



North Zone batsmen Forhad Hossain (L) and Nasir Hossain scored unbeaten half-centuries and shared a century stand for the fourth wicket to keep their side's Bangladesh Cricket League hopes alive at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Sheikh Jamal hit BJMC for six

SPORTS REPORTER



League leaders Sheikh Jamal DC continued their brilliant display in the Nitol Tata Bangladesh Premier League as they notched up an emphatic 6-2 win over Team BJMC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nigerian striker Emeka Darlington struck a brace while Sony Norde, Wedson Anselme, Ali Abdullahi and substitute Shohel Rana netted one goal each to raise Sheikh Jamal's points tally to 37, nine ahead of second-placed Abahani, who however played a match less than Sheikh Jamal's 15.

Nigerians Uche Felix and Samson Iliasu pulled back one goal each for Team BJMC, which were too little to avoid their eighth defeat, third in a row. The defeat kept team BJMC in seventh position in the ten-team table with 15 points from as many matches.

Sheikh Jamal came into the match on the back of a dazzling 3-0 win over Mohammedan and started from where they left, by scoring five goals in the first half.

Wedson was the architect behind Sheikh Jamal's 3-0 lead within the first half hour as the Haitian gave his side a nine-minute lead with a close-range grounder and then turned into the provider of next two goals. Wedson could have scored both of those, but instead square-passed the ball to unmarked Darlington for a 2-0 lead in the 13th minute before doing the same for Sony for the third goal in the 28th minute.

Emeka made it 4-0 in the 40th minute to raise his tally to 16 before Ali Abdullahi converted a penalty kick in the 45th minute to go for breather with a comprehensive 5-0 lead.

However, Wedson was pulled out following a verbal argument with Sony centring the penalty kick and Sheikh Jamal took the foot off the gas thereafter. BJMC found some space and took toll of the possession as Felix headed an Ali Akbar free-kick home on 59 minutes but Sheikh Jamal killed off the game striking the sixth goal through substitute Shohel Rana two minutes from time.

With the clock ticking into the stoppage time, Samson reduced the margin with a long-range effort.

"Unity, togetherness, commitment, management, good players and incentives are the secrets behind continuation of such performance," said Sheikh Jamal's Nigerian coach Joseph Afusi at the post-match briefing.

"Having no stopper in the squad is reason for the defeat," said BJMC midfielder Samson, who later claimed that there has been no continuation of training in BJMC camp due to unpaid wages and the players are not motivated to play with empty stomach.

Samson also claimed that foreign players have not been given food allowance for the last 45 days and it is tough for them to concentrate on matches.

INDIA'S TOUR OF BANGLADESH Imran likely to be interim coach

SPORTS REPORTER



Sarwar Imran is most likely to be appointed interim head coach of the Tigers for the three-match ODI series against India at home next moth.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has decided to appoint a local coach for the coming series as the appointment of a new foreign head coach is unlikely before July 1.

"We are yet to officially decide but we chose his (Sarwar Imran) name as an interim head coach for the home series against India. We have a shortlist of three foreign coaches and we are in touch with them. We will confirm one name from the shortlist very soon because so far, almost 75 per cent of the work has been done in regards to appointing a new foreign coach," said BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus yesterday.

According to CricInfo, the three ODIs will be played on June 15, 17 and 19 and India might play with a new captain as MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli are likely to opt out of the series.

BCB's acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury however said: "This is one of the options but we have some observations. Actually we are yet to finalise the dates but you can say it will take place around the same days."

The board has been searching for a replacement for Shane Jurgensen and they have already made good progress. It is not unlikely that another Australian will take the helm of the Tigers again, although the name of a former Sri Lanka Test batsman has been cropping up as one of the more favourable candidates.

North stand strong, but South in control

SPORTS REPORTER



Improved batting performances from both finalists, Prime Bank South Zone and BCB North Zone, took the final of the Bangladesh Cricket League into the fifth day yesterday; a highly unlikely outcome after both sides were shot out for below-par scores in the first two days at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. Even with a resolute batting display from the Nasir Hossain-led North Zone, South Zone will start today as favourites.

North Zone have the daunting task of scoring 318 runs with seven wickets remaining today in order to win the championship. North Zone were set a target of 572 after they bowled their opponents out for 563 yesterday morning, and are currently poised at 254 for 3.

Nasir and co have no other option but to go after a win, as a draw will hand over the trophy to South Zone, courtesy of their first innings lead.

The Southerners, who were powered by Imrul Kayes's double hundred and Mithun Ali's century, began the day on 410 for three with the intention to score some quick runs. They were boosted by Taiabur Parvez's 31-ball 30 and captain Abdur Razzak's 24-ball 33. They did however lose wickets in quick time and were bowled out just before lunch.

The pressure of a huge target took its toll on North Zone's batsmen and they ended up losing three wickets in 30 overs. Opener Myshukur Rahman and Naem Islam were both bowled by Razzak, while former national player Junaed Siddique was trapped in front by Shuvagata Hom after scoring a half-century.

At 126 for three, North Zone needed a responsible pair to take the helm and that is when Nasir and Forhad Hossain stepped in. The pair shared an unbeaten 128-run partnership and, more importantly, remained at the crease till the end. Forhad scored a resolute 85, while Nasir, just like in the first innings, restrained himself to score 67 off 102 balls.

Unless the pair can create something special and score a majority of those 318 runs, the trophy of the second season of the BCL will end up going to Razzak's South Zone. While it may be too much to expect, the advantage for Nasir and co is that South Zone will be a bowler short after Shohag Gazi was declared unfit to play the rest of the game. Gazi, who complained of back pain, was taken off the field after bowling just four overs yesterday.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PRIME BANK SOUTH ZONE: 271 and 563 all out in 116.3 overs (Imrul 204, Mithun 126; Shuvashis 3-128)
BCB NORTH ZONE: 235 and 254 for 3 (Forhad 85 not out, Nasir 67 not out; Razzak 2-76)

SWITZERLAND 1954

Puskas: The Galloping Major

Indisputably one of the best left-footed players in the history of the game, Ferenc Puskas best rode the Hungarian football scene throughout a golden period in the early 1950s like a colossus.

Puskas was born in 1927 in Budapest and embarked on his football career at an early age, playing for his father's club, Kispest Budapest. Puskas made his international debut at the age of 18 against Austria. The fixture was Hungary's first since the Second World War and witnessed the birth of an unparalleled career in their national colours.

An unlikely footballer in many respects, Puskas was small and overweight, not particularly strong in the air and was exclusively left-footed. But, his gifts were undeniable, as the statistics show. In 84 international appearances, Puskas scored 83 goals -- a strike rate unmatched in international football.

Puskas' home club Kispest became an army team in 1948 and were renamed Honved. Thus the star striker earned the sobriquet of the 'Galloping Major', in recognition of his army rank.

Hungary were the dominant national team of the early 1950s. In 1952, Puskas captained his country to Olympic gold in Helsinki and the 'Magical Magyars' arrived at the 1954 FIFA World Cup, Switzerland undefeated in four years.

Victory beckoned at the 1954 World Cup after Puskas and his devastating teammates Bosziki, Czibor, Kocsis and Hidegkuti scored 17 goals in their first two pool games.

They disposed of Brazil 4-2 in the quarterfinals, swept aside Uruguay by the same score in the semifinals, although Puskas missed both those games with an ankle injury, and then only had to beat West Germany again (Hungary beat West Germany 8-3 in the group round) to win the Cup.

Puskas opened the scoring and Czibor made it 2-0 inside eight minutes. But then three strikes by the Germans, inspired by captain Fritz Walter and

