

# SPORT



## CRICKET MATCH ADJOURNED!

Aware that Michael Clarke would only be able to bat for Western Suburbs next Saturday, Parramatta skipper Michael Castle sent them to bat after winning the toss. Signalling that their preference was to take to the crease next week when Clarke is available, Suburbs decided to declare one ball shy of 10 overs at 17 for no loss. Organisers are now investigating the match.

## PILOT playing!

SPORTS REPORTER

Is Khaled Mashud going to revive his playing career? One can doubt it if they go through the scoreboard of yesterday's Dhaka Premier League match between Kalabagan Cricket Academy and Mohammedan Sporting Club. He is now 38-year-old and said goodbye to competitive cricket three years ago, but Mashud, popularly known as Pilot, made an unlikely return to competitive cricket yesterday at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium. The Kalabagan CA coach, who retired from international cricket in September 2008, came in to bat at number seven and scored only one run. "Actually I played this match because of the shortage of players in our team. On the other hand the team management also requested me to play to encourage our younger players on the field. We made the team in a hurry and that's why we had to pick young and inexperienced players," Mashud explained the reason behind him playing the match. The next and obvious question was whether he would continue? "Yes, there is a good chance that I will play some more matches for my team," he said. After making his international debut in 1995 Mashud played 44 Tests and 126 ODIs and, most importantly, he was the symbol of confidence behind the stumps during his long career.



Sabbir Rahman (C) has certainly enjoyed a satisfying birthday, his 24th, at the Hotel Peninsula in Chittagong yesterday, a day after his quick-fire 44 against Zimbabwe on his Tigers debut at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

PHOTO: STAR

## Sabbir's chance at hand

NAIMUL KARIM from Chittagong

There was a brief moment of silence at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong on Friday after Bangladesh's two set batsmen, Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim, departed soon after reaching their respective landmarks. With still over five overs left in the innings and just the tail remaining, the Tigers needed a good finish. In the past this would have been an ideal situation for Nasir Hossain to come in and stroke the Tigers to a confident total, but he was dropped from the series due to poor form this year, and the crucial number seven position was given to a debutant, Sabbir Rahman. Sabbir took his time at the crease and failed to clear the boundary with his first few hits. However, if there were any doubts regarding Sabbir's nerves, they disappeared after he ran

down the track and cleared Tendai Chatara for a six. That wasn't all as Sabbir had saved the best for the last, launching Tinash Panyangara for two sixes in the last two balls of the innings and displaying the sheer power that he possessed. With four more ODIs to go against Zimbabwe, Sabbir now has a chance of making Bangladesh's World Cup squad ahead of Nasir. Does that put any extra pressure on him? Not quite. "There is no such pressure. Nasir played before me in the same position and he was going through a bad patch so I got my chance. If I go through a bad patch then he will get an opportunity again. That's what cricket is. I am going to try and play as well as I can to retain my spot," said Sabbir, prior to celebrating his 24th birthday with his teammates. "Honestly I am not thinking about the World Cup right now. My target is to play this series as well as possible. If I

think about that then I will be under pressure to perform," he explained. Entering the crease with a handful of overs left is not the best situation for a batsman to make his international debut, but Sabbir relishes these situations. "I enjoy these situations. It gives me an opportunity to play freely. The field is generally spread and I can take the singles and get set for the big hits. "My role in the team is to stay till the end and provide support," said Sabbir. Arguably Bangladesh's most athletic player, Sabbir was earmarked before making his international debut in a T20I against Sri Lanka earlier this year. He then went on to play the World T20I. While his career appears to be on track now, it was in jeopardy a few months ago, according to Sabbir. "I actually waited for a long time. The last two years I was on the back-foot. So I am happy now and hope to carry on the same way," said Sabbir.

## Siddikur slips further

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's premier golfer Siddikur Rahman slipped to joint 42nd position on the leaderboard of the Manila Masters after settling for a one-over (73) in the third round yesterday. The 29-year-old golfer, who started the day at 25th position, battled with consistency at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club as he traded four birdies for three bogeys and a double bogey. The indifferent effort took Siddikur's aggregate score to two-under (214), 15 shots adrift of leader Mardan Mamat (17-under), who opened up a gap of four shots with second-placed Kiradech Aphibarnrat of Thailand.

