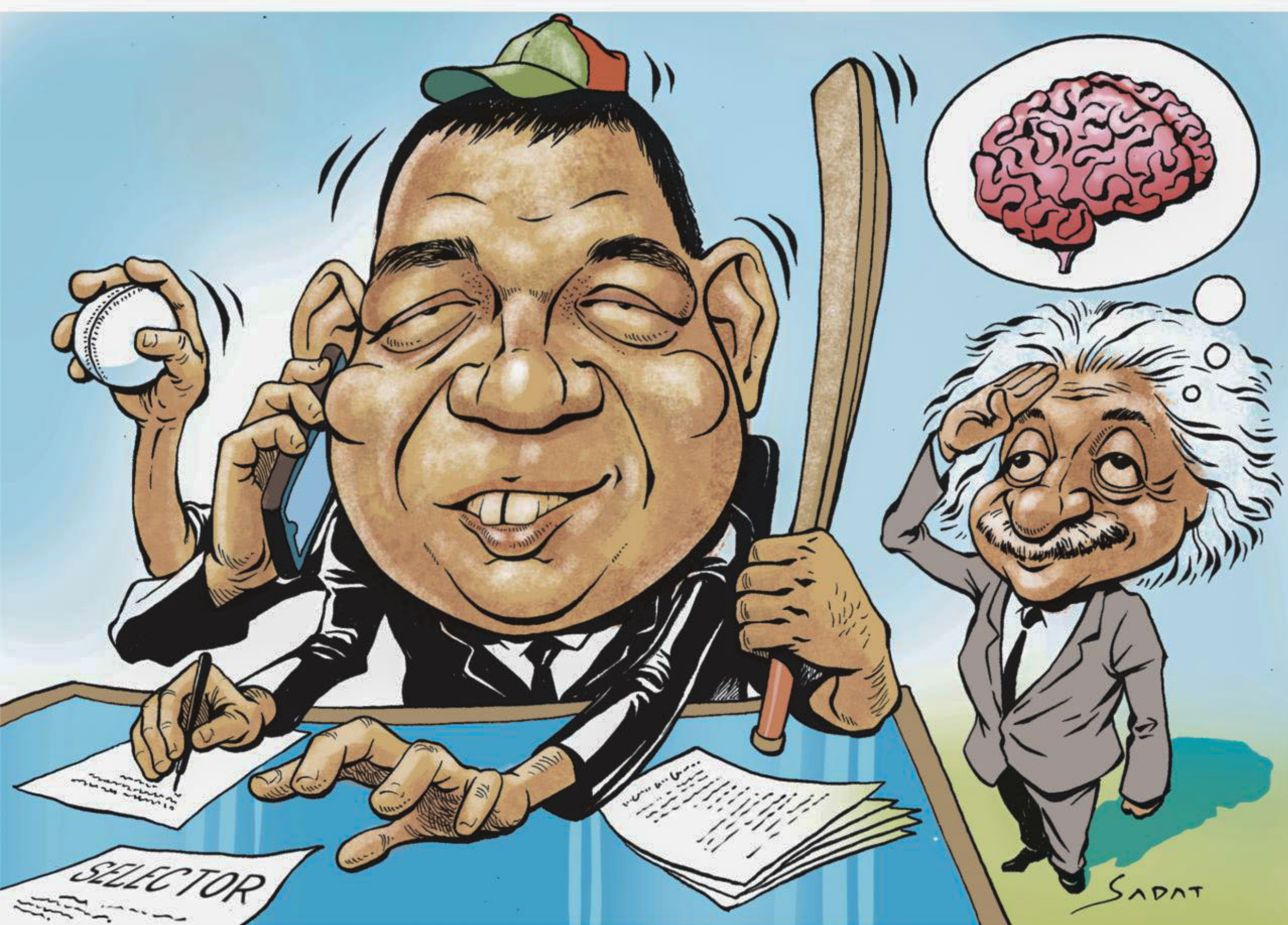


# SPORT



## BCB BOARD MEETING TODAY Selection policy, BKSP match in focus

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will host an important meeting at its headquarters in Mirpur today where a long-standing and proven selection policy may change.

A major decision regarding the extension of the national team's head coach Chandika Hathurusingha is expected to be finalised during the meeting. The board is all set to extend the tenure of Hathurusingha, who joined the Tigers in June 2014 on a two-year contract, till the 2019 ICC World Cup to be held in England.

