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SPORT

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Caroline-Rory engaged?

Tennis star Caroline Wozniacki fuelled speculation she was engaged to golf's world number one Rory McIlroy Friday when she appeared wearing a large ring on her left hand.  
The blonde Dane, who has been an increasingly cosy item with McIlroy in recent months, was snapped wearing the jewellery on her left ring finger ahead of the Brisbane International.  
Australia's Herald Sun tabloid, which carried separate pictures of Wozniacki wearing the ring at Brisbane airport, noted that the player had denied getting engaged last month.  
But the newspaper pondered whether McIlroy had proposed over Christmas, which they spent together, according to pictures they

## Mahmudullah fined heavily

SPORTS REPORTER

Walton Central Zone captain Mahmudullah Riyad has been fined 20 per cent of his match fee for improper conduct on day one of the Bangladesh Cricket League match against Prime Bank South Zone at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium.

"Mahmudullah vented his displeasure by kicking the stumps while bowling in the 64th over of the day, an act which is a breach of code of conduct set for players and officials," stated a press release sent by the Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday.

Match referee ASM Roquibul Hasaan imposed the penalty after the all-rounder accepted full responsibility for his behaviour.

## Tamim scores a duck

SPORTS REPORTER

Left handed opener Tamim Iqbal scored a duck in his third match for the Wellington Firebirds, as he was caught off Kyle Mills in the very second delivery of the game. The Firebirds though went on to beat their opponents, Auckland by 10 runs, courtesy of a half-century from Tamim's opening partner Jesse Ryder.

Tamim had earlier and made 14 against Otago and followed it up with a

## BHF XI, BKSP in hockey final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) Eleven and BKSP reached the final of the Southeast Bank Victory Day Hockey Tournament eliminating their rivals at the Maulana Bhashani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

**PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH:** Star India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh, who hit a whirlwind 72 off 36 balls before taking a wicket, pulls one of his seven sixes in the second and final T20 International against Pakistan in Ahmedabad on Friday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

## Yuvraj levels the series for India

PTI, Ahmedabad

Yuvraj Singh cracked a dazzling 72 before the bowlers staged a brilliant recovery at the death overs as India clinched a nerve-racking 11-run victory over archrivals Pakistan in the second T20 International to level the series 1-1 in Ahmedabad on Friday.

India posted a competitive 192 riding on Yuvraj's 36-ball knock that included seven huge sixes, and then restricted the visitors to 181 for seven with the bowlers finding their mojo just in the nick of time.

Paceman Ashok Dinda scalped three for 36 including the important wicket of rival captain Mohammed Hafeez (55) in the penultimate over to turn the tide in India's favour at the jam-packed Sardar Patel Stadium.

At one stage, Pakistan seemed to be well and truly on course to overhaul India's challenging target but Dinda and Ishant Sharma kept their cool during the death overs to seal the issue in hosts' favour.

Needing 20 runs off the final over bowled by Ishant, Umar Gul and Shoaib Malik could manage only eight runs much to the delight of the home crowd and captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni whose leadership has been under the scanner for some time now.

Apart from Hafeez, who scored his runs off only 26

SCOREBOARD					
INDIA		R	B	4S	6S
Gambhir lbw b Gul		21	11	4	0
Rahane c & b Gul		28	26	4	0
Kohli run out		27	22	3	0
Yuvraj c Malik b Gul		72	36	4	7
Dhoni b Gul		33	23	4	0
Raina not out		1	1	0	0
Rohit not out		4	2	1	0
Extras: (lb-5, nb-1)		6			
Total: (For 5 wkts in 20 overs)		192			
Fall of wickets: 1-44, 2-53, 3-88, 4-185, 5-187.					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Irfan	4	0	20	0	
Tanvir	4	0	44	0	
Gul	4	0	37	4	
Ajmal	4	0	42	0	
Afridi	3	0	33	0	
Hafeez	1	0	11	0	
PAKISTAN		R	B	4S	6S
Jamshed c Kohli b Ashwin		41	32	4	1
Shehzad st Dhoni b Yuvraj		31	29	3	1
U Akmal b Dinda		24	17	1	1
Hafeez c Raina b Dinda		55	26	6	3
Afridi c Rohit b Kumar		11	5	1	1
K Akmal c Kohli b Dinda		5	3	1	0
Malik not out		3	3	0	0
Gul c Rahane b Sharma		5	5	1	0
Extras: (lb-2, w-4)		6			
Total: (For 7 wkts in 20 overs)		181			
Fall of wickets: 1-74, 2-84, 3-146, 4-163, 5-168, 6-172, 7-181.					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Kumar	4	0	46	1	
Ishant	4	0	34	1	
Dinda	4	0	36	3	
Ashwin	4	0	28	1	
Raina	2	0	12	0	
Yuvraj	2	0	23	1	
Result: India won by 11 runs and 2-match					

# Rony the difference

## Abahani take solo lead with 2-0 win

SPORTS REPORTER



A brace from Sakhawat Hossain Rony powered Abahani to a 2-0 win over archrivals Mohammedan in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Rony, playing for the starting eleven for the second time in six matches, struck a goal in each half to take Abahani to the top with 13 points from six matches, one ahead of Sheikh Russel KC and three clear of Mohammedan and Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club.

