

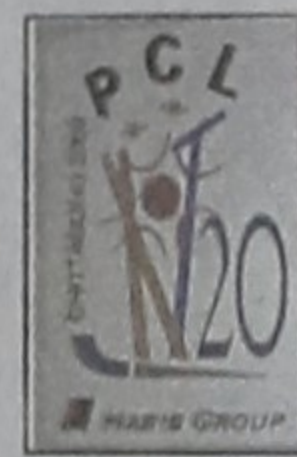


Chittagong Brothers Union captain Nafis Iqbal (C) holds aloft the Port-City Cricket League trophy after their six-wicket win against Chittagong Abahani in the final at a full-house MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

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 Iqbal.

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 Razzak (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 semifinal 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 Razzak, Mubarak and Dollar Mahmud picking up two wickets each.

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

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



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.



Talk Turkey



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.



What to Watch

SET Max

Indian Premier League
Deccan Chargers v Rajasthan Royals
Live from 8:30pm

ESPN

English Premier League
Newcastle v Middlesbrough
Live from 12:45am (Tuesday)

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 272-ball stay.

Most importantly, Udawatte strung 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 Saglain Sajib in an otherwise uninspiring day for the home side.

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 long jump 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).

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

Dhaka Division and Jessore 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 Jessore 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), Popy 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 Jessore DSA (javelin for girl's), Zahurul of Dhaka (shot put for boy's), Habibur Rahman of Comilla (javelin throw for juvenile boy's).

ASIA CUP HOCKEY Bangladesh face hosts today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh take on hosts Malaysia in their second group match of the 8th Asia Cup Men's Hockey tournament in Kuantan Pathang today.

Bangladesh suffered a five-nil defeat at the hands of Japan in the opening match on Saturday.

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-day in Suri Birbhum 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 zonal final of Srimangal.

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.

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 Stadium 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 Karthick (17*) saw them home with brisk knocks. South African de Villiers smacked five

boundaries in his 32-ball knock.

There was however no place for Mashrafe Bin Mortaza again as Moises Henriques was continued but the Aussie bits-and-pieces player just scored two and conceded 35 from his four overs.

Earlier, it was an all-too-familiar tale as the Knight Riders remained their ill-fated self. After a top-order collapse, legspinner Amit Mishra ripped through the middle-order. It was Sourav Ganguly's resolve and Ajit Agarkar's late hitting that pushed Kolkata towards a face-saving score.

Ganguly, who scored 44 off 45 balls, carved one into the Kolkata dugout in the fourth over, and Yashpal Singh collected a couple of hard-hit boundaries in the next. The singles were also being picked off, and Ganguly was looking extremely good, particularly square on the offside.

But then Mishra got rid of Yashpal and

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

Mumbai march on

AFP, Port Elizabeth



Mumbai Indians rode on a record stand by Jean-Paul Duminy and Ajinkya Rahane to beat Bangalore Royal Challengers by 16 runs in the Indian Premier League on Sunday.

The duo put on 104 off 72 balls, the highest third-wicket partnership in the IPL, as Mumbai scored 157-2 in 20 overs before restricting Bangalore to 141-7 at St George's Park here.

Mumbai's fourth win in 10 matches took them to nine points and kept their hopes alive of making the semifinals. Bangalore were stuck on eight points from 10 games.

Both teams have four more league matches to play.

Rahane and Duminy came to the crease

after skipper Sachin Tendulkar was dismissed for zero in the second over and Sri Lankan veteran Sanath Jayasuriya fell for 29 in the eighth.

Rahane, a 20-year-old from Mumbai, remained unbeaten on 62 off 49 balls with four boundaries and a six.

Duminy, the left-handed South African, made 59 not out off 41 balls, a knock that was studded with three sixes and two fours.

Bangalore's challenge faded after four wickets fell for 58 by the 10th over, including those of Jacques Kallis (12) and Rahul Dravid (10).

South African wicketkeeper Mark Boucher smashed an unbeaten 48 off 33 balls, but his gallant effort was not enough for Bangalore to snatch an unlikely win.

India spinner Harbhajan Singh was

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8



PHOTO: INTERNET

Mumbai Indians' Jean-Paul Duminy (R) and Ajinkya Rahane look for a second run during their century-stand against Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL in Port Elizabeth yesterday.