

Self analysis the way to level up: Salahuddin

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Many national cricketers have fallen by the wayside after promising starts to their careers. The likes of Nasir Hossain, Suhrawardi Shuvo, pacer Shahdat Hossain and more recently Sabbir Rahman had shown early promise but did not blossom into regular performers for the national team and failed to feature for the side regularly.

When looking at established stars who have meaningfully consolidated their international careers, often the question arises of what separates them from the rest.

"There have been many who got the chance but they could not hold on to their places. One of the reasons behind that is they were stuck at a certain level and did not break the barrier," Mohammad Salahuddin, a mentor to some of the biggest names in the national team, told The Daily Star.

Salahuddin has seen first-hand the growth of Tamim Iqbal, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim and others -- a generation of players that changed the landscape of Bangladesh cricket -- but many of his students also failed to make the mark in international cricket.

He knows a thing or two about



the growth of established stars in the national outfit and what others lacked.

"If you look at players like Tamim, Shakib or Mushfiqur, they have improved day by day, both in cricketing terms and mentality. When a player gets stuck at a certain level, they need to figure out what they need to be doing to reach the next level. I think there was a lack of that thought process in certain players. You have to focus on continuous improvement and think of what you can do better in the next series, but some have not

been able to do execute their plans accordingly," he pointed out.

"Many stop improving and the patience needed to reach the next level isn't there in everyone," he added.

So, how do the likes of Shakib, Tamim and Mushfiqur keep improving? "In every series, they analyse themselves. I feel that they are very aware of themselves. They know their limitations and also know what they have to do to break through to the next level. For example, let's say I have three shots in my hand and I need to find

more options. They do a lot of hard work so that they can play another shot and that's how you increase the range of strokeplay and scoring zone options. If you don't do that, you will be stuck after a certain level. It's the same for the bowlers. If you bowl the same delivery most of the time, batsmen will soon read you easily," Salauddin said.

There are few better examples of the mentor's words than Shakib's performance in the 2019 World Cup in England. Leading up to cricket's showpiece event, Shakib was one of the best cricketers in the world, but he staked a claim for all-time honours by putting in arguably the greatest all-round performance in World Cup history.

That despite the fact that Shakib was not playing regularly in the months before and also mostly sat on the sidelines for IPL outfit Sunrisers Hyderabad. The initiative he took for personal preparation stands as an inspiration for any cricketer.

"Shakib knew the bowlers he would be facing, what position he would bat in and which bowlers he would face in certain situations. It's not that he was doing a lot of things; just that he was prepared for the kind of situations he was going to face. These players focus on their weak areas and try to strengthen themselves."

PARK TRIUMPHS IN GOLF'S RETURN TO ACTION

Park Hyun-kyung won the KLPGA Championship title on Sunday as women's golf in South Korea joined the country's professional baseball and soccer leagues to restart amid the coronavirus pandemic. Park triumphed by one stroke in the tour's first event since December. An emotional Park hugged her father, who was caddying for her, after the winning putt and was showered with petals from her peers who also did elbow bumps in what is likely to be a new normal in sports. The Lakewood Country Club was open only to players, caddies, officials and media. Caddies wore masks, players dined separately and fist and elbow bumps replaced post-round hugs and handshakes over the last four days.

-- REUTERS



Football season declared over

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday cancelled the remainder of the 2019-20 season after abandoning the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League, which was suspended on March 16 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Following an emergency meeting, the BFF executive committee declared the 12th edition of the league abandoned, scrapping promotion and relegation while cancelling the Independence Cup.

"In terms of reference, the professional football league committee [PFLC] does not have any right to determine the fate of a league. That's why we called for the emergency meeting. Before sitting for the meeting, we took opinions from the AFC regarding our league. Considering the opinion of the AFC and the BFF executive members, the meeting unanimously decided to abandon the 2019-20 league season as clubs played uneven matches before it was suspended," BFF senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshed told The Daily Star after the meeting.

Following the suspension of the league, the PFLC sat twice but could not reach a decision even though most clubs wanted a cancellation due to financial issues.

The PFLC referred the clubs' demand to today's executive committee meeting, where nine members were physically present while nine others were connected online.

"The clubs suspended their training camps to stay healthy while many other clubs released foreign players. So we thought we did not have enough time to resume the

league because we do not know when we can come out of this. That's why the meeting decided to abandon the 2019-20 league and there will be no champions and no team would be relegated," Murshed said.

It has been learnt that AFC did not give any suggestions to the BFF's enquires regarding the cancellation of the football league but the continental body said it would consider BFF executive committee's decision regarding the season, which prompted the game's local governing body to declare the season over.



Before the meeting, there was a clear debate among the clubs about next season's league. Some clubs wanted to play with only local players and others wanted to stick with also having foreigners.

Murshed said that they wanted to start the next season from September or October this year, subject to conditions improving.

"If the situation improves, the BFF election will take place and the new committee will approve the bylaws of the BPL and eligibility of foreign players," said Murshed.

Cricket to resume in Australia from June 6

AGENCIES

Competitive cricket is set to resume in Australia next month with the Darwin & District Cricket Competition season scheduled to begin on June 6.

It will be the first competitive cricket played in the country since the COVID-19 pandemic struck. There has been no decision on this year's NT Strike League, the T20 tournament that saw David Warner play in 2018.

Clubs will be required to complete a COVID-19 Safety Plan assessment and submit it to the Northern Territory Government before they can play, and some details are still being worked out with Cricket Australia.

The use of spit and saliva to shine a white Kookaburra ball in limited-overs competition is not seen as overly problematic by Australia's international players but the Darwin Cricket Management (DCM) group are working through options, including having umpires involved in ball-shining using a wax applicator.

Shining the ball using sweat or saliva will be banned in the competition when the game returns, in line with guidelines from Cricket Australia. But other options are being considered with DCM chair Lachlan Baird keeping abreast the options.

In line with ICC discussions, one includes an umpire being involved in the shining of the ball with wax applied to it, removing the need for saliva to be added.

"The ICC is working really closely with all the cricket bodies around the world in terms of finding new ways," Baird told ABC Grandstand. "Some consideration is now being given to whether things like that wax applicator will become part of cricket's new normal."

"And whether it will move away from the ball being shined -- a dark mysterious art that happens in the outfield -- to a more formalised process that happens with the umpires being involved."

"They're all the things cricket is working through at the moment. I think it is a logical step (to remove the use of saliva). If you were creating cricket today, I'm not sure ball shining would be part of the game."

"We're confident we will have clear guidelines from CA with what is and isn't going to be allowed."

The use of wax would contravene current regulations unless a change is approved by the ICC, but would be a far safer and hygienic process.



(L to R) As Bundesliga resumed amidst the coronavirus pandemic, extreme safety measures were ensured across venues in Germany. Wolfsburg's Kevin Mbabu had a bit of a foot-touch with the assistant referee following their game while Leipzig's Yussuf Poulsen maintained ample social distance during a post-match interview and even balls were disinfected at all venues. (Bottom) In Dortmund, Thorgan Hazard celebrated his goal against Schalke with Julian Brandt with an elbow-bump.

Odd sights from Germany's comeback

AFP, Berlin



Germany gave football-starved fans reason to be cheerful on Saturday with the Bundesliga's return to action behind closed doors, on a day in which Borussia Dortmund hammered local rivals Schalke in an echoing Signal Iduna Park. Here are some of the most eye-catching things from a memorable day in the history of the sport:

HAALAND KEEPS IT SOCIALLY DISTANCED: Wonderkid striker Erling Braut Haaland began where he left off with the first Bundesliga goal of its restart.

It was the 19-year-old's 10th goal in just nine Bundesliga appearances and set his team on their way to a thumping 4-0 derby victory.

Haaland made sure his teammates kept their distance as he bobbed a cheeky little dance on the

sidelines, in homage to the hygiene rules that the league has to follow.

SCHALKE TAKE FIVE: Schalke became the first team to make use of the rule change that allows five substitutions in a game, with David Wagner using the maximum

number at Dortmund. Favre, meanwhile, used four substitutions.

The increase in subs, approved by the game's lawmakers earlier this month, was adopted by the Bundesliga to limit the risk of injury following two months



PHOTO: REUTERS

A kiss is just a kiss for Hertha

AFP, Berlin

Hertha Berlin player won't be punished for hugging and kissing as they enjoyed a much-needed victory when German football resumed on Saturday, the Bundesliga confirmed after the match.

In order to obtain the green light to resume this weekend, the Bundesliga agreed strict rules to avoid the spread of coronavirus.

Yet, while players in other games celebrated with elbow taps or solo dance routines, Hertha's players hugged and kissed as they won, 3-0, in Hoffenheim.

Hertha started the game 13th in the table with only seven wins in 25 games and under new management.

Their Belgian defender Dedyck Boyata kissed team-mate Marko Grujic on the cheek after their team's first goal.

"The fact is that this is part of football," said Bruno Labbadia, who was named as Jurgen Klinsmann's replacement during the lockdown. "We've been tested so many times that we can allow it."

"If you can't celebrate anymore, the whole thing breaks down. I'm just glad that the team had reason to cheer today. Emotions are part of the game."

On Saturday, a DFL spokesman confirmed there would be no punishment, as it had only offered "guidelines" on how goals should be celebrated.



Lionel Messi was once again in an individual training session on Saturday, but the Argentine can finally get back into proper action as clubs in Spain's top two divisions can begin training in groups of up to 10 players from today.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Spanish clubs to start group training today

REUTERS

Clubs in Spain's top two football divisions can begin training in small groups from Monday as they move into the third phase of a protocol for resuming activity after the Covid-19 pandemic, a source close to the matter has said.

The source said La Liga had informed clubs they could start training in groups of up to 10 players from May 18.

Players had returned to their training grounds earlier this month for the first time since all organised football in Spain was provisionally suspended in early March.

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শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

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Corrigendum Notice

This is for information to all concern that to some unavoidable circumstance the date of deadline of submission of e-Tender Notice: 20/2019-2020 & ID No: 441901, 441902 & 441903) will be 10.06.2020 (13.00 PM) instead of 19.05.2020 (13.00 PM) and e-Tender Notice: 21/2019-2020 & ID No: 426733, 426734, 426735, 426736, 426737, 426738, 426739, 426740, 426741, 426742 & 426743 (13.00 PM) will be 10.06.2020 (13.00 PM) instead of 19.05.2020 (13.00 PM)

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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