

Mohammad Younus, the country's first professional cricketer from Cox's Bazar, probably smiled for the first time this season, after taking the country's first Twenty20 hat-trick in the Port-City Premier League



NATIONAL CLUB CUP Two move into final round

SPORTS REPORTER

Mymensingh Abahani moved into the final round of the National Club Cup competition after they defeated Chader Haat by six wickets at the Mymensingh Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, the Kishoreganj club were bowled out for just 148 in 37.4 overs with Rajin top scoring with 54. In reply, the local side reached the target in 37.1 overs with Majid hitting 30.

Gua Khola of Chandpur (261-7) also moved into the final with a comprehensive 87-run victory over Noakhali's Top Sports (174 all out) at the Shaheed Bhulu Stadium. Top Sports also moved into the next round as two teams qualify from this Chittagong/Sylhet zone.

At the Jhenidah Stadium, Jessore's Jagarani Sangsad (96-4) moved to the zonal final with a six-wicket victory over Kotchandpur Krira Sangstha (95 all out). They take on Boyra Tarun Sangha in the final today.

The winners of this match will join Mymensingh Abahani.

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Mehrab Hossain of Brothers Union kneels to slam the ball towards long-on for a boundary during his side's Port-city Cricket League match against Top Sports of Noakhali at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Younus takes first hat-trick Brothers first into semis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Mehrab Hossain laid the foundation but Mohammad Younus took the honours with a hat-trick as Brothers Union confirmed themselves as the first to the semifinals of the Habib Group PCL Twenty20 tournament at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

After Mehrob's 59 made sure Brothers reached 148-8, the well-built left-arm spinner from Cox's Bazar, Younus, finished the game in style for Brothers against Top Sports of Noakhali to secure a comfortable 60-run victory.

Younus removed Mahmudullah Riyad, Aslam Khan and Alamgir Hossain in the 16th over to close the Top Sports innings at 88 runs only and in the process became the first man to take a hat-trick in this version of the game in Bangladesh.

"It was fantastic and the most pleasing moment for me. My captain (Nafis Iqbal) advised me before the start of the over to bowl my best and I did just that," the excited Younus said after the hat-trick.

Riyad, who offered some fight with 37 in his side's otherwise poor showing, was the first victim when the right-hander went down the wicket but missed and got

stumped by wicketkeeper Sadid Hossain. Aslam Khan played the ball on to the stumps off the next ball and then Alamgir was trapped before.

The Brothers win also confirmed Abahani's berth in the last four which will take place on Saturday as Top Sports joined Mohammedan to exit the competition.

Brothers rode on left-handed opener Mehrob's 52-ball 59 that contained six fours to put up a fighting total on board while local boy Nafis contributed a 28-ball 36.

In the second match, it was Pakistani Wasim Nayeem who dominated the proceeding with a splendid all-round performance as Dhaka Sports handed a six-wicket defeat to Pirates of Chittagong to brighten their chance of reaching the semifinals.

After a three-wicket haul, Wasim put the bowlers to the sword during his 43-ball 79 that featured six boundaries and as many sixes as Dhaka Sports raced to 161-4 in reply to Pirates' 156-4. Anisur Rahman contributed 29 off 23 balls with three fours.

With the outcome, Dhaka Sports now have six points from two matches while Pirates lost both the matches they have played so far.

Earlier Waqas Ahmed entertained the sparse crowd with a bizarre knock which

saw 43 runs come from 14 balls with seven fours and two sixes after Pirates of Chittagong decided to bat first.

