

# SPORT

## MUSHFIQUR makes light work of stiff chase

### Gazi Tank stay on top of Super League

SPORTS REPORTER

Mushfiqur Rahim hammered an unbeaten 145 -- his highest List A score -- as he helped Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club chase down Prime Doleshwar's 304 with six wickets and four overs remaining at the BKSP-2 yesterday in the second round of the Dhaka Premier League's Super League competition.

The day also witnessed Gazi tank Cricketers take a two-point lead at the top of the table after they beat Prime Bank Cricket Club by six wickets at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium at Mirpur. Meanwhile at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah, Mohammedan Sporting Club beat Kalabagan Cricket Academy by 76 runs in a low-scoring game.

There were three centurions at the BKSP-2 yesterday on a track that seemed to support the batsmen. It began with Prime Doleshwar, after electing to bat first, posting 304 for seven in the first innings. Doleshwar rode on their English recruit Joshua Cobb, who scored 123 off 130 balls. Cobb, who began on a watchful note, ended up scoring five sixes and 10 fours before being caught off Dilshan Munaweera in the 42nd over. He had dispatched the third and fourth deliveries for sixes before getting caught off the fifth. A 66-ball 61 from Dawid Malan, towards the end, helped Doleshwar get past the 300-mark.

In reply, Sheikh Jamal got off to a bad start as Shohag Gazi removed opener Jahurul Islam in the second ball of the innings. They kept losing wickets at regular



MUSHFIQUR...145 not out

intervals and were struggling at 90 for three with Dilshan Munaweera retiring hurt at the end of the 14th over.

But a 189-run stand for the fourth wicket between Mushfiqur and Steven Crook (100), who scored his first ever century in List A cricket, brought Sheikh Jamal back into the game and in the end led them to a comfortable win.

Mushfiqur paced his innings to perfection and hit five sixes and twelve fours in 118 balls. Apart from a let-off in the 30th over when he was dropped on 85 off Gazi, Mushfiqur seemed to be in sublime touch. He was particularly harsh against Doleshwar's spinners whom he hammered for 15 of his 17 boundaries. Crook too reached his 100 off just 83 balls. The innings saw him smack seven fours and six sixes.

Gazi Tank chased down Prime Bank's 247 with 2.4 overs remaining at Mirpur yesterday. Batting first Prime Bank posted 247, courtesy of Ravi Bopara's 95. In reply, Gazi Tank -- who had stumbled to 121 for 4 in 29 overs -- rode on half-centuries from Ryan Ten Doeschate (68) and Mahmudullah Riyad (67) to reach home with six wickets remaining. Ten Doeschate hit six sixes and two fours in his 60-ball innings while Riyad hit five fours and two sixes in 79 balls.

The pair shared an unbeaten 121-run fifth-wicket partnership.

England's Samit Patel scored 86 runs and took 3 for 25 at Fatullah yesterday as he led Mohammedan to a 76-run win yesterday. Batting first Mohammedan scored 226. In reply, Kalabagan were restricted to 150 for 9.

<b>PRIME BANK CC:</b> 247 for 8 (Bopara 95, Saykat 60; Arafat Sunny 3-57)	<b>SIX WICKETS</b>	<b>by six wickets</b>
<b>GAZI TANK:</b> 248 for 4 in 47.5 overs (Ten Doeschate 68 not out, Riyad 67 not out; Shehan 2-48)	<b>PRIME DOLESHWAR:</b> 304 for 7 (Cobb 123, Malan 61; Dilshan Munaweera 2-49)	<b>MOHAMMEDAN SC:</b> 226 for 9 (Samit 86; Nazmul Apu 3-46)
<b>Result:</b> Gazi Tank won by	<b>SHEIKH JAMAL:</b> 305 for 4 in 46 overs (Mushfiqur 145 not out, Steven 100)	<b>KALABAGAN CA:</b> 150 for 9 in 40.1 overs (Abhihek Mitra 51; Samit 3-25)
	<b>Result:</b> Sheikh Jamal won	<b>Result:</b> MSC won by 76



Sheikh Russel's Moroccan recruit Youness Roux fights for the ball against Chittagong Abahani in the Federation Cup match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Faridpur, Rajshahi in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Faridpur and Rajshahi moved to the final of the Agrani Bank 24th National Youth Hockey Championship after winning their respective semifinals at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Faridpur thrashed Dhaka 7-0, thanks to three goals from Rabbi Salehin and one each from Salman, Moinul, Moztafizar and Nayan in the one-sided affair.

In the second semifinal, Rajshahi came from behind to beat Chittagong 3-1. Joy put Chittagong ahead but Rajshahi levelled through Russel before Belal struck two goals to take Rajshahi to the final, which will take place on Sunday.

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Defending champions Sheikh Russel KC survived some nervous moments in the second half

before pulling off a 1-0 victory over promoted club Chittagong Abahani in their first match of the Walton Federation Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Team BJMC, meanwhile, stumbled as they were held to a 2-2 draw by Bangladesh Police. But the draw was only ensured by a stoppage-time strike from Mehdi Hasan Tapu, who had given BJMC a 17th-minute lead only to see Bangladesh Police scoring twice. Amirul Islam cancelled out the first strike from Tapu in the 76th minute before Kabirul Islam gave Police the lead in the 88th minute. But Tapu denied Police a famous victory and kept BJMC's hopes of moving into the quarterfinals alive by striking deep into stoppage time.

Under the floodlight, treble-winners

Sheikh Russel toiled hard to preserve their 18th-minute lead given by Moroccan Youness Roux as Chittagong Abahani switched from a 5-3-2 to a 4-4-2 formation in the second half to launch a wave of attacks, exposing the backline of Sheikh Russel several times.

But the promoted side were not lucky enough to share the spoils with Sheikh Russel, who look a depleted side since nine key players left the club in the preseason transfers.

Sheikh Russel however made a lively start, playing a 4-3-3 formation, with Uruguayan Francis Andres and Mithun Chowdhury controlling the midfield with crisp passing while Jamaican Ricardo Cousins and local Anwar Hossain puzzled the opponents by changing their positions frequently.

With such quick changes in positions, Sheikh Russel went ahead in the 18th minute when Mithun played Anwar on the right flank and the winger ran deep to put a low cross for Youness, to place the ball at the back of the net from the edge of the six-yard box.

However, Sheikh Russel failed to

keep up the momentum in the second half and were exposed at the back where Hasan Al Mamun and Mamun Mia were playing as left-back and right-back respectively, which are not their usual positions.

Chittagong Abahani created at least four scoring chances but their forwards narrowly missed the target twice while Sheikh Russel's experienced goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee thwarted two other attempts.

"Obviously, Sheikh Russel is not as good as they were last season as nine key players left," said Sheikh Russel coach Maruful Haque. "Most of the players are new and they need time to adapt to the style of my game and they will gradually improve."

"The opponents dominated throughout the second half and we were a bit lucky not to have conceded an equaliser. However, our target was to win by whatever margin and I am happy with three points," said Maruf, who guided Sheikh Russel to the Federation Cup, professional football league and Independence Cup titles last season.

## Siddikur slips to 49th

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman slipped to joint 49th position on the ISPS HANDA World Cup of Golf leaderboard after settling for a four-over-par (75) in the second round yesterday.

The two-time Asian Tour winner, who began the day at 32nd position thanks to a two-over-par (73) in the first round, aggregated six-over-par (148) after the second round, fourteen strokes behind leader Thomas Bjorn of Denmark.

Bjorn maintained his patience around the tricky Royal Melbourne Golf Club to shoot a three-under-par (68) and took a one-stroke lead over Kevin Strelman of United States, who shot a two-under-par (69). Tied for third were Jason Day of Australia (70) and Ricardo Santos of Portugal (69).

Siddikur meanwhile experienced difficulties on a windy day at the lightning quick greens of Royal Melbourne as he traded five bogeys for just a single birdie. The only birdie came on the par-four sixth hole, while the bogeys came consistently -- on the fourth, eighth, ninth, 11th and 16th holes.

Since there is no cut in this select event of sixty golfers, Siddikur will be going into the weekend rounds ensured of a paycheck of whatever amount, but if he has to finish inside the top twenty, Siddikur will need to be very precise with his putting over the next two days.

The 29-year old Bangladeshi golfer will tee off the third round at 8:35am local time (3:35am BST) on Saturday.

## Eng suffer Aussie backlash

AFP, Brisbane



Recalled paceman Mitchell Johnson, who has been erratic in his career and was targeted mercilessly by England's Barmy Army fans in the 2010/2011 series, who sparked the England for turn the first Ashes Test on his head.

Australia, pace, castigated for a top-order failure on day one, roared back at the wickets of Jonathan Trott, Michael Carberry, Joe Root for nine runs in one of their worst Ashes collapses. By stumps on the second day in Brisbane, the home side had cruised to 65 without loss, 224 runs in front, with David Warner on 45 and Chris Rogers not out 15.

And it

was Steven Johnson, Smith hold-who has been catches. They will be confident of extending their unbeaten record at the Gabba to 1988.

England, who lost six wickets for just nine runs, were left to contemplate their heaviest collapse since Melbourne 1990, when they gave up nine wickets for 47.

Their lowest first-innings score since the 102-run loss to England at Headingley in 2009 came after the key scalp of Kevin Pietersen triggered a clatter of wickets.

Pietersen



Australia paceman Mitchell Johnson (C) celebrates the wicket of England's Steve Smith on the second day of the first Ashes Test at the Gabba Cricket Ground yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

### SCOREBOARD

<b>AUSTRALIA:</b> First innings (overnight 273 for 8)					Root c Smith b Johnson 2				
Rogers c Bell b Broad 1					Prior c Smith b Lyon 0				
Warner c Pietersen b Broad 49					Broad c Rogers b Siddle 32				
Watson c Swann b Broad 22					Swann c Bailey b Johnson 0				
Clarke c Bell b Broad 1					Tremlett c Lyon b Harris 8				
Smith c Cook b Tremlett 31					Anderson not out 2				
Bailey c Cook b Anderson 3					Extras: (b-4, lb-2) 6				
Haddin run out 94					Total: (All out in 52.4 overs) 136				
Johnson b Broad 64					Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-55, 3-82, 4-87, 5-87, 6-87, 7-89, 8-91, 9-110.				
Siddle c Cook b Anderson 7									
Harris c Prior b Broad 9					<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Lyon not out 1					Harris	15	5	28	3
Extras: (lb-11, w-1, nb-1) 13					Johnson	17	2	61	4
Total: (All out in 97.1 overs) 295					Siddle	11.4	3	24	1
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-71, 3-73, 4-83, 5-100, 6-132, 7-246, 8-265, 9-282.					Lyon	9	4	17	2
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>AUSTRALIA:</b> Second innings				
Anderson 25.1	5	67	2		Rogers not out 15				
Broad 24	3	81	6		Warner not out 45				
Tremlett 19	3	51	1		Extras: (lb-5) 5				
Swann 26	4	80	0		Total: (For no loss in 22 overs) 65				
Root 3	1	5	0		To bat: Watson, Clarke, Smith, Bailey, Haddin, Siddle, Johnson, Lyon, Harris.				
<b>ENGLAND:</b> First innings					<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Cook b Haddin b Harris 13					Anderson	5	1	16	0
Carberry c Watson b Johnson 40					Broad	5	1	13	0
Trott c Haddin b Johnson 10					Tremlett	4	2	8	0
Pietersen c Bailey b Harris 18					Swann	6	1	22	0
Bell c Smith b Lyon 5					Root	2	1	1	0

## Carlsen ousts Anand to win chess crown

AFP, Chennai

Norwegian prodigy Magnus Carlsen claimed the crown of world chess champion on Friday after drawing a tense 10th game against holder Viswanathan Anand to take an unassailable lead in the 12-round duel.

The 22-year-old Carlsen, the current world number one, won three games and drew seven to achieve the victory mark of 6.5 points in a one-sided contest in the Indian's home city of Chennai.

Anand, who at 43 is 21 years older than his rival, lost the title he has held since 2007 despite a last-gasp fight in an attritional 130-move game on Friday that lasted four hours and 45 minutes.

With Carlsen having sealed the championship match, the last two games scheduled on Sunday and Monday have been cancelled.

Both players signed the chess board before heading to a joint press conference where Anand admitted he had "blundered" again in the final game and said sorry to his fans.

"As for the match in general it's clear that he dominated. At the start of the match I thought my chances depended on my ability to last long games without making a lot of mistakes," said Anand.

"This year I've had a lot of problems with mistakes creeping into my play."

Carlsen will win 60 percent of the total prize fund of \$2.24 million, while Anand takes home the rest.

## Time for action, both home & abroad

SPORTS REPORTER



Two individuals closely involved with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) believe that it is high time for the high-ups to raise their voice strongly in favour of the Tigers maiden full-fledged tour of India.

Both former national skippers-turned BCB officials Gazi Ashraf Hossain and Naimur Rahman said that as a full member of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Bangladesh have the right to play in India, which is yet to happen since the country's elevation to the sport's highest level in 2000. And they ridiculed the sentiment of an official of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, who was quoted by an Indian newspaper as dismissively asking: "Who will come to watch Bangladesh play in India?"

"Honestly speaking we have been silent accomplices in this matter as in return we got India at home more than expected. The result was that our revenue increased. Financially we might have been in a negative situation if India hadn't visited us. But I think it's now high time for us to make our first full-fledged tour of India," said Gazi Ashraf yesterday.

"We need to play in India for our growth at the highest level. You know cricket is more than a game and in fact a bilateral series creates an opportunity to strengthen the bond not only between the teams, but the countries. Now it is time for us to raise our voice regarding this issue. We have a very cordial relationship with the Indian board and we just need to address the issue properly," continued Ashraf, adding that 'Who will come to watch Bangladesh play in India?' cannot be a serious question asked by a cricket official.

Naimur however said that the ICC should take a bold initiative so that Bangladesh can play their first Test in India.

"So far all the members are equal, so its Bangladesh's right to get a series in India on regular basis. Are we operating in a two-tier format? No. So you should treat everybody equally. A bold initiative is needed from the ICC. ICC should have absolute control over the FTP (Future Tour Programmes) but unfortunately you all know what the real picture is," said Naimur.

"On the other hand if you consider our recent improvement graph in international cricket it is quite satisfactory. India have a long history while we have been here for just thirteen years and if you compare the time frame then we are not far away. I think now is the time to raise our voice. If we wanted we could have pursued the matter at the government level, but we didn't. But our current board president (Nazmul Hassan Papon) is in good touch with his Indian counterparts. Let's hope for best," he added.