

SPORT

Imrul blazes BCB XI to narrow win

Abahani eliminated

SPORTS REPORTER

In a nail-biting finish under lights at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium (SBNS) Shakib Al Hasan's Prime Bank Cricket Club went down to Tamim Iqbal's UCB-BCB XI by five wickets, courtesy of a brilliant half-century by Imrul Kayes, in the fifth round of the Victory Day T20 Cup yesterday. Mahmudullah Riyad-led Abahani limited, on the other hand, were eliminated from the competition after losing to Mashrafe bin Mortaza's Mohammedan Sporting Club by eight wickets.

Prime Bank, UCB-BCB XI and Mohammedan each have six points now and have to win their respective matches today to go through to the finals.

Unlike at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium during the tournament's first leg, the scintillating finish was played out in front of near-empty stands.

Chasing Prime Bank's total of 173, UCB-BCB XI lost Tamim Iqbal in the first over and were poised at just 63 for two in 10 overs. But a settled Imrul (82 off 54), who hammered eight fours and four sixes in his unbeaten innings, guided UCB-BCB XI home with just two balls remaining.

Imrul's 87-run stand off 58-balls for the

ABAHANI: 171 for 6 (Soumya 52, Mizanur 41; Dewan Sabbir 3-41)
MOHAMMEDAN: 172 for 2 in 19 overs (Nurul 79 not out, Junaid 41; Soumya 1-19)
Result: Mohammedan won by eight wickets.
PRIME BANK CC: 173 for 8 (Sabbir 57, Saykat 41; Al-amin 3-45)
UCB-BCB XI: 175 for 5 in 19.4 overs (Imrul 82 not out, Mithun 44; Shakib 2-28)
Result: UCB-BCB XI won by five wickets.

third wicket with Mithun Ali (44 off 28), began the recovery. Mithun was however sent back in the 13th over. With 58 runs required off the last five overs and five wickets remaining, it seemed as though the game was over for UCB-BCB XI but Marshall Ayub (25 off 14) and Imrul upped the tempo. Both batsmen hammered two sixes and a four each in a 52-run stand off just 26 balls and brought down the target to just seven off the last over. Imrul was dropped thrice, twice in the penultimate over bowled by Shakib which went for 14 runs. Marshall Ayub was bowled in the first ball of the last over, but Muktar Ali came in and drove two boundaries to finish the game in style.

Earlier, Prime Bank's star batsmen Anamul Haque and Shakib failed to fire and they rode on Sabbir Rahman's (57 off 45) third half-century of the tournament to post 173 for 8.

The day's first game saw Nurul Hasan (79 off 47) guide Mohammedan home with a scintillating half-century. After being put in to bat Abahani posted a competitive 171 for six. Nurul, promoted to number three, hammered two sixes and ten fours and drastically changed the tone of the game. He shared a 78-run stand with Junaid Siddique (41) for the second wicket in the next seven overs. Abahani's barrage of spinners could not pose any harm as Nurul unleashed a wide array of shots, starting from the scoop over the keeper to even a Dhoni-esque helicopter shot. By the time Junaid was sent back to the pavilion in the 13th over, Mohammedan were poised at a comfortable 120 for 3. Mominul (22) entered next and together with Nurul, guided Mohammedan home.

Earlier, Abahani's Soumya sarker scored his second consecutive half-century of the tournament. He scored five fours and three sixes in his 34-ball 52.



UCB-BCB XI's Imrul Kayes hoists one over long off on way to a blistering 82 not out in their Victory Day T20 Cup match against Prime Bank Cricket Club at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. (INSET) During the day's first match, Umme Ahmed Shishir enjoys a hot beverage in company of her husband and Prime Bank captain Shakib Al Hasan in the comforts of a hospitality box.

PHOTOS: STAR

Sk Jamal off the blocks

SPORTS REPORTER



Federation Cup champions Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club got off to a winning start in the 7th Bangladesh Premier League when they beat promoted Chittagong Abahani by 3-1 goals at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

National centre-back Nasiruddin Chowdhury gave the Dhanmondi side a 14th minute lead before Nigerian forward Emeka Darlington scored twice in the second half. The port city side, who were relegated from the top tier two seasons ago, pulled one back from the penalty spot through Ahsanul Haque Milon.

