

## Rafique injured

TIGERCRIKET.COM, undated

Mohammed Rafique was carried off the field with a broken nose during the second one-day international against Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club yesterday.

Rafique was hurt when he collided with Zimbabwe's top-scorer Vusi Sibanda (93 not out) in his follow-through. The impact left the veteran Bangladesh spinner bleeding from the nose and he was immediately taken to a hospital for X-ray, according to team management sources.

## B. League now from March 2

SPORTS REPORTER

Country's inaugural Professional Football League -- the B. League -- suffered another delay as the organisers yesterday decided to start it in March instead of February 15.

The 11-team competition -- with Sylhet DSA's withdrawal now official -- will now kick off on March 2 as Dhaka-based Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra and Mohammedan Sporting Club, Chittagong Abahani and Mohammedan and Khulna Abahani appealed to defer the league.

Dhaka Mohammedan, however, were the only team to appeal in paper, which reached the federation yesterday.

The executive committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) took the decision in its adjourned meeting which lasted about ten minutes yesterday.

BFF's marketing agent Leisure

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## Did U Know?

Mashrafe Bin Mortuza of Bangladesh took 4 for 31 in the first one-day international against Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Ground on February 4. It was the third time and second against Zimbabwe that he has taken four wickets in a one-day international.



### John Buchanan

(Australia cricket coach)  
"This is an outstanding appointment for Australian cricket, the team and the coaching profession."  
After Tim Nielsen was named as his successor.



**BTV**  
Bangladesh v Hong Kong  
Pre-Olympic Qualifier  
Live at 5:00 pm  
**STAR Sports**  
South Africa v Pakistan  
Second ODI  
Live at 6:30 pm



**Premier Division Cricket League**  
City Club v Indira Road KC  
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium  
Abahani v Kalabagan KC  
Venue: BKSP  
Brothers Union v Partex SC  
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium



PHOTO: STAR

**JUST A WORRIED LOOK?** Padded up and next man in, Old DOHS captain Akram Khan was having a hard time watching his side slump against Victoria in the Premier League at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

## Victoria crush DOHS

### Mohammedan-Sonargaon match tied

SPORTS REPORTER

Victoria handed Old DOHS a morale-sapping nine-wicket defeat while Mohammedan and Sonargaon played out a tie on an action-packed day of the Kai-Altech Premier League yesterday.

With all three matches being curtailed due to heavy fog, Bangladesh Biman endured a thrilling chase from Young Pegasus and won by a run at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

At BKSP, Mohammedan and Sonargaon were locked at 175 each in 23 overs, giving the season's first tied match.

But it was altogether a different story at Fatullah where Victoria completely outplayed DOHS, who now have their place in the Super Six in jeopardy after suffering their third defeat in a row. Victoria, on the other hand, remained two points behind league leaders Abahani and confirmed their place, along with Mohammedan, Sonargaon and Biman, into the top six.

### MOHAMMEDAN-SONARGAON

With Sonargaon ten runs away from

victory off the last two overs, Mohammedan relied on their experienced pace duo Hasibul Hossain and Manjurul Islam. Hasibul, just like his nickname Shanto, kept cool by bowling five dot balls in the penultimate over, giving away just a single run.

With nine needed off the final over, tail-enders Fahim Muntasir and Mahbulul Alam crashed Manjurul through the in-field but failed to find the fence, settling for only two. With three needed off the final ball, Mahbulul again went after Manjurul, but only collected two runs to secure a point.

Earlier, Mohammedan opener Rashedul Haque carved eight boundaries and a six to hit 76. He was supported by Indian batsman Sandeep Sharma who struck a quickfire 33.

Needing 176 to win, Al Shahrar gave Sonargaon a sound start with a 46-ball 50. Their Sri Lankan recruit Saman Jayantha hit 40 but his dismissal in the 21st over gave Mohammedan a chance to get back with occasional spinner Imtiaz Hossain taking two vital wickets at the death.

### PEGASUS-BIMAN

With the match starting at 11am due to thick fog, the 40-over a-side match had everything for the small-

ish crowd.

Javed Omar played a typical anchor role as his 74 off 93 balls gave Biman the launching pad. Discarded Tigers all-rounder Forhad Reza struck five fours and a six in his 30-ball 37.

Pegasus lost early wickets but in-form opener Rabiul Karim and national vice-captain Shahriar Nafees's younger brother Iftakhar Naim stuck around to score 46 and 44 respectively. Young Naim hit six boundaries in his 52-ball essay.

With eight needed in the final over, left-arm spinner Mosharraf Hossain stepped up to bowl. Raisul Islam and last man Sajid Rahman tried to thrash the spinner every ball but they only managed six runs.

### DOHS-VICTORIA

Victoria captain Sabbir Khan put the under-pressure DOHS into bat after the match, like the other two on the day, started two hours late.

His call was justified when pacesman Shahnewaz Kabir bowled his heart out and got rewards aplenty. Kabir took two wickets conceding just four runs in eight overs. The spell cast doom on the opponents' fortunes with Pakistani import Jaffer Quarishi cashing in.

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## Jamil steps down

SPORTS REPORTER

Khondoker Jamil Uddin yesterday tendered his resignation from the executive committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

He has decided to resign from the committee as the question was raised whether it was ethical to keep the post as an appointee of erstwhile government.

"I submitted my resignation letter to the board today (Tuesday) as there was question raised about the government appointee in the executive committee," said Jamil, who lost the election battle but was later nominated by the National Sports Council (NSC).

"I will also decide whether I will continue my job as chairman of the game development committee within two or three days," he added.

## GP Pacer Hunt starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

The GrameenPhone Pacer Hunt will start today at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium.

The screening and selection of the pace bowler search, which are going to take place after a gap of two years, will be held in three phases. Speed would be first criteria in the selection which will be supervised by former fast bowler Sarwar Imran.

The first phase venues are Chittagong (February 7-9), Barisal (February 13-14), Madaripur (February 15-16), Khulna (February 17-18), Satkhira (February 19-20), Rangpur (February 25-26), Dinajpur (February 27-28), Rajshahi (March 1-2), Mymensingh (March 3-4), Moulvibazar (March 7-8), Narayanganj (March 10-11) and Dhaka (March 20).

The second phase will be take place on April 20-29 and the third phase is scheduled for June 16-25.

Meanwhile, the venue for the Khulna round of phase one has been changed from the Bir Shrestha Shahid Flight Lieutenant Motiur Rahman Stadium to Khulna District Stadium.

## Scots set up final with Kenya

BBC ONLINE, undated

Scotland lost for the first time at the ICC World Cricket League, falling to a five wicket defeat to Bermuda on Monday.

The Scots will now take on host nation Kenya in Wednesday's final, with both sides having won four of their five matches in the tournament.

Gavin Hamilton top-scored for Scotland with 79, while Ryan Watson made 57.

But Bermuda overhauled the Scotland total with an over to spare - skipper Irving Romaine and Lionel Cann unbeaten on 84 and 49 respectively.

Kenya booked their place in the final with a convincing 158 run victory over Canada and both finalists are rewarded with a place at this year's inaugural Twenty20 World

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## Tigers felled at Harare



SPORTS REPORTER

Zimbabwe bounced back strongly to level the four-match series at 1-all when they inflicted an eight-wicket defeat on Bangladesh in the second one-day international at the Harare Sports Club ground yesterday.

After a comfortable 45-run victory in the first game, Bangladesh's brittle batting surfaced again as they were bowled out for 153 in 46 overs after skipper Habibul Bashir decided to bat.

Opener Vusi Sibanda struck an unbeaten 93 as Zimbabwe reached 156 losing the wickets of Terence Duffin and Hamilton Masakadza with nearly 15 overs to spare.

It was Zimbabwe's best performance in more than a year that put an end to their 13-match losing streak while it was the first time that the Tigers have lost an ODI after nine wins in a row, seven of which came against Zimbabwe.

Lanky paceman Christopher Mpofu started the carnage in the Bangladesh innings removing openers Shahriar Nafees (1) and Mehrab Hossain (2) before third seamer Gary Brent joined the party, tearing apart the visitors' middle-order with figures of 4-30.

Veteran Mohammad Rafique, however, salvaged some pride for

the Tigers as his 41-run knock and a 56-run eighth wicket stand with wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim enabled Bangladesh to recover from a precarious 81-7.

Rafique smote five fours and a six in 49 deliveries while Mushfiqur scored second best 27 off 73 balls.

It was not easy to know the details about the match in Zimbabwe but the team sources confirmed that there was nothing wrong with the pitch, rather it was poor batting which caused Bangladesh's humiliating defeat.

