

Ibrahim lights up Sky Blues

Abahani-1, Mohammedan-0 SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani sud-Premier Bank denly leapfrogged from nior Division Football League Premiership backstage to the title race with a solitary goal win over archrivals Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday

A heroic goal from Ghanaian striker Audu Ibrahim immediately after the break brought Abahani within three points of joint leaders Mohammedan and Brothers at the start of the 16th round as they ended Mohammedan's unbeaten streak.

Abahani, on 32 points, have two matches left against Dhaka Wanderers and Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool and wins overs the relegation zone sides will see them end the run on 38 points.

Although it seems very pessimistic. the Sky Blues will certainly keep their fingers crossed for Brothers and Mohammedan not winning a single match in the remaining fixture.

Whatever the mathematical chances. Abahani would be at least happy to see the young side turn into a force from mediocrity and brighten their hopes to finish even runners-up

The match itself -- before the biggest crowd of the season with at least 30,000 flocking the stands on a holiday -- was anything but being competitive. Abahani carried their

ESPN

English Premier Football League

form from their three consecutive victories against big names Sheikh Russel KC, Muktijoddha Sangsad and Brothers and enjoyed superior possession on an uneven and bouncy pitch where controlling the

ball was very difficult. With indefatigable Cameroonian Ndem holding the midfield, Abahani forwards kept Moha-mmedan's defence under constant threat but it were the Black and Whites who came close to open the account

after 19 minutes. Faisal headed a crossfield pass by Asad into the penalty area and Alfaz placed a volley on the turn that deflected off Abahani fullback Wali. But goalkeeper Nizam, going the wrong way, made an excellent onehanded save. He was not required to make any serious save later as Abahani's tight defence hardly allowed any space to the opponents

Farhad shot the ball wide from close before being denied by Biplab's legwork during a corner as Abahani piled on the pressure before the break

However, the match winner came in the very first minute of the second half, just like their first-leg match when Abahani levelled 1-1 in the 46th minute

Ibrahim picked up a deflected pass by Ndem outside the area and used all his power and skill to dribble three rival defenders -- Arman Aziz, Nazrul and Nigerian peter Odaf -before shooting a low left footer that SEE PAGE 13 COL 6



RELIVING NOSTALGIA: Ecstatic Abahani booters celebrate in front of an almost full house like in the good old days of domestic football, after their victory over Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Friday.

The excitement surrounding the election in the country's most affluent sports body all but evaporated after Mahbubul Anam was elected unopposed as general secretary, the top executive post in the 31-member committee following the withdrawal of three other candidates for the

with little left to speculate.

same position. Prominent businessman Afzalu Rahman Sinha was the other candidate who did not face any contest For the treasurer's post, he was the only person to have submitted nomination paper.

BCB ELECTION TODAY

All eyes on

The much-talked Bangladesh

Cricket Board (BCB) election will be

held today at the National Sports Council (NSC) conference room but

VP fight

SPORTS REPORTER

Today's events will centre around the fight for the four vice-president's posts where independent candidates former BCB advisor Aziz Al Kaise Titoo and Gazi Golam Dastagi Chowdhury are challenging the proestablishment panel's quartet of Shah Nurul Kabir Shaheen, Shafigu Rahman Munna, Khondokar Jamil Uddin and Golam Rasul Mulla.

Reazuddin Al Mamun, Rafiqul Islam Babu and Igbal Yousuf Chowdhury Miku contesting for two joint-secretary posts while 20 members will be elected from the 24 candidates

A total of 163 councilors will cast their votes from 10am to 3pm.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

omwich vs Birmingham City Andrew Flintoff's maiden Test Live at 5:10 pm hundred against Australia was the Tottenham Hotspur vs Chelsea centrepiece of an impressive Live at 7:55 pm England total in the fourth Test at STAR Sports Trent Bridge here Friday. England vs Australia At tea, on the second day, 4th Test, Day Three Live at 3:30 pm England had been bowled out for 477



At lunch England were 344 for

five. Flintoff 73 not out and wicketkeeper Jones unbeaten on 34. the pair sharing their fourth century stand in Test cricket. First ball after lunch fast bowler

Brett Lee was convinced he'd had Jones caught behind by wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist

But West Indies umpire Steve Bucknor, the only man to have stood in 100 Tests, rejected the appeal and replays suggested there may have been two noises with Jones's bat first hitting the ground.

Flintoff, who flayed Australia for 73 in England's two-run 1-1 series-

previous Test best score against

na victory at Edabaston his

bowled too many half-volleys and short balls for comfort

However Kasprowicz, who dropped a caught and bowled chance given by Kevin Pietersen on Thursday, dismissed Jones -- who like the bowler was educated in Brisbane -- 15 short of a hundred when he dived forward to hold the

Kent gloveman's checked drive. England then 450 for seven, lost Ashlev Giles and Stephen Harmison as Warne took two wickets for one run in seven balls. Last man Simon Jones was deceived by Lee on 15 only for the

ball to hit the stumps but fail to dislodge the bails.

ter resumination

Australia lost three wickets in the space of two runs after tea on the second day of the fourthAshes Test yesterday. The tourists lost opener Matthew

Hayden with the score on 20 and that soon became 22-3 with the dismissals of skipper Ricky Ponting and Damien Maryth. All three batsmen fell lbw to England pacers Matthew Hoggard and Simon Jones. Australia however recovered and

were 36-3 with Justin Langer batting on 19 and Michael Clark 6 respectively

Gilchrist's 300th

Test dismissals when he caught lan

Bell off Shaun Tait on the first day of

the fourth Test against England at

Only Australia greats Ian Healy

and Rodney Marsh, as well as South

Africa's Mark Boucher, have previ-

Leading Test wicketkeepers (Player,

country, matches, dismissals, caught

 Stumped).
 119
 395
 366
 29

 Ian Healy (AUS)
 119
 395
 366
 29

 Rodney Marsh (AUS)
 96
 355
 343
 12

 Mark Boucher (RSA)
 84
 323
 309
 14

 Adam Gilchrist (AUS)
 72
 300
 272
 27

79

95

81

270 265 5 269 250 19

241 227 14 228 201 27

219 173 46 219 207 12

Trent Bridge here Thursday.

ously reached the landmark

TOP KEEPERS

Jeffrey Dujon (WIS) Alan Knott (ENG)

Wasim Bari (PAK)

Alec Stewart (ENG) 82

Godfrey Evans (ENG) 91 Ridley Jacobs (WIS) 65

stumped):

164 in 37.2 overs. A stubborn nin

Cricket

REUTERS, Bulawayo

of victory

Shane Bond's blistering bowling swept New Zealand to victory over India in the second match of the triangular series on Friday. New Zealand won by 51 runs

after fast bowler Bond destroyed India's powerful batting line-up with his career-best haul of six for 19.

The Black Caps, who won the toss and chose to bat, were all out for 215 before dismissing India for

four when fast bowler Andre Adams had Yuvrai Singh caught by Stephen Fleming at first slip for one. Bond struck two more crucial blows in his first spell of five for 14 when he had a slashing Mohammad Kaif caught by McMillan at third man for nine and the dangerous Virender Sehwag brilliantly caught by a diving Hamish Marshall at point for 15. That left India teetering on 39 for

six and ended their genuine hopes

Oram sacrificed his wicket and

his 54 off as many deliveries and hit five fours and two sixes before fast bowler Aiit Agarkar had him caught at mid-off by Pathan. SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the triangular oneday international between New Zealand and India at Queens Sports Club on Friday:

NEW ZEALAND Vincent Ibw b Pathan

Bond returned in the 35th over, Fleming c Dhoni b Nehra and two overs later he had Pathan Astle lbw b Nehra caught behind to make it 162 for Marshall Ibw b Pathar Styris cAgarkar b Pathan Seamer Jacob Oram ended the 11 match when he had Yadav caught at Oram run out 36 mid-off by McMillan. McMillan c Pathan b Agarkar 54 The win seemed India's for the Cairns c Harbhajan Singh b Yadav taking when the left-arm pace duo of 20 Pathan and Nehra reduced New McCullum c Dravid b Agarkar 49 Zealand to 36 for five in the 13th Vettori run out (Agarkar) 13 Adams not out Both bowlers straightened the Extras: (b-1, lb-5, w-3, nb-1) 10 ball sharply off the seam and Total: (All outin 43.1 overs) 215 obtained swing through the air to Fall of wkts: 1-6, 2-10, 3-13, 4-36, 5remove the Black Caps' top five for 36, 6-127, 7-130, 8-167, 9-199, 10low scores. 215 Jacob Oram and McMillan rebuilt М RW Bowler ο the innings with a brisk partnership Pathan 8 1 34 3 of 91 for the sixth wicket. 22 2 3 Nehra 8 45 2 Agarkar 7.1 0 three dropped catches between 46 10 Yadav 1 them and were finally separated in Harbhaian 9 1 55 0 the 29th over when a mix-up saw SEE PAGE 13 COL 3

