

Rajshahi's fifth win

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi racked up a fifth win in the first phase of the National Cricket League when they beat Barisal by 175 runs at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore yesterday.

Dhiman Ghosh and Alauddin Babu smashed big centuries in Rangpur's dominating second innings while Khulna controlled their game over Dhaka Metropolis.

Sylhet also have an eye on victory as they require less than a hundred runs for victory over Dhaka.

RAJSHAHI-BARISAL

Rajshahi finished off Barisal inside three days, despite an excellent all-round show from Sohag Gazi.

The defending champions rode on half-centuries from Junaed Siddiqui and Mizanur Rahman to set Barisal, who trailed by six runs in the first dig, a target of 320 runs. Farhad Hossain's accurate off-spin yielded four wickets while Saqlain Sajib took three as Barisal were bowled out for 144 runs in just 31.4 overs.

Sohag struck a couple of half-centuries and picked up nine wickets in the game.

RANGPUR-CHITTAGONG

After the first day chaos in Bogra when 20 wickets fell, Rangpur responded in the most unbelievable manner.

Precious

FROM PAGE 16
wicket was not very difficult today [Tuesday].

"Later on there was some dew which could have helped us, but we had some poor shot selections which got us out. I think we have to be a bit strong mentally and stay a bit more positive in shot selection," explained Mushfiqur.

His opposite number defended his decision to bat first despite threat of dew. "The colour of the wicket gave an impression that it will be slow and will take spin. Dew factor may have created a small problem but it was still spinning. So even a small total was very difficult to chase o this kind of wicket," he said.

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN				
Hafeez c Reza b Shafiu	0			
Shafiq b Shakib	7			
Younis c Mushfiqur b Razzak	26			
Misbah c Kapali b Razzak	47			
Akmal st Mushfiqur b Sunny	57			
Malik c b Razzak	0			
Afridi c Nasir b Sunny	9			
Rehman lbw b Mahmudullah	4			
Tanvir c Mushfiqur b Mahmudullah	8			
Gul c Mushfiqur b Mahmudullah	0			
Ajmal not out	3			
Extras: (b-12, lb-1, w-2, nb-1)	16			
Total: (All out in 46.1 overs)	177			
Fall of wkts: 1-0, 2-37, 3-39, 4-133, 5-133, 6-148, 7-162, 8-172, 9-172, 10-177.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shafiu	6	1	32	1
Reza	2	1	2	0
Razzak	10	2	21	3
Shakib	10	2	21	1
Sunny	9	0	36	2
Kapali	4	0	17	0
Nasir	4	0	31	0
Mahmudullah	1.1	0	4	3

BANGLADESH				
Tamim b Hafeez	0			
Nafees lbw b Ajmal	25			
Mahmudullah lbw b Hafeez	35			
Mushfiqur lbw b Rehman	0			
Shakib c b Hafeez	9			
Nasir c Misbah b Rehman	3			
Kapali c Shafiq b Malik	12			
Reza lbw b Ajmal	21			
Sunny b Malik	1			
Razzak not out	1			
Shafiu b Malik	0			
Extras: (b-4, lb-3, w-5)	12			
Total: (All out in 38 overs)	119			
Fall of wkts: 1-0, 2-69, 3-70, 4-72, 5-81, 6-83, 7-117, 8-117, 9-119, 10-119.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hafeez	10	2	27	3
Gul	2	0	3	0
Rehman	10	1	32	2
Afridi	4	0	27	0
Ajmal	7	4	6	2
Tanvir	1	0	11	0
Malik	4	2	6	3

Result: Pakistan won by 58 runs and

Afghanistan

FROM PAGE 16
Gyeltshen pulled one goal back for Bhutan, which was their only goal in the competition. The perennial favourites and hosts India comfortably beat Sri Lanka 3-0, courtesy of a brace from their start striker Sunil Chhetri and one from his strike partner Je Je Lalpekkhula. However despite the 3-0 victory India had to be content with second position in the group, owing to an inferior goal difference.

India will take on Maldives in the first semifinal on Friday while Afghanistan will play against Nepal in the second semi on the same day.

Chencho Gyeltshen pulled one goal back for Bhutan and it was the first goal for the Bhutan team, who were earlier thumped 5-0 by India.

