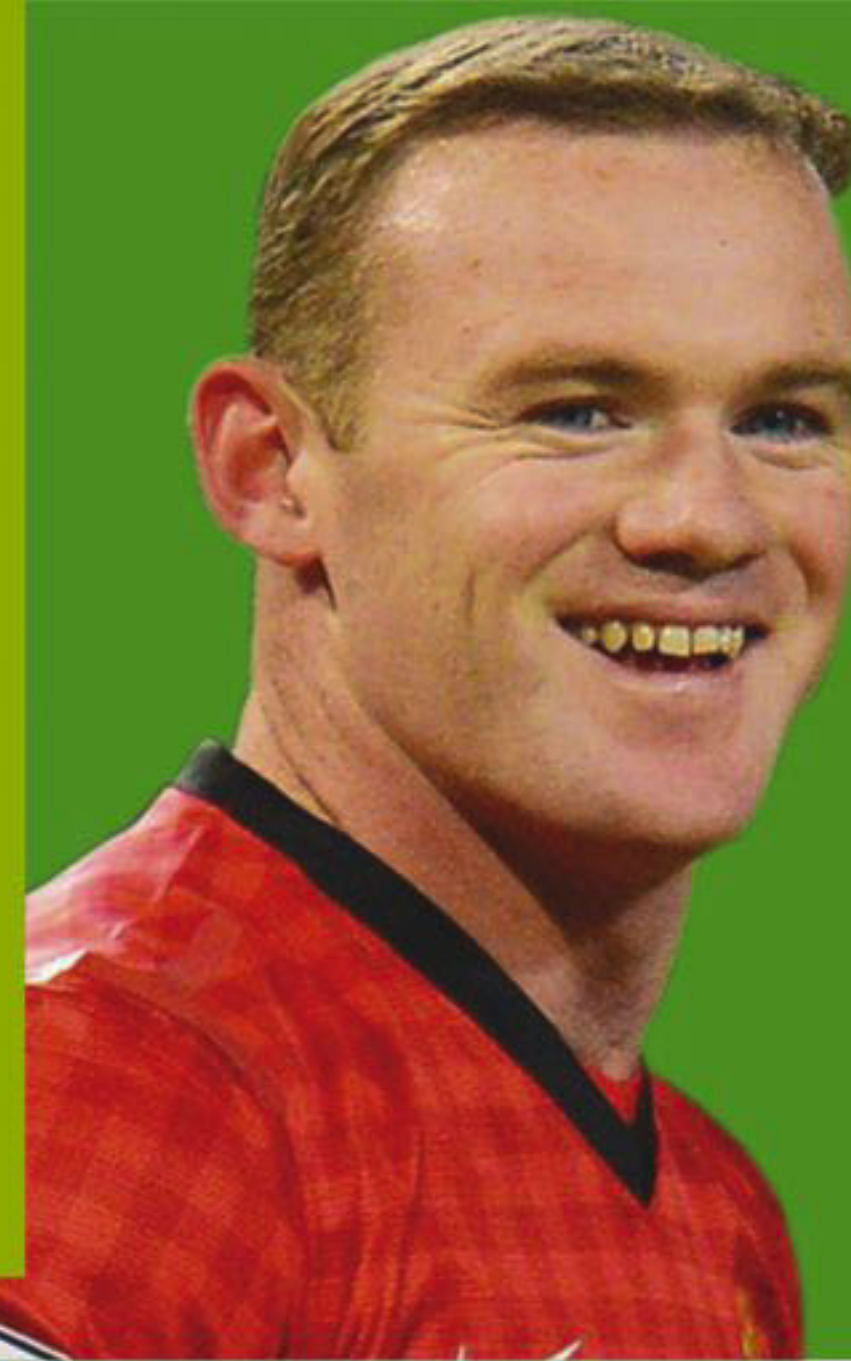


Rooney passes penalty duty

Wayne Rooney admits he told Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson he wanted to stop taking penalties because he was fed up with missing from the spot. Rooney smashed his last spot-kick well over the crossbar in an FA Cup tie against West Ham in January. That was the second time this season he had failed from the spot and it proved the last straw for the England star. But Rooney has revealed Robin van Persie, who did not start against Fulham, is now United's number one taker after he decided



