

Liverpool forward Ryan Babel is set to face disciplinary action by the Football Association (FA) after posting a mocked-up photo of referee Howard Webb in a Manchester United shirt. The picture appeared on the Dutch forward's official page on social networking site Twitter just hours after United beat Liverpool 1-0 in the third round of the FA Cup -- a match refereed by Webb. Webb angered Liverpool by awarding United a first-minute penalty from which Ryan Giggs scored the only goal of the game at Old Trafford before sending-off Steven Gerrard, the Merseysiders' captain.



SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY JANUARY 11, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net



Mohammedan's aggressive opener Tamim Iqbal lashes at one during his half-century against Victoria in their Premier League encounter at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Top three win easy

SPORTS REPORTER



The top three continued to dominate as both Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani cruised past their Premier Cricket League opponents, but the day's flashpoint was the Bangladesh Biman-Kalabagan game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium which the national airliner won quite convincingly.

Thanks to Mosharraf Hossain's five-wicket haul, Biman indeed recorded a 124-run win but the match didn't go by unscathed as this time the losing side complained of a high number of leg-before decisions.

BIMAN-KALABAGAN
Chasing 227 to win, Kalabagan's rapid start -- 30 runs in the 5th over -- was cut short when off-spinner Sharifullah trapped Nazmus Sadat in front.

National batsman Rokibul Hasan stood at the other end as Nasiruddin Faruque, Ayjal Ahmed, Ijaz Ahmed, Mahmudul Hasan and Ariful Haque all fell to left-arm spinner Mosharraf, all except Faruque falling leg-before.

After Mahmudul was given his marching orders, the Kalabagan supporters protested the decision and play was held up for a few minutes.

Later, club official Nazmul Karim Tinku said he was frustrated and shocked at the large number of leg-before decisions.

It was also learned that Biman duo Sajjad Kadir and Yasir Hameed were penalised for protesting the latter's dismissal. Sajjad, the reserve wicketkeeper, was suspended for two matches and fined Tk 10,000 for abusing the umpire while the Pakistani opener was fined Tk 5,000.

Apart from Mosharraf's match-

SCORES IN BRIEF

BIMAN: 226-9 in 50 overs (Asif 55, Mosharraf 39; Sunny 2-31)
KALABAGAN: 102 all out in 28.3 overs (Mosharraf 5-26, Sunny 2-16)
Result: Biman won by 124 runs.
ABAHANI: 253-9 in 50 overs (Riyad 71 not out, Anamul 39; Shahzad 2-29)
ORIENT: 75 all out in 25.1 overs (Robiul 19; Rafique 5-15, Saqlain 2-6)
Result: Abahani won by 178 runs.
VICTORIA: 239-5 in 50 overs (Rabbi 67, Mominul 43 not out; Azhar 2-42)
MSC: 240-4 in 46.1 overs (Tamim 54, Shakib 67 not out; Monir 2-39)
Result: MSC won by six wickets.

winning effort which included 39 runs off 55 balls, Biman built their 226-9 around Zeeshan Asif's half-century and 35 from Mushfiqur Rahim.

ABAHANI-ORIENT

The result was not a huge surprise but the margin of victory, 178 runs, surely was as the Dhanmondi giants crushed Orient Sporting Club at the BKSP.

Mahmudullah Riyad's unbeaten 71 set up Abahani's 253-9 from 50 overs with Anamul Haque Bijoy and Marshall Ayub scoring 39 and 36 respectively.

It was then Mohammad Rafique's turn with the ball, the former national player picking up five wickets for 15 runs, running through the Orient middle and lower orders.

VICTORIA-MSC

Though Shakib Al Hasan disappointed with the ball, his unbeaten 67 off 62 balls helped Mohammedan to a four-wicket win over Victoria Sporting Club at the Fatullah Stadium.

Tamim Iqbal, captain for the day, earlier hit 54 as the Motijheel outfit successfully reached 240-4 in 46.1 overs after Fazle Rabbi's 67 helped Victoria make 239-5 in 50 overs.

Mohammedan's new Pakistani import Azhar Mahmood took two wickets and later hit an unbeaten 19.

School football

Nichintapur Primary School of Sylhet moved into the final of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup Primary School Football tournament beating Kaila Govt. Primary School of Satkhira in the semifinal at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nichintapur Primary School under Jaintapur Upazila will now play the final against Isdar Govt. Primary School of Narayanganj on Thursday.

Planning minister Air-Vice Marshal (Rtd) AK Khandaker inaugurated the second semifinals while state minister of the Primary and Mass Education Motaahar Hossain was present on the occasion and later they distributed prizes among the footballers.

BCB decision evokes mixed reaction



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)'s decision not to allow the national players for the Super League stage of the Premier Division Cricket League evoked a mixed reaction from the clubs.

BCB's technical committee on Sunday has decided in line with the coach Jamie Siddons desire that the national players will play only the first round that will end on January 20. The Super League, one of the most coveted domestic competitions, will start from January 24.

"I hope all participating clubs will accept this decision in the greater interest because national assignment always comes first and especially when it's related to the World Cup. And I believe the clubs are mentally prepared for this because we informed them of it earlier and its nothing new that the club sacrifices players for national interest," said GS Hasan Tamim, chairman of Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM).
Lutfur Rahman Badal, cricket committee chairman of the defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club, however had a different opinion regarding the issue and he wants to see the national players playing the Super League.

"We are yet to get any official letter

regarding this issue. But we don't find any reason why the national players will not be available for the Super League. It's a matter of seven days only and without national players it will be a dull affair," opined Badal.

"If the domestic cricket runs like this then no club will be interested to spend money for the domestic competition in the future. Our opinion is that nothing can be better than playing competitive games. We spent a huge amount of money to buy two big players (Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal) and we will suffer the most if they take this kind of a decision," he added.

Mohammedan's traditional rivals Abahani however emphasised on the national interest and agreed that they are ready to accept this decision.

"True, that without national players the Super League will lose its charm but we have to accept it for the national interest. You know the Super League will be held in Bogra and Rajshahi, so the players have to travel for the games. Jamie (Siddons) wanted to get the players together after the first round. We have to comply with the head coach's desire when the World Cup is knocking at the door," said Jalal Yunus, vice-chairman of the Abahani's cricket committee.

Biman official Ahmed Faiyaz Shaheen also echoed Yunus' sentiment.

"It was discussed in the CCDM meeting much earlier and at that time nobody

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National gymnastics

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Ansar and Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishan (BKSP) emerged champions in the men's and women's section respectively in the 31st National Gymnastic Championship at the NSC Gymnasium yesterday.

Ansar secured five golds, two silvers and three bronzes in men's section to finish ahead of second-placed BKSP who bagged one silver and three bronzes.

In the women's section, BKSP put Ansar behind securing four golds, four silvers and two bronzes while Ansar bagged only one bronze to finish second.

Tanvir Ahmed of Ansar was named best gymnast while Abul Kalam Azad of Chittagong University was adjudged the second best in the men's section. Parul Akhter and Anita Akhter of BKSP were named the individual champion and runner-up in the women's section.

In the junior meet, BKSP emerged champions in the boy's group with 273.80 points while Bangladesh Ansar clinched the girls' title securing 147.30 points.

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP TALK

'Someone took my keeping gloves'

Khaled Mashud, the former national captain, had a major hand in Bangladesh qualifying to the 1999 World Cup. He was part of that and the 2003 campaign and though the latter didn't go according to plans, the World Cup sparked the wicketkeeper's memory and he shared them with The Daily Star.

Daily Star Sport (DSS): What was the plan behind the 1997 ICC Trophy campaign?

Khaled Mashud (KM): There was a lot of tension in the air since we failed to qualify from the 1994 ICC Trophy in Kenya. We had to go through and were faced with strong opponents like Kenya and United Arab Emirates.

Our team spirit was brilliant during that campaign, I think it was the best I've experienced in my long career. Everyone pulled for each other; there was so much commitment.

In the end there was success and a lot of happiness.

DSS: How excited were you to play in the country's first World Cup?

KM: It was an altogether different experience for me. We were used to playing teams like Kenya, Scotland and Ireland and face teams like India and Pakistan once a year in the Asia Cup.



KHALED MASHUD

But this was the World Cup, and it was so much unlike any other tour we went to. We trained a lot under Gordon Greenidge and we did better than everyone's expectations. We beat the No 1 team in the tournament [Pakistan] and we also defeated Scotland, they had guys like Gavin Hamilton and we were playing in their conditions.

Even ahead of the tournament, [Khaled Mahmud] Sujon's 110 against Essex inspired us.

DSS: You led Bangladesh in the 2003 World Cup. Why did you think it went so badly?

KM: It was a pretty bad campaign for the team. We targeted wins against Canada and Kenya but failed to achieve those, and though we were spin-heavy team, we should have done better.

I remember that most of us could not even attend Eid prayers the day after we lost

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Win and draw for giants

SPORTS REPORTER



Title contenders Mukti Joddha Sangsad returned to winning ways but star-studded Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club stumbled in the Bangladesh League at different venues yesterday.

A rejuvenated Mukti Joddha Sangsad were lucky to hand a single-goal defeat to Arambagh KS, thanks to a fortunate strike from captain-cum-defender Rajani Kanta Barman at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium. Away at the Cox's Bazar Stadium, coach-less Sheikh Jamal were held to a 1-1 draw against Chittagong Abahani, who collected their first point after two successive defeats.

The second victory in three games means Mukti Joddha stay in second position with six, three points clear of joint leaders Mohammedan and Sheikh Russel KC.

Two draws and one victory took Sheikh Jamal to third while holders Abahani and Rahmatganj are jointly fourth in the 12-team points table.

Mukti Joddha Sangsad, who suffered a 2-0 defeat to Sheikh Jamal in their previous match, put on a comparatively better show to dominate a formidable Arambagh in the first half and grabbed a decisive goal in the 32nd minute capitalizing on a howler from goalkeeper Mostafizur Rahman.

Mostafizur looked to grip a free-kick from Argentinean defender Luciano Ariel Theiler well but the ball slipped from his grasp and an opportunist Rajani, who had come up for the set piece, tapped the ball home to give Mukti Joddha Sangsad an unexpected lead.

After the resumption, Arambagh offered a good challenge and both sides fought neck and neck till the last whistle of the game and Mukti Joddha Sangsad's goalkeeper Biplob

Bhattacharjee rescued his side foiling a good number of attacks from Arambagh, who had earlier run Brothers Union strong to hold them to a goalless draw.

The freedom fighters' side also came close to doubling the lead a few times but the efforts from Mithun Chowdhury, Alamu Bukola and Zahed Chowdhury went in vain. The lack of goals had Mukti Joddha worried as Arambagh stepped up the attack for the equaliser but they failed to split the backline of Mukti Joddha.

Away in Cox's Bazar, Sheikh Jamal went ahead with a 17th-minute strike from Serbian defender Dragon Perisic only to see their lead canceled by Dhiman Ghosh five minutes into the second half.

Sheikh Jamal football manager Anwarul Karim Helal admitted that the team has been suffering from not having a recognized coach after the departure

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PHOTO: STAR

Mukti Joddha skipper and veteran defender Rajani Kanta Barman (C) celebrates his match-winning goal of their Bangladesh League clash against Arambagh KS at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.