



South Zone pacer Al-Amin Hossain (C) is ecstatic after dismissing North Zone's Naeem Islam for a duck with a short-of-a-length delivery in their first innings of the final of the Bangladesh Cricket League at Mirpur yesterday. Al-Amin took four wickets.

PHOTO: STAR

## Troubles begin at home

SPORTS REPORTER



When the Bangladesh Cricket League began last year, it was described as the next big step to change Bangladesh's woeful record in longer version cricket. But two seasons on, the league, the last two rounds of which were hurriedly scheduled by the BCB, at odds with its main aim, displays exactly why the national team struggles in Test cricket.

The first two days of the finals of the BCL, if anything at all, clearly displayed the batsmen's lack of application. A good batting track at Mirpur, with a hint of extra bounce being the only possible threat, saw both teams crumble twice in the space of two days.

The Nasir Hossain-led BCB North Zone were bundled out for 235 yesterday, following Prime Bank South Zone's 271 the previous day. If South Zone's players seemed overawed against the slow left-armers on Friday, then North Zone's players were most definitely stunned by

some short-of-a-length bowling from Al-Amin Hossain.

Al-Amin first got Junaid Siddique and then removed Naeem Islam and Myshukur Rahman in consecutive overs. His strategy to attack could have been an inverse reaction to North Zone's defensive approach; they were going 1.82 runs per over in the middle.

The manner in which some of the batsmen got out yesterday led many to compare the innings to Bangladesh's first Test against Sri Lanka earlier this year, where they were undone by extra bounce.

While Al-Amin no doubt bowled with aggression, one felt that the batsmen could have done a lot better than just nervously putting bat to ball or attempting voracious pull shots. The concern was best put by North Zone's batting coach Wahidul Gani. "If there was another pacer from the other side bowling these bouncers then we would

### SCORES IN BRIEF

PRIME BANK SOUTH ZONE: 271  
BCB NORTH ZONE: 235 all out in 97.5 overs (Nasir 70; Al-Amin 4-35)

AFC PRESIDENT'S CUP

## Sk Russel eye top finish

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Premier League champions Sheikh Russel KC will take on Bhutanese club Ugyen Academy in the last Group A match of the AFC President's Cup at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo, knowing that a draw against arguably the weakest outfit of the group will be enough for them to qualify for the final round of the third-tier club competition of Asia.

The treble winners of last season head the group table with four points from two outings – thanks to a 0-0 draw in their opening match against last edition's runners-up KRL FC of Pakistan followed by a 5-0 drubbing of Sri Lanka Air Force FC on Friday. KRL FC, who take on Sri Lanka Air Force FC in the last match of the group today, are also on four points but have an inferior goal difference (+3) against Sheikh Russel's (5+).

Top two teams from this group will go through to the final round, but Sheikh Russel are looking for a straight forward win to emerge group champions.

"Even though this match is against an already-eliminated side, we will be playing this match with the same intensity as the previous two. We want to become group champions and take that momentum when we get back to domestic circuit," Sheikh Russel's recently-appointed Montenegrin coach Dragan Djukanovic was quoted as saying, according to a message received here yesterday.

The Sheikh Russel players did not take part in any training session yesterday, rather spent their time playing table tennis, carom and chess among themselves.

## Nasir to lead A team to WI

SPORTS REPORTER



Nasir Hossain has been named captain of the Bangladesh A team for the tour of West Indies, during which the second string Bangladesh side will play two four-dayers, three one-dayers and two T20 matches against the West Indies High Performance Centre.

The selectors included nine national players in the 15-member squad apart from some young prospects like Taijul Islam, Nurul Hasan, Abdul Majid and Mukter Ali, who earned the call-up for their impressive performance in the domestic circuit. Young left-arm seamer Mustafizur Rahman was also brought into the second-string side for his impressive show with the Unde-19 side and most importantly, the selectors have been looking into the pipeline for back-up pacemen for the national side as most of the front-line bowlers have been struggling with injuries.

"As we have a national team's tour to West Indies in August-September this year, we considered national players like Imrul Kayes, Shamsur Rahman. If we don't have the India series at home in the next month then the number might have more. This A team tour is important for us ahead of the national side's visit," said selector Habibul Basharyesterday.

"I think it's a big opportunity for

### ITINERARY

May 26-29: 4-dayers at Winward Cricket Club, Barbados.  
June 2-5: 4-dayers at Kensington Oval, Barbados.  
June 8: 1st one-dayer at Kensington Oval, Barbados.  
June 10: 2nd one-dayer at Winward Cricket Club, Barbados.  
June 12: 3rd one-dayer at Carlton Cricket Ground, Barbados.  
June 14: 1st T20 at Kensington Oval, Barbados.  
June 15: 2nd T20 at 3Ws Oval, Barbados.

some players like Shamsur, Imrul. On the other hand we will be looking forward to see how our domestic performers take this opportunity," headed.

Nasir, who has been going through a lean patch, was relishing the captaincy challenge.

"Obviously it feels good as I have been given the duty to lead the side and I will try my best to share my experience with the team. I have played in those conditions before and if I can bat well in the conditions, my career will improve," said the all-rounder.

"Obviously it will be good for those who are going, to go there and play four-day matches. For us [national players] it will be definitely good with the series ahead," he added.

### SQUAD

Nasir Hossain (captain), Naeem Islam (vice-captain), Imrul Kayes, Shamsur Rahman, Mominul Hoque, Marshall Ayub, Abdul Majid, Mustafizur Rahman, Nurul Hasan, Shohag Gazi, Muktar Ali, Elias Sunny, Robiul Islam, Shubhashis Roy and Taijul Islam.

KFC WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

## BJMC maul Kishoreganj

SPORTS REPORTER

A quadruple hat-trick by national team's striker Sabina Khatun helped Team BJMC to notch a massive 20-0 goal win against Kishoreganj DFA in the Dhaka zone semifinal of the KFC National Women's Football Championship at BFF Artificial Turf in Motijheel yesterday.

Sabina scored 13 goals while Suriya Sultan scored a hat-trick in the one-sided affair.

In the day's other zonal match at Bagerhat Stadium, Gopalganj District beat Patuakhali District by 6-0 goals.

## Badda hold Rahmatganj

SPORTS REPORTER

Rahmatganj MFS played out a 1-1 draw against Badda Jagarani Sangsad in the Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League match at Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Shakawat Hossain put Badda ahead in the 21st minute while Soheli restored parity for Rahmatganj in 73rd minute.



Abdullah Hasan and Tamanna Akter show victory signs after winning their respective 100m sprint finals in the Walton 30th National Junior Athletics Championships at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Abdullah's surprise

SPORTS REPORTER



Abdullah Hasan of Natore and Tamanna Akter of BKSP became the fastest youth athletes of the country when they snatched the gold medals in the 100m sprint in the 18-19 age group categories of the Walton 30th National

Junior Athletics Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Abdullah, who never won any gold medal in a national event, beat the odds-on-favourite Uzzal Chandra Shutrathar of Kishoreganj to snatch the gold, clocking at a time of 11.10 seconds. Uzzal finished the race 0.10 seconds behind Abdullah clocking 11.20 seconds while and Saiful Ismail of BKSP finished third by clocking 11.22 seconds.

"This is my first national level gold. I had won the silver medal last year in this competition," said an ecstatic Abdullah, who claimed he got very little support from his

district sports association for this meet. "I have the ingrained qualities of a sprinter which made me excel and I hope to take the success to the senior level as well."

Tamanna, who won the gold in the women's youth category, has it in her genes as she happens to be the granddaughter of former athlete and coach Kitab Ali. Tamanna, who had earlier won the 200m and 400m gold, completed a treble by winning the 100m sprint in 12.94 second. The race was competed by only three participants. Bonna Khatun of Narail finished second clocking 14.20 seconds while Rimpa Khatun of the same district Narail finished third at a time of 14.40 seconds.

Meanwhile, BKSP finished top of the medals tally in the two-day meet with 16 gold, nine silver and two bronze medals while Khulna DSA finished second with five gold, six silver and four bronze medals. Narayanganj DSA finished third with three gold and one bronze medals.

## BRAZIL 1950

### Barbosa: One mistake, a lifelong stigma

Brazilians still call it el Maracanazo – which roughly translates as 'the Maracana blow'. The Selecao's 2-1 defeat to Uruguay in the final match of the 1950 World Cup is written in the country's consciousness. It was a national trauma: 'our catastrophe, our Hiroshima,' wrote Brazilian author and playwright Nelson Rodrigues. But one man suffered more than most: Brazil goalkeeper Moacyr Barbosa.

The newly constructed Maracana was then the biggest football stadium ever built -- intended to symbolise Brazil's new ambition. Instead, in front of almost 200,000 people, the national team were humiliated, and missed out on winning the World Cup on home soil. Before the game, which Brazil needed only to draw thanks to the final group format, Rio newspaper O Mundo declared the team 'world champions'. Tournament founder Jules Rimet had prepared a congratulatory speech in Portuguese, and the team were presented with gold watches in the changing room.

But they hadn't counted on the garra charrua – a Uruguayan term for displays of bravery in the face of over-



MOACYR BARBOSA

whelming odds. Their captain Obdulio Varela was reportedly so incensed by the front page of O Mundo that he bought every copy he could find, hurled them all on the floor of the dressing room and encouraged his teammates to urinate on them.

After a goalless first half, Brazil took the lead early in the second through Friaca. Uruguay hit back -- Alcides Ghiggia raced down the right wing and crossed from the edge of the box for Juan Alberto Schiaffino to notch after 66 minutes. Just 13

minutes later, Ghiggia found himself in the same position. In goal, Barbosa took a step to his right, anticipating another cross. It would ruin his life. Instead, Ghiggia shot -- low towards the near post. It crept in, evading Barbosa's desperate dive.

"Only three people have, with just one motion, silenced the Maracana: Frank Sinatra, Pope John Paul II and me," said Ghiggia years later.

In the aftermath, it was Brazil's black players who sadly became the scapegoats: centre-half Bigode, left-back Juvenal and Barbosa – the man who was never allowed to forget 1950, despite being voted the best goalkeeper of the tournament by journalists. He would play only once more for his country. In 1993, he tried to visit Brazil's training camp, but he wasn't allowed in because it was thought he would bring the team bad luck. It broke poor Barbosa, who insisted till his dying day:

"I am not guilty. There were 11 of us."

A few weeks before he died, almost penniless, in April 2000, Barbosa said: "Under Brazilian law, the maximum sentence is 30 years. But my imprisonment has been for 50."

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