

Eng U-19 go slow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

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

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PHOTO: STAR

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

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



Heavy metal singer Ozzy Osbourne is an Aston Villa fan.



BTV

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MOHAMMEDAN, GAZI TANK IN SEMIS

Abahani risk elimination

SPORTS REPORTER

T20
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-three.

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 Zunaid 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 Balsva. Tapash hit one bound-

ary and three massive sixes to make sure his team put on a defendable 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 easy victory. Gazi Tank have

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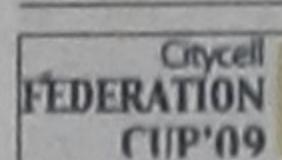
PHOTO: STAR

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 Sheik 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 Matiur 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 Awadu 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 Sheik Russel KC in the quarterfinals.

Ibrahim's compatriot Awal 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 [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

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PHOTOS: STAR

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 Shikha 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 silver and 35 bronze.

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

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 Khaun 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 butterfly.

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 bat 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 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 Kleinleveld ended the cameo by getting Blizzard to mis-hit to extra cover.

The fans had showed up despite the security concerns which returned to haunt cricket earlier in the day. An Under-22 cricketer staying at the stadium was arrested for possession of a handgun. The police said he was carrying the weapon for self-defense. The cricketer was released on bail.

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.

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