

## Riyad fined

SPORTS REPORTER

Gazi Tank Cricketers captain Mahmudullah Riyad has been fined TK 5,000 for indecent gesture aimed at Doleshwar's supporters during yesterday's Dhaka Premier League match against Prime Doleshwar.

During the middle part of the second innings, Riyad was seen making gestures towards Doleshwar's supporters which the match referee deemed inappropriate.

The extent of the matter was aggravated to such an extent that both the umpires, the bowler Arafat Sunny and the match referee had to intervene to calm things down.

Match referee Neeyamur Rashid Ruhul, in his report, stated that this 'sort of behaviour was not expected from the captain of a team, who is also the vice-captain of the national side.'

Riyad scored 51 runs and finished with figures of one for 55 in the match.

## 5-star Dashora

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Dashora Nabo Jagoron thumped Dragon Sporting Club 5-1 at the Prime Bank Manikganj district football league yesterday.

The match held at Manikganj district football stadium saw Dashora going 4-0 up before halftime and making it 5-0 just seven minutes into the second half.



Gazi Tank players celebrate becoming champions after the fall of the last Prime Doleshwar wicket during the Dhaka Premier League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# Gazi triumph like champions

SPORTS REPORTER



Gazi Tank Cricketers etched their names in the highest echelons of the country's cricket when they handed Prime Doleshwar a 60-run defeat in a 'virtual final' of the Dhaka Premier League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday to become the new champions of the lone and most coveted 50-over competition in domestic circuit.

Gazi Tank played like the favourites and dominated their opponents under the impressive leadership of Mahmudullah Riyad to write their name alongside Abahani, Mohammedan, Biman, Brothers, Victoria and Old DOHS as the seventh champion in the tournament's 37th edition.

England batsman Eoin Morgan lived up to his reputation by playing the most important knock and grabbing the man-of-

FINAL POINTS TABLE				
Team	M	W	L	Pts
Gazi Tank	15	11	4	22
Sk Jamal	15	10	5	20
Prime Doleshwar	15	10	5	20
Mohammedan	15	9	6	18
Prime Bank	15	7	8	14
Kalabagan CA	15	6	8	13

the match award, but it was, in no manners a one-man show for the new champions.

If a fine opening stand between Imrul Kayes and Riazul Islam set the tone, then a well-composed half century from Riyad and a whirlwind finish from Dutchman Ryan ten Doeschate made sure Morgan's 84-run innings would not go in vain.

When Gazi Tank accumulated 118 runs from last ten overs the fate was all but written on the

wall for Doleshwar, and Rubel Hossain's fiery first spell put the final nail on their coffin.

Mominul Haque's outstanding batting display and skipper Forhad Reza's dashing knock caused some concern for a while for Gazi, but they never let their hold on the game go loose. The target of 296 in the end appeared too stiff for Prime Doleshwar.

However, the small but enthusiastic crowd at the SBNCS must thank Mominul and Forhad for brining some excitement back in the match after Doleshwar were reduced to 95 for six. It might have been a closer affair had Mominul got some support from any of the top order batsmen or if the left-hander didn't get bowled out at a very crucial stage of the match when he, along with his skipper, had made the target look achievable.

The game was still alive with Shohag Gazi providing able support to his skipper, but spinner Ashar Zaidi, who did the final job after Rubel's first two wickets and Nayeem Islam's

three wickets in the middle, got rid of Shohag to ensure a comfortable victory for his side.

Riyad too had his share with the leather as he bowled Mominul out to bring relief at the Gazi tent.

Gone are the days when players needed strong nerves to keep their cool in front of rabid supporters, but an electric atmosphere at SBNCS yesterday was more than enough to test the nerves of Gazi captain Riyad. The Gazi skipper however had the last laugh and his boys confirmed that their band can continue blowing the trumpet of victory.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**GAZI TANK:** 295-7 in 50 overs (Riazul 36, Imrul 40, Rokibul 27, Morgan 84, Riyad 51, Doeschate 35, Tajjul 2-74)

**PRIME DOLESHWAR:** 235 all out in 45.4 overs (Mominul 86, Forhad 79, Rubel 2-29, Nayeem 3-38, Zaidi 4-39)

**Result:** Gazi Tank won by 60 runs.

# Mushfiquir leads Sk Jamal to 2nd place

SPORTS REPORTER



Skipper Mushfiquir Rahim's unbeaten 97 led Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club to a four-wicket win over Kalabagan Cricket Academy at BKSP-2 yesterday, helping the Dhanmondi outfit to finish second in this year's Dhaka Premier League.

