

Khulna lift third crown

Win marred by foul-play allegation

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna were crowned the champions of the 14th National Cricket League (NCL) as they defeated holders Rajshahi by 33 runs at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday to win their third first-class title.

The victory though, was marred because of allegations made by Dhaka Division's joint secretary Ali Hossain, who accused Rajshahi of 'losing the game on purpose'. Hossain alleged that the Rajshahi players threw their wickets away to effectively shut the doors on Dhaka's chance of winning the title.

Hossain however did not lodge any official complaint to the tournament committee. The tournament committee joint-secretary Hafiz Joarder denied Hossain's claims when contacted.

"I have personally talked to the match referee of the game and to the players of Rajshahi as well. There was no way that the players could have

thrown the game," said Joarder.

But the game provided plenty of suspense, if not suspicion, in the manner of Rajshahi's collapse from a winning position. Chasing a target of 187, Rajshahi stumbled to 153 all out from 102 for no loss.

Khulna's Robiul Islam and Nizamuddin Ripon inflicted the stunning collapse, sharing eight wickets between them. Robiul was adjudged man of the match for a match haul of seven wickets including four in the second innings.

In the other games, Dhaka's Rokibul Hasan scored an impressive 160 against Barisal at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi. Barisal were reduced to 55 for 6 before stumps yesterday and are headed towards defeat.

The game at Sylhet is headed towards a high-scoring draw as Tanvir Haider followed Liton Kumar's century with a 107 for Rangpur. Chittagong's Nur Hossain picked six wickets as Rangpur lead by 137 runs.

Sylhet are staring towards defeat against Dhaka Metro, at the Cricket

Garden in Rangpur as they ended the day with a second innings score of 235 for eight after following on. Sylhet currently lead the game by 45 runs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KHULNA: First innings 228 all out in 59.1 overs and second innings 180 all out in 39 overs. **RAJSHAHI:** First innings 222 all out in 66.1 overs and second innings 153 all out in 41.4 overs (Forhad 52, Myshukur 47; Ripon 4-24, Robiul 4-35).

Result: Khulna won by 33 runs.

Man of the match: Robiul Islam.

BARISAL: First innings 256 all out in 92.1 overs and 55 for 6 in 21 overs (Iftekhar 12; Shahadat 3-24). **DHAKA:** First innings 474 all out in 136.1 overs (Rakibul 160, Rony 85; Monir 4-128).

CHITTAGONG: First innings 350 all out in 95.4 overs. **RANGPUR:** 487 for 9 in 139 overs (Liton 157, Tanvir 107; Nur 6-146)

DHAKA METRO: First innings 345 all out in 96.1 overs. **SYLHET:** First innings 155 all out in 65.5 overs and second innings 235 for 8 in 65 overs (Rumman 82, Golam 76; Sharif 3-47).

Zakir wins Stan Chart golf

SPORTS REPORTER

Lieutenant Colonel Zakir Hossain emerged champion in the 17th Standard Chartered Golf Tournament held at the lush greens of Bhatiary Golf and Country Club (BGCC) in Chittagong on Friday.

A total of 117 golfers from home and abroad took part in the annual tournament, said a press release.

Major General Sabbir Ahmed, senior vice president of Bhatiary Golf and Country Club, inaugurated the tournament and also distributed prizes among the winners as the chief guest. The CEO of Standard Chartered Bank Jim McCabe and Head of their Chittagong operations Mahfuzur Rahman were among other present on the occasion.

Rajib loses 7th round board

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Enamul Hossain Rajib lost his seventh round board against Egyptian GM Adely Ahmed in the Rose Valley Open International Chess Tournament in Kolkata, India yesterday.

Rajib, playing with white pieces, lost to Adely after the 43 moves to stay with four points from seven games.

A Simple

FROM PAGE 16
A: I have always tried to assist the captain. Mushfiq is an intelligent boy. We talk to each other a lot, along with the other senior players. Because Shakib wasn't there in this series, I felt that I had to take a little more responsibility and stand up for the team. Shakib is the best player in the team and his absence was obviously a negative.

Q: Lastly, how did the Bangladesh team catch up to the 'Gangnam Style'?

A: The song is obviously very catchy and popular, especially the way the West Indies team danced after winning the World Twenty20 in Sri Lanka. We used to dance to it in the dressing room just for fun. So we decided that if we win the series we'd dance to it together on the field.

Zaheer, Yuvraj & Harbhajan axed

CRICINFO, Kolkata

India have dropped Zaheer Khan, Yuvraj Singh and Harbhajan Singh for the Nagpur Test. Delhi fast bowler Parvinder Awana and Saurashtra all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja have received their first call-ups, and leg-spinner Piyush Chawla replaced Harbhajan.

