



SEASON'S FIRST MEETING: Archivals Mohammedan (L) and Abahani practise at their respective club grounds yesterday.



PHOTOS: STAR

Abahani, Mohammedan face off today

SPORTS REPORTER



Only five days into the football season, and the excitement is palpable as country's oldest sports rivalry is renewed when Abahani take on Mohammedan SC in a Group D match of the Walton Federation Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

Both teams have already ensured their qualification for the quarterfinals by breezing past Rahmatganj MFS, but it is the bragging rights of becoming group champions

by beating their old foes as well as avoiding a probable clash against star-studded Sheikh Jamal DC in the quarterfinals that makes today's match so special.

Both teams are on a high after beating Rahmatganj so convincingly and are looking for nothing but a win in today's match, however a draw would suit Mohammedan more as they would on the top of the group by virtue of scoring more goals.

Mohammedan do have the upperhand when it comes to their assemblage of local stars who look to be in good touch as all the five goals against Rahmatganj came from the local attacking trident of Zahid Hasan

Emily, Zahid Hossain and Wahed Ahmed. However, Mohammedan lack the quality that Abahani have in foreign recruitment, which includes Ghanaian Osei Morison who struck a hattrick for the Sky Blues in their first match.

"I am hopeful with the booters playing up front but there is problem in midfield and defence, which leaked in two goals against Rahmatganj," Mohammedan assistant coach Jewel Rana said. "Against Abahani, we will definitely go for a win but we must improve our performance."

Abahani, on the other hand, need an outright victory in this match to avoid a

probable clash with Sheikh Jamal in the quarterfinals, from where they were eliminated last time around.

"We are not worried about their forwards because Rahmatganj goalkeeper was at fault for the first three goals," said Abahani manager Sattyajit Das Rupu. "We want to play in the quarterfinals with a win over Mohammedan, which will give us a moral boost." Abahani will be hoping for another dazzling performance from Morison, who may be aided by Brazilian Andre Luis De Souza, who missed the first match due to not having international clearance certificate.

West Indies make it 1-1

STAR SPORT DESK



A brilliant half-century by Darren Sammy at number seven led the West Indies level the three-match ODI series 1-1 after they beat India by two wickets in the second game at Vishakapatnam yesterday.

The visitors were staring down the barrel in the 35th over as they were poised at 185 for 5. However, Sammy and Lendl Simmons (62) shared an 85-run partnership for the sixth wicket that led the revival. Sammy hammered four fours and four sixes in his 45-ball 63 as he led his side home in the last over.

Earlier, Virat Kohli missed out on a hundred by just one run before skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni's fiery knock propelled India to a challenging 288 for seven against the West Indies in the second one-day international here on Sunday.

Electing to bowl, the West Indies kept India under pressure for most of the time but the hosts scored 62 runs off the last five overs to steal the thunder from the Caribbean.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: 288 for 7 in 50 overs (Dhawan 35, Kohli 99, Yuvraj 28, Raina 23, Dhoni 51 not out, Ashwin 19; Rampaul 4-60)
WEST INDIES: 289 for 8 in 49.3 overs (Powell 59, Darren Bravo 50, Simmons 62, Sammy 63 not out; Kumar 2-56, Ashwin 2-37, Shami 2-55)
Result: West Indies won by 2 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Darren Sammy.

Afghans, Irish book World T20 berths

AFP, Dubai

Afghanistan reached their third successive World Twenty20 on Sunday to complete a memorable year, which also saw the war-hit nation break through to a maiden World Cup.

Also securing their place at the World T20 tournament on Sunday were Ireland, who downed Hong Kong by 85 runs in Abu Dhabi for their seventh qualifying win.

Afghanistan defeated Kenya by 34 runs in Sharjah to give the Asian side their sixth win in seven matches.

Both Ireland and Afghanistan now top their respective groups to earn automatic qualification to the finals in Bangladesh next year.

For Ireland this will be a fourth successive appearance after they played in the 2009, 2010 and 2012 tournaments.

There are still four places to be decided for the March 16-April 6 event.

The six qualifiers along with host Bangladesh and Zimbabwe will compete in the first phase of the World T20.

Aussie demolition

AFP, Brisbane



England suffered one of their heaviest-ever Ashes Test defeats Sunday when Australia trounced them by 381 runs at the Gabba, going one-up in the series with a day to spare.

The tourists collapsed under the searing pace of Mitchell Johnson and were all out for 179 late on the fourth day after they were skittled out for 136 off 52.4 overs in the first innings.

It was England's second-biggest loss at the Gabba, after the tourists crashed by 384 runs there in 2002.

Johnson, the match of the man, finished with five for 42 in the second innings and nine wickets for 103 for the match, along with his spirited knock of 64 in Australia's first innings.

Alastair Cook's dismissal for 65, six balls after the resumption following a heavy afternoon hailstorm, signalled the end for England.

