

SPORT

Tigers flex muscles against Kuwait

Take on Sri Lanka in a medal match today

ANISUR RAHMAN from Incheon



Bangladesh cricket team showed their intention of retaining the Asian Games gold medal powerfully as they overwhelmed true-minnows Kuwait by 203 runs in the quarterfinals at the Yeonhui Cricket Ground in Incheon yesterday.

The Tigers shot out the Kuwaitis for just 21 runs in 13 overs as the latter were chasing a mammoth 225 for a win. Bangladesh hammered a huge total of 224 for 9 in 20 overs after Kuwait's 58-year-old captain Bastaki Mahmoud had invited Mashrafe Bin Mortaza to take first strike.

Bangladesh will now take on Sri Lanka in the second semifinal after Afghanistan and Hong Kong face off in the first at the same venue today.

The game against the Gulf emirate offered Bangladesh an opportunity to have a real time match practice as well as some boost in morale as the Tigers have been enduring a torrid run since the start of 2014. However a cause for concern remained for the Tigers as the Test-playing nation lost as many as nine wickets against an ICC Associate member who are ranked ninth among the non-Test playing countries.

Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusingha was far from amused with the outcome.

"We can't judge our performance against these opponents. Our main game [against Sri Lanka] is tomorrow [Thursday] and that is very crucial. But I think we are prepared and confident," he said.

"I think batting-wise both the teams are on equal terms as they [Sri Lanka] are a very strong batting unit while we have our full group here apart from skipper Mushfiqur [Rahim]. But bowling-wise we have an edge and if we can bowl well, we have a very good chance [of winning]," believed Hathurusingha.

On Kuwait's part playing against the Tigers itself was an achievement. The way they celebrated the fall of each Bangladesh wicket was something to watch for the journalists and the few Bangladeshi expatriates who were present at the ground. Seven of the nine Bangladesh wickets that fell were out caught. And each time a player took a catch

they set on victory laps with the entire team chasing behind.

"It was like a dream playing against Bangladesh as we watched them only on television. Playing together with them is a dream come true experience and that's why the boys were a bit excited. We will never forget these moments," said vice-captain Bastaki Fahad, who is the son of captain Mahmoud.

The Kuwaiti fielders took a couple of breathtaking catches from the boundary line, but the way Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal threw his wicket away was unexpected as the left-hander had come down the wicket to play a cross-batted shot only to be caught at square-leg.

"I panicked twice in my life. The first time I feared was against Pakistani speedster Shoaib Akhter and the second time was today because it was tough to understand what type of delivery they would bowl," Tamim, who struck a 22-ball 28 featuring three boundaries, tried to defend his failure after the match. The other opener, Anamul Haque was trapped leg before by Mahmoud for 38 off 18 with five fours and one six.

Shakib Al Hasan was the third batsman to go after scoring 23 as Fahad took Shakib at wide long-on with a brilliant catch. Mohammad Mithun played an entertaining knock after sending one of his three sixers outside the gallery. Mithun scored 59 off 25 balls with three sixes and five fours.

The Kuwaiti openers tried their best to stick to the pitch when Bangladesh pacers Mashrafe and Rubel Hossain were in operation but their resistance did not last long once the slow bowlers were introduced. Shakib brought about the breakthrough while Sabbir Rahman completed the rout.

However in between it was Arafat Sunny (4 for 8) and Mahmudullah Riyad (3 for 1) who caused the havoc to demolish Kuwait. In fact, not a single batsman from Kuwait could reach double digits as number eight Alotaibi Mohammed scored highest 7.

SCORES IN BRIEF
BANGLADESH: 224 for 9 in 20 overs (Tamim 28, Anamul 38, Mithun 59, Shakib 23, Sabbir 35, Nasir 9; Mahmood 2-45, Fahad 3-48)
KUWAIT: 21 all out in 13 overs (Fahad 6, Alotaibi 7; Mahmudullah 3-1, Arafat 4-8)
Result: Bangladesh won by 203 runs.

PCB chief to be here on Eid day

SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan is expected to arrive in Bangladesh on October 6.

The PCB head's trip on Eid day is being seen by many as a courtesy call and a strategy to improve the bilateral relations between the two boards.

A former diplomat, who assumed office in August this year, is expected to meet with BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon.

While no official agenda with regards to the meeting has been set, there are a number of topics that the two boards will want to discuss. Issues such as allowing Pakistan's cricketers to take part in the Dhaka Premier League or a possible tour of Bangladesh before the 50-over World Cup could be discussed.

The relationship between the two boards went downhill after the BCB decided against touring Pakistan for a series. In reply, the PCB did not allow its players to participate in Bangladesh's domestic league.

As per the current schedule Pakistan are expected to play a complete series against Bangladesh after the World Cup.

Apart from Bangladesh, the PCB boss is also expected to tour India and Sri Lanka between October 3 and 10.

