

SPORTS

Top teams win crucial games

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Legends of Rugganj, Mohammedan Sporting Club and Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club won their respective matches in the eleventh round of the Dhaka Premier League yesterday.

As per the current standings, the top two, Prime Bank Cricket Club and Abahani Limited, have already confirmed their spots. Kalabagan Cricket Academy, Doleshwar, Legends and Mohammedan are next in line, with all the teams tied at 14 points each. Victoria Sporting Club is currently in the seventh position with 12 points and a match in hand. They are scheduled to play Kalabagan Cricket Academy today. If Victoria end up winning the match they will get 14 points and join the four other teams.

The eleventh round of the league saw Prime Doleshwar's Rony Talukdar score his first List A century at the BKSP to help his side chase down Partex Sporting Club's 233. He was well supported by skipper Mushfiqur Rahim who posted a 78-ball 70. Talukdar remained unbeaten on a 112. He hit four sixes and nine fours in his 123-ball innings. Earlier, Abdullah Al Mamun scored 93 off 103 balls for Partex.

The partnership between Mushfiqur and Talukdar set the base for Doleshwar's chase. The innings was a boost for Mushfiqur who had failed to score big in his previous matches of the DPL.

At the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, Tamim Iqbal's 73 helped Legends post a six-wicket over Sheikh Jamal. Batting first, the Dhanmondi-based club were restricted to 167 for 8 in 45 overs. Pacers Sharifullah and Abul Hasan shared five wickets between them. In reply, Tamim's half-century helped the Legends comfortably reach their target.

Mohammedan beat Kalabagan Krira Chakra in a low-scoring game at Fatullah in the day's other game. Batting first, the Mashrafe Bin Mortaza-led side were bowled out for 194. In reply, Rahmat Shah's four-wicket haul helped bowl Kalabagan out for 172.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SHEIKH JAMAL DC: 167 for 8 in 45 overs (Tushar 64, Nahidul 43; Sharifullah 3-13, Abul 2-26)

LEGENDS OF RUGGANJ: 171 for 4 in 36.2 overs (Tamim 73, Alok 30 not out; Shohag 1-19)

Result: Legends won by six wickets.

MOHAMMEDAN SC: 194 all out in 41.5 overs (Ariful 83, Rahmat 33; Shahadat 5-40)

KALABAGAN KC: 172 all out in 42.2 overs (Shamsur 47, Jupitar 44; Rahmat 4-29)

Result: Mohammedan won by 22 runs.

PARTEX SC: 233 all out in 48.5 overs (Abdullah 93, Mehrab 60 not out; David 4-25, Elias 3-38)

PRIME DOLESHWAR SC: 235 for 2 in 44.4 overs (Rony 112 not out, Mushfiqur 70; Abdur 1-33)

Result: Doleshwar won by eight wickets.



Legends of Rugganj opener Tamim Iqbal drives one on the back-foot during his vital 73 against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Legends won the match by six wickets.

PHOTO: STAR

'Feared I was just a 60-70 player'

NAIMUL KARIM



The battle between Legends of Rugganj chairman Lutfur Rahman Badal and the Bangladesh Cricket Board may have taken

centre stage at the Dhaka Premier League this season, but a glance beyond the cloud of controversies will bring into picture the story of a shy 20-year-old batsman who is working ever so hard to come of age.

Liton Kumar Das has played just 14 List A games and 13 first-class matches in his career, but he has already managed to impress the selectors. The testament to that was the uncapped player's inclusion in the World Cup probables by Faruque Ahmed and co. While it is extremely unlikely for the freshman to make the final cut, his performance in the league must be making the selectors wish they had included him in the squad for one of the 'four' ODIs against Zimbabwe



LITON KUMAR DAS

earlier this month.

Halfway through the competition, Liton, with 568 runs in 10 matches, has easily been the most consistent batsman this season. He is also one of the main reasons why Abahani, sans the biggest stars of the competition, are still placed second.

