



PHOTO: STAR

Muktijodha goalkeeper Aminul grips the ball before Brothers Union's Victor could head during their Premier Bank Premier Football League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Monday.



## Did U Know?

Bangladesh (139) recorded their third lowest against Australia, next only to 105 at Cairns in 2003 and 129 at Colombo in 2002-03.



## Carlos Alberto Parreira

(Brazil soccer coach)  
"People in Brazil have been asking for Adriano for three years and he has had good and not so good moments but he has always had my trust."

## What to WATCH

**ESPN**  
England vs Australia (D/N)  
NatWest Tri-Series  
Live at 7:30 pm

**STAR Sports**  
Wimbledon Championships  
Round of 16  
Live at 5:00 pm

## DAY'S EVENT

**Premier Football League**  
Mohammedan vs Farashganj SC  
(5:00 pm)  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

# Brothers leave Reds red-faced

SPORTS REPORTER

A dazzling second-half display helped Brothers Union come back from a goal down to crush fellow title contenders Muktijodha Sangsad 3-1 in yesterday's Premier Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The defending champions turned the tide against Muktijodha with two goals from Emily after substitute Tapu had cancelled Arman Mia's strike for the Reds in an otherwise dull first half.

Brothers pushed their collection to 16 points with their fifth win while Muktijodha, who suffered their second loss, remained stuck to 13 after seven games.

With the monsoon beginning to settle in, it was perhaps the best of conditions to play a football match since the start of the league but both the giants failed to shine before a small crowd.

Coming to the crucial game on the back of a 1-0 loss to Arambagh and a goalless draw against

Mohammedan, the defending champions started cautiously. Still, they created two half chances midway through the first half. First, Russian striker Victor pushed the ball wide from the top of the box after beating goalkeeper Aminul following a through from Abul. The top scorer of last season, who was on the verge of being dropped from the starting line-up before the game because of poor form, put his freekick on target minutes later but Aminul punched the ball out of his line thus denying Victor a first goal of the season.

Muktijodha, who blanked Abahani 2-0 in their last match, looked unimpressive without key players Jeremiah, Hassan Al Mamun and Kanchan but took the lead against the run of play after 33 minutes when Arman stunned young goalkeeper Tarek from 30 yards. The wily national midfielder picked the ball in a seemingly harmless position but his powerful right footer skidded past Tarek at his near post taking a wicked bounce on the slippery pitch.

But Muktijodha paid dearly for coach Shafiqul Islam Manik's play to contain the lead with an eight-man

defense. On the otherhand, his counterpart Wajed Gazi realised that Montu was not a proper replacement for injured Masud Rana in the three-man central defence. The veteran coach promptly switched to a flat-four backline pushing Liton into midfield replacing Montu and it worked magic.

Emily almost equalised two minutes after the break but having shrugged off both of his markers, the youngster blasted his shot over the bar.

The men in orange pressed hard but had to wait for another substitution to bring them back in the match. Tapu, who replaced Khokon in the 62nd minute, levelled the score two minutes later with his first touch on the ball, toe-poking a right-flank cross by Liton into the far post.

Aminul was working overtime and denied efforts by Victor and Liton before giving up in the 71st minute. The national number one custodian was rooted to the ground when Emily, completely unmarked at his near post, nodded home a centre by rightback Siraji after a quickly taken corner by Liton.

The show was yet to be over and

## Victoria drop valuable points

SPORTS REPORTER

Title contenders Victoria Sporting Club wasted a chance to climb up to the second place when they shared points with bottom-table Dhanmondi Club after a goalless draw in the First Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

After the day's outcome Victoria improved their tally to 15 points from nine matches but stuck to fourth place, just behind the promotion zone for Premier League, while Dhanmondi secured four points from an equal number of outings.

## Balaji looks forward to Pak tour

PTI, Bangalore

Seamer Laxmipathy Balaji, who shone during India's historic series to Pakistan early last year, is looking forward to a face-off with the arch-rivals again and Sri Lanka in the challenging environs this season.

