



## Usha join Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Title contenders Usha KC joined leaders Abahani at the top of the points table of the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League after a 4-2 win over Sonali Bank at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Usha and Abahani have equal 15 points from five matches and they will face each other in the last match of the first leg on Monday.

Penalty corner specialist Mamunur Rahman Chayan put the Club Cup champions Usha ahead in the sixth minute by converting a penalty corner. Chayan doubled the lead in the 12th minute in the same fashion before Sonali Bank pulled one goal back through Enamul Kabir Turjo four minutes before the break.

After resumption, Krishna Kumar and Arshad Hossain scored one goal each to ensure Usha's victory while Turjo struck his second goal to reduce the margin.

## UAE, Scotland HK, PNG attain ODI status

INTERNET, Dubai

United Arab Emirates (UAE), Scotland, Hong Kong and Papua New Guinea have attained ODI status until 2018 by virtue of finishing in the top 4 spots at the ICC Cricket World Cup qualifiers taking place at New Zealand.

Afghanistan and Ireland, who qualified for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 after finishing in the top two of the ICC World Cricket League Championship 2011-13, had already taken up the first two qualification spots for the 2015 World Cup which will be played in Australia and New Zealand in 2015.

By reaching the finals of the qualifying tournament, UAE and Scotland have also booked their spots for the 14-team event next summer.

This will be UAE's second foray to the World Cup having made their debut back in the 1996 edition. Scotland, on the other hand, will be making their third appearance following their showing in the 1999 and 2007 editions.

Netherlands, Kenya and Canada lose their ODI status after failing to put up a good show in the qualifiers.

UAE and Scotland take on each other in the finals of the qualifying tournament tomorrow.

**Muktijoddha Sangsad's Nigerian striker Eleta Kingsley (R) skips past a challenge from Brothers Union defenders during their Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.**

PHOTO: STAR

# 'Test worries played a part'

SPORTS REPORTER



From scoring a country-best score of 638 against Sri Lanka in their own den last year to tumbling down like a house of cards at Mirpur last week, Bangladesh's shocking start to the Test series left many bewildered.

Coach Shane Jurgensen's immediate explanation was that of a more customary one and blamed the loss on details that could have been readily observed from off the field.

"We just had a flat-out bad game in each of the departments. We did not bat for long periods, we did not apply enough pressure with the ball and in the field we missed a few chances. We haven't had a game like this since I have been around," said Jurgensen.

Apart from identifying the obvious mistakes the Australian also felt that the ongoing events in the ICC, especially the proposal that threatens to affect Bangladesh's Test future, played a role in the thumping innings defeat.

"I personally think that maybe the ICC thing had some bearing. It was on the back of the guys' minds. Players were disappointed at what potentially could have happened. I think that did have a small but very important effect.

"I know that a lot of the senior players were upset that there might be no more Test cricket for Bangladesh. I just think the timing that these things took place, right before the Test, was not right. You don't want to make that an excuse.

"But at the same time I think it had a different effect on the players mentally from just the fact that they were sad, from that to maybe we didn't quite have the focus that we needed to have.

If you get told that you won't get to play Tests, it's like a toy gun getting stolen from you. That's your livelihood, I think somewhere down the line it was an important factor," said Jurgensen.



Head coach Shane Jurgensen (C) has a chat with the Bangladesh players at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium during training yesterday. The management organised an optional training day following the hosts' thumping defeat in the first Test against Sri Lanka.

PHOTO: STAR

The loss led to the team management organising an extra day's training yesterday. The team reportedly had a discussion and vowed to move on.

"Now that it's over, hopefully we can get back on. We had a reasonable chat yesterday afternoon. We sort of spoke openly about it and on ways of being mentally tougher in the next five days," said Jurgensen.

"We also had an optional session that gave the guys an opportunity to improve the batters. Whether it's a technical matter that needed sort of a brushing up, or anything around prepara-

tion," he added.

To come back from such a scathing defeat is not the easiest of jobs and Jurgensen knows that. According to the Australian the best thing that one can do in a situation like this is increase the hours of work one puts in.

"The best thing you can do is work harder and make sure you have a purpose for what you do. I'll just be working more hours and make sure the players are ready for Chittagong. The upside is that we have got a few good days before Chittagong," said Jurgensen.

