

# SPORT

## Umps retire offended

SPORTS REPORTER

A unique series of events transpired during the game between Tamim Iqbal's Abahani Limited and Nasir Hossain's Prime Doleshwar in their Super League match at the BKSP yesterday.

Batting first, Abahani were bundled out for 191 in 42.4 overs. In reply, Prime Doleshwar had reached 59 for 2 in 17 overs, after which umpires Gazi Sohel and Tanvir Ahmed left the field.

The official statement from the match referee was that both the umpires had suddenly fallen sick and could not continue the game. Since there was only one reserve umpire present at the venue, the match had to be stopped and will likely be completed today.

Those present at the venue however, would tell you a story much different to that of the match referee's statement.

In the 16th over of the second innings, a stumping decision went against Abahani. Saqlain Sajib was the bowler and the batsman he beat was Rakibul Hasan. The decision angered Abahani's players.

A long discussion ensued between a visibly upset captain Tamim and the umpires. An over later, the umpires decided that they would not continue officiating the match.

According to the match referee, the game is likely to continue today, but he is not certain if it will include the same umpires.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Tamim said that he was surprised to see the way the umpires reacted.

"Firstly, let me say that from what I saw on the field, the batsman was clearly out stumped. Now, even if I had crossed a line with the way I communicated with the umpires, they could have reported against me. If I was guilty, I would have been guilty, but that does not mean that the umpires leave the match.

"Also, the game was stopped twice in the first innings because of a similar incident that took place with Nasir [Hossain] involved. Why didn't the umpires leave then? This does not happen anywhere in the world," said Tamim.

"Whether I was at fault or not is something for the match referee to decide. All I can say is that my team was ready to continue playing and I don't know why the umpires left," he added.

Member-secretary of the Bangladesh Cricket Board's umpires committee Sailab Hossain Tutul echoed Tamim's views.

"With all the talk in the media regarding poor umpiring, we wanted to ensure that the Super League goes well. And for that we had decided that only the top umpires of the country would officiate in these games. Both Gazi Sohel and Tanvir Ahmed are a couple of the best umpires we had. They have had international experience as well.

"But honestly speaking, in my 40 years of cricketing experience, I have never seen such an incident take place and this only further puts pressure on the umpire's committee," said Tutul.

Tutul further said that the umpires should have handled the high-pressure game in a much better way. "Players can always have their say. Now if this was the case of a player pushing or shoving an umpire or something similar, I would have understood the umpire's reasoning. But it wasn't anything like that," said Tutul.

The umpires in question could not be reached for comments.



A livid Tamim Iqbal (L) argues with umpire Gazi Sohel as the other umpire Tanvir Ahmed (C) attempts to diffuse the situation after a stumping appeal against Rakibul Hasan (R) was turned down during the game between Abahani and Prime Doleshwar at the BKSP yesterday. 10 minutes later the umpires left the field and the match was stopped.

## Batsmen power Victoria, Rupganj

SPORTS REPORTER

League leaders Victoria fended off a stirring fightback from holders Prime Bank to prevail by 23 runs in Fatullah while Legends of Rupganj crushed Mohammedan by 104 runs at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on the opening day of the Dhaka Premier League's Super League stage yesterday. Both matches were reduced-over affairs after rain in the morning.

The wins have put Victoria and Rupganj in the top two spots of the six-team Super League table. While Victoria have 17 points Rupganj have 16.

Leaders Victoria gave enough evidence of their pedigree with the bat as opener Abdul Mazid led the charge to help them rack up 272 for six in just 40 overs.

Abdul Mazid was on track for his third successive hundred, having reached 72 off

68 balls with 10 fours and a six before being run out. Skipper Mominul Haque also played a crucial hand after winning the toss, scoring a 47-ball 55 from number three and putting on 83 for the second wicket with Mazid. Chaturanga de Silva (39 off 23) and Nadif Chowdhury (run-a-ball 41) provided the finishing touches as Victoria set up a challenging target.

Nazmul Islam and Shuvagata Hom were the only bowlers to escape severe punishment, with the latter picking up a wicket for

45 runs off his eight overs.

In reply, Prime Bank made a good fist of a tall order as they finished on 249 for eight in 40 overs. Mehedi Maruf and Nurul Hasan hit brisk half-centuries, scoring 55 and 52 of 43 and 48 balls respectively.

