

## Feni pull off surprise

SPORTS REPORTER

**CITYCELL FEDERATION CUP '09**

Newcomers Feni Soccer Club set up a semifinal clash with Mohammedan in the Citycell Federation Cup after a 4-2 shootout win over Rahmatganj MFS in the second quarterfinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Like the first quarterfinal tie, the match also rolled into the tiebreaker after both sides failed to produce any decider in the 90-minute regulation time.

The first semifinal is billed for Saturday at the same venue.

Feni goalkeeper Piaruzzaman Piru was the man behind propelling Feni Soccer to the last four as the former Arambagh KS keeper stopped the first two strikes by Ugandan striker Indris Kasirye and Guinean forward Raphael Sango in the shootout to give the outsiders a surprising success in their first-ever appearance in top flight football.

Rahmatganj goalkeeper Arifuzzaman

Himel also had a good start blocking the first shot from Feni forward Anwar Hossain, but later he failed to stop shots from Asif Yousuf, Monayem Khan Raju, Imrul Hasan and Mintu Sheikh.

"I just concentrated on the movements of the shooters and easily stopped the first two shots," said Piru after the match. "As a captain, I am happy after having done my duty in taking the team to the last four," said an ecstatic Piru.

Feni coach Milon Mollah was also happy with the outcome, but he did not want to be overly elated.

"I will only be happy if we can play good football in the B. League and I don't want to rate this outcome as extraordinary," said Milon. "We should have won the game in the regulation time and you saw we missed a spot kick."

Milon's counterpart Mir Mohammad Faruque said that his inactive midfield was the main reason behind the failure.

"Without suspended playmaker Kabir Hossain, our midfield collapsed and the efforts.

foreign duo was also not up to mark as per their ability," said Faruque, whose side last season qualified for the Fed Cup semifinals.

Feni Soccer should have taken a lead midway through the first half when referee Azad Raman awarded them a penalty after Rahmatganj defender Jahangir Patuari brought Amirul Islam inside the danger zone. But, Asif missed the target hitting the sidebar to deprive the newcomers from a deserved lead.

With three minutes left from the lemon break, Anwar tested goalkeeper Himel outside the box, but his shot was drifting away from the farpost.

After resumption, Feni went all out sending on striker Ashraf Kader Manju in place of Amirul and kept on creating changes, but was unlucky in not converting them.

Rahmatganj, however, could have gone ahead in the 65th minute when Idris dragged a grounder from off a Raphael minus inside the box, but Piru foiled the efforts.



PHOTO: STAR

Feni Soccer Club striker Anwar (L) tries to evade a sliding tackle from a Rahmatganj defender during their Citycell Federation Cup quarterfinal clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Feni won the match 4-2 in tiebreaker after the regulation time ended goalless.

## Premier T20 from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

**THE CRICKET COMMITTEE OF DHAKA METROPOLIS**

(CCDM) has taken all preparations to make the upcoming Twenty20 Premier League a gorgeous event although controversy loomed over the scheduling of the shortest format of the game.

The 12-team tournament gets underway tomorrow and seven out of a total 34 matches will be held under the floodlights at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium (SBNCS) in Mirpur.

Big Boss, an energy drink which is a product of Partex Beverage Ltd, is going to be the

title sponsor of the meet, announced Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) at a media briefing yesterday at its office in Mirpur.

Holders Mohammedan raised question about the neutrality of the game's governing body after they were given only one match under lights. Mohammedan's archrivals Abahani and Kalabagan KC have been given two day-night matches each.

Mohammedan's cricket committee chairman Lutfur Rahman Badal claimed that they were allotted the day-night game only after huge criticism over the initial fixture which included four day-night matches for Abahani and none for Mohammedan.

Later, the CCDM was forced to revise the fixtures to allot a day-night tie for the Motijheel-based outfit.

The BCB did not favour any club and everything was done according to a meeting of the CCDM where the representatives of all 12 participating

clubs were present, said CCDM chairman GS Hasan Tamim at the press conference.

Tamim also informed that satellite channel Desh TV would televise seven matches live including the semifinals and the final from the venue.

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PHOTO: STAR

Managing director of Partex Beverage Ltd Rubel Aziz (L) shakes hands with chairman of Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis GS Hasan Tamim after signing a MoU in connection with the T20 Premier League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

### PRIZES ON OFFER

Champions	Tk 200,000
Runners-up	Tk 150,000
Third place	Tk 100,000
Fourth Place	Tk 75,000
Player-of-the-tournament	Tk 100,000
Golden bat (top scorer)	Tk 100,000
Golden ball (top wicket-taker)	Tk 100,000
Super 50 (quickest half-century)	Tk 100,000
Most Sixes	Tk 100,000
Player-of-the-match (final)	Tk 50,000
Player-of-the-match (semifinals)	Tk 25,000
Player-of-the-match (group games)	Tk 5,000
Appearance Fees	Tk 50,000

## A team end tour on winning note

**CRICKET**

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club yesterday named the hockey committee with industrialist Mahmud Hasan Khan Babu as the chairman of the 25-member committee.

Hossain Imam Chowdhury Shanta, Tareq Ahmed Adel and Rajib Amin Talukdar will be acting as vice presidents.

Sajed AA Adel has been named the secretary while Monir Ahmed, Khorokar Jamiluddin and Protap Sankar Haja have been named the advisors.

Members of the committee are: Naser Ahmed, Barkatullah Chapal, Ahmedul Haq Montu, Tariquzzaman Nannu, Shafiqul Islam, Litu, Abdul Wahab, Jafur Ahsan Babul,

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In reply, the tourists coasted to the victory target with four balls to spare and five wickets intact, thanks to a quickfire half-century from veteran batsman Hannan Sarker. Sarker remained not out on 53 while he was ably supported by Suhrarwary Shuvu who also remained unbeaten on 20. The team is expected to return home today.

The match on Monday was more of a mirror image of the previous game played the previous day. Maharashtra won the toss yet again, but decided to bat this time around. And they put on a modest total of 136 runs in their allotted 20 overs losing 7 wickets in the process. Shahadat Hossain, Dollar Mahmud, and Faisal Hossain took two wickets each.

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