

Jose chides Real fans

Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho chastised the club's fans after only a handful turned up at Real's city rivals Rayo Vallecano for Sunday's 1-0 La Liga victory.

Mourinho told a news conference he was disappointed only around 300 fans made the short trip on a warm and sunny Madrid afternoon.

"I find it a shame that we are playing in Madrid and there are only 300 of our supporters."

"We are the leaders and at Getafe (also in Madrid) we had 30 fans and now 300 at Vallecas," he added.



Drama over semi spot

Afridi, Ajmal in for Dhaka Gladiators

SPORTS REPORTER

Controversy has touched today's semifinals line-up of the BPL T20 after it was announced that it will be Chittagong Kings instead of Barisal Burners who will take on Duronto Rajshahi in the afternoon game, while the second semifinal will be between Khulna Royal Bengals and Dhaka Gladiators.

The switch between Barisal and Chittagong was made as the tournament by-laws reportedly has head-to-head taking precedence over net run-rate, which means that Barisal were in an unfavourable position as they have two wins in their matches against

Chittagong and Dhaka Gladiators while the latter two have won more matches between the three sides. But on Sunday night during the live telecast of the Barisal-Chittagong game, the broadcasters Channel 9 continuously flashed the requirement for Barisal to win the game (by scoring 151 runs) within 16 overs. They completed the job in 15 overs and celebrated their progress into the last four.

Shahriar Nafees, Barisal's icon player, was elated during the post-match talk to the media saying that they knew of the winning target being put in a tougher equation.

But according to a similar rule enforced by the England and Wales Cricket Board, in the event of more than one team being tied on the same number of points, past head-to-head results in the tournament in both rounds would apply. A team with a win over the other tied team in the point table will go above the other team which lost in prior matches. If these are equal, the team with the higher number of wins will go through; if still equal, net run rate will come into play.

As far as Channel 9 are concerned, they have taken statistical help from the BCB and will not speak about the matter.

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Khulna Royal Bengals batsman Dwayne Smith pulls one during his unbeaten century against Sylhet Royals in their BPL T20 encounter at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium yesterday. This was the third century of the tournament after compatriot Chris Gayle hit two centuries earlier.

Smith blitz wilts Sylhet

SPORTS REPORTER



Khulna Royal Bengals rode on West Indian Dwayne Smith's century, the third of the BPL T20 after Chris Gayle's two efforts for the Barisal Burners, to defeat Sylhet Royals by 69 runs at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Dwayne Smith reached his century in the last over of the innings, finishing on 103 net out off 73 balls with six fours and as many sixes. Captain Shakib Al Hasan was with him at the end with a run-a-ball 21 as Khulna posted a formidable 186 for two in 20 overs.

Smith came to the wicket when Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Khulna's most consistent batsman, was run out off the second ball of the innings. Smith first built an 82-run partnership with Herschelle Gibbs and then an unbeaten 100-run stand with Shakib. Gibbs was the other notable scorer with 41. Only Scott Styris among the Sylhet bowlers was spared the carnage with 1 for 21 from his four overs.

Chasing the stiff target, Sylhet got off to a bad start losing in-form opener Kamran Akmal in the second over, caught behind off Abdul Razzak. Peter Trego tried his best with a 13-ball 23 but his wicket with the score on 36 precipitated a collapse as the Royals lost five wickets for 28 runs. Sohail Tanvir was then the only batsman to provide some resistance with an unbeaten 26, but the rest of the batsmen surrendered around him as Sylhet were bundled out for 117 in sixteen overs. Razzak, Shakib, Shahadat

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Sami warms up with fiver

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Sami blew away the Dhaka Gladiators in Duronto Rajshahi's facile three-wicket win in the BPL T20 yesterday.

A tiny crowd enjoyed a burst of fast bowling that has seldom been seen during the tournament as the Pakistani paceman picked up five wickets for just six runs in 3.2 overs to rout Dhaka for 116 all out in 18.2 overs. Sami's feat is the fourth best bowling figures by a Pakistani in a Twenty20 game after Sohail Tanvir, Irfanuddin and Umar Gul.

Rajshahi took the harder path to victory, taking 19.3 overs to knock off

the runs and keeping themselves atop all the franchises in the competition in the league phase. It is however slightly more complicated for Dhaka Gladiators who are on ten points, equal with Chittagong Kings and Barisal Burners from all the matches.

At the end of the game (and before the Khulna Royal Bengals-Sylhet Royals match), Dhaka however was in a favourable position due to a better head-to-head position and higher net run-rate than Barisal and Chittagong.

Back to the afternoon game and it seemed Dhaka's decision to bat first was still a good one after they recovered from seven for two. Darren Stevens and Nazimuddin put together a 52-run

stand but it all came apart when Marlon Samuels got the wicket of the Englishman for 28. Sami immediately ran through the middle and lower order to claim five wickets while Samuels ended up with two.

Rajshahi's short chase still had some fun left as Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Elias Sunny and Navedul Hasan all picked up two wickets. But it was skipper Mushfiqur Rahim's 37-ball 40 that took them home.

Dhaka will be boosted by the arrival of Shahid Afridi, Saeed Ajmal and Awais Zia, who will arrive this morning for the semifinals from United Arab Emirates after playing against England in the third and final T20i. But the Gladiators

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Clarke best Aussie player

REUTERS, Melbourne

Australia captain Michael Clarke won the Allan Border Medal as his country's Player of the Year for the third time on Monday.

Clarke also won the award in 2005 after scoring 151 on his Test debut against India in Bangalore and shared it with Ricky Ponting in 2009.

The 30-year-old assumed the captaincy from Ponting in March last year and led Australia to a 1-0 Test series win in Sri Lanka, 1-1 draws with South Africa and New Zealand before the 4-0

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Stars sign for MSC

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Joint champions Mohammedan SC formed a star-studded hockey squad when they signed up 13 players on the second day of the Inter-club players' transfer amid festive mood at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Having failed to form decent squads in either football or cricket this season, the Motijheel-based outfit paid maximum attention on forming a formidable hockey squad as they splashed the cash much before the start of the three-day transfer. They even set a record in terms of payment by securing penalty corner specialist Asaduzzaman Chandan for Tk 6.5 lakh followed by striker Russel

Mahmud Jimmy for Tk 6 lakh.

The Black and Whites signed up those players in a festive mood as they reached the Bangladesh Hockey Federation yesterday afternoon with horse carriages.

Of the 13 players registered for Mohammedan, nine are from the national hockey squad.

"Our target was to form a winning team and we did it perfectly," said Mohammedan's team manager Ariful Islam Prince.

"Now it is time for the players to prove their worth and we expect the boys will beat rivals like Abahani, Usha KC with big margins to clinch all the trophies this season," said the former national striker.

Prince also said that they would bring world class foreign recruits as money is not a problem for the club.

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