The main focus however will be the outcomes regarding the selection panel and the kind of ruling the game's governing body will take with regards to the Dhaka Premier League match between Abahani and Prime Doleshwar, which got postponed last Sunday as the umpires had decided not to continue the game following an argument with the Abahani players.

Abahani skipper, Tamim Iqbal was the man in focus as he and the umpires were involved in a heated exchange. The match was supposed to continue in the reserve day, but didn't. The tournament committee towards the end, forwarded the matter to the BCB's disciplinary

committee for a decision.

On June 5, BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon said that the board would follow a selection system that would involve two separate groups, including the three national selectors, the head coach and the team manager. The meetings of this committee would be convened by the head of the cricket operations committee.

BCB's move to bring changes in the selection policy has already triggered criticism.

It shocked many when Papon said that the team manager would have a say in the national selection. The reason for his inclusion, he said was so that he could voice the opinions of the captain and the players.

If the current team manager, Khaled Mahmud, does get to have a say in the matter of the national selection, then it could lead to quite a unique example in world cricket as far as cricket administration is concerned.

Aside from being the national team manager, Mahmud is a director at the BCB, the chairman of the BCB's development committee and the current coach of Abahani.

The board may also announce the formation of a bowling review committee, discuss the future national tours and finalise a new national bowling coach.

## 11 attackers 22 goals

SPORTS REPORTER

Mariners Youngs Club toyed with the weakest team of the league, Railway SC, as they claimed a record 22-1 victory in a Green Delta Insurance Premier Division League match yesterday.

In an astonishing move designed to improve their goal-difference, the Mothijheel outfit fielded eleven outfielders and opted to play without a goalkeeper or any semblance of a defence.

However, former Bangladesh national team coach Gerhard Peter Rach's risk paid rich dividends as his side struck a Premier League record, surpassing Usha's 19-0 win against Police AC in 1996.

Pakistani recruits Arshad Hossain and Waqas Sharif scored five goals each, while Mainul Islam Kaushik scored four times to keep Mariners at second.

The Railway have had a torrid time in the league this year, conceding 123 goals in their eleven matches while scoring only four. Bangladesh national team striker Rassel Mahmud Jimmy -- who scored a record 11 eleven goals against them in a single match -- had said earlier that the Railway was not a team worthy of playing in the top-tier league.

## Rupganj consolidate lead

### Mohammedan, Prime Bank out of title race

SPORTS REPORTER



A fine all-round performance from Legends of Rupganj helped them extend their lead at the top of the Super League table, while Tamim Iqbal's Abahani hopped to second place in the Dhaka Premier League yesterday.

Rupganj defeated Prime Bank Cricket Club by five wickets at the BKSP in Savar and Abahani defeated Mominul Haque's Victoria Sporting Club by six wickets in Mirpur.

Nasir Hossain's Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club were the day's third winning team as they thumped Mushfiqur Rahim's Mohammedan by seven wickets and moved to the fourth spot.

As a result of yesterday's outcomes, Mohammedan and Prime Bank Cricket Club are out of the championship race. They each have 14 points from 14 games and with two more rounds to go, there is no scenario which will see them finish on top of the league.

At the moment, Rupganj are on top

with 20 points, with Abahani two points behind. Victoria are third with 17 points and Prime Doleshwar have 16 and are fourth.

However, both Doleshwar and Abahani have a game in hand as a match between the two clubs was postponed after the umpires decided against officiating the match. The future of that game is still uncertain.

At the BKSP, Nurul Hasan was the only Prime Bank batsman who looked in fine touch. He scored a sublime 75 and led his side to 222 for 8. However, that score wasn't enough as Rupganj raced home in 46.5 overs. The fact that Rupganj play as a team, rather than depend on just one player, was proven yesterday as well. Four batsmen stitched together the chase yesterday. While Nahidul Islam scored 64, Asif Ahmed and Mohammad Mithun contributed with vital half-centuries. Even Soumya Sarkar played well, scoring a 46-ball 47.

With the ball, Pawan Negi was the key wicket-taker for Rupganj, finishing with figures of 2 for 30.

At the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, Abahani put in a near-flawless performance to beat Victoria. Mominul's side crumbled with the bat and were bundled out for just

139 in 36.2 overs. Abahani's bowlers, Shakib Al Hasan, Saqlain Sajid and Taskin Ahmed took three wickets each to wrap up Victoria's innings.

After the exchange, a calm, unbeaten 32 from Dinesh Kartik and a good start provided by Tamim, who scored 33, ensured that there were no hiccups in the chase as they reached home by six wickets.

Victoria's spinners Chaturanga De Silva and Anamul Haq did bowl well though, scalping two wickets each.

A good allround performance from Prime Doleshwar led them to their first win of the Super League. They were a bit unlucky in their first two games, with the first match being called off by the umpires and the second being affected by the rains. However, nothing interrupted them yesterday.

Batting first, Mohammedan were bundled out for 213. Rahatul Ferdous and Nasir Hossain were the leading wicket-takers, scalping two each.

After the exchange, Rakibul Hasan and Nasir scored unbeaten half-centuries to seal the game with two overs to spare. While Rakibul scored 86, Nasir posted 52.

## Zimbabwe stun India

AGENCIES, Harare

The shorter the contest, the tighter the contest.

Zimbabwe, outclassed in all three ODIs, pulled off their second successive 20-over win over India, shading a match of exceedingly tiny margins by two runs to go 1-0 up in the T20I series at the Harare Sports Club yesterday.

It came down to India captain MS Dhoni and what he could do with the last ball, as it has so many times in his career. India needed four, and Neville Madziva bowled a wide slower ball. Dhoni, jumping across to reach it, slapped it wide of deep point, but could not generate enough power to beat the fielder. He simply moved a few yards to his right and kept India's captain to a single, sparking wild celebrations among the home team players.

It was like rising from the ashes for Zimbabwe, who failed to score more than 168 in the ODIs, but on Saturday they appeared to rediscover their joy for the game and posted 170 for six on the back of Elton Chigumbura's unbeaten 54.

Manish Pandey led India's reply with his 48, but Zimbabwe chipped away at the visitors to restrict them to 168 for six and win by two runs.

## Shuvo safe now

### Lack of proper helmets, ambulance a concern

SPORTS REPORTER



Off the third ball of the 25th over of the game between Abahani and Victoria at Mirpur yesterday, a bouncer from Taskin Ahmed hit the right side of Sohrawadi Shuvo's neck.

Shuvo was immediately carried off the field and taken to the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB's) medical room, where he underwent four tests conducted by BCB's sports physician Debashish Chowdhury. Since he managed to pass only three of them, the BCB decided to send him to a hospital.

Unfortunately, he had to wait a while at the BCB's headquarters since there wasn't an ambulance ready for such a scenario at the venue. It was an aspect that was criticised by many who were present at the stadium.

Once at the hospital, he underwent a CT scan and an MRI and the results revealed that the impact had not affected Shuvo's brain and that he was out of danger.

"After the tests it was confirmed that the hit didn't affect his brain. However, the doctors did notice a slight crack in the bone in the report and initially suspected it to be a slight fracture. But later it was revealed that it was something Shuvo had since birth. We will analyse the situation further once he is released," Debashish told The Daily Star yesterday.

"It would have helped if he had worn a helmet built as per the latest regulations. That could have protected his neck," he added.

It was an uneven bounce that surprised Shuvo. He had his eyes on the bouncer and had even ducked to avoid it. However, the ball kept a bit low and as a result, hit the batsman's neck.

Following the match Taskin admitted that he was worried the moment his delivery hit Shuvo. However, after the match, he wrote on Facebook: "Sorry Shuvo Bhai. Get well soon."

Echoing Debashish's thoughts, both Abahani skipper Tamim and national selector Habibul Bashar opined that the board should make it mandatory for players to wear helmets built based on the latest standards, so such accidents can be avoided.

## Usha enter Super 6 on top

SPORTS REPORTER

Usha Krira Chakra entered the Super Six stage of the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League with a three-point lead after a 3-2 win over title-rivals Abahani at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

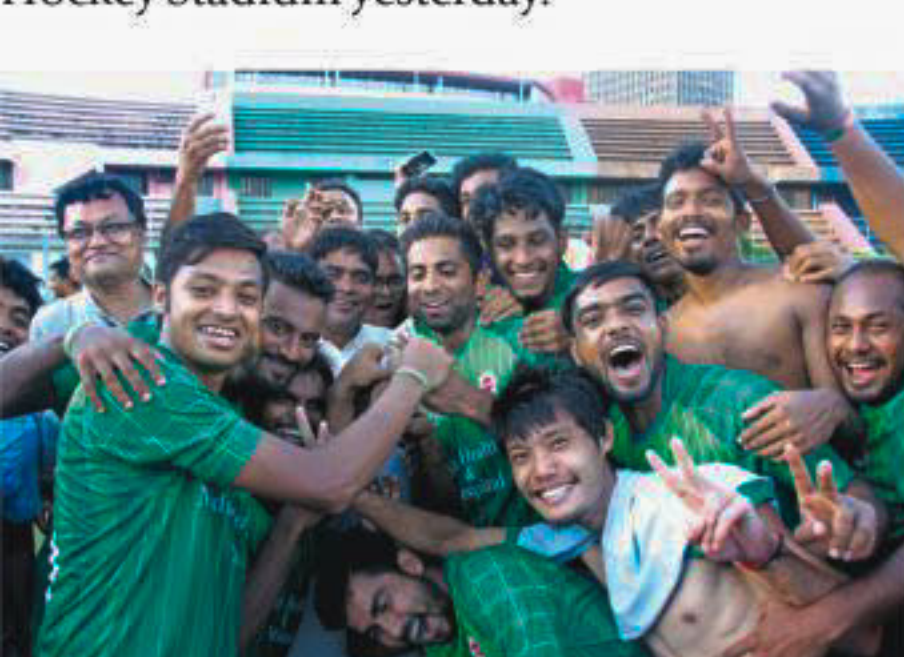


PHOTO: KHANDAKAR TAREK

The celebration of Usha players got extra bite after one of their officials offered an instant 2.5 lakh bonus following their crucial win against Abahani yesterday.

The defending champions came into this top-of-the-table clash in the afternoon level on points with Mariner Youngs Club, who had earlier won by a record 22-1 goal margin against Railway SC.

A brace from national striker Pushkor Khisha Mimo and one goal by Pakistani recruit Aleem Belal handed Usha all three points. The Old Dhaka outfit took the lead after 13 minutes when Belal hit the board from a penalty corner taken by Krishna Kumar. The lead was doubled six minutes later as Krishna's pass was turned in with a reverse-hit by Mimo.

Shakeel Abbasi reduced the margin from a penalty corner in the 28th minute, but Usha restored their two-goal advantage in the 46th minute, thanks to a diagonal shot from inside the circle by Mimo. Abahani pulled another goal back through Kasif Ali in the 51st minute, but Usha held on to the slender lead to pocket a valuable victory.

While Usha ended the group stage on top, the defeat saw Abahani finish in fourth position, with Mariners in second and Mohammedan in third. Bangladesh SC and Wanderers Club grabbed the other two spots for the Super Six.

## Sk Russel scrape into semis

SPORTS REPORTER



Former champions Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra moved into the semifinals of the Walton Federation Cup after a laborious 1-0 win over minnows Rahmatganj MFS in the second quarterfinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Cameronian striker Paul Emile scored in the 11th minute of extra time as the champions of the 2012 edition scraped to victory in an affair which was marked by shoddy finishing and excellent goalkeeping.

Maruful Haque's charges were expected to dominate, but after what happened in the first quarterfinal -- two-time defending champions Sheikh Jamal were knocked out by Arambagh KS -- an upset was not entirely out of the script. And the big-spenders had to thank goalkeeper Rassel Mahmud Liton for taking the tie to extra time with a couple of excellent saves before Emile dealt the telling blow.

Although there were few chances in the

opening half, Sheikh Russel spliced open the Rahmatganj defence a few times, but their high-profile striker Fikru Teferra failed to find his scoring boots. The Ethiopian shot at opposition goalkeeper after a miscued attempt from Jean Jules Ikanga on 26 minutes and then saw his powerful volley sail over the crossbar.

Rahmatganj enjoyed more possession and had more shots on target after resumption but failed to convert their chances.

The national No. 2 shot-stopper then produced another brilliant save from Jahangir Alam's acrobatic attempt on 101 minutes before midfielder Jamal Bhuiyan quickly released the ball up-field for Emile to pounce on and guide into the Rahmatganj net.

The Rahmatganj players and dug-out reacted furiously, claiming Emile was in an offside position when he made the initial move, but the referee stuck to his guns. The Old Dhaka outfit were later reduced to ten men after Asif Hossain Rimon saw a second yellow card for bringing down Emile, as Rahmatganj's hopes of scoring an equaliser slowly faded.

<b>SHEIKH RUSSEL</b>	- 1
(Paul Emile 101')	
<b>RAHMATGANJ</b>	- 0



Terrified Abahani players, Taskin Ahmed (L) and Liton Das, run towards Victoria's Sohrawadi Shuvo, who fell to the ground after a bouncer bowled by Taskin hit him on his neck at Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR