

# SPORT



Mohammedan players celebrate a 2-1 victory over their Kolkata namesake, which put them into the semifinals of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup, at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## MSC, East Bengal to meet in semis

### Ctg Abahani up against Afghan Champions

ANISUR RAHMAN from Chittagong

**SEMIFINAL LINE-UP**

De Spin Ghar Bazan v Chittagong Abahani	27 Nov
East Bengal v Dhaka Mohammedan	28 Nov

Mohammedan Sporting Club set up a mouth-watering semifinal clash against East Bengal after a 2-1 victory over their Kolkata namesake in the final Group A fixture of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

The Black and Whites, who emerged runners-up in their group behind Afghan champions De Spin Ghar Bazan, made sure there will be two local outfits in two semifinals. Mohammedan will take on Group B champions East Bengal on Tuesday while Group B runners-up Chittagong Abahani will take on the Afghan champions on the following day.

Following their emphatic 6-1 win over Solid SC and the luxury of needing only a draw to advance, the Motijheel outfit began enterprisingly yet lacked the pace that they showed in their previous matches.

Mohammedan, though, came close to taking the lead in the 10th minute when Peter Akinyele availed a fumble from an opposition defender, but only managed to hit the post after dancing past goalkeeper Billah Hossain.

The Nigerian striker, who was playing his first match of the tournament, however, made amends as he put the Black and Whites ahead with a glancing header off a Faisal Mahmud corner in the 18th minute.

Kolkata Mohammedan, needing a big-margin win to advance, saw their forward Ajay Singh rattle the crossbar on the half-hour mark.

The home side then came close to doubling their lead two minutes before the break, but Akinyele fluffed the chance incredibly. They had to pay the price in next minute when Kolkata Mohammedan striker Kazeem Amobli snatched the ball from defender Mintu Sheikh and found the back of the net with a powerful angular shot.

Team	M	W	D	L	G/D	Points	Status
DHAKA MSC	2	1	0	1	0	3	Qualified
SOLID SC	1	0	1	0	0	1	Not Qualified
ABAHANI	0	0	0	0	0	0	Not Qualified
CTG ABAHANI	4	2	0	2	2	6	Qualified
KOLKATA MSC	1	0	1	0	0	1	Not Qualified
SPIN GHAR BAZAN	3	2	1	0	0	7	Qualified
EAST BENGAL	3	1	1	1	1	4	Not Qualified
KARACHI ELECTRIC	3	0	0	3	0	0	Not Qualified

## Six cricketers called back

SPORTS REPORTER

Six players currently touring with the Bangladesh A team in Africa will return home at the end of this month.

Sabbir Rahman, Soumya Sarkar, Liton Das, Al-Amin Hossain, Kamrul Islam Rabbi and Jubair Hossain have been asked by the Bangladesh Cricket Board to return after the South Africa leg of the tour which is scheduled to end on October 30.

It is likely that these players will be included in Bangladesh's limited overs series against Zimbabwe, due to begin on November 7.

On the other hand, Tasamul Haque, Nurul Hasan, Naeem Islam, Dewan Sabbir and Muktar Ali will replace the players and take part in Bangladesh A's tour of Zimbabwe. Led by Shuvagata Hom, the second-string Bangladesh outfit will face its counterparts in Zimbabwe next month.

The six players were initially supposed to come back with the entire team at the end of November after the completion of their tour of Zimbabwe. However, the BCB's decision bring forward the limited overs series against Zimbabwe have compelled selectors to call back a section of the players from the Africa tour.

## First Div cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Surjo Torun Club wicketkeeper-batsman Salaudun Pappu hammered a 117-ball 145 against BKSP at the outer Fatullah Stadium and helped Surjo Torun post 289 runs in 50 overs.

In reply, BKSP were restricted to 178 for 6.

In the day's other games, Rapid Foundation beat Azad Sporting Club by 39 runs, Young Pegasus Club went down to City Club by five wickets, Uttara Sporting Club beat Dhanmondi Progoti Sangho by three wickets, while Partex Sporting Club hammered Udayachal Club by 145 runs.

