

## 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 Idris 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 fours," said an ecstatic Piru.

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

"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 spotkick."

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

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 Patuary 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 far post.

After resumption, Feni went all out sending on striker Ashraful 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.



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 Lutfor 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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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.

PHOTO: STAR

### 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



### STAR Sports

Champions League T20  
Victoria v Wayamba  
Live from 5:30pm  
Eagles v Sussex Sharks  
Live from 9:30pm

### ESPN

Sportscenter India  
Sports News  
Live at 11:30pm



Federation Cup Football  
Berenbazar v Cig Abahani (5:00pm)  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium  
BCB Selection XI v England U-19  
Limited-overs Practice Match  
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

## Ticket touts at Kotla!

INTERNET, undated

Outside the ticket counter at the Feroze Shah Kotla ground, hours before the Sussex versus New South Wales match on Sunday, three men were seen trying to sell tickets they had bought in bulk earlier.

This is a common sight outside cricket stadiums in India. But here's the catch: the tickets were being sold at a price lower than marked.

Turnouts at Champions League matches have been poor. With the tournament not getting the kind of response organisers had hoped for, tickets in Delhi are being sold at a discount.

"I was standing in queue when a man came up, trying to sell me 400-rupee tickets for 350

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## MSC name hockey committee

SPORTS REPORTER

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

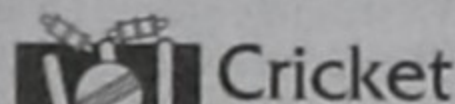
Hossain Imam Chowdhury Shanta, Tareq Ahmed Adel and Raihan Amin Talukdar will be acting as vice presidents.

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

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

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## A team end tour on winning note



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A wrapped up their tour of Maharashtra with a five-wicket victory over Maharashtra Cricket Association in their second and last Twenty20 match at the Poona Cricket Club in Pune yesterday.

The victory means the two-match T20 series is drawn one all that followed a draw in the single four-day match and a 2-1 defeat in the one-dayers, all against the same opposition.

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.

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 Suhrawardy Shuvo who also remained unbeaten on 20. The team is expected to return home today.



Two England Under-19 players leave the Fatullah Stadium yesterday smiling with a hope that today's unscheduled limited-overs match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium will give them some cricket. A two-day practice match against a BCB U-19 XI was scheduled to start yesterday but was abandoned due to wet ground condition.

PHOTO: STAR

## BCB XI v ENG U-19 2-dayer called off, one-day match today

SPORTS REPORTER

The two-day match between BCB Under-19 and England Under-19 that was scheduled to start at the Fatullah Stadium on Monday has been called off due to unplayable ground conditions.

The match was to be the opener for the visiting team's month-long tour.

The two sides will now play a limited-overs match instead at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today, scheduled to start at 9:30 am. The match will be played in whites and a red ball will be used.

## Talent hunt for Special Olympics

SPORTS REPORTER

Special Olympics Bangladesh, with the help of Grameenphone, is arranging a regional talent hunt programme for the 2011 Special Olympic Games.

The programme will be inaugurated at the Physical Training College at Mohammadpur in the capital today, said a press release of the mobile phone giant yesterday.

The objective of this programme is to create a national talent pool of intellectually challenged athletes and help empower by nurturing and nourishing their sporting capabilities and prepare them for the 2011 Special Olympics.

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### LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Chess Federation is organising an open international rating chess tournament from Thursday. The meet will be held at the federation house.

The tournament is open for all and will be played on the nine round Swiss League system. It offers a prize money of fifty thousand taka. Interested players have been asked to complete their entry formalities with the chess federation by October 14.

### INT'L BRIDGE

The 13th Baljee International Bridge Championship is going to be held in Lahore from 6th to 9th November, said a press release of the Bangladesh Bridge Federation.

Punjab Bridge Association is organising the event. Interested teams have been asked to contact the federation by the 18th of this month to ensure their participation.

