

Winning start for MSC, Rajshahi

SPORTS REPORTER

Favourites Duronto Rajshahi and defending champions Mohammedan made a winning start in the Ultra Milk Premier Division Chess League which started at the National Sports Council Auditorium yesterday.

Duronto Rajshahi beat Bangladesh Biman by 3.5-0.5 points in the opening round when local GMs Enamul Hossain Rajib, Abdullah Al Rakib and Reefat Bin Sattar won their respective matches while GM Dmitry Kokarev drew his board against FM Rezaul Haque of Biman.

Reigning Champions Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club blanked Destiny 2000 Limited 4-0 with GM Merab Gagunashvili, GM Ziaur Rahman, IM Minhazuddin Ahmed and FM Moham-mad Abdul Malek winning their respective boards. In the other matches, Titas Club beat Narayanganj Pritam-Prsm Chess Club 3-1, newcomers Access Group Chess Club beat Farashganj Sporting Club and Air Destiny Limited beat Faith Chess Club by 2.5-1.5 points.

Gazi makes

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"Nazmul Hossain is injured and isn't fit enough to be in the team. Nazimuddin hasn't been performing well lately and he didn't get too many runs during the Asia Cup," said Akram Khan, Chief Selector of the Bangladesh cricket team. The selection committee also backed their quickest bowlers for the ODIs-Abul had Rubel- as a result of which, Shahadat Hossain had to miss out.

Kayes's exclusion was mainly due to his lean form with the bat in domestic cricket, where as the inclusion of Gazi, alongside Shakib Al Hasan and Abdur Razzak, meant that there was no room for Sunny in the team.

Bangladesh and West Indies will each play one warm-up game before the beginning of the series. The first two ODIs will take place in the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna on November 30 and December 2 respectively. The players will then return to Dhaka to play the remaining three ODIs and one Twenty20.

Squad for the first two ODIs:

Mushfiqur Rahim (capt & wk), Mahmudullah, Tamim Iqbal, Anamul Haque, Jahurul Islam, Naeem Islam, Shakib Al Hasan, Nasir Hossain, Sohag Gazi, Abdur Razzak, Abul Hasan, Rubel Hossain, Masrafe Bin Mortaza, Shafiqul Islam.

Dropped

Imrul Kayes, Elias Sunny, Nazmul Hossain, Shahadat Hossain and Nazimuddin

Hockey team

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Eleven, who had earlier lost against Air India (6-0) and ONGC (2-1).

Bangladesh have been taking part in the tournament as part of their preparation for February's World Hockey League (Round-2) and they will participate in the Lal Bhahadur Shastri Hockey tournament at the same venue after the completion of this tournament.

Div I football

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Young Men's Club of Fakirerpu will take on T&T Club of Motizheel in today's match at the same venue.



Muktijoddha Sangsad's Brazilian striker Thiago Silva (R) dances past his marker during their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Silva brace drives Muktijoddha

SPORTS REPORTER

Last season's runners-up Muktijoddha Sangsad notched up their second successive victory in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League as they defeated Brothers Union 2-0 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Brazilian hitman Thiago Tyson Silva struck both the goals, in front of a couple of thousand holiday spectators under the floodlight, to put the All Reds on the top of the nine-team table with six points from two matches. With two consecutive defeats, Brothers were at the bottom of the table. Though the tie was between two fallen giants, both sides presented attacking and fast-paced game before Muktijoddha Sangsad rode on two clever goals from 24-year old Silva.

"Yes, both goals were tricky but (Joseph) Ozurumba and (Chigozie) Darlington fed me nice balls to score. Actually it was a team effort. Today I scored, tomorrow Yousuf

and Ozurumba might score for the team," said Silva.

There were two more Brazilians in the match, both for playing Brothers Union, but Silva hogged the limelight for his two intelligent goals. However, Brothers' Garcia Anderson and Prates Fabio showed signs of brilliance with long-range drives but their efforts were not enough to avert Brothers' seventh defeat in 11 professional league matches against Muktijoddha Sangsad.

