

## Mohammedans face off again today

SPORTS REPORTER

Maruful Haque will be buoyed by the return of his captain and inspirational midfielder Arman Aziz and Enamul Haque Sharif when his Dhaka Mohammedan take on Chittagong Mohammedan in the second-leg second semifinal of the Citycell Super Cup today.

A 1-0 win in the first leg, thanks to Nigerian goal-machine Alamu Bukola's dying minute strike, will give the local side an edge over

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## BSJA awards today

SPORTS REPORTER

The prize giving ceremony of Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) from 2002-08 will be held today at the NSCTower.

The Kool-BSJA awards ceremony, where over hundred sportsmen, sports personalities, organisers and sponsors will be honoured for their achievements, will begin at 11.45 am.

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad will distribute prizes among the winners as chief guest. State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarkar and Anjan Chowdhury, managing director of sponsor Square Toiletries, will be present as special guests.



## Did U Know?

Australia's Mitchell Johnson scored his maiden century on the fourth day of the third and final Test against South Africa on Sunday.



## Fabio Capello

(England soccer coach)

"The only important thing for me is how well [David] Beckham plays. He is playing well, so if he is fit, he has a chance of being in my next squad. I will decide for certain when the time comes."

While insisting that the superstar's form itself will dictate his World Cup destiny.



**BTV**  
Super Cup Football  
(Cup Group, Return Semifinal)  
Dhaka Mohammedan v Ctg Mohammedan  
Live from 5:00pm

**ESPN**  
Sportscentre India  
Sports News  
Live from 8:55pm



**Super Cup Football**  
(Cup Group, Return Semifinal)  
Dhaka Mohammedan v Ctg Mohammedan  
Time: 5:00pm  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka

# Tamim tears Gazi apart

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Tamim Iqbal hit an explosive hundred as Abahani took sweet revenge against Gazi Tank with a massive 114-run victory in the opening match of the Premier Division Cricket Super League yesterday.

The dashing left-hander smashed 164 off 143 balls in an attacking display he is known for as the defending champions buried their opponents under a pile of runs with 344-7, the highest total in the ongoing league, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Tamim's bat talked a day after Bangladesh vice-captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza blasted the non-performing national batsmen saying that 'at least four batsmen should be in the list of top ten'. Tamim struck four fifties in the first phase and his first century was a music to the ears of Mashrafe, who is also the captain of Abahani.

Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful-led Gazi Tank, the newcomers who won both the Twenty20 and first phase matches against the popular Dhanmondi outfit, were clueless in their chase of a towering target this time and were eventually restricted to 230-6 in their share of 50 overs.

The victory not only exacted a sweet revenge for Abahani but also provided them a giant step forward towards retaining the title as they kept their four points advantage over second-placed Surjo Torun and

Bangladesh Biman, both have also won their respective opening Super League encounters at different venues yesterday.

It was a day for the Chittagonian as the young national opener virtually made the opponent bowlers

helpless during his near-flawless innings that contained 18 boundaries and four sixes including two against Ashraful, who also conceded another couple of boundaries in one prodigal over that yielded 20 runs.

Tamim gave one chance



PHOTO: STAR

**MAN-OF-THE-MATCH:** Star Abahani batsman Tamim Iqbal salutes teammates on reaching his century against Gazi Tank in a Premier Division Super League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Tamim went on to score 164.

while on 74 but Ashraful failed to hold the high ball running from cover to point.

Abahani lost their first wicket with the scoreboard reading just 3 and were reduced to 53-2 in the 13th over. It did give little indication what was to follow. The innings picked the pace when Indian Rashmi Ranjan Parida joined Tamim to produce 158 runs for the third wicket.

Ranjan played some brilliant shots during a 70-ball 66 that featured seven boundaries. But he can be best described as the supporting actor to Tamim. When Tamim left, the scoreboard was reading 298-6 with another 4.3 overs remaining; an indication that the match as a contest was all but over at the halfway stage.

It could have been more befitting had the national opener not lost his composure after completing 150 and stayed there till the end in an attempt to achieve that elusive 200-mark.

"It was a good chance for me to make a double hundred," conceded Tamim after the match.

National pacer Rubel claimed three wickets for Gazi Tank but it cost him 74 runs in nine overs.

In reply, Gazi desperately needed a flying start but it never happened after both their openers Imrul Kayes and Mohammad Mithun made ducks.

Ashraful and Indian Pravanjan Mullick salvaged the early damages but they were never in a mood to chase that ever-increasing run rate.

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PHOTO: STAR

Abahani goalkeeper and stand-in captain Biplab grips a cross to deny Brothers striker Henry a header as Sujan (L) looks on during their second-leg first semifinal of the Citycell Super Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

# Abahani in final

SPORTS REPORTER



Stand-in captain Biplab Bhattacharyya saved a penalty to take Abahani into the final of the Citycell Super Cup with a goalless draw against Brothers Union in yesterday's return-leg semifinal.

The Sky Blues moved ahead with an aggregate 3-2 victory after winning the first leg by the same margin but they had to pay heavy price on way to the final of the Tk two-core tournament.

Amalesh Sen's B. League champions, who will take on winners of the second semifinal between Dhaka and Chittagong Mohammedans, will miss both their holding midfielders Arif Khan Joy and Pranotosh Das through suspension.

Joy received his third yellow card in the competition while Pranotosh, who conceded a penalty in the first half injury time to be cautioned for the first time, was sent off in the second half stoppage time for his second bookable offence.

The Oranges, however, should consider themselves unfortunate for not scoring at least one goal after dominating the show.

Despite having superior ball possession, Wasim Iqbal's boys failed to penetrate the tight Abahani backline brilliantly marshalled by Sujan and Ghana's Samad Yussif. And whenever the ball got beyond the two centre-backs, it was Biplab who came out with his trusted gloves.

Otherwise shaky under the bar last time out during their 3-2 win, the national custodian foiled a series of rival crosses and corners either side of parrying Zahid's penalty shot.

Tapu was felled by Pranotosh at the left side

of the Sky Blues area on stroke of halftime to earn the spotkick from Qatari referee Abdur Rahman, but Biplab's legwork denied a low shot from the 12-yard mark. Zahid then collected the rebound but failed to keep his header under the bar as the Abahani fans sighed breaths of relief.

The draw put an end to Abahani's 14-match winning streak in the season but Abahani, in the first place, looked to play for a draw in absence of their mercurial playmaker Awudu Ibrahim.

Pranotosh got into the starting line-up to replace Ibrahim while Amalesh Sen left skipper Nazrul at the bench to give more attacking fullback Siraji his first start of the competition.

Brothers, who needed a two-goal win to go through, had Arup back at the right side of the midfield and decided to give Shakil a chance under the bar in place of Zia, who had a night-marish first leg semifinal.

Abahani rushed early blood though and Emily drove a wild shot from close after six minutes. Emeke placed his effort into the side netting and Siraji forced a fine save by Shakil but Brothers got the better chances of the first half.

Mohammed Shakil broke an offside trap but his angled drive missed the far post before Mishu hit the sidebar in the 43rd minute. The ball came to the fullback off the wall after Zahid struck a powerful freekick and Ariful got the rebound only to fire over.

The missed penalty did not break the Oranges' heart and they came back with fresh vigour.

Abahani survived relentless pressure in the first 20 minutes after resumption and hit on the break but Shakil came out of his line to snatch the ball from Emeke's feet in the 64th minute.

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# Mashud's rescue act

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Veteran Khaled Mashud led from the front as Surjo Torun kept their hopes alive in the title race of the Premier Division Cricket League with an exciting three-wicket victory over Mohammedan at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The wicketkeeper-batsman's match-winning unbeaten knock of 66 guided Surjo Torun to overtake Mohammedan's paltry total of 210 with eight balls to spare. The win improved their tally to 18 points, four points shy of leaders Abahani, while Mohammedan bowed out from the race after the defeat.

Away at BKSP, Bangladesh Biman also kept themselves in contention when they handed a seven-run defeat to Partex to raise their tally to 18 points.

## MOHAMMEDAN-SURJO TORUN

Surjo Torun lost half of their wickets for 88 runs but Sabbir Rahman joined his skipper Mashud to make the rescue act as the pair added 64 runs in the sixth wicket stand.

Sabbir was dismissed for 34 off 40 balls with five boundaries but former national skipper Mashud kept his nerve to confirm the victory. Mashud made an unbeaten 66 off 111 balls that saw six fours as Surjo Torun reached the target of 211 after losing seven wickets in 48.4 overs.

Hannan Sarker was the other notable scorer with a 50-ball 49 that featured eight fours and a six.

Pacer Tareq Aziz Khan captured three wickets for 52 runs.

Earlier, number eight Sohrawordi Shuvo's quickfire 41 helped Mohammedan to put up a

decent total on the board after deciding to bat first.

The Mohammedan skipper smashed three fours and a six during his unbeaten 33-ball essay while opener Nadimuddin added 38 off 51 balls that included six boundaries.

Sabbir took three wickets for 39 runs.

## BIMAN-PARTEX

Tariq Ahmed's stroke-filled 76 that came from 74 balls with ten fours and a six after Omar Faruk's five-for went in vain when Partex finished their 50-over quota on 234 for nine in reply to Biman's 241.

Partex fell eight runs short due to Rezaul Haque's slow batting as the number six batsman played 71 balls to score 33 balls while Omar Faruk took 42 balls to make 22 runs.

Earlier Biman thrived on two half centuries from Javed Omar and Zahid Niaz to put up a fighting score after being sent into bat first.

Javed made 66 off 110 balls with three fours and a six while Zahid contributed 59 off 62 balls that featured four boundaries and three sixes.

Faruk claimed five wickets for 39 runs.

## BRIEF SCORES

**MOHAMMEDAN:** 210-9 in 50 overs (Nadimuddin 38, Nasiruddin 23, Farhad 31, Rokibul 29, Shuvo 41, extras 8; Afsar 2-40, Sanjamul 2-40, Sabbir 3-39)

**SURJO TORUN:** 211-7 in 48.4 overs (Hannan 49, Mashud 66 not out, Sabbir 34, extras 11; Tareq 3-52, Sajedul 2-39)

**RESULT:** Surjo Torun won by three wickets.

**BIMAN:** 241-9 in 50 overs (Sadat 32, Zahurul 35, Javed 66, Mushfiqur 59, extras 6; Omar Faruk 5-39)

**PARTEX:** 234-9 in 50 overs (Shafiqul 20, Tariq 76, Rezaul 33, Faruk 22, extras 14; Mahbubul 2-53, Nabil 2-50)

**RESULT:** Biman won by seven runs.

# Brothers rue mistakes

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite two spirited displays, Brothers Union will have to play the third-fourth place play off in the Citycell Super Cup.

Their 0-0 draw with Abahani in the second leg semifinal after a 3-2 loss in the first match settled the issue yesterday and captain Amit Khan Shuvra admitted it was hard to believe.

"It is very painful to go down after playing well. We played positive and fought hard but it was bad luck. We are united for the cause of football's revival and hope to get better result in future," said the Brothers defender.

Zahid, who fluffed a penalty, said it was just a miss.

"I was confident after twice scoring from the spot in the B. league but it was just not my day," the speedy winger said.

"Missing the penalty was part of the game. After so many misses, you can't get result," rued coach Wasim Iqbal.

"Abahani are a very good team but we are happy because we fought them well," told the former national winger, who played for both

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# IPL shifting a let down: Sachin

CRICINFO, undated



Sachin Tendulkar, the captain of the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Mumbai Indians, has said it is disappointing that the 2009 season of the tournament will be played outside India. The tournament is likely to be shifted to either England or South Africa and Tendulkar said, "It won't be the same."

"It is disappointing that the IPL has been moved out of India," he said. "We will certainly miss playing in front of our supporters. It won't be the same. It was a good concept to play home and away matches. This is something that the teams will miss this time around. Wherever we play, we hope to have the same fervour that we had had last season."

Yuvraj Singh, the Kings XI Punjab captain, also said that this season was going to be different from last year. He

also hoped that the Indian players would be allowed to take their families to the IPL because they would have just returned from a long tour of New Zealand.

"It is sad that the IPL won't be held in India. But we have to go ahead with it as it is the decision of the board," Yuvraj said. "As we would be returning home from New Zealand after a long tour, we hope we are allowed to take our families along."

"It's a mixed feeling because we were looking forward to play at home, now we have to play away so we feel sad for a lot of Indians who were looking forward to watch it. But due to certain conditions we have play overseas, which is also going to be fun. Anyway if we were playing in India, a lot of home games were shifted to other centres. So it was not actually a home game or away game."

The organisers of the IPL were forced to shift the tournament out of India after the

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PHOTO: INTERNET

West Indies batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul sweeps one on way to scoring a century in the second one-day international against England at the Providence Stadium in Guyana on Sunday. He was unbeaten on 112.

# Strauss ton goes awry

## West Indies level 1-1

Cricket

AFP, Providence

Andrew Strauss hit his third one-day international hundred, but England still went down to a 21-run defeat at the hands of the West Indies at the Guyana National Stadium on Sunday.

The captain made 105 from 129 balls as England, chasing 265 for victory, were dismissed for 243 in 48.2 overs to allow West Indies to draw level at 1-1 in the five-match series.

The third and fourth matches will be contested at Kensington Oval in Barbados on Friday and Sunday, with the final game set for St. Lucia on April 6.

England had won the opener here on Friday when West Indies coach John Dyson embarrassingly miscalculated the Duckworth-Lewis method and handed his opponents a one-run win.

"We lost too many wickets too early and we were always behind the eight ball," admitted Strauss.

"We needed things to go our way in the last powerplay but with the medium pacers bowling, it wasn't easy to get the ball away. It was getting lower and slower, so we had to take risks to get runs."

"It would have been nice to have gone 2-0 in the series, but we have a good chance of winning in Barbados where the wicket might suit us better."

West Indies skipper Chris Gayle said his team had a point to prove.

"We were really down after what happened on Friday," said Gayle. "We wanted to give the crowd something to cheer about and I want to commend the guys for the way they played."

Man-of-the-match Shivnarine Chanderpaul scored his 10th one-day hundred of 112 not out from 134 balls to lead West Indies to 264 for eight from their 50 overs.

Strauss reached his hundred from 126 balls with a drive through cover for two off Kieron Pollard, but England lost wickets steadily.

Their best stands were 50 between Strauss and Owais Shah for the third wicket, and 59 between the England captain and Dmitri Mascarenhas for the sixth.

Mascarenhas made 29 and Shah made 22 and were the only other batsmen that passed 20. Dwayne Bravo and Pollard both collected two wickets for West Indies.

Earlier, England, particularly Paul Collingwood and Mascarenhas, bowling their modest medium-pace, restricted West Indies to 57 runs in the last 10 overs and collected four cheap wickets to scupper the home team's hunt for quick late runs.

The tourists had been under pressure from Chanderpaul and compatriot Ramnaresh Sarwan when they put on 133 from 177 balls for the third wicket, after West Indies elected to bat and lost Lendl Simmons for a duck and fellow

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