

Tamim fires BCB XI to final

Title-match against Prime Bank tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

It was a Tamim Iqbal-show under lights at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday as his whirlwind 130 off 64 balls led UCB-BCB XI into the finals of the Victory Day T20 Cup following a 29-run win over Mohammedan Sporting Club.

On Tuesday his side will face Shakib Al Hasan's Prime Bank Cricket Club, who beat Abahani by 16 runs in the afternoon game yesterday.

For the BCB XI to proceed to the finals they needed their captain to fire and that's exactly what Tamim did from ball one as he bludgeoned Mashrafe Bin Mortaza for two consecutive boundaries over point in the first over. He continued his innings by hitting the odd boundary and reached his 50 off 35 balls. It was after the tenth over that Tamim upped his tempo and pacer Dewan Sabbir was the first to feel the wrath as he was dispatched for two consecutive sixes and a four in the 12th over. The highlight of his innings though came in the 14th over when he brushed aside Mashrafe for 20 runs, three fours and a six.

He eventually reached his century off 52 balls, the fastest by a Bangladeshi in T20s and celebrated it in style with a fist-thump in the air. He hit sixteen fours and four sixes in his 130, which is the highest score by a Bangladeshi in this format. His innings led the UCB-BCB XI to 217, equalling the highest T20 score in the country. The starry innings came to an end after he was caught off Elias Sunny in the 19th over at long off.

Mohammedan's reply to Tamim's onslaught began in parallel fashion as Jahurul Islam went berserk with the bat in the powerplay. He shared an opening stand worth 82 runs in the first six overs, along with Junaed Siddique. The pair hammered eleven fours and four sixes during the period and gave them the perfect start for the chase.

Jahurul smacked 80 runs off just 31 balls, an innings which saw six sixes and seven fours. He was particularly harsh against the spinners, whom he launched over the boundary with ease. His two consecutive sixes straight down the ground against Enamul Haque Jr in the seventh over, showed just how well he was timing the ball.

His fall in the ninth over though, led to a flurry of wickets and despite a few late hits down the order, Mohammedan were bowled out for 188 in 18.4 overs.

Earlier, the day's first match saw Anamul Haque follow his century in Sylhet with a 43-ball 69 to lead Prime Bank to 175 for 6 after they were put into bat. Anamul hit three sixes and five fours in his innings.

In reply Abahani, already eliminated from the tournament, struggled against the opposition spinners as they lost their top half within the first 10 overs. Spinners Shakib (1-24), Shohag Gazi (1-26) and Taijul Islam (1-26), bowled tight lines and ensured keeping Abahani's asking rate high throughout the innings. Abahani were eventually restricted to 159 for 5.



UCB-BCB XI captain Tamim Iqbal stroked into record books with a 64-ball 130 in the Victory Day T20 Cup yesterday. Here the opening batsman is seen jumping for joy upon reaching his century against Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

U-19s secure second win

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh secured their second win in the ongoing ACC U-19s Asia Cup in Abu Dhabi yesterday when they edged past a spirited Afghanistan side by 16 runs.

After being put into bat, Bangladesh had faltered to 31 for 3 in 13 overs, before being revived by a fighting half-century from middle-order batsman Nazmul Hossain. Despite Nazmul's 58 off 86 balls, the junior Tigers were bowled out for a modest total of 169 in 45.1 overs.

Afghanistan's chase, too, didn't start well as they were reduced to 63 for 5 in 19 overs. A late surge from Nasir Ahmadzai, who scored 53 off 88 balls, however, threatened Bangladesh's total for some part of the innings. However, Afghanistan had the difficult task of scoring 52 runs in the last ten overs with two wickets in hand and were eventually bowled out for 153 in the penultimate over.

Bangladesh U-19s now lead Group B, which also includes Sri Lanka, with four points from two matches. They will take Sri Lanka in the last group match on December 31.

BANGLADESH U-19s: 169 all out in 45.1 overs (Nazmul 58, Mosaddek 27; Shirzad 3-33, Abdullah 3-26)
AFGHANISTAN U-19s: 153 all out in 48.4 overs (Ahmadzai 53, Musa 22; Mustafizur 2-19, Mehedy 2-23)
Result: Bangladesh U-19s won by 16 runs.

BPL matches suspended

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday suspended matches of the ongoing 7th Bangladesh Premier League for indefinite period due to unavoidable circumstances, said a press release.

The press release stated that the league would remain suspended until further decision is taken.

BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag said that they postponed the league due to unavailability of security personnel.

Fahad fifth

SPORTS REPORTER

FIDE Master Fahad Rahman finished fifth in the Under-10 Open Classic Group and runner-up in the Blitz round of the World Youth Chess Championship in Al-Ain of the UAE on Sunday.

Fahad beat Mongolia's Ganerdense Suger in the eleventh round of the open classic to earn 8.5 points from 11 matches while he became runner-up in Blitz round with 6.5 points.

'Int'l mileage important'

SPORTS REPORTER



As far as Twenty20 cricket is concerned, ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has been on a roll this year. His positive performance graph in the 36 official T20 matches that he played in 2013 is highlighted by the two six-wicket hauls he took.

Yesterday, the left-hander guided his side, Prime Bank Cricket Club to the final of the Victory Day T20 cup, which the Bangladesh Cricket Board organised to provide the players with much-needed match practice ahead of the ICC World T20 next year.

While Shakib described the ongoing tournament as 'competitive', he also feels that an international series would have served the purpose better.

"Winning this tournament, honestly speaking might not mean a lot, but competition has been good so far. Since there are only four teams, all the good players have participated and to perform well here is no doubt a good sign," Shakib told reporters yesterday.

"The more T20 matches you play, the more experience you gather. However, if we can play against other teams, it will be better for us. You can play domestic cricket all year long, but playing international T20 is a different experience altogether," he added.

Shakib had good words too for his teammate Sabbir Rahman, who is currently the second-highest run-scorer of the tournament with 243 runs to his name. "Sabbir has generally played well in T20 cricket. Besides this series, he has played well in the BPL and in Chittagong as well," said Shakib.

When asked if Sabbir was good enough to play in the national side, Shakib said, "I obviously can't say much about that, but he has been performing well."

In a one- man club

SPORTS REPORTER

Tamim Iqbal's 130 off 64 balls in terms of number-crunching, garnered plenty of attention. It was the highest score by a Bangladeshi cricketer in T20s and the eighth highest overall. It was also the fastest century by a Bangladeshi, off 52 balls, in this format.

However, more importantly -- with the Sri Lanka series around the corner -- it was a timely innings that depicted his recovery from an abdomen injury he incurred during the New Zealand series.

"I had not held a cricket bat for a month when I had started playing this tournament, I was recovering from an injury... the century no matter what level it is scored at, gives you a lot of confidence," said Tamim after the match.

"It was a do-or-die match and it feels special to have performed. I can actually learn a lot from this kind of an innings and it will help me in the World Cup and the T20 series," he added.

Rather than following a concrete plan, Tamim mentioned that he just 'went with the flow'.

"I tried nothing different. I am the kind of batsman that if I can hit boundaries within the first six balls that I face then my confidence level increases. I hit two fours in the first two balls and I was going with the flow," said Tamim.

With the final due tomorrow, against Shakib Al Hasan's Prime Bank Cricket Club, Tamim admits that his side are the underdogs. However, after a performance like this, the opening batsman speaks of a positive belief.

As he puts it, "When there's team spirit a lot can happen in cricket".

Second ODI rained off

AFP, Napier

The second one-day international between New Zealand and the West Indies was abandoned Sunday due to persistent rain.

Although it was not heavy rainfall, ground officials said part of the outfield had become too wet to be ready for play in time for even a reduced 20-overs-a-side match.

Rangana not feeling rusty

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Ace Sri Lanka spinner Rangana Herath is hoping lack of Tests will not affect his bowling in the first of three Tests against Pakistan starting in Abu Dhabi from Tuesday.

Sri Lanka have not played the five-day format since beating Bangladesh at home in March this year, but Herath claimed Sunday he would be ready come the first Test.

"As a team we played in March against Bangladesh and if you play regular cricket then your form is much easier to keep but I don't feel any rustiness and am ready for the three Tests," Herath said.

The 35-year-old left-arm is seen as Sri Lanka's answer to Pakistan's off-spinner Saeed Ajmal in the Tests but Herath said he was not concerned with the hype.

"Ajmal is a very nice bowler and his record is very good, even I have done well in the last four five years, so somebody can say that it's a battle but I am not concerned about Ajmal.

"I am concerned about my team and how I am going to perform," said Herath, who took 12 wickets in Sri Lanka's second Test win against Bangladesh in Colombo.

And his record against Pakistan, 51 in 12 matches also speaks volume for his success, but Herath won't take it for granted.

Aussies clear 4-0

AFP, Melbourne



Australia cruised to an eight-wicket win over demoralised England with more than a day to spare Sunday to claim a 4-0 series lead and stand on the cusp of an Ashes whitewash.

Led by a century from opener Chris Rogers and a 136-run stand with Shane Watson, the Australians had few problems getting the required 201 runs on the fourth day to seal England's fate at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

England contributed to their own demise with two confidence-sapping dropped catches by skipper Alastair Cook early in the day to take all the steam out of the dispirited tourists.

The two fielding blunders from the team leader were psychological body blows for England and evidence of batsman Kevin Pietersen's comments on Saturday in a television interview that the tourists were "mentally fragile".

England now face the monumental challenge of fighting off an Australian clean sweep of the series in the fifth and final Test, starting in Sydney on Friday.

Playing on his home ground, veteran left-hander Rogers claimed his second Test century after scoring 110 against England in the last series earlier this year at Durham. Rogers, 36, was out caught behind for 116 off 155 balls cutting Monty Panesar, with his team some 31 runs short of victory.

At the end, Watson was unbeaten on 83 with skipper Michael Clarke not out six with Australia 231 for two.

It was the best fourth innings run chase in 51 years at the Melbourne Cricket Ground since England's 237 for three in 1962-63.

While England have been on the end of heavy defeats this Test series, Sunday was a particularly dispiriting loss for England, who were well on top and led the home side by 116 with 10 wickets in hand after lunch on Saturday's third day.

Man-of-the-match Mitchell Johnson and spinner Nathan Lyon staged a dramatic turnaround, with England bowled out for 179, leaving Australia with what became a comfortable task of scoring 231 in more than two days for victory.

It was Australia's fourth consecutive win over England and comes four months after they lost the last series 3-0 in England.

English heads dropped when Cook got his right hand to a snick from Rogers on 19 through slips after wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow failed to respond, and then grassed a straightforward two-handed chance from David Warner (22) off Stuart Broad. Warner scored only three more runs before he was caught behind off Ben Stokes and Australia's first wicket came down at 64.

Symbolic of England's malaise, Cook did not bring on his specialist spinner Monty Panesar until 90 minutes into the fourth day and he had little effect on stemming the Australian run flow until he finally removed Rogers.

There will be selection questions ahead of the final Ashes Test for an England team in decline with the most pressure on Panesar, Bairstow, whose technique behind the stumps was exposed, and seamer Tim Bresnan.

SCOREBOARD					
ENGLAND: First innings 255 (Pietersen 71, Carberry 38; Johnson 5-63, Harris 2-47)					
AUSTRALIA: First innings 204 (Haddin 65, Rogers 61; Anderson 4-67, Broad 3-45, Bresnan 2-24)					
ENGLAND: Second innings 179 (Cook 51, Pietersen 49; Lyon 5-50, Johnson 3-25)					
AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 30-0)					
Rogers c Bairstow b Panesar	116				
Warner c Bairstow b Stokes	25				
Watson not out	83				
Clarke not out	6				
Extras: (nb-1)	1				
Total: (For 2 wickets in 51.5 overs)	231				
Did not bat: Smith, Bailey, Haddin, Johnson, Siddie, Harris, Lyon					
Fall of wickets: 1-64, 2-200					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Anderson	11	2	26	0	
Broad	10	0	58	0	
Panesar	7.5	0	41	1	
Stokes	12	0	50	1	
Root	4	1	8	0	
Bresnan	7	1	48	0	
Result: Australia won by 8 wickets and lead 5-Test series 4-0.					
Player-of-the-match: Mitchell Johnson.					



Hamdard University Bangladesh
New Town, Sonargaon, Narayanganj. www.hamdarduniversity.edu.bd

BUMS & BAMS 1st Batch Admission 2014 (Jan-June)
The Only Private University in Bangladesh Offering
Bachelor of Unani Medicine & Surgery (BUMS)
Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine & Surgery (BAMS)
For Regular Students
Course Duration : 6 years - Including 1 year internship.
Eligibility for Admission : Minimum GPA of 2.5 in SSC and HSC separately from Science group with Chemistry & Biology. In Case of GPA 2.00 in any of the SSC or HSC, total GPA Must be 6.
Or, Must have minimum 5 Subjects in O-level and 2 Subjects in A-level and out of which 4 B Grade in 7 Subjects or GPA-4 & C Grade in rest 3 Subjects or GPA 3.5
For Diploma Holders
Course Duration : 3 years - Including 1 year internship.
Eligibility for Admission : Diploma in Unani Medicine & Surgery/Diploma in Ayurvedic Medicine & Surgery with 50% score at the final exam.
4th Batch Admission 2014 (Jan-June)

- **BBA** (Accounting, Finance, Marketing, Management, HRM & MIS)
- **MBA & EMBA** (Accounting, Finance, Marketing, Management, HRM & MIS)
- **B.SC in CSE**
- **B.Sc in EEE**
- **B.Sc (Hons) in Math**
- **BA (Hons) in English**
- **BSS (Hons) in Economics**
- **B.Sc in EEE** (For Diploma Holders)

Admission Office Open Every Day
Separate Residential Facility for Female & Male Students
Contact: 01776-439000, 01776-439001, E-mail: admission@hamdarduniversity.edu.bd

**NEW**

10 %-100%
Tuition fee Waiver
Based on
Previous Results

Government & UGC Approved