## T&T open in style

CRICINFO, undated



A charged-up Trinidad & Tobago opened their campaign in style, demolishing Somerset, and the county side's net-run rate, with a big win at the Chinnaswamy Stadium yesterday. The vaunted Somerset top order collapsed for the second match in a row, and there were no lower-order heroics to rescue them in the chase this time.

The difference between the two sides was highlighted by their batting approach in the Powerplays: T&T blasted eight fours and two sixes to sprint to 59 for 3, while Somerset hit only three boundaries to limp to 28 for 3. T&T's quick bowlers kept the batsmen in check by not allowing them any drivable deliveries, and their disciplined trio of spinners choked Somerset with their subtle variations. Dwayne Bravo showed what the West Indies team was missing due to the contracts crisis, nipping out two early wickets, and two more at the death to finish off the match.

Marcus Trescothick was the first to go, nicking Bravo to the keeper in the second over. Craig Kieswetter potted around for eight balls, making four, before charging out and trying to flatbat a short ball, only to lob it to Darren

Bravo. Justin Langer was the next frustrated batsman dismissed; after getting only two in five balls in Sherwin Ganga's sixth over, he pulled a legstump ball to William Perkins at square leg. Zander de Bruyn was the only one to pass 20, remaining unbeaten on 43 after coming in at No. 4.

The tight bowling meant Somerset were only allowed to pick off the singles as though in the reviled middle overs of a one-day, and not a frenetic Twenty20 where the asking-rate was spiralling into double digits. The first over in which they took more than eight runs was the 14th. Even that over ended with a Somerset wicket, and a trademark over-the-top Davey Mohammed celebration: a forward flip followed by a yoga exercise-like touching of the feet and the knees as he sat on the ground.

The T&T's openers, after Darren Ganga chose to bat, went over the top, raising 43 breathless runs by the fifth over, with a mix of class, crass and cheek. Their approach was typified by the third over from Somerset's hero in the previous match, Alfonso Thomas. Lendl Simmons got the front leg out of the way and clubbed the first ball over covers for four, attempted an agricultural slog off the fourth, deftly steered a wide full toss past the fifth past short third man for four, before rounding off the over with a neatly

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## Stalemate ends over hockey transfers

SPORTS REPORTER

The stalemate over the players' transfers for the Premier Hockey League is apparently over as the league committee yesterday decided to extend the ongoing transfers up to October 30 while keeping the national players out of the transfers for this season.

"All problems have been solved as the League Committee has decided to extend the transfers time to October 30 from October 15 and kept the national hockey players out of the transfers for this season for their preparation for the SA Games," said Anvir Adel, secretary of the League Committee. All the club representatives, except for Azad Sporting, attended the meeting, informed Adel.

The national players are currently touring Germany to participate in the German League as part of their preparation for the SA Games to be held in Bangladesh from January 29 to February 9 next year.

There was also decision made as not to send youth team to the Asian Youth Championship in Myanmar in November due to fund crisis and start of season's curtain-raising tournament Club Cup soon after the return of BKSP squad from Nehru Cup.

The Club Cup is likely to get underway in between November 15 and 20, said Adel.

Giants Mohammedan and Abahani were seemingly unwilling to take part in the

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PHOTO: AFP

Argentina striker Martin Palermo is ecstatic after scoring the winning goal against Peru during their 2010 World Cup qualifier at the Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires on Saturday.

## Miracle-maker Palermo

THE GUARDIAN



Diego Maradona hailed Martin Palermo as a "miracle maker" after the veteran striker's last-gasp goal against Peru gave Argentina a 2-1 win and renewed hope of qualifying directly for next year's World Cup finals.

Argentina were on the brink after Hernan Rengifo's last-minute header cancelled out Gonzalo Higuain's goal but, as terrible conditions persisted, Palermo restored to the side after 10 years grabbed a stoppage-time goal to put Argentina crucially fourth in the South American qualifying zone with one game to play.

"Martin Palermo has saved us and our chances of qualifying are intact," Maradona said. "When the wind and rain and cold began and allowed Peru to draw level, we could not do anything, but the miracle of Palermo has given us a longer life. The goals I scored were normal, Saint Palermo makes miracles."

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