At Mirpur, Rupganj's 232 for eight in 45 overs after being sent in to bat owed much to an 89-run opening stand between Mohammad Mithun and Soumya Sarkar, who was the first one out in the last ball of the 16th over for a 43-ball 40 studded

with four fours and a six. Mithun carried on for an 88-ball 59 with six fours, but was part of a collapse that saw four wickets fall for 26 runs. The damage was repaired with a 51-run sixth-wicket partnership between Sajjadul Haque and Mosharrar Hossain, both of whom did well to maintain a competitive run-rate. It was then Indian import Pawan Negi who lifted Rupganj to a fighting total with a 19-ball 28. Naem Islam was the best bowler for Mohammedan, claiming the four important wickets of the openers, Junaid Siddique and Sajjadul Haque.

Mohammedan's reply was one of abject surrender as they folded for 128 in 31.5 overs. Opener Hamidur Islam (37 off 60) and skipper Mushfiqur Rahim (34 off 32) were the only two batsmen to cross 20 as Mohammedan fell to a mixture of good bowling and irresponsible batting. Alauddin Babu, Negi and Nahidul Islam took two wickets each to speed Mohammedan's demise.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**LEGENDS OF RUPGANJ:** 232 for 8 in 45 overs (Mithun 59, Soumya 40; Naeem 4-31)  
**MOHAMMEDAN:** 128 all out in 31.5 overs (Hamidul 37, Mushfiqur 34; Nahidul 2-7, Babu 2-22)  
**Result:** Legends of Rupganj won by 104 runs  
**VICTORIA SC:** 272 for 6 in 40 overs (Mazid 72, Mominul 55; Azim 2-65)  
**PRIME BANK:** 249 for 8 in 40 overs (Mehedi 55, Nurul 52; Mahbub 2-37)  
**Result:** Victoria won by 23 runs  
**ABAHANI:** 191 all out in 42.4 overs (Nazmul 71, Liton 48; Al-Amin 3-30, Sanjamul 3-39)



Victoria batsman Abdul Majed effortlessly drives one through the covers during his crucial 72-run knock against Prime Bank Cricket Club at Fatullah yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Arambagh thru' to last 8

SPORTS REPORTER

Arambagh Krira Sangha became the first team to move into the quarterfinals of the Walton Federation Cup after a 1-1 draw against Feni Soccer Club at the National Stadium yesterday.

With four points earned from two matches, Arambagh moved three points clear of Feni Soccer Club, who are in second position. The other team to progress from Group A will be decided in the match between Abahani and Feni.

After a barren first half, Arambagh survived quite a few scares early in the second half, but they did take the lead in the 90th minute through Kester Akon's free-kick. But Ridon Hossain's spot kick deep into injury time made sure the points were shared.

Meanwhile, Rahmatganj MFS kept their hopes of progression alive with a 1-1 draw

against Team BJMC earlier in the day.

The Old Dhaka outfit, who held Mohammedan to a 2-2 draw in the tournament opener, have two points from two matches and are a point ahead of both Team BJMC and Mohammedan SC. The Old Dhaka outfit will rely on the result between the latter two to find whether they can progress.

While Rahmatganj failed to replicate their spirited performance from the previous match, their opponents hardly fared any better as the ball was mostly confined in midfield during the first half.

Team BJMC's Nigerian midfielder Samson Iliasu broke the deadlock on 64 minutes with a drive after Abdullah Parvez's deflected free-kick fell to him kindly in the middle of the box.

With the clock ticking towards final whistle, Rahmatganj equalised in the 90th minute when Rafiqur Rahman Mamun drove a powerful shot which went in after kissing the crossbar.

RAHMATGANJ	-	1
TEAM BJMC	-	1
ARAMBAGH	-	1
FENI SOCCER	-	1

## SA capitulate against Aus

AGENCIES, Saint Kitts & Nevis

Australia showed the stuff of champions and South Africa's suspect temperament was again exposed as they crashed to a 36-run defeat in the fourth match of the Tri-Nation One-Day International series at Warner Park in St Kitts on Saturday.

After David Warner's first ODI hundred away from home anchored the World Cup holders to a challenging total of 288 for six the Proteas relied on composed half-centuries from Faf du Plessis and Hashim Amla to establish the launchpad from which they looked destined to reach the target comfortably.

However the dismissal of captain AB de Villiers for 39 at 210 for four in the 38th over changed the complexion of the match as they lost their last seven wickets for 42 runs to be dismissed for 252 in the 48th over.

Pacers Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and leg-spinner Adam Zampa all finished with three wickets each.

Warner was forced off the field during the run-chase, having damaged his left index finger attempting to snaffle a catch, but the 29-year-old is upbeat he'll be fit to face West Indies at the same venue, where the series continues on Tuesday.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**AUSTRALIA:** 288 for 6 in 50 overs (Warner 109, Khawaja 59, Smith 52 not out, Wade 24; Tahir 2-45)  
**SOUTH AFRICA:** 252 all out in 47.4 overs (De Kock 19, Amla 60, Du Plessis 63, De Villiers 39, Duminy 41; Starc 3-43, Hazlewood 3-52, Zampa 3-52)  
**Result:** Australia won by 36 runs.

## SL need 330 on last day

AFP, London

Sri Lanka's openers confidently negotiated an awkward session at the end of a rain-interrupted fourth day at Lord's on Sunday, setting up the prospect of a fascinating finish to the third and final test against England.

Set 362 to win after Alex Hales had narrowly missed out on his maiden test hundred for England, who are 2-0 up in the series, Kaushal Silva and Dimuth Karunaratne took the visitors to 32 without loss by the close.

It leaves Monday's extended final day nicely poised with Sri Lanka facing the tallest of orders to score the runs that would secure a consolation victory.

After the morning session and part of the afternoon's play were lost to rain, England resumed on 109 for four and opener Hales was the picture of disappointment when he ended up falling six runs short of his first test ton.

With Alastair Cook, back in action after missing the start of the second innings with a bruised knee, also looking to push on towards a declaration at the other end, Hales was trapped lbw for 94 when trying to turn Angelo Mathews into the leg side.

He reviewed umpire Rod Tucker's decision but was left dismayed when the video replay showed the ball would have clipped the top of leg stump.

Cook, in the unusual position of batting at number seven, enjoyed himself, following up his first-innings 85 by helping himself to a six in an unbeaten 49.

Declaring on 233 for seven, Cook then gave his attack 12 overs to make a breakthrough but Silva and Karunaratne, who shared a hundred stand in the first innings, had few alarms against two of the world's top three pacemen, Stuart Broad and Jimmy Anderson.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**ENGLAND:** First innings 416  
**SRI LANKA:** First innings 288  
**ENGLAND:** Second innings 233 for 7 decl. (Hales 94, Bairstow 32, Cook 49 not out; Pradeep 3-37, Eranga 3-58)  
**SRI LANKA:** 32 for 0 (Karunaratne 19, Silva 12; Broad 15-0)

## Warner out for 2-6 weeks

AFP, Basseterre

Australia opener David Warner is set to miss the remainder of the one-day series in West Indies after breaking a finger during Saturday's win over South Africa, Australia said Sunday.

Warner took a blow to his left index finger while fielding against South Africa and an X-ray revealed a fracture.

"We will assess the situation to see if the injury requires a surgical option but should that not be the case then David is likely to be available to return somewhere between two and six weeks," said Australia team doctor Geoffrey Verrall.

## Goalfest continues

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan Sporting Club and Bangladesh Sporting Club notched up big victories yesterday as the goalfest continued in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League.

Mohammedan, who had routed Railway SC 19-0 in their previous match, enjoyed another cakewalk at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium with an 8-2 win over Wari Club. The Black and Whites led the first half 4-2 before scoring four more goals in the second half as Wari's resistance diminished. Rasel Mahmud Jimmy, who had scored a record 11 goals in the previous match, scored a late hatrick yesterday. Salman Hossain and Tasvar Abbas scored twice each while Mohammad Lalon scored one for the Motijheel outfit. Obaid Hossain scored both goals for Wari.

The win took Mohammedan to second position on the table, level with Abahani on 23 points and just two points behind leaders Usha KC.

In the day's other match, Bangladesh SC outplayed Railway with an 8-1 victory, with Shahbaz Ali scoring four goals.