

PREMIER DIV RESUMES TODAY Focus on Fatullah

SPORTS REPORTER

After two days break the Premier Division Cricket League resumes today at three different venues.

The focus will be on the match between Mohammedan and Old DOHS at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium. The popular black and whites will desperately try to snap DOHS's all-win record as well as bouncing back from their disappointing last round defeat against Victoria.

Biman, the other still unbeaten team after three games, will take on Victoria at BKSP while defending champions Abahani meet Parlex at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Abahani won two matches in three games with the only defeat inflicted by the Mohammad Ashraf-ud-Din Gazi Tank.

Star-studded Gazi Tank face Young Pegasus at Fatullah tomorrow to keep them in the contention after losing two games in three matches.



Did U Know?

Table tennis became Olympic sport in the 1988 Summer Games in Seoul.



Thilan Samaraweera

(Sri Lanka all-rounder)
"I think we will give a good farewell to Mahela Jayawardene as captain. Everyone knows his record as captain and he deserves a befitting farewell."



TEN Sports
West Indies v England
Third Test, Day 4
Live from 8:00pm
ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm
English Premier League
Man United v Fulham
Live from 2:00am (Thursday)

PREMIER DIV CRICKET LEAGUE
Abahani v Parlex
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur
Mohammedan v Old DOHS
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
Biman v Victoria
Venue: BKSP

PCB lifts ban on six ICL players

AFP, Karachi

A Pakistani court Tuesday lifted domestic bans on the country's last six active players who joined the unofficial Indian Cricket League (ICL).

Seventeen ICL rebels are now free to play Pakistani cricket but remain barred from international matches until they are cleared by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

SL lift tri-series title

SPORTS REPORTER

Sri Lanka emerged champions in the Grameenphone Women's tri-nation tournament after beating Pakistan by six wickets in the final at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

It was a morale boosting triumph for the Lankans ahead of next month's women's World Cup in Australia.

Electing to bowl first, the Sri Lanka team rode on the efforts of Chamari Polgampola and captain Sashikala Siriwardene's to bundle Pakistan out for a paltry 123. Hiruka Fernando then top scored with 44 as the islanders cantered home for the loss of four wickets with nearly 15 overs to spare.

The sparse crowd in the stadium were disappointed as Pakistan struggled throughout.

They were four down for 37 as opener Nain Abidi failed to carry on her good form into the final, contributing just 13, while skipper Urooj Mumtaz Khan perished on 10. Javeria Khan top-scored with 23 while Sana Mir and Almas Akram both scored 16 to carry Pakistan past the 100 run mark.

The Pakistani's were pegged back throughout as the Sri Lankans bowled a nagging line and length. Polgampola picked up her first two wickets off successive balls - Qanita Jalil and Bismah Maroof falling with just 14 on the

board. She then returned to wrap up the innings with Asmavia Iqbal's wicket for 6.

In reply, Fernando scored an unbeaten 44 and added 29 with Polgampola early in the Lankan innings to see them home in relative comfort.

Pakistan captain Urooj Mumtaz took two wickets in the space of three balls but Polgampola ensured that Sri Lanka reached the target without further hiccoughs.

Contributing 19 with the bat in an opening stand of 49, she was adjudged both player-of-the-match and of the series for her nine-wicket haul in the tournament.

The emphatic win saw Sri Lanka, who would have been unbeaten champions of the tournament had they not lost to Bangladesh, justify their standing as favourites in the match.

"Although we lost to Bangladesh, we were confident in the morning that we will win today's match because our batsmen are in form. At no stage did I think that we could lose the match, even when we lost two quick wickets because there are 7 all-rounders in the team," said the victorious Sashikala.

The Sri Lankan captain also added that she expected more crowds in Dhaka but appreciated the other venues again, quoting them as a good environment to play cricket in.

The visitors return home today where they have less than a fortnight to prepare for the World Cup. Both Sri Lanka and Pakistan are in

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



The victorious Sri Lanka women's team are all smiles as they celebrate winning the Grameenphone tri-nation tournament after beating Pakistan in the final at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Russel finish third

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra blanked Farashganj Sporting Club 2-0 to finish third in the Citycell B League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Rajon Miah broke the deadlock after a drab first half with a spectacular volley and set up the second goal for veteran striker Alfaz Ahmed as Russel retained the third spot by improving their tally to 41 points.