## Rain ruins Day 4

AFP, Colombo

Rain washed out play Sunday on the fourth day of the second Test in Colombo, with the West Indies needing another 224 for their first ever win in Sri Lanka.

West Indies were 20-1 when rain stopped play. The umpires finally cancelled play at 2:45pm.

## Lopez still not impressed with Zahid, Emily

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

Despite playing the key role behind Chittagong Abahani's semifinal berth in the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup, including a hat-trick against Karachi Electric FC on Saturday, veteran winger Zahid Hossain may not find a place in the national team squad for next month's World Cup qualifying fixtures against Tajikistan and Australia.

The injury-prone winger, and his long-term teammate Zahid Hassan Emily who is also appearing for Chittagong Abahani in this tournament, are not in consideration of national team's coach Fabio Lopez due to their 'lack of fitness'.

The Italian coach, who is currently in Chittagong watching the matches, said he will only consider fit players for the team and may go with the same 23 players he took to Kyrgyzstan last month.

"At the moment, they (Zahid and Emily) are not fit for the national team," Lopez told this reporter while watching the matches yesterday.

"It is not the job of the national team to make a professional footballer fit. While Emily had been a constant fixture for Bangladesh prior to that match, Zahid has not appeared for the Red and Greens since the completion of Bangabandhu Gold Cup in January-February this year."

When asked about Zahid's brilliant performance in the ongoing tournament, Lopez said that he wants players with consistent performance in his squad, not players who put in one or two good performances.

Lopez informed that he would likely start the preparation camp for next month's matches on October 28 with the available players from the 23-member squad which took on Kyrgyzstan last month as there are a number of those 23 players currently playing in Chittagong.

The Bangladesh team will leave for Tajikistan on November 9 and take on the hosts on November 12 before hosting the Soccerroos in Dhaka on Nov 17.



ZAHID EMILY

## Runs galore in 5th Rd

SPORTS REPORTER

Runs have been there for the taking in the top tier of the fifth round of the ongoing National Cricket League as batsmen have seemed to score almost at will in the first two days. Six batsmen have reached the three-figure mark so far and with two more days to go there's

the championship. Mushfiqur Rahim's Rajshahi seem to be in dire straits against Barisal, as they are struggling to stay afloat at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi. Earlier, five wickets each from pacers Tawhidul Islam and Salman Hossain bundled Rajshahi out for just 119 in the first innings. In reply, Barisal were bowled out for 311 with Shahriar Nafees and Mohammad Al-

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

<b>DHAKA METRO V KHULNA</b> DHAKA METRO: 399 all out in 115.1 overs (Shamsur 144, Riyad 132, Mehedi 5-96, Razzak 3-113) KHULNA: 204 for 4 (Imrul 110 not out; Abu Haider 1-34, Arafat 1-36)	<b>DHAKA V RANGPUR</b> RANGPUR: 463 all out in 152 overs (Tarik 102, Dhiman 101 not out, Naeem 100; Dewan 4-96) DHAKA: 78 for 2 (Saif 44; Subhashish 1-24)	<b>RAJSHAH V BARISAL</b> RAJSHAH: 119 all out in 42.5 overs (Sanjamul 40; Tawhidul 5-30, Salman 5-31) and 126 for 3 (Junaid 58 not out; Gazi 2-43) BARISAL: 311 all out in 86.2 overs (Shahriar 80, Al-Amin 71; Sanjamul 4-87, Shafaq 4-95)	<b>CHITTAGONG V SYLHET IN CHITTAGONG</b> Chittagong: 270 all out in 87.2 overs (Tasamul 74, Yasir 55; Abul 4-34, Enamul 3-75) Sylhet 262 for 9 (Kapali 46; Nabil 3-74, Iftekhar 2-43)
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every chance for plenty more fireworks. Former national opener Shamsur Rahman and middle-order batsman Mahmudullah Riyad scored three-quarters of Dhaka Metro's 399 in their ongoing match against Khulna in Fatullah.