Like father, like son

ANISUR RAHMAN from Incheon



There are many instances in the sporting world where siblings represent a national team together but it is quite a rarity when a father and son represent the national team. But when it comes to the Kuwait national cricket team, the father-son pair is a regular feature.

Like in the match against Bangladesh in the Asian Games yesterday, father Bastaki Mahmoud and his son Bastaki Fahad apparently carry the entire Kuwait team on their shoulders. Mahmoud leads the side while his son is his deputy. More often than not, they both tend to be the mainstays of the team. The son also stands behind the stumps.

Despite their 203-run defeat against Bangladesh in the quarterfinal yesterday, Fahad scored the second-highest-six runs-- in the team's total of 21, after taking a three-for with his right-arm offbreaks. Those three wickets included the prized scalp of Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal. The 23-year-old spinner was visibly delighted with his effort.

"Though it was a bad delivery (which got Tamim), it gave me a lot of pleasure, especially because my father took the catch. As I'm also a wicketkeeper, I have taken many catches off my father's bowling, but it was the first time today that the reverse happened. I will remember this moment for the rest of my life," said Fahad.

According to Fahad, who grew up watching international cricket on TV, playing against Bangladesh was a dream come true.

"I have seen these players on TV only. This is the first time I am seeing them in person and talking to them. It is a dream come true," said a smiling Fahad, who also caught Shakib al Hasan behind the stumps.

Even though Mahmoud, could not get his willow to talk, he too contributed with the ball by taking two wickets. But he is more delighted to be able to represent his country at the international level.

"By the grace of Allah, I am very happy and I thank the Kuwait cricket board for giving us such an opportunity to represent the national team. I want to keep playing cricket for as long as I am fit," said the 58-year-old, whose day-time job is to lead the credit finance department of a Kuwaiti bank.



PARTNERS IN CRIME: Slow left-armers Elias Sunny (2nd from R) and Mominul Haque took three wickets apiece to dismantle Zimbabwe A's batting line-up at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Tendulkar coming to Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER

Lutfur Rahman Badal, owner of the Dhaka Premier League cricket club Legends of Rugganj -- formerly known as Gazi Tank Cricketers Club -- has said that legendary batsman Sachin Tendulkar will come to Dhaka on October 14 to officially unveil the club's new name.

Describing Tendulkar as his 'good friend', he informed reporters that the former India superstar would come to Dhaka in the morning to take part in the ceremony and leave for Mumbai the same day.

"It's a great honour for us. He is a legend and the perfect player to unveil the new name of our club. In fact I have named my club 'Legends' because of him," Badal told reporters at a press conference yesterday.

"He is a good friend of mine and it took me a year to convince him to come here. I think this is the only time the player is making a trip to unveil a cricket club's name," he added.

While Badal is yet to confirm the details of the programme, he hopes to take Tendulkar to a school in either Rugganj or Dhaka after the unveiling of his team's logo.

Arguably the best batsman the game has ever seen, Tendulkar has scored the highest number of runs in both Tests and ODIs. He scored his 100th international century in Bangladesh during the Asia Cup in 2012. He retired in November 2013.

Phelps arrested

AFP, Washington

Olympic swimming superstar Michael Phelps was arrested Tuesday in his home state of Maryland for driving under the influence of alcohol and speeding, police said.

Phelps -- the most decorated Olympian of all time with 18 golds out of 22 total medals and an eye on another run at the 2016 Games in Rio -- later apologized, saying he was "deeply sorry" for his actions.

The 29-year-old was pulled over early Tuesday after his white Land Rover was clocked at 84 miles (135 kilometers) per hour in a 45 mph zone in Baltimore's Fort McHenry Tunnel, Maryland Transportation Authority Police said.

BD A win series 2-1

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh A came from behind to record a 2-1 win in the three-match one-day series against their Zimbabwe counterparts as they beat the visitors by 31 runs in the last game at the Khan Saheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah yesterday.

Batting first, Bangladesh A posted a decent total of 239. In reply, Bangladesh spinners restricted the visitors to 208 for 8.

Captain Marshall Ayub -- who had scored four runs in the first two matches -- led from the front by scoring a patient half-century. He hit six boundaries in his 78-ball 57 and stayed at the crease at a time when the hosts were looking precarious.

The new-found opening pair of Soumya Sarker and Liton Kumar continued their good run as they raced to 50 for no loss in 7.4 overs. The departure of Soumya in the eighth over however led to a mini-collapse with Bangladesh falling to 88 for 3 after 16 overs. Crucial knocks in the middle-order however helped the second-string side reach

the modest total.

Like the previous matches, it was the spinners who made life miserable for the visitors. Bangladesh introduced spin early into the attack and the move paid off.

Elias Sunny had Regis Chakabva stumped in the sixth over and then removed Tinotenda Mutombodzi for nought an over later. Having sunk deep within the first 10 overs, the visitors could barely recuperate and found themselves at 68 for 4 after 17 overs. With the asking rate increasing steadily and the visitors losing wickets at regular intervals, the match was lost long before the last ball of the innings was bowled.

Young Soumya was the most impressive player for the hosts in the competition. The opener topped the runs charts by scoring 164 runs at an average of 54.67.

SCORES IN BRIEF
BANGLADESH A: 239 all out in 50 overs (Marshall 57, Liton 46; Muzarabani 4-33)
ZIMBABWE A: 208 for 8 (Waller 52, Sibanda 37; Mominul 3-36, Elias 3-53)
Result: Bangladesh A won by 31 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Marshall Ayub.

Mamunul off to Kolkata

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh captain Mamunul Islam said he would try to compete against his European teammates to get into the Atletico de Kolkata playing

eleven, on the eve of leaving for Kolkata yesterday evening.

The 28-year-old midfielder is one of 12 overseas players of the 26-man squad of Atletico de Kolkata with former Spanish International Luis Garcia as the team's marquee player. According to the league regulations, a maximum of six foreign players will be allowed to play in a match, which makes it a challenge for Mamunul to get into the playing eleven.

"This is a very challenging assignment for me. My case is completely different from the ones of Munna bhai, Aslam bhai and others, who played in the Kolkata League. I'm going to play in a league where there will be many European footballers and I'll have to compete with them to get into the team," said Mamunul over phone yesterday.

The Kolkata franchise will kick off the tournament on October 12 with the game

against Mumbai City FC on October 12. The team, co-owned by Spanish League champions Atletico Madrid, have already had a month-long camp in Madrid before returning to Kolkata on September 27 to start the residential camp. Though he is joining his teammates late with only ten days before the kick-off, Mamunul feels he can make up for the lost time.

"I don't think it's a big deal not being able to be part of the main camp because there is still time to get adjusted. I'm going there to represent my country and my target will be to get into the playing XI. If I can do that I will try to give my best to make my country proud," said Mamunul.

Mamunul, who scored the winning goal against Afghanistan during Bangladesh's commendable Asian Games campaign recently, is eager to lead the

national team in the two FIFA friendly matches against Sri Lanka slated for October 24 and 27 at home, but admits it all depends of the team management.

"I will certainly try to play the two matches against Sri Lanka, because country is above everything. But I don't know whether my team management will allow that," said Mamunul.



Kabaddi's dismal show

SPORTS REPORTER from Incheon



Bangladesh men's kabaddi team finished bottom of Group A in the 17th Asian Games after they suffered a shock 36-37 defeat against Thailand in their last group match at the Songdo Global University Gymnasium in Incheon yesterday.

The third defeat in as many matches means Bangladesh, who had won silver medal in the Asian Games three times, have failed to retain the fifth position they

attained in the last edition four years ago.

Bangladesh were well ahead in the first half against with a 21-16 lead but they failed to keep the momentum thereafter against the youthful Thailand side, who earned 16 points with three bonus and two 'lonas' in the second half to shock Bangladesh and finish third in the group.

Today Bangladesh women's kabaddi team will play in the semifinal against Iran, who beat Thailand 37-25 to top the Group B at the same venue. The Bangladesh team are already assured of a bronze medal and will now look forward to moving into the final with a victory over Iran.

U-18 football final today

SPORTS REPORTER

Three weeks of youth football extravaganza reaches its climax today when Mohammedan Sporting Club slug it out against Brothers Union for the title of the Airtel U-18 Football Tournament.

The final of the tournament involving the youth sides of nine Premier League clubs will kick off at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 5:00pm and will be telecast live on BTV World.

The Black and Whites, who were the champions of the inaugural edition held among the U-16 sides of the Premier League clubs last year, defeated Team BJMC 2-1 in the semifinal after emerging group champions with two wins and two draws.

Brothers Union, on the other hand, had a less convincing run as they survived a tie-breaker against Sheikh Russel in the semifinal after emerging group runners-up despite winning only one of their games.

These two sides were in the same group and their meeting had ended in a 0-0 draw. An open and exciting encounter is expected at the big bowl today, with some of the future stars of Bangladesh football at show.

ASIAD HOCKEY

Indo-Pak final today

AFP, Incheon

Arch-rivals India and Pakistan face off in a mouth-watering field hockey final at the Asian Games on Thursday with a place in the 2016 Olympics at stake.

Millions of fans in both nations will be glued to their television screens for the title clash which earns the winner a ticket to Rio de Janeiro and the loser left facing a hazardous qualification route.

India and Pakistan last met in an Asian final way back at New Delhi in 1982 where the Indians suffered a stunning 1-7 rout in front of their hown fans that included then prime minister Indira Gandhi.

In Beijing in 1990 when Pakistan claimed the gold and India the silver, there was no final since the winner was decided after a round-robin league.

Eight-time Olympic champions India have won the Asiad title just twice, both in the Thai capital of Bangkok in 1966 and 1998.