

It's not cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Unsavoury behaviour from a Gazi Tank official marred the spirit of the game after an exciting encounter at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on Friday which Mohammedan won by three wickets.

Ugly scenes returned to the cricket field when Rakib Haider Pavel, coordinator of Gazi Tank cricket team hurled abusive language towards the match umpires--Nadir Shah and Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid Saikat, after a run-out appeal was ruled out. He went further entering into the safety zone of the dressing room with an attempt to physically assault the match officials.

"It was a shame what happened today. This was not a sporting behaviour and everybody should understand that we are a Test playing nation. They are both international umpires and are highly respected and we have to protect the match officials. It's at least a level-2 or 4 offence. I already gave my recommendations to

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Did U Know?

The oldest player to contest the Italian soccer league is Marco Ballotta who played his final game for Lazio at the age of 44 years, 38 days.



Inzamamul Haq

(Former Pakistan cricket captain)

"I think the biggest task a captain faces is to unite his players. Younus failed to give confidence to his fellow players which went against him."

Hailing Younus Khan's decision of opting to sit out the three-Test series in New Zealand and handing the captaincy to Mohammad Yousuf.



SuperSport3

FIFA WC Qualifiers

Playoff

Russia v Slovenia

Live from 10:30pm

Greece v Ukraine

Live from 1:00am (Sunday)

Portugal v Bosnia

Live from 3:00am (Sunday)

SuperSport7

Italy v Netherlands

Live from 11:00pm

ESPN

FIFA WC Qualifier

Playoff

New Zealand v Bahrain

Live from 2:00pm



Premier Div Cricket League

Biman v Kalsabağan

Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium

BKSP v Victoria

Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

Old DOHS v Khelaghar SKS

Venue: BKSP-2

Bangladesh U-19 v Zimbabwe U-19

Second Youth ODI

Venue: Khulna Divisional Stadium



PHOTO: STAR

SIX-SHOOTER NAYEEM: Gazi Tank all-rounder Nayeem Islam strikes one of his six huge sixes off Mohammedan spinner Marshal Ayub during his ravishing knock of unbeaten 66 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Abahani ride on Rafique

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Hot favourites Abahani kept their winning streak in tact with a 92-run victory over Cricket Coaching School (CCS) in their Premier Division Cricket clash at BKSP yesterday, thanks to a brilliant 90-run knock from 72 deliveries from veteran all-rounder Mohammad Rafique that made their task easy.

Batting first, Abahani found themselves in a lot of trouble losing five early wickets, including left-hander Imrul Kayes and their skipper Shakib Al Hasan. It was a fine spell of bowling from left-arm pacer Syed Rassel with 4 wickets to reduce Abahani to 30 for five in the eleventh over. It was Arafat Sunny (43) batting at no. 7 who revived the innings somewhat. Then came the evergreen Mohammad Rafique at number nine, who hit six boundaries and four huge sixes to give Abahani a modest total of 204 losing eight wickets in allotted 48 overs.

In reply, CCS found themselves in trouble as they lost their skipper Uttam Sarker (6) very early and kept losing wickets. Mohammad Rafique came back to dismiss CCS's highest scorer Nizamuddin Ripon (28) to script an easy win in the end for Abahani.

Over at Fatullah, fast bowler Tapash Baisya

bowled an inspiring spell to lead Surjo Torun to a 24-run victory over Partex.

Batting first, Surjo Torun built a challenging total of 227 for 9 in their stipulated 50 overs, with contributions from Myshukur Rahman (55) and Rajin Saleh (40) not out.

In reply, Partex innings fell to Tapash's fierce bowling as they were reduced to 46 for five in 10 overs. A brilliant partnership between all-rounder Rashed Hanif (58) and Rezaul Karim (71) revived their hopes, but in the end they fell well short of the target as they got bowled out for 203 in 49 overs.

BRIEF SCORES

ABAHANI-CCS

Venue: BKSP

ABAHANI: 208-8 in 48 overs (Nadif 18, Arafat 43, Nasir 20, Rafique 90 not out, Rassel 4-45, Reefat 2-50).

CCS: 116 all out in 43.5 overs (Atiqur 21, Ripon 28, extras 12; Shuvashish 2-18, Nasir 3-24).

Result: Abahani won by 92 runs.

SURJO TORUN-PARTEX

Venue: Fatullah

SURJO TORUN: 227-9 in 50 overs (Imtiaz 36, Myshukur 55, Rajin 40 not out, Dhiman 33, extras 13; Rashed 2-37, Omar 3-26).

PARTEX: 203 all out in 49 overs (Rashed 58, Rezaul 71, Azim 27, extras 11; Taposh 5-39, Rajin 2-30).

Result: Surjo Torun won by 24 runs.

