

SPORT

High octane at Bogra

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite the fact that there were three games in the third round of the Dhaka Premier League yesterday it was the match between Abahani and Prime Doleshwar at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium at Bogra, which the latter won by 58 runs, that garnered most of the attention. The game saw three centuries and two five-wicket hauls. Elsewhere, Mohammedan Sporting Club made it two in two after beating Kalabagan Cricket Academy by five runs at Fatullah and went to the top of the table and Cricket Coaching School lost to Sheikh Jamal by one wicket at BKSP 3.

Batting first Prime Dowleshwar, who notched their first win, rode on centuries from Mominul Haque (129) and Sri Lankan recruit Roshane Shiwanka Silva (140) to post 320. Abahani pacer Al Amin Hossain followed his six-wicket haul in the first match with figures of 5 for 65 and was the pick of the bowlers.

In reply, Abahani were restricted to 262 for nine, with batsman Liton Kumar Das retiring hurt. They depended mainly on Mosaddek Hossain (100) and Tharanga Paranavitana (81) for a lion's share of their runs. Forhad Reza for Doleshwar finished with figures of 5 for 51.

At BKSP-3 Sheikh Jamal won a game that was shortened to 47 overs due to inclement weather. Batting first CCS rode on half centuries from Uttam Sarker (56) and Gihan Rupasinghe (50) to post 247. The target was reduced to 239 off 47 overs. Sheikh Jamal scored 241 for 9 in 46.5. Mohammad Shehzad was the hero as he smacked a 78-ball 83. With four points Jamal are now in second spot on the league tables.

Meanwhile, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's Mohammedan SC beat Kalabagan by five runs on Duckworth-Lewis. Mashrafe picked up one wicket in the match.

National Selector Minhajul Abedin, who was present at the venue to assess Mashrafe's performance, said, "He was alright. He got one wicket and bowled seven overs. He needs a bit more time. Hopefully he will get better in the days to come."

SCORES IN BRIEF

PRIME DOLESHWAR: 320 for 6 in 50 overs (Roshane 140, Mominul 129; Al Amin 5-65).
ABAHANI: 262 for 9 in 48.4 overs (Mosaddek 100, Parnavitana 81; Forhad 5-51).
Result: Prime Doleshwar won by 58 runs.
KALBAGAN CA: 140 all out in 43.2 overs (Sharif Ullah 50; Murad Khan 3-28).
MOHAMMEDAN: 121 for 5 in 26.4 overs (Dilshan 44; Maksudul Hasan 3-25).
Result: Mohammedan won by 5 wickets (D/L)
CCS: 247 all out in 50 overs (Uttam 56, Gihan 50; Shafiu 3-50).
SHEIKH JAMAL: 241 all out in 46.5 overs (M Shehzad 83; Asif 3-34, Bishwant 3-36).
Result: Sheikh Jamal won by one wicket.

Naveed submits Asia Cup report

SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistani coach Naveed Alam yesterday placed his report before the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) regarding the performance of the national team in the AHF Asia Cup, where Bangladesh finished seventh among eight teams. "We are yet to read the report but we will try to follow the recommendations he made there. We will sit for an executive committee meeting next week and discuss reports of both the coach and the manager, who is supposed to submit his report before the meeting," said BHF general secretary Khaza Rahmatullah yesterday. It has been learnt that Naveed evaluated positive and negative aspects of all the players of the team and advised the federation to groom up players from the grassroot level.

Japan Karate starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

Fourth Japan Cup Karate Competition begins today at the Mirpur Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Dhaka. The two-day event is being sponsored by the Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh and is organised by the Bangladesh Karate Federation.

The event will be inaugurated by the ambassador Shiru Sadoshima where the general secretary of Bangladesh Cycling Federation Imtiaz Khan Babul will be present as special guest.



Mohammedan captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza walks back to the top of his run-up during yesterday's DPL match against Kalabagan at Fatullah, where he picked up a wicket. Selectors said Mashrafe requires more game-time to get back into his rhythm.

PHOTO: STAR

Al Amin on a roll

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh national team's pace troubles are no secret. Constant injuries have compelled the selectors to look for new pacers in the recent past. As a result, the likes of Robiul Islam and Sajedul Islam made returns to the national side this year.

Under these circumstances, young Al Amin Hossain's performance for Abahani at the start of the Dhaka Premier League provides hope. The bowler picked up eleven wickets in his first two matches. His second five-for came on the batting-friendly wicket of Bogra yesterday, in a match that saw three centuries.

"I had to work really hard to get the wickets (on Tuesday). It was batsman-friendly, so I had to use lots of variations. I tried to york them, bowl slower, etc. Also, it was very hot in Bogra, which made it even more difficult," Al Amin told The Daily Star.

"I am happy with my personal performance in the match, but it would have been better had we won," he added.

Like any other player, the 23-year-old hopes to break through to the national side in the near future and with the New Zealand series around the corner, he aims to give it his best shot in the league.

"I obviously want to break through into the national side. All I can do is provide my best performance here and finish the league on a high. I took 26 wickets last year, this year my aim is to take around 35 to 40," he said.

The pacer was a part of the Bangladesh A team that toured England earlier this year. That tour, according to him, has drastically changed his bowling outlook. "I feel like the tour has changed my bowling altogether. It has helped me mentally. They play a lot of power cricket and were really difficult to bowl at," he said.

"We had to be perfect with our line. Since there was a lot of pressure there, comparatively it's a bit easier here," he added.

BFF boss urged to take back his words

SPORTS REPORTER



The Football Coaches Association of Bangladesh (FCAB) yesterday urged Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin to retract his statement regarding the quality of local coaches following the failure of the national team under the guidance of Dutch coaches.

"We are saddened by the BFF president's remarks regarding the local coaches. Though we do not know which circumstances led him to say what he said, but we, FCAB, urge BFF president Kazi Salahuddin, who is also the guardian of the country's football, to retract his statement," read FCAB general secretary Satyajit Das Rupu at press conference at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Salahuddin on Friday claimed that local coaches have been criticising the Dutch coaches out of jealousy and they do not have the quality to criticise the coaches of the national team. He also added that the local coaches had no calibre and if they did, then clubs like Abahani and Sheikh Jamal would not go after foreign coaches.

Rupu, also a BFF executive committee member, said that some coaches might have said something sporadically about the national coaches but the BFF president should not judge all local coaches on a single scale. He also mentioned that coaches like late Shaheb Ali, Ali Imam, Gafur Baluch, Abdur Rahim, Bazlu and veterans Tipu, Gazi, Selim had great contribution towards country's football.

"The BFF president himself had also been coach at the club and national level at one stage and many others followed his footsteps, but his criticism of local coaches is really sad for us," read the statement.

Former national player and coach Abu Yousuf said that the issue should have been about the federation and the national coaches due, but unfortunately the local coaches, who had no role in performance of the national team, came under fire.

Maruful Haque, a treble-winning coach last season, said that it is inappropriate for any coach to criticise another one and no local coach directly criticised the national coach, who on the other hand criticised the local coaches.

Salahuddin declined to comment over demand of FCAB.

Aus finish winning

AFP, Southampton



Shane Watson's century saw Australia to a 49-run win over England in the fifth one-day international at Southampton on Monday as their lengthy tour ended with a 2-1 series victory.

Watson, involved throughout in a trip that saw Australia arrive in Britain in May before their early Champions Trophy exit was followed by a 3-0 Ashes series loss, made 143 in a total of 298 all out.

Together with captain Michael Clarke (75), he shared a fourth-wicket partnership of 163, on a ground where they'd both played for Hampshire, after their side had slumped to 48 for three in this day-night clash.

Durham all-rounder Ben Stokes led England's attack with an ODI best five wickets for 61 runs, the 22-year-old all-rounder starring as Australia fell just short of 300.

England debutant Chris Jordan, in for fast bowler Steven Finn, took three for 47 after his first ball in international cricket was hit for four by Aaron Finch, whose last match on the ground saw him score a Twenty20 world record 156 against England last month.

But Australia had more than enough runs as they enjoyed a win over England ahead of the return Ashes series down under starting

Kiwi itinerary announced

SPORTS REPORTER

New Zealand will arrive in Bangladesh on October 1 to play two Tests, three ODIs and a T20I. The Tests and ODIs will take place in Chittagong and Dhaka. The T20I will take place in Sylhet, provided the Bangladesh Cricket Board receives ICC's clearance.

The last time the Kiwis toured here in October 2010, it was for a five-ODI series that Bangladesh won 4-0 after one of the games had been washed out.

The itinerary was officially announced yesterday.

ITINERARY

Oct 1: NZ arrives.
Oct 4-6: Three-day warm-up game at MA AZIZ Stadium, Chittagong
Oct 9-13: First Test at ZACS, Chittagong
Oct 14-20: Eid Break
Oct 21-25: Second Test at SBNCS, Mirpur
Oct 29: First ODI, at SBNCS, Mirpur
Oct 31: Second ODI, at SBNCS Mirpur
Nov 3: Third ODI at Fatullah
Nov 6: T20I at Sylhet

Letters being sent finally

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Tuesday finally started sending out the letter to the clubs, the DSAs and the other parties asking them to send the names of their councillors for the board elections.

BCB's acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury confirmed yesterday that they have started the process.

The board was supposed to send the letter on August 12 but had then missed several deadlines and thus delayed the start of the much-talked about election process.

It has been nearly two months since the Supreme Court ruled in favour of holding the elections on the basis of BCB's amended 2012 constitution but it is yet not sure when the elections will take place.

Cilic earns doping ban

AFP, London

Croatia's Marin Cilic has been handed a nine-month doping ban, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) announced on Monday.

The 24-year-old, currently ranked 24th in the world, has had the ban back-dated to May 1 this year, meaning he will be able to return to action on February 1, 2014.

Cilic's doping violation came when he tested positive for nikethamide at the Munich Open in May.

in November.

England's reply got off to a disastrous start when Kevin Pietersen was run out for nought after being slow to answer Michael Carberry's call.

Carberry, on his home ground, made 30 before he was lbw to left-arm seamer James Faulkner (three for 38).

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