The 2011 champions, playing without their two most influential players -- Sony Norde and Mamunul Islam due to injuries, lacked the fluidity and creativity in midfield. Most of their attacks came from the flanks -- Sohail Rana on the left and Alamgir Kabir Rana on the right, who was replaced in the second half by Mobarak Hossain.

However, despite not playing with their usual attacking fervour, the Dhanmondi side took the lead in the 14th minute when defender-turned-striker Nasiruddin slotted the ball home from in front of the goal after Wedson Anselme's header was parried to

him by Chittagong Abahani 'keeper Piaruzzaman.

There was very little goalmouth action in the rest of the first half, but the Chittagonians did get one chance to equalise in the 42nd minute, which was wasted with a wayward header by Milon.

Play was halted for eight minutes right after the restart due to bad light. When the game started again, Sheikh Jamal quickly doubled the lead through Emeka, who stabbed the ball in from a low cross from Sohail Rana. Emeka got his second goal of the match and of the season, in the 68th minute, when he latched on to a rebound which came off the woodwork on a beautiful volley from defender Ali Abdullahi. The Nigerian striker took the rebound on his chest, dribbled past a defender and slotted the ball at the back of the net.

Chittagong Abahani reduced the margin four minutes later when Milon converted the penalty after Sohail Mia's darting run inside the box was cut short by a challenge from Nasir. Abahani should have scored a second goal in the 83rd minute, but Masuk Mia's shot from inside the box on an empty goal sailed over the bar.

Meanwhile, the organisers have shifted today's match between Abahani and Brothers Union to tomorrow due to the opposition alliance's political programme today.



Sheikh Jamal's Nigerian striker Emeka Darlington buries the ball to score one of his two goals against Chittagong Abahani to help his team to a 3-1 win in the Bangladesh Premier League match at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

WI get over Test setback 2nd ODI today

AFP, Wellington

The West Indies feel they have put the disappointment of their Test series against New Zealand behind them as they head into the second ODI on Sunday full of confidence.

Their two wicket win in the first ODI in Auckland on Boxing Day was the tonic the side needed coming off a 2-0 defeat in the three-Test series.

Although it was another unconvincing display with the bat in Auckland, the run-friendly McLean Park wicket in Napier offers the West Indies top order the chance to spend long spells in the middle on Sunday.

The West Indies will be forced into at least one change with key batsman Darren Bravo returning home Saturday for undisclosed personal reasons which will likely mean a promotion for Kirk Edwards into the playing XI.

Perfect start for U-19s

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Under-19s' Asia Cup campaign could hardly have gotten off to a more dominant start as they simply toyed with their Malaysian counterparts in their first group match in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

Left-arm pacer Abu Haider bulldozed the Malaysian innings by taking five wickets for just eight runs. Malaysia had no answers against the Bangladeshi bowlers as they were bundled out for only 50 runs after deciding to bat first.

Another left-arm pacer, Mustafizur Rahman, also played his part to assist his new-ball partner by claiming two wickets while spinner Jubair Hossain picked up two wickets for seven runs.

Only one-down batsman Ahmad Tajudin Ismail could reach double digits with 15.

In reply, Bangladesh coasted to 51 runs in 10.2 overs for the loss of the wicket of opener Zakir Hasan.

But today is the big match for

Bangladesh as they will want to exact a measure of revenge when they meet Afghanistan in their second encounter. It was Afghanistan that had dashed Bangladesh's hopes of reaching the semifinals in the last edition in Kula Lumpur in 2012. The Afghans however provided evidence that they are here to lift their reputations as they upset Sri Lanka Under-19s by three wickets in their first game yesterday.

Bangladesh will play their last group match against Sri Lanka on December 3.

In the day's other matches, India Under-19s outplayed UAE Under-19s by 189 runs, Pakistan Under-19s outclassed Nepal Under-19s by 132 runs.

