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# Star SPORT

DHAKA FRIDAY MAY 16, 2008, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

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## Clubs accept relegation

SPORTS REPORTER

The professional league clubs finally accepted the proposal of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) for relegation in this year's B. League.

Although the clubs had threatened on Wednesday to boycott the league in protest of introducing relegation, they softened after a meeting with BFF's emergency committee yesterday.

In absence of president Kazi Salahuddin, who left for Malaysia on Wednesday night along with BFF member Anwarul Haque Helal and is expected to have a meeting with AFC president Mohamed Bin Hammam today at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur, senior vice-president Abus Salam Mursheed presided over the meeting.

"It was a very fruitful meeting. The clubs have agreed to the proposal of relegation and also proposed back to start a second tier competition in the professional league," said Salam after the meeting.

"Despite struggling due to financial constraints, the clubs said they want to remain in the professional structure and do not want to go back. It is a positive attitude and we are happy. I also thank the clubs," said the record-

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## Raw deal for BCB

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has been finalised the in-stadia advertising rights packages for the next month's tri-nation series involving India and Pakistan.

After negotiation, Indian agency Indus increased the amount to 3,24,000 dollars for Package One which was better from the floor price (2,50,000 dollars).

"Indus also agreed to install a giant screen for which we have to pay 30,000 to 32,000 dollars," said Ahmed Sajjadul Alam, BCB's media committee chairman.

But their was no improvement for Package Two as Bottomline got

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### David Hussey

(Australian cricketer)

"Look, Twenty20 is such a fast game that one has to remain focused all the time. We don't even have enough time for sledging."

On one of the many consequences of the shortest form of the game.



### Did U Know?

At the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, new balls are supplied after every 7 to 9 games. 1,250 dozen balls are used during the tournament.

**What to WATCH**  
SET MAX  
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Mumbai Indians v Kolkata Knight Riders  
Live from 7:30 pm  
**STAR Cricket**  
England v New Zealand  
First Test, Day Two  
Live from 4:00pm  
**ESPN**  
Sportscenter India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30pm

The crown of Indian Premier League finally gets its jewel back as Sachin Tendulkar (L), who is seen having a word with Mahendra Singh Dhoni, makes his first appearance in the million-dollar competition for his home side Mumbai against Chennai at the Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday. The picture on the right shows Sanath Jayasuriya enjoying his 'best day' with Tendulkar as his opening partner. Jayasuriya hammered an imperious 114 off 48 balls.



PHOTO: ANSIR RAHMAN

Abahani wicketkeeper Sahagir Hossain (R) is ecstatic after having Mohammedan captain Mohammad Ashraful (C) caught down the leg-side during their crucial Premier Division Super League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Sahagir later scored an unbeaten 67 as Abahani thrashed their bitter rivals by nine

points.

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Crucial knocks from Nafis Iqbal and Alok Kapali propelled Biman to 246-8 and despite BKSP skipper Mushfiqur Rahim's resistance, BKSP were never in the hunt as they were restricted to 177-8 in 50 overs at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

The national airliner were elevated further in the points table with 25 points from 14 outings, two ahead

of second-placed Abahani.

Left-handed opening pair Tamim Iqbal and Pakistani Nasir Jamshed added 51 runs before the latter fell to one-change Latif Azam, BKSP's marquee bowler for the day, in the 11th over. Although Tamim followed suit in the 22nd over after being set on 39 off 58 balls, the pair gave a solid base for the following Biman batsmen to build a big total.

Man-of-the-match Nafis took up the baton from his younger brother as the discarded national opener struck a typically patient 63 off 108 balls that was punctuated by six boundaries. He added 72 for the fourth wicket with stylish Kapali, who hammered away for a brilliant 45 that featured two sixes

and three boundaries.

What is fast becoming Kapali's trait in the shorter version of cricket, the Sylhet batsman has certainly mastered the art of finishing an innings after a good start had been provided.

Later, it was the Mosharrif Hossain show as the left-arm spinner snuff out three BKSP wickets after national vice-captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Mahbulul Alam provided early vigour.

Only Test wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur stood in the face of Biman for 109 minutes, hitting 50 off 70 balls. His innings ended when he edged Mashrafe to Biman keeper Sajjad Kadir in the 45th over.

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