



**Brutally ejected from their homeland in Myanmar's Rakhine State, these children don't know what the future holds for them. Crammed into the Kutupalong Rohingya refugee camp in the Ukhia upazila of Cox's Bazar, the kids -- mostly orphans -- are taking momentary refuge in a game of football, a pure joyous distraction from the harsh realities of life. According to a survey, about five lakh children, of whom more than 22,000 are orphans, now reside in Kutupalong refugee camp. This picture was taken on Sunday by The Daily Star's deputy chief photographer Anisur Rahman.**

## A murky affair

SPORTS REPORTER



With the persistent heavy rain and overcast conditions it was pretty unlikely that a cricket match would take place yesterday, one of the two scheduled games in the ongoing First Division Cricket League at BKSP actually took place and yielded a result, raising murmurs of favouritism. Meanwhile, a few hundred metres away at another BKSP ground, the conditions were bad enough for the day's other match to be abandoned without a ball bowled.

Expectedly, the completed game was a curtailed-overs affair with Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club -- desperately needing points to stave off relegation -- managing to clinch a seven-wicket win over Group A leaders Uttara Sporting Club at the BKSP-3 ground in Savar.

After a delayed start due to overnight rain and despite the gloom, Uttara skipper Sazzad Hossain opted to bat in a 46-over game but rain once again forced a stoppage and caused the game to be reduced to a 26-overs-a-side match. Uttara, who have already won all seven games in the league so far and are through to the Super League, were dismissed for 114 in 17.2 overs.

Sheikh Jamal reached the revised target of 88 runs in 16.2 overs, winning the match by seven wickets through the Duckworth-Lewis method. With four points in eight games Sheikh Jamal are still at the bottom of the table, behind Talent Hunt Cricket Academy who got their fifth point after sharing points with Old DOHS at the nearby BKSP-4 in the abandoned match.

There have been allegations against the organisers of favouring Uttara Sporting Club throughout this season, be it with the umpiring or the allocation of venues for their games.

There were allegations against Uttara yesterday too of favouring Sheikh Jamal to gain their much-needed points with a game still remaining for each of the teams in the league stage. The bottom two sides of each group will take part in the relegation league, to which the points of the league stage will be carried through.

There have been allegations of poor umpiring and favouritism in the lower leagues in the previous season as well, with Lalmatia bowler Sujon Mahmud conceding 92 runs in an over against Axiom Cricketers and Fear Fighters' Tasnim deliberately leaking 69 in 1.1 overs against Indira Road Krira Chakra in second-division matches as a form of protest against biased umpiring.

## 'Big Test in store for Afg'

PTI, New Delhi

Working on the rigorous requirements of five-day cricket will be the biggest challenge for his team over the next six weeks, feels Afghanistan coach Phil Simmons ahead of the country's inaugural Test in Bengaluru from June 14.

After joining Afghanistan in January, Simmons has achieved goal number one by guiding the fast-rising side to their second WC qualification.

The Asghar Stanikzai-led team get down to prepare at their 'base' in Greater Noida and 'second home ground' at Dehradun for the historic match against India, Simmons has a tough ask of ensuring a competitive performance against the top-ranked Test team.

"These boys have played four-day cricket with the associate nations and have done well. But Test matches are going to be a different ball game. The boys will realise this very soon and playing India makes it all the more challenging," Simmons said.

## Super Kings edge Daredevils

AGENCIES, Pune

Shane Watson and MS Dhoni scored scintillating half-centuries to set up a 13-run win over Delhi Daredevils yesterday, taking the two-time IPL champions closer to a play-off berth.

Watson's 78 and Dhoni's 51 provided a masterclass in power hitting to fire Chennai to 211 for four after Daredevils opted to field on a good batting surface.

Needing more than 10 an over put scoreboard pressure on Delhi. Rishabh Pant hit a fine 79 and Vijay Shankar added 51 to ensure that the Daredevils got closer to the target but it was not enough as they ended at 198 for five.

It was Delhi's sixth loss in eight games and now they are all but out of the play-off race. With a sixth win in eight games, Chennai further consolidated their position at the top of the points table. They are tied on 12 points with Sunrisers Hyderabad.

## No beef with seniors: Halsall

SPORTS REPORTER



Richard Halsall returned to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) headquarters in Mirpur to thank his former employers yesterday, more than a month after the board confirmed that they had accepted the resignation of the national team's assistant and

fielding coach.

Halsall also told reporters that family considerations were the reason behind his resignation and that he had no problems with senior players during his stint with the Tigers.

There had been rumours that a few of the senior members were not happy with Halsall. "The senior cricketers always have their opinion and I have always tried to work for the best of the Bangladesh team. So I didn't find any issues with any of the senior cricketers," Halsall, who actually returned to the country to complete some formalities, cleared his position.

"I have a very young family and it takes a lot for me to stay away from them for a long time. I thought it was the right time to quit," the former assistant coach added.

Halsall had been with the Tigers for three and a half years and based on his experience during that time, he suggested that Bangladesh would need to establish young players in the national side.

"There is a good core of senior players but you will not win consistently at international level only on their performances, so you need to bring others players on. That would be my advices -- the ability to get those emerging players and establishing them is critical," he opined.



## Jimmy guides insipid Mohammedan

SPORTS REPORTER



National team striker Rasel Mahmud Jimmy scored a hatrick as four-time champions Mohammedan began their Green Delta Insurance Premier Division

Hockey League campaign with a 4-0 victory over Ajax SC at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. Maksud Alam Habul scored the other goal for the Black and Whites.

The Motijheel-based outfit, who skipped the season's curtain-raising tournament the Khaza Rahmatullah Club Cup citing a shortage of players, formed a mediocre squad with a mixture of veteran and young players. Their performance was nowhere near those of title contenders Abahani and Dhaka Mariner Young's Club but thanks to Jimmy's effort they secured a comfortable victory first up.

The Black and Whites looked to be lacking in seriousness and fitness throughout the match.

They were even dominated on occasion, but the youthful Ajax, who had no shortage of effort, could not penetrate the Mohammedan defence or beat experienced goalkeeper Zahid Hasan.

Mohammedan took the lead in the seventh minute, with experienced Habul flicking in Raihan Uddin's hit before Jimmy's reserve-flick on a fierce hit from his younger brother Khaled Mahmud Rakin made it 2-0 in the 20th minute.

Jimmy was in the thick of things in all of Mohammedan's attacks, and he even took all eight penalty corners for his side. The veteran forward converted two of those with drag-and-flicks in the 24th and 44th minutes to ensure the victory. However, once he left the field due to an



**Mohammedan skipper Rasel Mahmud Jimmy's (L) sudden turn leaves two Ajax players wrongfooted during their Premier Division Hockey League fixture at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.**

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

injury, Mohammedan's attacking line looked toothless.

"It is good to make a winning start because we didn't have enough substitute players on the bench as one of our players is suffering from injury while two BKSP players are supposed to join the squad tomorrow," said Mohammedan coach Moududur Rahman Shuvo, who is guiding a premier league side for the first time.

"Our team is a good one because there are some experienced players and young players and you will see the change in the team when the foreign players join. I have faith in these players and we will play for the title," Shuvo said, adding that they are trying to rope in players from India.

Meanwhile, Azad Sporting Club drew 0-0 against Dhaka Wanderers Club in the first match of the day.



**Coach David Capel (L) talks to members of the Bangladesh women's cricket team during training at Witrand Oval in Potchefstroom yesterday, ahead of tomorrow's warm-up game against a South African side. The Tigresses will play a five-match ODI series followed by a three-match T20 series against South Africa starting from May 4.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Abahani, MSC in boxing?

SPORTS REPORTER



The newly elected committee of the Bangladesh Amateur Boxing Federation (BABF) is planning to introduce the Club Cup Boxing tournament in a latter part of this year, with the participation of the country's traditional sporting clubs such as Abahani, Mohammedan, Victoria and Dhaka Wanderers.

These clubs are well known in the sports arena, especially in football, cricket and hockey, but have never taken part in any boxing event organised by the BABF, which usually holds men's and women's national boxing championships and junior boxing championships where districts, service teams and club teams take part.

The game's governing body also holds the Victory Day and Independence Day boxing competitions every year.

"We have discussed about introducing the Club Cup tournament with clubs such as Abahani, Mohammedan, Victoria SC, Dhaka Wanderers and others apart from the existing top boxing clubs," said the BABF's new general secretary Mazharul Islam Tuhin after emerging from the first meeting of the newly elected executive committee yesterday.

"I have been in sports for a long time and I

am closely involved with football and cricket, so I have a good relationship with club officials. I want to utilise my personal relationship and I believe I can convince fifty percent of those clubs," explained Tuhin, who is also the general secretary of Victoria SC, adding that the tournament will be named after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Tuhin informed that he would start communicating with the club officials within a few days while he would try to use his personal relationship to rope in sponsors to hold the tournament in November-December.

"If we can't introduce the Club Cup, we will try to introduce a tournament for young boxers. I am confident that we will be able to do one of those two events because we want to take boxing forward," said the organiser, who is also the general secretary of Dhaka Metropolis First Division Football League.

The newly-elected general secretary is also planning to rope in a foreign coach for the national boxing team and arrange a coaches' course to upgrade local coaches.

The meeting also formed a three-member probe committee to look into the fiasco of the Commonwealth Games where two Bangladeshi boxers could not participate due to the negligence of coach-cum-manager Abdul Mannan, who reportedly was absent during a technical committee meeting.