

# SPORT

## BPL MATCH-FIXING Full hearing commences

SPORTS REPORTER

The tribunal dealing with match-fixing allegations in the Bangladesh Premier League 2 started the full hearing of the case in Gulshan yesterday.

The first-day's hearing, which lasted for more than six hours, saw representatives of all the accused -- Dhaka Gladiators players Mohammad Ashraf, 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 -- except for Mohammad Rafique, attend the proceedings.

Englishman Stevens, who has been accused of failing to report a corrupt approach, was the only accused individual who was present in the hearing in person.

The three-member tribunal, which is conducting the hearing decided against briefing the media with regards to the happenings of the day. It instead issued a press release stating the need to maintain confidentiality.

"We are unable to answer any question except to say the hearing will continue on Tuesday morning," stated the press release.

Representatives of the individuals who later spoke to reporters stated that they had put forth their arguments and that the hearing was just in its initial stage.

## Didn't bowl well: Dhoni

IANS, Napier

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni Sunday said his seamers were not consistent enough while one batsman needed to play till the end in the first one-day international against New Zealand which India lost by 24 runs.

Virat Kohli's 123 off 111 balls went in vain as India were bowled out for 268 in 48.4 overs in the opener of the five-match series here.

"I think overall it was a good decision to bat first. It had to be backed by good bowling. We didn't do well in first three-four overs, but then we came back well. It was important for the spinners to bowl with control, while the seamers were not so consistent with their lengths," Dhoni said post match.

Corey Anderson smashed an unbeaten 68 off 40 balls to take New Zealand to 292 for seven after being asked to bat first.

Barring Kohli and captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (40), India's middle-order was found wanting.



Abahani players, led by goalscorer Osei Morison (R), celebrate their 1-0 win over a dejected Mohammedan side in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Abahani edge past MSC

SPORTS REPORTER



Title contenders Abahani closed gap on leaders Sheikh

Jamal DC after defeating archrivals Mohammedan SC 1-0 in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Ghanaian hitman Osei Morison separated the sides with a 17th-minute strike and helped the four-time champions leapfrog to second position in the ten-team table with 10 points from 12 matches, two behind Sheik Jamal DC, who have maximum 12 points from four outings.

On the other hand, the first defeat in four matches pushed Mohammedan down to sixth position with five points from four matches.

Even though Abahani could not match their 2-0 victory over the archrivals in the Federation Cup, the solitary goal from Morison, who also struck one of the two goals in that match, was enough to see them claim the bragging rights of prestigious battle at the big bowl, attended by a couple of thousands of spectators.

Morison, who was a former player of the Black and Whites, was supposed to play for them this season again, but the highest scorer of last edition signed up for Abahani after being insulted by Mohammedan officials. That incident seems to have charged him up against the Black and Whites.

"Yes, I think it was an answer to Mohammedan," said Morison at the post-match briefing. "I have had the experience of playing the big Abahani-Mohammedan matches and I am really happy to have played a role in this victory."

Starting on the back of a morale-boosting 3-1 win over Muktijoddha Sangsad in their previous match, Abahani dominated proceedings from the outset and went close to taking the lead twice within the first ten minutes before they finally went ahead with a strike from Morison.

Left-back Atiqur Rahman Meshu played a lob inside the box and it went to unmarked Morison after defender Mintu Sheikh failed to clear the danger. The tall-striker did just poked it at the right side of the net past Mohammedan goalkeeper Mamun Khan. Morison then had another chance in the stoppage time to kill the match, but his shot on a gaping goal went awry.

"It was tough for the boys to play three matches in seven days and the task could have been easier had we got enough time in pre-season preparation. But to be frank, we played better than Abahani and we gave away the goal," said Mohammedan coach Rui Capela Batista, who also thought dropping seven points in four matches is too big a loss for his side.

Hossain and Wahed Ahmed were floated over the crosspiece before Zahid Hasan Emily headed a Wahed cross straight to Abahani goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Shohel in the 35th minute.

After resumption, Mohammedan established their control in the midfield but could hardly expose the backline of Abahani. However, Hemanta Vincent Biswas found a wonderful opportunity to equalise in the 65th minute, but his shot was off-target.

From a counter-attack, Abahani earned a penalty in the 88th minute when Morison was brought down by Nahidul Islam inside the box, but Cameroonian midfielder Yoko Samnick struck straight at goalkeeper Mamun Khan. Morison then had another chance in the stoppage time to kill the match, but his shot on a gaping goal went awry.

"It was tough for the boys to play three matches in seven days and the task could have been easier had we got enough time in pre-season preparation. But to be frank, we played better than Abahani and we gave away the goal," said Mohammedan coach Rui Capela Batista, who also thought dropping seven points in four matches is too big a loss for his side.

Left-back Atiqur Rahman Meshu played a lob inside the box and it went to unmarked Morison after defender Mintu Sheikh failed to clear the danger. The tall-striker did just poked it at the right side of the net past Mohammedan goalkeeper Mamun Khan. Morison then had another chance in the stoppage time to kill the match, but his shot on a gaping goal went awry.

"It was tough for the boys to play three matches in seven days and the task could have been easier had we got enough time in pre-season preparation. But to be frank, we played better than Abahani and we gave away the goal," said Mohammedan coach Rui Capela Batista, who also thought dropping seven points in four matches is too big a loss for his side.

Afterwards Mohammedan went close to levelling the margin twice but both the efforts from Zahid

## Siddikur seals EurAsia spot

### Finishes 26th in King's Cup

SPORTS REPORTER



Siddikur Rahman finished joint 26th in the King's Cup in Thailand yesterday and ended in fourth position on the 2013 Asian Tour Order of Merit to confirm his place in the EurAsia Cup, which will be held at the Glenmarie Golf & Country Club in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from March 27-29.

The two-time Asian Tour winner carded a one-over-par (73) in the last round, with three birdies, two bogeys and a double-bogey, to take his aggregate tally to even-par (288).

The title was claimed by local lad Prayad Marksang as he posted a six-under-par (66) for a total of 12-under-par (276).

Siddikur's 26th place finish in the last event of the 2013 season meant he finished in fourth place in the Order of Merit with earnings of 491,046 dollars. The leading available four Asian players from the final Order of Merit will earn automatic places in the EurAsia Cup.

Since the second-placed Scott Hend is an Australian, Siddikur will be counted as number three and make the four available spots along with Kiradech Aphibarnrat of Thailand and Indian duo of Anirban Lahiri and Gaganjeet Bhullar.

Three more spots will be filled from the official World Golf Ranking while there will also be three captains' picks to complete the Team Asia. The EurAsia Cup will be played over three days with five Fourball, five Foursomes and 10 Singles matches.

## Cook mulls quitting captaincy

REUTERS, Sydney

Alastair Cook is considering his future as England's one-day international captain after his side lost the limited-overs series against Australia with Sunday's seven-wicket thrashing in Sydney.

England's disastrous tour down under continued as they lost their third consecutive ODI after being whitewashed 5-0 in the Ashes series.

"I think English cricket needs a little bit of a change," said Cook, who leads England in tests and the 50-over format.

"We'll talk over a lot of things. I think there will be some changes. We have kept losing games of cricket and I haven't been able to turn it around."

After losing the last ODI against Australia at home, England have lost nine consecutive matches under Cook, including the Ashes Tests.

"I think I'm going to have to make a decision on that after you take stock of the next two games," Cook said of his captaincy. "There's two matches left and we have to try to win a game."

"They've won a lot of cricket against us over the past two months and it's difficult to stop that."

Following the Ashes thrashing, coach Andy Flower and Cook were given the backing by the England and Wales Cricket Board to lead the team's rebuilding process.

## Marshall & Nabil stars of the day

SPORTS REPORTER



Central Zone's Marshall Ayub and East Zone spinner Nabil Samad were the highlights of the second day of the Bangladesh Cricket League matches yesterday. While Marshall returned to form with an unbeaten century, Nabil's six-wicket haul helped his side gain a 22-run lead over Mushfiqur Rahim's North Zone.

But unlike the first round, both the matches appear to be heading for results at the end of the second day's play.

### CENTRAL V SOUTH

South Zone added 34 runs to their overnight score of 196 for 7 before being bundled out for 230. Central's captain Mahmudullah Riyad finished with career-best bowling figures of 7 for 94. Central then rode on Marshall's unbeaten 122 to overcome the 65-run deficit and take a 253-run lead. They finished the day on a confident 318 for 5. Marshall, who had not been among the runs in recent times, played a patient four and half hours knock, which saw him hit 14 fours and two sixes. With the Sri Lankan series around the corner, the innings could not have come at a better time. He was well supported by Shamsur Rahman's 65.

### EAST V NORTH

Meanwhile, 15 wickets fell at the BKSP-2 in a match which is heading towards a close finish.

Tamim Iqbal's East Zone could add only 9 runs to their overnight score of 261 for 8 before being bowled out for 270 early in the morning. In reply, Mushfiqur's side crumbled to Nabil's turners as they were shot out for 248. The northerners were struggling at 99 for 6 midway through their innings and were looking down the barrel. An 86-run stand for the seventh wicket between Forhad Reza (72) and Sohravard Shuvu (67), however, helped them reduce the first innings deficit.

After putting up a fighting effort with the bat, Forhad struck early with the ball as well when he removed Tamim early, after the changeover. At stumps, East Zone were 79 for 3, holding a 101-run lead.