Pak too hot for Kiwis

Cricket

AFP, Dubai

Pakistan overcame their one-day international series loss and maintained their world champion status in Twenty20 cricket with a convincing 49-run win over New Zealand at Dubai Stadium on Thursday.

Opener Imran Nazir lifted Pakistan to a competitive 161-8 on a pitch of variable bounce before the bowlers unleashed a tight line and length to dismiss New Zealand for 112 in 18.3 overs.

The victory was Pakistan's 20th in 26 Twenty20 internationals and their third in as many matches against the injury-ravaged Black Caps.

Brendon McCullum, leading the side in the absence of the injured Daniel Vettori, raised hopes by smashing 17 off the first over bowled by Mohammad Aamir.

But Aamir came back strongly by claiming McCullum (19) in his second and Ross Taylor (five) in his third to quash any hopes of an upset. Aamir finished with 2-21.

Abdul Razzaq (2-9) then dismissed Scot Styris (four) and Neil Broom (14) before spinners Shahid Afridi (2-21) and off-spinner Saeed Ajmal (2-18) wrapped up the New Zealand's innings.

Captain Afridi said the win was a much-needed boost for Pakistan.

"We had to win this match after our one-day loss," said Afridi. "After getting 161 I thought that with our varied attack, we'd successfully defend the total."

Earlier, Nazir hit five boundaries and four towering sixes off 38 balls before New Zealand, who put Pakistan into bat, hit

back by taking the last six wickets in the space of 69 runs.

Nazir and Kamran Akmal (13) took Pakistan to 34 as Nazir hit two successive sixes off Ian Butler's fifth over.

Nazir added a quickfire 36 with captain Afridi (24), also completing his second Twenty20 half-century off just 34 balls. Paceman Shane Bond had Nazir caught in the out-

field in the 12th over to put the brakes on the innings.

Aaron Redmond, bowling occasional leg-breaks for the first time in a limited overs match, dismissed Afridi for 24 and Shoaib Malik (six) to finish with 2-24, before hobbling off with a groin injury.

Abdul Razzaq hit a 15-ball 26 with three boundaries and

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PHOTO: INTERNET

Pakistan opener Imran Nazir goes on one-knee to play a square drive against New Zealand during their first Twenty20 International in Dubai on Thursday.

Nayeem's 6-6s in vain

Close win for Mohammedan

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

All-rounder Nayeem Islam scripted history in domestic cricket by hitting six sixes in an over but his terrific effort in the action-packed match was not good enough for Gazi Tank to stop Mohammedan's winning run in the Premier Division Cricket League yesterday.

In the end it was former national skipper Mohammad Ashraful's well-composed hundred which broke the heart of Nayeem as title contenders Mohammedan posted a three-wicket victory with one ball in hand in the chase of 260 runs at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Nothing could have been better than the way Sri Lankan batsman Farveez Maharoof finished the exciting game by smashing a mid-wicket boundary against pacer Quazi Kamrul with seven runs required in the last over to overhaul Gazi's 259-6.

There was excitement in the clash between the traditional force and a new powerhouse as the match saw some good knocks and controversy with the ruling out of a run-out decision against Maharoof but it was Nayeem who hogged the spotlight no matter that his heroics ultimately went into vain.

Fresh from his match-winning knock against Zimbabwe in the last one-day game at Chittagong where he smashed three over-boundaries in an over to ensure a one-wicket success, the right-hander this time got occasional spinner Marshal Ayub in his stride to make history.

Nayeem smashed all the sixes through the leg side in the penultimate over of the innings during his unbeaten 31-ball 66 which also contained three sweetly timed boundaries as Gazi set a challenging target for the popular Motijheel outfit.

"In the end it's frustrating as we lost the match because the ultimate result is always important. Actually the innings against Zimbabwe in the last game gave me the confidence that I have the ability to hit the ball hard and you know Marshal's speedier spin helped me to clear the fence," said Nayeem.

Earlier Gazi's innings was built around Shahriar Nafees' 114-ball 70 that featured seven fours and a six and Pakistani Misbahul Haq's 50-ball 51 that saw a boundary and two big sixes after opener Nazimuddin's 43 off 56 that contained five fours and a six.

In reply, Mohammedan got off to a confident start as Shamsur Rahman, along with his more illustrious opening partner Ashraful, associated in a 99-run partnership before being caught by Mohammad Mithun off Forhad Reza for a 41-ball 43 with six fours.

Ashraful however carried his innings to a brilliant hundred to get back among the runs. He played nine eye-catching boundaries during his 115-ball 100 and the right-hander was caught at square leg when he tried to play a sweep shot against left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak.

Mohammedan got a jolt in the middle but Mahmudullah Riyad (24) and Maharoof, who hit three fours and two sixes during his unbeaten 25-ball 36, made sure that the giants kept intact their winning streak.

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Tour opener abandoned

AFP, Mumbai

Sri Lanka's practice match against the Indian board president's XI was called off on Friday without a ball being bowled on all three days.

Wet ground conditions prevented any play on the final day after the first two days were washed out by unseasonal rains caused by a depression off India's west coast.

It was Sri Lanka's lone warm-up match ahead of the first Test, which starts at the Motera stadium in Ahmedabad on Monday.

Kumar Sangakkara's men are due to play three Tests, two Twenty20 matches and five one-day internationals over their seven-week tour.

Inter-district football

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

The final match of the Maharaja Nripendra Narayan memorial inter-district football tournament was held amid huge festivity yesterday afternoon at Debiganj Nependra Narayan High School Ground under Debiganj upazila in Panchagarh.

Gobindagonj Players' Welfare Association defeated Bogra Shaheed Tareq Sriti Shangkha by one goal to nil.

Hafizul Islam netted the only goal in favour of the winning team.

State Minister for Land Ministry Mostafizur Rahaman Fizar attended as Chief Guest and distributed prizes while Local Lawmaker Advocate Nurul Islam Shujan attended as Special Guest.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Panchagarh Banamali Bhoumick was also present in the programme.

16-teams from different districts including Nilphamari, Dinajpur, Kurigram, Lalmonihat, Joypurhat, Naogaon, Gaibandha participated in the tournament.

The tournament was inaugurated on 17th October.

DC Gold Cup

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Matiranga Upazila team moved into the final after defeating Panchhari Upazila football team by 3-0 at the third Deputy Commissioner Gold cup football tournament held at Khagrachhari stadium yesterday.

Matiranga upazila team striker Mizanur Rahman put his team ahead in the 17th minute of the first half while midfielder Augshiprue Marma and Mohammad Iqbal scored two more goals in the 11th and the 38th minutes of the second half.

The second semifinal is scheduled to be held at same stadium today between Khagrachhari Sadar upazila team and Dighinala upazila team.

Worry over Aminul

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Goalkeeper Aminul Haq sustained injury in his shoulder during the practice with the national football team at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan on Thursday.

The footballers have been preparing for the upcoming the SAFF Championship to be held in Dhaka.

Aminul, who has been out of action before the start of this season due to a surgery in his back to cure his old backpain and is now going through the healing period is expected to return to practice in a couple of days, said coach Shahidur Rahman Shantou yesterday.

Apart from him, promising Abahani midfielder Shahedul Alam also sustained an ankle injury while Emon Babu has been suffering from knee injury and just played a Federation Cup match for Sheikh Russel KC before being picked up for the national camp.

The squad would be reduced to 25 members from 32 on the basis of their performance in the next one week, said Shantou, who was given the charge following the termination of the contract of Brazilian coach Edson Silva Dido.

The players looked very serious at the camp to cement their places in the squad as the coach was basically working with the technical sides, which includes build-up the attack through wings as well as through the midfield, shooting, quick side-changes and defending own territory.

Meanwhile, the National Team Management Committee led by its chairman Badal Roy yesterday visited the BKSP to see the facilities provided by the BSKP and talked with the coaching staff on whether they faced any problems.



PHOTO: STAR

Players of the national football squad train at BKSP yesterday in preparation for the upcoming SAFF Championships.

Sachin takes fresh guard

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Sachin Tendulkar begins a third decade in world cricket next week, insisting he is still as passionate to play for India as he was as a wide-eyed teenager 20 years ago.

"My love for cricket and the honour of playing for my country have kept me motivated all these years," said Tendulkar, 36, ahead of the first Test against Sri Lanka starting in Ahmedabad on Monday.

"Cricket is my life and I am lucky and absolutely honoured that I have been able to wear the India cap for 20 years."

The Ahmedabad match will be Tendulkar's 160th Test appearance -- surpassed only by retired former Australian captain Steve Waugh's tally of 168 -- since his debut aged 16 against Pakistan in Karachi on November 15, 1989.

He has risen to become the world's most successful batsman in both Test and one-day

cricket, a result of both his unparalleled genius with the bat and amazing longevity in the game.

The world was a different place when Tendulkar began. No one sent e-mails or browsed the world wide web, Nelson Mandela was still in jail, the Soviet Union had not broken up and mobile phones had not become a way of life.

When he started, Tendulkar's current captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni was an eight-year-old schoolboy and teammates Ravindra Jadeja and Virat Kohli were barely a few months old.

"We call him 'grandpa' in the dressing room," joked compatriot Yuvraj Singh. "But he is just amazing. He has achieved everything there is to achieve, but still wants to improve with every game."

"Frankly, I can't think of an Indian team without Tendulkar."

Among post-war cricketers whose careers spanned 20 years were Pakistanis Imran Khan and Mushtaq Mohammad, West Indian Garfield Sobers, Colin Cowdrey of England and Bobby Simpson of Australia.

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