

MSC, Sonali Bank jointly on top

SPORTS REPORTER
Title contenders Mohammedan SC and Sonali Bank kept their joint lead intact in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League after registering their fifth successive win at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. Mohammedan thrashed Shadharan Bima 5-0, thanks to doubles from striker Rasel Mahmud Jimmy and Mamunur Rahman Chayan. Chayan put Mohammedan ahead in the eighth minute after converting a penalty corner before Golam Mostafa Manik doubled the lead two minutes later through a field goal. Chayan again found the back of the Bima net with another penalty corner in the 15th minute and Jimmy struck his first in the 27th minute to give Mohammedan a comfortable 4-0 lead in the first half. Jimmy struck his second and team's fifth in the 52nd minute to ensure Mohammedan's fifth win in as many matches.

In the day's other match, Sonali Bank blanked Wari Club 6-0 with Mohammad Imran, Shahzad Nasir, Asif A Nur, Ajit Kumar, Khairul Amin and Rezaul Karim Razu scoring one goal each.

Mohammedan win exhibition football game

SPORTS REPORTER
Mohammedan Sporting Club recorded a lone-goal victory over hosts Tripura XI in an exhibition match held at the UK football ground in Agartala yesterday. Veteran striker Alfaz Ahmed struck the decisive goal in the 40th minute for the Black and Whites who went to Tripura after being invited jointly by Tripura Commerce Minister Jitendra Roy and Tripura Football Association. A 31-member Mohammedan squad is scheduled to return home tomorrow.

Women's

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assistance, we are going to hold it across the country as per the instructions from FIFA," said Bachchu adding that the national women's football championship has been turned into a women's super league. FIFA will provide 33,000 dollars (approximately Tk 28 lakh) while KFC will give Tk 10 lakh (approximately 1200 dollars) out of an estimated budget of Tk 38 lakh. Participation is huge in terms of the numbers of teams. Last season, 26 teams participated in the women's national football league and this time 13 teams have been registered as fresh teams in women's football according to the BFF officials. Bachchu said, "As we know well about the strength of all participating teams, we have seeded seven teams according to their performances and in an effort to make the league competitive."

Without naming anyone, Mahfuza Akhter alleged that a vested group tried to hinder the progress of the league but it was overcome by the interference of BFF president Kazi Salahuddin. She informed that a total of 41 teams initially sent entries and names of squads but four of them pulled out of the league citing various reasons.

Easy win

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bat, scoring 174 for 6 before rain intervened. Nayeem Islam top-scored with 87 off 49 balls that included 6 boundaries and 7 maximums. Shafiq c P Jayawardene b Herath 75

Result: Bangladesh won by 93 runs.



Action from the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League match between Mohammedan and Sadharan Bima at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Wickets keep falling



AFP, Pallekele

Young seamer Thisara Perera grabbed a career-best 4-63 as Sri Lanka bowled out Pakistan for 226 on the opening day of the final Test in Pallekele on Sunday.

Left-arm spinner Rangana Herath chipped in with three wickets after Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene put the tourists in to bat for the second consecutive match.

Pakistan hit back to reduce Sri Lanka to 44-3 by stumps as left-arm seamer Junaid Khan removed Dinesh Chandimal and dangerman Kumar Sangakkara in the space of four deliveries.

Chandimal was leg-before for eight, while Sangakkara was bowled for zero after making 199 not out and 192 in the previous two Tests.

Mohammad Sami then trapped skipper Jayawardene leg-before in the last over of the day to cap an absorbing day's play at the Pallekele International Stadium.

Pakistan, looking for a series-levelling win, failed to adjust to the moving ball on a responsive wicket and collapsed to 56-4 soon after the first hour of play.

They recovered through a fighting 75 from Asad Shafiq, who put on 85 for the fifth wicket with skipper Misbahul Haq (40) before the innings terminated midway through

the post-tea session.

Sri Lanka, who won the first Test in Galle before the second in Colombo was drawn, are seeking their first series win in three years, after defeating New Zealand 2-0 at home in 2009.

Perera, a 23-year-old playing only his sixth Test, made an immediate impact in his maiden appearance in the series by grabbing three wickets in his first eight overs.

Unlike the second Test where Jayawardene's decision to field on a flat track backfired as Pakistan ran up 551-6 declared, the hosts finally found conditions that suited the bowlers.

The bounce on the greenish pitch was less than expected -- the wicketkeeper stood up to the stumps as early as the third over -- but there was considerable movement in the air and off the wicket.

Perera, taking advantage of overcast conditions, struck off Pakistan's openers had rattled up 35 by the eighth over, bowling Mohammad Hafeez with a delivery that swung in sharply.

Hafeez, who scored 196 in the second Test, made 22 with four hits to the fence.

Azhar Ali, another century-maker in Colombo, edged a wild drive off Perera to Thilan Samaraweera at gully before he had scored a run.

Sri Lanka earned two further wickets on either side of the morning drinks break

when veteran Younis Khan was caught behind off Kulasekara and Taufeeq Umar was leg-before to Perera for 29.

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN: First innings
Hafeez b Perera 22
Umar lbw b Perera 29
Azhar c Samaraweera b Perera 0
Younis c P Jayawardene b Kulasekara 0
Misbah c P Jayawardene b Perera 40
Shafiq c P Jayawardene b Herath 75
Akmal b Herath 24
Sami c Perera b Mathews 9
Gulb Kulasekara 7
Ajmal lbw b Herath 6
Junaid not out 3
Extras: (lb-11) 11
Total: (All out in 72.5 overs) 226
Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-41, 3-50, 4-56, 5-141, 6-175, 7-198, 8-217, 9-217

Bowler O M R W
Kulasekara 16 4 44 2
Perera 18 5 63 4
Mathews 8 3 20 1
Herath 18.5 6 40 3
Fernando 12 1 48 0

SRI LANKA: First innings
Paranavithana not out 13
Chandimal lbw b Junaid 8
Sangakkara b Junaid 0
M Jayawardene lbw b Sami 12
Extras: (b-10, w-1) 11
Total: (For 3 wks in 14.4 overs) 44
To bat: Samaraweera, Mathews, P Jayawardene, Perera, Kulasekara, Fernando, Herath
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-14, 3-44

Bowler O M R W
Gul 6 1 16 0
Junaid 6 0 15 2
Sami 1.4 0 2 1
Ajmal 1 0 1 0

Yuvi's lesson by cancer

AFP, New Delhi

Indian all-rounder Yuvraj Singh believes that his battle with cancer has made him more disciplined but he confessed that he has suffered memory problems after undergoing chemotherapy.

The 30-year-old, who is recovering from a rare germ-cell tumour between his lungs, told the Hindu newspaper on Sunday that his illness had given him a fresh outlook on life.

"I'm more disciplined and more organised. I pray every day and I've learnt to be loyal to my body and myself," he said, confirming that he hoped to play in the Twenty20 World Cup in Sri Lanka in September.

"Family will give you love and support, but you have to take the initiative when you fight a disease like cancer. I'm happy to be in the right frame of mind now to chase my dreams."

Speaking on Saturday as he launched a campaign to improve early detection of cancer, Yuvraj said his post-chemotherapy period was difficult and that basic cricket training had given him a huge confidence boost.

"I had lost my memory and still thought it was 2011. I had lost taste for food. Now, I value every meal and also breathe with both lungs," Yuvraj said.

Serena isn't done yet

AFP, London



of her life.

Just two years ago Serena should have been on top of the world after winning Wimbledon for the fourth time, but instead the American was at her lowest ebb after a series of freak health problems left her battling for her life.

The trouble started when she needed 18 stitches and then surgery after stepping on broken glass in a Munich restaurant.

Worse was to come as she suffered life-threatening blood clots on her lungs and, as she lay on a couch with tubes poking from her body to aid her recovery, Serena was convinced her career at the top was over.

But, showing the ferocious will-power that marked her rise to prominence, Williams gradually battled back to full health and capped a remarkable revival on Saturday with a 6-1, 5-7, 6-2 victory over Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska in the Wimbledon final.

"Every title is special, but this one is definitely super-special because it's a huge comeback for me," she said after her first Grand Slam triumph since the illness.

"There was a moment I just remember I was on the couch and I didn't leave it for two days. I was praying, like I can't take any more. I've endured enough."

"I was just so tired at that point. I had a tube in my stomach and it was draining constantly."

"Gosh, I mean, right before that I had the blood clot. I had lung problems, then I had two foot surgeries. I felt like I didn't do anything to bring on that. It was the lowest of lows."

"But I didn't give up. I came back and winning is amazing because last year I was ranked almost 200. It's been an unbelievable journey for me."

Serena's 14th Grand Slam crown underlined her credentials as the sport's pre-eminent force and, at an age when many players are entering the twilight of their career, the 30-year-old has no intention of resting on her laurels.

"It's Wimbledon, I've wanted to win here so bad," she said. "Oh, my gosh, I still can't believe I was able to come through and win my seven matches."

"It hasn't sunk in. That's the difference to the wins I had in the past. Usually it sinks in fast."

"It's the beginning of a great phase. I feel amazing out there. This whole tournament I felt really great physically. So I think it's definitely the beginning of something great."

"There's the US Open, the Australian Open, the French Open, Wimbledon 2013..."

Serena has now equalled sister Venus's tally of five Wimbledon titles and the next All England Club legend in her sights is Bille Jean King, who won the tournament six times, with the chance to catch German great Steffi Graf on seven titles another motivation.

"I don't see why not. I have never felt better. This whole tournament I have pretty much been injury free," Williams added.

If Serena continues serving with the kind of sustained accuracy and power she showed at Wimbledon -- the world number four eventually finished with 102 aces after hitting 17 against Radwanska -- her dream of dominating women's tennis again could well come true.

"My serve really helped me throughout this tournament. I can't describe why it was so good or how it was so good. It's not like I practice it that much. I just had the rhythm," she said.

And if she ever has cause to doubt herself during a match, there is no question what memory will spur her on to greater heights.

"I didn't just stay there when I was down. I got up," she said. "That's what you got to do sometimes. I got up and I started."

British GP Webber's

AFP, Silverstone

Mark Webber claimed the ninth win of his career on Sunday when he swept to a dramatic and perfectly-judged victory in an incident-filled British Grand Prix.

In a race run in welcome, if rare, dry conditions, the 35-year-old Australian steered his Red Bull through 52 laps of complex tactical and strategic racing to finish three seconds ahead of Fernando Alonso of Ferrari.

Pepsi Football

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were presented with a Samsung Galaxy Tab each.

Two renowned footballers of the country -- Zahid Hasan Emily and Mamun Khan were present at the event. They took part in the games along with the competitors, adding extra excitement to the proceedings.

Also present were PepsiCo's general manager of marketing Nitin Bhandari, country manager Prateek Sabharwal, manager of market development department of Transcom Beverages Limited Arif Hossain along with others.

The gala event ended with a dinner with Bangladesh national cricketers Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal at the grand West Inn hotel.

England's winning lead



AFP, Chester-le-street

Steven Finn's four-wicket haul laid the platform for England's eight-wicket hammering of Australia in the fourth one-day international here on Saturday.

England, set a modest 201 for victory, finished on 201 for two with 13 balls as they won the series, going 3-0 up in this five match campaign after Wednesday's clash in Birmingham was washed out.

"Our bowlers set the tone beautifully at the start," said England captain Alastair Cook. "Steven Finn took the wickets today, but the other guys bowled well too."

Jonathan Trott (64 not out) and Ravi Bopara (33 not out) shared an unbroken stand of 65 as England recorded their ninth successive one-day international victory with 13 balls to spare.

Ian Bell (69) and Warwickshire colleague Trott had previously put on 66 for the second wicket. Bell's 94-ball knock, featuring nine fours, meant that in five innings since taking over as an opener following Kevin Pietersen's limited overs retirement he'd scored 364 runs at an average of 72.8 with one hundred and three fifties.

Meanwhile Trott's effort, in his 47th innings, saw him become the fourth fastest batsman to 2,000 ODI runs behind South Africa's Hashim Amla (40 innings) and Pakistan's Zaheer Abbas and Pietersen (both 45). Earlier, fast bowler Finn's man-of-the-match haul of four for 37 in his maximum 10 overs sparked an Australia top-order collapse as the visitors struggled in overcast conditions after losing the toss.

"They were great conditions for fast bowling today, it was a key toss to win," said Finn. "We realised we had to bowl a fuller length

and we did that well as a unit."

Finn, yet to nail down a place in England's Test side, added: "I have tried to be as consistent as I can in one-day cricket for the last 12 months and wherever that leads me to in Test cricket, I will take."

Australia captain Michael Clarke said the toss had played its part in the result but stressed his side had been outplayed.

"England were outstanding once again and showed us how to play consistently in this form of the game," said Clarke. "England had the better of the conditions, but we had the better of them at Lord's and they still found a way to beat us."

Clarke added: "England have outplayed us so far, and we have plenty of work to do ahead of the Ashes next summer [in England]."

That Australia, still the world number one side in this format, recovered from a lowly 96 for six to 200 for nine was largely down to David Hussey's 70.

Cook and Bell made a sound start to the chase.

Bell eased fast bowler James Pattinson, recalled alongside fellow seamer Ben Hilfenhaus in place of left-arm paceman Mitchell Johnson and spinner Xavier Doherty, through the covers.

Australia's problems intensified as all-rounder Shane Watson and Lee both went off with calf problems, meaning Clarke had to use part-time bowlers.

Result: England won by eight wickets and lead five-match series 3-0.

Man-of-the-match: Steven Finn.

Windies go 2-0 up



AFP, Kingston

Centuries from Chris Gayle and Marlon Samuels inspired West Indies to a 55-run win over New Zealand in the second one-day international here at Sabina Park.

After three successive half-centuries in the back-to-back Twenty20 matches in Florida and the first ODI on Thursday Gayle again showed the local fans what they had been missing after 12 months of international exile.

His contribution of 125 runs, featuring nine sixes, from 107 balls and with Samuels compiling 101 off 103 balls, lifted West Indies to 315 for five.

New Zealand were always going to be struggling to match that total and despite half-centuries from BJ Watling, Martin Guptill and Kane Williamson were bowled out for 260 off 47 overs.

Saturday's result gave the hosts a 2-0 lead in the five match series which they can seal in St Kitts on Wednesday.

For Gayle this was his 20th ODI ton, a new West Indian record, surpassing the previous record set by Brian Lara.

He was prevented beating his career-best score of 153 when in the 38th over one of his shots landed in the hands of deep midwicket.

for him and his team, said: "What was really pleasing to see was the way we controlled the game from the start and turned up the tempo at the right time. We were strong in all departments, and the bowlers did another good job for us today."

He praised the contribution made by Samuels, saying: "He is a quality player and to see him get a hundred after I got one earlier in the innings is something special."

Samuels reflected: "Chris set the stage with his power at the top of the innings and then I was able to come in and add the finishing touches."

"It was an enjoyable day for me and the team. It was special to do it with so many people who have done so much for me in my life watching."

"It is my first hundred in the Caribbean, the others have been away. The others have been out of my 'comfort zone' ... but this one has been in my 'comfort zone'."

"It's been a while since I last batted with Chris, so batting with him today was wonderful."

SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES: 315 for 5 (Gayle 125, Samuels 101 not out, Sammy 31 not out; Southee 3-55)
NEW ZEALAND: 260 all out (Guptill 51, Williamson 58, Watling 72 not out; Rampaul 3-50, Narine 2-45, Samuels 2-46)
Result: West Indies won by 55 runs and lead five-match series 2-0.
Man-of-the-match: Marlon Samuels.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 38 Silas in "The Da Vinci Code," e.g.
5 In earlier times
8 Pleads
12 Neighbourhood
13 Sister
14 Chills and fever
15 Troop group
17 Unusual
18 Line
19 Strapped for cash
21 Apartment of a sort
24 Soccer legend
25 Shades
26 Aromatic
30 Donkey
31 "I don't give —!"
32 Shad offspring
33 Dweller
35 Cook-ware
36 Wagers
37 No liability

2 Before
3 Lower limb
4 Scottish land-owners
5 From the beginning
6 Pistol
7 Precisely
8 Keg
9 "Zounds!"
10 Mentor
11 Leak slowly
16 Cow's comment
20 Scads
21 Burn some-what
22 English river
23 Loch — Monster
24 Lowly workers
26 Orator's skill
27 Cupid's alias
28 Staff member?
29 Criterion
31 Mideast-ern gulf
34 In the same place (Lat.)
35 Hitch-cock classic
37 — Baba
38 Heidi's range
39 Swag
40 Use a kiln
41 Undo a dele
44 One long time period ...
45 ... and another
46 Peacock network
47 Sock part

Solution time: 21 mins.

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B	A	S	K	E	T	T	E	E	S	
A	B	A	D	A	M	S	A	F	E	S
R	E	T	D	R	E	S	D	I	R	E
S	L	U	R	S	G	A	L	E	N	E
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M	A	S	W	A	N	E	D	E	W	E

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CRYPTOQUIP
OGRKD FIBJXG BEOJLDK EYD
KJFTQH JYYDQDLEBO OR
OGD XIYYDBO ORTJX. OGDH'YD
BRO ZDYFEBD ZDYFEBK .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COUPLE OF SWEETHEARTS WHO DON'T SURVIVE AFTER FALLING INTO PAVING GOO: TAR-CROSSED LOVERS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals R