

SPORT

DPL starts on Nov 2

SPORTS REPORTER
The country's lone 50 overs domestic cricket competition, the Dhaka Premier League, is set to be delayed by three more weeks as the Bangladesh Cricket Board has decided to send a team to Kolkata to take part in the Eden Gardens' 150 year celebrations.

The Dhaka Premier League is now expected to begin on November 2. The competition, which was originally scheduled to begin on October 10, has already been facing delays due to a three-day match that national coach Chandika Hathurusingha wants to organise.

With the BCB confirming its participation in the Kolkata meet, the league has now been rescheduled for November. The tournament in Kolkata will take place from October 23 to 30.

"The tournament will see teams coming from Karnataka, Mumbai and the MCC and they have requested us to send a strong team. Since our main team will be busy with the Zimbabwe series, we thought it would be best to send our A team. That will mean that we will have to delay the start of our league," said BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon yesterday.

Nadir's case is an error!

SPORTS REPORTER
Bangladesh Cricket Board has admitted that allowing banned umpire Nadir Shah to officiate in a First Division match was an 'error' on its part.

Shah was banned for 10 years in March 2013 after he was found guilty of agreeing to doctor decisions in exchange of money in a sting operation conducted by India TV. However, he was allowed to stand as umpire in a First Division match between Indira Road Krira Chakra and BKSP on Saturday.

The member-secretary of the board's Umpires' Committee has claimed that the BCB in a board meeting after the ICC World Twenty20 had decided to allow Shah to officiate in domestic matches.

However, BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon yesterday told reporters that the board was yet to take a decision on Shah's ban.

"After he was banned, he appealed. Soon after, there was a discussion on whether the ban could be reduced. However, the board did not take any decision and the ban still stands. It must have been a communication error," said Papon.

Saibab Hossain Tutul, member-secretary of the Umpires' Committee told The Daily Star that the chairman of the committee, Nazmul Karim had informed them to allow Shah to stand as umpire from the current season onwards.

Nadal back in style

AFP, Beijing
Rafael Nadal made an emphatic return to singles competition Tuesday after being sidelined for three months, sweeping aside Richard Gasquet of France in the 5.4 million dollars China Open.

The 14-times Grand Slam winner won his first round match in Beijing 6-4, 6-0, overcoming sporadic resistance in the first set before crushing his 22nd-ranked opponent in the second.

Nadal joins top seed Novak Djokovic in the second round.

The Serb defeated Guillermo Garcia-Lopez of Spain 6-2, 6-1 in just 63 minutes.



Bangladesh ODI captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (L) and BCB chief selector Faruque Ahmed are in the midst of a discussion during their net session at the Yeonhui Cricket Ground in Incheon yesterday.

'I can take my country forward'

SPORTS REPORTER from Incheon
Mashrafe Bin Mortaza has thanked the Bangladesh Cricket Board for 'keeping faith' in the player and giving him a chance to lead the Tigers for the second time in his career.

The 'Narail-Express', who was named Bangladesh's ODI captain for the Zimbabwe series yesterday, was first assigned the responsibility in 2009 when he took over from Mohammad Ashraful. The period however, was short-lived as he got injured in the first Test. Mashrafe returned to the helm 12 months later when Bangladesh toured England. An injury in October that year, during the New Zealand series, eventually saw Shakib Al Hasan take over from him permanently.

"I want to thank the BCB as they have kept their faith in me and has given me

another opportunity to lead my country," Mashrafe told reporters in Incheon, where the team will take part in the Asian Games.

"At the moment though I am not thinking about the Zimbabwe series. I am completely focused on the Asian Games.

"I want the blessing of the people of my country. I believe that I can take my country's cricket forward," added the 31-year-old.

Shakib Al Hasan returned to the fray as well as he was named Mashrafe's deputy for the series. The ace-allrounder, who recently returned to international cricket after serving a disciplinary suspension, said that he was looking forward to don the national jersey.

"Every human being goes through changes," a smiling Shakib said while tightening his pads before the start of their net sessions.

"Playing for your nation is always inspiring. Every time I get down to the field it motivates me to bring out my best," he added.

Oman defeat ends disastrous campaign

SPORTS REPORTER from Incheon
Bangladesh hockey team finished eighth among ten teams in the 17th Asian Games after suffering a 2-3 defeat against Oman in the place-deciding match at the Seonhak Hockey Stadium in Incheon yesterday.

The fourth defeat in five matches left Bangladesh in the same position they had attained in the previous edition even though the team management, especially the coach, had set their sights on either the fifth or sixth position before the games began.

Since their 0-8 defeat against Japan in their opening match, Bangladesh failed to put up any resistance against the other teams, except for Singapore, whom they beat 2-1. Yesterday's defeat against Oman, a team Bangladesh had beaten by 6-1 goals in the final of the Asian Games Qualifiers in Dhaka earlier this year, capped off a disastrous campaign.

However, coach Naveed Alam, whose 14-month tenure in charge of the national team comes to an end after the Asian Games, found enough excuse for the defeat.

"We made many mistakes and missed many chances. The margin should have been like the one we had in the Asian Games qualifying round," said Naveed.

Bangladesh dominated the early proceedings and took a deserved lead in the 11th minute from a penalty corner converted by Pushkor Khisha Mimo before they gradually lost control as the game progressed.

Oman played some fantastic hockey to expose the Bangladesh defence in the second quarter and equalised in the 18th minute through Ahmed Sabeel Habib Al Balushi before grabbing the lead through Qasim Moosa Khalfan Al Shibli in the 37th minute.

Bangladesh fought back through the conversion of a penalty corner by Krishna Kumar in the 39th minute but once again they threw away the initiative. Defender Farhad Ahmed Shitul made an unnecessary challenge on an Oman player in the 45th minute to concede a penalty corner, which gave Oman the winning goal.

The Bangladesh players failed to convert two penalty corners in the dying moments as they surrendered meekly.

The Pakistani coach however put on a brave face as he felt Bangladesh's performance in the tournament was appreciable.

"I am very satisfied with our work. We did our best and players did their best. I am not disappointed with my players," said Naveed adding that Bangladesh team improved much under his guidance but still need to improve on confidence by playing more international matches.

Narine action reported too

CRICINFO, Hyderabad
Kolkata Knight Riders off-spinner Sunil Narine has been reported for a suspected bowling action following his side's 36-run win over Dolphins in the Champions League Twenty20 Group A match on Monday evening in Hyderabad.

The charge was laid by on-field umpires Anil Chaudhary and Chettihody Shamsuddin along with third umpire Kumar Dharmasena and specifically relates to Narine's quicker ball. Under CLT20 guidelines, Narine may request for an official assessment from the BCCI's suspect bowling action committee. Narine has been placed on the tournament's 'warning list' but will still be able to play. However, if he is reported again while still on the warning list, he will be suspended from bowling for the remainder of the tournament.

Narine claimed figures of 3 for 33 in his four-over spell during the win over Dolphins. The Knight Riders next match will be in the tournament semi-finals on October 2.

Tigers take on Kuwait today

SPORTS REPORTER from Incheon
Bangladesh's campaign of retaining cricket's gold medal in the Asian Games begins today as the Tigers take on Kuwait in the fourth quarterfinal at the Yeonhui Cricket Ground in Incheon.

The match starts at 11:00am Bangladesh time.

On paper, the match against Kuwait, an associate member of the ICC playing in the sixth division of the World Cricket League, is expected to be a stroll in the park for Tigers. Kuwait have reached the quarterfinals with some luck after a coin toss rewarded them a win in a rain-marred match against Maldives, following their nine-wicket defeat against Nepal in the opening match of the competition.

But the Tigers themselves have not been in the best of forms in the current calendar year and they are want to take the match against Kuwait as a stage to boost their own confidence as well as have a first-hand experience of the newly-laid pitches at the Yeonhui Cricket Ground.

"Every match is important in the knockout stage. We will be hoping to win against Kuwait convincingly. If we can post a win over Kuwait, it will boost our confidence before the next match, which will possibly be against a strong Sri Lanka side. The rest will depend on how we handle things," said captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza before training yesterday.

The Tigers were supposed to have a net session at the match venue from 12:00pm yesterday but they had to spend two hours on the road as the driver carrying them drove to the Songdo LNG Baseball ground as per previous schedule. The team manage-

ment later convinced the driver to drive to the match venue, where they had to share the nets with Sri Lanka, before they watched the Lankans beat South Korea by 122 runs to confirm their semifinal berth.

"We are playing this tournament with a mindset to help us in the future. If we can win convincingly, it will be great but winning is the most important thing," said Mashrafe.

The wickets at the Yeonhui Cricket ground are likely to be low and slow, atypical of wickets in Bangladesh, which Mashrafe believes will help his side.

However, Mashrafe was a bit worried about the possibility of rain, which may force the match to be decided on coin toss unless the minimum overs are played. But the good news is there is no forecast of rain for Wednesday in Incheon even though there is rain forecast for Thursday.

BD A draw level

SPORTS REPORTER
Bangladesh A bounced back to level the series as they won the rain-interrupted second one-dayer against Zimbabwe A by six wickets at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Soumya Sarkar hit 86 after claiming two crucial wickets as the home side reached the revised target of 158, losing four wickets in 31.4 overs in reply to the visitors' 163 for nine in their 50 overs.

The second-string Bangladesh side had lost the first match by 17 runs and after the outcome of yesterday's match, today's third and final game at the same venue turned into a series decider.

Rain stopped play after 31.1 overs with the hosts on 156 for 4 and when play resumed after an hour, the revised target was set at 158 in 47 overs and they collected those two runs in three deliveries without any further casualty.

Earlier, opting to bat, the tourists lost wickets at regular intervals and did not have a big partnership to set a challenging total for the home side. Captain Vusi Sibanda was the top scorer, making 74 runs amid the batting collapse.

Opener Soumya and Liton Das started the reply steadily and gave their team a solid platform by adding 80 runs in 17.3 overs. Soumya struck 12 fours and a six during his 83-ball knock.

Zimbabwe A spinners Wellington Masakadza and Tafadzwa Kamungozi caused a commotion in the middle order in the Bangladesh A innings but Naeem Islam and Mosaddek Hossain ensured that they reach home without any further hiccup.

SCORES IN BRIEF
ZIMBABWE A: 163-9 in 50 overs (Sibanda 74, Mupariwa 19; Soumya 2-23, Sunny 2-



Opener Soumya Sarkar raises his bat after reaching his half-century at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday. His 83-ball 86 led Bangladesh A to a six-wicket win over Zimbabwe A.

29, Jubair 2-28)
BANGLADESH A: 158-4 in 31.4 overs (Soumya 86, Liton 29; Kamungozi 2-52, Masakadza 2-18)
Result: Bangladesh A won by six wickets.

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