

Sylhet in second phase

Join Rajshahi, Khulna and Dhaka Metro

SPORTS REPORTER

Sylhet made it to the second phase of the National Cricket League with a resounding eight-wicket win over Dhaka at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday. The win took them above Chittagong who got mauled at the hands of Rangpur by 241 runs while Khulna struck up their fifth win in the competition after they beat Dhaka Metropolis by 175 runs.

SYLHET-DHAKA

Imtiaz Hossain, the Sylhet skipper, smashed an unbeaten 88 off 115 balls with the help of 13 boundaries and two sixes on the final day.

Sylhet took just over a session to complete their fourth victory in the first phase.

Mosharrif Hossain took two wickets in the second innings as Dhaka ended their woeful campaign with their sixth loss in seven outings.

CHITTAGONG-RANGPUR

The task of batting out the final day was beyond the Chittagong batsmen as they only survived for 23.5 overs at the

Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

But the wicket was excellent even on the fourth and final day as Nafees Iqbal struck his second century. He hit four-teen boundaries and a six in his 149-ball essay, but the rest simply folded.

Only Noor Hossain held up Rangpur's progress, hitting three sixes and ten fours to make a 43-ball 68 but it was never enough.

Abdur Rahman Rony took three for 68 as the northernmost division finished their campaign with two wins.

KHULNA-DHAKA METRO

It was just a formality left to be completed at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium as a severely depleted Dhaka

POINTS TABLE					
Team	P	W	L	D	Pts
Khulna	7	5	1	1	80.84
Dhaka Metro	7	5	2	0	80.46
Sylhet	7	4	2	1	74.28
Rajshahi	7	5	2	0	73.98
Chittagong	7	3	4	0	61.06
Rangpur	7	2	3	2	51.60
Barisal	7	1	5	1	44.26

Metro were bowled out for 167 runs in the 50th over, losing by 175 runs.

Their captain Mohammad Ashraf had to leave for national duty and although the umpires allowed Arman Hossain to bat in his place, Mehrab Hossain Jr's injured finger meant that Dhaka Metro batted with nine wickets.

Dollar Mahmud, Murad Khan and Alamin Hossain took three wickets each to hasten Khulna's victory.

BRIEF SCORES

DHAKA: First innings 175 and second innings 231.

SYLHET: First innings 285 and second innings 125-2 in 41.5 overs (Imtiaz 88 not out; Rubel 2-30).

Result: Sylhet won by eight wickets.

RANGPUR: First innings 122 and second innings 587.

CHITTAGONG: First innings 118 and second innings 350 all out in 67.5 overs (Nafees 103; Rony 3-68).

Result: Rangpur won by 241 runs.

KHULNA: First innings 256 and second innings 250.

DHAKA METRO: First innings 164-8 dec and second innings 167 all out in 49.2 overs (Shamsur 49; Murad 3-38).

Result: Khulna won by 175 runs.

CA board to restructure

AFP, Hobart

Cricket Australia (CA) said Thursday it would overhaul the structure of its board to give each of its six state associations equal representation in decision-making.

CA said it has accepted the recommendations of a review into its governance, which has called for its 14 directors to be replaced by a board consisting of nine members.

The organisation has also agreed that each of its six state associations will have an equal vote, moving away from the historic structure that gave different states a varying number of votes.

Pak look

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was not worried about his team's batting performance as he believes that it's not easy to bat in these conditions.

"It's true that we have struggled with our batting but so far we have been able to pick up the victories in all the matches. The wickets that we have played on so far on the tour have been tough. A batsman had to play at least 70 to 80 balls to score 40 runs which has however ensured good practice for the batsmen for the Test matches. You get a lot of time in Test cricket and if you are patient, then I think the wicket isn't much of an issue," he explained.

The Pakistan spinners played a pivotal role with their variety to win matches for Pakistan and they have tweakers like Mohammad Hafeez, who contributed immensely with the bat and ball and who will definitely be one of the main threats for the Tigers in the Test series. Younis showered praise on the slow bowlers.

"We have all top ranked spinners in the side. And top performer like Abdur Rehman boosts the side. He was brilliant in the last series. Its good for us that all of our spinners are in good form and I believe that a Test match is won through bowling," said Younis, who has 71 Tests and 234 ODIs under his belt.

The 34-year old batsman was as confident as he could be while talking to the reporters but still he was not ready to demean Bangladesh as opponents in the series.

"I am expecting Test level competition from them though they were struggling in the T20 and one-day series. I think Test cricket is a very different ball game. If they can manage to play according to the situation and stick to their goals, I think they will give us some tough competition," hoped Younis.

Following the meek surrender of the home batsmen in the T20 and one-day matches, the talking point was how long Bangladesh could survive in the Test. Can Bangladesh take it at least to the fifth day?

"Only God knows about it. But I think if they play according to the situation they can survive for five days," responded Younis with an inquisitive smile when asked the question.

LOCAL snippets

Bad day in badminton

SPORTS REPORTER

It was a forgettable day for the home shuttlers in the Bangladesh International Badminton Series on Thursday when all their players suffered straight-set defeats.

Enamul Haq was the first to try his luck against Mohammadreza of Iran, but ended up losing 10-21, 14-21.

Anayet Ullah fought gamely in the first set against Mutar Sen which the Turk won 21-18. Sen also won the second set 13-21.

In the afternoon session, Shapla Akhter suffered a 21-17, 21-11 defeat against Sri Lanka's Renu Chandika in women's singles. The Bangladesh pair of Rozina Akhter and Dulali also conceded a 21-7, 21-10 defeat at the hands of Lankan duo of Achinimimeshika and Upali Samanthika.

Div I chess

Farashganj and Faith Chess took the joint lead in the First Division Chess League after the seventh round yesterday.

Farashganj scored a 4-0 win against Prothiva Gosthi while Faith registered a 3.5-.5 victory over Fire Service to raise their tally to 13 points each. In the other matches of the day, Agrani Bank blanked Sultana Kamal 4-0, Mohakhali Prodeep Sangha defeated Muktijoddha by 3.5-1.5 points.

Jabbar Memorial Tennis

Amol Roy and Ranjan Ram won the doubles crown of the MA Jabbar Memorial Tennis Championships when they defeated Anwar Hossain and Dipu Lal 6-2, 6-3 in the final at the ERC Tennis ground yesterday.

At the National Tennis Complex, Rubel Hossain won the boys' 16-year age-group

Watson's fresh injury setback

AFP, Hobart

Shane Watson has suffered a setback in his bid to regain fitness in time for Australia's Test series opener against India but he is still expected to recover in time for the big clash.

Watson, already sidelined from Australia's current series against New Zealand with a hamstring injury, is still on course to play in the first of four Tests against the Indians, Australia skipper Michael Clarke said on Thursday.

"Watto has got a light calf strain. It's put him a couple of days behind but we're confident he'll be right for the Boxing Day Test," Clarke said on the eve of Australia's second and final Test against the Black Caps in Hobart.

Clarke indicated that even if Watson's recovery prevented him from bowling in the Test starting on December 26 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, he would be chosen primarily as a batsman, if available.

"His batting is still a very big part of our team at the top of the order. He's been pretty consistent for us," Clarke said. "But in the best-case scenario I would love him to be able to bowl as well because he's had a lot of success with the ball, especially particularly of late."

"Perfect world for us is both batting and bowling, but I think his batting is important to us."

Watson, 30, illustrated his worth as an extra seamer in the Australian attack when he captured five for 17 off 30 balls in the first innings of the Cape Town Test against South Africa last month.

All-rounder Watson has scored 2,135 runs and taken 56 wickets in 32 Tests.