"I am looking forward to the tri-series in Sri Lanka, and also the Pakistan tour which will be challenging," the Tamil Nadu medium-pacer told reporters before the

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PHOTO: AFP

Mary Pierce of France plays a backhand against Flavia Pennetta of Italy at the Wimbledon Championships in London yesterday

# Hoping for an enjoyable finish

Cricket

AL-AMIN from Leeds

Bangladesh captain Habibur Bashar did not feel like attending the press conference after suffering yet another defeat against England at Headingley here on Sunday.

Rather he sent a very enthusiastic Javed Omar, who struck 81 in Bangladesh's lost cause, along with fitness trainer Stuart Karpinen whose presence was part of protocol.

It was not that he did want to face those malevolent questions, which has been as frequent as the demoralising defeats.

The five-wicket defeat on Sunday meant a predictable white-wash for Bangladesh against England who had earlier won the two-Test series inside three days before recording a third straight victory in the triangular one-day series in the most convincing fashion.

Those performances deeply hurt the 32-year-old, who had a muted desire of defeating England at least once in the one-day series.

"No doubt our victory against Australia was one of the finest moments and I will cherish it for the rest of my life. But I would have got more pleasure had we beaten England once in the one-dayers," said Bashar on Sunday night.

Beating England on their own soil is a near impossible task for a team ranked bottom of the ten-team table, especially with the current run

of form of Michael Vaughan's side. And this is for the first time England realistically stand a chance to reclaim the Ashes this summer after eight futile attempts.

But Bashar, who has come a long way to bury the debate that on how good a captain he would make after taking over from Khaled Mahmud, said that his team had a good chance to test the English nerves had they put up a total between 240-250.

"I was really upset when I got out cheaply. Had I been there till the final over we could have posted a decent total. The wicket did a lot for the spinners and if we could put a total beyond 240 it would have been a good contest," remarked Bashar adding that he should have attended the press briefing in the absence of coach Dav Whatmore.

The absence of Whatmore, who flew to Melbourne to be with his ailing father a day before the England game, was a major test for the most successful Bangladesh captain and he has done fairly a good job both on and off the field.

It was just not that he won a good toss, his first success with the coin, at

Headingley but he also read the pitch well and more importantly decided to retain two spinners.

"I told 'chacha' (Khaled Mahmud) to mentally get ready for the game against England as we boarded the bus from Manchester to Leeds. But after seeing the wicket in the morning I decided against it. That was my first challenge without Whatmore and I was quite excited with first solo

venture," exclaimed Bashar. He might present you a boyish smile and his body language might not be aggressive, but when it comes to talking about cricket Bashar is damn serious.

Javed Omar top-scored in Bangladesh's total of 208. But ask Bashar how good the innings was, you would be surprised.

"If someone is asked to keep one end up that does not necessarily mean it has to be done just to serve that purpose only. It is always good to push a single here and there and once you are doing that it releases pressure on the other batsman on the other side," remarked the Bangladesh captain.

His harsh remark has however nothing to do with the effort Javed has been putting for the team over the years; it was more to do with a change of attitude. Gone are the days when a total beyond 200 was considered an achievement.

"I'm happy that (Mohammad) Ashraful scored consistently. But it was his attitude and hard work that impressed me most. There are also a few batsmen in the side who are capable of playing good cricket and once we can combine those efforts we will always stand a chance of beating any team in every five games," he said.

He also put the three defeats against England into perspective.

"The two England openers actually made all the difference. They batted so freely against us in the first 15 overs that we lost the plot by that time. It was not that we are bad bowlers but it was their carefree

attitude even against some good bowling that they dared to do against Australia.

"I feel bad for Mashrafe. He is my top bowler and is doing the hard work everyday. But he is not getting wickets. He deserved more than what he got.

"It is unfortunate that we do not have a bowler of his calibre to put pressure on opponents. He bowled a maiden but in the next over was taken for nine runs. It eventually reduced the pressure on their batsman. I don't want to say that Tapash and Nazmul are bad bowlers. They are also good but obviously lacked the bite and consistency."

He was happy with the performance of Shahriar Nafees.

"He played three games. He looks a quality player to me. But he tries to play too many strokes. He checked his shots in the second match that's why he scored runs. But in the third game he was selective and looked more aggressive after getting some runs in second game. And that's why he lost his wicket early.

"It's too early to say whether he has got a career ahead of him or not. But it's nice to have a left-hander in the top-order. We have always given undue promotions whenever a young player plays a good knock and then never repeats it. All we can say for now is Shahriar has a bright future ahead of him if only he scores consistently in at least two series."

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## It will not be standard ODI, says Sachin

PTI, Mumbai

It will not be a standard one-day game henceforth following the introduction of new experimental rules from next month and teams and captains will have to chalk out new plans, Sachin Tendulkar said on Monday.

"It will not be a standard one-day game with the introduction of the new rules," the ace Indian batsman told reporters here.

"I don't know how different it will be (following the introduction of new rules), but the captains and teams will have to sit down and chalk out plans to introduce an element of surprise. Plenty of planning would be needed," Tendulkar said during a promotional campaign here for Airtel.

"We (the teams) will have to play a couple of games (before gauging the exact impact of the changes)," said the ace batsman who is recuperating from an elbow surgery undergone late last month in London.

The ICC has announced that as an experiment it will allow a soccer-like substitution rule by which a replacement can be introduced at any stage of a one-day game who can bat and bowl, apart from field.

In another experiment introduced from next month, there would be field restrictions for the first ten overs and then for two other blocks of five to be decided by the fielding side captain.

## WIMBLEDON

## Leading ladies move into qtrs

REUTERS, London

Russian defending champion Maria Sharapova enjoyed a sun-soaked stroll into the Wimbledon quarterfinals on Monday.

French pair Amelie Mauresmo and the revitalised Mary Pierce also coasted through to the last eight on a frantic day of action with all 16 fourth-round singles matches being played.

Second seed Sharapova prevented Nathalie Dechy joining her French compatriots with a 6-4, 6-2 victory on Court One, her fourth consecutive straight sets win.

Third seed Mauresmo, a semifinalist on her last two Wimbledon visits, overcame a wobbly start to beat Russian Elena Likhovtseva 6-4, 6-0.

Pierce was a surprise French Open finalist earlier this month and she brushed aside Italian Flavia Pennetta 6-3, 6-1 to reach her first Wimbledon quarterfinal since 1996.

Twice former winner Venus Williams avenged her sister Serena's shock third-round loss to fellow American Jill Craybas by thrashing the 30-year-old 6-0, 6-2.



PHOTO: AFP

Argentine striker Luciano Figueroa (L) watches his attempt going through the legs of Mexican goalkeeper Oswaldo Sanchez (R) towards the goal at Hannover on Sunday.

# The ultimate final

REUTERS, Hannover



Cup final after beating Mexico 6-5 on penalties in the semi-final on Sunday.

A poor match which ended 1-1 after a hugely disappointing 120 minutes, flickered briefly into life at the very end of normal time with a double dismissal -- and finally tipped Argentina's way in the shoot-out after the first 10 penalties were all converted.

Argentina will now face Brazil for the second time this month after beating them 3-1 on June 8 to qualify for the World Cup finals back in Germany next year.

They gained the initiative on Sunday after Mexican defender Ricardo Osorio missed the 11th penalty when Argentina keeper German Lux saved low to his right. That meant if Argentina scored with their next effort they were through.

Esteban Cambiasso duly obliged with a well-struck shot to give them victory after Mexico had finally broken the deadlock in the 104th minute.

Carlos Salcido scored after a solo run from the halfway line down the left, evading two tackles before curling home a well-executed shot.

His shot took a deflection off Argentina's Fabricio Coloccini, jeered every time he touched the

ball after a wild challenge laid out Ramon Morales after 69 minutes which earned the shaggy-haired defender an immediate yellow card.

But six minutes later Luciano Figueroa equalised for Argentina, doing well to control the ball which appeared to be running behind him, and then forcing in a shot from close

range which squirmed past the defenders and goalkeeper Oswaldo Sanchez and just went over the line.

That was his fourth goal of the competition, putting him top of the scorer's list with Australian John Aloisi.

Both teams finished the scrappy

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