Alauddin and Dhiman struck 180 and 183 respectively during their mammoth 322-run fifth wicket stand. The all-rounder Alauddin was the aggressor of the pair, hammering 22 boundaries and a six during his 207-ball innings. Dhiman struck 26 fours and a six in his 245-ball stay.

Later, Tanvir Haider and Ariful Haque threw their bat around as they took the score past the 550-mark.

Chittagong responded to the second innings chase with 189-3 at stumps at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium.

KHULNA-DHAKA METRO

Dhaka Metro will miss the services of Mohammad Ashraful in the second innings as their captain was called up to the national team for the Test matches against Pakistan.

It would mean that they would require a further 200 runs with four wickets in hand after they ended the third day on 143-5 at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi.

Earlier, Khulna's all-rounder Soumya Sarkar struck 80 in the side's 250 all out after Dhaka Metro declared their first innings on 164-8.

Alamin Hossain took two second innings wickets after he took a five-wicket haul for Khulna in the first innings.

DHAKA-SYLHET

After Sylhet took a 110-run lead in the first innings at their home ground, Dhaka were bowled out for 231 runs with left-arm spinner Enamul Haque picking

up three wickets.

Opener Abdul Majid made 92 off 192 balls with the help of a dozen boundaries and a six.

With 122 runs to win, Sylhet responded with 34-1 with Imtiaz Ahmed unbeaten on 23 runs. They made 285 in the first innings with Enamul top scoring with 54 runs.

BRIEF SCORES

RAJSHAHI: First innings 222 and second innings 313 all out in 98.5 overs (Junaed 67, Mizanur 64; Sohag 4-113). **BARISAL:** First innings 216 all out in 53.5 overs (Sohag 69; Delwar 3-38, Mukhtar 3-57, Saqlain 3-65) and second innings 144 all out in 31.4 overs (Sohag 63; Farhad 4-8).

Result: Rajshahi won by 175 runs.

RANGPUR: First innings 122 and second innings 587 all out in 135.1 overs (Dhiman 183, Alauddin 180; Rezaul 3-18).

CHITTAGONG: First innings 118 and second innings 189-3 in 44 overs (Nafees 78 not out; Mahmudul 1-22).

KHULNA: First innings 256 and second innings 250 all out in 87.5 overs (Soumya 80; Shamsur 4-54). **DHAKA METRO:** First innings 164-8 dec in 49.2 overs (Ashraful 58, Mehrob 53 not out; Alamin 5-33) and second innings 143-5 in 38 overs (Shamsur 43 not out; Alamin 2-29).

DHAKA: First innings 175 and second innings 231 all out in 71.3 overs (Majid 92; Enamul 3-76). **SYLHET:** First innings 285 all out in 117.1 overs (Enamul 54; Sharif 3-65) and second innings 34-1 in 11 overs (Imtiaz 23 not out; Rubel 1-12).

Fourth WI ODI today

India have to sort out batting woes



PTI, Indore

India will have to sort out their top-order batting woes as buoyed by a morale-lifting 16-run victory in the previous game, a resurgent West Indies would be a tough nut to crack in the fourth and penultimate one-dayer at the Holkar Stadium here on Thursday.

Windies had competed well against the stronger and more fancied hosts in the first two matches that they lost at Cuttack and Vishakapatnam, but the victory in the must-win Ahmedabad match has lifted their sagging spirits on the tour where very little has gone right for them.

The much-vaunted Indian batting line-up would certainly be wary of the dangers posed by the varied Windies attack after the way they folded up in the Motera Stadium.

Rohit Sharma played a lone dominant hand among the front-line batsmen and has been the bulwark of this batting order that is without the presence of key players Sachin Tendulkar, Mahendra Singh Dhoni -- both rested -- and the indisposed Yuvraj Singh.

The biggest fops have been the Delhi duo of Virender Sehwag, who is leading the squad in the absence of Dhoni, and Gautam Gambhir, performing well below par in the three games.

Both were dismissed shockingly for first-ball ducks by West Indies' pacer Ravi Rampaul who has made a big impact with both the bat and the ball in the rubber.

Sehwag and Gambhir need to pull up their act and come out with bigger contributions for India to take an unassailable lead and clinch their second ODI series in a row after the 5-0 whitewash of England.