A realist, Liton knows that he still has many more obstacles to over-

come before he can don the national jersey. He however remains positive and considers the recent events as a landmark in his career progress.

"I think being in the preliminary squad, in a sense, opens a path for a player to go further up. It's an opportunity; like the time I was in the camp for the Zimbabwe series. I get to learn a lot from big players. These are all good signs," Liton told The Daily Star following his training session at the Abahani club on Saturday.

Liton scored his first List A century against Kalabagan Cricket Academy in the last DPL game last Thursday; an innings which relieved him off a growing pressure.

"I was a bit nervous this season, because I kept getting out after scoring a 60 or a 70. So yes, I was really excited to finally get the century and the feeling was quite unique. There was this hunger because I had not scored one for a long time. Until the century, I feared maybe I was just a 60-70 player," Liton revealed.

So is it a daunting feeling for a youngster to stay on top of Bangladesh's most valued domestic competition? Not quite. "The feeling is good but what will eventually count is my average at the end of the season. I have played a few good matches but I will truly know where I stand after the season. I am trying to finish big," he hoped.

The 20-year-old, whose idols include Michael Clarke and Mark Boucher, isn't thinking about targeting a specific timeline for his international debut; he would rather focus on the domestic circuit and continue chipping in with these performances until the selectors are compelled to take him in. As he puts it, "If you have the runs on your bat, then everything's perfect."

A prediction about Liton's future at this moment would be extremely premature. However, at least for the sake of the league, one would want the 'dark horse' to do well and help regain the excitement that the league has lost this season.

Fakirerpool, T&T earn promotion

SPORTS REPORTER

T&T Club finished runners-up in the in the Bengal Senior Division Football League after handing a 5-1 goal defeat to Friends Social Welfare Organisation in their last match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Shahed Mia and Russel struck a brace each after Matin had given T&T Club a two-minute lead. Enamul pulled one goal back for Friends Social Welfare Organisation.

Champions Youngmens Fakirerpool Club and runners-up T&T Club have earned the right to play in the Bangladesh Championship League, the second-tier professional football league, in the upcoming season.

Warner & India duo punished

AFP, Dubai

Australia's David Warner and India duo Shikhar Dhawan and stand-in skipper Virat Kohli were found guilty of breaching the ICC code of conduct and handed fines for bust-ups during the stormy first Test which ended in Adelaide on Saturday.

Warner and Dhawan were fined 15 and 30 per cent of their match fees respectively for their roles in an incident that took place during the second session of play on Friday, while Kohli was also fined 30 per cent of his match fee for his involvement in a separate incident shortly before the close of play on the fourth day.

Shehzad leads Pak

AFP, Sharjah



Opener Ahmed Shehzad hit a swash-buckling hundred and Shahid Afridi made a fiery 55 and took three wickets to lead Pakistan to a crushing 147-run win over New Zealand in the third one-dayer in Sharjah on Sunday.

Shehzad's 120-ball 113 created the foundation of Pakistan's biggest-ever total against New Zealand of 364-7 before they dismissed the Black Caps for 217 in 38.2 overs to go 2-1 up in the five-match series.

Shehzad's sixth one-day hundred was spiced with a dozen boundaries and two sixes while Afridi pulverised the bowlers with three sixes and six boundaries off just 25 balls.

It proved too much for New Zealand who were jolted right at the start with lanky paceman Mohammad Irfan dismissing Anton Devcich (0) and Martin Guptill (12) by the sixth over.

Captain Kane Williamson hit 46 while Ross Taylor made 31 during a stand of 45 for the third wicket but Afridi had Taylor bowled while Haris

Sohail dismissed the New Zealand skipper to leave them struggling at 115-4.

Luke Ronchi was the last man out, bowled by Afridi for 41.

The 23-year-old Shehzad built invaluable partnerships after giving Pakistan a brisk start of 63 with Mohammad Hafeez.

