

Pegasus on top despite loss

SPORTS REPORTER

Young Pegasus stayed on top of the First Division Cricket League table despite suffering their second defeat yesterday when they crashed to Gazi Tank by 63 runs at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium.

After 16 matches, Pegasus remained on 28 points, level with Partex who have a match in hand. Both Pegasus and Partex have already confirmed their promotion to next year's Premier League.

In reply to Gazi Tank's modest 221-eight, Pegasus skittled out for 158 as spinner Murad Khan took five wickets for 50.

In the day's other match at Dhaka University ground, Uttara Sporting Club (298-7) survived a scare to edge Cricket Coaching School (294-9) by four runs.

Kadamtala's first win

BIDNEWS, Dhaka

Kadamtala Sangsad earned their maiden win in the Rahman Foundation Second Division Football League, defeating Uttar Baridhara Club 1-0 at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur on Sunday.

Matbub netted the lone goal in the 70th minute.

Kadamtala earned six points while Baridhara three after five rounds.

In the day's other match, Sunrise Sporting Club shared points with Karwan Bazar Pragati Sangha in a goalless draw at the same venue.

Sunrise raised their collection to seven points compared to Pragati's five.

Shirin champ in qualifier

SPORTS REPORTER

Sharmin Sultana Shirin emerged champion in the 27th National Women's Chess Championship qualifiers which concluded at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room yesterday.

Shirin drew with Samiha Sharmin Shimmi in the seventh and final round yesterday as nine players finished level on five points. After progressive score broke the ties, Shirin was followed by Masuda Begum, Zakia Sulfana, Tanima Parveen, Shimi, Kishwara Shirin Evana, Mahmuda, Farha and Arifa Khatun Moni who all made it to the final rounds.

Ninth-placed Mahfuzia failed to reach the finals where defending champion Samiha Akter Liza, IWM Rani Hamid, Syeda Shabana Parveen and Nazrana Khan Eva have direct entry.

The finals will begin on February 8.

SET accolade for Inzamam

PTI, London

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq pipped top Indian stars Sania Mirza and Viswanathan Anand to win the International Sports Personality of the Year 2005 award, instituted by Sony Entertainment Television (SET).

Inzamam, one of the finest batsmen in world cricket, was awarded for his super run of form since the beginning of 2005.

"Inzamam has averaged an unbelievable 94 runs in Tests and over 50 in one-day internationals and magnificently captained the Pakistan side that beat India and England in the recent Test series," said a citation.

Over 800 dignitaries including Keith Vaz, former minister for foreign and Commonwealth office, former Indian wicketkeeper batsman Farooq Engineer, and the channel's 'Indian Idol' winner Abhijeet Sawant attended the award ceremony held at the Hilton Hotel in Park Lane.

Former England cricket captain Nasser Hussain won the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Ganguly gets

be a part of the one-day side... There is going to be a lot of cricket in the next one year till the World Cup... And I am sure my opportunity will come."

Frustrating

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Top 10 batsmen: Steve Tikolo (867 runs, DOHS), Rashed Hanif (696, Brothers), Sandeep Sharma (615, Mohomedan), Al Shahriar (562, Sonargaon), Nasiruddin Faruque (539, Victoria), Akram Khan (532, DOHS), Jaffer Quraishi (530, Victoria), Javed Omar (509, Birman), Manjurul Islam (485, DOHS) and Mohammad Ashraf (481, Sonargaon).

Top 10 bowlers: Abdur Razzak (40 wickets, DOHS), Jaffer Quraishi, 32, Victoria), Mosharraf Hossain (28, Birman), Waskurni Palash (28, Victoria), Mohammed Rafique (27, Sonargaon), Tapash Baisya (27, Sonargaon), Arafat Sunny (24, Brothers), Mohammed Sharif (24, Brothers), Mahbubul Alam (23, Sonargaon) and Sabir Khan (21, Mohomedan).



PHOTOS: AP/AFP
CONTRASTING FACES: Cameroon's Samuel Eto'o (L) is frustrated after missing a penalty while Ivory Coast's Didier Drogba celebrates after converting the last spotkick during their African Nations Cup quarterfinal at the Military Stadium in Cairo on Saturday.

Little Eto'o, super Tito

Cameroon, Tunisia knocked out in penalties

REUTERS, Cairo



African Cup of Nations
EGYPT 2006

Nigeria and Ivory Coast reached the African Nations Cup semi-finals after marathon penalty shootouts against Tunisia and Cameroon respectively.

"The future belongs to God," said the Portuguese coach, amid scenes of utter chaos.

Ivory Coast and Cameroon's scrappy match in Cairo briefly burst into life in the first five minutes of extra time.

Nigeria's keeper Vincent Enyeama saved three penalties in their shootout and one during the match as the Super Eagles beat holders Tunisia 6-5 after a 1-1 draw.

Ivory Coast and Cameroon, Geremi Foto Nijatip also hitting the bar before substitute Alberto Meyong Ze slotted home the last goal.

Both teams converted all 12 penalties in the second half Karim Hagui stole in behind the defence to head home the equaliser.

A bad day for the tournament's marksman was complete when Brazilian-born Francileudo dos Santos, who has scored four goals for Tunisia, limped off, effectively ending their potency as an attacking equaliser.

After each player had taken one kick, Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o, the tournament's leading scorer with five goals, stepped up for the second time and fired over the bar.

Cameroon hit back immediately, Geremi Foto Nijatip also hitting the bar before substitute Alberto Meyong Ze slotted home the last goal.

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