## 'Everyone has to chip in to keep winning

NAIMUL KARIM from Chittagong

Bangladesh may have won the first ODI convincingly, but they still have a number of areas to work on. Had Zimbabwe taken their chances on the field and Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim perished early, the picture could have been altogether a different one. Mushfiqur was dropped twice while Shakib hit a couple of risky shots in the air. Their pacers were not up to the mark either, leaking more than 40 runs in the first seven overs. And captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was the first person to admit that the hosts needed improvement. "We won on the back of two or three performances. The top-order has to score runs. We have to start well with the ball. We have to stop relying on one guy. We have to get out of this mentality. Everyone has to try and contribute," said Mashrafe on his expectations for today's second ODI. "I myself could not bowl like I wanted to. There must have been a problem somewhere, and I must fix it. I think I was lucky to get two wickets. The team expects much from the pace bowlers," he added. There were three pacers in the Bangladesh side on Friday and together they bowled a total of 11 overs. With the World Cup knocking at the door this is one area that the Tigers will need to work on. Al-Amin Hossain, for instance, was torn apart for 21 runs in two overs. The fact that he opted out of the last two Tests could be the reason why he's taking time to adjust; whatever the reason may be, he needs to adjust as soon as possible. As Mashrafe put it, "There's no room to relax. We have won just one match in the entire year and everyone should try to have either a 50 or two wickets next to his name." The second ODI, which begins an hour early, might be a better day for the bowlers as that reduces the dew-factor in the evening. Bangladesh are unlikely to change the winning combination, going into the match at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium. Zimbabwe, it seemed, went through the motions in the first game. They made better starts than Bangladesh with both the bat and the ball, but at the end of the day did not seem to have the belief. Their fielding, which was top-class during the Test series, failed in the first ODI. They need to make the most of the half-chances on the field. The good news was that Brendan Taylor returned to form with a half-century on Friday, but they need their other batsmen to fire. However, most importantly, they need to find a way past Shakib.

## Abahani hanging by a thread

SPORTS REPORTER

Four-time professional league champions Abahani saw their hopes of qualifying for the semifinals of the King's Cup get bleaker as they were held to a 2-2 draw by defending champions Manang Marshyangdi Club of Nepal, despite taking a 2-0 lead in the first half, at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu yesterday. The Sky Blues, who suffered a shock defeat against Ugyen Academy last Tuesday to make matters difficult for themselves, came out with a more determined yesterday and took the lead on the half-hour mark when right-back Nasirul Islam, drafted into today's eleven, profited from poor marking to beat Manang goalkeeper Bishal Shreshtha. Guinean forward Ismael Bangoura, who was denied by a brilliant effort from Bishal minutes earlier, doubled the lead in the 38th minute with a powerful shot. However, the Nepalese champions came out firing on all cylinders in the second half and reduced the margin in the 51st minute, thanks to a brilliant solo effort from Anil Gurung. Shiva Shreshtha then headed home a poor clearance by goalkeeper Ziaur Rahman in the 82nd minute to deny Abahani a much-needed win.

The Sky Blues will have to win their next match against Pune FC tomorrow and hope the other results go their way to have any chance of qualifying for the last four. Meanwhile, Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club will look to ensure their semifinal berth when they take on Thai First Division Champions Nakhon Ratchasima FC in their second match today. The Dhanmondi outfit, who opened their campaign with a 3-0 win over Bhutanese champions Druk United on November 15, will go through with a win while even a draw would keep them in with a great chance to qualify. Both teams have three points from a single match but Nakhon lead the table with a superior goal difference. Sheikh Jamal coach Maruful Haque was confident his side can pull out a positive result in today's match. "I don't think we have anything to be fearful about our opposition. Our players have, by this time, adjusted well to the weather and altitude and I expect them to put up a better show compared to the match against Druk United," Maruful told reporters yesterday. The Dhanmondi giants are expected to line up a 4-4-2 formation today, bringing in Monaem Khan Raju to bolster the midfield while dispensing with Shakhawat Hossain Rony, one of the three strikers used in the first match.

## 4TH ASIAN BEACH GAMES Kabaddi adds to woes

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's dismal run in the 4th Asian Beach Games continued as the women's kabaddi team lost both their matches yesterday. The Bangladesh team lost against favourites India by 50-24 points in their first match before going down by 42-40 points against Sri Lanka in their second match in Phuket, Thailand yesterday.

## Mohammedan collapse

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan suffered a pathetic batting collapse on a low-bounce surface at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday as they were bundled out for 64 runs, resulting in a 79-run defeat to Kalabagan Cricket Academy in the Dhaka Premier League (DPL). Among the slow bowlers who dominated the proceedings in the low-scoring affair, off-spinner Mahmudul Hasan was the hero, taking five wickets after scoring 59 runs.