Jahurul clinches close chase

Rajshahi captaincy keeps changing hands

BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong

Mukter Ali smashed two precious boundaries in the last over but it was Jahurul Islam who did the lion's share to help the struggling Duroonto Rajshahi secure their third win with a four-wicket victory over Barisal Burners in

the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) match at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

The jam-packed stadium saw some good cricket as Jahurul, hitting a match-winning 57, eclipsed Pakistan all-rounder Azhar Mahmood's brilliant performance to help Rajshahi finish their Chittagong leg on a happy note. Rajshahi, who continued changing the captaincy with Sri Lanka's Chamara Kapugedera leading the team yesterday after Jahurul wanted relief from the extra burden, beat the same opponents by four runs at the same venue last Monday.

Chasing a 153-run target, Rajshahi got off to a disastrous start by losing openers Charles Coventry and local hero Tamim Iqbal, because of whom Rajshahi got full support from the capacity crowd, with just 13 on the board. But then Jahurul joined Sri Lankan Dilshan Munaweera to turn the tide. One big over saw Rajshahi seize the

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Duroonto Rajshahi's middle-order batsman Jahurul Islam plays a lofted drive during his match-winning 57 against Barisal Burners in their BPL T20 encounter at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

BPL PAYMENT Owais Shah clears the 25% air

CRICINFO, Chittagong

Owais Shah has clarified the delay in the 25 per cent of his 75,000-dollar payment was because of an error in the bank details he had provided. He had initially complained about not being paid despite receiving a remittance slip from the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and had termed the situation "embarrassing" for the board.

"In regards to my initial payment of 25 per cent, the issue has been rectified," Shah said in an email sent via his agent. "Initially, the bank details I provided to the BCB didn't seem to go through properly which was unfortunate. It resulted in the delay but the BCB have acted very efficiently and I'm now happy with where things stand, which is great."

BCB's acting chief executive Nizamuddin Chowdhury said Shah's reaction was "premature" as the payments often take a few extra days to process. The bank had confirmed on Thursday that the transfer of the amount was not possible without the correct IBAN (International Bank Account Number).

"A player of Owais Shah's reputation gave a premature reaction in the public domain. This is regrettable," Chowdhury told ESPNcricinfo. "Our bank sent us a correspondence on Thursday that the IBAN was incorrect and hence, his agent provided us with the information again and we had to make the transfer once again. Apart from the IBAN, a player has to provide his name, account

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Ctg leg ends with home win

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

The huge turnout for each day will be the abiding memory of the Bangladesh Premier League's (BPL) Chittagong phase, which wound to a close at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday. And the home fans enjoyed a deservedly fantastic finish as the Chittagong Kings were led by a Naeem Islam half-century to a massive 54-run victory over Dhaka Gladiators in the last match.

The Chittagong leg certainly brought relief to the organisers of a tournament that was suffering from low crowd interest, as the BPL got a new lease of life in the

SCORES IN BRIEF

CHITTAGONG KINGS: 142-9 in 20 overs (Naeem 50, Taylor 41, Doeschate 23, Riyad 11, extras 7; Thomas 2-11, Lokuarachchi 2-26, Mahabubul 1-26, Mosharraf 2-17, Ashraf 1-10).

DHAKA GLADIATORS: 88-8 in 20 overs (Ashraf 33, Thomas 12, Mosharraf 16 not out, Mahabubul 13 not out, extras 8; Oram 2-7, Sunny 2-11, Enamul 2-16)

Result: Chittagong Kings won by 54 runs.

port city with huge numbers coming to the stadium.

The roaring crowd cheered on the Kings, chanting 'Chittagong, Chittagong' as defending champions Dhaka gave up one wicket after another to be restricted to 88 for eight in 20 overs in chase of 143. Dhaka's was the lowest total in the BPL, eclipsing Khulna's 89 against Rangpur in

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Trouble at MA Aziz

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

While the Chittagong leg of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 has seen an upturn in the tournament's image with capacity crowds turning up to support their teams, the huge spectator interest created some problems during yesterday's matches at the MA Aziz Stadium.

Hundreds of fans had to watch the matches standing and sitting on the aisles as the galleries were unable to contain the rush. The crowd pressure was so great that in the evening, tensions ran high among the spectators in the scramble for seats in the North gallery.

Some of the personnel responsible for controlling entry claimed that over 35,000 spectators got into the stadium, the capacity of which is 25,000.

Member of the ticket distributing committee Omar Goni Chowdhury told The Daily Star that all tickets were sold two days before. "For the last day's matches around 22,000 tickets have been sold," he said. "The non-ticket holders entered through the gates 1 and 18."

"We conveyed the matter to the law enforcers," he said, adding that the committee have nothing to do with ticket checking or gate-keeping.

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Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

A half-century from Mehidy Hasan led Eskaton Sabuj Shangha to a three-wicket win over Partex Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday in the Super League round of the First Division Cricket League. Batting first, Partex were bundled out for 170 with Eskaton's Tanziul Ahsan and Nadim Shek taking three wickets apiece. The latter chased the total with three wickets

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On the fringes

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

Mohan is not a player, not even a spectator. But nowadays his life is intertwined with cricket. He rejoices when the matches draw huge crowds to the ground, although he is yet to enter a stadium to enjoy live cricket.

Even as over 25,000 cricket fans were supporting their teams in the Duroonto Rajshahi-Barishal Burners match in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 at Chittagong's MA Aziz Stadium yesterday afternoon, Mohan was busy with his job outside the stadium walls.

A vendor who started his business during the 2011 World Cup hosted in Bangladesh, Mohan came to the port city with 14 friends to sell his products which include team flags, jerseys, caps and hand-made flutes and various others that add to the spectators' joy when they are watching the cricket.

"I go everywhere in the country where cricket matches are held," said the 22-year-old youth hailing from the capital's Daniya area.

On good days like the last few BPL match days, when the ground teems with spectators, Mohan nets profits as high as Tk 4,000.

"I made a good profit over the last three days as a good number of spectators came here to enjoy the matches," he said, adding that he really enjoys working in Chittagong.

"When I see the enthusiastic audience in their respective team jerseys waving flags bought from me, I feel proud," he added.

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PHOTO: STAR

A colourful rally was brought out in the capital yesterday to mark the 40th anniversary of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation.

Hockey celebrates 40 yrs

SPORTS REPORTER

Former star players and organisers stressed on the need for a combined and comprehensive effort to bring back the golden days of hockey in the country as the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) celebrated its 40th anniversary through a host of colourful events at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The anniversary celebrations coincided with the visit of the Federation of International Hockey (FIH) president Leandro Negre who left earlier yesterday morning. As the former Spaniard international gave some verbal assurances to take the

country's hockey forward by providing technical, logistic and administrative support, the speakers yesterday hoped BHF would grab this opportunity with both hands.

Legendary hockey player Abdus Sadeque, who played against Negre as part of the Pakistan XI squad in 1969, hoped the stimuli would continue. "With the arrival of the FIH president Leandro Negre the horizon of new prospects has been opened. Today's programme, I hope will continue to inspire all those involved in hockey to work together," said Sadeque who was felicitated along with Khawja Yusuf Reza (posthu-

mous), Bashir Ahmed, Abdus Sadeque, Azizullah Haider Jamal and Jumman Lusai.

Jumman Lusai, the first Bangladeshi hockey player to be included in a World XI back in 1985, hoped hockey again reaches the level that prevailed when they were playing. "We don't want to be the world champions, but we can reach the Asian level and show Bangladesh has the potential to go further," said Jumman.

Former coaches, all general secretaries, umpires and journalists were also felicitated for their contribution

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