

MSC survive Biman scare

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Needing six runs off the last ball, Biman's last batsman Talha Jubair stepped out but could manage only a boundary as title aspirants Mohammedan survived the scare to post an exciting one-run victory to keep their winning run intact in the Premier Division Cricket League yesterday.

It was another nail-biting contest involving Mohammedan, after their action-packed game against Gazi Tank cricketers in the previous round, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur when they recovered from early hiccups on a juicy track to put up 234 for 9 on the board in their share of 50 overs.

The national flag carrier also put up a bold chase in an attempt to avoid their third consecutive defeat. Aftab Ahmed (62) and Khaled Mashud (49) brilliantly repaired the damages by associating in a 108-run partnership for the fourth wicket, but in the end it was Sri Lankan all-rounder Farveez Maharoof who turned the table on Biman by claiming two wickets at a crucial stage and causing two run outs with direct hits.

The chance seemed remote for Biman

when they required 14 runs from the last over with two wickets in hand, but a lucky third-man boundary off the very first ball against left-arm spinner Saqlain Sajib and a dropped catch at gully by Shamsur Rahman revived their hopes.

Sajib however came back and bowled Shafiqul Islam in the fifth ball leaving Biman six runs to score off the last delivery.

Earlier Maharoof sent his compatriot Jehan Mubarak, who made an 85-ball 60 with three boundaries, back to the pavilion to break the 63-run fourth wicket partnership between Mubarak and Mehrab Hossain, who was caught short of his ground by a direct throw from Maharoof after hitting a 47-ball 38 that saw two sixes.

Maharoof then effected the run out of another danger man Sanwar Hossain (23) and bowled Tareq Aziz (1) to make the task difficult for Biman, who needed 79 runs in the last ten overs with seven wickets in hand.

Biman's innings finally ended on 233-9 in 50 overs. Opener Avishek Mitra was the other notable scorer with 61 off 88 balls before being falling victim of run out.

Earlier, two new ball bowlers Talha Jubair and Tareq Aziz brilliantly used the early morning condition after skipper Sanwar had decided to field first, to test the Mohammedan top order including Mohammad Ashraful, who was dismissed for naught in 19 balls after making a hun-

dred in the previous game.

Tareq caused the early damages by picking up two wickets and finished with four for 39 in 9 overs.

Mohammedan tottered at 23-3 but veteran wicketkeeper-cum-batsman Mashud joined Aftab to perform the rescue act. Former national skipper Mashud, who stuck five boundaries, offered a simple return catch to Sanwar to miss his deserved half-century by only one run.

Aftab however completed his second half-century in the competition as the right-hander scored 62 off 56 balls that contained seven sweetly timed boundaries. Two more vital innings came from Marshal Ayub (46) and Faisal Hossain (29).

Mohammedan however desperately missed the services of national all-rounder Mahmudullah Riyad, who was admitted to hospital Sunday night due to sudden sickness, in the match.

SCORES IN BRIEF

MOHAMMEDAN-BIMAN

Venue: SBNS

MOHAMMEDAN: 234-9 in 50 overs (Aftab 62, Mashud 49, Marshal 46, Faisal 29, extras 9; Tareq 4-39)

BIMAN: 233-9 in 50 overs (Mitra 61, Sunny 17, Mubarak 60, Mehrab 38, Sanwar 23, extras 10; Delwar 2-51, Maharoof 2-51)

Result: Mohammedan won by one run.

Under-19s win again

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19 cricket team kept their winning run intact as they swept to a 21-run victory over touring Zimbabwe Under-19 side in the third one-dayer at the Khulna Divisional Stadium yesterday.

It was a low scoring affair as the hosts got bowled out for 186 in 40.2 overs. Middle-order batsman Mominul Haque's 67-run knock from 104 deliveries held the innings together and gave the local bowlers something to bowl at. He found support from the lower-order in the form of Noor Hossain (28) and Abul Hasan (25) who later took the opposition out of the game with the ball in hand.

