

Black & Whites resist YMC attack

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan stayed on top of the Premier ior Division Football League Football League but not before some hiccups in yesterday's match against Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool.

Captain Alfaz Ahmed set up late goals for Peter Odaf and Manju to inspire the Black and Whites to overcome a first-half deficit and edge their neighbours 2-1 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium

Mohammedan, who drew their previous match 1-1 against old-day rivals Dhaka Wanderers, raised their collection to 30 points with their ninth victory at the start of the 12th round while Youngmen's remain stuck third from bottom with seven points.

In a very ordinary first half, Kamal's schoolboy-like goalkeeping cost Mohammedan the lead when Baten's feeble shot went through the legs of the rookie custodian.

It was the first shot on goal in the match that broke the 40-minute

deadlock when Youngmen's forward Baten, taking a through from Robin, saw his low drive from the edge of the area slip through Kamal's buttered gloves and cross the line.

Mohammedan spent more nervous moments when their backline was tested constantly early in the second half by the rival youngsters.

Robin had a golden chance to make it 2-0 four minutes after the break when he exchanged passes with Baten to get inside the danger zone but the Youngmen's skipper's volley rattled the crossbar to relieve the full-house Mohammedan stand.

Kamal, who stood under the bar for an unwell first-choice Biplab, then made amends for his gaffe by pulling off a couple of superb saves from close range shots by Baten and Rajan in the next 15 minutes.

The table-toppers got the right wake up call and Alfaz's 66-minute freekick from the right flank was superbly turned into an equaliser by the towering Nigerian centre-back Odaf, who rose above the opposition defenders to nod home his second

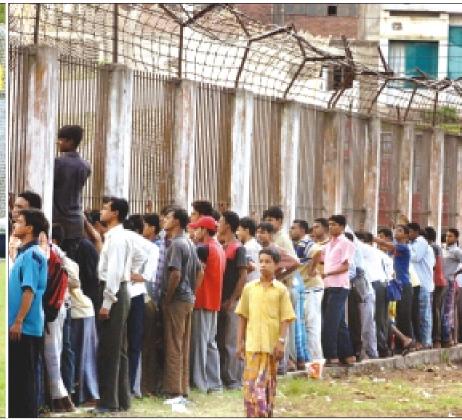
league goal.

Despite the odd counter-attack the Fakirerpool boys, Mohammedan dominated the rest of the show and Asad and Khokon failed to hit the mark inside from the box from goalmouth melee.

Alfaz, who exploited wide gaps at the right flank to release a series of centres, helped Manju score in the 80th minute with an exquisite flick on a low cross but the goal was ruled out for offside. However, it took three more minutes for the same pair to provide the match-winner with a replay of the Mohammedan skipper's previous pass.

This time Manju had Mamun marking him but the striker, whose first time shot rebounded off the Youngmen's fullback, shrugged the challenge from the onrushing goalkeeper to place an angular shot into SEE PAGE 13 COL 1





WELCOME TO MIRPUR: (R) Cricket fans of Mirpur are excited at their first sight of national cricket stars as they watch the Tigers train from outside the boundary fencing of the indoor facility. (L) Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar. Mohammad Ashraful and Mohammad Rafique warm-up inside the training area.

BD A-Lancs 1-dayer today

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The visiting Bangladesh A team will take on Lancashire in a limited-

The second-string Bangladesh British Universities by two wickets while the second limited-overs game against Hampshire was

one-day game against Durham besides three three-day games.

Russel suspend

a 10-match suspension on their Mahmud Apel for under-perfor-ming

League match against Abahani. Abahani came from behind to heat Russel 2-1 with two late goals and later Russel officials claimed that Apel conceded both goals 'intention-

and condemned Abahani fans for the unprovoked attack on their Moroccan Buriuga after the game.

Apel was banned for the entire served a two-match ban.

"I was thrown out of the camp this made against me are false," said Apel.

N'gani chess team wins them all

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Narayanganj City Chess Club won all their matches on the tour of Tripura in India. The Dhaka first division chess team blanked Tripura University team and Bilonia Chess Association 4-0 in Agartala and defeated the Tripura Chess Academy Green and Red teams 5-0 and 2.5-1.5 respectively.

National women's champions Shamima Akhter Liza, Mohammed Shamim, Arman Monir and Mohammed Ali played for the Narayanganj outfit

Sanaul made ATF director

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Tennis Federation general secretary Mohammed Sanaul Hoque was elected a director of the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) on Friday.

Anil Khanna of India was elected president at the general meeting of the ATF in Bangkok.

The other nine directors are: Zhang Xiao-Ning (China), Suwat Liptapanlop (Thailand), Koji Watanabe (Japan), Rustam Shoabdurakhmanov (Uzbekistan), Dong Kil Cho (South Korea), Chau-Fan Su (Chinese Taipei). Suresh Subramanium (Sri Lanka), Syed Dilawar Abbas (Pakistan) and Majid Al Mandhary (Oman).



overs game today at Liverpool.

lost their first one-day match against

The visitors, who are playing after a three-day gap, will play one more

captain Apel

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra imposed goalkeeper and captain Rakib n Saturday's Premier Football

The club also decided to fine Apel recruits Egir Mohammed and Majid

first-leg for his misbehaviour with coach Abu Yusuf. However, they needed him back after regular keeper Khaled Azam Biplab was sent off and

While talking to reporters on phone, Apel denied any involvement in the match against Abahani.

year twice. I have never misbehaved with the coach and they brought me back because they needed me. I am not fully fit and that is why I conceded those goals. I have never thrown any match in my life and the allegations

late on, Dravid remained at the crease to steer India to victory. **SCOREBOARD** Scoreboard of the Indian Oil Cup

assured the win.

off Best.

thing to defend.

24 apiece after Deonarine's depar-

ture to at least give their side some-

danger of failing to reach the target

even when Sehwag was trapped

Ibw by Jermaine Lawson with just

at the crease by Raina, and the pair

put on a run-a-ball partnership of 65

before Kaif was caught by Joseph

the bowling of Dwayne Smith before

Dravid and Yuvraj Singh virtually

Raina followed moments later off

Although Yuvraj lost his wicket

three runs on the board.

India, though, rarely looked in

Mohammad Kaif was then joined

victim in what was Harbhajan's 100th one-day international Despite the fall of wickets.

succumbing to Sehwag

Ramdin, who rewarded that faith with knocks of 41 and 24 respec-

Mohammedan's Nigerian defender Peter Odaf (2nd L) heads past Youngmen's goalkeeper Shiplu (L) to equalise in

their Premier Football League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Sunday.

India bounce back

After a slight rain delay, though, their teammates at the top of the order struggled -- the Windies crumbing to 32-3 after 13 overs before settling with the help of Deonarine and Chanderpaul.

The pair put on 52 for the fourth wicket before Chanderpaul was trapped Ibw by Suresh Raina, who had earlier run out Sylvester Joseph, and Ricardo Powell followed three balls later after being bowled by Sehwag.

That paved the way for a blisteringly brief knock from Dwavne Smith, who hit two sixes en route to 20 runs off seven balls.

But his blitz ended abruptly when he was caught by Mahendra Dhoni to become Harbhaian's second

Deonarine managed to stay at the crease until the 42nd over before

Tino Best and Ramadin gave

West Indies a boost at the end with

match between India and the West Indies at the Rangiri Stadium in Dambulla on Sunday: WESTINDIES Marshall c Dravid b Harbhajan 26 Morton Ibw b Pathan Joseph run out

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BBC ONLINE, Dambulla

majority of their first-team players.

West Indies were reduced to 178

Spinning duo Harbhajan Singh

all out, a total India reached with 14

and Virender Sehwag took two

wickets apiece against opponents who were missing 10 players due to

And Rahul Dravid was the pick of

West Indies captain Shivnarine

Chanderpaul won the toss and

elected to bat against the same

India line-up that lost Saturday's

opener against Sri Lanka by three

His side gave new caps to both

Narsingh Deonarine and Denesh

the Indian batsmen with a half-

a sponsorship row.

century.

India coasted to

a six-wicket

victory in their

Indian Oil Cup

tri-nation one-

dayer here on

Sunday against

a West Indies

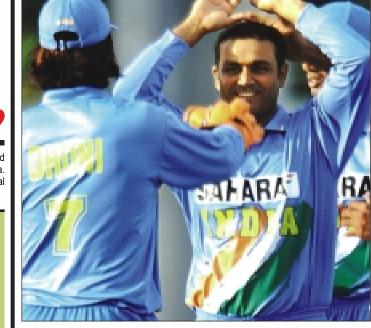
side missing the

The first Commonwealth Games were held in 1930 in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada Eleven countries with 400 athletes in total participated in the Games.



Brothers Union vs Arambagh (5:00 pm)

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium



SHINES WITH THE BALL: India's Virender Sehwag celebrates taking a wicket with Mahendra Dhoni at Dambulla on Sunday.

Tigers' Mirpur delight

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

If marks are to be awarded for first impressions then the new indoor facility at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur should pass with flying colours.

The soon to be home of Bangladesh cricket opened its door to the Tigers on Sunday as the national cricketers made use of the newly laid indoor and outdoor pitches for the first time. From now on the country's top cricketers will be able to train here round the year

come rain or shine. The main stadium is expected to be

ready for hosting matches by the end of this year and the players have to wait another couple of weeks before they can use the gymnasium. But that did not hide their excitement.

"A long-standing dream has been realised today. It is a great feeling to have a home for cricket." said Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar who also touched on something more significant.

"There will be no more excuses for not training during the rainy season. This facility is open for us round the year so that is also very exciting." Vice-captain Khaled Mashud

echoed the same sentiment. "The practice facilities we had in England are still very much fresh in our minds. There are no substitutes for modern facilities if you want to be competitive at the highest level. But I want to such training areas all around the country," said vicecaptain Khaled Mashud.

Former captain Khaled Mahmud was particularly impressed with the three indoor pitches and emphasised on proper maintenance round the vear.

"There are some areas that need improvement but I must say overall this place is fantastic. The eight outdoor pitches are very good but the indoor pitches are important also as we had to face a lot of problems with the bowling crease at grounds where we had trained before.'

Coach Dav Whatmore was undaunted by the traffic noise coming from the adjacent main street and was visibly satisfied with what Mirpur had to offer.

"I think this place has got tremendous potential. There are some areas that can improve but this is just the beginning.

"There are eight turf wickets here but I'm looking forward to the day when there will be 128 such pitches across the city. That would give more players the opportunity to train on standard wickets."

The practice area was abuzz with life as fans arrived in numbers

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