at the bowler's end. Six balls later India were 19 for

was run out for 36. The aggressive McMillan scored

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

Premier Div handball

SPORTS REPORTER

Narinda Progoti Boys Club beat Old Ideals 44-12 in the Cute Premier Division Handball League at the outer stadium handball court yesterday. The winners dominated the first

half 21-9.

Didar and Mizan score ten each for the winners while Rafigue netted five for the losers

useful last wicket stand of 23 with Matthew Hoggard was 15 not out after his fellow pace bowler became legendary leg-spinner Shane

after Flintoff had made 102.

Simon Jones,

It was England's highest total in a

who shared

Warne's fourth victim of the innings. Warne finished with four for 102 and debutant Shaun Tait was the pick of Australia's quicks with three for 97 in an attack minus the miserly Glenn McGrath. out with a right elbow injury.

Flintoff, playing in his first Ashes series after injuries and loss of form meant he'd missed previous encounters against Australia, allied good judgment to his familar power as well as familiar power as England, with the five-match Ashes series level at

1-1, made a bid to pull away. Together with Geraint Jones, who made 85, his best against Australia,

he put on 177 in nearly 40 overs. It was the highest stand for any wicket, by either side, in the series to date.

Flintoff faced 132 balls with one six and 14 fours before he was lbw.

them, struck paceman Michael Kasprowicz for three boundaries in four balls to move into the 90s. But the England pair were also taking quick singles and such a run, off Lee, gave Jones a 93-ball fifty with four fours.

Then, with Flintoff on 99, leg-spin great Shane Warne came round the wicket in an attempt to frustrate the 27-year-old Lancashire star into

error Flintoff then caused a huge collective intake of breath amongst the crowd when he just missed edging an ttempted cut into Gilchrist's gloves.

But to the first ball of Warne's following over, fans' favourite Flintoff's onside push saw him complete a 121-ball hundred, his fifth in Test cricket, with one six and 14 fours.

His exit left England 418 for six, but Jones continued to keep the scoreboard ticking as Australia

four, England scored 115 runs in the first session's 29 overs for the loss only of Pietersen (45), caught behind

off Lee. Flintoff reached fifty when he swept Warne, off the last delivery with the old ball, for six.

Australia gave the new ball to Tait but his first delivery Friday was coverdriven by keeper Jones for four.

And on a still good batting pitch, Flintoff struck the 22-year-old South Australian for three fours in quick succession as the bowler veered between being too short and overpitching.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea and the close of England's first innings on the second day of the fourth Test against SEE PAGE 13 COL 8

AFP, Nottingham

118 between Jvoti Yadav and Irfan Pathan added respectability to Adam Gilchrist became the fourth India's innings. wicketkeeper in history to achieve 300

Yadav scored 69, Pathan made a maiden 50 and together they put on more than twice the contribution of the rest of their teammates.

New Zealand slumped to 36 for five before Craig McMillan rescued the innings with an aggressive 54. The Indians had no answer to

Bond's express pace.

He first struck in the third over when Sourav Ganguly, who scored five, gloved a short-pitched legside delivery to wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum.

With his next ball Bond yorked substitute batsman Venugopal Rao, who replaced Ashish Nehra.

Rahul Dravid successfully dug out the yorker Bond sent down to try and claim his hattrick, but in his next over Bond bowled Dravid off the Oram and McMillan survived

both batsmen stranded in the middle of the pitch as Yuvrai's throw came in from the deep to Harbhajan

Buchanan no-balled!

Cricket

REUTERS, Nottingham

Coaches go red in the face when their bowlers send down no balls.

There is a worse cricketing crime, however, taking wickets with no

Australia did it again on Thursday in the fourth Ashes test at Trent Bridae

If you looked closely, you might have spotted their coach John Buchanan gradually turning the colour of boiled lobster as his attack gave away 22 no balls during England's first-day total of 229 for four

He probably began climbing walls when one of them, from Brett Lee, smashed into Marcus Trescothick's stumps via an inside edge.

It did not cost Australia too many runs. Trescothick was on 55 at the time and added only 10 more but it was the principle that mattered.

Quizzed over his side's errorstrewn Ashes displays earlier in the series, Buchanan talked of a new, "zero tolerance" approach. It did not seem to work at Trent Bridge.

The world champions, who set a new benchmark for fielding only a few years ago, also dropped two catches on Thursday. In the third Test at Old Trafford, they put down

five in one innings. Those no-ball 'wickets', though, hurt most On the first day of the second Test

at Edgbaston, Trescothick edged Michael Kasprowicz to gully, Matthew Hayden took the catch and a no ball was called.

Trescothick had been on 32 and went on to make 90. England won the game by two runs to level the series

At Old Trafford, Michael Vaughan dged Glenn McGrath having made 41. He was dropped.

Next delivery, the England captain was bowled and again "no ball!" was called. He went on to make 166. By Thursday's news conference Buchanan's face had returned to its normal hue.

"There is no explanation (for those 22 no balls)," he said, managing a smile

"We set ourselves the target of not bowling any and we have obviously just missed that.

"It gives us some room for improvement, which is a nice place to be.'

Buchanan said he had left the bowlers to work out their own runups but added: "That hasn't quite worked so we need to take a little bit of a more direct approach. It's a case

of talking to the bowlers and saying it can't do on. "It's a headache for all of us."



PHOTO: CRICINFO

FLINTASTIC! England's Andrew Flintoff, who cracked a magnificent 102. sends the ball into orbit leaving Australian wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist simply awestruck at Trent Bridge, Nottingham on Friday.

Atapattu respects Bangladesh

have played in recent times, particularly at home, and we are looking forward to the challenge.

Sri Lanka's new Aussie coach Tom Moody said they would go all out in the series

"On our part it's vital for us to play our best possible side. Banaladesh are improving all the time and with plenty of cricket ahead we must keep the momentum. We need to take these matches very seriously," Moody said.

Sri Lankan selectors have named a full strength side including Sanath Jayasuriya and Chaminda Vaas who were down with injuries during a recent tri-series at home featuring India and the West Indies.

The tour gets underway with a warm-up game against Board President's XI in Moratuwa with the first one-dayer scheduled for August 31 at the Sinhalese Sports Člub ground here.

The next two one-davers on September 2 and 4 will be held at the Premadasa Stadium here, which will also host the first Test from September 12-16.

The second Test will be held at the Saravanamuttu Stadium, also in Colombo, from September 20-24.

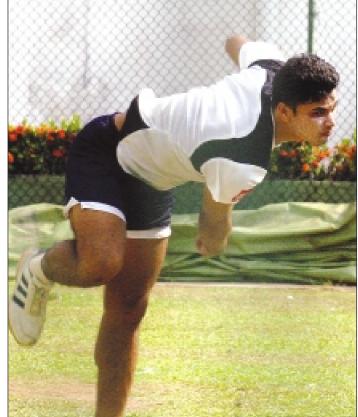


PHOTO AFP Bangladesh fast bowler Masrafee-bin-Mortuza delivers a ball during practice in Colombo on Friday. Bangladesh are scheduled to play three one-day internationals and two Tests during their tour of Sri Lanka.

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan skipper Marvan Atapattu Friday said Bangladesh were an improving side and deserved respect in the international arena.

Over the years they have shown potential and are improving. We will play our normal game and give our best," Atapattu said ahead of the two Tests and three one-dayers between

the South Asian teams "You can't take any side lightly in nternational cricket."

Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore was confident of doing well on the month-long tour after his team beat Australia by five wickets in a tri-series

match in England this June. "The win against the Australians was sensational," said Whatmore, a former Australian Test cricketer who coached Sri Lanka during their 1996 World Cup triumph.

"Too many people wouldn't have thought that we were capable of doing so and I hope we'll be able to keep the momentum during our tour of Sri Lanka," said Whatmore, who was cautious about his team's prospects. "Sri Lanka are ranked second in

the International Cricket Council (ICC) points table and that itself tells you the

story," he said. "That's a reflection of how well they