# Brothers hold 10-man Muktis

SPORTS REPORTER



Sangsad to a 1-1 draw in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nigerian hitman Eleta Kingsley gave Muktijoddha Sangsad the lead in the stoppage time of the first half, only to be cancelled by a header from Brothers' Nigerian forward Kester Akon in the 74th minute.

With their second draw in seven matches, Muktijoddha Sangsad remained in their previous fourth position with 11 points but the second successive draw helped Brothers Union overtake Mohammedan to grab the fifth position in the ten-team table with eight points from seven outings.

Buoyed by two successive wins over Sheikh Russel KC and Chittagong Abahani, Muktijoddha Sangsad came into the match with the hope of joining Sheikh Jamal DC at the second position of the table and the freedom fighters' side were well ahead on the pitch until an unnecessary tackle from behind by Enamul Haque left Muktijoddha Sangsad with ten men for the last half an hour which gave Brothers the scope to find an equaliser.

"Enamul picked up both the bookings unnecessary and I did not expect it from such an experienced player," said Muktijoddha Sangsad coach Shafiqul Islam Manik, who termed Enamul's send-

ing off as the turning point of the match.

"Yet there is a long way to go and anything can happen as the big teams also drop points. Muktijoddha Sangsad are fighting for their place in the top three and I hope we will be successful in the end," said Manik.

After surviving a close call earlier in the game, Brothers Union came close to taking a lead in the 24th minute when Victory Antoni put a long ball inside the box for Kester but the Nigerian striker saw his weak drive hardly trouble Muktijoddha Sangsad goalkeeper Rasel Mahmud Liton.

With clock tricking for the breather, Muktijoddha Sangsad went ahead when Eleta Kingsley, availing a short pass from Enamul, darted into the box, cut back to find space and drove a low left-footer which beat the Brothers goalie at his near post.

After resumption, Brothers tried to bite back and saw a header from Victory Antoni rattle the crosspiece in the 56th minute. Brothers established their total control after Enamul's marching order on the hour-mark and they came close to finding the equaliser in the 69th minute but goalkeeper Liton punched away a powerful shot from substitute Jewel Rana. However, the leveller came five minutes later when Kester headed in a chip from Yusuf from inside the box.

"It is a good sign that we have been coming from behind to earn points in two successive matches. To be honest, we utilised the man advantage over Muktijoddha," said Brothers Union coach Syed Nayeemuddin.

## Negre to open school hockey today

SPORTS REPORTER

Leandro Negre, the president of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), yesterday arrived in Dhaka to inaugurate the National School Hockey Championship which kicks off today with a record 102 schools from across the country taking part.

Negre, who is visiting Bangladesh for the second time within a year, will declare the championship open in the afternoon at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium even though the matches of the championship will be held at ten different venues.

The FIH president was excited to be present physically at such a grass-root level programme of hockey.

"I am really excited with the idea of school tournaments as a good number of kids are going to take this opportunity," Negre told reporters on his arrival yesterday.

Replying to a query, Negre said he hopes Bangladesh would work hard to raise their standard as FIH needs countries like Bangladesh at the international arena.

Negre will leave Bangladesh tomorrow night.

## Time's up for Flower

AFP, London

Andy Flower has been axed as England coach following the team's recent Ashes drubbing in Australia, Britain's Daily Telegraph newspaper reported Friday.

According to the Telegraph, former Zimbabwe international Flower was told his time was up during a meeting at Lord's on Thursday with Paul Downton, the England and Wales Cricket Board's new managing director, who had been conducting a review into a tour of Australia where England suffered a 5-0 Ashes thrashing.



PHOTO: AFP

New Zealand's Ross Taylor raises his bat after reaching his second successive century against India in the fifth and final ODI at the Westpac Stadium in Wellington yesterday.

# Kiwis rout India

AFP, Wellington



A Ross Taylor-inspired New Zealand crushed India by 87 runs in the fifth and final one-day international in Wellington on Friday to extend the tourists' miserable run against the Black Caps.

India could manage only 216 in reply to New Zealand's 303 for five, slumping to a 4-0 series loss despite a battling 82 from Virat Kohli.

Veteran batsman Taylor blazed his second successive century to set India the imposing run chase before seamer Matt Henry skittled the world champions' top order in a dream debut, claiming four for 38.

