

MSC-DOHS
face off
today

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club will seek revenge as well as giving a last shot to the title race when they take on holders Old DOHS in a crucial Super Six match of the Akel Premier Cricket League today.

Table-toppers DOHS go into the game at BKSP with a four-point lead but a defeat will complicate things for Akram Khan's men who lost to Sonargaon Cricketers -- the remaining contenders for the coveted trophy -- in the previous round. A win on the other hand, will all but seal the championship for DOHS.

However, Mohammedan, who lost the first-leg battle by three runs in a tight finish at the Fatullah Stadium, can not afford a loss. With three rounds to go, Habibul Bashar and Co are joint second with newcomers Sonargaon on 18 points.

Sonargaon, who have won all their matches since Mohammad Ashraful's takeover as captain, face bottom-table Brothers Union at the Fatullah Stadium knowing that winning the remaining matches will open up a chance for them to clinch the title on debut if DOHS slip up today. Sonargaon, however, will be without Indian cricketer Sridharan Sriman, their hero in the victory against DOHS with an unbeaten 93. The Indian international, who has returned home for commitment in domestic cricket, will be replaced by his compatriot Manvinder Singh Visla.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, first-leg's surprise pack Victoria Sporting Club meet Bangladesh Biman. Both sides are level on 16 points with virtually no hope in the title chase.

SUPER SIX TABLE

Teams	M	W	L	Pts
DOHS	13	11	2	22
MSC	13	9	4	18
Sonargaon	13	9	4	18
Victoria	13	8	5	16
Biman	13	8	5	16
BU	13	6	7	12

Dhaka Bank to sponsor U-19s

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) officially announced on Sunday that Dhaka Bank Limited will sponsor the national Under-19 team for one year.

It was the biggest financial deal for the youth team following their recent success, which makes many believe that the Mushfiqur Rahim-led side can make history in the ICC U-19 World Cup to be held in Sri Lanka from February 5 to 19.

"We came forward because we believe the U-19 cricket team has the potential to do something memorable for the nation," said Fazlur Rashid, deputy-managing director of Dhaka Bank, at a press conference at a local hotel yesterday.

Bangladesh U-19s will leave for Colombo today to take part in the 16-team meet.

BCB general secretary Mahbubul Anam also pinned high hopes on the team and said that the board will try to give the sponsors maximum exposure.

"Actually, we have got a good team as a result of our countrywide talent hunting programmes in the last four years. We are very much hopeful about the team," said the bearded organiser.

Captain Mushfiqur Rahim said that it would be an encouraging

SEE PAGE 13 COL 7

New year new hopes for Bashar

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Table-toppers DOHS go into the game at BKSP with a four-point lead but a defeat will complicate things for Akram Khan's men who lost to Sonargaon Cricketers -- the remaining contenders for the coveted trophy -- in the previous round. A win on the other hand, will all but seal the championship for DOHS.

However, Mohammedan, who lost the first-leg battle by three runs in a tight finish at the Fatullah Stadium, can not afford a loss. With three rounds to go, Habibul Bashar and Co are joint second with newcomers Sonargaon on 18 points.

Sonargaon, who have won all their matches since Mohammad Ashraful's takeover as captain, face bottom-table Brothers Union at the Fatullah Stadium knowing that winning the remaining matches will open up a chance for them to clinch the title on debut if DOHS slip up today. Sonargaon, however, will be without Indian cricketer Sridharan Sriman, their hero in the victory against DOHS with an unbeaten 93. The Indian international, who has returned home for commitment in domestic cricket, will be replaced by his compatriot Manvinder Singh Visla.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, first-leg's surprise pack Victoria Sporting Club meet Bangladesh Biman. Both sides are level on 16 points with virtually no hope in the title chase.

SUPER SIX TABLE