

Eng U-19 go slow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Visiting England under-19 cricket team ended the second day at 201 for seven in their first innings, adding only 77 runs in 40 overs conceding two more wickets during their four-day match against Bangladesh Under-19 at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Heavy overnight downpour forced the authorities to shorten the match as the field was unplayable. After frantic efforts of the ground staffs, play resumed at 3.30pm.

The visitors started the day's play from an overnight score of 124 for five.

Skipper Azeem Rafiq, who was unbeaten on 11 at stumps on day one, played superbly to score a patient half-century. He made 53 runs off 136 balls before being trapped by

SEE PAGE 18 COL 3



Did U Know?

Heavy metal singer Ozzy Osbourne is an Aston Villa fan.



What to WATCH

BTV

Citycell Federation Cup Football
Second Semifinal
Abahani v Beanibazar
Live from 5:00pm

DESH TV

Twenty 20 Premier League
Mohammedan v Biman
Live from 2:30pm

STAR Cricket

Champions League T20
Somerset v NSW Blues
Live from 5:30pm
T&T v Diamond Eagles
Live from 9:30pm

ESPN

English Premier League
Blackburn v Burnley
Live at 7:00pm
Wigan v Man City
Live at 10:00pm



Talk Turkey



Brett Lee

(Australia fast bowler)
"They are a very, very unpredictable side in the nicest way possible."
Shares his views on the Indian one-day team.



Citycell Federation Cup Football
Second Semifinal (5:00pm)
Abahani v Beanibazar
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium
Premier Div T20 Cricket
Mohammedan v Biman (2:30pm)
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium
Khelaghar v BKSP (10:30am)
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
Parlex v Victoria (10:30am)
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium
Gazi Tank v Old DOHS (2:30pm)
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
Abahani v Cricket Coaching School (2:30pm)
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium
Kalabagan v Surjo Torun (6:30pm)
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium
Bangladesh U-19 v England U-19
Youth Test, Day 3
Venue: Chittagong Stadium



Mohammedan's Nigerian striker Alamu Bukola (R) goes on a celebration lap after scoring his first goal against Feni Soccer Club in the first semifinal of the Citycell Federation Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Marauding Mohammedan

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club stormed into the Citycell Federation Cup final in style with an emphatic 3-0 win over newcomers Feni Soccer Club in the first semifinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nigerian striker Alamu Bukola Olalekan struck a brace while defender Ariful Islam netted the other in the one-sided affair to ensure the popular Black and Whites' passage to their 14th final of the season's curtain-raising tournament. The Motijheel-based outfit, Mohammedan, had earlier missed the title-deciding match only six times since the tournament was introduced in 1980.

Struggling off their unimpressive performance against Shuktara Jubo Sangsad in the quarterfinal, Mohammedan appeared in their own to play all-out throughout the game and kept the opponents at bay in front of some 5,000 spectators at the big bowl.

However, Feni with a packed defence

parried the Black and Whites in the first half despite a series of attacks, mostly produced through the right wing led by Zahid Hossain, who was later adjudged man-of-the-match.

Mohammedan coach Maruful Haq must have been wondering why his side did not go up in the first half against a side they routed 4-0 in the group-stage and credit definitely went to Zahidur Rahman Milon's defensive strategy that kept Mohammedan waiting until the 50th minute.

After resumption, Maruf sent right-back Nasir in place of veteran Hasan Al Mamun to strengthen the attack and right-winger Zahid, snatching a ball from Feni's Monayem Khan Raju, advanced into the box to set up Bukola, who just tapped the low drive home from a handshaking distance to break Feni's resistance five minutes into the second half.

Despite going ahead early in the second half, Mohammedan did not let up in attacking and kept on creating chances one after another with Bukola and Zahid coming close to doubling the lead every now and then. But the

moment came in the 69th minute.

Zahid changed his side with left-winger Mamunul Islam and soon whipped a lob that was brought down by Nigerian midfielder Christian Emeka in the danger zone only for Arif to side-volley it to give Mohammedan a 2-0 lead.

Bukola side-volleyed a Nasir minus to seal the match six minutes from the long whistle and lifted his goal tally to eight, one goal less than Zahid Hasan Emily, who looked a shadow of himself in the game after having found nets in all four previous matches.

"Mohammedan deserved the victory for the way the boys played throughout the game and I am much more happy to see the boys got back to their rhythm and to be true they had played in amazing pace from the word go as they were eager to prove themselves after the poor show in the quarterfinal," said Maruf.

The Mohammedan coach expects the final clash against Abahani, who play Beanibazar SC today.

Despite going down against Mohammedan, Feni coach Milon was

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

MOHAMMEDAN, GAZI TANK IN SEMIS

Abahani risk elimination

SPORTS REPORTER

Big-spenders Abahani face the risk of elimination from the group stages of the Big Boss Twenty20 Premier League after they put up yet another haphazard display yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium to hand Surjo Torun Club a crucial 13-run victory.

Abahani, without the services of national team's skipper and deputy skipper, looked out of sorts in their batting and fell 14 runs short of their target of 144, despite having three wickets in hand. There were bits and pieces contribution from a few of the Abahani batsmen, but nobody played a knock that would ensure them victory.

Opener Imrul Kayes could score only one facing eight deliveries, his partner Rony Talukdar though batted sensibly. Abahani scored 29 runs in the PowerPlay overs losing one wicket, a bit too slow probably when you are facing 143. And that pressure kept building on the latter batsmen as they went for big shots trying to reduce the ever increasing asking rate. Nasir and Muktar played two reasonable knocks in the middle part, but that was not enough considering the task. Sanjamul Islam was the most economical bowler for Surjo Torun as he conceded just 13 runs in four over and took a wicket as well. The most successful bowler, though, was Jakarul Islam with three for thirty-seven.

Earlier, having won the toss Surjo Torun scored 143 for eight in their allotted twenty overs, thanks to a rollicking start from their openers Imtiaz Hossain and Zunaed Siddiqui that saw 50 runs being scored in six overs and a blazing knock of 28 not out off just 9 deliveries from skipper Tapash Baisva. Tapash hit one bound-

ary and three massive sixes to make sure his team put on a defensible score.

Abahani must win their last match today against Cricket Coaching School to stand any chance of advancing to the semifinals. They have four points so far as do Kalabagan Krira Chakra who lost to Gazi

Tank Cricketers earlier in the day at Fatullah by 33 runs.

Kalabagan were skittled out for 102 in 18.2 overs in reply to Gazi Tank's 135 for 8 in twenty overs. Nazim Uddin top-scored with 46 for and skipper Alok Kapali took three wickets to give Gazi Tank this easy victory. Gazi Tank have

already confirmed their semifinal spot from Group B winning all four of their games.

Another team to have booked their place in the semifinals was Mohammedan from Group A who also recorded their fourth successive victory. They beat surprise

SEE PAGE 18 COL 3

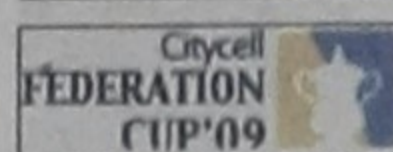


Sanwar Hossain of Biman cuts off the back foot during his knock of 26 not out from 36 balls in his side's Big Boss Twenty20 Premier League match against Victoria Sporting Club at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

SECOND SEMIFINAL: ABAHANI V BEANIBAZAR

Sky Blues have to lift game

SPORTS REPORTER



Abahani will look to better coordination in their midfield to leave their unimpressive performance in the Citycell Federation Cup behind when they take on newcomers Beanibazar SC in the second semifinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

Two-time B. League champions Abahani hardly did justice to their name in the last four matches they have played and only confirmed their semifinal spot via a shootout that saw Sheikh Russel KC off.

After the departure of Nigerian midfielder Christina Emeka and Mamunul Islam, who both have joined rivals Mohammedan, Abahani are struggling to get a set midfield combination and the illness of Abul Hossain has made things worse for the big guns.

"Our main concern remains in the midfield which has lacked in combination till now and I hope the midfielders will shrug off their poor performance and put up a good show to take the side to the final," said Abahani coach Amalesh before starting the final preparation session at the club field yesterday.

Abahani roped in veteran midfielder Matur Munna to make up for the loss, but the former Brothers Union midfielder has hardly impressed the management, who prefers to play young Shahedul Islam instead of Munna in

today's match.

"Actually we lack a player who can control the midfield to provide balls for the forwards. Ghanaian (Mohammed) Awal looks good and he is likely to make his debut tomorrow [Sunday]."

In this crucial match, Abahani will miss the services of Ghanaian striker Awudu Ibrahim and may well have to do without the services of striker Mohammedan Robin as well who is nursing an injury sustained during the match against Sheikh Russel KC in the quarterfinals.

Ibrahim's compatriot Awul and striker Enamul Haq are Amalesh's best choices for the starting eleven.

The long-severing coach of Abahani was aware of Beanibazar's team spirit, but believes Abahani should face no problem in terms of strength on the way to their 14th final of the season's curtain-raising tournament.

Beanibazar, the only team to have moved to the semifinals without facing a tiebreaker, are dreaming of a big upset to play in today's second semifinal.

"Having reached the semifinals, we are optimistic about playing at the top stage [the final] and our good teamwork makes us believe it," said Beanibazar coach Jasimuddin Ahmed Joshi.

"They are a strong side compared to ours, but we want to keep up our spirit and fight against them till the end," said the former

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



GOLDEN ANSARS: Bangladesh Ansar's Babita Khatun (L) and Jewel Ahmed show off their gold medals on the concluding day of the 25th National Age-group Swimming Championships at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

BKSP champions

Swimming

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) kept their dominance in the pool of the Age Group Swimming Championship when the country's lone sports institute emerged champions in the 25th edition meet at National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

BKSP, who were trailing by two golds at the end of the second day, bounced back to put leaders Bangladesh Ansar behind to win 18 golds on the concluding day that eventually took them to the top of the medal table with 50 golds, 44 silvers and 35 bronzes.

Ansar, who also finished behind BKSP last year, fought neck to neck to win 49 golds, 34 silvers and 29 bronzes.

The championship saw three more records on the last day after 13 records were set in the first two days with the swimmers from Ansar

creating most of them.

On the concluding day, Ansar's Jewel Ahmed set his fifth record in the meet in 1500m freestyle timing 19:13.40 minutes in the boy's 15-17 group.

He had earlier set records in 200m individual medley, 400m freestyle, 400m individual medley and 200m butterfly and finally won seven golds in the meet.

In the girl's 11-12 age group, Nazma Khan also from Ansar set the day's second record in 50m freestyle with 32.38 seconds. Nazma had earlier created records in 200m freestyle and 100m freestyle.

Palash Chowdhury from BKSP set the third record of the day in 200m breaststroke in the boy's 15-17 age group, clocking 2:41.72 minutes. Palash earlier on the second day set a record in 200m freestyle.

Meanwhile, Babita Khatun from Ansar was the best performer in the pool as she won 11 golds, setting two new records in 400m individual medley and 200m backstroke.

Cobras ride on Davids

CRICINFO, Bangalore



Andrew Puttick and the Cobras were clearly rattled by the security issue that delayed the start of the match by 100 minutes at the Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Saturday, shortening it to 17 overs a side.

That didn't stop them from crushing Victoria by eight wickets, which also dumped Royal Challengers Bangalore out of the tournament. The result leaves Delhi Daredevils needing to win both their remaining games to keep the Indian challenge in the tournament alive; one loss and Victoria will go through.

Herschelle Gibbs and Ryan Canning were missing but the match again showed off the depth and variety of batting talent in the Cobras line-up. JP Duminy had won them their first game against Bangalore, Puttick and Justin Ontong were the stars against Otago, and today it was the turn of Derek Brand (getting his first game) and Henry Davids to batter the opposition.

Puttick wasn't sure of his line-up at the toss, saying it would be a "surprise" as he didn't know which of his players had chosen to play after the security scare. Opening bowler Monde Zondeki settled the nerves after Victoria chose to bat, getting rid of the dangerous opening pair of Rob Quiney and Brad Hodge in the first three balls. Quiney swung the game's first delivery to fine leg, and Hodge was bowled by a ball that nipped back in.

Aiden Blizzard started a typically Australian counterattack. He muscled a couple of deliveries to the midwicket boundary, drilled a free-hit straight down the ground and a lofted on-drive pushed them to 28 after 3.4 overs. Fast bowler Rory Kleinveldt ended the cameo by getting Blizzard to mis-hit to extra cover.

After the seamers struck, the spin pair of Claude Henderson and Duminy started to tie down Victoria. David Hussey and captain Cameron White had stitched together a useful 32, and they were just shifting into top gear when Hussey slammed Duminy over long-on for six. Duminy again showed his partnership-breaking ability when he had Hussey edging to Kleinveldt at point.

He started to leak runs, though, firing a wide down the leg side which the keeper missed, and was then taken for 13 in his next over. At the other end, Henderson was tidy as usual, only giving away singles in his final three overs.

After White holed out in 14th over, it was left to Matthew Wade and Andrew McDonald to propel Victoria in the final stages. They were up to the task, piling on 31 in the final three overs giving the big crowd something to cheer as a Victoria victory was required to keep Bangalore in the race for a final four spot.

Brand however showed no signs of being awed by the big stage, clobbering five fours and a six in the first four overs to lop a run off the required-rate. He was particularly severe on Shane Harwood, ransacking 26 runs off two overs. There was slight relief for Victoria when, after some confused calling, Brand was run out in the fifth over by Clint McKay.

Enter Davids. He started with a delicate dab past short third man for four, one of the few soft touches in a power-packed half-century. Left-arm spinner Jon Holland was hammered for a couple of leg-side sixes in his first two overs, bringing the asking rate below a run a ball. With Duminy sensibly giving him most of the strike, Davids took Cobras to a comprehensive victory that silenced the home crowd.

The fans had showed up despite the security concerns which returned to haunt cricket earlier in the day. An Under-22 cricketer staying

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4