Memories of Munna

Football

SPORTS REPORTER from Delhi

Monem Munna, one of the finest footballers Bangladesh has ever produced, who died in 2005 at the age of 39, is still alive in the memories of the West Bengal people as the former Bangladesh captain who enthralled Indian spectators wearing the shirt of the East Bengal Football Club 20 years ago.

Central defender Munna became a household name in Kolkata after playing only two years (1991-1992) for the East Bengal Football Club and helped the supporter-based club win the league titles on both occasions. During that time, Abahani teammates Sheikh Mohammad Aslam and Rizvi Karim Rummy also accompanied Munna in East Bengal Football Club colours.

"A footballer like Munna will not be produced again in this sub-continent," said East Bengal Football Club official Debabroto Sarker, who is

better known as Nitu Sarker, at the All Indian Football Federation (AIFF) when a couple of journalists visited the AIFF office yesterday.

"You people don't know how crazy the West Bengal people were for Munna and they were eager to invite them into their homes," an emotion-choked Nitu said. Nitu Sarker was surprised to see Munna's level of confidence when the East Bengal Football Club ended goalless in the first-half against Mohan Bagan.

"I asked him what happened today. He told me that the club would find the back of the opponents' net inside ten minutes of the second half and we left the field with a victory over Mohan Bagan," said the organiser, adding, "I watched a lot of footballers but never saw a man like Munna who had such firm belief."

Munna also wore the jersey of the East Bengal Football Club in 1998 but he could not shine as he did in 1991-1992.

Munna made his national debut in 1986 at the age of 18 in the Seoul Asian Games and under his captaincy Bangladesh achieved their first-ever international success in the four-nation Grand Royal Challenge Cup in Myanmar in 1995.

High time for batsmen

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conference.
There was no logic but still the team think-tank made some changes but the question is; can the changes in the top order bring any luck for the Tigers? The local boy Nazimuddin is all set to make his Test debut while the 'in and out' Mohammad Ashraf will also feature in the eleven in the hope that the experienced batsman will make the most of yet another opportunity to lend the top order some solidity.

The home team however will desperately look to the under-pressure Tamim Iqbal for a solid start. The left-handed opener might have disappointed his supporters in the limited-over leg of the series, but he can take inspiration from his record this year as the Chittagonian is the highest run-scorer in Test cricket for Bangladesh with Shakib Al Hasan, who shone with the leather but needs to shine with the bat also in the Test series, following him. Naeem Islam has been suffering from fever and went back to Dhaka while the second seamer's spot is still uncertain, with pacers Shahadat Hossain, Nazmul Hossain and Robiul Islam jostling for the opportunity to share the new ball with Rubel Hossain.

There is a saying that it's always nice to take inspiration from the happy past when going through tough times. Bangladesh, however, have hardly any happy memories against Pakistan since they were elevated into the elite

club, especially in the longer-version game as they lost all six previous Tests against them. But still they can recall their last meeting in Multan in September 2003 where they narrowly missed a chance in the one-wicket defeat. More importantly, they also can take heart from their last Test match in Chittagong when Mushfiqur's men enjoyed the upper hand in the drawn match against West Indies in which, crucially, the batsmen were among the runs.

"Test cricket is totally different from T20 and one-day matches. The boys are confident about a good showing in the Test series because here in the longer-version game you will get the opportunity to rectify your mistakes. We also can draw inspiration from our last match against Pakistan although it happened long ago," said a confident Nafees.

Where this confidence comes from may to outsiders be a source of wonder. Nafees even declared that they will play the match with the target of a win. "Bangladesh always bounce back strongly when they fall in dire state," said the optimistic left-hander.

The country's cricket lovers will probably not hope for something as big as a win against this formidable Pakistan side, considering Bangladesh's record in Test cricket but they would love to see their team be competitive and play decent and smart cricket.

Not much more can be asked of the Tigers at the moment.

PCB to present

FROM PAGE 16

Pakistan.
If the PCB is successful, it would herald the return of international cricket to Pakistan following the attack on Sri Lankan cricketers in Lahore in March 2009.

Talks of a possible Bangladesh tour of Pakistan could be the by-product of the deal between the PCB and BCCI in choosing the next ICC vice-president. The nomination rests with the two countries and Pakistan is reportedly ready to concede its right for an expected tour by Bangladesh in 2012.

The PCB has also been trying to revive cricketing ties with India, and Ashraf was expected to visit India this month to meet with officials from the BCCI. That meeting could now take place on the sidelines of the ACC meeting in Singapore.

According to the ICC's Future Tours Programme, Pakistan are scheduled to tour India for three Tests and five ODIs in March and April next year, but there is uncertainty over whether that series will take place. The two teams have not been involved in a bilateral series since the terrorist attacks in Mumbai in November 2008.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD
Dhaka Zone, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka

Corrigendum-01

Pre-qualification Notice Memo No: PQ/DZ/01/139 Date: 27 November 2011

Sub Making concrete triber blocks and placing the blocks on the river bed to protect scouring, Replacing of Hinge bearing & Expansion Joint for Meghna Bridge at 25th km of Dhaka-Chittagong National Highway (N-1) under Narayanganj Road Division.

It is notified for all concerned that as per clause No. 10.1 of section 1 instructions to applicants of Standard Pre-Qualification Documents (SPD) for procurement of works (international) the following amendments have been made into the Pre-Qualification Documents:

Notice Sl. No.	Place/date/ time of pre-qualification meeting	Previous			Amended		
		Place	Date	Time	Place	Date	Time
21	Chief Engineer's Conference Room, RHD, Block-A, Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh	25 January 2012	11:00am (Bangladesh Standard Time)	Chief Engineer's Conference Room, RHD, Block-A, Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh	21st December 2012	11:00am (Bangladesh Standard Time)	

This will be a part & parcel of the tender documents. All other terms & conditions of the pre-qualification will remain unchanged.

Md Abdul Quddus

Additional Chief Engineer (PD), RHD
Dhaka Zone
Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka

GD-5118

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37 Urban pall	DOWN	19 Rigatoni,
1 Door-frame parts	38 Rural home	1 Predicament	e.g.
6 Carpentry tool	41 Chances, for short	2 "The — Daba Honey-moon"	21 Rock band's need
9 Explosive letters	43 Storm center	3 Cyrus alter ego	22 Hodges of baseball
12 End, NASA-style	44 Birds, to Brutus	4 Soft cheese	24 Dallas basket-baller, for short
13 "— Had a Hammer"	45 Surgical instrument	5 Postage	26 Sign up
14 Travail	47 "Black Magic Woman"	6 Mum	28 Hoarse
15 Craze	49 Mirror's offering	7 At a distance	30 Lo-o-ong time
16 Tropical perennial herb	52 Family offering	8 Triumph	32 "The Bartered Bride" composer
18 What a hothead may lose	53 Trail the pack	9 Clemens pseudonym	33 Plaything
20 "Casa-blanca" lead role	54 Money of Jordan	10 (For the) time being	34 Census statistic
21 — Khan	55 Cunning materials	11 Ship-building	36 Time of senility
23 Skillet	56 Gorilla	17 Swaps	38 Barrels
24 Unruly hairdos	57 Obliterate	Solution time: 25 mins.	39 Use
25 Greedy one's cry			40 Comic Jack
27 Ritzzy fiddle			42 Play-ground fixture
29 Mars, e.g.			45 Break suddenly
31 Zoroastrian sacred text			46 Mideast ruler
35 Puts on cargo			48 Chicken-king link

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CRYPTOQUIP

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ANNC TANHV ITE, NUJ TRQ
PNTJ. NRD LUIFV PTJJ FUL
T LTR NB BHDJ ONXQE.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I ADORE HEROIC MOVIES, NOVELS AND POETRY. I FINALLY BECAME A MEMBER OF THE EPICS COMMITTEE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals O