



Players of Brothers Union are over the moon after defeating Mohammedan in the Port-city Cricket League at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

## Mohammedan bow out Ispahani, Brothers win big

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Shamsur Rahman celebrated his inclusion in the 15-member Bangladesh squad for the T20 World Cup in style, hitting a superb half-century for Ispahani Sports Club against

Pirates of Chittagong in a Habib Group-PCL Twenty20 tournament match at the MA Aziz Stadium here yesterday.

Shamsur hammered 71 off 49 balls in an impressive Ispahani total of 175 runs, which was also the highest innings total so far in the glamorous T20 championship involving eight teams. Ispahani then bowled the Pirates out for 125 to register a convincing 50-run win.

The 20-year-old cricketer from Comilla was plundering the Pirates when chief selector Rafiqul Alam was announcing his name at Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium for the England show-

piece event in June.

The selectors also picked Mohammad Mithun in the England-bound squad. The young batsman featured in the second match of the PCL for Chittagong Mohammedan against Brothers Union. But his way of celebration can be best described as bizarre in a match that Brothers not only won by 46 runs but also confirmed a high-hoping Mohammedans exit from the first round with two defeats in as many games.

Mithun scored only four but more importantly got out in a fashion that can be considered as a 'first' in the brief history of Twenty20 cricket.

Mithun was first out caught off a 'no-ball' from paceman Dollar Mahmud. He then hit the next ball, a free hit, straight into the hands of a fielder. And as if that was not enough he struck the next legitimate delivery from Dollar straight to Nafees Iqbal to finally succumb.

However, Ispahani started on a solid footing after the day's first match started an hour behind schedule due to wet

outfield and displaced décor of galleries caused by heavy thunderstorms and overnight rain.

Shamsur and Fazle Rabbi gave Ispahani a perfect start when they raced to 53 in just 5.4 overs before PCL's second most valuable cricketer Sohrawardi Shuvo had Rabbi caught and bowled for 25.

But Rabbi's departure brought the best of Ispahani as Shamsur and Sri Lankan Jeevan Mendis produced 114 runs for the second wicket, the best so far in the tournament. Shamsur's innings was particularly worth mentioning on a day that brought double delight for him. His polished knock featured two huge sixes and eight exciting boundaries.

Mendis played an equally impressive innings of 65 off only 48 balls. He smashed three sixes and four fours.

The Pirates innings never took off. Their much-vaunted batting line up perished in thin air with the first four wickets falling for 46 in seven over. They also lost their last four wickets in more

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## New Tigers called up Bangladesh name World T20 squad

SPORTS REPORTER



Two rookies Shamsur Rahman and Mohammad Mithun got the nod when a 15-member

Bangladesh squad was announced on Monday for the ICC World Twenty20 to be held in England in June.

Bangladesh has been pitted in group A along with defending champions India and ICC associate member Ireland in the second version of the ICC World Twenty20 which will kick off from June 5.

The inclusion of the two promising players was not unexpected after their noteworthy performance in the domestic circuit as well as for different selections, with their stroke-making ability said to have impressed many.

The biggest surprise though was the inclusion of lanky paceman Shahadat Hossain who has been often criticized for

his erratic bowling in ODI's.

However, chief selector Rafiqul Alam defended his inclusion by saying that they considered experience in international cricket as one of the parameters.

"We have three options in this position but unfortunately experienced Nazmul Hossain is sick. We considered Shahadat ahead of Mahbulul Alam because of his experience," explained Rafiqul while speaking at a press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

"Shahadat was out of form but got back his rhythm in the practice match. He has got the pace to intimidate the batsmen," he elaborated when reminded that Shahadat was the most expensive one-day bowler for the country.

The axe fell on Mehrab Hossain, Imrul Kayes, Nazmul Hossain, Mahbulul Alam, Ziaur Rahman, and Sohrawardi Shuvo when the selectors reduced the team from the 21-member training squad.

The chairman of the selection committee Rafiqul faced a volley of questions, as he could not identify a particular basis on which the team was selected -- experience or past performance. Many were also surprised when he pointed out the performance in the practice matches behind a few selections.

The question was also raised about the inclusion of middle-order batsman Rokibul Hasan, who is more or less a grafter, but Rafiqul heaped praise on the

right-hander.

"He (Rokibul) is the nucleus of our batting line-up. He has been in bad form for the last two months but looked good in the practice games," he said.

The team has four specialist pacemen including speedster Rubel Hossain but the young right-arm pacer is also out of form. "Rubel is the quickest bowler in the country and has had an encouraging debut season in international cricket. He is someone who can hurry the batsmen and use the short ball to good effect," said Rafiqul.

Rafiqul also explained the reason behind the inclusion of two rookies.

"Shamsur Rahman has come through the ranks. He has played for the Under 19s, Academy side and A Team and has had a fabulous season where he scored 1485 runs in all competitions. Mithun has no fear and can be an asset in the Twenty20 version with his hard-hitting approach. Besides, he has been among the runs and has made 1479 this season with a strike rate of 88," said an excited Rafiqul.

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MOHAMMAD MITHUN

Batting	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50
First-class	13	25	543	106	22.62	1	2
List A	9	9	285	64	35.62	0	3



SHAMSUR RAHMAN

Batting	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50
First-class	28	49	1320	103	28.69	1	10
List A	27	25	649	67	27.04	0	5

### SQUAD

Mohammad Ashraf, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Tamim Iqbal, Zunaed Siddiqui, Rokibul Hassan, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Nayeem Islam, Abdur Razzak, Shahadat Hossain, Syed Rasel, Mahmudullah Riyad, Rubel Hossain, Shamsur Rahman and Mohammad Mithun.

STAND-BY: Mehrab Hossain, Imrul Kayes, Nazmul Hossain, Mahbulul Alam, Sohrawardi Shuvo.

## Enamul levels series

SPORTS REPORTER

Enamul Haque's scintillating half-century enabled the Bangladesh Under-19s to level the five-match one-day series as they handed a five-wicket defeat to the visiting Sri Lanka Under-19s in the second match at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore yesterday.

The right-hander smashed six fours and three sixes during his 74-ball 80 before being retired hurt as the Bangladesh under-19s raced to 206-5 in 42.1 overs in reply to Sri Lanka under-19s 204 all out in 46.5 overs. The match was reduced to 47-over-a-side affair due to wet outfield following overnight rain.

The series is now leveled at 1-1 as the visitors won the first match by 38 runs. The third match will take place at the same venue today.

The home side made a poor start when they lost two wickets for 10 runs but Enamul joined opener Amit Majumder, who added 27 off 50 balls with three fours, to

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## Rajib faring well in Dubai

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Enamul Hossain Rajib won his eighth round board against Indian FIDE Master Sahaj Grover in the 11th Dubai Open Chess Championship on Sunday.

With the victory, Rajib improved his tally to five points to share the third spot along with 13 others.

Rajib was scheduled to play his ninth round game against GM Levan Pantsulaia of Georgia yesterday.

## Ayub fires Academy

SPORTS REPORTER

Marshal Ayub guided Bangladesh National Cricket Academy to post a respectable total in their first innings of the four-day match against visiting Sri Lanka Development team at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday. Milinda Siriwardana claimed five wickets for 41 runs but still the home side could manage 256 in 67.4 overs thanks to a 70-run innings by Marshal who smote six fours in an 84-ball knock.

Shuvagoto Hom made 34 off 53 balls with seven boundaries while Kamrul Islam added 30 off 86 balls that featured two boundaries.

## Chennai trounce Deccan

AFP, East London



Premier League on Monday.

Jakati removed top-scorer Dwayne Smith (49) and Rohit Sharma in the space of four balls to help Chennai restrict Deccan to 100 all out in 14.4 overs in a one-sided contest at Buffalo Park here.

Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni earlier led the batting charge with an unbeaten 58 while tournament's leading run-getter Matthew Hayden slammed a 26-ball 43 to take Chennai to an imposing 178-3.

The win propelled Chennai to the top of the points table while Deccan slumped to their third defeat in a row.

Deccan's chase began on a disastrous note as they lost their explosive openers Adam Gilchrist and Herschelle Gibbs inside the first two overs.



Chennai Super Kings' Australian batsman Matthew Hayden in action against Deccan Chargers during their Indian Premier League match at the Buffalo Park Cricket Stadium in East London yesterday.



Ehsan Mani

(Former ICC president)

"The decision to move the World Cup out of Pakistan was ill-conceived and taken in haste and I am afraid to say that India has a big hand in this decision."



**SET Max**  
Indian Premier League  
Kings XI Punjab v Rajasthan Royals  
Live from 4:30pm  
Delhi Daredevils v Kolkata Knight Riders  
Live from 8:30pm  
**TEN Sports**  
UEFA Champions League  
(Semifinal, 2nd-Leg)  
Arsenal v Man United  
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)



Port-city Cricket League  
Abahani v Top Sports  
Time: 10:00am  
Dada Warriors v Ispahani  
Time: 2:00pm  
Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong

## Three new faces for Asia Cup

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) has announced an 18-member squad for the 8th Asia Cup Hockey to be held in the Malaysian city of Kuantan from May 9 to May 16.

Three uncapped players have been named in the squad along with the new skipper Rasel Mahmud Jimmy while the team was declared in the BHF offices at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

### SQUAD

Rasel Mahmud Jimmy (captain), Mamun ur Rahman Chayan (vice-captain), Rafiqul Islam (goalkeeper), ASM Mahbub Ullah Chowdhury (goalkeeper), Sheikh Nannu, Md. Asiquzzaman, Musharof Hossain Kuti, Zahidul Islam, Pushkor Khisa, Zahid Bin Talib Shuvo, Krishna Kumir, Mosiur Rahman Biplob, AKM Shamsuddin, AHM Kamruzzaman, Ashaduzzaman Chandan, Rimon Kumar Ghosh, Iqbal Nadir, Taposh Barmon.

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## India pick form players

AFP, New Delhi



World Twenty20 title in England next month.

Left-arm seamer Singh, who last donned India colours against England in November, was recalled after picking 12 wickets from six games in the ongoing Indian Premier League in South Africa.

Ojha, a left-arm spinner, is the second-most successful Indian bowler in the IPL after his Deccan Chargers teammate Singh, with 10 wickets in six matches.

Singh grabbed 12 wickets in the inaugural Twenty20 Worlds in South Africa in 2007 -- one less than leading taker Umar Gul of Pakistan -- to fashion India's spectacular title-winning campaign.

Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni's team will also be bolstered by the inclusion of pace spearheads Zaheer Khan and Ishant Sharma, who both missed the world championships two years ago.

The selectors retained nine members of the winning squad, leaving out seamers Ajit Agarkar, Joginder Sharma and Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, batsmen Robin Uthappa and Dinesh Karthick, and spinner Piyush Chawla.

Veteran batsman Sachin Tendulkar, the world's leading run-getter in both Test and 50-overs-a-side cricket, has made himself unavailable for Twenty20 internationals despite leading Mumbai Indians in the IPL.

India have a good Twenty20 record, with eight wins in 13 matches so far. But since beating Pakistan in the 2007 final in Johannesburg, the Indians have lost three of their five matches, including both games on the recent tour of New Zealand.

India are drawn with Ireland and Bangladesh in the preliminary round of next month's event that will be played in London and Nottingham from June 5-21.

### SQUAD

Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Suresh Raina, Yuvraj Singh, Yusuf Pathan, Rohit Sharma, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma, Praveen Kumar, Rudra Pratap Singh, Ravindra Jadeja, Pragnan Ojha, Irfan Pathan. Coach: Gary Kirsten.