While the rest of the team faltered, Riyad and Shamsur ensured that Metro posted a competitive first-innings score. Shamsur hammered five sixes and 18 fours in his knock of 144 while Riyad hit 14 boundaries to score 132. Mehedi Hasan Miraz scalped this third five-wicket haul of the tournament and was the key wicket-taker for Khulna.

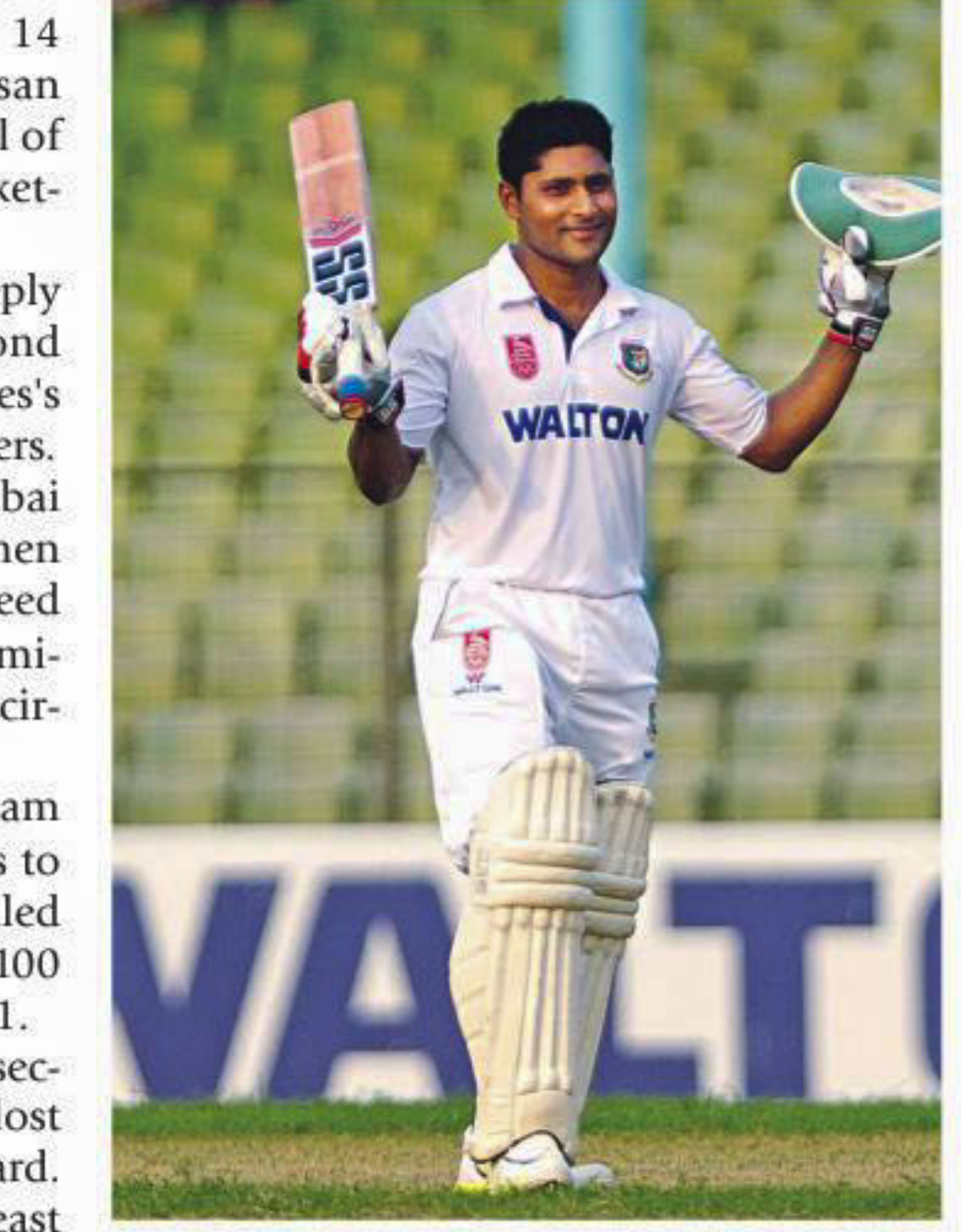
Khulna though provided a firm reply after the exchange and finished the second day on 204 for 4. It was Imrul Kayes' unbeaten 110 that guided the league leaders. The Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai wasn't the only ground to see three batsmen score centuries this week as the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra witnessed a similar feat; albeit in completely different circumstances.