The defeat issued a warning that it would not be an easy task for Habibul Bashir's men to fulfil their dream of beating them in their own den.

Following Bangladesh's convincing first match success, many believed that the visitors were going to avenge their 3-2 series defeat in July-August last year heavily but they got a wakeup call by badly losing the second game.

There is no doubt that poor batting was fully responsible for the disaster but the question was also raised for Bangladesh's decision to bat first after winning the toss when the previous records made it clear that it is always risky to give Zimbabwe a chance batting second. And that was also a reason Zimbabwe had decided to field first in the first game. Another fact is Bangladesh could have capitalised the early morning advantage with

quality paceman like Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza and Shahadat Hossain at their disposal.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed was also surprised by the team's decision to bat first against Zimbabwe in their own soil.

"Honestly speaking, I was also surprised by the decision because of the past records," said the former national skipper without elaborating.

"It was not easy to know what actually happened but I was informed that the pitch was good for batting. What I also learned was that most of the batsmen skied the ball to return to the pavilion," said Faruque. Meanwhile, selector Golam Nawsher Prince is accompanying the team in Harare.

In the recent matches, the two southpaw openers Nafees and Mehrab at least ensured a good start but this was not the case on Tuesday as lanky pacemen Mpofu removed them into stumps to almost kill the visitors' hope.

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## Bangladesh host HK today

### Waly Faisal named U-23 captain



SPORTS REPORTER

Unsure of the opposition's strength, Bangladesh and Hong Kong both promised of entertainment when the two under-23 sides meet in the Olympic men's football pre-qualifying match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

Bangladesh Television will telecast

The first competitive match at the venue after its renovation, which kicks off at 5pm, will be telecast live by Bangladesh Television.

"We will play to win and I have the confidence in my boys," said Hong Kong coach Tsang Wai Chung, who visited Dhaka last year with the national team for the Asian Cup qualifier.

"The weather was hot and humid and my players struggled. But it's excellent weather for football now, even better than home. I think my players will enjoy the situation and as far as I know about the venue, they would like the facilities," Chung told a press conference at the BFF Bhaban.

"We have five and six players who have occasionally represented the senior team," informed the coach adding that their recent

preparation for the game was home and away matches against the Guang Dong state.

The visitors' advantage would be experience and superior exposure as they took the same squad to the Asian Games in Doha last December. Hong Kong finished second in their group, behind Iran after losing to the group winners 1-2. They drew 1-1 with India and beat Maldives 1-0.

The local boys, on the other hand, have had less preparation under Abu Yusuf.

Lack of domestic football resulted in unfit players when

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PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh under-23 players train at the BUET ground yesterday ahead of their Olympic pre-qualifying match against Hong Kong at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

## Vaughan very happy



BBC ONLINE, undated

Skipper Michael Vaughan heaped praise on England after they beat New Zealand to qualify for the Commonwealth Bank Series finals.

"We know we've got a lot of improvement to make in the one-day game," he said after the 14-run victory in Brisbane.

"But full credit to the team for the way we've responded in the last week. Five days ago nobody gave us a chance of getting into the final.

"The way we played was patchy, we were a bit erratic, but we've got fighting spirit and a bit of momentum going."

England totalled 270-7 in Brisbane thanks mainly to Paul Collingwood (106) and Andrew Strauss (55) who put on 103.

The duo had struggled for runs recently, and Collingwood had been particularly below-par since his double hundred in the second Test against Australia in December.

"We got off to an average start but the Collingwood and Strauss partnership was crucial to give us

that base to explode at the end," Vaughan said.

"They've had a long tour and will be the first to admit that over the past few weeks they haven't been in the best of form."

"Colly will be a happy man, he's had a tough few weeks but he played beautifully, just the kind of innings we've seen him play in one-day cricket for a number of years."

The Kiwis got off to a flying start but despite captain Stephen Fleming's 106, finished short in the end.

Vaughan added: "We didn't hit

them very hard with the new ball but we never felt we were going to lose that game in the middle period when we got a couple of wickets."

"The toss was a bit to our advantage, it nipped around a bit but at 60-0 after seven or eight overs a lot of people would have said we'd blown our chance."

"But the boys kept fighting and kept their nerve, which is crucial in one-day cricket."

Collingwood said: "It's been a tough long tour but we wanted to finish off on a high and put in the

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