The country's new powerhouse, Russel finished the league three points behind runners-up Mohammedan and nine points adrift of Abahani, who retained the title in style by winning their last game against Rahmatganj 6-3 at the same venue on Monday.

Back in the day's match, it was a boring first half with both teams showing signs of tiredness on the final day of a long and gruelling league that started on September 9 last year. The game however sprang to life when Rajon let loose a sublime volley off a Sameer Omari cross.

It took another five minutes for Rajon to provide a defence-slicing through pass to Alfaz who sealed the match with a scorching grounder. Standing at the wrong age of his luminous career, Alfaz with his 17th league goal this season showed that he might have lost some of his pace but his clinical finishing touches are as good as in his heydays.

This goal also put Alfaz tied in second place

with Abahani's Emeka Christian in the leading scorer's list that Mohammedan's Alamu Bukola leads with 18 goals.

Farashganj finished sixth as the old city club remained at 26 points.

In the last game of the competition Brothers Union secured a 2-1 victory over Chittagong Mohammedan at the same venue.

Rony Islam put Brothers ahead in the 60th minute but Chittagong Mohammedan bounced back through a 71st minute strike from Guinea striker Raphael Sagnio.

Munna however confirmed the Gopibagh outfit's full points when he struck the match-winner in the 76th minute.

Brothers improved their tally to 37 points while Chittagong Mohammedan stayed at 30 points after playing 20 matches.

FINAL STANDINGS

Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Abahani	20	16	2	2	45	11	50
Mohammedan	20	13	5	2	42	12	44
Russel	20	12	5	3	40	20	41
Brothers	20	10	7	3	32	22	37
Cig MSC	20	8	6	6	22	16	30
Farashganj	20	7	5	8	23	22	26
Rahmatganj	20	6	3	11	23	30	21
Cig Abahani	20	5	5	10	18	23	20
Arambagh	20	4	6	10	14	27	18
Muktijoddha	20	3	4	13	9	33	13
Khulna Abahani	20	1	2	17	10	59	5

England in command

Cricket

AFP, St John's

Paul Collingwood became the second century-maker in the England first innings when he hit his eighth Test hundred against West Indies in the third Test here on Monday.

West Indies made an unsteady start to reach 55 for one, replying to England's total of 566 for nine declared when stumps were drawn on the second day at the Antigua Recreation Ground.

Collingwood made 113 and shared three half-century stands to beef up the England total after captain Andrew Strauss's 169. Kevin Pietersen scored 51, Stuart Broad made 44, Matt Prior got 39 and Graeme Swann was not out on 20.

England trail the series 0-1 following an innings and 23-run defeat in the opening Test at Kingston inside four days. The second match was abandoned due to a dangerous outfield at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground.

Jerome Taylor collected two wickets for 73 runs from 28 overs, Fidel Edwards snared two for 75 from 26 overs, and Ryan Hinds poached two for 86 from 22.2 overs.

England's new-ball pair of James Anderson and Andrew Flintoff then found out what their opponents had learnt about the ARG pitch over the past two days.

Flintoff got a few balls to jump from a good length and startle Chris Gayle, but the West Indies captain and fellow left-handed opener Devon Smith had little about which to worry in between.

Steve Harmison replaced Anderson at the northern end

for the eighth over of the innings and things started to happen.

His second delivery -- a no-ball -- Gayle blindly hooked over deep fine leg for a six way out of the small ground nestled in the Antigua and Barbuda capital.

A few balls later, Harmison dug in short again, and Gayle swatted another no-ball, one bounce, into the mid-wicket boundary for the last of his five fours.

But next delivery, England and Harmison were celebrating, when Gayle, weight on the back foot, was caught at mid-off driving loosely.

Earlier, Collingwood helped England pile on the runs.

He struck 14 boundaries from 202 balls in just over five hours before he was dismissed -- caught inside the deep mid-wicket boundary off Hinds -- to prompt the declaration.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



England batsman Paul Collingwood raises his bat towards the pavilion after reaching his century on the second day of the third Test against West Indies at the Antigua Recreation Ground in St John's on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP

DIV-I CRICKET Dhanmondi's second win

SPORTS REPORTER

Ali Arman Raju's unbeaten 74 of 123 balls saw Dhanmondi score their second consecutive win against Badda by 7 wickets at the City Club Ground yesterday in the Dhaka First Division Cricket League.

Dhanmondi reached their target of 164 in the 45th over and lost just three wickets. Shamim also contributed to his team's victory by picking up 3 wickets for 27 runs.

At the Dhaka University Ground, Lalmatia won their first match in the league beating Indira Road by three wickets. Batting first, Indira were all out for 157 with Asif and Tipu both picking up three wickets apiece. Lalmatia then reached home with 23 balls to spare with Moshir and Saikat scoring 39 and 37 respectively.

Motijheel T&T scored their first win in the league beating Khelaghar by 19 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Going on to bat first, Motijheel were all out for 182 runs as Khelaghar's Zakir picked up a 4-wicket haul conceding 52 runs in his 10 overs. The game finished in the 46th over when Shahid and Ataur picked up six wickets among themselves to bowl out Khelaghar for 163.

German hockey coach in town

SPORTS REPORTER

German hockey coach Peter Gerhard Rach arrived Dhaka yesterday to discuss with Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) officials over his possible appointment as the head coach of the national team.

BHF will oversee Rach's skill and experience and work out the financial details before considering his appointment as national hockey coach.

During his three days stay Rach will work with the Bangladesh hockey players who have been undergoing training for the South Asian Games.

Asian Hockey Federation development officer Tayeb Akram, who took the responsibility of finding a coach for Bangladesh, sent the German coach for the development of Bangladesh hockey.

Rach began his career as hockey coach for the German junior side (14-18 years) in 1972 and then coached different clubs teams. He also acted as coach for club level hockey.

The 60-year old German coached the Indian hockey team for one year in 2004 and under his guidance India finished seventh in Olympic hockey and finished fourth in the Champions Trophy in Lahore in the same year.

"I think Bangladesh should be in a place where Japan, China and Malaysia stay," said Rach, who is currently living in Dubai, while talking to the reporters yesterday.

Indo-Pak tension no threat to 2011 WC Bangladesh to host opening match

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

The 2011 cricket World Cup will go on as scheduled in South Asia despite growing political tensions between co-hosts India and Pakistan, the sport's governing body said on Tuesday.

"We are committed to staging the World Cup in Asia," International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive Haroon Lorgat told reporters after a meeting of the World Cup organising committee here. "I am aware of the current situation but the World Cup is still a long way away. It is too early to be concerned but we are monitoring the situation

on a regular basis." Representatives from all four host nations -- India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh -- attended a meeting that was chaired by ICC vice-president Sharad Pawar.

The meeting confirmed that Bangladesh will stage the opening match of the qua

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



ICC vice-president Sharad Pawar (C) makes a point during the 2011 Cricket World Cup Organizing Committee meeting at New Delhi on Tuesday. Also seen is Bangladesh representative Mahub Anam (L).

PHOTO: AFP

Acid test awaits Dhoni

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Mahendra Singh Dhoni faces the toughest challenge of his fairytale-like career to date when he leads India in New Zealand from this month, his first full tour as captain.

The 27-year-old has reached dizzy heights in a short space of time, rising from a lowly and poorly paid railway employee in his home town Ranchi in eastern India to become one of the country's most celebrated sportsmen.

The dashing batsman-wicketkeeper, who made an uninspiring one-day debut in December 2004, captained India when senior players opted out of the inaugural Twenty20 world championships in South Africa in 2007.

Dhoni and his rank outsiders went on to win the tournament and he found himself elevated to both the one-day captaincy and deputy to Test skipper Anil Kumble after Rahul Dravid resigned.

Dhoni was finally given charge for all three forms last October when Kumble called it a day, even as critics feared the excessive workload of keeping wicket and leading the team could burn him out.

But the cool, composed and supremely fit Dhoni has shrugged off any concerns, securing wins in four of his five Tests as captain, with the fifth ending in a draw. Under him, India have won

28 of 46 one-day matches and six of 10 Twenty20 internationals, raising Dhoni to the status of cult figure in the cricket-obsessed country. Lucrative sponsorship deals have followed -- Dhoni

currently endorses 19 products -- and he is the highest-paid home star in the Indian Premier League with a 1.5-million-dollar-a-year contract with the Chennai Super Kings.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



Welsh tennis star Sian Bayliss follows through on a shot during the Dhaka Bank 23rd International Junior Tennis tournament at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR