

SPORT

MSC in top spot after Ezaz ton

Crucial last round begins today

MOHAMMEDAN SC: 305 all out in 49.5 overs (Ezaz Ahmed 109,Habibur 64;	Jehan Mubarak 3-61) KALABAGAN KC: 265 all out in 49.3 overs (Naeem	83, Bilal 43; Rahmat 5-50) Result: Mohammedan won by 40 runs.
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SPORTS REPORTER



Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's Mohammedan Sporting Club rode on a century from Ezaz Ahmed to beat Kalabagan Krira Chakra by 40 runs in the tenth round of the Dhaka Premier League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. The win took Mohammedan to the top of the table with 14 points.

Asked to bat first, Mohammedan were bowled out for 305 runs in 49.5 overs. In reply Kalabagan were bundled out for 265 in 49.3 overs.

Mohammedan struggled initially, losing key batsmen Rajin Saleh and Shamsur Rahman within the first two overs of the game and were poised at a precarious four for two. A 165-run third-wicket partnership between opener Ezaz and number four Habibur Rahman however revived the side as they reached the 150-mark in 31 overs.

Ezaz smacked six sixes and five fours in his 120-ball 109 while Habibur scored a composed 85-ball 64. Despite losing early wickets, Ezaz had an aggressive intent right from the start. He was particularly harsh against England's Bilal Shafayat whom he smacked for a six and three fours in the fourth and sixth overs, which took the bowler out of the attack. He continued his onslaught against Shaju Dutta whom he hit for two sixes in the 15th over.

Quickfire contributions from Dhiman

Ghosh (30), Rahmat Shah (42) and Muktar Ali (26) helped the side cross the 300-mark after the fall of the third-wicket pair.

Naeem Islam continued his good run, as he top-scored for Kalabagan in the chase with an 84-ball 83. There were contributions from Mithun Ali (41) and Bilal (43) as well, but Mohammaden's Afghani recruit Rahmat Shah's five wicket haul proved to be too good for Kalabagan as they lost their last five wickets for just 40 runs.

Mashrafe went wicketless in the match and had figures of none for 49 in seven overs.

CRUCIAL LAST ROUND

The eleventh and final round of the tournament will begin today with several crucial matches to be played. The top six are going to play the Super League and Mohammedan, Prime Doleshwar and Gazi Tank Cricketers are already through.

The battle for the remaining three spots will be fought between Kalabagan Cricket Academy, Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, Prime Bank Cricket Club, Brothers Union and reigning champions Victoria Sporting Club. Mere wins for Kalabagan, Prime Bank and Sheikh Jamal will confirm their spots. The equation for Brothers and Victoria, however, is a lot more difficult as they both have just nine points.

At the bottom, Khelaghar Samaj Kallyan Samiti, on two points, will have to win and hope that Abahani beat Kalabagan in order to avoid direct relegation.



Mohammedan opener Ezaz Ahmed raises his bat after scoring a match-winning century during the Dhaka Premier League match against Kalabagan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. (INSET) National all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, recovering from dengue fever, watches the action from the dressing room.

PHOTOS: STAR



EDEN ADIEU: Indian batting legend Sachin Tendulkar brings his hands together to applaud the venue that has showered him with adulation over 24 years. As India defeated West Indies by an innings on the third day at Eden Gardens yesterday in the penultimate Test of Tendulkar's storied career, he bid goodbye to the venue having had to bat just once, disappointingly being given out LBW for just 10.

PHOTO: INTERNET

Shami's debut delight crushes Windies

CNN-IBN, Kolkata



Heroics of India debutants Mohammad Shami and Rohit Sharma decimated the

West Indies inside three days to lift India to an innings and 51-run win in Sachin Tendulkar's 199th and last Test at Eden Gardens, which also gave India a 1-0 lead in the two-match Test series.

Shami bowled a fiery spell in the final session on day three to tear West Indies' middle and lower order apart. Shami picked up a five-for on debut and a nine-wicket match haul, which is the best by any Indian fast bowler on debut. Earlier, Rohit (177) and R Ashwin (124) extended their partnership to 280 in the morning to give India a 219-run lead.

West Indies were in with a fight with the partnership between Darren Bravo and Kieran Powell, but once the ball started reversing for Shami, he became unplayable and bowled the Windies out for a paltry 168.

At the start of the day's play, Ashwin scored his second Test century and Rohit carried on from where he left off on day two. Sharma hit a six and 23 fours in his brilliant innings that marked his arrival in the longer format. He became the second Indian to reach 150 on debut soon after Ashwin reached his second century. However, on 177, he padded one from Veerasammy Permaul and was given out LBW, although the replays showed it wasn't going to hit the stumps. Ashwin soon followed him back to the pavilion as he was bowled by Shillingford for 124, who completed his five-wicket haul in the process. Soon India



Debutant India fast bowler Mohammad Shami leaps to celebrate one of his five second innings wickets which sped West Indies to an innings and 51-run defeat on the third day of the first Test at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday.

PHOTO: CRICINFO

were bowled out for 453, having a healthy lead of 219 runs.

West Indies started their second innings on a positive note with Chris Gayle scoring a 35-ball 33 before falling to Bhuvneshwar Kumar. Gayle hit seven fours in his knock but was caught by Virat Kohli at square leg off Kumar. Kieran Powell and Darren Bravo also got in the 30s but could not capitalise on the starts. Ashwin took his first wicket in the second innings when he trapped Powell plumb in front of the wicket.

The visitors lost their third wicket soon when Marlon Samuels was unfortunately adjudged LBW to a Shami delivery by umpire Nigel Llong. Resuming the third session at 112 for 3, Windies wickets fell like pack of cards. Ashwin took his second wicket when he had Darren Bravo caught by Rohit at backward point soon after tea, who took a smart catch diving forward.

Denesh Ramdin was the next man to go for one after giving a simple catch to Murali Vijay at forward short leg off Shami. The game changing over came soon after when India picked

three wickets in four balls (Darren Sammy, Shillingford and Permaul), two of them bowled by Shami and one a run-out. Shami clean bowled Sammy and Shillingford with superb reverse swinging deliveries before MS Dhoni ran out Veerasammy Permaul with a direct hit.

Ashwin then chipped in with Tino Best's wicket and after that India were just one-wicket away from a victory. Last man to go was Sheldon Cottrell and Shami completed his first five-for with his scalp. After the match, CAB felicitated Sachin Tendulkar with numerous gifts.

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES: First innings 234 (Gayle 18, Powell 28, Bravo 23, Samuels 65, Chanderpaul 36; Shami 4-71, Ashwin 2-52)

INDIA: First innings (overnight 354 for 6)

Dhawan b Shillingford	23
Vijay st Ramdin b Shillingford	26
Pujara c Ramdin b Cottrell	17
Tendulkar lbw b Shillingford	10
Kohli c Powell b Shillingford	3
Sharma lbw b Permaul	177
Dhoni c Ramdin b Best	42
Ashwin b Shillingford	124
Kumar c Gayle b Shillingford	12
Shami st f Ramdin b Permaul	1
Ojha not out	2
Extras: (b-4, lb-8, w-1, nb-3)	16
Total: (All out in 129.4 overs)	453
Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-57, 3-79, 4-82, 5-83, 6-156, 7-436, 8-444, 9-451.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Best	17	0	71	1
Cottrell	18	3	72	1
Shillingford	55	9	167	6
Permaul	23.4	2	67	2
Sammy	12	1	52	0
Samuels	4	0	12	0

WEST INDIES: Second innings

Gayle c Kohli b Kumar	33
Powell lbw b Ashwin	36
Bravo c Sharma b Ashwin	37
Samuels lbw b Shami	4
Chanderpaul not out	31
Ramdin c Vijay b Shami	1
Sammy b Shami	8
Shillingford b Shami	0
Permaul run out	0
Best c Ojha b Ashwin	3
Cottrell b Shami	5
Extras: (lb-10)	10
Total: (All out in 54.1 overs)	168
Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-101, 3-110, 4-120, 5-125, 6-152, 7-152, 8-152, 9-159.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kumar	6	1	20	1
Shami	13.1	0	47	5
Ashwin	19	2	46	3
Ojha	13	3	27	0
Tendulkar	3	0	18	0

Result: India won by an innings and 51 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Rohit Sharma.

Debt-ridden BFF to release coaches?

SPORTS REPORTER



Acute financial crisis is supposedly leading the Bangladesh Football Federation's (BFF's) high-ups to mulling extreme measures like releasing the national team's Dutch coaches long before their contracts expire.

The BFF reportedly owes more than Tk 7 crore to various stakeholders, with not much of sponsorship deals looking likely in the near future, which is why the BFF high-ups might be thinking about releasing high-paid Dutch coaches Lodewijk de Kruijff and Rene Koster with only four months into their two-year contract.

The two coaches were appointed by the BFF with Vision 2022 in mind, ahead of the SAFF Championship, and with the hope that a good result in the tournament would help the BFF to rope in a few sponsors to cover the coaches' expenses. However, the national team's group-stage elimination from SAFF Championship has made BFF's task harder and they are even having trouble arranging for the salaries of the coaches.

After the completion of the SAFF Championship and the AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers, De Kruijff and Koster have been sitting almost idle with no international engagements in the near future.

It has been learnt that BFF president Kazi Salahuddin had talked about the possibility of releasing the Dutch duo with senior vice president Abdus Salam Murshedy, who supported the suggestion. However, vice-president Tabith M Awal, who is also a core member of the National Teams Committee, ruled out such a possibility citing that the coaches were brought for football development for a two-year contract and not solely for the SAFF Championship.

Nevertheless, BFF's reported debt of more than Tk 7 crore is adding fuel to such thinking by the BFF high-ups, who even could not clear the wages of its employees for the last two months as well as the festival bonus of Eid-ul-Azha. The cash crunch also led the BFF to pull out of September's AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers in Kyrgyzstan even though they managed money to send the national squad to the AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers in Iraq.

While the BFF is struggling to manage the fund to send its teams outside country, a quarter of the paid-employees within the federation are busy with commission business. Tabith informed that he bought each of Iraq-bound air tickets for the U-19 team for Tk 60,000 less than what was estimated by the concerned personnel.

With the 2013-14 season knocking on the doors, the BFF has yet to manage any sponsors for the Federation Cup, the Independence Cup, the Bangladesh Premier League and the Super Cup. The three-year contract worth Tk 24 crore with Grameenphone expired in July this year and the BFF has placed a new proposal worth Tk 16 crore per year before the telecom giants, which is unlikely to respond anytime before the parliamentary elections are completed.

Although there is no permanent income source for BFF, it does get financial assistance from FIFA (2.5 lakh dollars) and AFC (2 lakh dollars) annually while Japan Football Association provide 20,000 dollars per year to run the JFA Cup, which was last held in 2009.

Siddikur surges to 2-stroke lead

ASIANTOUR.COM



Siddikur Rahman tightened his grip at the weather-interrupted Hero Indian Open with a second round six-under-par (66) yesterday to put himself in position to end a title jinx at the Delhi Golf Club.

The Bangladeshi opened with an eagle and holed a 20-footer birdie putt on the last for a 12-under-par (132) total, two shots ahead of Chapchai Nirat of Thailand, who posted a 68 at the 1.25-million-dollar Asian Tour event.

Multiple Asian Tour winners Angelo Que (68) of the Philippines and SSP Chowrasia (68) of India were a further five shots back from Siddikur at the venerable Delhi Golf Club.

The halfway stage of the Hero Indian Open was suspended due to darkness as thick fog delayed the start of round two for over an hour in the morning. A total of 26 players will return at 7.15am local time today to complete the round.

Siddikur took advantage of his straight hitting game and a hot putter, making 27 putts at the venerable Delhi Golf Club. "I played aggressively again and I'm really enjoying this new style of play. I didn't do anything exceptional in my game but I'm just enjoying the way I'm playing now. My game was excellent thanks largely to my short game," smiled Siddikur.

The 29-year-old has enjoyed solid results at the Delhi Golf Club but is still without a victory at the challenging course where he finished second at the 2011 SAIL Open and 2012 Panasonic Open India.

"This course is like my home course! I have good memories here. With the way I'm playing, I think it is time to win. I won't do anything special but I will continue to play aggressively," Siddikur added.



PHOTO: ASIANTOUR.COM

Siddikur Rahman was in ravishing form in the first two rounds of the Hero Honda Indian Open and he will be hoping the same in the next two rounds to end his three-year long title-drought in the Asian Tour.