The result completes New Zealand's best one-day winning streak against India in 33 years and provides a huge psychological boost ahead of a two-Test series next month.

Meanwhile, India's failure to perform against modest opposition has seen them ousted from top spot in the one-day rankings by Australia, and will raise questions about their form away from home ahead of next year's World Cup.

Taylor, fresh from an unbeaten 112 in the fourth match, laid the foundations for victory with a commanding 102, receiving able support from Kane Williamson (88), who has posted a half-century in every match of the series.

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni urged his pacemen to "use their brains" after losing the fourth match on Tuesday, and the new-ball pair of Mohammed Shami and Bhuvneshwar Kumar initially responded to the challenge.

Shami began with two maidens, while Kumar showed improved accuracy as the

New Zealanders were restricted to just 10 runs in the first five overs.

The hard work paid off when Jesse Ryder (17) snicked an outside edge from Kumar to Ajinkya Rahane at gully and Martin Guptill was out for 16 after hitting the ball straight to Shami, who took the chance after a nervous juggle.

That brought the in-form partnership of Williamson and Taylor together and they immediately lifted the glacial run rate, scoring more boundaries in their first three overs at the crease than New Zealand managed in the previous 12.

They brought up their third century partnership of the series in 108 balls, with Williamson reaching his fifth consecutive 50 in the 30th over.

Taylor notched his own half century a few balls later as the pressure India had painstakingly built early in the innings dissipated.

Williamson departed on 88 when he sliced a Varun Aaron delivery to Rahane at point and was replaced by Brendon McCullum, who provided a useful 23 off 18 balls before he was caught at cover trying to drive Kohli.

Taylor brought up his 10th ODI century after 105 balls with a boundary hit through mid-wicket, but was out next ball attempting to belt Shami over the boundary.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**NEW ZEALAND:** 303 for 5 in 50 overs (Williamson 88, Taylor 102, B McCullum 23, Neesham 34 not out; Aaron 2-60)

**INDIA:** 216 all out in 49.4 overs (Kohli 82, Rayudu 20, Dhoni 47, B Kumar 20; Mills 2-35, Henry 4-38, Williamson 2-19)

**Result:** New Zealand won by 87 runs and clinched 5-match series 4-0.

**Player-of-the-match:** Ross Taylor.

## Nurul joins Dhaka run-fest

SPORTS REPORTER



The Khulna captain helped reduce Barisal to 78 for 3 at stumps after the hosts were bowled out 357.

It was raining runs at the game in the Sheikh Kamruzzaman Stadium at Rajshahi as Dhaka piled up 616 for 7 seven before declaring against Rangpur. The match which had already seen centuries from Shuvagata Hom (165) and Rokibul Hasan (154) yesterday, witnessed Nurul Hasan (109) add one more to the tally. In reply, Rangpur finished on 151 for 2.

A spirited bowling performance by Dhaka Metro pacer Mohammad Shohid at Chittagong helped his side bundle out the hosts for 195 in reply to Metro's first innings score of 221. Metro ended the day on 77 for three in their second innings yesterday.

Rajshahi's slow left-armers Saqlain Sajib and Taijul Islam ran through Sylhet's middle order as the hosts were bowled out for 245 from their overnight score of 95 for no loss. Rajshahi however, failed to take advantage and finished the day on 100 for 6 yesterday.

**KHULNA:** 357 all out in 122 overs (Ziaur Rahman 77, Tushar 61; Golam Kabir 3-48)  
**BARISAL:** 78 for 3 (Salman Hossain 24; Mashrafe 2-24)  
**DHAKA:** 616 for 7 dec (Shuvagata 165, Rokibul 154, Nurul 109 not out; Sajedul 2-76)  
**RANGPUR:** 151 for 2 (Salauddin Pappu 78; Shahadat 1-26)  
**DHAKA METRO:** 221 and 77 for 3 (Saykat 29; Faisal 1-14)  
**CHITTAGONG:** 195 all out in 67 overs (Nafees Iqbal 97; Mohd Shohid 5-57)  
**RAJSHAHI:** 217 and 100 for 6 (Taijul 43; Nazmul Hossain 2-13)  
**SYLHET:** 244 all out in 75.4 overs (Sayem Alam 83; Saqlain 6-69; Taijul 4-65)