

## Black & Whites resist YMC attack

SPORTS REPORTER

**Premier Bank**  
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Senior Division Football League

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

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-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 butted 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 by the Fakirpool 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



PHOTO: STAR

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

BBC ONLINE, Dambulla

India coasted to a six-wicket victory in their Indian Oil Cup tri-nation one-day here on Sunday against a West Indies side missing the majority of their first-team players.

West Indies were reduced to 178 all out, a total India reached with 14 overs to spare.

Spinning duo Harbhajan Singh and Virender Sehwag took two wickets apiece against opponents who were missing 10 players due to a sponsorship row.

And Rahul Dravid was the pick of the Indian batsmen with a half-century.

West Indies captain Shivnarine Chandepaul won the toss and elected to bat against the same India line-up that lost Saturday's opener against Sri Lanka by three wickets.

His side gave new caps to both Narsingth Deonarine and Denesh

Ramdin, who rewarded that faith with knocks of 41 and 24 respectively.

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

The pair put on 52 for the fourth wicket before Chandepaul was trapped lbw 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 Dwayne 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 Harbhajan's second victim in what was Harbhajan's 100th one-day international.

Despite the fall of wickets, Deonarine managed to stay at the crease until the 42nd over before succumbing to Sehwag.

Tino Best and Ramadin gave West Indies a boost at the end with

24 apiece after Deonarine's departure to at least give their side something to defend.

India, though, rarely looked in danger of failing to reach the target even when Sehwag was trapped lbw by Jermaine Lawson with just three runs on the board.

Mohammad Kaif was then joined at the crease by Raina, and the pair put on a run-a-ball partnership of 65 before Kaif was caught by Joseph off Best.

Raina followed moments later off the bowling of Dwayne Smith before Dravid and Yuvraj Singh virtually assured the win.

Although Yuvraj lost his wicket late on, Dravid remained at the crease to steer India to victory.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Indian Oil Cup match between India and the West Indies at the Rangiri Stadium in Dambulla on Sunday:

**WEST INDIES**  
Marshall c Dravid b Harbhajan 26  
Morton lbw b Pathan 1  
Joseph run out 3

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



## Did U Know?

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



**Premier Football League**  
Brothers Union vs Arambagh (5:00 pm)  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium.



PHOTO: AFP

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



PHOTO: STAR

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 Habibur Bashar, Mohammad Ashraful and Mohammad Rafique warm-up inside the training area.

## BD A-Lancs 1-dayer today

SPORTS REPORTER

The visiting Bangladesh A team will take on Lancashire in a limited-overs game today at Liverpool.

The second-string Bangladesh lost their first one-day match against British Universities by two wickets while the second limited-overs game against Hampshire was washed out.

The visitors, who are playing after a three-day gap, will play one more one-day game against Durham besides three three-day games.

## Russel suspend captain Apel

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra imposed a 10-match suspension on their goalkeeper and captain Rakib Mahmud Apel for under-performing in Saturday's Premier Football League match against Abahani.

Abahani came from behind to beat Russel 2-1 with two late goals and later Russel officials claimed that Apel conceded both goals 'intentionally'.

The club also decided to fine Apel and condemn Abahani fans for the unprovoked attack on their Moroccan recruits Egir Mohammed and Majid Burjuga after the game.

Apel was banned for the entire first-leg for his misbehaviour with coach Abu Yusuf. However, they needed him back after regular keeper Khaled Azam Biplab was sent off and served a two-match ban.

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

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

The main stadium is expected to be

## N'ganj chess team wins them all

SPORTS REPORTER

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 Liptanlop (Thailand), Koji Watanabe (Japan), Rustam Shoabdurakhmanov (Uzbekistan), Dong Kil Cho (South Korea), Chau-Fan Su (Chinese Taipei), Suresh Subramaniam (Sri Lanka), Syed Dilwar Abbas (Pakistan) and Majid Al Mandhary (Oman).

## 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 Habibur 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 vice-captain Khaled Mashud.

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

"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

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5