It was Kalabagan CA's second victory in four matches. At BKSP, Prime Bank registered their third win with a 41-run victory against winless Old DOHS, thanks to Saykat Ali's 90. Shamsur Rahman hit 82 as Kalabagan Krira Chakra recorded their first win in four matches with a 71-run victory against Partex in another match at BKSP. **SCORES IN BRIEF** KALABAGAN CA: 143 all out in 36.4 overs (Hasan 59; Amit 4-27, Naeem 3-31) MOHAMMEDAN: 64 all out in 26.4 overs (Sayem 8, Babu 8; Hasan 5-27, Nabil 2-21, Bishwant 2-8) **Result:** Kalabagan won by 79 runs. **PRIME BANK:** 241 all out in 49.3 overs (Saykat 90, Taiabur 56; Shahidul 2-45) **OLD DOHS:** 200 all out in 43 overs (Shanaj 32, Shajib 57, Safaq 35; Taijul 2-70, Enamul 2-34, Forkan 2-15) **Result:** Prime Bank won by 41 runs. **KALABAGAN KC:** 239-6 in 50 overs (Jupitar 32, Shamsur 82, Jehan 42, Tasamul 34 not out; Masum 2-39, Rajin 2-24) **PARTEX:** 168 all out in 48.2 overs (Shafiul 45; Razzak 2-30, Rockybul 3-22, Rabbi 2-13) **Result:** Kalabagan Krira Chakra won by 71 runs.

## Federer felled Swiss, French stay level

AFP, Lille



Honours were shared between France and Switzerland in the Davis Cup final in Lille on Friday on a day when Roger Federer suffered his worst ever defeat in the tournament. The 17-time Grand Slam champion, playing in his first Davis Cup final at the age of 33, was clobbered 6-1, 6-4, 6-3 by flamboyant Frenchman Gael Monfils. It was just the second time that Federer had lost a Davis Cup singles rubber in straight sets - the other coming in his debut as an untested teenager in 1999 against Gianluca Pozzi of Italy. The spotlight now will fall on who the two captains will choose to play in Saturday's doubles. As it stands, the French pair of Julien Benneteau and Richard Gasquet are scheduled to go up against Marco Chiudinelli and Michael Lammer, with the reverse singles on Sunday. But that could change with the in-form Wawrinka an option for Swiss coach Severin Luthi and his French counterpart Arnaud Clement mulling a Tsonga-Gasquet partnership. On Friday, Stan Wawrinka had given the Swiss favourites a 1-0 lead by outplaying French number one Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2. In both matches, the top ranking players lost to the number twos in straightforward fashion. But if Wawrinka's demolition of Tsonga could hardly be classed as an upset, the Swiss being ranked fourth in the world to Tsonga's 12th, Federer's humiliation at the hands of Monfils was stunning. Federer took an 8-2 winning head-to-head record against Monfils into the rubber. But his preparations for his first ever Davis Cup final took a hit last Saturday when he injured his back playing, ironically against Wawrinka, in the last four of the ATP World Tour finals in London.



Abahani forward Aminur Rahman Sajib (R) has his shirt tugged from behind by a Manang Marshyangdi player during their King's Cup match yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY



আন্তর্জাতিক খ্যাতিসম্পন্ন রাকিন ডেভেলপমেন্ট কোম্পানী (বিডি) লিঃ ঢাকা শহরের অভিজাত আবাসিক এলাকা গুলশান বনানী থেকে মাত্র ১৫ মিনিটের দূরত্বে ঢাকা ক্যান্টনমেন্ট সংলগ্ন কাফরুলে ৫০ বিঘা জমির উপর গড়ে তুলছে আন্তর্জাতিক মানের অত্যাধুনিক বিজয় রাকিন সিটি।

যেখানে ১৯৫০ টি আধুনিক এপার্টমেন্টের সাথে থাকবে আন্তর্জাতিক মানের কনভেনশন সেন্টার, শপিংমল, সুইমিংপুল, জিমন্যাসিয়াম, মসজিদসহ জীবনযাত্রার সমস্ত উপকরণ। ২৪ ঘন্টা সিসিটিভি-সহ বাংলাদেশের সর্বপ্রথম গেটেড কমিউনিটি ব্যবস্থা এ প্রকল্পের বিশেষ বৈশিষ্ট্য।

১৫০ ফিটের ৬ লেনের রাস্তা এবং স্কলাস্টিকা ও হারমেন মেইনার স্কুলের সন্নিহিত এ প্রকল্পে দু'টি পৃথক শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের জন্য আকর্ষণীয় জায়গা রাখা হয়েছে। একটি ৭ তলা বিল্ডিং ১৩.৫৭ কাঠা, ৯৭৩.৪ বর্গফুট এবং অপরটি ১২ তলা বিল্ডিং ৮৮.৯৭ কাঠা ৩২.৩৭৭.৮০ বর্গফুট।

উপরোক্ত স্থানে শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্মাণের জন্য সু-প্রতিষ্ঠিত ও মানসম্পন্ন স্কুল কর্তৃপক্ষ এবং ব্যক্তি মালিকানাধীন কোম্পানীর নিকট হতে অতি সত্বর প্রস্তাব আহবান করা হচ্ছে।



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