The England skipper tried to cut spinner Nathan Lyon, only to edge to wicketkeeper Brad Haddin, exposing his team's tail-end to the fired-up Australian bowlers.

Wicketkeeper Matt Prior followed two overs later, caught close in by David Warner off Lyon for four. Stuart Broad (4) and Graeme Swann (0) went in the next over from firebrand Johnson.

Another burst of rain kept the players off the field for 45 minutes and then Chris Tremlett fell to a short ball

from Ryan Harris for seven.

James Anderson was the last wicket to fall, top-edging high into the air for Johnson to take the catch off his own bowling. Joe Root remained unbeaten on 26 off 86 balls.

England looked at one stage as if they might be saved by the weather, when a fierce hailstorm drove the players from the field and an early tea was called with the tourists on 142 for four.

SCOREBOARD				
AUSTRALIA: First innings 295 (Haddin 94, Johnson 64; Broad 6-81)				
ENGLAND: First innings 136 (Carberry 40; Johnson 4-61)				
AUSTRALIA: Second innings 401 for 7 declared (Warner 124, Clarke 113; Tremlett 3-69)				
ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 24-2)				
Cook c Haddin b Lyon	65			
Carberry b Harris	0			
Trott c Lyon b Johnson	9			
Pietersen c sub (Sabburg) b Johnson	26			
Bell c Haddin b Siddle	32			
Root not out	26			
Prior c Warner b Lyon	4			
Broad c Haddin b Johnson	4			
Swann c Smith b Johnson	0			
Tremlett c Bailey b Harris	7			
Anderson c and b Johnson	2			
Extras: (lb-2, w-1, nb-1)	4			
Total: (All out in 81.1 overs)	179			
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-10, 3-72, 4-130, 5-142, 6-146, 7-151, 8-151, 9-172				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Harris	19	4	49	2
Johnson	21.1	7	42	5
Siddle	15	3	25	1
Lyon	20	6	46	2
Smith	4	0	15	0
Watson	2	2	0	0
Result: Australia won by 381 runs.				

Muktis, Brothers thru'

SPORTS REPORTER



Former champions Muktijoddha Sangsad and Brothers Union confirmed their quarterfinal berths in the Walton Federation Cup after beating their respective rivals at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Three-time champions Muktijoddha Sangsad handed a 3-2 defeat on Chittagong Abahani to ensure their quarterfinal berth from Group B, thereby eliminating Chittagong Abahani and taking along defending champions to the last eight. The two qualified sides will meet in the group-deciding match on Tuesday.

Mohammad Biplob was the architect of Muktijoddha's victory as he scored twice and fed one for Nigerian hitman Nkwocha Kingsley to give the All Reds to a 3-0 lead. Availing a long shot from goalkeeper from Aminul Haque, Biplob moved into the box to find the back of the net with a sliding shot in the 12th minute and then teed up Kingsley for an easy finish for the second just two minutes before the interval. Kingsley then turned the provider in the 54th minute by chesting down a long ball inside the box before sending it to

unmarked Biplob, who made it 3-0 with a clinical finish.

Shohel Mia reduced the margin for Chittagong Abahani in the 58th minute before substitute Javed Khan scored an eye-catching goal from long range in the stoppage time to give the Chittagong side some hope. But that was too little too late as the port city side could not find a third goal and faced elimination from the group stage with two defeats in as many matches.

In the earlier match, two-time champions Brothers Union came from behind to beat a spirited Bangladesh Police 2-1 to book their quarterfinal seat from Group C with a match in hand and kept Bangladesh Police waiting for Tuesday's encounter between Brothers Union and Team BJMC. Both BJMC and Police are on equal one point.

Bangladesh Police took the lead against Syed Nayemuddin's charges through an 18-minute strike from Kabirul Islam. But defender Pronob Kumar Das levelled the margin for Brothers in the 41st minute, thanks to a deflection from a police defender after Das drove a low shot to the near post from outside the box. Brothers regained the lead in the 64th minute with a harmless lob from Faisal Mahmud, which ultimately decided the outcome.

Faridpur clinch youth hockey title

SPORTS REPORTER

Faridpur clinched the title of Agrani Bank 24th National Youth Hockey Tournament beating Rajshahi 4-0 in a one-sided final at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Mostafizur Rahman was the hero for Faridpur as he struck twice while Salman Sadik and Moinalul Islam scored one each for the winning side.

Mostafizur was adjudged man-of-the-match for his exploits and received a paycheck of Tk 15,000. Champions Faridpur received prize money of Tk 50,000 while runners-up Rajshahi got Tk 25,000.

Rajshahi had to be content with their second position for the second year running as they lost last year's final too against BKSP.

First day's hearing held

All accused represented by lawyers except Rafique

SPORTS REPORTER



All those, excepting former national cricketer Mohammad Rafique, charged by the ICC for breaching the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB's) anti-corruption code during this year's BPL, were represented on the first day of the tribunal's preliminary hearing at an

office in Gulshan yesterday.