In the day's other game at Fatullah, Prime Bank Cricket Club rode on an emphatic all-

**KALABAGAN CA:** 223 all out in 49.1 overs (Majid 102; Razzak 4-56)  
**SHEIKH JAMAL DC:** 228 for 6 in 39.2 overs (Mushfiquir 97 not out, Tushar Imran 62; Sharif Ullah 3-49)  
**Result:** Sheikh Jamal DC won by four wickets  
**PRIME BANK CC:** 280 for 6 (Bopara 157 not out, Saykat Ali 67; Mashrafe 2-58)  
**MOHAMMEDAN:** 266 all out in 48.5 overs (Rahmat Shah 64, Mashrafe 53; Bopara 4-46).

round performance from captain Ravi Bopara -- an unbeaten 157 with the bat and four wickets with the ball -- to beat Mohammedan Sporting Club by 14 runs.

At BKSP-2, Abdul Majid's 102, his second century of the tournament, took Kalabagan CA to 223. Kalabagan were bogged down by Mohammedan's slow left arm bowlers, Abdur Razzak (4-56) and Elias Sunny (2-51), who shared six wickets between them.

In reply, Sheikh Jamal rode on Mushfiquir's 81-ball 97 to ease past the total with more than ten overs remaining. The national team captain hammered eight sixes and two fours in his innings.

Bopara's run-a-ball 157 at Fatullah not only led his side to a win but also made him the highest run-scorer of the tournament (670 in 10 innings). He helped his side post 280 for 6.

In reply, Mohammedan slumped to 89 for 3 in 22 overs. Half centuries from Upul Tharanga (52), Rahmat Shah (64) and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (53) helped Mohammedan get close to the target before a flurry of wickets skittled the innings for 266 runs in the penultimate over.

# Teamwork brings Gazi success

HIGHEST RUN-SCORERS	Batsman	M	R	Avg	HS
	Ravi Bopara	10	670	74.44	157*
	Imrul Kayes	16	655	43.67	104*
	Mushfiquir Rahim	12	624	69.33	145*
	Saykat Ali	16	579	41.36	103*

SPORTS REPORTER



The much talked about Dhaka Premier League 2013 -- which made a rather rickety beginning in September after a six-month delay from the scheduled date, finally came to an end yesterday with Gazi Tank Cricketers emerging the new champions.

The last round match between Gazi Tank Cricketers and Prime Doleshwar -- both deadlocked at the top of the league before the match -- was a virtual final and saw the former win by 60 runs, having scored 295 for 6. Although it was not quite a thriller, but it did depict the grit that both the sides played with throughout the tournament

It was an aspect brought up by Gazi Tank captain Mahmudullah Riyad during the post-match press conference. "We had a lot of respect for Prime Doleshwar because they played well as a team throughout the tournament and beat us in the first round as well," said Riyad.

The captain hailed his side's team effort and stated it to be the key to his side's victory.

"We made good starts in both innings. The wicket was not that easy to bat on, but application was good. Imrul (Kayes), Rokibul (Hassan), Eoin (Morgan), (Ryan) Ten Doeschate -- all of them performed well," said Riyad.

Eoin Morgan starred in the Gazi Tank with an aggressive 71-ball-84 which helped his side put on 118 runs in the last ten overs. It was a great turn-around for the England batsman, who had only managed 72 runs in the four innings prior to this one.

"Batting is a funny game as you have a lot of downs and a very few ups and today was an up and I am really happy about it. Today I was more positive and my mindset was really good," said Morgan.

While Gazi Tank's players ecstatic with their first league title, it was their owner Lutfur Rahman Badal -- who was perhaps the most excited person as he has now won the league for the third time consecutive time.Dressed up in T-shirt, especially made for the occasion, Badal told reporters that he had to overcome several obstacles to win this year.

"There were lots of decisions that went against us. The umpiring was not up to the mark. We also had to form a completely new side due to the new player transfer system. But on the whole, I am happy to have finally won and full credit goes to the players," said Badal.

Doleshwar's reply to Gazi Tank's 295 was poor to say the least. They would have gone down much earlier in the chase had it not been for Mominul Haque's 86 and Forhad Reza's 79 late in the innings.

"When I was in the middle, we had already lost a three to four wickets. If I could have scored a century and played a longer innings, we probably would have won. But honestly, we just lost too many quick wickets at the top," said Mominul.

HIGHEST WICKET-TAKERS	Bowler	M	W	E-rate	Avg	BBF
	Arafat Sunny	16	29	3.72	19.14	4/13
	Forhad Reza	15	29	4.99	19.66	5/51
	Enamul Haque	16	28	4.12	22.07	4/43
	Rubel Hossain	10	25	4.35	14.56	6/18
	Tajjul Islam	15	22	4.56	28.73	6/19

# NZ pick injured Williamson

AFF, Wellington



New Zealand on Friday named batsman Kane Williamson in a 13-man Test squad to face the West Indies, despite a hand injury sidelining him for more than a month.

Black Caps selectors said they believed a broken thumb Williamson sustained in Bangladesh in October will be healed enough for him to take the field for the First Test in Dunedin on Tuesday.

"Kane has been in the nets batting and

bowling and getting his intensity levels up," selection manager Bruce Edgar said. "We're confident he should be right come Tuesday."

But Edgar said Aaron Redmond, who has not played a Test for five years, was included in the squad as cover in case the gamble did not pay off and Williamson was unable to play.

**SQUAD:** Brendon McCullum (captain), Corey Anderson, Trent Boult, Doug Bracewell, Peter Fulton, Aaron Redmond, Hamish Rutherford, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor, Neil Wagner, BJ Watling, Kane Williamson.

# BFF high-ups seek Dutch help

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) sought technical and financial assistance for adopting the Dutch style of football in Bangladesh when a three-member BFF delegation, led by president Kazi Salahuddin, met Dutch ambassador Gerben de Jong at the Westin Hotel yesterday.

Salahuddin, who was accompanied by vice presidents Kazi Nabil Ahmed and Tabith M Awal, had a nearly two-hour meeting with Jong, who asked the BFF high-ups to come up with detailed proposal as the BFF officials informed about U-19s captain Hemanta Vincent Biswas, who went to the Netherlands for a trial for FC Twente.

"He (Jong) was very positive about extending help to Bangladesh football as the Dutch government helps football of other countries in two ways -- short term and long term," said Tabith. "We have sought their financial and technical assistance for the BFF Academy for long term and we have been asked to come up with detailed proposal."

"If they assist us in our football academy, it may become a school for budding players across the world as per our discussion," said Tabith adding, the assistance might come with a condition that the football academy must be run by Dutch coaches.

Tabith said that Jong informed them that he had played key roles in bringing Dutch assistance in football development when he was in Senegal and in Vietnam. Jong also discussed about bringing the project of Johan Cruyff foundation to Bangladesh, he added.

# Bex Pharma, Anowara in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Beximco Pharma Ltd and Anowara Group won their respective semifinal matches of the Marcel T20 Corporate Cricket Tournament at the Dhaka Residential Model School and College yesterday.

In the first semifinal, Beximco beat DBL group by seven wickets. Beximco got DBL bowled out for 75, before reaching the target in 13.4 overs, with Tinku's 25 being the highest.

In the second semifinal, Anowara Group beat Walton Group by five runs. Batting first Anowara scored 111, with Taposh Shah scoring a 41-ball 39.

Walton's Rahat took four wickets.

In reply, Walton were bundled out for 106 in 19 overs. Shah contributed with the ball as well as he took three wickets and was adjudged the man of the


## Siddikur up to 13th

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman jumped thirty places up to joint 13th position on a weather-disrupted second round of the Indonesian Open yesterday. Siddikur played sixteen holes and managed to return with four-under-par before play was abandoned due to lightning threats. Siddikur will be one of 54 players to return to the Pantai Indah Kapuk Golf Course early today to complete the second round.

Just like the previous round, Siddikur started the day with a birdie on the first hole, but had a bogey on the sixth. The 29-year old bounced back immediately with a birdie on the 7th and finished the front nine at one-under-par. The two-time Asian Tour winner was quite superb at the back nine as he fired birdies on the 10th, 13th and 14th holes before lightning curtailed his day.

On top of the leaderboard was India's Gaganjeet Bhullar with 10-under-par, having played 16 holes while trailing by a shot was Thailand's Prom Meesawat. Fellow Thai Jazz Janewattananond was tied for the second place, having played 16 holes, while rising Thai star Thaworn Wiratchant was a further stroke back along with countrymen Thongchai Jaidee and Chapchai Neerat.

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