

## SPORT



Prime Bank's Nahidul Islam shone the brightest in a game where stars such as Tamim Iqbal, Mohammad Mithun, Mustafizur Rahman and Rubel Hossain featured for Prime Bank against Gazi Group's big names like Soumya Sarkar, Mahmudullah Riyad and Mominul Haque in their Bangabandhu Dhaka Premier League encounter at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# Tamim wins captains' clash

ABDULLAH AL MEHIDI



Yesterday's Bangabandhu Dhaka Premier League match between Prime Bank Cricket Club and Gazi Group pitted a host of national team stars and rising stars against each other and even an empty Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur could not dampen the battle of cricketing skills. The most intriguing facet was the coming together of the three captains of the Bangladesh national team, with newly-appointed ODI captain Tamim Iqbal skippering Prime Bank against T20 captain Mahmudullah Riyad and Test captain Mominul Haque's Gazi Group. Akbar Ali, who had led Bangladesh to an U-19 World Cup title in South Africa, added to the lustre of the captains' showpiece.

Tamim came out on top, and not just because his team won convincingly in the end as Prime Bank bested Gazi Group by 10 runs. In fact, it was Mahmudullah's Gazi Group that had controlled the game early. Having won the toss, Mahmudullah sent Prime Bank in to bat and curtailed run-scoring considerably in the first 15 overs while picking up two wickets, including the prized scalp of his opposite number.

Tamim has been in tremendous run-scoring form of late with two back-to-back tons against Zimbabwe in the recent ODI series, but he miscued a Nasum Ahmed delivery in the 15th over to depart after a 47-ball 19. Mahmudullah

himself gave a good account of his bowling by picking up three wickets to make matters extremely difficult for Prime Bank after Rony Talukdar had brought parity with a 104-ball 79.

Nahidul Islam and Nayeem Islam turned saviours with an unbroken 97-run partnership with the former notching a 43-ball 53 while the latter struck a 36-ball 46 to take Prime Bank to a challenging score of 251 for six.

Tamim started with Nayeem in the second over and it immediately paid dividends as Nayeem scalped Zakir Hasan with his third delivery. Prime Bank had a pace battery up their sleeve too, with Mustafizur Rahman, Rubel Hossain and U-19 World Cup winner Shoriful Islam in their ranks.

Mominul had played patiently for his 28 alongside the more aggressive Soumya Sarkar but Tamim, for whom this was a dress rehearsal to the actual thing after being named captain of the Tigers' ODI side, brought bowling changes accordingly. Shoriful came in and beat Mominul all ends up with a searing delivery that squared up the Test captain. Mominul went for a wild slash and missed the next delivery before leaving the third delivery outside off well alone. The fourth delivery he slashed hard and was caught at deep point.

While Soumya tried to dictate with the bat, Tamim sought to reduce the effect of Soumya's knock. Importantly, he made Mahmudullah conform to his will, cutting off his singles and run-scoring shots with astute field settings, knowing his counterpart's tendency to be jittery

## SCORES IN BRIEF

### PRIME BANK V GAZI GROUP

**PRIME BANK:** 251 for 6 in 50 overs (Tamim 19, Rony 79, Mithun 27, Nahidul 53 not out, Nayeem 46 not out; Nasum 2-40, Mahmud-ullah 3-53)

**GAZI GROUP:** 242 for 9 in 50 overs (Soumya 49, Mominul 28, Mahmudullah 32, Ariful 20, Akbar 31, Mahedi 56 not out; Mustafizur Rahman 2-42, Nahidul 2-30, Kapali 2-32)

**Result:** Prime Bank won by 9 runs.

**Player-of-the-match:** Nahidul Islam.

against pace early on. Soumya was taking the game away before he departed for 49 off 51 to Nahidul and Mahmudullah lumbered to a 60-ball 32 before becoming the off-spinner's second victim.

Resistance came first from Akbar, then Mahedi Hasan. Akbar played some tremendous shots off Shoriful and Rubel but was run out following a misunderstanding with Mahedi and the latter then almost turned things around with a 49-ball 56. It was too late, however, as Shoriful prevailed in the final over with Gazi needing 21. For the time being, Tamim prevailed in his dress rehearsal as Prime Bank got off to a winning start.

# All sporting activities to be postponed till March 31

SPORTS REPORTER

Just as the major sporting leagues and fixtures around the world have come to a halt, all kinds of sporting activities in the country have also been postponed till March 31 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The State Minister for Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Russel said through a press release after a meeting with officials of different federations at the secretariat yesterday that all sporting activities should be postponed.

Following the directive, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) also informed through a press release yesterday that the second-round fixtures of the ongoing Bangabandhu Dhaka Premier League (BDPL) have been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has decided to postpone the second round of matches of the ongoing Bangabandhu DPDCL 2019-20 scheduled on 18 and 19 March 2020 due to unavoidable circumstances. The BCB will take further decision on rescheduling and restarting the League according to the health and safety advisory of the Bangladesh Government," the BCB's media release read.

