

Abahani climb to top

SPORTS REPORTER



Abahani stormed to the top of the Citycell B League table with a 2-0 win over Arambagh yesterday.

thanks to a brace by playmaker Awudu Ibrahim. Ghanaian forward Ibrahim struck his first league goal after 33 minutes and doubled the margin just seven minutes later at the Bangabandhu National Stadium as the Sky-blues reached 15 points after six games, a point ahead of Sheikh Russel who play their seventh match today against fellow title contenders Mohammedan.

Amal Sen's defending champions have now won five matches in a row to completely bury a wretched start that saw Abahani lose to Rahmatganj 2-1 in the league opener.

The struggling Arambagh, who are third from bottom with five points following their third defeat, never looked comfortable as their mighty rivals mounted heavy

pressure from the start. However, the Arambagh defenders foiled two Abahani efforts to keep them at bay in the first half hour.

The first real chance fell to Emeka after 18 minutes but the Nigerian attacking midfielder, who has seemingly lost his scoring spree, saw his spectacular backvolley headed out by a defender from the face of the goal.

Mamun came close ten minutes later but the young midfielder, who got himself in a superb position with Ibrahim's through-pass, took a feeble effort that came off Arambagh goalie Piru before a defender took the ball away to safety.

Emeka also should have done better than to take a very weak shot straight to the lone keeper from close on the half hour after Emily's hard work at the left during a quick counter attack.

The pressure finally told when 'scorer' and 'provider' changed roles for once. Emily, who is Abahani's top scorer with four goals, sent a through from the left that opened up the rival backline

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Abahani's two-goal Ghanaian forward Awudu Ibrahim (R) tries to dribble past an Arambagh defender during their Citycell B League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Warriors' highest total

SPORTS REPORTER

There was little fireworks from Alok Kapali but Dhaka Warriors still produced their highest score in the rebel Indian Cricket League (ICL) at Tau Devi Lal Cricket Stadium in Chandigarh yesterday.

Desperately needing a win to keep their hopes for a semifinal berth alive, Dhaka piled up 181-7 against Ahmedabad Rockets, thanks to two beefy knocks from opener Nazimuddin and lower-order batsman Mahabubul Karim. Dhaka's previous best in the competition was 174-5 against Delhi Giants.

Nazimuddin, with a half century under his belt, scored a fluent 48 off 29 balls that contained four sixes and three boundaries while Karim remained unbeaten on 45 off 24 balls.

Dhaka were off to a rollicking start after being sent into bat by Ahmedabad's Australian captain Damien Fleming with runs flowing in sixes and fours rather than singles. Their first fifty came in just five overs that included four sixes in a row despite the departure of left-handed opener Shahriar Nafis (5) as early as the second over bowled

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Did U Know?

India's Virender Sehwag took five wickets in an innings for the first time in his career on the fourth day of the third Test against Australia at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in New Delhi on Saturday.



Talk Turkey



Allen Stanford

(American billionaire) "When this was announced in June I was a hero; now I'm a skunk in October."

Describing his roller-coaster ride following widespread criticism about his 20 venture.

What to Watch

- ESPN Sportscentre India Sports News Live from 8:00pm
- TEN Sports ICL Twenty20 Kolkata v Chennai Live from 8:00pm
- UEFA Champions League Roma v Chelsea Live from 1:00am (Wednesday)
- Liverpool v Arsenal Delayed from 3:45am (Wednesday)

Day's Event

- Nat'l Cricket League (Four-Day, Day 3) Dhaka v Khulna
- Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium
- Sylhet v Rajshahi
- Venue: Sylhet Divisional Stadium
- Barisal v Chittagong
- Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
- Citycell B League Mohammedan v Sheikh Russel (5:00pm)
- Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Tigers train in blue

Cricket

TIGERCRIKET.COM, Johannesburg

With the day-night Pro20 International on Wednesday promising an electrifying start to the tour of South Africa, the 'new look' Bangladesh team got down to business Monday and completed a solid training session.

The Tigers left their traditional yellow and black to don the new blue training kit for the first time in yesterday's practice. All the 15 players had a bat during the two and a half hours spent in the morning at the outdoor practice facility of the Wanderers and fielding drills

continued side by side inside the main oval. The practice pitches had grass and there was some prodigious seam movement available for the bowlers which made life difficult at times for the batters. However the top order to their credit stuck it out against some quality bowling from local first-class, club and youth level cricketers.

"It's a challenge but that's how practice wickets tend to be here. If you can practice on these tracks it becomes a lot easier when you go out to bat in the matches because pitches at the main venues are very good for batting," said the Tigers' South African fitness coach Grant Trafford-Luden.

The T20 is a major attraction

and Tigers' opening batsman Tamim Iqbal is eagerly waiting for his chance to make a mark on Wednesday.

"This is a tough tour and I know I have to work very hard to score runs against South Africa. But I am really looking forward to the T20 match. I love the format, I love the fast pace of it and it sends my pulse racing," said Tamim who felt his team is a more confident unit following the recent New Zealand series.

"It was a very close series and we could have won the first Test and missed out on beating New Zealand in the ODI series also after winning the first ODI. The performance gave the players a lot of self

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Steyn returns against Tigers

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

South African fast bowler Dale Steyn is set to make his return after illness in a Twenty20 international against Bangladesh at the Wanderers Stadium here on Wednesday.

Steyn, the International Cricket Council's Test player-of-the-year, missed the two-match series against Kenya which ended on Sunday after suffering from a virus. Media officer Michael Owen-Smith said Steyn was "one hundred per cent medically" but needed to build up his match fitness.

South African captain Graeme Smith, who is recovering from a

tennis elbow injury, will not play in the Twenty20 international but is hoping to be in action in the first one-day international in Potchefstroom Friday.

Bangladesh will play three one-day internationals and two Test matches on their month-long tour. Owen-Smith said Smith had not yet batted in the nets but had been "shadow batting" during the South African team's camp in Kimberley

Date	Match	Venue
Nov 5	T20	Johannesburg
Nov 7	1st ODI	Potchefstroom
Nov 9	2nd ODI	Benoni
Nov 12	3rd ODI	East London
Nov 15-16	2-day v SA Airways XI	Kimberley
Nov 19-23	1st Test	Bloemfontein
Nov 26-30	2nd Test	Centurion

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Rajib off to good start

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi Grand Master Enamul Hossain Rajib has won his first two matches in the 12th Bavarian Open International Chess Championships. He beat Honnekes Klaus of Germany on Sunday in the second round to take his collection to maximum two points.

Rajib was playing his third game against Nagel Bernhard of Germany yesterday.

A total of 356 players including 15 grandmasters are playing in the competition.

Nat'l swimming from Nov 15

UNB, Dhaka

The Mercantile Bank 23rd National Swimming Championships will begin November 12 at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur.

Interested teams have been asked to send their entries for the four-day meet to the Bangladesh Swimming Federation by tomorrow.

Cricket camp for girls

SPORTS REPORTER

A cricket coaching camp for the girl's of Dhaka metropolitan will be held tomorrow at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

The women's wing of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is organising the camp.

Interested girls of class VI to XII have been asked to attend the coaching camp at 3pm.

Dhaka in driver's seat

SPORTS REPORTER

Tushar Imran kept vigil at one end but the captain's effort was not enough for Khulna as Dhaka tightened their noose on the visitors on the second day of the four-day match in the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea 10th National Cricket League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Left-arm spinner Arafat Sunny ripped through the Khulna middle-order as Dhaka captured a 141-run first innings lead while it was another left-arm spinner Sohrawordi Shuvo who grabbed four wickets to ensure hosts Sylhet's 55-run first innings lead against Rajshahi.

At the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, Tariqul Islam completed his half-century after Rony Talukdar's maiden first-class century on the first day as Barisal took their total to 385 after resuming the day on 176-5.

DHAKAVKHLUNA Shamsur Rahman missed a back-to-back half-century for four runs as the right-hander fell victim to a run out but Dhaka were in commanding position after finishing the day on 130-3 in their second essay.

Their total lead raced to 271 runs. Javed Omar (32) and Mahmudullah Riyad, who was batting on 30, were the other notable scorers in Dhaka's second innings.

Earlier new ball bowler Emon Ahmed started the carnage by removing two openers Nazmus Sadat and Mostafizur Rahman for 23 when Khulna resumed the day

on 10 without loss. Emon took two wickets for 21 while Arafat claimed four wickets for 45 runs and Mahmudullah Riyad captured 2 for four runs.

Out-of-favour Tushar was stranded at one end to watch wickets fall like ninepins at the other as wicketkeeper Sahagir Hossain was the other batsman who reached double figures with 13.

Tushar smashed six fours and a six in his 102-ball 50.

BARISAL V CHITTAGONG Nasir Hossain picked up two quick wickets as Barisal finished the day on top against Chittagong.