Brothers dominated the first 20 minutes of the match with Anderson going close to giving the lead but Muktijoddha goalkeeper Ziaur Rahman managed to stop a 30-yard effort from Anderson and it worked as a wake-up call for Muktijoddha.

Muktijoddha themselves were denied by the woodwork in the 25th minute when Jewel Rana's 30-yard left-footer rattled the crossbar, before the All Reds took the lead in the next minute.

Nigerian Ozurumba provided a clever lob from the edge of the danger zone for Silva, who controlled

the ball before sending it over the advancing goalkeeper Piaruzzaman Piru with a left-footed side volley. Silva then doubled the lead in the 34th minute with another cleaver goal, this time Nigerian Chigozie Darlington put the ball inside the box and Silva shrugged off his marker Ashraful Karim to lift the ball over onrushing Piru.

Soon Brothers coach Ladi Babalola sent winger Shah Alamgir Anik in place of Ashraful and the inclusion of the midfielder put some pressure on Muktijoddha, who virtually were down defending their lead for the rest of the time.

After resumption, Brazilian Anderson saw his powerful shot from outside the box denied by Muktijoddha keeper Zia while Fabio narrowly missed to make contact with an Anderson cross. Brothers pressed hard throughout the second half but could not split the backline marshalled by Benjamin Eleta, Zahurul Islam, Shamol Ahmed Rony and Propid Barua. Zia also proved solid under the bar.

Work ethic pays off

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stronger. It has motivated me, so I am basically using it to strengthen me as a person. I am here now, putting a lot of things behind me and moving forward."

Regarding the slow pace of his innings, Samuels explained: "The way Bangladesh are playing on this pitch, they are continuing to put everyone in the boundary. They wanted me to go over the top consistently. There's a lot of singles to take, I don't mind until the mid-on and mid-off come up and I take the chance of going over the top.

And he said that the patience was the key behind his success on this kind of wicket at Khulna.

"Patience (was the main challenge). It is not the kind of wicket you can start driving the ball when you get in. You have to wait for the bad ball and continue to rotate the strike as much as possible," he informed.

Initially he survived as Naeem Islam dropped a catch at slip and then a ball from Shakib Al Hasan hit the stumps but didn't take the bail and thus he was lucky to get his double hundred.

"I wasn't worried too much because the pitch is very hard, so the ball is rolling to the stumps, it takes time and the bails don't come off that easily," he said when asked about whether he was worried when the ball hit the stumps.

He came up with an interesting answer when asked whether he did think of 300.

"If I didn't get out at that ball, I was waiting for the spinners and it is a harder ball on a slow surface. I would be hitting some sixes continuously for the rest of the evening," responded the hard-hitting batsman.

Samuels has always tended to relate his success with the superstition and that's the reason he has preserved the red handkerchief which he got from former Australian skipper Steve Waugh.

"It is in the glass case in the house. I am keeping it and cherishing it forever. Steve Waugh gave that to me after the game and we were both in the same dressing room. He just cut the rug and gave it to me and wished me all the best in my career," said a smiling Samuels.

Kiwis aim to counter spin

AFP, Colombo

New Zealand will be keen to put in an improved batting performance against Sri Lankan spin in the second and final Test in Colombo from Sunday to halt their losing streak.

The 10-wicket defeat in the opening match in Galle on Monday was the fifth consecutive Test loss for the Black Caps, following two defeats each in the West Indies and India.

New Zealand's worst run came between January 1954 and October 1955 when they lost six Tests in a row.

Captain Ross Taylor said his team needed to solve their batting problems against spin, especially against left-arm spinner Rangana Herath who grabbed 11 wickets on a slow turning track in Galle.

"We need to come up with a plan on how we are going to combat Herath," said Taylor. "We got to come up with a way of negating his wicket-taking ability."

Herath, who is again expected to play a key role, has been troubling touring sides this year with his subtle variations. He has already taken 45 wickets in six home Tests, with two hauls of 10 or more wickets in a match.