Abul displayed a wonderful

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Mohammedan's Sri Lankan recruit Farveez Maharoof (C) is ecstatic after dismissing a menacingly poised Bangladesh Biman batsman Mehrab Hossain (L) with a direct hit in a nail-biting Premier League clash that Mohammedan won by one run at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: AFP

Rahul Dravid shines on Tendulkar's day. Here the Indian top-order batsman plays a square drive during his magnificent knock 177 not out on the opening day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad yesterday.

Dravid, Dhoni lift India

Cricket

AFP, Ahmedabad

Rahul Dravid and Mahendra Singh Dhoni hit centuries as India brushed aside a stunning start by Sri Lanka's new-look pace attack in the first Test here on Monday.

Left-arm seamer Chanaka Welegedara grabbed three wickets in his first four overs and Dammika Prasad took one to reduce India to 32-4 within the first hour of play.

Dravid smashed an unbeaten 177, his 27th Test century, and Dhoni made 110 as India turned the tables on the hapless tourists to reach 385-6 by stumps in an enthralling start to the three-Test series.

Dravid, nicknamed the 'Wall' for his technically solid batting, hit 26 boundaries and a six in an unusually aggressive innings that saw him complete 11,000 Test runs with his final single of the day.

When he had reached 105, Dravid surpassed retired former Australian captain Steve Waugh's tally of 10,927 runs to become the fifth highest Test scorer behind Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara, Ricky Ponting and Allan Border.

Skipper Dravid played the supporting role during a sixth-wicket stand of 224 after left-hander Yuvraj Singh (68) had begun the rescue act by adding 125 for the fifth wicket with Dravid.

Dravid fell to the second new ball shortly before close, caught behind off Prasad, leaving Harbhajan Singh to keep Dravid company at stumps on two.

Welegedara, playing only his second Test, gave away just 28 runs in his opening spell of seven overs, but finished the day at

an expensive 3-75 in 17 overs.

Some 10,000 home fans at the Motera Stadium, who had hoped to see Tendulkar celebrate his third decade in Test cricket with a bang, were stunned to see wickets fall in a heap at the start.

Tendulkar, the world's leading Test and one-day batsman, smashed the first ball he faced to the cover fence, but fell two deliveries later when he was bowled by a jubilant Welegedara.

Welegedara and Prasad, who had just four Test appearances between them, justified their selection ahead of the more experienced duo of Nuwan Kulasekera and Thilan Thushara.

Few expected the havoc to follow after Dravid won the toss and promptly elected to bat on a hard, brown wicket that appeared full of runs.

Welegedara, working up a tidy pace, bowled Gautam Gambhir in his second over and trapped Virender Sehwag leg-before in his fourth to reduce India to 27-2.

Tendulkar followed Sehwag in the same over, before Prasad uprooted Venkatsai Laxman's off-stump six balls later to

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TOP FIVE TEST BATSMEN

Player	M	Inns	NO	R	HS	Ave	100	50
Sachin Tendulkar (India)	160*	262	27	12777	248*	54.37	42	53
Brian Lara (WI)	131	232	6	11953	400*	52.88	34	48
Ricky Ponting (Aus)	136	229	26	11345	257	55.88	38	48
Allan Border (Aus)	156	265	44	11174	205	50.56	27	63
Rahul Dravid (India)	135*	234	28	11000	270	53.39	27	57

Selectors sans job description

SPORTS REPORTER

The Rafiqul Alam-led national selection panel that is enjoying an extension after its original tenure had ended last August is working without any specific job description as Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is yet to finalise the draft terms and conditions of their jobs.

The BCB has made a committee, headed by cricket operations committee chairman Enayet Hossain Siraj, to settle the issue and the committee has already presented its draft terms and conditions before the selectors for their review.

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FIFA punishes Diego

Football

THE GUARDIAN

Just when Argentina thought it was safe finally to prepare for the World Cup, their coach, Diego Maradona, was banned from football for two months last night. An often surreal, intensely controversial and deeply troubling year will draw to a close with no manager on the bench and a shadow hanging over the troubled national team who were defeated 2-1 here on Saturday by Spain.

The ban was handed down by FIFA in Zurich following a three-hour meeting and a 40-minute appearance from Maradona himself. The world governing body said that it had taken into consideration Maradona's apologies and "sincere regret" but the subsequent ban was still more severe than had been expected. Maradona will not be allowed to have any

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Argentine coach Diego Maradona (L) arrives at Zurich Airport for a FIFA disciplinary hearing on Sunday. Maradona was subsequently banned from football for two months by a FIFA ruling.

Abahani abase Partex

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani opener Rony Talukder notched up his second century of the season as he helped his team to a thumping 170-run victory over a hapless Partex in their match of the Premier Cricket League at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

Rony and his opening partner Imrul Kayes put on a 164-run partnership in the first wicket to set Abahani up for a huge total. Kayes played a patient knock of 59 while Rony was the aggressor as he struck three sixes and 14 boundaries to amass 120 off just 105 balls. The latter batsmen chipped in with useful contributions to help Abahani post 303 for 8 after 50 overs, the highest team score so far in the league.

Partex's chase started in style as the openers put on 41 off just 6.4 overs, courtesy of Gazi

Salaiddin's 28-ball 34 that included four boundaries and two huge sixes. But after his departure, the innings lost its verve and lost wickets at regular intervals to eventually crumble to 133 all out in 42.5 overs, handing Abahani their seventh win in seven matches and their most commanding so far.

Meanwhile, Gazi Tank Cricketers got their act together as they edged Surjo Torun by six runs at BKSP yesterday. Batting first, Gazi Tank could muster only 174 runs before being bowled out in 47.4 overs.

Hard-hitting opener Nazimuddin got 52

while Pakistani recruit Misbahul Haq was the second highest scorer with 26. Sanjamul Islam was the best bowler for Surjo Torun with figures of three for 31 in 10 overs. Replying to this modest target, Surjo Torun were given a brisk start by their two openers as they raced to 47 in 11.5 overs before being separated.

Their departure in a short while put Surjo Torun under some pressure. And that pressure grew when out-of-sorts batsman Zunaed Siddiqui got run out for 20 with the score on 98 for 5 in 33 overs with the asking rate climbing all the time. A 44-run sixth wicket partnership seemed to have given Surjo Torun the upper hand, but when those two fell with some 30 runs needed in 5 overs, the pressure mounted on the lower-order batsmen and they collapsed to 168 all out in 50 overs, leaving them short by 6 runs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Mohammedan 234 for 9 in 50 overs (Aftab Ahmed 62, Khaled Mashud 49, Marshal Ayub 46, Tareq Aziz 4-39) beat Biman 233 for 9 in 50 overs (Avishek Mitra 61, Jehan Mubarak 60, Delwar Hossain 21, Farveez Maharoof 2/51) by 1 run.

Abahani 303 for 8 in 50 overs (Rony Talukder 120, Imrul Kayes 59, Mahabub Alam 2-47) beat Partex 133 all out in 42.5 overs (Gazi Salaiddin 34, Arafat Sunny 3-22, Mohammad Rafique 2-15) by 170 runs.

Gazi Tank 174 all out in 47.4 overs (Nazim Uddin 52, Misbahul Haque 26, Sanjamul Islam 3-31) beat Surjo Torun 168 all out in 50 overs (Imtiaz Hossain 30, Anisur Rahman 20, Abdur Razzak 2-28, Nayeem Islam 2-25) by 6 runs.

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BOA secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed said that they have set an ambitious target of raising Tk 40 crore from the sponsors. He also disclosed that the opening and closing ceremonies would cost them a whopping Tk 30 crore.

The 11th SA Games will feature record 23 disciplines and will be held in all six divisional headquarters of Bangladesh. A total of 19 venues will be used for archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, boxing, cricket, cycling, football, golf, handball, hockey, judo, kabaddi, karate, shooting, squash, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, volleyball, weightlifting, wrestling and wushu.

Bangabandhu National Stadium will play host to football and athletics apart from staging the opening and closing ceremonies.

More than 1800 athletes from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives, Bhutan, Afghanistan and hosts Bangladesh will compete in the 12-days spectacle.

BOA president General Abdul Mubeen presided over the function that ended with a mind-boggling sports ramp and a laser display.

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