

## FEDERATION CUP Abahani-MSC clash today

SPORTS REPORTER

Ailing local giants Abahani and Mohammedan meet for the first time this season in the last match of Group-B in the Federation Cup today.

The traditional prestige match between the two archrivals, who were eliminated from the semifinal stage in the recently concluded Independence Day Cup, will kick off at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 6pm.

Mohammedan have already secured their place in the semis with six points but Abahani, on four points, face the prospect of elimination if they lose.

Wanderers Club will come into the equation if they can beat Arambagh Krira Sangha in the day's first match and in that case, Abahani will need a draw to reach the knock-out stage.

The Black and Whites can afford to relax before going into the clash but Mohammed Panir, who shares the Mohammedan coaching duties with Saiful Bari Titu, felt an Abahani-Mohammedan game is always a tense affair.

"We could have relaxed against any other team. But against Abahani, it is always a prestige issue," said Panir.

Mohammedan will field two foreign recruits - Guinea defender Scylla and Liberian forward Dolly

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Emily of Brothers Union (L) finds the Fakirerpool net during their Tibet 20th Federation Cup tournament clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Sunday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Lucky Reds, blazing BU

SPORTS REPORTER



Holders Mukti Joddha Sangsad confirmed their semifinal berth after surviving a torrid time against the youthful Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra while Group Arivals Brothers Union brightened their chances of reaching the last four of the Tibet 20th Federation Cup on Sunday.

Brothers crushed Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool 5-0 in the first match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium but the Muktis had to struggle before edging Sheikh Russel 2-1 under lights at the same venue.

The Reds lead the group with maximum six points while Brothers, who drew 1-1 with Sheikh Russel in their opener, have four points with the mouth-watering clash with the Muktis left. A draw from that encounter, which is due on Tuesday, would carry Brothers through.

### MUKTIJODDHA-SHEIKH RUSSEL

Nigerian striker Paul Nwakwuchu scored either side of the break as Mukti Joddha came from a goal down to snatch full points.

But it was Abu Yusuf's charges

who dominated the whole show. Playing a flowing passing game, Sheikh Russel had most of the possession but poor finishing from their forwards let them down.

Inspirational Moroccan duo Rashid and captain Egr Mohammed kept the Muktis defence under constant threat and the pressure finally told after 28 minutes when Tanvir scored from a rebound. Rashid's drive from the top of the box was partially blocked by goalkeeper Aminul but a lurking Tanvir was there to tap the ball home.

Rashid was then twice denied by the Mukti Joddha defence. Against the run of play, Paul then equalised. The prolific Nigerian forward shrugged off his marker Deen Mohammed following a through from Moni before placing the ball past goalkeeper Biplab four minutes before the breather.

With Sheikh Russel remaining wasteful in the second half, it was almost inevitable that the superior experience of the Reds would hurt them. And Paul confirmed that eight minutes from time with a poacher's finish. To rub salt in Russel's wound, the referee showed Tanvir a red card seconds before the final whistle.

**BROTHERS -**

YOUNGMEN'S

Russian striker Victor Edwards struck twice while Emily, Abul and Liton Khan added the rest in an embarrassingly one-sided affair.

Brothers, who had failed to advance to the last four of the Federation Cup last season, went ahead 11 minutes into the game when Victor swung left-footed freekick from 25 yards into Youngmen's keeper Sumon's left hand post.

Emily made it 2-0 on the half hour when the young striker placed the ball into the far corner after a solo run down the left.

Victor converted a 49th minute penalty after Parvez Babu was fouled by Ismail inside the box. It was the Youngmen's defender's last act of the match as he was sent-off for his second bookable offence.

Down to ten men, Youngmen's haplessly gave away two more goals with midfielder Abul and substitute Liton Khan sharing the honours.

But there was bad news for Brothers ahead of tomorrow's big match against Mukti Joddha. Moroccan midfielder Hicham Inani suffered a bad looking ankle injury and had to be carried out of the ground on a stretcher early in the first half.

## Barisal last no more



SPORTS REPORTER

The curtain of the Ispahani Sixth National Cricket League fell yesterday but not before Barisal shrugged off their tag as perennial bottomers in the first-class competition involving six divisions.

Barisal's five-wicket victory over Chittagong on their home ground in the tenth and final round meant they finished fifth ahead of Sylhet, who suffered a nine-wicket defeat against Rajshahi at the Sylhet Stadium on the final day.

It was Barisal's only second outright victory in ten games, improving their tally to 22 points, four points clear from Sylhet. It was quite an improvement for the southern division after the first five editions, where they finished last.

While Barisal hogged the spotlight for a second successive day after left-arm spinner Mosharaf Hossain Rubel captured nine wickets on Saturday - a first-class bowling record - champions Dhaka scored a satisfying draw against Khulna after they had ensured the title for a second successive year in the previous round.

### BARISAL-CHITTAGONG

Needed 185 more runs with eight wickets in hand, Barisal conquered the former champions thanks to two priceless half centuries by Towhid Hossain and Prasenjit Bose. Towhid struck a fine 79 off 171 balls with the help of a dozen fours while Prasenjit Bose scored a 116-ball 84 (4x15) as Barisal, resuming the day on 82-2, raced to 272-5 in 75.1 overs.

Ali Arman gave the finishing touch with an unbeaten 37 off 42 balls.

While dismissing suggestions that his aggressive style of batting was being copied by batsmen like Virender Sehwag and Shahid Afridi.

Chittagong pacesman Gazi Alamgir captured three wickets for 57 runs. The man-of-the-match award however went to Mosharaf for his record breaking figures of 109-9.

### SYLHET-RAJSHAH

Alamgir Kabir finished a successful competition with a five-wicket haul to steer runners-up Rajshahi to an

emphatic nine-wicket victory against Sylhet.

The out of favour national pacesman took 5-26 as Sylhet, resuming the day on 69-6, were bundled out for 103, leaving Rajshahi with a simple task of scoring 124 that they whipped up in 25 overs.

Jahurul Islam and Moniruzzaman put on 79 runs for the opening stand before Moniruzzaman became the lone casualty after making 45 off 49 balls. Jahurul remained not out on 52 off 83 balls that featured four boundaries. Alamgir's five-wicket burst raised his tournament tally to 45 from nine matches while Sylhet left-arm spinner Nabil Samad finished second with 35 wickets from ten games.

### KHULNA-DHAKA

Monirul Islam slammed his maiden first-class century as Khulna declared their second innings for 274-3 at the Khulna Divisional Stadium.

The one-down batsman scored an unbeaten 118 off 195 balls while Sajjadul Hasan contributed 59 and Sahagir Hossain added 61 after Khulna had resumed their second essay on the final day at 57-1.

Chasing an improbable 296-run winning target in 32 overs, Dhaka never chased it and eventually finished on 102-2 before both captains agreed to end the match.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**KHULNA-DHAKA**  
KHULNA: First innings 351 and second innings 274 for 3 dec (Sajjadul 59, Monirul 118 not out, Sahagir 61, Arafat 2-56).

**DHAKA:** First innings 330 and second innings 102 for 2 (Jahangir 33, Arafat 25 not out).

**Result: Match drawn.**

**SYLHET-RAJSHAH**  
SYLHET: First innings 370 and second innings 103 all out (Sadekur 22, Kapali 19; Alamgir 5-29, Shahjada 2-23, Zubaier 2-19).

**RAJSHAH:** First innings 350 and second innings 127 for 1 (Zohurul 52 not out, Moniruzzaman 45, Reza 20 not out).

**Result: Rajshahi won by nine wickets.**

**BARISAL-CHITTAGONG**  
CHITTAGONG: First innings 230 and second innings 325.

**BARISAL:** First innings 286 and second innings 272 for 5 (Nasiruddin 24, Towhid 79, Proshenjit 84, Ali Arman 37 not out; Alamgir 3-57).

**Result: Barisal won by five wickets.**

### POINTS TABLE

Team	M	W	DLd	DLs	L	No-result	Pts
Dhaka	10	4	3	2	0	1	43
Rajshahi	10	4	4	0	2	-	40
Khulna	10	2	2	4	2	-	28
Chittagong	10	2	2	2	3	1	27
Barisal	10	2	1	3	4	-	22
Sylhet	10	0	2	4	3	1	18

## Tendulkar turns 32

PTI, Mumbai

Indian batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar turned 32 on Sunday and as in the past, celebrated his birthday quietly outside the city with his wife Anjali and two children.

The right-hander, who protects his privacy intensely and doesn't allow any intrusion into it, held his birthday celebrations with his close family members and friends at an undisclosed location outside Mumbai, it was learnt.

He had modest success with the bat in his 31st year and the prayers of his well-wishers on his birthday were for more success for him as well as the Indian team whose fortunes have also taken a hit of late.

Tendulkar and India are next scheduled to play triangular limited-overs international series in Sri Lanka in August.

## Mohammedan is not paying Kang

SPORTS REPORTER

Korean coach Man Young Kang has yet to receive his salary from Mohammedan Sporting Club even after being sacked by the popular club last month.

Mohammedan sacked Kang on March 28 after the club found his services unsatisfactory but the Korean has been waiting to receive his salary for nearly a month.

"I have been waiting in Dhaka for nearly four weeks and I am in grave trouble now," Kang told The Daily Star Sport over phone yesterday.

"They have taken back the car I have been using and they have served me a notice that I have to leave the house I am staying in by this month. I have no money and where shall I go now?" asked the

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## Proteas pile on the runs



AFP, Bridgetown

South Africa lost their way on Friday but they batted themselves into an impregnable position on the third day of the third Test against West Indies here on Saturday.

Four wickets, two to fast bowler Daren Powell with the third new ball, left South Africa on 521 for eight, replying to the West Indies' first innings total of 296, when stumps were drawn.

For most of the day, South Africa's batsmen plundered the West Indies' bowling, but the home team stuck to their guns, and it all began to unravel for the visitors in the evening period when four wickets fell for 61 runs.

After South Africa resumed from their tea position of 417 for four, West Indies started to work their way back into the match when left-hander Ashwell Prince was caught at slip for 23 off one of Chris Gayle's off-spin darts.

A further period of resistance from the unflappable Jacques Kallis and Mark Boucher saw South Africa get to within sight of the 500-run mark, but an inspired bowling change from Shivnarine Chanderpaul brought the breakthrough.

Kallis, on the backfoot, looking to drive an awkwardly bouncing delivery from Wavell Hinds was caught at slip for 78. He batted for close to four hours and struck four fours from 154 balls.

Four overs later, West Indies claimed their third new ball and Powell did the trick. He bowled Mark Boucher for 28, when the batsman dragged a short-of-a-length delivery into his stumps, and had Monde Zondeki caught at mid-off for two.

Although South Africa had things literally their way, the West Indies

battled gamely. They bowled tirelessly, fielded brilliantly most of the time, and kept up a good work rate that would have pleased their demanding coach Bennett King.

The first signs of their turnaround came quite fortuitously just prior to lunch, when Boeta Dippenaar was run out for 71, failing

to beat substitute fielder Dwayne Smith's direct hit at the bowler's end from short fine leg.

Dippenaar hit half-dozen fours and one six from 158 balls in close to 3-1/4 hours and added 143 for the second wicket with Abraham de Villiers.

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South Africa opener Abraham de Villiers follows through on a copybook cover drive on the third day of the third Test against West Indies at Barbados on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

## SA declare on 548-9

REUTERS, Bridgetown

South Africa declared their first innings closed on 548 for nine in reply to the West Indies' first innings of 296 on the fourth day of the third Test in Bridgetown on Sunday.

## CRICKET AT BNS Former board officials join campaign

SPORTS REPORTER

The quest for bringing cricket back to Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) continued as former cricket board officials joined the ongoing campaign that was initiated by cricketers and officials.

Criticising the government's decision to move to Mirpur from the BNS, ten former board presidents and secretaries jointly signed a statement yesterday demanding the return of cricket to the premier venue which virtually earned the nation Test status.

The signatories are Raisuddin Ahmed, Aminul Haque Moni, Mojibur Rahman, Tanveer Mazhar Islam, MN Taher, Reza-E-Karim, Muzaffar Hossain Paltu, M Akmal Husain, Anisul Islam Mahmud and Saber Hossain Chowdhury.



Bangladesh cricketers stretch prior to their practice session at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium on Sunday. The cricketers go to Cox's Bazaar today for a day out before they return to their base in the port city on Tuesday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Aussies almost ready



AGENCIES, undated

Captain Ricky Ponting claims Australia's battle plans for this summer's Ashes series against England are almost complete.

Australia are scheduled to meet Michael Vaughan's side in five Tests as they look to retain the urn they last lost in 1987, and Ponting revealed preparations are at an advanced stage.

"We are pretty well organised with our plans. We had it worked out for India probably six months before we got there and we have a fair idea of how we want to play and how England are going to play this time around," Ponting told Sydney's Daily Telegraph newspaper on Sunday.

The opening Test between the two countries is scheduled to start on July 21 at Lord's, and Ponting is keen for his side to hit the ground running.

"If we get it right early in the tour and we play as well as we can in the first Test I think they are going to find it very hard," said the Tasmanian, who is looking forward to rapid return to England following his brief stint with Somerset last season.

"The anticipation is here for everybody. All of us will be thinking

about it a lot - there's no doubt the English players will be thinking about it a lot.

"It has been building up for 12-15 months. I was over there at this time last year playing county cricket and they were talking about it even then. The build-up is huge."

Ponting also shrugged off thoughts that if things go wrong he could be the first Australian captain to lose the Ashes for almost two decades.

"They're petrified of Warne, absolutely scared of him," Hogg said.

"He's got such a bluff over them that he's already got wickets before he comes on to bowl, as soon as he's driving to the ground he's got wickets against them."

Hogg said Flintoff, who is yet to play a Test against Australia, was vulnerable against quality leg-spin and was susceptible to Warne's stock delivery which drifts into a right-hander before spinning away.

"I think Ponting should bring Warne on against Flintoff straight away, no matter what the score is, as soon as he walks through the gate," Hogg said.

"Flintoff has got the potential to be the next Cullinan... really, he'll be absolutely shellshocked."

Warne is Test cricket's leading wicket-taker with 583 in 123 matches.

Former Australian fast bowler Rodney Hogg on Friday said, England were 'petrified' of

RICKY PONTING



## Did U Know?

Gymnastics for men were included in the 1896 Olympic Games and for women began 40 years later.



### Vivian Richards

(West Indies cricket legend)

"Viv Richards is Viv Richards. I will not compare myself with anyone. When I was playing I took inspiration from others, but never aped anyone. Each player has his own style."

While dismissing suggestions that his aggressive style of batting was being copied by batsmen like Virender Sehwag and Shahid Afridi.

## What to WATCH

### TEN Sports

West Indies vs South Africa  
Third Test, Day Five  
Live at 8:00 pm

### ESPN

Sportscentre  
Live at 8:30 pm  
English Premier Football League  
Arsenal vs Tottenham Hotspur  
Live at 12:55 am (Tuesday)

### STAR Sports

Primera Liga  
Malaga vs Barcelona  
Same Day Delay at 10:30 am  
Sportsline  
Live at 8:00 pm



### Federation Cup Football

Arambagh vs Dhaka Wanderers (4-00 pm)  
Mohammedan vs Abahani (6:00 pm)  
Venue: BNS