The accused include Mohammad Ashraful, Rafique, Mosharraf Hossain, Mahbubul Alam, Dhaka Gladiators owners Selim Chowdhury and Shihab Chowdhury, the franchise's Indian CEO Gaurav Rawat, Sri Lankan spinner Kaushal Lokurachchi and Englishman Darren Stevens.

While lawyers representing Mosharraf, Mahbubul,



PHOTO: STAR

Barrister Nurus Sadik, Mahbubul Alam and Mosharraf Hossain's lawyer, speaks to media after the preliminary hearing into the BPL corruption at Gulshan yesterday.

Lokurachchi and the Gladiators were present in person, Stevens and Ashraful were represented by their UK-based lawyer, Yasin Patel, through Skype.

Of the nine accused, Ashraful and Lokurachchi have already confessed to wrongdoings. While Ashraful admitted to being involved in spot-fixing in June this year, Lokurachchi, who is accused of failing to report an improper approach, also reportedly admitted to his wrongdoing.

Lawyers representing the Dhaka Gladiators, who had earlier filed a case against the BCB, have asked the tribunal to stop its proceedings until they get a response from the court.

Speaking to reporters, the franchise's lawyer, A M Aminuddin said, "We filed a case in the civil court after the BCB failed to form a tribunal within the given amount of time. There were some defects in the notices that they had sent to us as well. So we asked them to stop the process until we get a response from the court."

The rest of the accused pleaded not guilty.

Speaking on behalf of Mosharraf and Mahbubul, their lawyer Nurus Sadik said, "My clients are innocent and we have given the tribunal our views. They have taken our documents. The rest of the processes will take place as per the legal procedures."

The convener of the three-member tribunal, Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury informed reporters that the next hearing was scheduled to take place on January 19. Until then however, the tribunal will be in touch with the lawyers of the accused.

Apart from Justice Chowdhury, the tribunal also includes former national cricketers Shakil Kasem and Ajmalul Hossain.

Members of ICC's legal department, Jonathan Taylor, Iain Higgins and Shelly Clarke were also present in the hearing.

Siddikur's learning experience

Golfer finishes 55th in WC

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh golf's flagbearer Siddikur Rahman was looking forward to capitalising on the lessons from his maiden appearance at the ISPS Handa World Cup of Golf to fair better in treacherous courses and

uncharted territories in the events coming up next. Siddikur finished at 55th position, closing the last round with a two-over-par (73) for an aggregate of 14-over-par (298).

The last round was a bit better than the previous two rounds as Siddikur traded two birdies for same number of bogeys and a double bogey at the treacherous Royal Melbourne Golf Club. But the 29-year old golfer, who had very little to smile about for the last four day, raised loud cheers around the 18th green when he holed a magical shot from out of the greenside bunker for a birdie.

"It was nice to hole out from the bunker," said Siddikur. "It's a great course, which I've never played anything like this in my life before and also the greens were really so different. I couldn't putt but I'm glad I played in this World Cup."

Siddikur said he was looking forward to newer challenges which might include the EurAsia Cup next year, a probable participation in the 2016 Olympics and regular events at Asian Tour.

"If I can maintain my game, and keep playing better on the Asian Tour, I'm looking forward to playing more World Cups and also in the Olympics in Rio De Janeiro in 2016," said Siddikur, who earned a slim cheque of 24,500 dollars from this event.

The big prize of 1.2 million dollars though was grabbed by Australia's Jason Day, who finished with a 10-under-par (274).

Debutants star in Pak victory

AFP, Cape Town

Debutants Bilawal Bhatti and Anwar Ali spurred Pakistan to victory after their team had been in deep trouble in the first one-day international against South Africa at Newlands on Sunday.

The newcomers shared an eighth wicket stand of 74 to rescue Pakistan from a precarious 131 for seven, then shared five wickets as Pakistan won by 23 runs.

Pakistan made 218 for nine in their 50 overs after winning the toss. Despite a half-century from returning veteran Jacques Kallis, South Africa were bowled out for 195.

Bhatti (39) and Ali (43 not out) prospered after Pakistan's recognised batsmen struggled against a strong South African pace attack.

For the first time since South Africa began their rise to the top of the Test rankings, the hosts fielded all three of their leading fast bowlers - Dale Steyn, Vernon Philander and Morne Morkel - in the same one-day side.

With Jacques Kallis returning for his first one-day international since February 2012, South Africa applied relentless pressure as Pakistan struggled. But Bhatti and Ali went for their shots to keep their side in the game.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 218 for 9 in 50 overs (Jamshed 24, Shehzad 35, Maqsood 22, Afridi 26, Bhatti 39, Anwar 43 not out; Steyn 3-33, Morkel 3-39, Kallis 2-53)
SOUTH AFRICA: 195 all out in 48.1 overs (Kallis 50, Duminy 49 Anwar Ali 2-24, Bhatti 3-37, Ajmal 2-28)
Result: Pakistan won by 23 runs