"We have to look at our top order. We have to click and fire. We have to give a good start as a team so that we can achieve any target or set any target for the West Indies in the coming games," said Sehwag after India lost at Ahmedabad.

Pitch curator Samundar Singh Chauhan said on Tuesday that the wicket is batsmen-friendly.

Whether the proceedings live up to his promise remain to be seen as in the first two games the batsmen have not had things all their way.

TEAMS

INDIA (from): Virender Sehwag (captain), Gautam Gambhir, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Suresh Raina, Ravindra Jadeja, Parthiv Patel, R Ashwin, Abhimanyu Mithun, R Vinay Kumar, Irfan Pathan, Varun Aaron, Rahul Sharma, Manoj Tiwary.

WEST INDIES (from): Darren Sammy (captain), Lendl Simmons, Adrian Barath, Marlon Samuels, Darren Bravo, Danza Hyatt, Kieron Pollard, Denesh Ramdin, Andre Russell, Ravi Rampaul, Kemar Roach, Anthony Martin, Sunil Narine, Kieran Powell, Jason Mohammed.

Kiwis target Hughes

Hobart Test starts on Friday



AFP, Hobart

New Zealand will try to heap the pressure on out-of-form Australian opening batsman Phillip Hughes as they seek to level the series with victory in the second and final Test starting Friday.

The heat is off former Australian skipper Ricky Ponting and wicketkeeper Brad Haddin after good performances in the home side's comprehensive nine-wicket victory over the Black Caps in the first Gabba Test.

Ponting hit 78 and Haddin 80 in the first innings after speculation on their Test futures following a run of low scores, but the spotlight has now shifted to left-hander Hughes and his technical flaws outside off-stump.

Hughes has passed 36 just twice in his past 17 Test innings and with all-rounder Shane Watson (hamstring) and Shaun Marsh (back) on track to return from injuries in the Boxing Day Test against

India, the opener's position appears vulnerable. His six-ball failure on Sunday as Australia reeled off the 19 runs for victory in their second innings, highlighted his weakness. His average has dived from 69 after three Tests in 2009 to 36.

There have been calls for Usman Khawaja to move up the batting order to opener and make room for uncapped all-rounder Dan Christian, who has been added to the Australian squad following a side strain to fast bowler Ben Cutting.

New Zealand captain Ross Taylor could not disguise his relish when asked if he wanted Hughes to play in the Hobart Test.

Martin claimed Hughes's wicket twice at the Gabba, both times caught by Martin Gupitill in the slips. Senior Australian batsman Mike Hussey believes Hughes should continue playing his natural attacking game.

Australia remained unbeaten at the Gabba since 1988 with their emphatic victory over New Zealand, who are without a Test win in Australia since 1985.

Bangladesh hit new low

FROM PAGE 16
important for the players to understand themselves. But this time the players lacked the understanding mainly because no one knew who was going to play the next match," said Bangladesh captain Sujan.

It is true that Nikola Ilievski, the 57-year-old Macedonian, did a lot of experiments with the squad and it eventually did not work. Ilievski started against Pakistan with three debutant players and brought four changes each against Nepal and Maldives in the last two matches.

But wasn't that a responsibility of the idle Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) to intervene and wisen up a foreigner, who is only here for seven months, to the fact that the SAFF Championship is like a World Cup for Bangladesh and that there is no scope for experiments in such a high-profile tournament.

The central defender also said that the coach's ploy of playing 4-3-3 was too demanding for the players who are rather used to a conventional 4-4-2 formation.

Central defender Ariful Islam even questioned the credential of Ilievski.

"To be honest, I haven't learnt anything from my coach rather I've forgotten what I had learnt before. Actually it was all Greek to me whatever he wanted to teach."

Badminton

goes bad

BBF fined 2500 dollars

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Badminton Federation (BBF) were slapped with a 2500 dollars fine by the Asian Badminton Confederation for failing to field a number of players on the opening day of the Bangladesh International Series Badminton Competition that started in the city yesterday.

Ten of the Bangladeshi shuttlers did not appear in protest of the expulsion of acting general secretary of the federation Zahidul Haque Kochi. Kochi was recently expelled from the badminton camp for allegations of sexual harassment of some women shuttlers. But this did not go down well with some of their male colleagues and they decided to stay out of the International Series Badminton Competition demanding his reappointment.

There are whispers in the air that Kochi and former general secretary Zobiaidur Rahman Rana are instigating the shuttlers not to take part. As a result, ten shuttlers including Rais, Parash, Anik, Dola, Konika and Tushar did not appear for the opening day's matches; each missed appearance was levied a fine of 250 dollars, informed tournament committee secretary Hafizur Rahman Milon.

The acting general secretary Syeda Marium Tarek said they would take stern action against all those who stayed out of the competition.

However, those locals who took part did a fair job on the opening day of the competition. Enamul of Bangladesh beat his Sri Lankan counterpart Gurusinghe by 21-19, 18-21, 21-14 points, Shapla beat her Russian counterpart Inozemchekov by 17-21, 21-14, 21-18 points. The pair of Mashrafe and Sazzad though lost to Sri Lankan pair Hasitha and Dahmayako by 21-15, 21-17 points.

Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Khelaghar won by 27 runs against Orient Sporting Club at the BKSP-2 ground in Savar yesterday in the Dhaka First Division Cricket League.

Khelaghar decided to bat first as they scored 150 runs losing all their wickets in 48.3 overs. Mahmudul Islam top scored with 56 while Masum-uddowla took 5-12 for Orient. In reply, Orient were bowled out for 123 runs in 48 overs.

Bangladesh Boys won a closely-contested match by just one run against Uttara Sporting Club at the nearby BKSP-3 ground. Bangladesh Boys scored 177 in 49.4 overs. Mokhlesur Rahman top scored with 58.

In reply, Uttara Sporting Club were all out for 176 in 49.4 overs. Abu Bakar took 2-29.

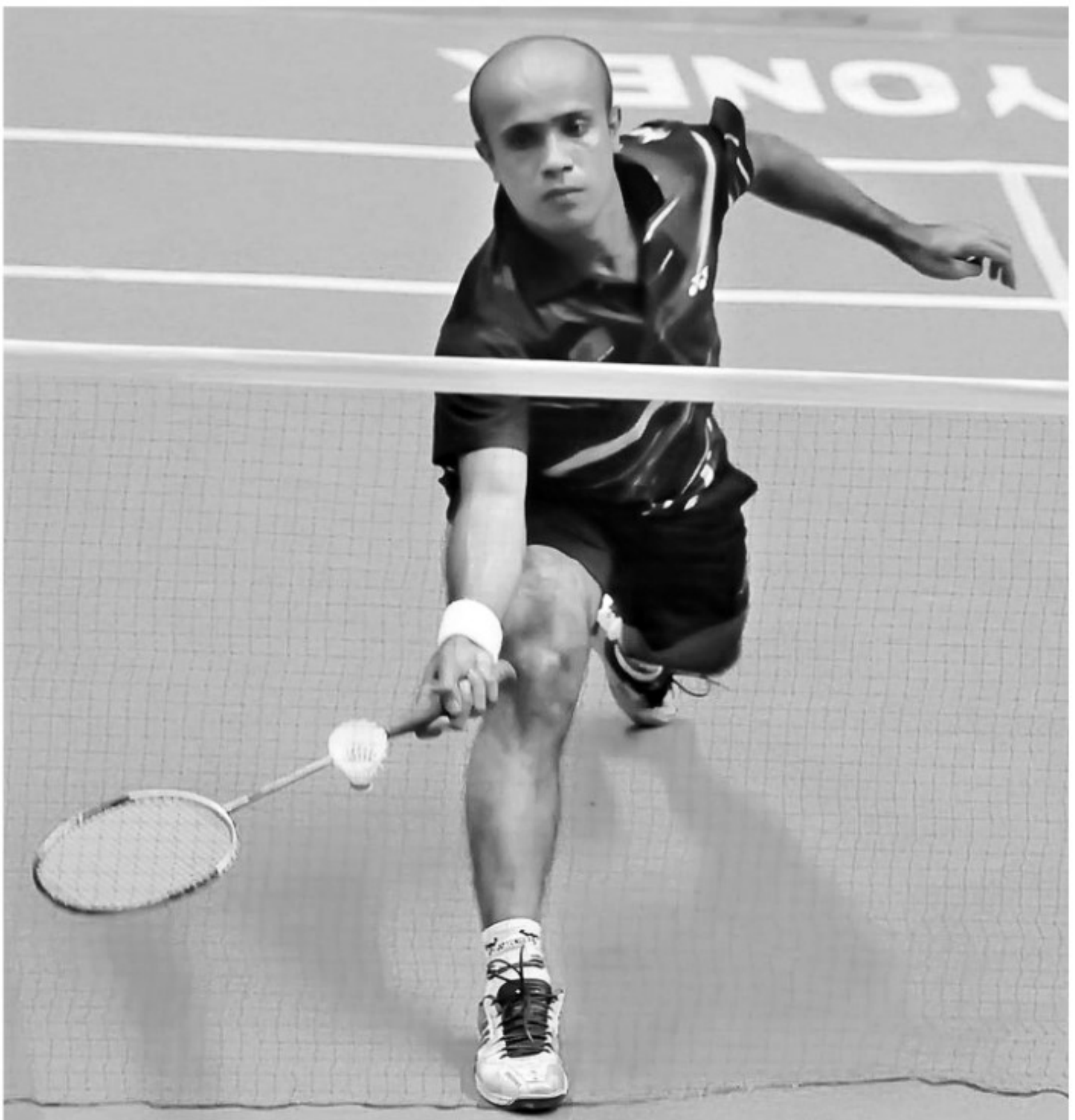
In other matches yesterday, Indira Road defeated Partex by five wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while Kalabagan Cricket Academy defeated Kathalbagan by 61 runs at the City Club Ground.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	40 Sine qua —	57 Deterioration	10 Doing
1 En-grossed	42 It had a big part in the Bible	58 Holler	11 Despot
5 Old man			19 "— Thee I Sing"
8 Rabbit's tail			21 Fuss
12 Wrinkly fruit	45 Masticated	DOWN	24 Aries
13 Japanese sash	49 Famous cookie man	1 "Our Idiot Brother" star Paul	25 Clay, today
14 "My bad"		2 Taj Mahal city	26 Loss of self-control
15 Let fall	50 Egg-yung link	3 Tactic	28 Dundee denial
16 Joker	52 Made on a loom	4 Excellent	29 Traitor
17 — -tat-tat		5 Business decline	30 Disen-cumber
18 Ohio city	53 New Zealand symbol	6 Lawyers' org.	31 Insult (Sl.)
20 Tailor, humorously	54 Coach Par-seghian	7 Uses a shovel	36 Legend-ary TV pooch
22 Fre-quently	55 Mat melody	8 "Parting is such sweet —"	37 Anger
23 Speck	56 Coastal flyer	9 Man's jacket feature	38 Unilateral
24 Freeway access			41 "I see"
27 Adverse			42 Crou-pier's tool
32 Hearty brew	Solution time: 25 mins.		43 Eastern potentate
33 Author Santha Rama —			44 Somewhere out there
34 Sundial numeral			46 Had on
35 Hat seller			47 Maleficent
38 Auto-maker			48 Trans-action
Ransom			51 Acapulco gold
Eli —			
39 Pitch			

Solution time: 25 mins.

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A	C	H	Y		S	E	X		S	T	O	A	



Enamul of Bangladesh returns during his match in the Bangladesh International Series against Sri Lanka's Gurusinghe at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday. He won the match 21-17, 18-21 and 21-14.

PHOTO: STAR

Ansar win KFC Super League

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Ansar & VDP became champions in the KFC Women's Super League Football Tournament beating Satkhira 2-0 in the final at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

The services side dominated the match and took a strangle hold scoring two goals within 31 minutes. National team's Suinu Pru Marma scored the opening goal in the eighth minute heading in a cross from defender Farhana Aktar. The score was doubled when Tithi Rani Sarker's long-range effort slipped through the grasp of the Satkhira goalkeeper.

The co-favourites Satkhira, who had been scoring loads of goals throughout the tournament, put on some resistance in the second half but failed to find the back of the opposition net.

However, they got the consolation of having the best player and top scorer in their side as Mirona was adjudged the player of the tournament and striker Sabina Khatun emerged as the top-scorer with 19 goals.

The champions bagged Tk 50,000 while the runners-up team got Tk 30,000 as prize money. Dr. Mohammad Afarul Amin, Minister of Primary & Mass Education distributed prizes among the winners as the chief guest in the concluding ceremony.

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