

## 39-run over!

SPORTS REPORTER

Nazmul Hossain Milon was having just another decent day in the ground until he walked in to bowl his ninth over. In the Kai-Altech Premier League match against Brothers Union, the Victoria paceman had reasonable figures of 0-25 in eight overs, but batsmen Fahad Ullah, Anisur Rahman and the cricketing pest known as no-ball all conspired to give him an over to equally forget and remember.

Milon, who has an awkward bowling action, started off giving away couple of runs off the first ball, before embarking on a no-ball binge. He stepped over the popping crease four times in a row, getting hit for boundaries off two deliveries. Things got a little normal when he bowled three legitimate balls, but still gave away seven in the process. Milon, now having given away 24 so far, must have wanted the ground at BKSP to swallow him up but things were about to get a lot worse.

He bowled another no-ball and then was hit for two sixes by Fahad, Brothers' Pakistani recruit.

To summarise, a despondent Milon bowled 11 deliveries in all, getting hit for 39 runs in the over. This was the highest number of runs conceded in one over in a limited-overs match at any level in the world. The 30-year-old record of 34 runs in one over was held by Sir Viv Richards who struck 5 sixes

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CONTRASTING MOODS: (L) Bangladesh Biman spinner Mosharraf Hossain celebrates one of his four scalps with wicketkeeper Sajjad Kadir while (R) Mohammedan captain Habibul Bashar grimly watches his team capitulate in their Kai-Altech Premier League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

## Saeed Anwar coming

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Pakistan opener Saeed Anwar is likely to arrive in Dhaka on January 27 but do not think to play cricket in the country.

With the Premier Cricket League on, it would be natural to think that the stylish left-handed batsman would be here to join any team.

But Anwar, who devoted himself to religion after playing 55 Tests and 247 ODIs and still holds the record of the highest individual score (194) in one-day cricket, will visit the country on religious purpose.

He will join the Tablig Jamaat's kafala for a Chilla, informed former Pakistan wicketkeeper Zulqarnain, who is now in the city also for the same reason, yesterday.

## Inzy calls for tech support

PTI, Karachi

Unhappy with some umpiring decisions during the first cricket Test against South Africa in Centurion, Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq has urged the International Cricket Council (ICC) to allow the umpires seek the assistance of modern technology more often.

"Why should assistance from modern technology just be restricted to stumping or run-out

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## Biman offload Mohammedan

SPORTS REPORTER



KAI ALTECH ALUMINIUM

Sakib Al Hasan rode on luck twice to remain 53 not out but Mohammedan Sporting Club's winning streak in the Kai-Altech Premier Cricket League was snapped when they crashed to a 61-run defeat to Bangladesh Biman who defended a small total in the third round clash yesterday.

Left-arm spinner Mosharraf Hossain picked up three wickets in a single over to finish with 4-11 from 7.5 overs after Mushfiqur Rahman's timely 40 as the national flag carrier shot out the Motijheel outfit for 94 in defence of a moderate 155 at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium for their second victory.

Last year's runners-up Sonargaon Cricketers, however, maintained their all-win record with an emphatic seven-wicket victory over struggling City Club at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Away at BKSP, Victoria pacer Nazmul Hossain Milon hogged the spotlight for all wrong reasons,

conceding a record 39 runs in one over but still his side won the high-scoring battle against Brothers by three wickets despite Pakistani Fahad Ullah smashed a hundred for the Gopibagh outfit.

### BIMAN-MOHAMMEDAN

Though the pitch offered low-bounce, the way the Mohammedan batsmen failed to apply themselves was beyond imagination. To rub more salt on the wound captain Habibul Bashar got himself run out in a pathetic way in a crucial stage.

The experienced Tigers skipper, who is definitely not a good runner between the wickets, unnecessarily called his partner Sakib for a third run and fell short of the crease to his national teammate Forhad Reza's throw from deep cover. Bashar's departure left Mohammedan at 20-4.

