

Bangladesh League ends

Muktis beat Beanibazar

Football
SPORTS REPORTER

The third edition of the Citycell Bangladesh League came to an end yesterday as Muktijoddha Sangsad beat Beanibazar Sporting Club 3-2 at the Sylhet Stadium. The result meant Muktijoddha finished sixth with 27 points while the Sylhet-based newcomers, already demoted, ended bottom of the table with 17 points. Demoted also were other newcomers Shuktara Jubo Sangsad who finished second from bottom with twenty points. The other newcomers Feni Soccer Club though finished fourth on the table with 30 points.

In yesterday's match, the home side took the lead in the 50th minute through national side player Tawhid Alam. However, Muktijoddha bounced back two minutes later through Liberian striker Eugene Gray. Eleven minutes later, Muktis took the lead

through another African recruit, this time Guinean forward Rafael Sagno. Muktijoddha were having it all their way now as former national forward Rokonuzzaman Kanchan increased the lead two minutes later. Beanibazar had a consolation goal in the injury time through Tawfik that only made the defeat look a little less respectable.

The third edition of the Bangladesh League saw Abahani bag their hattrick of titles with Mohammedan coming in second and Sheikh

Russel in third. This time, unlike last couple of seasons, two local forwards led the topscorers chart. National team striker, Abahani's Enamul Haque won the golden boot with 21 goals followed by his national team partner and Mohammedan's Zahid Hasan Emily with 19.

This was a long league that started on the 25th of October last year and had couple of stoppages due to events like SA Games and AFC Challenge Cup.

FINAL POINTS TABLE

Teams	Played	Win	Draw	Loss	GD	Points
Abahani	24	22	1	1	55	67
Mohammedan SC	24	19	5	0	51	62
Sheikh Russel KC	24	15	5	4	30	50
Feni Soccer Club	24	7	9	8	-6	30
Arambagh KS	24	6	9	9	-13	27
Muktijoddha SKC	24	8	3	13	-20	27
Brothers Union	24	5	11	8	-6	26
Rahamatgonj MFS	24	7	5	12	-8	26
Ctg Mohammedan SC	24	5	11	8	-12	26
Farashgang SC	24	4	11	9	-5	23
Ctg Abahani	24	5	6	13	-19	21
Shuktara JS	24	4	8	12	-23	20
Beani Bazar SC	24	3	8	13	-24	17

Younus wins appeal

Cricket
AFP, Lahore

Former Pakistan captain Younus Khan Saturday won his appeal against an indefinite ban and is now likely to be considered for the national team ahead of their England tour.

"The appeal of Younus against an indefinite ban is accepted and the order [punishment] is set aside," the arbitrator, retired justice Irfan Qadir, said in his order.

Younus was one of seven players who were banned or fined in March this year.

The penalties came after an inquiry committee investigated on and off-field problems during team's tours to the United Arab Emirates, New Zealand and Australia between November and February.

Younus and another former captain Mohammad Yousuf were handed indefinite bans over "infighting in the team which let the team down."

Younus's lawyer said he was delighted with the outcome of the appeal.

"Younus's stance was based on principle and we are delighted to get the ban revoked," lawyer Ahmed Malik Qayyum told AFP.

The former captain was named in a preliminary squad of 35, subject to his clearance from the arbitrator, but was not selected in the 15-man Asia Cup squad announced on Thursday.

He is, however, likely to be considered for

team's tour of England to be announced later.

Pakistan take part in the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka from June 15-24. They will then play two Twenty20 and two Tests against Australia before playing hosts England in four Tests, five one-day and two Twenty20 -- all in England.

The arbitrator last week lifted Shoaib Malik's one-year ban and reduced his two million rupees (24,000 dollars) fine to half.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) legal adviser Talib Rizvi confirmed Younus's appeal was accepted.

"The arbitrator has accepted Younus's appeal and the PCB will now complete the legal process," Rizvi told AFP.

The arbitrator also quashed the fine on current captain Shahid Afridi and reduced the fine on Kamran Akmal and Umar Akmal.