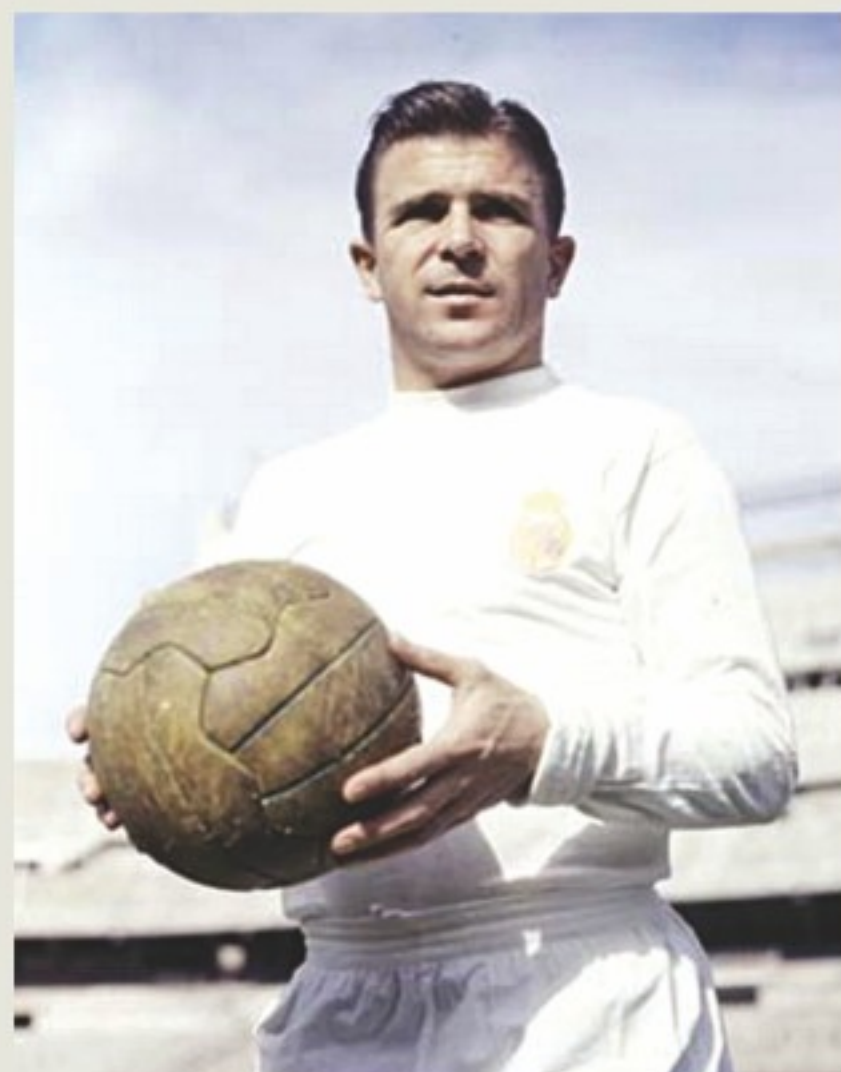


PHOTO: DAILY STAR ARCHIVE

winger Rahn, snatched the trophy away from them 3-2, thereby registering their first defeat in four years.

After the unsuccessful Hungarian uprising in 1956 the Galloping Major joined Real Madrid, and after two years in the country was granted Spanish nationality. His new nationality gave him a chance to prolong his international career and he played four times for Spain.

On a domestic level he had more success, winning six Spanish championships in eleven years and one European Cup in 1960 alongside the equally revered Alfredo Di Stefano.

Puskas Hungarian's record as a coach was less brilliant, although he did take Greek club Panathinaikos to the 1971 European Cup final, the Greeks becoming the first victims (2-0) of the wonderful Ajax side of that era.

The legendary footballer was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2000 and after a bout of pneumonia, Puskas died in a Budapest hospital on November 17, 2006 at the age of 79. Millions of people thronged the streets of Budapest to say one last goodbye to one of their greatest heroes.

F'ganj held by Combined SC

SPORTS REPORTER

Farashganj Sporting Club and Combined Sporting Club played out a 2-2 draw in their match of the Green Delta Insurance First Division Hockey League at Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Krishna Kumar struck twice for Farashganj while Safin and Robin netted one goal each for Combined SC.

The day's other match between Mukta Bihanga Tarun Sangha and Barnak Samaj ended in a 1-1 draw at the same venue.

Bagerhat reach zonal final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bagerhat moved to the zonal final of the KFC National Women's Football Championship eliminating Gopalganj by 3-0 goals in the semifinal at Bagerhat District Stadium yesterday.

Tamanna, Mirona and Rizia scored one goal each for the winners in the 22nd, 32nd and 33rd minutes respectively.

Bolt confirmed for Zurich

AFP, Paris

Olympic sprint champion Usain Bolt will compete at the season's penultimate Diamond League meet in Zurich on August 28, organisers announced on Monday.

The 27-year-old Jamaican, the world record holder over 100m and 200m, has not yet decided which distance he will run at the Swiss venue.



PHOTO: STAR

Sheikh Jamal's Nigerian striker Emeka Darlington (R) celebrates one of his two goals with teammates during their Nitol Tata Bangladesh Premier League match against Team BJMC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Gazi set to miss WI tour

SPORTS REPORTER



Off-spinner Shohag Gazi, who left the field during the BCL final yesterday due to a back spasm is likely to be left out of Bangladesh A's tour of the West Indies later this month. While an official decision is yet to be made the team management, as per the advice of Bangladesh's physio Vibhav Singh, are headed towards such a move.

"We had a long discussion with the team's physio and the player himself. His pain was assessed and as of now it seems highly unlikely for him to tour the West Indies," said chief selector Faruque Ahmed.

"We will have a meeting tomorrow to decide his replacement," he added.

Gazi, who had been having some problems with his back, underwent an MRI scan two days ago. While the scan did not reveal anything serious, the team management

wants to give him a break considering the fact that he might have to play a Test match in August against the West Indies.

"Our focus is to get him ready for that series. He was struggling on the field yesterday and bowled just four overs," said Vibhav.

With regards to the other players, the physio stated that Mashrafe Bin Mortaza has recovered from the multiple injuries that he had suffered during the World Twenty20 and is expected to begin his rehab at Mirpur today.

According to Vibhav, Rubel Hossain, who had suffered from a finger injury during the T20 World Cup has recovered as well, but the pacer met with an CNC accident earlier this week and will take some time to get back on the field.

Don's first Test bat on sale

AFP, Sydney

The cricket bat used by Australian sporting legend Don Bradman to launch his Test career has been put up for auction and is expected to fetch up to 145,000 Australian dollars.

Bradman, who retired with a yet-to-be-topped Test batting average of 99.94, used the bat to open his Test career in the 1928 series against England.

It was donated by him to the Sydney Sun newspaper in 1930 as a competition prize to raise money for a children's hospital and was held by the boy who won until 2008 when he sold it for 145,000 dollars.