

Shakib to be fit before T20 WC

SPORTS REPORTER

Star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan's groin injury, which has ruled him out of the rest of the Premier Cricket League, is still in its preliminary stage and he will be fit before the Twenty20 World Cup.

The medical name for his injury is osteitis pubis, which is the inflammation of the front of the pelvic bone and muscles. This is a common injury for footballers and runners, but is generally not found in cricketers.

Tigers physio Michael Henry is optimistic that Shakib will be okay for the Twenty20 World Cup in

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Did U Know?

The Scottish Cup tie between Falkirk and Inverness Thistle in 1979 was postponed no fewer than 29 times because of bad weather.



Roger Federer

(Swiss tennis superstar) "This is a dream come true for us. We love children and we are looking forward to being parents for the first time. Mirka is feeling great and everything is going well."

While announcing the news that he and long time girlfriend Mirka Vavrinec are expecting their first baby this summer.



What to WATCH

BTV
Super Cup Football
Abahani v Sheikh Russel
Live from 5:30pm

ESPN
English Premier League
Chelsea v Man City
Live from 7:25pm

Aston Villa v Tottenham
Live from 9:55pm

Primera Liga
Almeria v Barcelona
Live from 2:00am (Monday)

STAR Sports
Primera Liga
Atletico v Villarreal
Live from 11:55pm

TEN Sports
West Indies v England
Only Twenty20 Int'l
Live from 12:00am (Monday)

DRY'S EVENT

Premier Div Cricket League
Abahani v Mohammedan
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur

Biman v Cricket Coaching School
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
BKSP v Gazi Tank
Venue: BKSP

Super Cup Football
Rahmatganj v Ctg Mohammedan
Time: 3:30pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka

Abahani v Sheikh Russel
Time: 5:30pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka



Mohammedan defender Rajani (2nd from L) wins a header under challenge from Farashganj defender Mamun Miah (L) during their Citycell Super Cup match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka derby today

Injuries deplete Abahani

Cricket

AMEERUDDIN ZAIN

Sanath Jayasuriya is feared in the cricket world for his devastating display of batting. The champion Sri Lankan left-hander, however, has done little to justify his abilities in Dhaka cricket so far. But he might get a good chance to end his Dhaka jinx when his side Mohammedan Sporting Club face off their bitter rivals Abahani in the Premier Cricket League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

The good news for Jayasuriya and Mohammedan is that Abahani will be without their pace battery and might opt for an all-spin attack in the Dhaka derby.

The Dhanmondi giants are perched on top of the table with 16 points from nine games while Mohammedan are currently at fourth position with 11 points after equal number of matches.

However, the points table could mean little as Abahani go into the match with as many as five injuries to their frontline bowlers. Captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza has a back complaint

while Talha Jubair and all-rounder Ziaur Rahman are afflicted with jaundice, pace bowler Subhashish Roy is moping out with typhoid and Tigers pacer Nazmul Hossain has a swelling in his knee.

In the face of such myriad injuries, the Sky Blues are left with a tough task against a much-improved Mohammedan, who conquered co-sharer in the top spot Bangladesh Biman in the last round, on a batting-friendly Mirpur wicket.

But despite injury concerns Abahani captain Mashrafe has said that his team are fully focused to overcome the odds.

"We have a lot of injuries and it might lead us to turn to all-spin attack. But we are ready to take the challenge. We perceive the match as an important one because every points won would be carried forward to the next stage", said Mashrafe.

He also added: "I am most probably not bowling in the match, but we will try and capitate them with our spinners."

When asked about how big a factor Jayasuriya might be, Mashrafe said: "We will value each of their wickets equally, but yes Sanath is the most experienced player in the

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Kalabagan hearing today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) disciplinary committee has fixed a hearing for the troubled Kalabagan-Indira Road match at its Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium headquarters in Mirpur today.

The match that Kalabagan won by two runs came under scrutiny with charges being labelled against the winning team officials for intimidating the on-field umpires in an effort to win favourable decisions.

The hearing will take place at 5pm.

The malevolent incident took place during a First Division match at the Dhaka University Ground on Friday.

Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) has obtained a video footage of the incident, which has already been handed over to the disciplinary committee for a full review of the occurrence.