"The appeals of Afridi, and Akmal brothers were also taken up and the arbitrator quashed the fine on Afridi and reduced the fines on Akmal brothers," said Rizvi.

Afridi was fined on charges of ball-tampering in a one-day match against Australia, while the Akmal brothers were punished for discipline violations.

"Afridi confessed his act earned a bad image for the country, but since he was already punished by International Cricket Council (banned for two Twenty20 matches), he cannot be punished twice, so his fine is revoked," said Rizvi.

Yousuf did not appeal while all-rounder Navedul Hasan's appeal against a one-year ban and fine of 24,000 dollars will be heard on June 19.

WI take Pascal & Shillingford for first Test

CRICINFO

Dominican off-spinner Shane Shillingford is the only new face in the West Indies squad for the first Test against South Africa that gets underway in Trinidad on June 10. Dwayne Bravo will be Chris Gayle's deputy in the side, which also includes Sulieman Benn, who was controversially sent off the field by Gayle after a difference of opinion during the fourth match of the ODI series which the hosts lost 0-5.

Jerome Taylor, who injured his hip and left the field in the closing stages of the final ODI, has returned to Jamaica for rehabilitation, and was not considered. Adrian Barath, who scored an impressive debut century in Brisbane, was dropped from the Test side. He had earlier opted out of the A tour to Bangladesh citing a hamstring injury. Ramnaresh Sarwan is yet to recover from the left hamstring strain that curtailed his participation in the ODI series.

Grenadian fast-bowler Nelon Pascal, who toured with the side to England and was a member of the depleted squad that hosted Bangladesh last year, was recalled. The selectors will send a replacement to take his place in the A squad in England. Darren Bravo, Dwayne's half-brother who has represented West Indies in the limited-overs formats, was also included for the Test.

The second and third Tests of the series will be played in St Kitts and Barbados respectively.

SQUAD

Chris Gayle (captain), Dwayne Bravo, Sulieman Benn, Darren Bravo, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Narsingh Deonarine, Travis Dowlin, Brendan Nash, Nelon Pascal, Deneesh Ramdin, Ravi Rampaul, Kemar Roach, Darren Sammy, Shane Shillingford.

India out of

FROM PAGE 17 was excellent and that was a key to our success."

India skipper Suresh Raina thought losing the toss was important to the result.

"The wicket just got better and better for batting during the day," he said.

"We now have a week off and we'll use that to improve all aspects of our game. There is much work to do."

India brought in three young players into the side -- Nuwan Ojha, R. Ashwin and Pankaj Singh. Their innings got off to a bad start when Ojha was out for one.

It fell to Dinesh Karthik (68) and Yusuf Pathan (44) in an 84 partnership for the third wicket to set up India for a potentially good score and in a bid for a 280 runs target, which they nearly reached.

It was Karthik's eighth half century and it got him to his first 1,000 runs in ODI cricket, the fastest Indian to do so.

One very unusual incident was a no-ball bowled Thusara Miranda, which resulted in a run-out of Ravindra Jadeja.

India's young replacement team for eight senior players not sent here were a disappointment and there will be a lot of debate in India about the value or otherwise of taking this decision.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: 268 for 9 in 50 overs (Kohli 68, Yusuf 44, Ashwin 38, Sharma 32, Kartik 27; Miranda 3-57, Randiv 2-38)

SRI LANKA: 270 for 4 in 48.2 overs (Chandimal 111, Kapugedera 42, Mendis 35, Samaraweera 28, Tharanga 27, Dilshan 21; Ashwin 2-50) Result: Sri Lanka won by 6 wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Dinesh Chandimal. Umpires: Rudi Koertzen and Russell Tiffin.

Inter-college

FROM PAGE 17 action", struck twice while Noman, Hussain and Faisal Ahmed netted one each.

Rakib put the winners ahead in the 21st minute and after two minutes Noman doubled the margin.

Soon after the breather, Government Barisal College all but sealed the fate of the one-sided affair as Faisal found the target in the very first minute and Rakib scored his second goal in the next minute.

RCCI Public School and College finished third and also got the Fair Play trophy.

It's Nadal v Soderling

AFP, Paris



Four-time champion Rafael Nadal stormed into his fifth French Open final on Friday to set up a mouth-watering revenge showdown with Robin Soderling, who sent him crashing to a first Paris defeat last year.

Spanish second seed Nadal, who turned 24 on Thursday, outclassed battling Austrian journeyman Jurgen Melzer 6-2, 6-3, 7-6 (8/6) to maintain his record of not having dropped a set in this tournament.

Soderling, the Swedish fifth seed who was defeated by Roger Federer in the 2009 final, blasted past Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic 6-3, 3-6, 5-7, 6-3, 6-3 in his semifinal.

Now the Swede, who put Federer out in the quarterfinal here on Wednesday, stands in the way of Nadal capturing a fifth French Open, a feat which would place the Spaniard just one behind Bjorn Borg on the all-time list.

"It was very hot today, but the ball bounces higher and there's more top spin which is good for my game," said Nadal.

"Soderling is playing really well. I will go on court and do my best and if he beats me I will congratulate him. For sure, it will

be a difficult match." Nadal said he was in the best shape ahead of the final, unlike last year when his season unravelled as his suspect knees buckled under the strain.

"I was really nervous before the tournament, but today I am more relaxed and happy because I am in the final where I dreamed of being. Physically and mentally I am in the best condition," said Nadal.

"Last year the toughest thing was coming here in the worst possible condition."

Melzer, the first Austrian since Thomas Muster in 1995 to reach this stage, came back from losing the first two sets to defeat world number three Novak Djokovic in his quarterfinal to reach a first Grand Slam semifinal.

But there was to be no repeat of that miracle victory against fellow left-hander Nadal, who has the added incentive of reclaiming the world number one spot from Federer if he wins the title on Sunday.

"Of course I am disappointed. If you are not disappointed when you lose a Grand Slam semifinal then you are not doing your job," said Melzer, who will rise into the world top 20 next week.

"It took me a while to get used to the way he played. The weather helped him

because the ball bounces higher and that suits his game."

Nadal cruised through the first set in just 29 minutes with breaks in the sixth game, courtesy of a Melzer double fault, and the eighth when the Spaniard unleashed a rapier, cross-court backhand.

The 29-year-old Austrian, playing in his 29th Grand Slam, continued to struggle against the classy Nadal who quickly broke in the fourth game of the second set to lead 3-1.

Melzer managed to regain the break, but it was a brief respite as Nadal typically charged back for a 5-2 lead.

Play was briefly interrupted when a spectator fainted in the 28-degree heat.

But there was no halting the Nadal assault as the former champion went on to take the second set 6-3.

Nadal broke to love in the first game of the third set with a succession of deep, razor-sharp groundstrokes which left Melzer breathless from the chase.

Melzer gallantly clung on and retrieved the break in the 10th game as Nadal served for the match.

The Austrian saved two match points in the tiebreak, the second with a nerveless drop shot, but dumped a forehand into the net on the third.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

The Senior Division football match between Dhaka Wanderers Club and Badda Jagarani at the Bir Shrestha Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Stadium was postponed yesterday because of the National Mourning Day held in respect of the victims of the Nimtoli fire.

The match was also called off on Friday due to heavy rain. The rescheduling of this match and the rest of the fixture will be announced later.

SIX SEASONS CHESS

Minira Veronika of Russia led the Six Seasons International Chess tournament points table at the NSC Tower auditorium yesterday. After her win over Chandrashekhar of India, Veronika has 3.5 points after four rounds.

FM Aminul Islam, FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon and FM Mohammed Abdul Malek are sharing the second position with three points each.

UNDER-16 TENNIS

The Comilla Club Under-16 tennis competition will begin today at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna.

Twenty boys and eight girls from Bogra Station Club, Madaripur Tennis Club, BKSP, Engineers Club and National Tennis Complex will take part in the tournament.

The pre-quarterfinal stage will be held in Dhaka while the

latter stages will take place at Comilla Club from June 9.

UNIVERSITY TABLE TENNIS

The first-ever NSU Inter-Private University table tennis competition will begin today at the campus.

Fifteen private universities are taking part in the tournament in the men's singles, doubles and teams event. Faculty members will also participate in singles and doubles matches in a separate section.

The participants are United International University, Daffodil University, South East University, BRAC University, Bangladesh Medical College, Darul Ihsan University, East West University, IUBAT, University of Liberal Arts, Northern University, Presidency University, Ahsanullah University, People's University, Islamic University of Technology and hosts North South University.

The tournament will conclude on June 10.

GRAMEEN-DANONE NATIONS CUP

UNB adds: The eight-team final round of the Grameen Danone Nations Cup for under-12 age group begins today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Eight matches will take place on the opening day while the final will take place on Monday at 5:30pm.

This year's champions and Khulna, last year's champions, will represent Bangladesh in the 45-nation World Finals of the Danone Nations Cup in Johannesburg to be held in September.

Earlier, a total of 38 district teams, split into eight groups, took part in the first phase of the meet in Gazipur, Brahmanbaria, Thakurgaon, Barisal, Rajbari, Meherpur, Bagerhat and Sirajganj.

JUNIOR CHESS

Six players including Abdullah Al Saif are sharing the lead in the BASIC Bank 31st National Junior Chess Championship at the federation hall-room yesterday.

The other point leaders are Sharif Hossain, Ikramul Haque, Rezaul Islam of Rajbari, Mosabbir Khan of Narayanganj and Sunny with three points each.

Saif beat Amena Khatun, Sharif beat Md. Sagar, Ikramul beat SM Sharon, Rezaul beat Zoar Haque Pradhan, Mosabbir beat Rakib Hasan Rana and Sunny beat Ruhul Amin.

Schiavone new queen

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Italian record books.

"I felt amazing today. I feel like a champion."

"But I want to say to Samantha that she is a great person. You deserve to be here next time. You are young, you can still do it."

Stosur paid tribute to world number 17 Schiavone, only the fourth player from outside the top 10 to win the Roland Garros title.

"Well done Francesca. You played a great tournament," said the Australian.

Schiavone, one of the few women to still employ a one-handed backhand, carved out the only break of the first set in the ninth game before claiming the opener in the 10th when an unsettled Stosur netted a backhand return.

The Australian, who had reached the semifinals in 2009, made it to the final the hard way, having to defeat former world number ones Justine Henin, Serena Williams, against whom she saved a match point, and Jelena Jankovic.

The return of Ronaldo

FROM PAGE 17

again, in some part, thanks to a benevolent official.

Spain, their quarter-final opponents, had two 'goals' chalked off, one for a debatable offside call, the second denying the Iberians a golden-goal winner after an assistant referee wrongly flagged that the ball had gone out of play before Joaquin crossed for Fernando Morientes to head home. Penalties were needed to settle the game and, after Lee Woon-Jae had saved Joaquin's spot-kick, it fell, appropriately, to South Korea's captain and most capped player, Hong Myung-Bo, to convert the winning penalty. South Korea thus became the first Asian side to make the semifinals and added fuel to the fire of both Korean street parties and calls for reform of the method of picking match officials.

A policy of inclusion of officials from the breadth of FIFA's family meant Moreno (Ecuador), the referee from the Spanish game, Gamal Ghandour (Egypt) and Peter

Prendergast (Jamaica), who had missed a legitimate Belgian goal in their match against Brazil, were selected ahead of mainly European whistle-blowers with more match experience. Such a policy was scrapped for Germany 2006.

Elsewhere, Turkey edged out Senegal in a match between two largely unfancied sides, the only goal a golden one from Ilhan Mansiz and Germany, despite being second-best for large passages of play, scraped past Bruce Arena's USA to book a record ninth semi-final appearance.

With a number of the big teams fallen by the wayside, the victors of England's clash with Brazil had a very real chance of ultimate glory and England expected once Michael Owen had seized on a mistake to put them one up. But a moment of brilliance from Rivaldo just before the break was followed by Ronaldinho deceiving David Seaman from distance by lobbing the ageing keeper from a free-

kick. The Brazilian was later sent off but Sven-Göran Eriksson had no response to the opportunity presented and the English meekly bowed out, another chance gone.

Korea's fairytale came to an end at the hands of the Germans, who paid heavily for their 1-0 semi-final victory by losing Michael Ballack to an accumulation of yellow cards. A professional foul when South Korea looked to be building towards goal was a selfless act but one that put his side at a huge disadvantage in the final against Brazil, victors over Turkey by the same scoreline in the other semifinal.

Brazil took the honours but the people of Japan and South Korea won the plaudits for the warmth of their welcome and the flawless way they conducted their responsibilities with the eyes of the world trained upon them - and for providing some breathtaking excitement and colour both on and off the field.

Tamim takes fight to England

FROM PAGE 17

ground flew at half-mast in respect for those who died in the Dhaka blaze on Thursday. The Bangladesh players continued to wear black armbands.

Having gone for his shots throughout his innings Prior, the last of whose two Test tons, both against the West Indies, came in Port-of-Spain last year, saw a bold reverse sweep off Shakib go straight to Jahurul Islam at point.

It seemed England would get through the morning session without losing a wicket until Bell was bowled. He, in for five-and-a-half hours, faced 255 balls with a six and 12 fours, having come in when England were struggling at 83 for three.

England resumed on 275 for five with Bell 87 not out and Prior 21 not out.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the second Test between England and Bangladesh at Old Trafford on Saturday:

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 275-5)

Strauss c Kayes b Shafiqul	21
Cook c Zunaed b Razzak	29
Trott b Shafiqul	3
Pietersen st Mushfiqur b Shakib	64
Bell b Shakib	128
Morgan c Jahurul b Shahadat	37
Prior c Jahurul b Shakib	93
Swann lbw b Razzak	20
Shahzad c Razzak b Shakib	5
Anderson not out	2
Finn lbw b Shakib	0
Extras: (b-6, lb-5, w-4, nb-2)	17
Total: (All out in 121.3 overs)	419

Fall of wickets: 1-44, 2-48, 3-83, 4-153, 5-223, 6-376, 7-399, 8-414, 9-419, 10-419.

Bowler

Shahadat	21	3	84	1
Shafiqul	21	2	63	2
Mahmudullah	12	1	31	0
Shakib	37	3	121	5
Razzak	30	4	109	2

BANGLADESH: First innings

Tamim not out	65
Imrul not out	19
Extras: (lb-6, w-5, nb-1)	12
Total: (For no loss in 18 overs)	96
To bat: Zunaed, Jahurul, Ashraf, Shakib, Mushfiqur, Mahmudullah, Shahadat, Razzak, Shafiqul.	

Bowler

Anderson	0	6	33	0
Finn	4	1	24	0
Swann	5	1	18	0
Shahzad	3	0	15	0

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Actor Pitt
5 Pro
8 Stereo counter-part
12 Title
13 Citrus beverage
14 First victim
15 Maryland city
17 Highway
18 Allow
19 Librarians' devices
21 Escargot
24 "Goldberg Variations" composer
25 Hemingway sobriquet
26 "Sesame Street" lesson
30 Donkey
31 George Harrison's "Isn't It —"
32 Listener
33 Icy desserts
35 British art museum
36 Germany's — Mountains

DOWN

4 Pale violet
5 Quick
6 Peculiar
7 Does
8 First Lady
9 Reed instrument
10 Approach
11 Auto-maker
12 Sore
13 Hot tubs
14 Poet
15 Need
16 Moray, for one
17 Sore
18 Hot tubs
19 Poet
20 Sore
21 Hot tubs
22 Poet
23 Church section
24 Sudden overwhelming bombardment
26 Preprandial potion
27 Actor
28 Dines on
29 Genealogy chart
31 As blind as —
34 Horned jungle beasts
35 War dance accompaniment
37 That woman
38 Broad
39 From the top
40 Apple, e.g.
41 Do as you're told
44 A Gershwin
45 Hearty quaff
46 Actress Vardalos
47 See 37-Across

Solution time: 21 mins.

ZAG DEGAS TAB
INN IRATE HUE
PAULSIMON ETA
OPT LIESON
HOOT