The state minister's meeting with

sports federation high-ups followed a cabinet meeting earlier in the day during which a minister had said that cricket and football matches were ongoing in the country. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina then instructed to close all sporting activities.

"The number of people infected by coronavirus is increasing. All the schools and colleges have already been closed due to this. Today, the prime minister instructed to close all sporting activities after this topic was brought to attention during a meeting today. And that is why I am asking you to halt all kinds of domestic sports events till March 31. Additionally, I will also request for any international events to be arranged after April," Zahid was quoted as saying in the press release.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) also informed through a press release yesterday that the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), the final round of the school football tournament that was scheduled to begin from tomorrow and the women's football league have been postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak. Meanwhile, the professional football league committee will meet with the club officials today to decide about the BPL.

# Tigers' Pakistan tour posptoned

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh's third and final phase of the Pakistan tour was postponed yesterday due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Bangladesh were scheduled to play one ODI and their second and final World Test Championship fixture on April 1 and from April 5 respectively, both in Karachi.

"Considering the recent situation across the world, we have been saying this right from the start that the PCB will take the decision on this regard. Pakistan has been in touch with us on how to work on the tour in the coming days. It was a sensible approach on arranging the tour at a suitable time

and we are discussing the matter. As they took the decision to postpone the series, we have agreed to it," Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury told the media yesterday.

"The two boards will now work together to identify a future opportunity to complete the ICC World Test Championship commitment. The first Test of the series was played in Rawalpindi from 7-10 February, which Pakistan won by an innings and 44 runs," read the PCB media release.

Bangladesh have not yet won a single match in the three-phased tour of the country. The Tigers lost the three-match T20I series 2-0 after the final T20I was washed out in the first phase. In the second phase, Bangladesh succumbed to an innings and 44-run defeat in the first Test.

## SCORES IN BRIEF

### MOHAMMEDAN V SHINEPUKUR

**MOHAMMEDAN:** 257 for 8 in 50 overs

(Avishek 29, Mazid 42, Irfan 46, Shamsur 25, Mahmudul 58, Shuvagata 31; Mohor 2-46, Tanvir 2-44)

**SHINEPUKUR:** 258 for 5 in 49.3 overs

(Tanzid 59, Sabbir 25, Robiul 54, Towhid

50, Mahidul 49, Mahmudul 1-20)

**Result:** Shinepukur won by 5 wickets.

**Player-of-the-match:** Tanzid Hasan.

**SHEIKH JAMAL V KHELAGHAR SKS**

**SHEIKH JAMAL:** 276 for 9 in 50 overs

(Shykat 83, Suhravordi 25, Nasir 56,

Nurul 58, Ziaur 24; Khaled 2-48, Irfan

4-43, Masum 2-64)

**KHELAGHAR SKS:** 221 for 9 in 50 overs

(Imtiaz 29, Jahurul 51, Salman 24, Masum 32, Irfan 24; Suhravordi 2-26, Sunny 2-35, Sakil 2-36)

**Result:** Sheikh Jamal won by 55 runs.

**Player-of-the-match:** Shykat Ali.

## Easy wins for Sk Jamal, Shinepukur

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Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club and Shinepukur Sporting Club registered wins over Khelaghar Samaj Kallyan Samity and Mohammedan Sporting Club respectively in their opening fixture of the Bangabandhu Dhaka Premier League yesterday.

In Fatullah, Shinepukur sealed a five-wicket win over Mohammedan, successfully chasing a 258-run target with three balls to spare.

Shinepukur's two ICC Under-19 World Cup winning members, Tanzid Hasan and Towhid Hridoy, struck fifties along with Robiul Islam to reach the target with ease. Earlier, Mohammedan managed to post 257 for eight in 50 overs, with Mahmudul Hasan top-scoring with 58.

At the BKSP-4 ground, Khelaghar SKS ended on 221 for nine after Jamal posted 276 for nine in 50 overs and registered a 55-run win. Shykat Ali top-scored with 83 off 79 balls while Nasir Hossain and skipper Nurul Hasan also registered fifties for Jamal.

জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের জন্মশতবার্ষিকী

মুজিববর্ষের উদ্বোধন অনুষ্ঠান

‘মুক্তির মহানায়ক’

দেখতে চোখ রাখুন

অনলাইন ও আপনার টেলিভিশনের পর্দায়

মঙ্গলবার, ১৭ই মার্চ ২০২০, রাত ৮ টায়

জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের জন্মশতবার্ষিকী উদ্‌যাপন জাতীয় বাস্তবায়ন কমিটি



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## Heartfelt Tributes

The Most Magnificent, Most Benevolent Leader, the Greatest Bangali of all times and the Father of the Nation  
**Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**  
on His 100 Birth Anniversary.



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