



Abahani's prolific marksman Enamul Haq (C) scores his second goal against Rahmatganj in their Citycell Bangladesh League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Abahani won the match 5-1.

Unstoppable Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER



Holders Abahani extended their amazing unbeaten run in the Citycell Bangladesh League to 30 matches with a thumping 5-1 win over Rahmatganj at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Officially it was an away match for the runaway leaders in front of a sparse crowd at the Big Bowl, but that tag did little to deter the determination for Abahani to complete yet another mauling.

Slowly but surely heading for a treble of titles, the two-time champions never looked behind once their prolific marksman Enamul Haq struck in the very sixth minute.

The long-haired striker, who is involved in a battle for the honour of highest scorer with teammate Sherif Deen Mohammad and Mohammedan's Zahid Hasan Emily, struck his second goal after the break.

Ghanain Deen Mohammad, Awudu Ibrahim and Atiqur Rahman Mishu also netted one goal apiece in a one-sided affair.

Enamul's brace and Deen Mohammad's one goal meant the race for

the golden boot remained a closely contested battle as they are now tied with Mohammedan's Emily with 14 goals each.

For Abahani, who have not lost a game in 30 matches including 11 in the previous edition, it was their seventh straight victory after their only draw against their bitter rivals and nearest challengers Mohammedan.

With 55 points from 19 matches, they are now seven points clear from Mohammedan who however have one match in hand.

There were a couple of hundred fans, understandably from the rival camp, turned up to support the old town outfit. But their expectation of an upset vanished quickly when Enamul headed home a Rajani cross from the right flank.

It took the Sky Blues another 20 minutes to add a second when striker Deen Mohammad nodded the ball home from close after being nicely set up by compatriot Awudu.

Rahmatganj striker Idris Kasirye kept Abahani defence busy with some penetrating moves, but his solo efforts fell flat in the absence of any support from other players. However the Ugandan striker succeeded to find the net in the second-half but by that time Rahmatganj have

already conceded a third goal.

After the break, Enamul took full advantage of fumble from Rahmatganj defenders Shahed and Rimon and easily tapped the ball home past a hapless custodian Nehal.

Awudu made it 4-1 in 69th minute with a superb free-kick over the wall and into the left-hand corner of the net while Mishu, capitalising on a delightfully backheel from Enamul, curled in a left-footer to seal the match.

The margin could have been bigger had Abul Hossain's shot was not denied by the woodwork and Emamul not missed two open opportunities.

With this defeat Rahmatganj remained glued to their previous collection of 19 points from 18 matches.

TEAMS

ABAHANI: Biplob, Sujon, Rajani, Mishu, Pranotosh, Munna, Ujjal (Zahed), Enamul, Samad, Awudu (Siraji) and Sherif (Abul).

RAHMATGANJ: Nehal (Riad), Rimon, Jakir, Vasani, Mamun, Biplob, Flex, Santo (Rony), Ddumba Michael, Shahed and Idris.

Yellow cards: Rimon (Rahmatganj) and Rajani (Abahani).

Referee: Shahidul Islam Lala.

It's wide open: Dhoni

AFP, Mumbai



Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Tuesday predicted a keen contest during the upcoming World Twenty20, saying the race for the title was too close to call.

"Anything can happen in T20 cricket," Dhoni told reporters ahead of the team's departure for the Caribbean where the 12-nation tournament starts on April 30.

"The format of the game is such that you just can't afford to relax. There will be no easy matches. Anyone can win it."

India won the inaugural World Twenty20 in South Africa in 2007, but failed to qualify for the semifinals in the second edition in England last year when Pakistan took the title.

Dhoni said fatigue would not be a factor for his team, despite enduring the rigours of the six-week Indian Premier League Twenty20 tournament which ended on Sunday.

"We have to respect the schedule," said the Indian skipper, who led Chennai Super Kings to this year's IPL title.

"Playing for the country is more important than playing in the IPL and that is enough to energise the boys. The good thing is that everyone is fit and looking forward to

the tournament.

"We have a good chance to win the title because there is a lot of talent in the team. But we have to play to our potential. Let's just hope for the best."

India will be handicapped by the absence of hard-hitting opener Virender Sehwag, who suffered a shoulder injury during the IPL and was replaced by Tamil Nadu opener Murali Vijay.

With record-breaking batsman Sachin Tendulkar not part of the T20 side since 2007, the onus will be on Gautam Gambhir, Suresh Raina, Yuvraj Singh and Dhoni to bolster the batting.

India, drawn in group C, meet first-timers Afghanistan in St Lucia on May 1, before clashing with South Africa at the same venue the next day.

Two teams from the group will advance to the Super Eights round.

The final will be played in Barbados on May 16.



PHOTO: AFP

India cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni speaks at a press briefing in Mumbai yesterday.

Sharma, Harbhajan Singh, Ravindra Jadeja, Piyush Chawla, Zaheer Khan, Praveen Kumar, Ashish Nehra, Vinay Kumar. Coach: Gary Kirsten.

2nd Academy match from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The second four-day match of the Grameenphone-BCB Academy Cup will start today at the Shahid Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

The first four-dayer between GP-BCB Academy and visiting South Africa Academy team ended in a draw at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong.

After the four-day match, they will play two one-day matches at the same venue and then travel back to Dhaka to play the third one-day and two T20 matches at BKSP.

BFF gets Sylhet BKSP for five years

SPORTS REPORTER

Government has finally agreed to allot the Sylhet Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) to Bangladesh Football Federation for five years to run a football academy there.

"We received a letter from the Youth and Sports Ministry today, which informed us that the board of directors of BKSP has agreed to lease its Sylhet wing for five years," said BFF general secretary Al Musabbir Sadi yesterday.

It also stated that the government or the football federation would build a football academy elsewhere in that five-year period and the board of directors took such decision considering the game's governing body's application as well as the popularity of the game in the country.

BFF had earlier rejected government's proposal of using Sylhet BKSP partly and the matter was revived again when BFF president Kazi Salahuddin approached Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during the final match of the South Asian Games football event earlier in February this year.

BFF president Salahuddin said that they would take decision on the Sylhet BKSP in the executive meeting.

Talent-hunt in swimming

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Swimming Federation, with financial assistance from Australian Sports Commission, will start a talent-hunt programme in 16 districts on the last week of June.

The Australian Sports Commission has recently granted Tk 10 lakh for the swimming federation and the executive committee took this decision on Monday.

The meeting also decided holding a long-range (10-km) swimming competition in Chandpur on May 29 and hold Age-group (U-21) National Championship on June 8-21.

BSF general secretary Mahbubur Rahman informed that they had also retained the services of Korean coach Park Tae Gun, who coached Bangladesh swimmers during the South Asian Games even though local swimmers failed to bag a gold in the competition.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Nazrana Khan Eva of Manikganj is now in sole lead with maximum four points after the fourth round games of the Arlin Developer 31st National Women Chess Championship-2010 at Narayanganj Club Auditorium. Reigning national women's champion Sharmin Sultana Shirin runner-up WFM Shamima Akter Liza are sharing second position with 3.5 points each. In their fourth round game, Shirin drew with Liza after 69 moves. Shirin played with white pieces against semi-slave defence of Liza. Eva beat Rokshana Titli of Pabna. Eva played with white pieces against slave-defence of Titli and won the game in 34 moves. WIM Rani Hamid of Titas Club beat Mahmuda Haque Chowdhury Moly of Chittagong. Protiva Talukder of Rajshahi beat WFM Zakia Sultana of Metropolitan Chess Club, Masuda Begum of Barisal beat Dilara Jahan Nupur of Kushtia and Jaharana Haque Runu beat Aeon Sarker of Kasperov Chess School. Fifth round games will be held today.

INTER-DISTRICT CRICKET

Dhaka moved into the final of the 30th Inter District Cricket Championship with an exciting six-run victory over Narayanganj yesterday.

Raihan Sharif made 54 and Tasamul Hoque added 44 as Dhaka posted 175 in 49.4 overs at Mymensingh.

Ashraf Khan claimed three wickets for 33 runs and Mohammad Shahid picked up three for 42 runs.

In reply, Narayanganj were bundled out for 169 runs in 48.5 overs. Parvez hit 54.

Rakibul Hasan captured three wickets for 35 and Tasamul took two wickets for 17.

In the day's other match at Jessore, Nilphamari registered an eleven-run victory over Rajshahi.

The match was reduced to 30 overs due to wet ground conditions and Nilphamari scored 173 for 8 in 30 overs with Imran making highest 48. Humayun made second highest 24.

Habibur Rahman was the most successful bowler with figures of four for 37.

Rajshahi, in reply, were all out for 162 in 29.5 overs. Noim scored 40 and Firoj added 33. Jamil grabbed three wickets for 28 runs and Humayun claimed three for 19 runs.

WOMEN'S CLUB CUP FINAL

Mohammedan will take on Ansar & VDP in the final of the Women's Club Cup Tournament today.

The match will start at 11am at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Mohammedan moved into the final beating archrivals Abahani while Ansar & VDP beat BKSP to reach the final.

Satellite channel ATN Bangla will telecast the match live.

BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal will be the chief guest while chairman of ATN Bangla Dr. Mahfuzur Rahman will be present as special guest.

PREMIER DIVISION VOLLEYBALL

Fire Service beat East End Club in 3-2 sets in the tie of the National Bank Dhaka Metropolitan Premier Division Volleyball League at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday. The topsy-turvy match finished was decided in favour of Fire Service in 25-18, 19-25, 26-24, 16-25, and 15-08 points. Wari Club beat Bhai Bhai Sangha 25-14, 25-22, and 25-14 points in straight

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PHOTO: STAR

A player of GP-BCB National Academy practises front-foot drive during a net session at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday, ahead of their four-day match against South Africa National Academy.

TT players threaten boycott

SPORTS REPORTER

Top table tennis players have threatened to boycott the upcoming Federation Cup following federation's decision not to send a team to the World Cup in Moscow, Russia.

The executive meeting on Monday cancelled its scheduled tour to Russia citing financial constraints though it was learnt that the meeting scrapped the tour to avoid criticism following a report published on a national daily. The report lambasted the contingent that comprised seven officials including state minister for youth and sports, the youth and sports secretary

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BFF seeks police help

SPORTS REPORTER

Officials of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday met the high-ups of police seeking their immediate intervention to find out 'the fixed matches' in the ongoing Bangladesh League.

"Police have assured us that they would take initiatives immediately and work on their own way while we would provide necessary assistance that they need," said BFF general secretary Al Musabbir Sadi.

Apart from Sadi, BFF member Anwarul Haq Helal and Bangladesh League manager Abu Nayeem Shohag attended the meeting.

Before the start of the second leg of the professional football league, the league committee sought help from SB and CID in a bid to stopping fixed matches.

Chirayu vows clean-up

CRICINFO, undated



The interim Indian Premier League (IPL) chairman, Chirayu Amin, has admitted the governing council was "dazzled" by the league's success and overlooked issues, but has promised a clean-up that would assure franchise owners and fans of the IPL's stability and viability.

"The success of the IPL was so dazzling that we were all basking in its glory," Amin, who was appointed to the position on Monday, said on NDTV. "I must say as a council member that we did overlook things... certain details were not disclosed to us and we did trust Lalit Modi to run things better. I must admit the governing council could have been more vigilant."

There is a feeling that Modi is the object of a witch-hunt and is being unfairly treated by the BCCI, but Amin sought to dispel that notion. "He asked for five days, we've given him 15. Let us be fair to Lalit Modi, wait for him to come up

with answers." Amin echoed the words of Shashank Manohar, the BCCI president, in stating that certain documents were missing. "Right now we are reorganising the office of the IPL and BCCI so that everything is in the right place, the right filing," he said.

When asked how he planned to clean up the mess, Amin said, "We will try to make it a system-oriented management of the IPL. The government is looking into various issues and the BCCI and the IPL are supporting them. We will maintain full transparency. There is no hanky-panky. The BCCI is a democratic set-up. We are doing our utmost to make it work."

The current crisis was precipitated by a controversy over last month's franchise auction and Amin said that would change. "New bidding processes and rules will be put in place, we won't get into any grey zones anymore," he said.

He was bullish about the future of the IPL. "Team owners will be assured that their investments are safe and they will flourish," he said. "It's a dark hour for the IPL management, not for cricket."



PHOTO: COURTESY

Action from yesterday's National Bank Dhaka Metropolitan Premier Division Volleyball League match between Fire Service and East End Club at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday. Fire Service won 3-2 sets.

২০০৯-১০ সেশনে জাতীয় মেধায় ১ম ২০ জনে ১৪ জন ফার্মগেট শাখায় ছেলে ও মেয়েদের

ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজে ১৭৮ আসনে ১১১ জন সকাল ৮টা ও ১০টার ব্যাচে ভর্তি শেষ।

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শান্তিনগর & ৯৩৫২১৫২, ০১৮১৬৭৮১৭৭১, যারাবাড়ী & ৭৫৫৪১৯৭, ০১৮১৬৭৮১৭৭১

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