CENTRAL ZONE: 165 and 318 for 5 in 71 overs (Mar-

Shamsur 65; Taiabur Parvez 3-34)

SOUTH ZONE: 230 all out in 64.2 overs (Mithun Ali 88; Riyad 7-94)

EAST ZONE: 270 all out in 83 overs (Mominul 94, Alok 54; Taijul 7-67) and 79 for 3 (Nafees 37, Forhad 1-28)

NORTH ZONE: 248 all out in 68 overs (Forhad 72; Nabil Samad 6-69)



Mahmudullah finished with career-best figures in an innings of 7 for 94 in yesterday's BCL game at the BKSP.

PHOTO: STAR

SPORTS REPORTER

Hasan Ullah Khan Rana, sports editor of Jamuna TV, has been re-elected as president of Bangladesh Sports Press Association (BSPA) while Sanat Babla, special correspondent of Kaler Kantha, was elected general secretary of the organisation for the sports reporters, sub-editors and writers.

The 19-member committee has been elected for a two-year term with 166 out of 176 members casting their votes at the Bangladesh Olympic Association auditorium on Saturday.

Other office bearers are vice president Talha Bin Nazrul (Manabjami), vice president Kazi Shahidul Alam (Ajkaler Khabor), joint-secretaries Mahbub Sarker (Bank Barta), Sohel Sarwar (Ittefaq), Rakibur Rahman (Firstnewsbd.com). Members are Ekrumzaman, Rafiqul Islam Miah, Aminul Haque Mallik, Khairul Islam Shahin, Shahabuddin, Selim Nazrul Haque, Anwarullah, Ziauddin Saimum, Sanal Haque Khan and Mahmudul Hasan Shamim.

## Pakistan trying hard

AFP, Sharjah

Pakistan grabbed the prized wicket of Mahela Jayawardene to press their advantage for a series-leveling win over Sri Lanka in the third Test in Sharjah on Sunday.

Off-spinner Saeed Ajmal removed Jayawardene for 46 near stumps on the fourth day after an exciting tussle between the bat and ball as Sri Lanka finished at 133-5.

They now lead by 220 runs with five wickets in hand and a full day's play to retain their 1-0 lead.

They won the second Test in Dubai by nine wickets after the first ended in a draw in Abu Dhabi.

At the close Angelo Mathews was unbeaten on 14 and with him Prasanna Jayawardene was on six not out.

Jayawardene and Mathews had frustrated Pakistan in the last session through their

slow-paced 38-run fifth wicket stand and when it seemed both will see off the day, Ajmal had Jayawardene caught at short-leg.

Ajmal could have had Prasanna caught behind off his gloves on nought but wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed failed to hold the catch, much to Pakistan's desperation.

### SCOREBOARD

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

PAKISTAN: First innings 341 (Manzoor 52, Shehzad 147, Younis 17, Misbah 63, Shafiq 18, Sarfraz 5, Rehman 2, Talha 2, Junaid 16, extras 11; Herath 5-125, Perera 1-71, Eranga 4-60)

SRI LANKA: Second innings 133 for 5 (Karunaratne 8, Silva 36, Sangakkara 8, M Jayawardene 46, Chandimal 13, Mathews 14 not out, P Jayawardene 6 not out, extras 11; Talha 2-36, Rehman 2-36, Ajmal 1-361)

To bat: Perera, Herath, Eranga, Lakmal.

Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-37, 3-66, 4-89, 5-127.

AFP, Napier

A thundering innings by Corey Anderson and a magic spell of bowling by Mitch McClenaghan brought New Zealand a 24-run win over India in their opening one-day international on Sunday.

Chasing New Zealand's 292 for seven, India were all out for 268 in the 49th over despite Virat Kohli (123) posting his 18th ODI century.

It was the first time India have lost an ODI in which Kohli has reached three figures.

They appeared to have victory in their grasp when they needed just 70 from the last eight overs, and Kohli and Mahendra Singh Dhoni looked comfortable in a 95-run partnership for the fifth wicket.

But in the space of six deliveries,

McClennaghan removed Dhoni (40), Ravi Jadeja (duck) and Kohli to have India reeling on 237 for seven, and they never recovered.

Anderson had earlier returned to his brutal best with the bat after going off the boil following his record-breaking century in 36 balls against the West Indies three weeks ago.

In his first start against India, the world's top-ranked ODI side, Anderson blasted an unbeaten 68 off 40 deliveries.

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND: 292 for 7 in 50 overs (Ryder 18, Williamson 71, Taylor 55, B McCullum 30, Anderson 68 not out, Ronchi 30; Shami 4-55)

INDIA: 268 all out in 48.4 overs (Dhawan 32, Kohli