"I have been playing in the professional football league since its introduction but never scored against Mohammedan. I am really happy that I did it today which helped my team in winning the game," said Rony.

"I used to get a little too excited when it comes to finishing, but today [Friday] I kept my cool and availed the opportunities I got," said Rony.

The Chittagonian put Abahani ahead in the 12th minute of the game with a sliding nod after Touhidul Alam had snatched the ball from defender Yeasin to provide him with the low cross.

The national striker killed Mohammedan's hopes as he sealed the victory with a clinical finish in the 63rd minute, this time being set up by Ghanaian midfielder Awudu Ibrahim. Rony ran on to a delectable throughpass from Abahani's midfield marshal Ibrahim before placing the ball past Mohammedan keeper Mamun Khan for the left side of the net.

Having lost against Sheikh Russel KC in their previous match, Abahani were determined to turn the table and put in an impressive performance to delight some 2,000 or so fans. For the Mohammedan fans though, who were bigger in number, the chilly evening felt chillier as their players kept chasing their own shadows.

Despite deploying five players in the midfield, Mohammedan could

hardly keep possession throughout the game and Ibrahim, who was absent in Abahani's 0-1 loss to Sheikh Russel, played the key role by unsettling Mohammedan's three-man backline numerous times.

Mohammedan struck together a few sporadic attacks and came close to erasing the lead in the 40th minute from a goalmouth-melee but Abahani captain Wali Faisal rescued his side by clearing a header from Mustapha Ibrahim off the line.

Mustapha was unlucky again as his bicycle kick on a Monitur Munna free-kick went inches over the cross-piece, eight minutes into the second-half.

"The game was very important for the history associated with it. The boys understood my strategy and tactic what they could not do in the last match," said a smiling Abahani coach Ardeshir Pournamat.

"We conceded both goals due to mistakes from the defenders, who went charging early instead of holding their line," said Mohammedan's



Abahani striker Sakhawat Hossain Rony (R) celebrates one of his two goals, with winger Atiqur Rahman Meshu, that powered his side to a 2-0 victory over archrivals Mohammedan in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**Walton Central Zone's Shamsur Rahman follows through on an off-drive during his knock of 84 against Prime Bank South Zone on the second day of their first round match in the Bangladesh Cricket League at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.**

PHOTO: STAR

# Runs aplenty on Day 2



SPORTS REPORTER

While the second day's play of the Bangladesh Cricket League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium didn't quite produce an innings that could even remotely be compared to Ziaur Rahman's stunning 152 on the first, it did however, witness a fine display of batting from two youngsters, battling to break into the national team.

Half centuries from Shamsur Rahman (84) and Marshal Ayub (65 not out) dominated the match between Prime Bank South Zone and Walton Central Zone in Mirpur yesterday as the latter finished the day on 210 for 3.

The BCB North Zone continued to pile on the runs against Islami Bank East Zone, in the day's other game at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, as they finished the day on a staggering 499 for 6. Nasir Hossain, once again became a victim of the 'nervous nineties' as he fell seven runs short of a century. Another potential centurion, Naeem Islam, who had an overnight score of 50, was bowled out for 82.

Foggy conditions disrupted the morning sessions of the matches, as both the

games began after 1 pm.

Prime Bank South Zone vs Walton Central Zone

It was a 75-run, third wicket partnership between Shamsur and Marshal that steadied the ship for Central Zone after they were reeling at 72 for 2 at one point. While Rahman preferred the cut shot, Ayub was on the drive. The shot of the day, in fact, was scored by Marshal, as he went down the track to Murad Khan and found the gap between cover and mid-off, to reach his half-century. Shamsur, on the other hand, preferred taking the aerial route against the spinners as he hit four sixes against Shohag Gazi and Khan.

Shamsur's dismissal was followed by a quick 50-run partnership between captain Mahmudullah Riyad and Marshal, which came off just 45 balls. Earlier, the

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SCORES IN BRIEF	
PRIME BANK SOUTH ZONE:	First innings 343 all out in 73 overs v
WALTON CENTRAL ZONE:	First innings 210 for 3 in 41.4 overs (Shamsur 84, Marshal 65 not out; Gazi 2-59)
BCB NORTH ZONE:	First innings 499 for 6 in 131 overs (Nasir 93, Naeem 82;

## HOCKEY CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT Proposal to be tabled today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) is going to amend its constitution in a bid to bar inexperienced organisers from running for key posts of general secretary and joint secretaries as the Constitution Amendment Committee has prepared their recommendations for today's adjourned meeting of the governing body.

According to the recommendations, general secretary candidates will have to have at least four year's involvement with the hockey federation to be eligible to contest in the polls while joint secretary candidates will need three years of involvement with the game's governing body.

The recommendations also included the cancellation of councillorship of the umpires committee and suspending the councillorships of the head of any sub-committee if the committee does not submit its expenditure within one and a half months of the completion of tournaments or leagues.

The BHF is currently run by an ad-hoc committee which was formed in November 2011 after most of the members of the then elected committee resigned from their respective posts at sports minister's request.

Referring to former non-technical and inexperienced general secretary Khandoker Jamiluddin, BHF joint secretary and member secretary of Constitution

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