In reply to Barisal's 385, Chittagong made good start before Tariqul got rid of Nafis Iqbal to break his 64-run opening partner-

ship with Gazi Salahuddin, who made an 88-ball 55 that featured six boundaries.

Nasir however took two wickets in consecutive overs as Chittagong were reduced to 119 for 3 before stumps were drawn for the day.

Earlier Tariqul resumed the day on four and struck six boundaries for his 55 off 155 balls to help his side put a challenging total on the board.

Kamrul Islam was the most successful bowler with 5-62 and his new ball partner Tareq Aziz Khan grabbed four wickets for 99 runs.

SYLHET V RAJSHAHI Shuvo captured two more wickets on the second day but it was not good enough to stop Sylhet taking

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Dhaka middle-order batsman Shamsur Rahman drives the ball on the off-side during his polished knock of 48 against Khulna on second day of their Ispahani Mirzapore Tea 10th National Cricket League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Brazilian Formula One driver Felipe Massa (front) of Ferrari and British Lewis Hamilton (centre back) on McLaren-Mercedes compete during the first lap of the Brazil F1 GP at Interlagos race track in Sao Paulo on Sunday. Massa won the final race of the year but it was Hamilton who lifted the 2008 title.

PHOTO: AFP

Hamilton made it at final corner

AFP, Sao Paulo

An emotional Lewis Hamilton admitted he was virtually lost for words and did not know he had succeeded Sunday when he became the youngest man to win the Formula One drivers' world championship.

The 23-year-old Englishman, needing a top five finish to be champion, only seized fifth place for McLaren Mercedes again, after losing it, on the final lap of a tense, dramatic and rain-hit Brazilian Grand Prix won by his title rival and local hero Felipe Massa of Ferrari.

As Massa triumphed and then celebrated, briefly, Hamilton caught and passed German Timo Glock of Toyota to turn his day from despair to joy after earlier appearing to have controlled his own race by cruising towards fourth or fifth place.

A late shower of rain then created chaos and saw Hamilton change tyres and fall back to sixth before he made his final desperate charge to recover and claim fifth.

But as he said afterwards Hamilton was not even sure that he had won the title when he finally crossed the line in teeming rain and near-darkness in front of 100,000 spectators at the Interlagos circuit.

"We did it, we did it," he shrieked.

"But honestly I did not know if we had when I crossed the line. I was thinking 'shoot! I am just not sure - have I done enough? Did we get it?'"

"And they told me and I felt just ecstatic. We had made it. You can

Lewis Hamilton

Youngest ever F1 champion

British

Age 23

Height 1.74 m

Weight 67 kg

McLaren

2008 wins: Australia, Monaco, Britain, Germany, China

1st win: Canadian GP (2007)

F1 debut: Australian GP (2007)

AFP 021108 Source: FIA

forget everything else that has happened before now. This is the best and it was the toughest race of my life.

"I have to thank everyone, my

Dad, my family, my fans and supporters back home and the team. It would be great to do it again in the future, but I am not sure if my heart can take that final lap all over again."

Glock denies accusations

AFP, Sao Paulo

German driver Timo Glock reacted with astonishment on Monday when he was confronted with suggestions that he slowed down and gifted Briton Lewis Hamilton the drivers' world title in Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix.

The Toyota driver, who was in fifth place on the final lap of the 71-laps race, was unable to resist Hamilton's charge to pass him for that position as they went into the final corner of the contest.

If Hamilton had finished sixth, home hero Brazilian Felipe Massa would have been the champion but Glock, running on worn dry-weather tyres in heavy rain, lost the grip he needed just as Hamilton, on wet-weather tyres, pushed for glory.

He said: "It was a hard race and I tried my best to get some points for Toyota."

"Six laps from the end I asked

His father Anthony Hamilton who has guided his career all the way from junior karting days when they were a poor family from a council estate in Stevenage, England, to the top, said: "This proves to everyone else, like us, that it can be done."

"It has come from 16 years of hard work and dedication and respect." Massa who finished the season in style with a dazzling win in front of his home crowd ended up in tears as he stood atop the victors' podium.

He had won six races this season to Hamilton's five but missed the championship 98 points to 97.

"It has been such an emotional day for me, I drove a perfect race and everything went to well," he said.

"Then the rain came at the end again and I knew what was happening. We thought it was going to happen and it almost did, then I saw Lewis passing Timo Glock and I suddenly had such a lot of emotions."

"I was so emotional, but I am proud of the team, of my team, my family, the people here today and the whole season and the championship. It is one more day of my life. Lewis has won it and I am going to learn from this."

Driving with great control and

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