National all-rounder Nayeem Islam however was the top-scorer with a 47-ball 57 that saw five fives.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BROTHERS UNION: 148-8 in 20 overs (Mehrab 59, Nafis 36, Mubarak 6, Dollar 6, Kapugedara 18, Tushar 0, Rezaul 11, Razzak 10, extras 2; Weeraratne 2-15, Elias 1-12, Sanwar 3-37, Lokuarachchi 2-29)

TOP SPORTS: 88 all out in 15.5 overs (Sadat 1, Sanwar 5, Weeraratne 26, Lokuarachchi 7, Riyad 37, Elias 6, extras 4; Mubarak 2-7, Dollar 2-18, Rezaul 1-12, Razzak 1-13, Younus 3-17)

Result: Brothers won by 60 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Mehrob Hossain (Brothers)

PIRATES OF CHITTAGONG: 156-4 in 20 overs (Nayeem 57 not out, Waqas 43, Noman 20, Extra 5; Wasim 3-34, Shahadat Hossain 1-47)

DHAKA SPORTS: 161-4 in 18.4 overs (Wasim 79, Anisur 29, Rajin 16, Hanif 15 not out, Extras 6; Nomanullah 2-25, Waqas 1-32, Nayeem 1-18)

Result: Dhaka Sports Club won by six wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Wasim Nayeem (Dhaka Sports)



- STAR Cricket**
England v West Indies
First Test, Day Two
Live from 4:00pm
- SET Max**
Indian Premier League
Bangalore Royal Challengers v
Rajasthan Royals
Live from 4:30pm
- ESPN**
Chennai Super Kings v
Punjab Kings XI
Live from 8:30pm
- ESPN**
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live from 8:30pm
- TEN Sports**
Pakistan v Australia
Twenty20 Int'l
Live from 10:00pm
- ZEE Sports**
UEFA Cup
(Semifinal, 2nd-Leg)
Shakhtar Donetsk v Dynamo Kiev
Live from 10:30pm



Port-city Cricket League
Ispahani v Dhaka Tigers
Time: 10:00am
Mohammedan v Abahani
Time: 2:00pm
Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong

School football

SPORTS REPORTER

Three hat-tricks from Darpan, Roxi and Arshad helped Younus Ali High School vanquish Mahmudpur High School 11-0 at the Natore Stadium in the first round of the Citycell National School Football Championship yesterday.

At the Tangail Stadium, Shuti VS Pilot High School beat Haji Ibrahim Alam Chan High School 1-0.

In Kishoreganj, Idrisiya Alim Madrasa High School lost 1-0 to Dampara Karar Mahtabuddin High School.

Koyagola Hat High School and Kundupukur High School each won 4-0 against their opponents at the Nilphamari Stadium.

In other matches, Raja Surja Kumar Institute, RKS Institute High School, Karar Char Moulvibazar High School, Chakariya Kendriyo High School, Govt. Nasirabad School, Moslemuddin School and ABCDS Hossainpur Madrasa earned victories.

Shahbazpur and Zia Sar Karkhana ended their match in a goalless draw at the Srimangal Stadium while Shingra Dumdam Pilot School and Chapainawabganj High School finished their match in 2-2 draw.

Sharma strangles Mumbai

CRICINFO, undated



Mumbai Indians squandered a crucial opportunity to grab a spot in the top four, losing to Deccan Chargers by 19 runs in a see-saw game where they had held the cards for the most part at the SuperSport Park, Centurion.

An unlikely hat-trick by Rohit Sharma, which included the wicket of a threatening JP Duminy, followed up on a pivotal double-strike by RP Singh to remove the explosive pair of Sachin Tendulkar and Sanath Jayasuriya to shut Mumbai out of the game, and consolidate Deccan's position to second place.

The turning point came in the 15th over, after Duminy and Dwayne Bravo had helped get Mumbai's run-chase back on track. A rush of blood at the wrong time resulted in Bravo skying a flighted delivery from Timalasetti Suman to long-on, and some injudicious shot-selection by Abhishek Nayar and Harbhajan Singh, who were both bowled by Rohit off successive deliveries, left Duminy with too much to achieve.

Mumbai were dented at the start. A disdainful slice over point, a trademark of Jayasuriya's, in the very first over off Ryan Harris bode ominously for Deccan, but the bowler had his

revenge the next over, flinging himself to his right at third man to snap a thick edge from the same batsman. RP's impressive run in the IPL this season won him a place in the Indian squad for the World Twenty20, and as a sign of justification, he castled Tendulkar the next ball with an inswinger to which he played across the line.