MALAYSIA UNDER-19S: 50 all out in 25.2 overs (Ismail 15; Mustafizur 2-17, Haider 5-8, Nihaduzzaman 1-10, Jubair 2-7)
BANGLADESH UNDER-19S: 51-1 in 10.2 overs (Sadman 25 not out, Zakir 14, Joyraz 10 not out; Pavandeep 1-25)
Result: Bangladesh Under-19s won by nine wickets.

Azgar, Jamila take special chess titles

SPORTS REPORTER

Al Azgar became champion of the 12th Grameenphone Special Chess Competition yesterday after collecting eight points from nine matches. Azgar beat Mir Hossain in the last round match. Shamsul Islam finished second with equal eight points while Mohammad Kamal finished third with 7.5 points. Azgar's wife Jamila Akter became champion in the women's section with five points while Asiya Akter finished behind her with four points. Syed Shahed Reza, secretary general of Bangladesh Olympic Association, distributed prizes among the winners.

Fahad wins

SPORTS REPORTER

FIDE Master Fahad Rahman returned to winning ways when he beat Marco Dobrikov of Germany in the tenth round of the World Youth Chess Championship (U-10 Open Group) in Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates on Friday night.

The win gave Fahad 7.5 points from 10 matches.

Oz need 'record' 201

REUTERS, Melbourne

Australia moved within 201 runs of victory in the fourth Ashes Test with all 10 wickets in hand after routing England's second innings for 179 to wrest back the momentum on a roller-coaster fourth day at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Saturday.

Australia off-spinner Nathan Lyon celebrated his 100th Test wicket in a 5-50 haul as the tourists lost their last five wickets for six runs, squandering a hard-fought advantage their bowlers had secured in the morning.

Chris Rogers was on 18 with fellow opener David Warner on 12 as Australia, chasing 231 for victory, reached 30 for no loss at the close of a blustery day's play in front of a crowd of more

than 63,000. Though victory and a 4-0 lead in the five-Test series would seem Australia's for the taking, no team has ever chased down more than South Africa's 183 in 2008 since the first use of drop-in wickets at the MCG in 1996.

Both sides have struggled to score over 200 on a two-paced wicket.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND: First innings 255 (Pietersen 71, Carberry 38; Johnson 5-63, Harris 2-47)
AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 164-9)
 Rogers c Pietersen b Bresnan 61
 Warner c Bairstow b Anderson 9
 Watson c Bairstow b Stokes 10
 Clarke b Anderson 10
 Smith c Bell b Broad 19
 Bailey c Bairstow b Anderson 0
 Haddin c Bairstow b Anderson 65
 Johnson c Anderson b Bresnan 2
 Harris c Root b Broad 6
 Siddle c Bresnan b Broad 0
 Lyon not out 18
 Extras: (lb-4) 4
 Total: (All out in 82.2 overs) 204
Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-36, 3-62, 4-110, 5-112, 6-122, 7-151, 8-162, 9-164

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	20.2	4	67	4

Broad	20	6	45	3
Stokes	15	4	46	1
Bresnan	18	6	24	2
Panesar	9	2	18	0
ENGLAND: Second innings				
Cook lbw b Johnson				51
Carberry lbw b Siddle				12
Root run out (Johnson)				15
Pietersen c Harris b Lyon				49
Bell c Johnson b Lyon				0
Stokes c Smith b Lyon				19
Bairstow c Haddin b Johnson				21
Bresnan b Lyon				0
Broad c Clarke b Lyon				0
Anderson not out				1
Panesar lbw b Johnson				0
Extras: (lb-5, lb-6)				11
Total: (all out in 61 overs)				179
Fall of wickets: 1-65, 2-86, 3-86, 4-87, 5-131, 6-173, 7-174, 8-174, 9-179				
Bowler				
Harris	10	1	34	0
Johnson	15	5	25	3
Lyon	17	3	50	5
Siddle	15	6	46	1
Watson	4	2	13	0
AUSTRALIA: Second innings				
Rogers not out				18
Warner not out				12
Total: (For no loss in 8 overs)				30
Bowler				
Anderson	3	1	5	0
Broad	3	0	16	0
Panesar	1	0	4	0
Stokes	1	0	5	0

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