

# SPORT

## Shamsur wins MSC a humdinger

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan clinched a last-ball thriller against perennial rivals Abahani in a high-scoring encounter yesterday and maintained their winning run in the Dhaka Premier League with a 3-wicket victory at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

There was no shortage of excitement all through the match and a sparse crowd had to wait till the last ball to know the outcome of the prestigious battle between the country's most popular outfits.

Shamsur Rahman hit a match-winning unbeaten hundred to cancel out young Mosaddek Hossain's yet another brilliant knock while Mohammedan skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza bowled with a lot of heart on way to claiming four wickets, but the match reached its real climax in the last over and Mukter Ali brought the sigh of relief in the Motijheel outfit tent, who so far won all three matches compared to Abahani's only one victory.

The brilliant effort from Shamsur saw Mohammedan require five runs from the last six deliveries off pacer Alauddin Babu to chase down Abahani's 282 runs, but Mukter mounted the tension among the supporters playing out two dot balls. He however dashed Abahani's hopes by hitting the next delivery for a boundary through point, thanks to substitute fielder Al Amin who missed a difficult chance. But there was no end to the excitement after the next two were dot balls and the match was on. Mukter kept his cool as he gently pushed the ball into the

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**ABAHANI:** 282 all out in 49.5 overs (Nafees 19, Parnavitana 61, Saram 33, Mosaddek 76, Kandambi 49, extras 13; Mashrafe 4-40, Muktar 3-46, Nabi 2-40) **MOHAMMEDAN:** 283-7 in 50 overs (Dilshan 51, Shamsur 105 not out, Rajin 21, Nabi 47, Mashrafe 18, Muktar 16 not out, extras 8; Al Amin 2-51, Nabil 3-54) **Result:** Mohammedan won by three wickets.

## Shafiq leads national chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Shafiq Ahmed took solo lead in the Berger Paints 39th National Chess Championship at the close of the second round at the BOA Media Room yesterday.

Shafiq beat Mohammad Hafizul Islam Chapal to earn maximum two points from as many games.

Holder GM Niaz Murshed and runner-up GM Ziaur Rahman notched up their first victories after beating FM Mehdi Hasan Parag and FM Mohammad Javed respectively. GM Abdullah Al Rakib and GM Enamul Hossain Razib though dropped points after playing out a draw between them.

## Soma, Akhi in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Soma and Akhi moved into the women's singles semifinals in the Walton Open Table Tennis Competition after beating their respective quarterfinal opponents at the Shaheed Tajuddin Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Soma beat Sima in 4-0 sets while Akhi beat her Sinthia in 4-2 sets to move into the last four.

In the men's singles, Parag, Palash, Javed and Ashik booked their quarterfinal berths beating Naim, Bappi, Himel and Nirjhor respectively.

Hridoy beat Tasim in 4-0 sets in the boys' singles semifinal to set up a final clash against Antu, who defeated Samir in 4-2 sets in the other semifinal.

In cadet semifinals, Sabbir beat Khaled in 4-3 sets while Sakib beat Imon in 4-2 sets to confirm their final berth.

off-side for the winning single, but everybody was surprised to see Abahani spread their fielding while they needed to save a single from the last ball.

"I must say luck favoured us in the match. We should have finished the game earlier, but unfortunately we took the match to the last ball. It was not easy to chase down such a big total in a high-voltage match but the wicket became flat in the second session," said player-of-the-match Shamsur, who slammed an unbeaten 105 from 115 balls with the help of eight fours and two sixes.

Mohammedan's chase was not impressive as they lost two early wickets for 42 and many wrote them off after dashing Sri Lankan batsman Tilakaratne Dilshan (51), who was dropped by Nazimuddin at short mid-on while he was on eight, walked to the pavilion with the scoreboard reading 76-3. But Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi (47) and Mashrafe (18) provided brilliant support to Shamsur to script the brilliant victory. Spinner Nabil Samad raised Abahani's hopes again by removing both Nabi and Mashrafe, but it was a day for Shamsur, who was looking forward to a national call for the upcoming home series against New Zealand.

"Without any doubt it's one of my best innings and the most satisfying fact is that I could finish off the game. I had talked with my coach senior players about my failure of not converting the fifties to big ones. Now this innings in a big match will give me the confidence," said Shamsur, who survived once when on 89.

The first session however belonged to young Mosaddek, who followed his hundred by playing a magnificent 76-run knock. The young right-hander's clean hitting and good footwork impressed many. Mosaddek smashed four sixes and three boundaries. Three Sri Lankans -- Tharanga Paranavitana (61), Indika de Saram (33) and Talina Kandambi (49) -- made notable contribution as Abahani recovered from 32 for 2 to put up a fighting total on the board.

"It's just bad luck. Yes, if I could stay till the last ball then we might have scored 30 more runs. Still we had a good total on the board but luck didn't favour us. My personal aim is to continue my good form and score as much runs as possible," said Mosaddek.



PHOTO: STAR

**Mohammedan batsman Shamsur Rahman raises his bat after guiding his side to a 3-wicket victory over arch-rivals Abahani in the Dhaka Premier League with an unbeaten knock of 105 at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.**

### SCHOOL HANDBALL

## Narinda, Sunnydale champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Narinda Govt. High School and Sunnydale School emerged champions in boys' and girls' sections respectively in the Polar Ice-cream 21st School Handball Tournament at the Handball Stadium yesterday.

Narinda defeated St Gregory's High School 26-16 after leading the first half by 9-4 pints while Sunnydale beat Scholastica 14-2 after dominating the first half by 5-1 points.

Monir Hossain of Narinda Govt. High School was adjudged the best player in the boys' section while Aurora Yeasmin of Sunnydale was named the best player in the girls' section.

Education secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury distributed prizes among the winners where Khandoker Mohammad Touhiduzzaman, director of Polar Ice-cream and Bangladesh Handball Federation president AKM Abul Fazle Bulbul were also present.

## Sk Jamal's first loss

SPORTS REPORTER



Mushfiqur Rahim's Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club lost their first match of the Dhaka

Premier League -- by seven wickets -- when they were embarrassingly bowled out for just 93 by Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club at Fatullah yesterday. On the other hand Marshall Ayub's Kalabagan Cricket Academy beat Khelaghar Samaj Kalyan Samity by three wickets at BKSP-3.

Prime Doleshwar spinner Taijul Islam (6-19) ripped Sheikh Jamal apart as he ran through their top order. He got the key wicket of Mushfiqur, trapping him in front for a duck. Shohag Gazi and their Sri Lankan recruit Hasanthan Fernando chipped in with two wickets as Sheikh Jamal were bundled out in just 29 overs.

In reply, Doleshwar rode on a half-century partnership between Mominul Haque and Roshane Shiwanka Silva and reached their target in 22.3 overs. The match was shortened to 46 overs a

side due to rain.

At BKSP-3, a combined bowling effort by Kalabagan helped them bowl out Khelaghar for just 162 runs. Zimbabweans Hamilton Masakadza and Sikandar Raza and Nazmul Apu took two wickets each.

In reply, a half-century by Marshall (63) led Kalabagan to 164 for 7 in 47.4 overs. Khelaghar captain, Faisal made the chase difficult as he took a five-for and in the process ran through Kalabagan's top order.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**SHEIKH JAMAL DC:** 93 all out in 29 overs (Junaid 26; Taijul 6-19) **PRIME DOLESHWAR:** 94 for 3 in 22.3 overs (Mominul 37; Razzak 2-39) **Result:** Prime Doleshwar won by seven wickets. **KHELAGHAR SKS:** 162 all out in 48.5 overs (Faisal 34; Masakadza 2-22, Sikandar 2-22, Nazmul 2-33) **KALABAGAN CA:** 164 for 7 in 47.4 overs (Marshall 63; Faisal 5-23) **Result:** Kalabagan won by three wickets.

## Badmouthing hurts Mash

SPORTS REPORTER



The wave of excitement present among supporters during an Abahani-Mohammedan clash, no matter which sport they lock horns in, ends up to be the most visible feature of the game almost every time. And yesterday's match, where Mohammedan beat Abahani in a thrilling last over at Mirpur, was no different.

Although, the intensity of the support level was a lot lesser than usual presence during such a match -- there were only around a 1,000 spectators at the ground -- Mohammedan captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza however, was hurt by what he termed as 'insults' from the crowd and said that they had crossed a line.

"When people sit in the VIP gallery of the stadium [the closest to the players] and curse my family it obviously feels bad. This is not the first time that this has happened. Shakib [Al Hasan] and Tamim [Iqbal] have also faced this," rued Mashrafe, during the post-match presentation.

"I don't want to say anything to the supporters. But my point is that one can be criticised for his performance, but if someone takes it to the extent of insulting a player's family then it hurts," he added.

At the innings break a visibly irritated Mashrafe wanted to approach the match referee, before being interfered by his teammates. "I just wanted to complain to the match referee. I wanted to tell him that these things should be noticed. When a player plays in front of the media and so many people and then his family gets cursed, it looks odd and I felt bad. What's my parents' fault?"

The pacer however, later changed his mind and did not complain. Bangladesh Cricket Board's security team kept a close eye on the particular group of spectators for the rest of the match.

The group of supporters who seemed to be supporting Abahani began jeering at Mashrafe during the 49th over of the match when Abahani's Alauddin Babu and Mashrafe clashed while the former was taking a single. Mashrafe, who stood in the running path at that moment, played down the incident.

"Nothing much happened there really. He was coming towards me and I thought my leg would hit his bat and in order to avoid that we clashed," said Mashrafe.

Apart from the sole incident the Narail Express had a good outing on the field. He bowled 10 overs and finished with figures of 4 for 40 and also led his team to a win.

## ODI series gone for BD women

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's cricket team suffered a 95-run defeat to their South Africa counterparts in the second one-day international at the New Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg yesterday.

The home team already clinched the series with one match in hand as they won the first match by six wickets on Friday.

Bangladesh had earlier lost the T20I series 3-0.

In yesterday's match, South Africa rode on Mignon du Preez's hundred to score 237 for four in their share of 50 overs.

In reply, Bangladesh were bundled out for 142 runs in 48.3 overs. Captain Salma Khatun made team highest 36 runs.

Bangladesh play their last match of the tour tomorrow.

## De Kruif banks on U-19s

SPORTS REPORTER



National football team's head coach Lodewijk de Kruif is looking forward to strengthening the pipeline for the national team through the U-19 team and is prepared to take decisions together with the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

The 43-year old coach, who has been given the advisor's role of the U-19 side which will be touring Iraq for the AFC U-19 competition, felt the young team is a hub of talent which needs to be nurtured for better things.

"We saw a lot of talent in the U-19 side and we want to make best use of them," said De Kruif yesterday after emerging from the fact-finding committee, which has been searching for reasons behind Bangladesh's failure in the SAFF Championship.

"It is very important to look to the future. Now the U-19 tournament is important and there are some players who can fight. Let us find the lads and prepare them for the chal-

lenge in Iraq, so that they can perform well. We want to put every effort on the U-19 squad because for us, they are the future," said De Kruif while expressing his disappointment over the cancellation of the U-16 side's tour of Kyrgyzstan.

When asked whether he would accept the fact-finding committee's recommendations if it conflicts with his working methods, De Kruif said, "What we can do is to take decisions together. What they can do from their position is advise us. But we are technical people and we can always discuss with them but we will make the final decision."

"We are in charge of technical things. There are some people in the federation who are very intelligent and we can consider their advices if it helps developing football," added the Dutchman.

The 43-year old coach appeared before the fact-finding committee headed by BFF vice president Badal Roy and spent almost two hours and explained different things regarding the SAFF Championship.

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