

Biman, DU march on

SPORTS REPORTER

Javed Omar continued his good form in the Public University & Services cricket tournament as his side Bangladesh Biman crushed Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University by 100 runs at the Jahangirnagar University ground yesterday.

Put into bat first, Biman piled up 284-6 from 50 overs and then went on to bowl out their less-illustrious opponents for only 184 from 49.2 overs.

Veteran Javed slammed eight boundaries in his 92-ball 94, finding good support from Ali Fayaz, who scored 61 off 107 balls.

Nearby in BKSP, Dhaka University (223-9) beat Bangladesh Agricultural University (118 all out) by 105 runs with Asadul Habib (60) starring with the bat.

Jamali okays new CCDM committee

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Maj Gen Sina Ibn Jamali yesterday approved the full CCDM (Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis) committee.

While chairman GS Hassan Chowdhury and vice-chairman Mostofa Kabir are retained, Hanif Bhuiyan has been made the new senior vice-chairman of the committee.

Nazrul Karim Tinku and Abid Hossain have also been given vice-chairman posts while Iqbal Yousuf Chowdhury has been appointed as the member secretary.

CCDM runs the cricket competitions in Dhaka including the Premier League, First, Second and Third Division Leagues.



Did U Know?

Graham Onions became the forty-seventh England player to take five wickets or more in an innings on debut in the first Test against West Indies which ended on Friday.



Carlos Tevez

(Argentine striker)

"I have given everything I possibly can to the shirt of Manchester United and I'm grateful to the fans. But I'm leaving and I do so with my head held high." While reaffirming his wish to leave Manchester United at the end of the season.



SET Max
Indian Premier League
Deccan Chargers v Delhi Daredevils
Live at 8:30pm

ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm

English Premier League
Wigan v Man United
Live from 12:45am (Thursday)



PHOTO: STAR

Abahani striker Shahajuddin Tipu (L) celebrates after scoring the winner in their President's Cup match against Sri Lanka Army at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Mumbai in top four

AFP, Centurion



Dwayne Bravo and Sachin Tendulkar guided Mumbai Indians to an eight-wicket victory over Kings XI Punjab Tuesday to rise three places up the Indian Premier League log to fourth.

After winning the toss at the SuperSport Park here, Punjab were restricted to 119-9 and opening batsman Bravo led Mumbai to 122-2 as they secured an easy win with 22 balls remaining.

Bravo was dropped by Irfan Pathan off his own bowling before he got off the mark and Punjab paid dearly for the error as the makeshift opener went on to club seven fours and three sixes in an unbeaten career-best 70 from 59 deliveries.

Mumbai captain Tendulkar contributed 41 not out off 29 balls in an unbroken 82-run stand with the West Indian for the third wicket.

Tendulkar said they had hoped to surprise Punjab by shifting Bravo up the order - a plan that worked out perfectly.

"We just needed to change our top end and catch the opposition off guard," Tendulkar said. "Bravo did a fantastic job."

Sunny Sohail had earlier held up the Punjab innings while the rest of the order fell apart.

Sohail smashed 43 off 23 balls, including five

fours and three sixes, with Karan Goel adding 20 down the order to push his team over the ton.

Mumbai spin bowler Harbhajan Singh, who said he was "very pleased" with his performance, was named man-of-the-match for returning superb figures of 1-9 off four overs.

Part-time spinner Jean-Paul Duminy picked up the wickets of Wilkin Mota and Punjab skipper Yuvraj Singh in the 12th over for a return of 2-15.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KINGS XI PUNJAB: 119 for 9 in 20 overs (Sohal 43, Goel 20, Yuvraj 12 extras 18; Duminy 2-15)

MUMBAI INDIANS: 122 for 2 in 16.2 overs (Bravo 70 not out, Tendulkar 41 not out; Lee 1-25)

Result: Mumbai Indians won by 8 wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Harbhajan Singh.

TABLE

IPL standings after Tuesday's matches (played, won, lost, no result, points, net run rate):

Team	P	W	L	NR	P	NR
Delhi	9	7	2	0	14	+0.329
Chennai	10	6	3	1	13	+1.222
Deccan	10	6	4	0	12	+0.382
Mumbai	11	5	5	1	11	+0.543
Rajasthan	11	5	5	1	11	-0.373
Bangalore	11	5	6	0	10	-0.364
Punjab	11	5	6	0	10	-0.570
Kolkata	11	1	9	1	3	-1.042

CAB accepts ICL rebels

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) has said it is ready to accept all Bengal players who had joined the Indian Cricket League (ICL) into its fold. Arun Mitra, the CAB joint-secretary, who met four of the seven ICL players from the Royal Bengal Tigers squad -- Deep Dasgupta, Abhishek Jhunjunwala, Subhomoy Das and Eklak Ahmid -- in an hour-long meeting on Monday said the players were welcome to return but would need to follow certain procedures to exit the ICL.

In fact, the CAB may also offer Deep Dasgupta the post of captain-coach of Bengal if he severs all ties with the unofficial league. "We had a long chat. Deep has a great cricket brain. It will be great for Bengal if he comes back to the fold. He has served Bengal well in the past and we still need him," Mitra told the Telegraph, the Kolkata-based daily.

"We had a long discussion on various issues. We discussed the coaching issue. All these players are Bengal cricket's assets. Once they

get the release from the ICL, they'll be up for selection for the Bengal squad."

Some of the ICL players said they needed to apply for a no-objection certificate from the ICL and once they get it they might make their next move to return to the domestic fold. However, Mitra said the return of those players did not necessarily mean that they would play for Bengal straight away. "All of them will have to perform well in the local league to qualify as probables for the state side," Mitra was quoted by the Hindu.

Dasgupta said he was keen to make a comeback as a Bengal cricketer and termed the talks as very fruitful. "I am honoured to be called for a meeting by the CAB. I believe I still have two to three years of cricket left in me. I'm fit enough to play any format of the game," Dasgupta said.

"We discussed many things. It would be good to play mainstream cricket again. But I'm still undecided. I have four days in hand to make up my mind. I'm also really passionate about coaching. But at this moment, I have to wait and think about my next move."

The three other Bengal players who joined in the ICL -- Rohan Gavaskar, Subhajt Paul and Shibsagar Singh -- were not present at the meeting.

Less cricket doesn't bother us: Afridi

CRICINFO, undated

Shahid Afridi believes Pakistan's recent lack of international cricket will not hamper their chances at the World Twenty20 in England next month. Since January 2007, no team has played as little as Pakistan's ten Tests and 50 ODIs. Even Bangladesh, the weakest Test-playing nation, have played 15 Tests and 55 ODIs and teams such as Australia and India have played nearly three times as much cricket in that time.

The lack of Pakistani participation in the Indian Premier League (IPL) has also not helped, but Afridi, fresh from a successful battle with the Australians, believes Pakistan are strong enough to overcome the dearth. "I don't feel our lack of cricket will make much of a difference because we are still a strong Twenty20 side," Afridi told Cricinfo. "We have a pretty similar team to last time with only a few changes and we have Younus [Khan] as captain now. He has done well

and taken the team along with him so far and he will be vital come England."

Afridi himself will be a vital plank in Pakistan's challenge, especially given his fine recent form. He was the leading wicket-taker against Australia, a consistent, nagging threat on slow, low surfaces and pole-axed their batting in Pakistan's crushing Twenty20 win in Dubai. Few will forget either that he was player of the tournament in South Africa two years ago.

England, where he has been effective with the ball in ODIs, offers a different proposition, however. "Wickets in England might be slower, a little less bounce so I'll make slight adjustments to my bowling," he said. "Maybe a bit more flight, but generally, as an ODI leggie, you have to be straight and tight and that works in most conditions."

Until the series against Australia, Afridi's form had been uncertain, especially poor with

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Super-sub Tipu

Abahani edge SL Army 2-1

SPORTS REPORTER



Shahajuddin Tipu fired Abahani to a win against Sri Lanka Army in the opening match of the AFC President's Cup Group B qualifiers at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The seasoned striker, who is still affectionately remembered for his fabulous strike against India in the semifinal of the 1999 SAF Games football in Nepal, came off the bench in the 72nd minute and made an immediate effect as the B. League champions secured a 2-1 victory over lackluster Sri Lanka side.

In his first touch, three minutes after his arrival, Tipu produced a side volley on a rebounder inside the box to electrify the sparse crowd at the big bowl under lights.

The popular Dhanmondi outfit had to wait for Tipu's late surge to secure the full points though they dictated the terms and the scoreline hardly showed how poor the performance of their opponents was in the one-sided affair.

And Tipu's match-winner definitely consigned his teammate Samad Yussif most as the Ghanaian defender almost shattered the Sky Blue's party by scoring an own goal soon after the local side took a 1-0 lead through a Wali Faisal's strike in the 42nd minute.

"We had a faith on Tipu and he proved his worth again. It was a fantastic goal," said Abahani's stand-in captain and goalkeeper Biplob who rued his team's missed chances.

"We dominated the proceeding all through the match but failed to capitalise on the chances. It was not their (Sri Lanka Army) defense rather our strikers going out of business. But I don't want to blame them because we played this

game after a long break and Emily just returned from an injury," said the experienced custodian.

He promised better football in their last group match against formidable Ashgabat Football Club from Turkmenistan, which will take place on May 16 at the same venue.

Back to the match, Abul got the first chance, to put Abahani ahead in the 12th minute but the lanky midfielder failed to connect his head on Mamunul's corner and then Emily made a soft header on Zahid Parvez cross from hand-shaking distance to reach the safe hands of the opponents goalkeeper Fernando.

In the 38th minute, Ghanaian striker Awudu Ibrahim's right-footed salvo narrowly missed the target.

Wali Faisal finally broke the deadlock when his fierce right-footer from out of the box reached home but it took only two minutes to see the score level 1-1 as Samad made a stupid mistake for his side.

Samad tried to clear a low-cross from Izzadeen but only to see the ball kiss his own net to stun the local crowd.

After the breather Abahani continued their domination but promising striker Emily missed two easy chances besides Abul and Ibrahim.

Abahani at last brought Tipu in place of Emily and the experienced striker made no mistake to capitalise on his first chance to keep his side's chances alive for a semifinal berth.

TEAMS

ABAHANI: Biplob, Sujan, Mamunul, Pranatosh (Nazrul), Emily (Tipu), Zahed, Siraji, Yussif, Abul (Joy), Faisal and Ibrahim.

SRI LANKA ARMY: Fernando, Wijesiri, Mursheed, Izzadeen, Jaya Thunga, Lasantha, Kanna, De Silva (Sukarshan), Warakagoda and Priyankara (Dahanayaka).

Hockey team's woes continue

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh suffered another humiliating 9-0 defeat against giants South Korea in their last Pool A match of the 8th Asia Cup men's hockey tournament in Kuantan, Malaysia yesterday.

World number five South Korea dominated the first-half 4-0 against 34th ranking Bangladesh.

The comfortable victory took South Korea into the semifinals from Pool A while the winners of the Japan-Malaysia match will qualify for the semis from the same group.

On the other hand, this was the third consecutive defeat for Bangladesh in the meet after losing 5-0 against Japan and 7-1 against hosts Malaysia.

Bangladesh, who left the country with high hopes of beating at least Japan, have been eliminated from the race with a frustrating result conceding 21 goals against one.

Bangladesh will now play the 6th place-deciding match against the bottom team of Pool B comprising of India, Pakistan and China.

PCB row with ICC deepens

CRICINFO, undated

Days after serving the International Cricket Council (ICC) with a legal notice over its decision to remove Pakistan as 2011 World Cup co-hosts, the PCB has ratcheted up the stakes in its confrontation further, sending a letter to Michael Beloff, president of the ICC Disputes Resolution Committee, to refer the matter to the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS).

"The Pakistan Cricket Board... has now sent a letter to Hon Michael Beloff QC, President of ICC Disputes Resolution Committee, to refer the matter to arbitration tribunal appointed in accordance with the rules of Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) to be held in United Kingdom," said a statement released by the board today.

The board has challenged the removal as being in contravention of ICC Articles of Association and also to the Host Agreement of 2006, whereby the World Cup was awarded jointly to India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

The PCB said that "since the decision was taken by ICC executive board the PCB deems it appropriate that in the interest of justice, equity and fair play the matter should be adjudicated by CAS rather than the ICC disputes resolution committee."

The board has asked the ICC to expedite the matter. The letter to Beloff has been sent through Mark Gay of DLA

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KKR just can't win

AFP, Centurion



Ross Taylor triumphed in the battle of the New Zealanders against Brendon McCullum Tuesday as Bangalore defeated Kolkata by six wickets in an Indian Premier League thriller.

McCullum struck an unbeaten 84 at Centurion Park as bottom team Knight Riders reached 173-4 from 20 overs only to be passed by Royal Challengers, who made 176-4 in 19.2 overs with unbeaten 81-run Taylor the hero.

Friend and foe praised Taylor after one of the most exciting finishes in the five-week Twenty20 tournament as teams chase a top-four finish and a place in the semifinals next weekend.

"Ross was fantastic and took the game away from us after I thought our total would be good enough to secure victory," said McCullum of official man-of-the-match Taylor.

Bangalore and South Africa wicketkeeper Mark Boucher added: "The innings of Ross was

as good as it gets. We were under a lot of pressure to win and he pulled us through."

Taylor said: "The innings was a relief as I have been struggling in the IPL this season. I desperately wanted to repay the faith shown in me by the coaching staff."

McCullum struck two sixes and 10 fours as he stayed at the crease from start to finish of a Kolkata innings that gathered momentum in the second half after labouring to 69-2 by the 10-over 'tactical break'.

The Kiwi also pulled off the catch of the tournament so far to send South African Jacques Kallis packing after his opening partnership with Kiwi Jesse Ryder had yielded 58 runs for Bangalore.

Ryder departed five runs later and after Bangalore were in run-rate trouble for several overs, Taylor let loose and his five sixes and seven fours steered the team home.

Victory lifted Bangalore two places to fifth on the eight-team standings, one point behind defending champions Rajasthan Royals with three round-robin fixtures to play.

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PHOTO: AFP

Royal Challengers Bangalore's batsman Ross Taylor goes for another slog against Kolkata Knight Riders during their IPL Twenty20 match at SuperSport Park in Centurion yesterday.