday.

The former national captain's joining the Premier League newcomers along with a score of big names was the highlight of the third and final day of the inter-club players' transfer at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

"Abahani have had not built strong teams in recent years.

Chasing the title with weak teams was becoming a burden for me towards the end of my career. I am just not physically or mentally fit enough to sustain this kind of pressure," said Akram who was in an emotional state of mind.

Trying to hide his pain, Akram said in a choked voice, "I have played so many years here that wherever I go, my heart will be with Abahani."

"I hope this will do good to Abahani in the future," added the dashing batsman from Chittagong who looked inseparable from the club despite getting lucrative offers from other local rivals in the past.

He also rejected speculations that he was leaving because of conflicts with club officials. "I have no complaints. If there is anything that hurts me, I want to keep those inside me."

"Taking the decision to join a

newcomer was not easy but I think it would be a great challenge for me. I was never short of commitment and I will try to give my hundred per cent for DOHS as well. We have a very good team."

Replying to a question, Akram said that he had yet to decide about retirement from domestic cricket.

Akram, who led Bangladesh to win the ICC Trophy in 1997, retired from international cricket last year.

Old DOHS spent enough money to create sensation in their first year in the top flight of local cricket, signing 15 cricketers including national pool's Hannan Sarkar, Faisal Hossain and pacer Nazmul Hossain and ex-internationals Al Shahriar, Enamul Haque, Hasibul Hossain and Sabbir Khan.

They have also roped in a bunch of promising cricketers, who are

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Club Cup hockey Abahani derail Railway

SPORTS REPORTER

Indian recruits Prakash Calke and Ronald Kiran shared six goals to help title contenders Abahani Krira Chakra brush aside Bangladesh Railway 7-0 in the Club Cup hockey tournament at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Abahani, who won their previous two matches comprehensively, fielded all three foreign signings from Bangalore and took a 3-0 lead in the first half.

Defender Ronald, who scored twice, opened the account from a penalty corner after seven minutes while forward Calke doubled the lead three minutes later with the first strike of a four-goal campaign on his Dhaka debut.

The only local player to score for the Sky Blues was national playmaker Musa Mia who made it 3-0 in the 18th minute.

In the embarrassingly one-sided Group B affair, Calke scored three and Ronald one inside last 17 minutes to seal the victory for the title contenders.

Abahani's group rivals Mariner Youngs Club also recorded their third consecutive victory blanking Ajax Sporting Club 3-0.

Issa Mia put Mariners ahead from a penalty corner in the fifth minute while striker Rafiqul Islam Kamal added another one minute later. Two minutes from time, Yusuf Ali increased the margin for the Arambagh outfit.

Bangladesh to take part in Kabadi WC

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Kabadi Federation (BKF) general secretary Munir Hossain believes the national kabadi team will not return from the Kabadi World Cup in empty hands.

The first World Cup will be held in Mumbai from November 19 to 21 with 13 countries confirming their participation so far.

"Preparations have been going on at the Outer Stadium kabadi court under coach Abdul Hakim," Munir Hossain told yesterday.

"We have 12 players in the residential camp. They are practising in morning and afternoon sessions on ground and mat as we still don't know what kind of surface will be used. We will pick 10 players for the World Cup but the remaining two will join the team for the test series against India after the competition," Munir informed.

Bangladesh will play six tests in India with the first match taking place in Ahmedabad on November 23. The other test matches will be held in Jaipur, Delhi, Bhopal, Muzaffarabad and Kolkata.

Munir Hossain added that they have asked for financial help (Tk 4 lakh) from the National Sports Council and have received Tk one lakh so far.

"We will try hard to put up a strong challenge against the Indians, the favourites to win the competition. Whatever the results are, we will not return empty handed."

Admitting his ignorance on non-Asian teams, the BKF general secretary said, "Every country needs time to improve their standard in any sport. As they traditionally don't play kabaddi, we can hope the title will remain in Asia."



PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

TYPICAL OF OMAR: Opener Javed Omar, who was not out on 45 last night, flicks one off his pads for four during Bangladesh's first innings on the second day of the second and final Test against New Zealand at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.



SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Chittagong

Constable Badiul never minds being posted on duty by the Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) at the MA Aziz Stadium. He is rather thankful to the CMP because, for a change, it gives Badiul an opportunity to enjoy a cricket match and a chance to have a glimpse of some of the game's big stars from close-range.

Badiul was on duty during the home series against South Africa, England and West Indies at the 82nd Test venue. But, each time his enthusiasm takes a hit with seeing the local boys perform poorly.

"I love Bangladesh and always wish the national cricket team performs well. But having seen quite a few games here my observation is that most of the players are not committed enough. They take their position in the team for granted and that's why I think they always under-perform much to the disappointment of the nation," said the policeman, who however hoped that the Tigers would do something special against New Zealand in this match.

BORED OF BATTING

Two students of City College student Imran and Irfan can be

SERIES SALAD

described as patriots in every sense.

They came to the stadium yesterday morning expecting that Bangladesh would be invited by New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming to bat after lunch. Then they could watch local boy Nafees Iqbal open the innings. But after waiting till 1.30pm the expected declaration never came and that was enough for the pair, who left the venue in sheer disgust. As they departed they expressed their frustration at the monotonous batting by the tourists.

"The Kiwis really tested our patience by unnecessarily batting beyond the lunch session. Hopefully, we will be back here tomorrow to watch our boys fight back," said Imran before heading home.

THE BELLES ARE MISSING

In the past, a large number of female fans used to seen at MA Aziz Stadium. They added a lot of colour and spice during a cricket match. But surprisingly, it is not happening this time against New Zealand.

A game either against India or Pakistan brought ladies of all ages into the ground. Even when West

Indies and England toured here, the presence of female supporters was very strong.

"Perhaps unlike India or Pakistan, New Zealand don't have any individual cricketers, who can woo the crowd," said Tania, who was one of the few female supporters seated in the pavilion.

Tania also said that she had no such prejudice and always loved to come to stadium whenever an international match was being played.

JFA Cup football Barguna, Rajshahi advance

SPORTS REPORTER

Barguna and Rajshahi moved into the semifinals of the JFA Cup under-16 football tournament from Group A yesterday.

Barguna emerged group champions with a 3-0 win over Jamalpur at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur. Sagir scored twice and Rezaul one for Barguna, who finished on seven points. They will face Group B runners-up Narshingdi in the first semifinal on October 29.

Group A winners Feni will take on Rajshahi in the second semifinal on October 30.

Rajshahi drew 1-1 with Narayanganj in yesterday's first match. Palash shot the north-Bengal side ahead in the 70th minute but Sohul equalised two minutes later. Rajshahi, also undefeated in the tournament, ended on five points.

The final will be played on November 1.

BANGLADESH-NZ SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the second day of the second and final Test between Bangladesh and New Zealand at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on Wednesday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 338-3)				
Richardson c Mushfiq b Enamul	28			
Sinclair b Rafique	23			
Fleming c Mushfiq b Saleh	202			
Styris c and b Rafique	89			
Astle lbw b Rafique	39			
Marshall c Baisya b Enamul	69			
Oram not out	38			
McCullum not out	17			
Extras: (b-9, lb-11, w-2, nb-18)	40			
Total: (For 6 wkts decl in 152 overs)	545			
Fall of wickets: 1-49, 2-61, 3-265, 4-364, 5-447, 6-517				
Did not bat: Vettori, Franklin, Wiseman				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Baisya	17	0	82	0
Mushfiq	15	1	68	0

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PHOTO: AP

MEAN McGrATH: Australia fast bowler Glenn McGrath, who is playing in his 100th Test, follows through on a delivery on the second day of the third Test against India at Nagpur yesterday. McGrath already took 2 wickets for 18 runs.