Meanwhile, match referee Morshed Alam has submitted his report to the CCDM. His report on the findings of the two on-field umpires Masudur Rahman Mukul and Abdul Aziz Sikder would be vital during the hearing.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Sirajul Kabir of Tangail Chess Power took a solo lead in the Metropolitan Selection Chess Tournament with full six points after the sixth round matches at Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

Shamim Khan of Pradip Sangha and Ibrahim Hossain of Faith Chess Club were in the second slot, each with 5.5 points.

Obaidul Islam Shahin of Jobs

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MSC 1st in semis

Brothers stay alive

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan stormed into the Citycell Super Cup semifinal as the first team when the Dhaka giants crushed Farashganj 4-0 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Maruful Haque's boys, who had beaten Chittagong Abahani 1-0 in their Group B opener with a controversial penalty goal, once again got the favour of the referee to go ahead in the first-half stoppage time from Alamu Bukola's spotkick.

But the Black and Whites warned their title rivals with a hearty second half display that saw a brace from Mohammed Sharif and skipper Arman Aziz's goal from freekick seal their sixth point from two matches.

Brothers Union also brightened their chances to book a last four berth with a convincing 3-0 win over ten-man Chittagong Abahani in the earlier match of the day.

On four points, Brothers will meet Mohammedan in tomorrow's group finale after the match between winless Chittagong Abahani and Farashganj, who remain on one point with slim hopes of making the Cup competition.

Mohammedan almost took the lead in the first minute but Farashganj stopper Ramjan made a goalline save after Bukola's header on

Aziz's freekick beat the old-Dhaka outfit goalkeeper Sujon.

Two minutes later, Mohammedan's Nigerian defender Dami Emmanuelle had to pass the ball back to goalkeeper Aminul to make up for a gaffe inside the area but referee Tayeb Hasan ignored the handball.

Aminul was then tested by Enamul but the national number one custodian palmed away an angled drive from his near post in the 25th minute. Enamul threatened again in the injury time when he was cleared by Mamun Miah's through ball but Aminul rushed out of his line to snatch the ball on the edge of area.

A counter attack in the very next minute saw Robin, who returned to action for Mohammedan after two months from a foot injury, stumble inside the Farashganj area following a tackle by Mamun. Although the challenge looked fair, a penalty was awarded and Nigerian Bukola, top scorer in the B. League, made no mistake to drill a low drive into the back of the net from the 12-yard mark.

The Farashganj booters, who protested for five minutes before the penalty was taken, failed to find any answer to their mighty rivals' game plan after the break.

Egyptian midfielder Hazem Mahmud rattled the Farashganj crossbar from a 30-yard

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Kiwis pull one back

India still win series 3-1

Cricket

AFP, Auckland

Part-time bowler and big-hitting batsman Jesse Ryder stood out as New Zealand's champion in an eight-wicket win over India in the fifth and final one-day cricket international here Saturday.

Ryder took three for 29 with his miserly bowling and then belted the Indian attack into submission with 63 off 49 balls as New Zealand cantered home with nearly 20 overs in hand.

The consolation win saved New Zealand from the embarrassment of a whitewash as India took the series 3-1 with one game abandoned.

After rain delayed the start and reduced the match to 43 overs each, India were still unable to go the distance and were all out in the 37th over for just 149 after Ryder ripped out the middle order.

They still felt they had an inkling of a chance, when New Zealand's reply stumbled in the third over with Brendon McCullum bowled by Praveen Kumar.

But McCullum's departure brought Martin Guptill to the crease and the game quickly disappeared from India's grasp.

Ryder and Guptill flayed away with Zaheer Khan and Ishant Sharma bearing the brunt of their onslaught as New Zealand raced to 93 in the 15th over, when Sharma finally broke through.

Ryder played on to his wicket, bringing an end to a whirlwind innings which included six boundaries and four sixes, but by then New Zealand already had the fin-

ishing line in sight.

Guptill and Ross Taylor took 50 balls to knock off the remaining 56 runs with Guptill ending the match with a six and four off the last two deliveries from Sharma to finish unbeaten on 57 while Taylor made 28.

When Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni won the toss he had no hesitation to bat first and swashbuckling opener Virender Sehwag responded with his customary explosive start.

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PHOTO: AFP

New Zealand batsman Jesse Ryder hooks one for a six during his blistering knock of 63 in the final one-day international against India in Auckland yesterday.

Div I Cricket

Dhanmondi's easy victory

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhanmondi Club outplayed Eskaton SS by 76 runs in the lone match of the First Division Cricket League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Dhanmondi scored 235 runs losing five wickets in their stipulated 50 overs with Murad Hossain scoring an unbeaten 77 and Mustafizur Rahman contributing 55.

Faisal, Mustakim, Shafiqul and Mustaq took one wicket each for Eskaton.

In reply, Eskaton were bowled out for 159 in 39.2 overs with Asanul Haq making 32 runs and Reazur Rahman

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Lee looks to IPL

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Australia paceman Brett Lee is hoping a spell in the Indian Premier League (IPL) will help him regain fitness ahead of the Ashes series in England.

Lee decided against a spell in county cricket in favour of bowling short spells in the Twenty20 tournament as he plots his comeback from ankle surgery.

"The ankle is feeling great, and I'm definitely on schedule," said Lee, 32.

"I've played in two Ashes there, and I'm looking forward to getting back and making the

third one even better."

Mitchell Johnson, Peter Siddle and Ben Hilfenhaus have seized the opportunity created by injuries to Lee and Stuart Clark to stake their claim for places by bowling Australia to an unassailable 2-0 lead in the current Test series in South Africa.

And Lee, a veteran of 76 Tests and 173 limited overs internationals, acknowledges he has no automatic right to a place in the first-choice XI.

"I think it's very healthy for Australian cricket," he said.

"I always keep a note on what's happening overseas, and the guys have been playing extremely well.

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PHOTO: AFP

Indian stalwarts (L-R) Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Yuvraj Singh and Suresh Raina pose with the trophy after the final one-day international against New Zealand in Auckland yesterday. India lost the final match by eight wickets but won the series 3-1, with one match abandoned.

A fight at last

Cricket

CRICINFO, Auckland

Finally there was a contest between bat and ball. And India, perhaps continuing in their merry ways, came unstuck when the ball moved around, more so in the first half of the day and lesser and lesser as the pitch started to get older. Daniel Vettori was surprised his bowlers got the first use of the pitch, something Mahendra Singh Dhoni admitted India should have done.

"We misread the wicket," said Dhoni. "That is what I can say. We did make mistakes, but we negotiated the period quite well when initially it was doing quite a bit. It was an ideal start given by Gautam (Gambhir) and (Virender) Sehwag, but we failed to capitalise."

Dhoni also admitted that with the ball moving around a bit, the batsmen didn't adjust well. "We played shots that didn't really come up very well in this game," he said. "Throughout the series we have played big shots, which were paying off but this time we lost a few wickets and we put ourselves under pressure."

Vettori was pleased with the effort his bowlers put in on a helpful track. "In most of the games, whether we've gone well or not has depended on the bowlers," he said. "Today I thought they bowled really well. The wicket had a little more in it than the previous ones, but you still have to bowl well. You saw that a guy

like Sehwag can still be explosive, like he has in previous games, even on a deck like that. Really pleased for the guys. Some guys who haven't performed in the series stepped up. Jacob Oram was outstanding and Jesse Ryder came through with the ball."

For this dead rubber India went with an unchanged XI, the best available team, and were still outplayed. But today's result, according to Dhoni, wouldn't matter much going into the Test series. "Before the start of the one-day series, we had lost two Twenty20 games and the same question was asked," he said. "It's not about what we have done. We have to start from scratch again. Nothing changes. You have to perform at your best. I don't think anything matters when it comes to the last game of a one-day series."

New Zealand are definitely not thinking the same way. "It [the win] puts us in a good space," said Vettori. "If you lose a series outright 4-0 you can get demoralised. The guys will take that confidence into the Test series. It was a lot nicer being in that dressing room than in the rest of the series."

At the same time, Vettori said it didn't take away from the challenge that the Indian team will present in the Tests. "Nice for us to finish on a winning note, but we still understand that we have been outplayed and haven't lived up to our own expectations," he said. "We can take a bit of momentum into the Test series. It's going to be a massive challenge with [Sachin] Tendulkar, [Rahul] Dravid and [VVS] Laxman coming back into the mix."