

# Spinners steal batters' show

SPORTS REPORTER



Cricket League yesterday, quite a change from the first round which was heavily dominated by the batsmen.

One of the reasons behind the turn-around was the management's decision to spice up the wickets a bit in order to test the batsmen ahead of the Sri Lanka Test series. It was a day for the spinners to rejoice as they scalped 21 of the 25 wickets across the two games.

The player who best utilised the conditions was slow-left armer Taijul Islam, who picked up seven of the eight wickets for North Zone in their game against Tamim Iqbal's East Zone. He took seven for 67 and helped restrict East Zone to 261 for eight at stumps.

The day's other game saw Mahmudullah Riyad's Central Zone get bundled out for just 165 in 39.4 overs. In reply, Abdur Razzak's South Zone finished the day on 196 for seven.

The batsmen's poor display did not impress the national selectors, who are

## SCORES IN BRIEF

**CENTRAL ZONE:** 165 all out in 39.4 overs (Riyad 36; Shohag 4-67, Razzak 3-44)

**SOUTH ZONE:** 196 for 7 (Mithun Ali 88; Riyad 5-72)

**EAST ZONE:** 261 for 8 (Mominul 94, Kapali 52 not out; Taijul 7-67)

keeping a special watch on this match in order to finalise the Test side against the Lankans.

"It was a little sad to see the way the batsmen reacted. Yes the wicket was a little more difficult than before but the conditions were not as difficult as the scorecards would suggest. It was not unplayable," said national selector Habibul Bashar.

"On the first day of any Test, the wicket is bound to do a bit. One needs to spend time on the crease and wait for it to get better, as it was after lunch. Sadly, not many did that. There's still time and I hope the openers can learn by batting on a wicket like this," he added.

He was however impressed with East Zone's Mominul Haque (94) and South Zone's Mithun Ali (88) who were the only batsmen to perform in a

day that belonged to the bowlers.

**CENTRAL ZONE V SOUTH ZONE**  
After electing to field first South Zone's spinners Shohag Gazi and Abdur Razzak ran through Central's batting line-up as they collapsed in just 39.4 overs. Riyad top-scored with 36. In reply, South Zone faced similar problems as they stuttered to 54 for three in 14 overs. However, Mithun followed his century in the last match with an 89-ball 88 to hold the innings together. His wicket though led to a mini collapse as they finished with just four wickets left. Central's Riyad looked lethal with the ball and finished with 5 for 72.

## EAST ZONE V NORTH ZONE

An 'unreasonable and dangerous' pitch, as put by the match referee, was the reason why the game was stopped after just one over and later restarted after lunch. Officials stated that the wicket was not dry enough to start the game.

Once it did start, it was Taijul's slow left-armers that dominated the show. Had it not been for half centuries from Mominul and Alok Kapali, East Zone would have been in a far worse scenario. Mominul hit ten fours and two sixes in his 116-ball knock.



On a tough Day One for the batsmen at the BKSP which saw 25 wickets fall in the Bangladesh Cricket League yesterday, East Zone's Mominul Haque stuck out to produce a stroke-filled 94.

PHOTO: STAR

## Siddikur up to 20th

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Siddikur Rahman climbed up to 20th place in the King's Cup Hua Hin after a third round score of one-under-par (71) yesterday. The two-time Asian Tour winner had a mixed day as he carded six birdies against three bogeys and a double bogey in trying conditions at the Black Mountain Golf Club in Hua Hin, Thailand.

Yesterday' exploits took the aggregate tally of the 29-year old golfer to one-under-par (215), eight shots behind Korea's Mo Joong Kyung, who grabbed the third round lead with a two-under-par (70). Overnight leader Prom Meesawat of Thailand dropped to joint second place after a one-over-par (72) while another overnight leader Rikard Karlberg of Sweden dropped to joint fifth position after managing two-over-par (74) in the third round.

SPOT-FIXING SCANDAL

## Hearing starts again from today

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The hearing of the spot-fixing allegations brought against nine individuals who participated in the second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League will begin at 10:30 am today and is expected to last for at least two weeks.

The initial hearing was held nearly two months ago on November 24, where all of the accused except Dhaka Gladiators' spin consultant Mohammad Rafique were represented.

"The hearing will begin on Sunday. As of now we have a 10-day schedule, but there are many witnesses, so it's still uncertain as to how long the hearing will continue," informed former Supreme Court Judge Abdur Rashid, chairman of the Bangladesh Cricket Board's disciplinary panel.

The accused include, other than Rafique, Dhaka Gladiators players Mohammad Ashraful, Mosharraf Hossain, Mahbubul Alam; owners Selim Chowdhury and Shihab Chowdhury; the franchise's Indian CEO Gaurav Rawat and foreign players Kaushal Lokuarachchi of Sri Lanka and Englishman Darren Stevens.

Of the nine accused, Ashraful and Lokuarachchi have already confessed to wrongdoings.

The hearing will be conducted by a three-member tribunal consisting of former Supreme Court Judge Khademul Islam Chowdhury, Azmal Ul Hossain QC and former cricketer Shakil Kasem.

## Big wins for Usha, Abahani

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Defending runners-up Usha KC and 10-time champions Abahani notched massive victories on the opening day of the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. Usha thrashed Dhaka Wanderers Club by 9-1 goals, thanks to a treble from Penalty corner specialist Mamunur Rahman Chayan. In the second match, Abahani breezed past Azad Sporting Club by 5-1, thanks to a brace from Ashraful Islam and a goal each from Sheikh Mohammed Nannu, Rumman Sarker and Pushkor Khisa Mimo. Sohanur Rahman pulled one back for Azad.

## Brothers notch second win

SPORTS REPORTER



Brothers Union leaped up to fourth position in the Bangladesh Premier League table after beating promoted Chittagong Abahani 2-1 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The second successive victory after two consecutive defeats has brought the Oranges back in the title race as they have six points from four matches, six behind early pace-setters Sheikh Jamal DC.

The charges of Syed Nayeemuddin had come into this match on the back of a morale-boosting 1-0 win over Sheikh Russel KC, and took the game to the opponents right from the beginning with a very attacking brand of football. The two U-19 players Jewel Rana and Rubel Mia exploited the weakness of the opposition, who had curiously reverted from a 5-3-2 to a 4-4-2 formation. That allowed Jewel and Rubel the freedom to attack

through the wings and the first goal came from one of those attacks in the 32nd minute when Jewel beat the opposition goalie Piaruzzaman with a feeble grounder after receiving a through-ball from the midfield.

Chittagong Abahani, who began this match on a single point, had a single mentionable effort on goal in the 25th minute when Masuk Mia's powerful header was tipped over brilliantly by Brothers' keeper Sabuz Das.

Brothers unlocked the Chittagong Abahani defence quite a few more times in the first half, but had to be content with the one-goal advantage. There was little goalmouth action in the second half, but Brothers doubled the lead in the 83rd minute when Nigerian Victory Antoni toe-poked in a rebounder after Rubel's shot was parried his way by Piaruzzaman.

Chittagong Abahani reduced the margin four minutes later when substitute forward Safatur Rahman headed in a Javed Khan corner, but that was too little too late.

## Women's squad of 30 named

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The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced a 30-member women's initial squad yesterday for the ICC World Twenty20 to be held in Bangladesh in March-April this year.

The women's event will begin on March 23 with ten teams divided into two groups fighting for four knock-out spots.

Bangladesh have been placed in Group B alongside England, West Indies, India and Sri Lanka. Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan and Ireland are in Group A.

The first round of the World Cup will begin with Bangladesh taking on a qualifier on March 16 at Mirpur.

## Abahani, MSC face off today

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Four-time professional football league champions Abahani take on arch-rivals Mohammedan SC in their first meeting of the 7th Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today. The Sky Blues, who are currently in third position in the league table with seven points from three matches, have history and recent records in their favour. Abahani have won the most recent meeting between the two sides, in this season's Federation Cup group stage, by 2-0 goals and also hold a 4-2 advantage in their 12 professional league meetings so far.

Mohammedan, on the other hand, have already slipped up a bit in the title race as they have only five points from their three matches. However, both teams come into this match on the back of creditable victories, Abahani beating a plucky Muktijoddha side 3-1 while Mohammedan overcoming Team BJMC 2-0.

Since the Federation Cup match Abahani installed a new coach Ali Akbar Pourmoslemi, who guided the side to their 2012 league title while Mohammedan brought in Rui Jose Capela Batista from Portugal days before the start of the league.

Pormoslemi said he is thinking of nothing less than a win to put pressure on league leaders Sheikh Jamal DC, who have 12 points from four outings.

"I need a win and I need my midfield and forward line to work in unison. Mohammedan have had a positive change under their new coach, but I'm only thinking of my team and a victory," said the Iranian yesterday.

Mohammedan coach Capela, who has time and again admitted that the foreign recruits of his side is their weak point, feels the players can overcome the challenge from Abahani in this battle of pride if they play according to his instructions.

"I have watched two matches of Abahani and feel that they are a good team. But we are a good team with good local players, and if they play according to instructions we will win," said the Portuguese coach, who arrived just two days before the start of the league.

Abahani will be banking on their Nigerian hitman Osei Morisson, Ghanaian playmaker Awudu Ibrahim and local winger Tawhidul Alam to spearhead the attack but they will likely miss the services of Arman Aziz in the midfield. Mohammedan's attacking options include the local trio of Zahid Hasan Emily, Zahid Hossain and Wahed Ahmed along with Egyptian striker Mostafa Seddik.

# Making it 'Three' Cricket Council?

CRICINFO, Dubai

The International Cricket Council is to consider a comprehensive structural overhaul of world cricket administration that will effectively cede most executive decision-making to the BCCI, Cricket Australia and the ECB.

A draft proposal on these lines will be presented to the ICC Executive Board during its quarterly meeting in Dubai on January 28 and 29.

The proposal, drafted by a "working group" of the ICC's Finance & Commercial Affairs committee -- in which the BCCI, CA and ECB are key members --

## KEY PROPOSALS

- New executive committee (ExCo) to be set up with permanent memberships for BCCI, CA, ECB, to override all other committees
- Promotion and relegation in Test cricket, with exceptions made in the cases of BCCI, CA, ECB
- ICC to be delinked from FTP arrangements, with bilateral agreements only taking over
- New finance model of ICC revenue distribution
- Key positions in ICC -- ICC chairman, chairmen of ExCo and finance & commercial affairs committee -- to be nominees of BCCI-CA-ECB
- Reinstatement of Champions Trophy in 2017 and 2021 in place of the World Test Championship

recommends wide-ranging changes in the ICC's revenue distribution model, administrative structures and the Future Tours Programme (FTP), questions the relevance of Test rankings and suggests the reinstatement of the

Champions Trophy over the World Test Championship.

And almost every recommendation of the "position paper" gives a larger share of control over world cricket to three cricket boards, the Australian, English

and Indian -- both in the boardroom and on the field. It also gives them a larger share of revenues, in a ratio that is linked to the ICC's revenue growth.

The ICC says these radical proposals await response from and the approval of member boards. The document does, however, contain an April deadline for the formation of the ICC Business Co (IBC) -- a newly formed business arm which will be set up to replace the existing IDI (ICC Development International) -- in order to take over the task of issuing tenders for the ICC's next media rights and sponsorship cycle.

# Shehzad leads Pak fight

AFP, Sharjah



Opener Ahmed Shehzad scored a maiden century but Pakistan toiled for runs in their bid for a series-levelling win against Sri Lanka in the third Test in Sharjah Saturday.

The 22-year-old right-hander made 147 in only his second Test as Pakistan scored 291-6 at close on the third day, still trailing by 137 runs over Sri Lanka's first innings total of 428-9 declared.

Pakistan lost Sarfraz Ahmed for five, caught behind off spinner Rangaana Herath in the last over of the day. Misbahul Haq was unbeaten on 36.

With two days remaining and Pakistan lagging well behind they will be hard pressed to enforce a result, with Sri Lanka happy for a no-result affair.

While Pakistan struggled for runs, it was a memorable day for young Shehzad.

Shehzad added a quick 56 for the fourth wicket with Misbah but Pakistan's slow and

cautious batting amidst some tight bowling blunted their efforts to get closer to Sri Lanka's total.

Pakistan, trailing 1-0 in the three-match series after losing the second Test in Dubai by nine wickets, managed 150 runs in the first two sessions after resuming at 19-0, losing opener Khurram Manzoor (52) and Azhar Ali (eight).

Experienced Younis Khan didn't last long either. Herath had the best figures with 3-88. Eranga had 2-53 while Perera took 1-71.

## SCOREBOARD

**SRI LANKA:** First innings 428-9 declared (Perera 95, Mathews 91, Sangakkara 52; Junaid 3-81, Talha 3-99)

**PAKISTAN:** First innings 291-6 (Manzoor 52, Shehzad 147, Azhar 8, Younis 17, Misbah 36 not out, Shafiq 18, Sarfraz 5, extras 8; Herath 3-88, Lakmal 0-57, Perera 1-71, Eranga 2-53, Mathews 0-15); to bat: Sarfraz, Ajmal, Rehman, Talha, Junaid  
Fall of wickets: 1-114, 2-149, 3-189, 4-245, 5-274, 6-291

ADMISSION

ADMISSION TEST ON January 24, 2014

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