Rangpur's Tarik Ahmed, Naeem Islam and Dhiman Ghosh all scored centuries to lead their side to 463 before getting bundled out. Tarik scored 102 and Naeem exactly 100 while Dhiman remained unbeaten on 101.

At the other end, Dhaka ended the second day on a slightly nervy note having lost two wickets with just 78 runs on board. Second-placed Dhaka will want to at least draw the game in order to be in the race for

Amin posting well-timed half-centuries. Before the end of play yesterday, Rajshahi had reached 126 for 3.

Like the one in Rajshahi, the match in Chittagong is also likely to witness a victor with the match almost having entered its third innings. The port-city were bowled out for 270 on Day One; in reply, Sylhet finished Day Two on 262 for 9.



IMRUL ... 110 not out



THREE HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE: India felt the wrath of South Africa's (L-R) Faf du Plessis, AB de Villiers and Quinton de Kock, who all scored centuries in the fifth and decisive ODI in Mumbai yesterday, as the Proteas defeated the hosts by 214 runs. PHOTOS: AFP

## 3 Ds demolish India

AFP, Mumbai

Quinton de Kock, Faf du Plessis and AB de Villiers all hit centuries as South Africa thrashed India by 214 runs on Sunday to clinch the five-match one-day international series.

The Proteas batted first at a sweltering Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai and made an awesome 438 for 4, the fourth-highest ODI total on record and the highest ever scored in India.

Left-handed opener de Kock hit 109, de Villiers notched 119 and du Plessis smashed 133. It was only the second time in a one-day that a trio of batsmen from the same team made three figures.

Hosts India could only manage 224-10 in reply. De Kock was first to take advantage of a favourable pitch and some woeful Indian bowling to notch his eighth one-day century and his second of the series off 87 balls. The 22-year-old put together a formidable partnership

with du Plessis, who came on after Hashim Amla was caught for 23, as the batsmen combined for a second-wicket stand of 154 runs.

He reached 100 off 78 balls in the 35-degree-Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) heat, but was made to walk when he was caught by Virat Kohli near the boundary off Suresh Raina.

De Villiers, 31, was a man on a mission, racing to 119 off only 61 balls, for his third century of the series.

SCORES IN BRIEF SOUTH AFRICA: 438 for 4 in 50 overs (De Kock 109, Amla 23, Du Plessis 133, de Villiers 119, Miller 22 not out; Kumar 1-106, M Sharma 1-84, Harbhajan 1-70, Raina 1-19)

INDIA: 224 all out in 36 overs (Dhawan 60, Rahane 87, Dhoni 27; Steyn 3-38, Rabada 4-41, Tahir 2-50)

Result: South Africa won by 214 runs and clinched 5-match series 3-2.

Player-of-the-match: Quinton de Kock.

Player-of-the-series: AB de Villiers.

**HIGHEST ODI INNINGS**

Team	Score	Innings	Opposition	Venue	Date
Sri Lanka	443/9	1st	Netherlands	Amstelveen	July 4, 2006
South Africa	439/2	1st	West Indies	Johannesburg	Jan 18, 2015
South Africa	438/9	2nd	Australia	Johannesburg	Mar 12, 2006
South Africa	438/4	1st	India	Mumbai	Oct 25, 2015
Australia	434/4	1st	South Africa	Johannesburg	Mar 12, 2006

**MOST CENTURIES IN AN ODI INNINGS**

Team	Score	Centurions	Opposition	Venue	Date
South Africa	439/2	Amla, Rossouw, De Villiers	West Indies	Johannesburg	Jan 18, 2015
South Africa	438/4	De Kock, Du Plessis, De Villiers	India	Mumbai	Oct 25, 2015