



Chittagong Brothers Union captain Nafis Iqbal (C) holds aloft the Port-City Cricket League trophy after their six-wicket win against Chittagong Abahani in the final at a full-house MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.



Did U Know?

Stopping off en route to Iceland, the Albanian national soccer team were thrown out of England in 1990 after going on a shopping spree at Heathrow. They had thought "duty free" meant help yourself.



Mohamed bin Hammam

(AFC president)
"To those who supported me, I promise I am going to do more than what I have done in the past. To those who didn't support me, I will do my best to win back your confidence and trust." After retaining his FIFA executive committee seat on Friday.



Women's Club Cup final today

SPORTS REPORTER

The final of the Women's Club Cup Cricket tournament will take place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

Mohammedan Sporting Club meet Bangladesh Ansar & VDP in the final of the first-ever tournament.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker will be the chief guest in the final and distribute the prizes.

Udawatte in full control

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahela Udawatte struck a well-composed century to guide Sri Lanka Development side to a comfortable position against GP-BCB National Cricket Academy on the first day of the second four-day match at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

The Sri Lankan international was unbeaten on 122 as the visitors ended Day One at 306-3 after 91 overs of play. Udawatte, a left-handed opener, crashed seventeen boundaries and a six during his 72-ball stay.

Most importantly, Udawatte struck solid partnerships throughout the day. First he added 72 for the first wicket with Kanchana Gunawardene, who was the aggressor of the two scoring 41 off 70 balls.

Udawatte then added 80 for the second wicket with Lahiru Thirimanne but the biggest of them all was a 150-run stand between Udawatte and Gihan Rupasinghe, who missed a century by just six runs when he was stumped off legspinner Marshall Ayub.

The other two wickets went to left-arm spinner Saqlain Sajib in an otherwise uninspiring day for the home side.

Did U Know?

West Indies' Shivnarine Chanderpaul has lost his place at the top of the International Cricket Council (ICC) world batting rankings in the latest edition issued on Sunday.

The Guyanese left-hander, the ICC's player-of-the-year for 2008 and arguably the West Indies' best batsman since the retirement of Brian Lara, dropped into second place after being dismissed for nought and four during the 10-wicket first-Test loss to England at Lord's, which ended on Friday.

Pakistan's Younus Khan has moved back on top of the rankings, a position he briefly held earlier this year thanks to the triple-century he scored in the first Test against Sri Lanka at Lahore in February.

Chanderpaul, now equal second with Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara, can make amends when the second and final Test in the England series starts on Thursday at Chester-le-Street, a ground he knows well, having played there for Durham in the County Championship.

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Cricket

AFP, London

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Did U Know?

NAT'L JR ATHLETICS Mezbah, Shirin take honours

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP's Mezbah Ahmed and Shirin Akhter hogged the spotlights in the Dhaka Bank 25th National Junior Athletics competition which ended at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Mezbah clinched the 100m sprint title, the main attraction on the final day of the two-day meet, with a timing of 11.40sec in the boy's event while Shirin secured the 100m girl's sprint event by clocking 13.10sec to finish with double delight as both also won the 200m sprints on the opening day.

Mezbah also won the 400m sprint with the timing of 53.50sec while Shirin became champion in the longjump event. BKSP's Zakia Sultana won the 400m girl's sprint (1:05.20sec). Farukul Islam of Comilla DSA won the gold in the juvenile boy's 100m sprint (11.20sec) and Taslima Akhter of BKSP clinched the title in the juvenile girl's 100 sprint (12.70sec).

Did U Know?

has also slipped in the batting rankings, his first-ball duck at Lord's dropping him three places to ninth.

In the bowling rankings, Sri Lanka off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran is still at number one followed by South Africa quick Dale Steyn and Australia left-arm paceman Mitchell Johnson. Leading ICC Test Player Rankings (as of May 10, 2009: rank, change, player, team, rating, average, highest rating)

BATSMEN

1. (+1) Younus Khan (PAK) 880 51.80 880 v SRI at Lahore 2009
2. (-1) Shivnarine Chanderpaul (WIS) 854 49.45 51.00 v NZL at Napier 2008
3. (+1) Kumar Sangakkara (SRI) 854 54.99 938 v ENG at Kandy 2007
4. (-) Gautam Gambhir (IND) 847 54.07 847 v NZL at Wellington 2009
5. (-) Mahela Jayawardene (SRI) 821 53.23 854 v BAN at Dhaka 2008
6. (+1) Ricky Ponting (AUS) 785 56.20 942 v ENG at Adelaide 2006
7. (+1) Graeme Smith (RSA) 782 50.33 810 v AUS at Melbourne 2008
8. (+1) Michael Clarke (AUS) 776 47.82 825 v RSA at Sydney 2009

ASIA CUP HOCKEY Bangladesh face hosts today

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP dominated the table with 18 gold while Comilla DSA followed them with only seven gold medals.

Dhaka Division and Jessor DSA bagged two gold medals each while Rajshahi DSA, Kushtia DSA, Mymensingh DSA and Kishoreganj DSA secured one gold each.

The gold medalists of the day's other events are Rasel Ali of Rajshahi DSA (shot put for juvenile boy's), Mamun Kabir of Jessor DSA (long jump for boy's), Mannan of Kishoreganj DSA (javelin throw for boy's), Masud Kaiser of BKSP (high jump for juvenile boy's), Nahid Chowdhury of BKSP (400m sprint for juvenile boy's), Poppy Akhter of BKSP (400m sprint for juvenile girl's), Mursalina of Mymensingh DSA (shot put for juvenile girl's), Habibur Rahman of Comilla DSA (triple jump for juvenile boy's), Taslima Akhter of BKSP (high jump for juvenile girl's), Bilkis Khatun of Jessor DSA (javelin for girl's), Zahirul of Dhaka (shot put for boy's), Habibur Rahman of Comilla (javelin throw for juvenile boy's).

They will play their third and last Group A match against giants South Korea on May 12.

Under-17s win by 9 wickets

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-17s romped to a nine-wicket victory over Cricket Association of Bengal President's XI Under-17 side in the second one-dayer in Suri Bishnumoy yesterday.

The hosts were bowled out for 136 runs in 34.4 overs before the Bangladesh side reached the winning target in 29.1 overs.

Masud and Habib picked up three wickets each while Jayanto scored an unbeaten half-century to guide the visitors to the win.

SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Three move into final round

SPORTS REPORTER

Three schools moved into the final round of the Citycell National School Football Championship yesterday.

Koagola Hat School of Nilphamari crushed Govindganj High School 4-0 in their home ground, Narayanganj's Laxminarayan Cotton Mill won on penalties against Suti VA Pilot School at the Tangail Stadium while Singra Dum Dum School of Natore defeated Younus Ali School of Pabna 3-0 in Natore.

In Rangamati, Chakaria Ramu Khijari School of Cox's Bazar and Nasirabad Government School and Victoria High School of Moulavi Bazar and Zia Fertiliser School of Brahmanbaria entered the final round.

At the Rajbari Stadium, RKS Secondary School of Magura defeated Ankur School and College 4-1 and in Patuakhali, Barguna Zilla School and Jhalakathi Ideal School were the winners of the day.

Brothers claim T20 glory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Chamara Kapugedera's blitzkrieg and yet another captain's knock from Nafis Iqbal gave Chittagong Brothers Union the glamorous first-ever Habib Group Port-city Cricket League Twenty20 tournament title here at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday. They defeated Dhaka Sports Club by six wickets in front of a full house 40,000-crowd with some fans sitting close to the boundary rope giving it a theatre feel.

With his side in huge trouble while chasing 147 set by Dhaka Sports, hometown boy Nafis had Sri Lankan international Kapugedera for company as the pair added an exciting 98 for the fourth wicket to ensure the much-coveted trophy stayed in Chittagong.

The victory also marked the return of Nafis into the country's cricketing limelight after a few years in the oblivion and being slightly overshadowed by younger brother Tamim.

Nafis paced himself well and laced his 43-ball 53 with five superb boundaries as he played the holding role since the man at the other end - Kapugedera -- took full charge. The stout Lankan rightly received the man-of-the-match award for his scintillating 31-ball 61 that had three sixes and six boundaries.

"We had the confidence that we could win the title if wickets were in hand. It was a wonderful effort and Kapugedera deserves a special mention. He played a key role in winning the final," Nafis told reporters after receiving the

trophy and the winners' purse of Tk. 15 lakh from Chittagong Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury. Dhaka Sports' were richer by Tk. 5 lakh.

Kapugedera, who only departed with the team needing six more runs, made way for Abdur Razzaq (5 not out) who proceeded to smash Tigers teammate Shahadat Hossain to the boundary for the winning runs.

But it wasn't all plain sailing for Brothers. They struggled to get off to a good start, losing Jehan Mubarak (4) in the second over and Mehrab Hossain (8) in the fourth over leaving the team at 15 for 2 with both wickets going to Rashed Hanif. Their misery mounted further in the ninth over when Tushar Imran (6) was run out while trying to take an impossible second run.

But Nafis and Kapugedera combined well to add the 98 runs in just 56 balls. Hanif was the most successful Dhaka Sports bowler, picking up three for 15 but it was the reckless Shahadat and Ziaur Rahman who let the runs leak. Shahadat gave 31 off his 2.1 overs while semi-final hero Zia looked meek, giving away 17 in his only over.

However the Brothers bowlers were as tight as they could be in a 20-over bash with Razzaq, Mubarak and Dollar Mahmud picking up two wickets each.

Dhaka Sports' innings was built around their Pakistani duo -- Wasim Nayem and Hanif. Right-handed opener Nayem lost opening partner Rasheedul Rahman (1), skipper Rajin Saleh (0) and senior batsman Anisur Rahman but did not lose heart as he joined Hanif to extend the innings.

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Delhi back on top

STAR SPORT DESK

Delhi Daredevils showed why they are one of the tournament favourites as they destroyed the hapless Kolkata Knight Riders by seven wickets in the IPL at the New Wanderers in Johannesburg yesterday.

With their seventh win from nine games, Delhi move back to the top of the table, toppling Chennai Super Kings after easily chasing Kolkata's modest 123 runs. Delhi reached the target in 17.1 overs to leave their opponents in last place.

Opener Dave Warner gave Delhi a brisk start, hitting 36 off 23 balls that had five fours and a six before he was caught behind off Kolkata's most successful bowler Ishant Sharma. Later, AB de Villiers (40*) and Dinesh Karthik (17*) saw them home with brisk knocks. South African de Villiers smacked five

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