Services kabaddi

SPORTS REPORTER

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Bangladesh Army won their respective matches of the Walton Motorcycle Super Seven Services Kabaddi League matches at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday. BGB beat Bangladesh Police by 16-7 points with one Iona while Bangladesh Army defeated Bangladesh Navy by 20-8 points.

Samuels

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The scenario after the third day put the Tigers in a familiar situation of yet another innings defeat after two long hard days on the field. With a West Indies declaration sometimes after the lunch break on the fourth day looking a reality, the home side are set to be up against surviving at least four sessions to salvage a draw.

For the Bangladeshis, the slow Khulna pitch was just an added hurdle in a day when the rub off the green also went the other way. Both Ruben and Abul Hasan bowled with courage and variety but their efforts were luckless.

Naeem Islam dropped Samuels at slip in the very fourth over of the day when he was on 117 to deny Hasan his first Test wicket. The right-hander also survived some close appeals and later had Shahriar Nafees's half-hearted effort at slip to thank for another life when still two shy of his double-hundred.

On way to his maiden double hundred Marlon Samuels splendidly switched gears from aggressive to sedate as the right-hander had taken 82 off 81 deliveries in the morning; he took 86 to make 29 after lunch.

Bangladesh's largely luckless day was compounded when a Shakib al Hasan delivery hit the stumps but failed to dislodge the bails. With little to smile about, Naeem Islam's delivery which directly hit the silly mid-off fielder was the only coming relief in the long, hard slog.

Pujara rescues India

Cricket

PTI, Mumbai

Cheteshwar Pujara cracked his second consecutive Test century as India recovered from a precarious situation to restore the balance in the second cricket Test against England on Friday.

Pujara, who had scored a double century in the first match, notched up his third Test century to remain unbeaten on 114 on a turning track at the Wankhede Stadium and steered the hosts to a far more comfortable 266 for six at close on an eventful opening day.

Pujara found an able ally in Ravichandran Ashwin (60 batting) as the duo put on unfinished 97-run partnership for the seventh wicket to bail them out after the hosts were reeling at 119 for five at one stage.

Barring Pujara and Ashwin, none of the batsman in the star-studded line-up could

make an impression on a track that started turning from the second session onwards and which was exploited by left-arm spinner Monty Panesar who claimed four wickets. Coming to the crease after the second ball dismissal of Gautam Gambhir, the 25-year-old Pujara kept one end going by showing superb judgement against the spinning ball to pull India out of a deep hole after the home team opted to bat first on winning the toss.

Pujara stayed for just over six hours in which he had faced 279 balls and struck ten fours. Ashwin faced 84 for his valuable knock.

Pujara came into the game on the back of his unbeaten knocks of 206 and 41 in the two innings of the opening Test at Ahmedabad, which fetched him the Man of the Match award and paved the way for his team's comprehensive nine-wicket victory.

Panesar, who took four

for 91 by the end of the day's play, was played with a lot of assurance by Pujara.

The early part of the day belonged to England who sent back Gambhir (4), Virender Sehwag (30) -- in his 100th Test -- Sachin Tendulkar (8), Virat Kohli (19) and Yuvraj Singh (0).

SCOREBOARD

INDIA: First innings
Gambhir lbw b Anderson 30
Sehwag b Panesar 40
Pujara not out 114
Tendulkar b Panesar 8
Kohli c Compton b Panesar 19
Yuvraj b Swann 0
Dhoni c Swann b Panesar 29
Ashwin not out 60
Extras: (lb-1, nb-1) 2
Total: (For 6 wkts in 90 overs) 266
To bat: Harbhajan, Zaheer, Ojha.
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-52, 3-60, 4-118, 5-119, 6-169.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	14	3	49	1
Broad	12	1	60	0
Panesar	34	7	91	4
Swann	26	5	59	1
Patel	4	1	6	0

ENGLAND: Cook, Compton, Trott, Pietersen, Bairstow, Patel, Prior, Broad, Swann, Panesar, Anderson.
Toss: India.

Smith keeps fighting

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

Skipper Graeme Smith survived two close shaves to reach a resolute century and give South Africa a sturdy start Friday after Australia's big first innings in the second Test in Adelaide.

Smith anchored the Proteas' reply with his 26th Test hundred as the world's top-ranked team lost just two wickets in two sessions on a docile pitch.

At close on the second day, Smith was unbeaten on 111 with Jacques Rudolph not out 25 in South Africa's 217 for two, 333 runs behind the home side's 550.

Encouragingly for South Africa, the Proteas have not lost the match in the previous 25 Tests in which Smith has scored a century.

Smith had two big moments in his innings before reaching triple figures.

He advanced down the wicket to spinner Michael

Alviro Petersen was run out for 54 by a direct throw from Mike Hussey at mid-on after he lost ground in avoiding a mid-pitch collision with Smith to end a 138-run opening stand.

Part-time leg-spinner David Warner snared the big wicket of Hashim Amla inside the final hour with wicketkeeper Wade stumping the accomplished number three for 11.

It was Warner's fourth Test wicket and came with the penultimate delivery of his opening over to gain a vital breakthrough on a flat batting pitch. Australia's hopes of making a first innings total around 600 evaporated when South Africa finally removed skipper Clarke early on the second morning.

Clarke was out for the first time in the series on 230, bowled by Morne Morkel, who finished with five wickets for 146 off 30 overs.

The Australian skipper became the first batsman in the history of Test cricket

Warner c Smith b Morkel	119
Cowan c & b Kallis	10
Quiney c Smith b Morkel	0
Ponting b Kallis	4
Clarke b Morkel	230
M Hussey b Steyn	103
Wade c De Villiers b Morkel	6
Siddle c Smith b Kleinveldt	6
Pattinson c Smith b Steyn	42
Hilfenhaus c Kleinveldt b Morkel	0
Lyon not out	27
Extras: (lb-11, w-1, nb-11)	73
Total: (All out in 107.2 overs)	550
Fall of wickets: 1-43, 2-44, 3-55, 4-210, 5-482, 6-494, 7-501, 8-503, 9-504.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Steyn	23.4	4	79	2
Morkel	30	5	146	5
Kallis	3.3	1	19	2
Kleinveldt	20.1	4	81	1
Tahir	23	0	180	0
Du Plessis	7	0	34	0

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings

Smith not out 111
Petersen run out (Hussey) 54
Amla st Wade b Warner 11
Rudolph not out 25
Extras: (b-7, lb-2, w-3, nb-4) 16
Total: (For 2 wkts in 67 overs) 217
To bat: Kallis, De Villiers, Du Plessis, Morkel, Steyn, Tahir, Kleinveldt.
Fall of wickets: 1-138, 2-169.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hilfenhaus	12	4	36	0
Pattinson	8	0	40	0
Lyon	24	2	53	0
Siddle	12	3	34	0
Clarke	3	0	10	0
Hussey	1	0	7	0

Small rewards

Rubel also talked in favour of the review system.

"Samuels got lot of lives, so it would have been nice for us if there was review system," he suggested.

West Indies batsmen took full advantage of the pitch applying themselves brilliantly but Bangladesh top order failed to do so and Rubel believed that his top order batsmen played bad shots to give away their wickets.

"Edwards (Fidel) got wickets as we played bad shots but I hope they will play better in the second innings," observed Rubel.

In the end the most satisfying factor for Rubel was that he finally got the wicket of Marlon Samuels, who rode his luck on way to making his maiden double-hundred to put West Indies in a commanding position.

Biplob

Zixian of China and Hsu Ting Ya of Taipei in their respective semifinals.

Hsu Ting-Ya & Ma Ka Man Carina pair emerged champions in the girls' doubles beating Vidya Ria & Zhang Zixian pair 6-7, 6-3.



South Africa skipper Graeme Smith celebrates his century against Australia on the second day of the second Test at the Adelaide Oval yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP