



Abahani winger Zahed Parvez (not in picture) scores the opening goal against Shuktara during their Citicell Bangladesh League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## Lee can bowl next week

PTI, Melbourne

Injury-ravaged Australia heaved a sigh of relief with pacer Brett Lee expected to resume bowling next week and wicketkeeper Tim Paine escaping a surgery on his fractured ring finger.

Cricket Australia Wednesday said that Lee's elbow injury, sustained during the first ODI against India at Vadodara, was not serious and he can be back to the groove next week.

Paine, who fractured his ring finger, is expected to start his training in three weeks time, just before the West Indies tour of Australia.

Brett has seen a specialist and CA medical staff in Melbourne. He had a scan that confirmed the cause of the pain as being a long standing bone spur near the elbow joint," Cricket Australia physiotherapist Alex Kountouris said.

## School h'ball

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Earlier in the semifinals, Scholastica thrashed Viquarunnisa Noon School & College to set their final clash with Sunnydale, who beat BIS 3-0 in the first semi.

In the boy's semifinals, Shaheen School won against BIS 13-11 while St Gregory's defeated Narinda High School 14-20.

In the place-deciding matches, Viquarunnisa finished third beating BIS 5-1 in the girl's section while Narinda School became third handing a 14-20 defeat to BIS in the boy's section.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker distributed prizes among the winners while Bangladesh Sports Association president Rafia Akhter Dolly, BHF president AKM Nurul Fazle Bulbul and general secretary Asaduzzaman Kohinoor were among others present.

## Chelsea, MU

FROM PAGE 17

"All in all, I am very satisfied," said Blanc, who is fast building a reputation as one of the best young coaches in European football.

"I think that this evening Bordeaux achieved something special in beating Bayern here in Munich and qualifying for the knockout stages."

Van Gaal, victorious in this competition with Ajax in 1995, refused to accept that elimination was inevitable.

"It wasn't our best performance but we are not gone yet," said the Dutchman.

"We still have a small chance to qualify."

Bayern's position is even more precarious given that Juventus beat Maccabi Haifa 1-0 in Israel -- World Cup winner Mauro Camoranesi scoring in the first half.

Juve coach Ciro Ferrara admitted that his side had struggled to put the game away.

"We suffered, but we deserved the win," he said.



## Did U Know?

The world's first international rugby game was played in 1871 between Scotland and England. Scotland won 1.

## Abahani imperious

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enter the Shuktara box and released a fine minus for a free Zahed, who headed past the onrushing goalkeeper Rashed to give Abahani a lead in the 16th minute.

Young playmaker Shahedul Alam was the loveliest player on the pitch and led the attack with Sheriff twice going close to doubling the advantage, but both his headers went wide before left-back Atiqur Rahman Mishu struck the woodwork of the Narayanganj outfit in the stoppage time of the first half.

After resumption, Ghanaian Sheriff missed two easy chances as he failed to find the target despite beating goalkeeper Al Amin alone unbelievably sent the ball straight to the hands of the goalkeeper.

### TEAMS

ABAHANI: Biplob (Zia), Rajanai, Mishu, Siraj, Zahed, Pranotosh (Nazrul), Ujjal, Shahed (Munna), Enamul, Samad and Sheriff.

SHUKTARA: Rashed (Al Amin), Sohidul, Koyser, Kashem, Robin, Biplob, Liton, Jahidul, Rizvi (Dalm), Tapu and Apu.

Yellow cards: Jahidul and Robin (Shuktara).

Referee: Abdul Hannan Miron.

## Jamie eyeing a fitting

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"We have been resting him (Shakib) like yesterday we didn't send him out to bat. In the game before we held him back and let the other guys go and bat. He is still not a hundred percent fit. His rehabilitation would probably take another six months. I don't think we'll rest him tomorrow but probably get him to do a little bit less work," informed Siddons.

Siddons' charges have great chance to finish the memorable year on a winning note.

Apart from their heart-breaking early exit from the ICC T20 World Cup in England, the Tigers passed a memorable year as they won four one-day series and a Test series in this year.

This year winning success however didn't surprise Siddons too much as he has been in his boys.

"It is not really a surprise. I have said all along that this team is getting better but no one believed me. We're yet to play the world's best teams

## Zim seeking some

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said that their batsmen failed to tackle the Bangladesh spinners throughout the series.

"The wicket did offer assistance to the spinners but our batsmen also contributed to the collapse. There were too many soft dismissals. I think we have not done well here because we played spin poorly.

Shakib and Razzak (Abdur) are obviously class spinners but our application was not good.

In the earlier matches we got ourselves into good positions and then faltered," he opined.

Stand-in skipper Hamilton Masakadza was also not interested to focus on the pitch ahead of the fifth and final game.

"I think the pitch will be more or less same tomorrow. Actually the pitch is same for both teams. We are looking forward to finish the series with a win. We definitely try hard to come back from our disappointing performance in the last match," said Masakadza.

Zimbabwe wicket-keeper

Matenda Taibu reminded while talking with the reporters during practice in the morning that his side has the previous record of bouncing back from this kind of situation.

"Obviously the guys have to

bounce back from the last

match. I think we batted poorly

but I have been situation like

this before where we have been

bowlled out for a very low score.

Back in Harare (against Sri

Lanka in 2004) we got bowlled

out for 35 and we came back in

the next match. In Sri Lanka (in

2001-02) we were bowlled out

by Sri Lanka for 38 and our

team had the likes of Heath

Streak and Andy Flower and I

was also playing in that game.

We bounced back to beat the

West Indies in the next match.

We need to do the same tomorrow and give Bangladesh a fight," said Taibu.

But it would be a tough

challenge for the tourists when

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