Earlier, national paceman Syed Rasel made the damage removing openers Imtiaz Hossain and Zunaid Siddique and his new-ball partner Mushfiqur removed dangerman Aftab Ahmed's middle-stump to give Biman the upper hand.

Sakib paired with wicketkeeper Sahagir Hossain to revive the

Mohammedan hopes but Mosharraf not only broke the 40-run sixth wicket partnership when he bowled Sahagir for 10 but also dismissed Rashedul Haque and Tapash Baisya in the 31st over.

Man-of-the-match Mosharraf then bowled Arafat Sunny to wrap up the Mohammedan innings in 40.5 overs.

It would have been much more agonising for Mohammedan if Sakib had not been dropped by Mushfiqur at cover and by Rakibul at gully off the bowling of pacer Shafiq Al Jabir. Sakib hit four boundaries in his 105-ball knock.

Earlier, Biman top order batsmen got starts but failed to capitalise after being sent into bat. All-rounder Mushfiqur salvaged the blushes with a 64-ball 40 without a single hit to the fence.

### SONARGAON-CITY

A 108-run opening partnership between discarded national openers Al-Shahriar and Mehrab Hossain Opee guided Sonargaon to 214-3 in 48.3 overs in reply to City Club's 213.

Shahriar made 64 off 75 balls including nine fours while man-of-the-match Mehrab top scored 93

off 139 deliveries with ten hits to fence to ensure City's second defeat in three games.

Alok Kapali was the other notable contributor as the stylish right-hander made 34 off 53 balls after taking three wickets for 23 runs.

Earlier, City thrived on Gazi Salahuddin's 55 and Mustafizur Rahman's 38 to make a respectable total. Pacer Mohammad Sharif was the other successful Sonargaon bowler with 3-37.

### VICTORIA-BROTHERS

Opener Nasiruddin Faruque might have missed the hundred for only six runs but his effort powered youthful Victoria reach 271-7 with three balls to spare for their second victory in three matches.

The right-hander, who hammered 94 off 114 balls with eleven fours, associated in an 88-run stand to give Victoria a perfect start in reply to Brothers' mammoth 270-4.

Then the middle order responded brilliantly, especially Pakistani Jaffar Quarashi, who played a pivotal role during a 37-ball 39 featuring four sixes.

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## Mauresmo powers through



AFP, Melbourne

Defending champion Amelie Mauresmo exuded confidence as she cruised into the Australian Open third round Wednesday while former title holder Serena Williams' comeback campaign teetered.

Mauresmo powered past

Russian teenager Olga Poutchkova

6-2, 6-2, finding the rhythm she said

had eluded her when she first

appeared in this year's tournament

two days ago.

She broke Poutchkova's serve three times in each set, and remained unflustered by both a controversial line call at the end of the first set and an unexpected loss

of two service games to the promising 19-year-old.

"I'm very happy," Mauresmo said. "It's never easy when you go out there and you don't know the player you're up against."

"She was pretty talented and she could really play some great shots so I was very serious tonight and I'm very happy to go through."

Mauresmo will meet Czech Eva Bimerova in the third round, with seventh seed Elena Dementieva and 10th seed Natacha Vaidisova the main potential hurdles in the way of a semi-final berth.

Seven-time Grand Slam champion Williams, a winner in Melbourne in 2003 and 2005, looked out-of-sorts and distracted as she battled to a 7-6 (7/4), 6-2 win over Anne Kremer of Luxembourg.

She constantly hit returns long and committed 33 unforced errors,

undermining her dream of winning a third Australia crown on her return to top-level tennis.

Her win set up a third round clash with Russian fifth seed Nadia Petrova, with Williams acknowledging she was rusty and needed to improve for her toughest test since coming back from injury.

"It's definitely a step up. I feel excited to go into the match. I feel ready," she said.

Petrova, who cruised past Argentine Gisela Dulko 6-1, 6-2, has a 5-1 loss-win record against Williams but they most recently met in 2005. Since then the Russian has improved her world ranking to number six while Williams slipped to 81.

Former US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova looked imposing in defeating Australian

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## Captain Freddie is back

MI Cricket

AFP, Hobart

However, Flintoff was preferred over opening batsman Andrew Strauss to replace Vaughan.

Vaughan suffered the tear during England's win on Tuesday, in only his second game back after knee surgery that sidelined him for more than a year.

His injury, which eventually left him needing a runner during the triangular one-day series match in Hobart, was assessed as a grade-one or slight tear to his left hamstring here Wednesday.

He will miss Friday's clash against Australia in Brisbane and is in doubt for the following two matches in Adelaide, against New Zealand on January 23, and Australia three days later.

Lancashire batsman Mal Loye has been called into the England squad, although Vaughan is travel-

ling to Brisbane with them.

Australian batsman Mike Hussey said Flintoff looked to be finding his best form since being relieved of the captaincy.

"He had quite a long break coming into the Ashes series, so I'm sure now he's starting to find some rhythm with his batting," Hussey said in Brisbane.

"I think now he's had a fair bit of cricket behind him (so) you'll see the best cricket he can play over the next few weeks."

Hussey said Vaughan's setback was a big blow to England's tri-series hopes.

"He is a class batsman, he's performed well in Australia and he's got confidence after playing well in our country," he said.

Vaughan's injury occurred in

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## Ganguly says, no captaincy

PTI, New Delhi

Regaining the Indian cricket team's captaincy is not a priority for Sourav Ganguly who says he just wants to concentrate on his game and win matches for his side at the moment.

Ganguly said it was inappropriate to talk about a change of captaincy since World Cup was round the corner and Rahul Dravid needed the full backing from all quarters.

"I am not in the race for captaincy, at least at the present time. I think we all should back Rahul and we should not even talk about these things when the World Cup is just two months away," the former Indian captain said.

"My mission is just to perform and be a part of the winning team. I will try and play well under pressure if I go to the World Cup, that is if I am included in the World Cup squad," he said.

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## Moin freed on bail

AFP, Karachi

Former Pakistan captain Moin Khan was freed on bail after a brief detention over a complaint that he beat up his wife at home, police said Wednesday.

Moin, who lives in Karachi's Clifton seaside area, was arrested early Tuesday after his wife, Tasneem Khan, complained, and was released in the evening after submitting a surety bond, local police officer Azad Khan said.

"Moin was produced before a court and on guarantee that he would not repeat the act he was released," Azad said.

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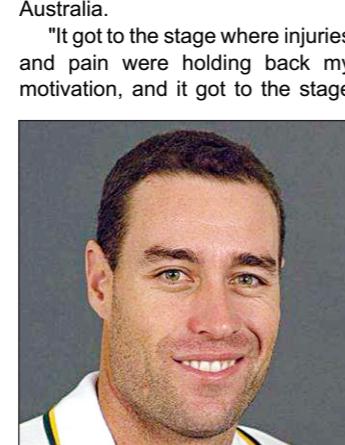
## Bevan calls it a day

MI Cricket

AFP, Sydney

sion to call stumps on a career that included two World Cup wins with Australia.

"It got to the stage where injuries and pain were holding back my motivation, and it got to the stage



MICHAEL BEVAN

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## Bond hurts back again

REUTERS, Sydney

New Zealand fast bowler Shane Bond faces an anxious wait over his immediate playing future after hurting his back in Tuesday's tri-series loss to England.

Bond has been plagued by stress fractures throughout his career and has been ordered to visit a back specialist in Sydney to determine the nature of his latest injury.

Another stress fracture would threaten Bond's chances of playing in this year's World Cup but New Zealand



French player Tatiana Golovin makes a two-handed return during her second round match against Zuzana Ondraskova of the Czech Republic at the Australian Open in Melbourne on Wednesday.