Shehzad added another 70 for the second wicket with Younis Khan and 77 for the third with Asad Shafiq.

Shehzad finally holed out in the 37th over as paceman Matt Henry also removed Shafiq with the very next ball.

Stand-in skipper Afridi and Sohail (28-ball 39) ensured Pakistan did not lose sight of a big total with an 89-run stand for the fifth wicket off just 45 balls.

Afridi's whirlwind knock helped Pakistan collect 125 runs in the last 10 overs.

The fourth and match will be played in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: Total: 364 for 7 in 50 overs (Shehzad 113, Afridi 55, H Sohail 39; Henry 3-69, McCullum 49-1)

NEW ZEALAND: 217 all out in 38.2 overs (Williamson 46, Latham 34; Afridi 37-3, Sohail 45-3, Irfan 26-2)

Result: Pakistan won by 147 runs.

Germany lift Champions Trophy

AFP, Bhubaneswar

Olympic field hockey gold-medallists Germany added the Champions Trophy on Sunday with a 2-0 victory over spirited Pakistan in the final in Bhubaneswar.

Chris Wesley opened the scoring in the 18th minute following a penalty corner before Florian Fuchs banged in the second goal three minutes before the final whistle.

Pakistan had two players banned for the final and one reprimanded by the International Hockey Federation for making obscene gestures at the crowd after the 4-3 win over hosts India in Saturday's semifinal.

Australia, who came into the tournament as five-time defending champions, defeated India 2-1 for the bronze medal.

'Off-field issues won't affect team'

SPORTS REPORTER



Legends of Rugganj opener Tamim Iqbal has said that the 'off-field' controversies related to his Dhaka Premier League team won't affect the player's performance in the competition. Legends chairman, Lutfur Rahman Badal was recently given a life-ban by the Bangladesh Cricket Board for making derogatory comments against the BCB president and directors.

Ever since the banning though, Legends have won two matches and almost sealed their spot in the super six round.

"This is an off-field issue, these things will always be there. If we get worried about this then it won't be right. We are professional cricketers and we are focused on the reason why we were brought to this team. We are trying to play good cricket," said Tamim following his side's six-wicket win over Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club yesterday.

"Some of the team's officials may not be with us but it is our responsibility to play good cricket. We all talked about the issue and the basic message was to concentrate on our individual skills," he added.

While Legends did manage to win the last edition of the league—under the banner of Gazi Tank Cricketers—they are currently placed fifth and their chances of retaining the position look slim. Tamim however, believed that there was still hope.

"It will be difficult. We have put ourselves in such a position that now it depends upon the other teams. But cricket is an unpredictable game. If they slip and we win all the five matches, anything can happen," said Tamim.

Aussie media laud Lyon

AFP, Sydney



Australian media Sunday hailed off-spinner Nathan Lyon for his match-winning performance in the first Adelaide Test against India and ranked his achievements alongside bowling great Shane Warne.

The 27-year-old claimed seven wickets in India's second innings and 12 for the match to take the home side to a thrilling triumph after Australia had set the tourists 364 runs for victory on a rollercoaster final day on Saturday.

The Test was also an emotional ride for the Australian cricketers including Lyon, who was on the field for New South Wales when South Australian batsman Phillip Hughes was hit.

Lyon marked the death of Hughes, who was fatally struck in the head by a short-pitched delivery in a domestic game last month, by running to '408' -- the young batsman's Test cap number -- painted on the playing surface

after taking the last wicket of the match.

Hughes' family Sunday thanked Australians and the cricket team for their support in full-page advertisements across several newspapers.

"Thank you from the Hughes family," the text read. "Words cannot express our sorrow at Phillip's passing, but your love and support has given us great strength at this very difficult time."

"Gregory, Virginia, Jason and Megan Hughes wish to express our sincere appreciation to the people of Australia following the passing of our dearly beloved son and brother, Phillip."

Sydney's Daily Telegraph said Lyon produced "the most emphatic spin bowling performance by an Australian since the retirement of the great Shane Warne" during the Test.

"In a career-defining match for the much-maligned offie, Lyon exorcised his demons from two years ago against South Africa on the same ground in a huge boost for Australia looking ahead to next year's Ashes."

Sangakkara fined

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's star batsman Kumar Sangakkara was Sunday fined 15 percent of his match fee for showing dissent at the umpire's decision in the sixth one-day international against England in Kandy.

The prolific left-hander was found to have breached the International Cricket Council's code of conduct for players during the game on Saturday which the hosts won by 90 runs.

The incident took place during Sri Lanka's innings when Sangakkara got involved in a "prolonged discussion" with on-field umpire Bruce Oxenford in the 34th over, the ICC said in a statement.

Japan U-21s win against Thailand

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka-bound Japan U-21 national football team notched a 2-0 win over Thailand U-21s in Bangkok yesterday.

The Japan U-21 team, which is preparing for the 2016 Olympic Games qualifiers, went ahead in 16th minute before getting the second goal in the dying moments of the match against their Thai counterparts.

They will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow and will take on Bangladesh national team at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Thursday.

The Bangladesh Football Federation started its last-ditch preparations of the pitch yesterday and the national team's training camp was shifted to the BUET ground.

Meanwhile, the arrival of Bangladesh skipper Mamunul Islam, who is currently with Atletico de Kolkata for the Indian Super League, is still uncertain as BFF officials failed to make contact with the franchise officials till Sunday afternoon.

Mamun was drafted in the 18-player list of Kolkata team in the semifinal first leg against Goa yesterday. The second leg of the semifinal is scheduled to be held in Goa on Wednesday, the day before Bangladesh's match.

Negre in town

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Leandro Negre, president of the International Hockey Federation (IFH), will lay foundation stone to the artificial turf at the BAF Shaheen School & College today in a bid to increase practice facilities for school students in Dhaka.

The FIH president, who was scheduled to land in Dhaka late last night, is visiting Bangladesh for the third time in three years.

During his four-day visit, Negre will also inaugurate the National School Hockey Championship on December 17 and unveil the installation process of a blue turf at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium the following day.

After being invited by Bangladesh Hockey Federation president Air Marshal Enamul Bari last year, Negre promised to help Bangladesh increase its hockey infrastructure. The astro-turf at the BAF Shaheen School & College provided is free cost while BHF will have to bear only 25 per cent of the cost of the blue turf at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium.

Negre will declare the 120-school hockey championship open on Wednesday even though the competition will get underway in January next year, informed BHF general secretary Khaza Rahmatullah, at a press conference yesterday.

গভীর শ্রদ্ধায় স্মরণ করি কাজী আজহার আলীর ৫ম মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী



আজ ১৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৪ রোজ সোমবার বাংলাদেশ ইউনিভার্সিটির প্রতিষ্ঠাতা ও প্রথম ভাইস চ্যান্সেলর এবং মোহাম্মদপুর প্রিপারেটরি উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়ের প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান মরহুম কাজী আজহার আলী'র ৫ম মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী।

২০০৯ সালে এই দিনে তিনি বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালে ইন্তেকাল করেন। তাঁর মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী উপলক্ষে আজ দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকায় বাংলাদেশ ইউনিভার্সিটি মিলনায়তনে (১৫/১ ইকবাল রোড, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা) মরহুমের কর্মময় জীবনের উপর আলোচনা ও দোয়া মাহফিলের আয়োজন করা হয়েছে। উক্ত দোয়া মাহফিলে মরহুমের বন্ধু-বান্ধব, আত্মীয়-স্বজন ও শুভাকাঙ্ক্ষীদের উপস্থিতি থাকার জন্য বিনীতভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

বাংলাদেশ ইউনিভার্সিটি পরিবারবর্গ