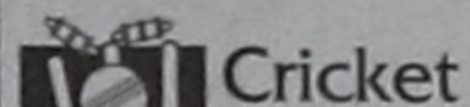
Pinal Shah was Mumbai's Naman Ojha, and though he displayed little signs of being gifted with sound technique, his enterprising 29, laced with a series of innovative shots, the best of which was a reverse-sweep off Harmeet Singh, relieved the pressure after a shock beginning. Duminy's presence was critical, and he immediately showed signs of intent, picking on anything loose and ensuring the required run-rate was kept within reach by combining his flourish with the natural dabs, nudges and clips that have come to typify his batting.

Shah's dismissal did little to unsettle Duminy. With 49 needed off six overs and seven wickets remaining, Mumbai held the edge but three quick wickets gifted by Bravo's mindless loft, Nayar's ill-judged paddle and Harbhajan's atrocious slog swung the match firmly in Deccan's favour.

Rohit hammered the final nail in the coffin, having Duminy caught-behind off an

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Fidel leads fightback



AFP, London

Fidel Edwards took three wickets, including the prize scalp of Kevin Pietersen for nought, as West Indies fought back in the first Test against England at Lord's here on Wednesday.

England, at tea on the first day, were 182 for four after fast

bowler Edwards had dismissed Alastair Cook, Pietersen and Paul Collingwood in a spell of three wickets for nine runs in 22 balls.

But Ravi Bopara, newly installed at number three and playing his first Test since making a century against the West Indies at Barbados in February, was unbeaten on 72.

Together with wicketkeeper Matt Prior, he halted the tourists' advance in a fifth-wicket

stand so far worth 73.

Prior, who on his Test debut two years ago made an undefeated century against the West Indies at Lord's, was 42 not out.

England resumed after lunch with Cook and Bopara unbeaten on 34 and 33 respectively.

But in the fourth over following the interval Cook was bowled off the inside edge by a full-length Edwards delivery to end a second-wicket partnership of 64.

Next ball Edwards produced a 91mph beauty which squared up Pietersen and took the outside edge with wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin holding a fine one-handed catch as he dived low to his right.

England, who had been 88 for one at lunch, were now 92 for three with Edwards on a hat-trick at the start of his next over.

But Collingwood, playing his first innings since England's tour of the Caribbean ended in April after being signed but not used during the IPL, survived the hat-trick ball when a legside delivery hit his pads.

However, he did not last long with Edwards, who had been bowling in the IPL for the Deccan Chargers, dismissing Collingwood for eight when the Durham all-rounder edged to second slip Devon Smith.

The aggressive Edwards, whose round arm, 'slingshot', style can make him difficult to face had good reason to be pleased with his haul as conditions, apart from slight swing, favoured the batsmen.

Bopara then gave England something to cheer when he

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Nat'l hockey team off to Malaysia

SPORTS REPORTER

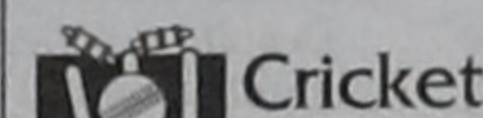
The Bangladesh national hockey team, led by Russel Mahmud Jimmy, was due to leave the capital for Malaysian city of Kuantan last night to participate in the 8th Asia Cup Men's Hockey Tournament over May 9-15.

Bangladesh are placed in the tough Pool A comprising of Japan, Korea and hosts Malaysia. They play their opening match against Japan on May 9. Their second match is against Malaysia on May 11 and the last match against Korea on May 12.

Pool B comprises of Pakistan, India and China.

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Dress rehearsal



AFP, Dubai

Pakistan and Australia will get some practice for next month's Twenty20 World Cup tournament when they play a one-off version of the game at the Dubai Stadium Thursday.

The match will be the last international encounter for both teams before next month's tournament in England, and Pakistan captain Younus Khan wants to make the best of it, after losing a one-day series against Australia.

"We need to take full advantage so that we know where we stand. It's good to have a match against world's top team," said Younus, whose team lost the one-day series that ended Sunday in the United Arab Emirates 3-2.

In the inaugural World Twenty20, held in South Africa in 2007, Pakistan finished runners-up to India and beat Australia in the Super Eight Stage by six wickets -- to date the only T20 match between the two teams.

But Younus believes Thursday's game will be

no pushover. "We have to be at our best to win this match because Australia are dangerous in all forms of the game," said Younus.

Pakistan have included two teenagers in their squad of 15 for the World Twenty20, left-arm pacer Mohammad Amir and spinning all-rounder Shazaib Hassan. However, both will be absent against Australia Thursday.

Australia's stand-in skipper, Brad Haddin, who took over the captaincy after Michael Clarke returned home for a rest after the one-day series, hoped for an exciting clash.

"It's been a great one-day series and Pakistan have some very talented players; a few of those guys can win a game by themselves," said Haddin.

Australia will see the return of regular captain Ricky Ponting, batsman Michael Hussey and spearhead Mitchell Johnson -- all rested for the Pakistan series -- in the Twenty20 World Cup, along with Clarke.

Australia may also get a chance to assess further the fitness of pace bowler Brett Lee, who

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PHOTO: AFP

Manchester United star Cristiano Ronaldo (C) scores his second goal past Arsenal goalkeeper Manuel Almunia (L) during their Champions League semifinal second leg match at the Emirates Stadium on Tuesday.

United sail to Rome Gunners humiliated

AFP, London



Manchester United swept back into the Champions League final as the holders produced a stunning 3-1 win over Arsenal in Tuesday's semifinal

second leg.

Sir Alex Ferguson's side arrived at the Emirates Stadium holding only a slender 1-0 lead from last week's first leg, but United scored twice in the first 11 minutes to set up a 4-1 aggregate triumph that booked their place in the final against Chelsea or Barcelona, who meet in their decider Wednesday.

United, who beat Chelsea in last year's final, were given a helping hand from Arsenal as South Korea winger Park Ji-Sung punished an embarrassing slip from Kieran Gibbs to open the scoring.

Cristiano Ronaldo then deceived Manuel Almunia with a long-range free-

kick, and the Portuguese striker put the result beyond doubt when he added his second goal after half-time.

Arsenal barely tested United keeper Edwin van der Sar until Robin van Persie converted a late penalty after Darren Fletcher was sent off, ruling him out of the final, for a foul on Cesc Fabregas.

Even that couldn't detract from a fantastic display from United, who are the first defending champions to reach the final since Juventus in 1997.

They were simply outstanding and exposed the flaws in Arsene Wenger's inexperienced, injury-hit team with ruthless efficiency.

No team has retained the trophy in the Champions League era, but United are hitting new heights and, with the Club World Cup and League Cup already won and the Premier League within touching distance, Ferguson and company are close to a memorable quadruple.

Arsenal were fortunate to be trailing by just one goal after a timid display at Old

Trafford and the onus was on Wenger's side to make a fast start.

For once the normally subdued Emirates crowd were at fever pitch, but Ferguson had talked up United's intention to press for a crucial away goal and they were true to his word.

In the eighth minute, Anderson slipped a pass to Ronaldo down the left and the Portugal winger proved he had adapted to his new role as a lone forward by finding space in the penalty area to whip in a low cross.

Even then Arsenal should have cleared the danger but Gibbs, a teenage midfielder pressed into service at left-back in the absence of Gael Clichy, slipped over and could only watch from a prone position as Park took a touch before guiding his shot past Almunia.

As Ferguson and his staff danced a jubilant jig you could feel the momentum draining from Arsenal. There was worse to come three minutes later.

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