

SPORT

Zia slips to third

SPORTS REPORTER

Grandmaster Ziaur Rahman slipped to third position in the Commonwealth Chess Championship after being held to a draw against IM Himangshu Sharma of India in the sixth round in New Delhi yesterday.

Zia, with five points from six matches, shares the third position along with 15 other players.

GM Niaz Murshed, IM Mohammad Minhaz Uddin and FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed have four points each while WIM Rani Hamid and Hanif Mollah have 2.5 points each.

WI confirm Zimbabwe tri-series

AGENCIES, Port of Spain

West Indies Cricket Board confirmed that West Indies will take part in a tri-series involving Zimbabwe and Pakistan in Aug-Sep 2015. Zimbabwe will host the tournament, but both Zimbabwe Cricket and Pakistan Cricket Board are yet to confirm the schedule.

West Indies and Pakistan, currently ranked eighth and ninth respectively in the ICC ODI rankings, will be battling for a spot in the 2017 Champions Trophy. Only the top seven teams as of September 30, 2015 will participate in the competition.

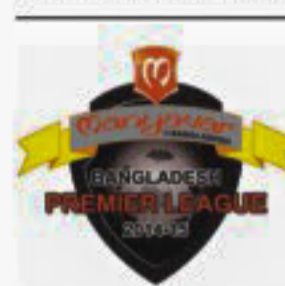


(L-R) Landing Darboe, Toklish Ahmed, Wedson Anselme and Mamunul Islam shared nine goals among them as Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club registered a record-breaking 9-1 goal win against Farashganj yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Nine-shooter Sheikh Jamal

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club got the second leg of the Manyavar Bangladesh Premier League to a spectacular start with a record-breaking 9-1 goal win over Farashganj SC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The defending champions, who roped in Nigerian coach Joseph Afusi after terminating contract with Maruful Haque at the end of the first leg, were vindicated of their decision to see the Nigerian's second stint at the club start in a flying fashion. Wedson Anselme scored four, Mamunul Islam slotted three while Landing Darboe and substitute striker Toklish Ahmed bagged one goal each to give the Dhanmondi giants a record breaking win in the top-tier professional league, eclipsing the previous record of 8-0 wins held jointly by them and Muktijoddha Sangsad, both of which came against now-regaled Uttar Baridhara Club last season.

The win took the league leaders six points clear at the top while Farashganj, who came

into the game with only one session of training behind them, remained at the bottom with only four points.

The defending champions took only eight minutes to open the scoring when Gambian forward Darboe fired home from the edge of the six-yard box before Wedson doubled the margin in the 25th with a spectacular angular shot that went in after thudding the inside of the far post.

FARASHGANJ 1-9 SK JAMAL
RAHMATGANJ 2-3 ABAHANI

Farashganj reduced the margin in the 38th minute, thanks to Nigerian striker Peter Akinyele who danced past two defenders before slotting it past goalkeeper Mazharul Islam Himel. But that was as best as it got for Farashganj because defending champions soon restored the two-goal cushion before putting six more past a hapless Farashganj goalkeeper in the second half.

Wedson, the highest scorer of last edition, made it 3-1 in the 45th minute before com-

pleting the hattrick five minutes into the second half. Mamunul then got in on the act with a spot-kick in the 52nd minute before scoring his second and third goals in the 73rd and 90th minutes to bag the fourth hattrick of the league.

In between Mamun's first and third goal, Wedson struck his fourth to take his tally to 10 for the league, just one less than highest-scorer Brothers' Augustine Walson, while substitute Toklish scored in the 83rd minute with a brilliant volley.

ABAHANI SCRAPE PAST RAHMATGANJ
New signing Sunday Chizoba struck a brace as Abahani edged past Rahmatganj MFS with a 3-1 victory in the second match of the day at the same venue.

Ghanaian marksman Osei Morison scored the other goal for Abahani while Mohammad and Sohel Nurul Absar scored one each for the Old Dhaka outfit.

The win lifted Abahani to 20 points, equal with Mohammedan SC, Brothers Union and Sheikh Russel KC who are yet to start their second leg.

Ruwan keeps cards close to his chest

SPORTS REPORTER



The camp for the South Africa series might not have started as yet, but the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur was already abuzz with cricketers yesterday.

On one hand, a few members from the High Performance unit were doing their drills, while on the other, the likes of Mahmudullah Riyad, Nasir Hossain and Arafat Sunny were busy following their respective schedules. While Riyad was working as per his rehabilitation programme, the likes of Nasir and Arafat were training under the watchful eyes of Ruwan Kalpage, Bangladesh's spin coach.

While the Tigers did employ four pacers against India in the ODIs, both captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Shakib Al Hasan, in the last few weeks indicated that the hosts may use a different strategy for the upcoming series against South Africa.

It therefore wasn't a surprise when Kalpage was repeatedly hit with questions yesterday regarding Bangladesh's strategy against South Africa. Expectedly so, the Sri Lankan wasn't too keen on answering those questions.

"I don't want to make any comments on what we are going

to do tactically. We want to keep it a secret. We have just started training with our spinners. We have got Arafat and Nasir here to train and improve on some of their basic areas," said Kalpage.

"These South African players have played in the IPL and have played on subcontinent tracks that turn a lot. They have got used to that. We can't underestimate them. They are aggressive players and we have a plan for them. We won't just go after them with spin," he added.

Apart from Arafat and Nasir, spinner Taijul Islam and Jubair Hossain also began their training sessions in Mirpur. Leg-spinner Jubair, who was drafted in the squad for the third ODI against India following Taskin Ahmed's injury, hopes he can get a shot at the Proteas.

"My aim is to bowl in the right areas and if I do so then I can confuse any player of the world. I'll try this in the series if I get a chance," said Jubair.

"We are watching different players' action on Youtube. We will also see more videos when practice begins. Thereafter, the team management will formulate a comprehensive game plan for them," he added.

The Tigers will play a practice match against the HP unit in Mirpur tomorrow in a bid to kick start their preparations for the South Africa series.



Mohishadanga thanks Soumya

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira



Mohishadanga is a village under the backward upazila of Ashashuni. So deprived is this that its inhabitants do not have access to electricity. Luckily for them, this is the village home of Soumya Sarkar. And it's because of one of Bangladesh's cricketing heroes that those dark days are going to be gone.

While Soumya was lighting up the whole country with his breathtaking batting in the field of play, people in his very own village turned to generators to see their favourite son tormenting mighty opponents like Pakistan and India. But now all that will change.

General manager of Sathkira Palli Bidyut Samity Rabindra Das said, "Soumya Sarkar is a player of the

national cricket team. It is in his honour that we created a project to bring electricity to his village."

The rural electrification department came here on Friday for a survey. In the first phase, just over a two-kilometre electricity line will be established and that will light up 168 houses out of a total of 318 in the village.

College teacher Hiralal Biswas, heaving a huge sigh of relief, said, "Our surrounding villages have electricity, but ours don't. Now thanks to Soumya, we are going to see light!"

Soumya's father Kishorimohan Sarkar, education officer of Narail district, said, "There is still a sense of unfulfilment. If all the houses in the



village had electricity, everyone could have seen and enjoyed the Tigers' play together."

Meanwhile, Soumya came to his hometown of Sathkira on Thursday night to meet his parents. The next day, he took his grandmother and uncle and aunt to Mohishadanga to see his other family members and friends. He returned to Sathkira later in the day to spend the entire Saturday with his parents, before heading back to Dhaka on Sunday to resume his regular routine.

Soumya's fame has brought many good memories for the country and now his family and friends wish they could watch him regularly on television without generators.

SL need 153 to level series

AFP, Colombo



Seamer Dhammika Prasad skittled Pakistan with a four-wicket haul to put Sri Lanka on top in the second Test in Colombo on Sunday despite a defiant century from Azhar Ali.

Pakistan, who trailed by 177 runs in the first innings, were bowled out for 329 in their second knock by tea on the fourth day to leave the hosts a target of 153 runs to level the three-match series.

But heavy rain prevented play in the final session, setting the stage for an absorbing final day's play on a wearing pitch at the P Sara Oval.

Azhar anchored the Pakistan innings with a defiant 117, his ninth Test innings, but found little support at the other end as the last six wickets tumbled for 55 runs.

Wicketkeeper Dinesh Chandimal pouched five catches and also effected a stumping, while debutant fast bowler Dushmantha Chameera claimed three wickets in an impressive Sri Lankan display in the field.

Azhar was reprieved twice during his vigil in which he faced 308 deliveries and hit just six boundaries.

Azhar had added four runs to his overnight score of 64 when he was dropped by a diving Kumar Sangakkara at first slip off Prasad.

When he moved to 114, Azhar was saved by a television review after umpire Sundaram Ravi had declared him leg-before off Prasad.

But the Pakistan number three was stumped soon after when he tried to hit left-arm spinner Rangana Herath out of the stadium.

Pakistan, who started the day at 171-2, lost two important wickets in the

morning session to go to lunch at 244-4.

Sri Lanka secured a crucial wicket when overnight batsman Younis Khan edged an out-swinger from Angelo Mathews to Chandimal, ending a 73-run stand for the third wicket with Azhar.

Younis, making his 100th Test appearance, scored 40 after making six in the first innings.

Skipper Misbahul Haq, seemingly disturbed by a band playing in the stands, requested the umpires to stop the music saying it upset his concentration.

The band obliged, but Misbah did not last long at the crease as he was trapped leg-before by Prasad for 22.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: First innings 138
SRI LANKA: First innings 315
PAKISTAN: Second innings 329 all out (Shehzad 69, Azhar 117, Younis 40, Misbah 22, Shafiq 27; Prasad 4-92, Mathews 2-15, Chameera 3-53)

IPL CORRUPTION

ICC asked to clarify Modi's claims

AGENCIES, New Delhi



Cricket Association of Bihar (CAB) secretary Aditya Verma on Sunday shot off a letter to the International Cricket Council (ICC) seeking clarification on allegations against three international cricketers' involvement in "illegal things".

Former Indian Premier League (IPL) chief Lalit Modi alleged on Saturday that Indian cricketers Suresh Raina, Ravindra Jadeja and West Indian Dwayne Bravo had taken bribes from a bookie. The trio are all members of IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings.

Modi claimed through a series of tweets on Saturday that real estate tycoon of HDIL.co Baba Diwan had given apartments to the players in addition to money.

He said when he was the IPL chief he "had banned him [Baba] from bidding for any IPL teams".

Modi claimed Diwan was a good friend of Gurusath Meiyappan and Raj Kundra, who have been implicated in the 2013 IPL betting and match-fixing case by the Supreme Court.

Modi also posted a letter which he claimed he wrote to ICC CEO Dave Richardson in June 2013, passing all the information and urging him to act upon it.

Verma also addressed his letter to Richardson, urging him to save the integrity and credibility of the ICC.

"It is my humble request to you kindly save the integrity and credibility of ICC. Yesterday, Mr. Lalit Modi mail of 2013 came in an electronic media, Modi said that he wrote to you about the involvement of 3 Players of CSK in illegal things," Verma wrote in the letter.

"They received crores of money in cash and get flats in Delhi, Noida and Mumbai. This is a very serious charges against top 3 international cricketers who are also the member of CSK cricket team in IPL," Verma wrote.

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