Zaheer's is the biggest fall. This is the first time he has been dropped from the Test side after his rousing comeback in 2006-07. He has taken 15 wickets in eight Tests in 2012 at a strike rate of 98 balls per wicket. In this series, he has taken four scalps at a strike rate of 133. Moreover, his fielding has been below par for some time. His replacement, Awana, took 5 for 81 against Karnataka in a Ranji Trophy match a day before the selection meeting. Reputed to be brisk, Awana has taken 21 Ranji wickets at an average of 21.57 this season.

Yuvraj, called back after a double-century in the Duleep Trophy was deemed enough to prove his fitness, did not take his chance either. He scored 125 runs in five innings in the series. He has now played 40 Tests over various comebacks for three centuries and an average of 33.92.

Yuvraj's replacement, Jadeja, recently scored his third first-class triple-century in 13 months. He was dropped from India's limited-overs squads earlier this year, but the two triples in one month this season and 18 Ranji wickets at 23.72 have put him ahead of Rohit Sharma and Manoj Tiwary in the queue for a middle-order slot. Even as the squad was being debated, Tiwary was busy rescuing Bengal with 55 out of Bengal's score of 112. Four of their wickets, though, fell to Jadeja. Tiwary retired-hurt with a pulled muscle, but that happened after the squad was announced.

Harbhajan was recalled for the Tests without any improvement shown in domestic cricket, but a lacklustre show in Mumbai means he will be stuck on 99 Tests for a while. Not that his replacement, Chawla, has set the domestic scene on fire, with nine wickets at an average of 48.33.

SQUADS

Test: MS Dhoni (capt & wk), Gautam Gambhir, Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Virat Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja, Cheteshwar Pujara, R Ashwin, Ashok Dinda, Pragyan Ojha, Ajinkya Rahane, Piyush Chawla, Ishant Sharma, M Vijay, Parvinder Awana.

T20Is: MS Dhoni (capt & wk), Gautam Gambhir, Ajinkya Rahane, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Suresh Raina, Yuvraj Singh, Manoj Tiwary, R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Piyush Chawla, Ashok Dinda, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Laxmipathy Balaji, Parvinder Awana.

Excitement got better

FROM PAGE 16

Elias Sunny, didn't complete the run, the hosts had to wait for the next ball, which Nasir flayed away to the boundary for the winning runs.

Sunny, who unfortunately hogged the limelight for the wrong reason in the match, explained the nitty-gritty details of the bizarre incident to the media yesterday, at Sonargaon Hotel.

"Actually at that point of time, the way Nasir had hit the ball I thought it was a boundary. He went and picked up the stumps because he thought I had completed the run, which I didn't since I assumed that the ball had crossed the ropes," explained Sunny. "If I knew that it was not a four, I obviously would have completed the run. Nobody does that. I think the excitement got the better of me," added the slow left-arm bowler.

The bowler who made a late entry into the ODI squad, further stated that he received quite a stern reaction from his teammates, for the 'silly' mistake could have been costly. "Mushfiq and Mashrafe bhai did shout at me, but it was all done in good humour. I double checked the distance that the ball had travelled in the very next delivery," said a jolly-looking Sunny.

The bowler also informed that the players were greeted with a cake-cutting ceremony by the hotel's management, following which they merely could go back to their rooms for a good night's sleep.

Wins for BU, Muktis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Brothers Union Club and Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad won their respective matches in the Chittagong Premier Division Football League at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Brothers notched a comprehensive 6-1 win over Quality Sports after leading the first half 1-0. In the other match of the day, Muktijoddha came from behind to defeat Shtadatl Club 2-1.

CHAMPIONS TROPHY Australia's record 5th on the trot

AFP, Melbourne

Australia clinched a record fifth straight Champions Trophy field hockey title with a 2-1 extra-time win over the Netherlands in the final in Melbourne on Sunday.

The second-ranked 'Kookaburras' went some way to erasing the pain of their bronze medal at this year's London Olympics with victory over the world number three Dutch in a tense final.

After dominating much of the match the Australians were frustrated by Dutch goalkeeper Jaap Stockmann with their many shots on goal.

The dream

FROM PAGE 16
Suruz's mother, a housewife from Jhikorgacha of Jessore, was delighted that his son qualified for the academy.

"We have allowed him to play football because he loves the game. He will now stay away from us but we must bear this pain. I will be happy if he becomes a good footballer," said Suruz's mother Afroza who was present at the Bangabandhu National Stadium when the selection was made.

Being selected for the academy is just the culmination of small personal dreams and just reward for budding booters like Rubel and Suruz. But there is a bigger dream here at work, one which took its root when the talent hunt programme kicked off three months ago involving some 50,000 young booters from across the country, and will only be realised when the BFF Academy turns these hopefuls into footballing stars who will lead the country's football to a whole new height.

Contradictory Dhoni

England win by 7 wickets to go 2-1 up

Cricket

AGENCIES, Kolkata

Despite a mini-hiccup -- they contrived to be 8-3 in pursuit of the 41 runs required to win -- England completed a second momentous victory in a row within the hour on the fifth day, thus earning themselves a lazy Sunday afternoon in Kolkata. For the rest of the day they had no worries. They could close their eyes and drift away and -- who knows? -- dream of Nagpur, the venue of the final Test match.

If they can avoid defeat there England will have confounded not only most pundits but also, more unusually, the bookmakers. They are on the brink of achieving something truly special. For the second match in succession they have beaten India at their own game, despite losing what seemed at the time to be critical tosses.

In the meanwhile, Mahendra Singh Dhoni has left his future as captain in the selectors' hands, but he has also said he won't run away from the responsibility.

"As a leader this is a challenge thrown at me," Dhoni said moments after India completed their first set of back-to-back home Test losses since 1999-2000. "It is always good to lead a side when you are performing well. That is not the time you need a leader. Leading a side is all about when the team is not doing well. To try to gel the team together. To back the youngsters, back the seniors. Try to move in the right direction."

"The easiest thing to do for me right now is to quit the captaincy and stay part of the side. That's running away from responsibility that's upon us. Of course there are others who will decide. There is BCCI [Board of Control for Cricket in India] and other administrative people who look into that. For me, my responsibility is to get the team together and be prepared for the next Test match."

As usual, Dhoni contradicted himself in the same answer when asked to elaborate on Duncan



England's Kevin Pietersen applauds the crowd after beating India on the fifth day of the third Test in Kolkata yesterday

PHOTO: INTERNET

Fletcher's role. He said, rightly so, that the team shouldn't look for excuses and scapegoats, but in the same breath he made these Test defeats sound like an aberration, failing to admit to the lows that the team has reached.

"He [Fletcher] has got excellent technical knowledge about our batting," Dhoni said. "He guides us in the right direction. Ultimately once you cross that rope you are on your own whatever happens. That's the time you have to get up and retaliate. That's where we are lacking as of now."

"It's wrong to question the coach. We have won quite a few series, the ODI performance have been really good. In between we have won Test series. Okay in Australia and England we struggled, but this is a series after that that we have not done well, the last two matches that you see. You shouldn't really look for excuses, to put it on the coach. Ultimately it is up to the 11 players who turn up on the field. On a wicket like this, you need to score more runs, and the situation will be different."

For the record, India have been knocked out of two ODI tournaments this year, they have lost to Bangladesh, and were disappointing in World Twenty20 too. In Tests, they have won at home, and that too against West Indies and New Zealand. In the West Indies, they won one Test and refused to try to win another. The Test record under Fletcher is 10 defeats to six wins. Reduce it to strong opposition, and it becomes 9-1. This is not to put all the blame on Fletcher, but to clarify that India haven't won much at

all, unlike what the captain believes. Dhoni also said the side's batting can't run away from responsibility either. The first question he was asked at the press conference was, "How bad does it need to get before it gets better?" Dhoni didn't answer directly, but responded with a description of batting failures.

"The batting order will have to take responsibility," he said. "We need to score more runs. This was a very good wicket to bat on. Of course the bowlers will bowl a few good deliveries that you need to keep out. But the top seven, most of us will have to score at the same time so that we can get a par total, which the bowlers can look to defend. If you don't score too many runs in the first innings and if the opposition score runs in the first innings, you will find yourself under pressure."

Dhoni said this was not the worst phase of his career. The worst came in England and Australia, he said, for at least here they can hope to rectify the problems. "If you talk about the low, the England, Australia series were the lows because we weren't able to compete," he said. "Here we know what the faults are and we should be able to rectify those. Overall the bowlers are doing well, I think. Once you don't get enough runs on the board you question bowlers too as to if they would have defended a bigger score as well, but I think the spinners have done really well. Bit more contribution from the fast bowlers would really help."

On the fast bowlers, the obvious question was about Zaheer Khan's effectiveness and fitness. "It's a very technical question," Dhoni said. "The beauty of it is we all know the problem and will be great help if find out a solution. Everybody is asking the same question."

SCOREBOARD

INDIA: First innings 316 (Gambhir 60, Tendulkar 76, Dhoni 52; Anderson 3-89, Panesar 4-90)

ENGLAND: First innings 523 (Cook 190, Compton 57, Trott 87, Pietersen 54, Prior 0); Ashwin 3-183, Ojha 4-142)

INDIA: Second innings (overnight 239 for 9)

Gambhir c Prior b Finn	40
Sehwag b Swann	49
Pujara run out (Bell)	8
Tendulkar c Trott b Swann	5
Kohli c Prior b Finn	20
Yuvraj b Anderson	11
Dhoni c Cook b Anderson	0
Ashwin not out	91
Zaheer lbw b Finn	10
Sharma b Panesar	0
Ojha b Anderson	3
Extras: (b-8, lb-2)	10
Total: (All out in 84.4 overs)	247
Fall of wickets: 1-86, 2-98, 3-103, 4-107, 5-122, 6-122, 7-155, 8-159, 9-197	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	15.4	4	38	3
Finn	18	6	45	3
Panesar	22	1	75	1
Swann	28	9	70	2
Patel	1	0	9	0

ENGLAND: Second innings
Cook st Dhoni b Ashwin
Compton not out
Trott lbw b Ojha
Pietersen c Dhoni b Ashwin
Bell not out
Extras:
Total: (For 3 wkts in 12.1 overs)
Did not bat: Patel, Prior, Swann, Panesar, Anderson, Finn
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-7, 3-8

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Ashwin	6.1	1	31	2
Ojha	6	3	10	1

Result: England won by 7 wickets and lead the 4-Test series 2-1.

Player of the match: Alastair Cook.

FROM PAGE 16

Actually our total bowling was excellent."

Mashrafe said that it would now be wise to focus on winning more matches abroad.

"It's not easy but we have to win matches abroad. We are now good in our home conditions but we have to make sure that we can win matches outside home if we want to prove ourselves a good team. For that we have to make sure that we get enough opportunities to play matches abroad. I'm however confident about the team and I think we also showed that we have the ability to play good cricket in Tests," Mashrafe opined.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	1 Coincide until 2001	6 Orbiter	9 Massachusetts	12 Marsh-mallow treats for Easter	13 Rhyming tribute	14 Gorilla	15 Install to new specs	16 Rids of impurities	18 Summer-time quaff	20 Give a dam	21 Gridiron org.	23 Stocking woe	24 Take it easy	25 "... well that ..."	27 Center of emotions	29 Brawn	31 Pip-squeaks	35 Silent film brother																	
37 Infamous	38 Luxurious fabric	41 Curved line	43 "Family Guy" network	44 Actress Penelope	45 Faux gold	47 Improves	49 Poisons insect ...	53 ... and another	54 Mountain chain	55 More, to Manuel	56 -- and outs																								
57 Bad lighting?	58 Luxurious fabric	59 Curved line	60 "Family Guy" network	61 Actress Penelope	62 Faux gold	63 Improves	64 Poisons insect ...	65 ... and another	66 Mountain chain	67 More, to Manuel	68 -- and outs																								
11 Neuter	12 Marsh-mallow	13 Rhyming tribute	14 Gorilla	15 Install to new specs	16 Rids of impurities	18 Summer-time quaff	20 Give a dam	21 Gridiron org.	23 Stocking woe	24 Take it easy	25 "... well that ..."	27 Center of emotions	29 Brawn	31 Pip-squeaks	35 Silent film brother	19 Potato, e.g.	21 "Platoon" locale	22 Winter bug	24 Ply cars	26 Prefix for "phrenic"	28 Rage	30 PC linkup	32 Money-back offers	33 Expert	34 Chi squad	36 Analyzes grammar	38 "Git!"	39 Gladitorial venue	40 Massachusetts university	42 Charm-er's snake	45 Portent	46 Den	48 Bat stat	50 Swelled head	51 D.C. honorific

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12						13			14			
15						16		17				
		18			19			20				
21	22			23				24				
25			26		27		28					
29				30			31		32	33	34	
				35			36		37			
38	39	40				41	42		43			
44					45				46			
47				48					49		50	51
52					53				54			
55						56				57		

CRYPTOQUIP

L C Q F M H Q C B E F M C C Q A F Z L T H
Y D O F H ' I E B S S B Y L S V
B Z B D , E M C X F T X S M O V O C Q B C
Z B I B N B A - N V C X Q V O L O V B .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE ACTRESS JANE REALLY ENJOYS MELTED CHEESE DISHES SO MUCH, IS FONDA FOND OF FONDUE?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals L