




Sheikh Russel winger Zahid Hossain sets off in celebration as he puts the ball past Muktiyoddha goalkeeper Ziaur Rahman for the decisive goal in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Zahid makes the difference

SPORTS REPORTER

 Winger Zahid Hossain came back from a three-match suspension and struck the all-important goal against Muktiyoddha Sangsad at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, as Sheikh Russel returned to winning ways in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League.

In the other match of the day, Mohammedan's Ghanaian striker Osei Morison gave his side a valuable point as his injury time equaliser held Team BJMC to a 1-1 draw.

Mohammedan came into the match with a moral boosting 3-1 win over Sheikh Russel KC but their performance yesterday was a shadow of the previous match and were kept busy foiling BJMC attacks, one after another.

Mohammedan goalkeeper Mamun Khan saved a number of efforts from BJMC strikers but could not save his side when Isamel Bangoura tapped in an Abul Hossain corner for the opening goal. The Mohammedan goalie was left at the mercy of winger Faisal Ahmed once again in the 69th minute, but this time Faisal's effort sailed over the open net.

Towards the end of the match, power outage halted proceedings for five minutes and after the restart Mohammedan produced their first attack which resulted in the equaliser.

Substitute winger Mobarak Hossain put a defence-splitting through pass for Morison, who darted into the box to place a left-footer home to give Mohammedan an unexpected point. The draw lifted Mohammedan to the

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Tamim flies to NZ today

SPORTS REPORTER

Dashing left-handed opener Tamim Iqbal will leave for New Zealand at 10 pm today to participate in a domestic T20 league where he'll play for the Wellington Firebirds. The deal was confirmed in mid-October this year after Tamim received a no-objection certificate from the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

The stint will allow Tamim to work with Jamie Siddons, former national coach of Bangladesh, who is currently the coach of Wellington. The left-hander is expected to represent the side in six T20 games and return in time to participate in the Bangladesh Premier League, scheduled to begin on January 18. "My aim obviously is to perform well there. The good thing is that I'll be getting to work with Jamie (Siddons), so on the whole I am looking forward to

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England end 28-yr Indian drought

 Cricket

BBC ONLINE, Nagpur

England completed their first series victory in India for 28 years as Jonathan Trott and Ian Bell both hit centuries on the final day in Nagpur.

Trott scored 143 and Bell 116 not out as the tourists -- who lost in Ahmedabad before winning in Mumbai and Kolkata -- earned the draw they needed to secure an historic achievement.

India took just one wicket all day as debutant Joe Root added an unbeaten 20.

England finished 356 runs ahead on 352-4 when stumps were drawn early.

Their final-day dominance was fitting because, since being beaten by nine wickets in the first Test, England have outplayed their hosts in every department.

It is only the fourth time in history England have won there, and it is the first time since David Gower's tourists were triumphant in 1984-85.

England also inflicted India's first series loss on home soil since the legendary Australia team of Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath and Ricky Ponting won in 2004 -

- a series which became billed as "The Last Step To Greatness".

Cook's team may not be "great" yet, but they certainly gave players like Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag and Mahendra Dhoni plenty to think about with their dominant performances.

Graeme Swann and Monty Panesar outbowled India's spinners, James Anderson underlined his status as one of the best seamers in the world, while -- led by the insatiable run-scoring feats of captain Cook -- all of England's batsmen scored runs.

Trott and Bell were the two players most in need of a good score on the final day of the match -- and both delivered emphatically.

The Warwickshire pair posted their highest Test scores of the year, with a century particularly welcome for Bell who averaged just 18 in India before he came to the crease when England were stuttering slightly at 94-3 on the fourth day.

England, who consolidated their second-placed position behind South Africa in the ICC Test rankings, travel to New Zealand for a three-Test series in March before hosting the Kiwis in the summer

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PHOTO: CRICINFO

England batsman Jonathan Trott celebrates his hundred, which helped England secure a 2-1 series win, on the fifth day of the fourth Test against India at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur yesterday.

4-day franchises allocated

 Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) confirmed the buyers of the respective franchises for its inaugural edition of the franchisee-based four-day tournament, a four-team competition representing the different zones of cricket in Bangladesh, at the BCB headquarters in Mirpur yesterday.

As per the details released by the BCB's tournament committee chairman Naimur Rahman, the Central Zone's (Dhaka and Dhaka Metro) rights were bought by Walton, Eastern Zone's (Sylhet and Chittagong) were purchased by Islami Bank, Prime Bank Foundation bought the rights for Southern Zone (Khulna and Barisal), while the Northern Zone (Rangpur and Rajshahi) will be run by the BCB.

The above-mentioned companies had earlier signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with the BCB.

"It'll be a single-round competition with each team getting to play the other once. The final match will take place after the end of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL)," claimed Durjoy. "There is a possibility of Bangladesh touring Pakistan and then there's the BPL. We decided to host the finals during the slot available after the BPL and before Bangladesh's tour of Sri Lanka in March," he added. It was also decided that the final four-day match would be a day-night game.

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Star Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan gives some catching practice to girls of the Jamal Khan Dr. Khastagir Girls' High School in Chittagong yesterday. Shakib showed up at the school and spent an hour entertaining the students as part of a publicity campaign organised by Boost, and prize-winners were awarded with a bat autographed by the all-rounder.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Dhoni blames batting failure

 Cricket

CRICINFO, Nagpur

Mahendra Singh Dhoni admitted that India were outplayed in most departments as they slumped to a 2-1 series defeat against England, their first series loss on home soil since 2004.

England comfortably batted out the final day in Nagpur as India managed just one more wicket, with the home side's ambitions of levelling the series hindered by a lifeless pitch. However, over the previous two Tests in Mumbai and Kolkata there had been considerable daylight between the teams and Dhoni picked out James Anderson's role and India's lack of runs for special mention.

"We thought our spinners were right on the mark but the difference on the bowling side was James Anderson," he said at the post-match presentation. "He bowled really well. The other fast bowlers in the series looked quite average but he was testing the batsmen. Apart from that the batsmen have to take the responsibility for not putting enough runs on the board."

Dhoni pinpointed England's ability to win key sessions, such as the third evening in Mumbai and fourth afternoon in Kolkata, when India twice suffered collapses.

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