



Chittagong Abahani goalkeeper Nahiduddin (on the ground, black shorts) thwarts an attempt by Mohammedan striker Zahid Hasan Emily (L) during their Nitol Tata Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. In the end the difference was Emily, who scored his first goal in five matches.

PHOTO: STAR

BPL FIXING Verdict at May end?

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)'s anti-corruption tribunal is likely to give the long-pending final judgement in the case of match-fixing during the second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) in the last week of this month.

Everybody was curious about why it was taking so long; sources said that the tribunal members could not find time to sit together and put their heads together because of a few members' other engagements.

The BCB had promised a quick execution of trial when the International Cricket Council, (ICC) on August 13 last year, charged seven individuals with match-fixing in the BPL and two of failing to report corruption; a revelation which had rocked the country's cricket community.

After much dilly-dallying, BCB on November 9, 2013 finally appointed Justice Mohammad Abdur Rashid as chairman of its disciplinary panel, from which a three-member anti-corruption tribunal headed by former Supreme Court Judge Justice Khademul Islam was formed.

The hearing into the fixing scandal had begun on January 19 this year and on February 27 bowlers Mosharraf Hossain, Mahbul Alam and former national player Mohammad Rafique were cleared of all corruption charges. Also cleared of the charges were English cricketer Darren Stevens, Gladiators owner Salim Chowdhury, CEO Gaurav Rawat who had pleaded not guilty.

The fate of the other individuals accused -- namely Bangladesh's Mohammad Ashraf and Kaushal Lokuarachchi of Sri Lanka -- who had already confessed to their crime, is likely to be known in the last week of this month when the final judgement will be handed over to the board.

Double bogeys cost Siddikur

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's premier golfer Siddikur Rahman slipped to joint eighth position in the ICTSI Philippine Open after a disappointing third round where he returned with four-over (76) yesterday. Siddikur did decently enough in the front nine of the challenging Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, but two double-bogeys in the back nine ruined his day's effort. Siddikur, who was on top with a six-under (66) after the first round, stands at one-under (215), four shots adrift of new leader Chan Kim of USA.

Siddikur rued the two unlucky double bogeys on holes 13 and 18.

"I was a bit unlucky. My ball was plugged in the bunker on the 13th hole and my tee shot on number 18 hit a tree and landed in the bush so I had to take a penalty drop. I'm still in a good position with one more day to go. Anything can happen tomorrow. Hopefully I can get my best round on the last round," said Siddikur to Asiantour.com.

Meanwhile, Jamal Hossain Mollah dropped to joint 62nd position after a six-over (78) in the third

Cagers finish second in SABA Championship

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh basketball team finished runners-up in the South Asian Basketball Association (SABA) Championship after beating Nepal by 87-73 points in their last match in Kathmandu, Nepal yesterday.

The Bangladesh team had beaten Sri Lanka and Maldives in their previous two matches but went down against eventual champions India in the five-team league-format tournament. Bangladesh were the champions of the last edition which was held in Dhaka last year, where India did not take part.

MSC edge Ctg Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club regained the third position in the Nitol Tata Bangladesh Premier League after coming out with a 1-0 victory against bottom-of-the-table Chittagong Abahani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. A 44th minute penalty by veteran striker Zahid Hasan Emily, converted on the second attempt, ensured all three points for the Black and Whites as they moved to 26 points from 15 matches, one above Brothers Union but still 11 points adrift of league leaders Sheikh Jamal DC.

Although Mohammedan won by the slimmest of margins against the relegation-threatened side -- they might have won by a bigger margin had the woodwork not come in their way twice -- it was a welcome victory for them in their first match after head coach Rui Capela Batista suddenly left for his homeland Portugal last Sunday, following a 3-0 defeat against Sheikh Jamal

DC. The club officials and interim coach Alfaz Ahmed felt the victory was a relief for the side without their regular coach and amidst allegations of non-payment to coaching staff.

"We should have won by a bigger margin as two attempts hit the woodwork and our forwards missed a couple of scoring chances too. But it was a good victory nonetheless and three points well earned," said the former Mohammedan and national forward Alfaz at the post-match press conference.

Mohammedan could have taken the lead as early as the third minute but for a fingertip save from Chittagong Abahani keeper Nahiduddin which deflected the ball to the post on a header from midfielder Baybeck Fombagne. 12 minutes later, a superb flick from Emily on the edge of the box released the ball for Zongo Ousseni, who having made a beautiful cutback inside, drove the ball yards off target.

However, the best opportunity in the first half came in the 25th minute at the other end to Chittagong Abahani midfielder Ismail Jahed who, left

unmarked in front of goal on a cross from Mashuk Mia, failed to keep his header on target thereby depriving the port city outfit an unlikely lead.

The decisive moment of the match came in the 43rd minute when Emily was brought down inside the box by Nahiduddin as the veteran forward tried to control a cross from the left. Emily himself took the resulting penalty, which was a feeble one and straight at the goalie, who parried it away to Emily's path. The veteran striker, who had remained scoreless in the last four league matches after bagging six in the first 11 matches, made no mistake to slot home the rebound.

Mohammedan twice came close to doubling the lead early in the second half -- midfielder Tawhidul Alam Sabuz failed to beat the Chittagong Abahani keeper in a one-on-one situation in the 51st minute and the same player saw his header come off the woodwork 16 minutes later. But those failures did not cost the Black and Whites dearly as they held on to their one-goal advantage for three

No sea changes for India series

SPORTS REPORTER



Will Mushfiqur Rahim's men get their new mentor in preparation for their next assignment, the three-match ODI series against India at home? That question may be answered tomorrow when the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) makes the official announcement regarding the appointment of former Sri Lanka Test batsman Chandika Hathurusingha as the Tigers' new head coach.

The preparation camp for the series with a preliminary team however is likely to get underway in the last week of this month. Chief selector Faruque Ahmed made clear that they were not in a position to bring any significant changes to the side, even though 'change' was the buzzword among the high-ups following the Tigers' poor showing in the first few months of the current year. India will arrive in Dhaka on June 13 to play the three matches on June 15, 17 and 19.

"We don't think we have any scope to bring any massive changes in the team as we

have a very settled one-day side. We cannot go with the motto of changes because this team is in a good shape, so we cannot destabilise it. And it will be unfair if we bring any major changes to a settled team," opined Faruque yesterday.

"Yes, we had a debacle in the T20 World Cup but our performance in the one-day series against Sri Lanka and Asia Cup was not bad. We could have easily won two matches against Sri Lanka. Yes, we lost to Afghanistan but it was an isolated incident. We have a very good one-day unit," he added.

The former national skipper was also excited with the fact that they were going to get an injury-free team for the series.

"In recent times, injury became a big headache for us. But the good news is that Mashrafe (Bin Mortaza) has recovered from the injury and started practice in full swing. Tamim (Iqbal) is also all set to be fit. Shohag Gazi recently suffered an injury but the other players are also recovering well and we are hopeful that we will get an injury-free side," informed Faruque.



Bangladesh A team players, who are heading for the West Indies on May 22, had a training session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

ENGLAND 1966

The happy homecoming

Finally it was England's turn to host the World Cup -- 16 years after taking part for the first time. Coach Alf Ramsey had a great generation of players in their prime age at his disposal; Banks, Moore, the Charltons, Greaves, Hurst and Hunt. Quarterfinalists in Chile 1962, Ramsey was confident his team would do better on home soil and boldly predicted his men would win the trophy.

Ramsey was on the way to making revolutionary changes to his team as evidenced by his tactical foresight. After some poor results in friendlies, on a freezing December night in Madrid, Ramsey sent out a team with no wingers. The 2-0 result to England was a lucky one for Spain and it was the first time that the term 'wingless wonders' wasn't used in derision by Spanish coach Jose Villalonga.

The World Cup in England was the first to have a mascot -- Willie the Lion -- but it was the dog Pickles who became the hero, after finding the Jules Rimet trophy in a garden, stolen four months before the tournament was scheduled to start. Indeed, the World Cup in England stood out due to a string of unexpected results.

For instance, two-time World Cup winners Brazil and Italy did not get through the first round. The Italians were beaten by North Korea and upon arriving home, were pelted by tomatoes thrown by angry supporters. Despite having Pele and



Bobby Moore raises the World Cup trophy after England defeated Germany 4-2 in the final before 98,000 fans at Wembley Stadium in London.

PHOTO: DAILY STAR ARCHIVE

Garrincha in their team, the Brazilians did not manage to perform as they did in previous World Cups and also went home early, after being steamrolled by Eusebio's Portugal.

The hosts were up against the Portuguese in the semifinal. Manchester United star Bobby Charlton scored both goals in the 2-1 win over Portugal. Eusebio scored on a late penalty -- it was England's first goal conceded in the finals. West Germany beat the Soviets 2-1 in the other semifinal. Beckenbauer scored a wonderful goal from long range past Yashin who seemed to misjudge the ball's direction. Yashin would have to pick out two more balls from his net in the consolation final against Portugal. Eusebio scored his ninth goal of the finals which made him top-scorer -- three more than West Germany's Haller -- and also secured his country bronze medals.

The final saw Alf Ramsey's prediction come true. His team triumphed at Wembley. Geoff Hurst scored the first (and only so far) hat-trick in a final. His second, the much debated "did the ball cross the line?" and the third in the dying seconds "some people are on the pitch, they think it's all over...It is now!" are both World Cup classics. Of course the match also featured a late German comeback, but Hurst's two goals in extra-time sealed the win for England in a tournament which generally grew in quality and entertainment as it progressed.

FACTS & FIGURES

Winners: England
Runners-up: West Germany
Leading Scorer: Ferreira Eusebio (POR) -- 9
Teams: 16
Matches: 32
Goals: 89
Attendance: 1,635,000

Police AC beat Barnak Samaj

SPORTS REPORTER

Police AC beat Barnak Samaj by 3-1 goals in the Green Delta Insurance First Division Hockey League at Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Rana Das, Ziaur Rahman and Hamidur Rahman struck one goal each for the winners while Ranjon Banik scored the consolation goal for the losing side.

In the other match, Shantinagar Sporting Club defeated Combined Sporting Club by 2-1 goals.

PLAYING WITH KANERIA Pakistan fine five players

AFP, Lahore



Five Pakistani players have been fined for appearing in exhibition matches in the United States alongside banned spinner Danish Kaneria, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said on Friday.

The five, Fawad Alam, Wahab Riaz, Abdul Razzaq, Nasir Jamshed and Shazaib Hasan were each fined 500,000 rupees, a PCB statement confirmed.

"After thorough investigations and after players admitting that they had participated in an event that under the ICC Regulations is considered Disapproved Cricket, their

contention of not being aware of the NOC requirement was not accepted by the Committee, which recommended that each of them should be fined 500,000 rupees," the PCB release said.

The five offenders featured in an unauthorised series of Twenty20 matches in Houston, Texas, last month without the permission of PCB.

Kaneria was banned for life in 2012 for spot-fixing in a county game in England, which under International Cricket Council (ICC) rules effectively bars him from playing anywhere in the world.

Kaneria played for Houston Eagles while the Pakistani players were playing for rival team Boom Boom Blasters.