

Mash gives in to odd request

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's cricket commentator Shamim Ahmed Chowdhury forced captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza to make an appeal to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for an extra day's Eid holiday after their ODI series victory over South Africa in Chittagong last night.

During the post-match presentation ceremony, Chowdhury said, "Our prime minister is an ardent cricket fan and a great follower of the game. On this happy occasion, would you like to appeal to the honorable prime minister to extend the Eid holidays by one more day?"

With a curious smile, the triumphant Bangladesh skipper first said, 'May be.' But when the commentator requested him to say it directly and publicly, the Tigers captain said: "Ok, then let me say it in Bangla... Honourable Prime Minister, please give us an extra day's Eid holiday."

In the post-match press conference, the captain was asked about the issue and he said, "He [the commentator] was asking me repeatedly, so I said that I wouldn't mind if the people were given an extra day's holiday."

However, any additional holiday will hardly make any difference for the Tigers as the first Test of the two-match series will start on July 21 at the same venue.

Skipper wants to celebrate

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

Following yesterday's series-win against South Africa in Chittagong, Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza urged his teammates to celebrate their wins with vigour.

The skipper, who is easily the most vibrant player in the side, said in the post-match press conference that he wanted his teammates to participate in more get-togethers.

"We usually don't celebrate much. We do it in our rooms. Yes, we sing the team song, Amra Korbo Joy, but that's about it at the ground. Other teams have get-togethers, we just go to our individual rooms," said Mashrafe.

"Celebrating is very important because it is hard to have such fun when the team loses. It is always important to celebrate the good times. That doesn't mean that we stay up all night, but we can have get-togethers," he concluded.

T20 Champs League scrapped

AFP, New Delhi

The Twenty20 Champions League, an international tournament featuring the top domestic teams of the major cricket nations, is to be scrapped after failing to excite fans, organisers announced Wednesday.

The three-week event had been billed as the richest club tournament in the sport with a total prize pool of \$6 million that included a winner's purse of \$2.5 million.

Jointly owned by the cricket boards of India, Australia and South Africa, the tournament was launched in 2009 with much fanfare following the overwhelming success of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

But after six editions, the co-owners said the league would be "discontinued with immediate effect" due to "limited public following".



If Soumya Sarkar (R) was sublime, his partner Tamim Iqbal was all about assurance during a record 154-run opening stand against South Africa at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Kottan keen on a winning send-off

SPORTS REPORTER



Four-time champions Abahani will look to give the best send-off to their outgoing coach George Kottan when they take on title contenders Sheikh Russel KC in a crucial encounter of the Manyavar Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The Austrian is scheduled to leave Bangladesh tomorrow for his new job under the FIFA Goal Project leaving Abahani in the fourth position. Abahani have 27 points from 14 matches, nine behind league leaders Sheikh Jamal DC who played 15 matches, and two less than second-placed Sheikh Russel KC, who have played 13 matches.

"Sheikh Russel are a good opposition and I like playing against them. Unfortunately we lost against them in the first leg. This time I hope we will be playing better and I wish to close my Abahani chapter with a win," Kottan told reporters yesterday.

Kitten believes Abahani played better football as a team but they could not get expected results in the beginning due to lack of goal scorers but this time they are getting goals regularly after the inclusion of Nigerian striker Sunday Chizoba.

Kottan's counterpart, Sheikh Russel's Maruful Haque sees tomorrow's encounter against Abahani as a crucial one for their title challenge.

"The league title for Sheikh Russel depends on realising three points against Abahani because we have to play the next match against leaders Sheikh Jamal. So the boys know well how important the match against Abahani is," said Maruful.

Meanwhile, Kottan, who previously worked as coach of Bangladesh national team, felt the best eleven wasn't always fielded in the national team during his six-month stay in Bangladesh, adding that he still wishes to guide the national team.

"I don't know whether I would come back to Bangladesh; it depends on future but I am interested to work with the

BFF to try out more expats

SPORTS REPORTER



After shelving the idea of naturalising foreign booters for the national team, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is now searching for expatriate booters in a bid to strengthen the national team.

Cardiff-based Rabbi Islam and Rahim Uddin are scheduled to come to Bangladesh after Eid-ul-Fitr for a trial with the under-19 national team ahead of the SAFF U-19 Championship and AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers. Wales-based Rizwan Ahmed and Mohammad Ali Akmol are also expected to have trial for the national team under Lodewijk de Kruij, who is supposed to take charge of the team in the first week of August to prepare the side for the

September 3 qualifier against Australia.

Both Rizwan and Akmol are currently playing for Dinas Powys FC, the Welsh second division league. Rizwan plays in left-back position while Akmol is a right-back but both of them, who 21 years old, can play at either position.

Local agent Zulfiqar Haider initially gathered information about Rizwan and Akmol and building the bridge between expatriate booters and the game's governing body.

Jamal Bhuiyan was the first expatriate footballer to represent Bangladesh national team and has been a constant fixture since 2013 SAFF Championship. Philippines-based Reasat Islam was included in the national squad for the World Cup qualifier against Kyrgyzstan, but was later excluded

Second Ashes Test starts today

AFP, London

Australia, reeling from the late withdrawal of wicketkeeper Brad Haddin, are reportedly set to drop Shane Watson for the second Ashes Test at Lord's on Thursday as they bid to level the five-match series at 1-1.

Watson was twice out lbw cheaply in all-too familiar fashion as England, against many pre-series predictions, won the first Test in Cardiff by the crushing margin of 169 runs with more than a day to spare last week.

With his medium-paced bowling barely used by captain Michael Clarke at Sophia Gardens, Australia's Fairfax Media reported Wednesday that the 34-year-old Watson would be dropped at Lord's and replaced by fellow all-rounder Mitchell Marsh, 11 years his junior.

Sri Lanka fight back

AFP, Pallekele



Dinesh Chandimal hit an unbeaten 48 to guide Sri Lanka to a series-levelling two-wicket victory over Pakistan in the second one-day international in Pallekele on Wednesday.

Chasing Pakistan's challenging 287-8, the hosts recovered from 159-5 to post 288-8 with 11 balls to spare in a tense finish to the day-night match.

Chandimal led the fightback by adding 37 for the sixth wicket with Milinda Siriwardana (26), 52 for the seventh with debutant Sachith Pathirana (33) and 37 for the eighth with Thisara Perera.

Perera was eighth out when three more runs were needed for victory, but Lasith Malinga kept his cool amid mounting tension before Chandimal hit the winning run.

Pakistan had won the first match in Dambulla by six wickets last Saturday to take the lead in the five-match series.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 287 for 8 in 50 overs (Azhar 79, Shehzad 30, Malik 51, Rizwan 52, Anwar 29 not out; Malinga 2-64, Pathirana 2-70)

SRI LANKA: 288 for 8 in 48.1 overs (Perera 68, Dilshan 47, Tharanga 28, Chandimal 48 not out, Pathirana 33; Rahat 3-73, Hafeez 2-61)

Result: Sri Lanka won by 2 wickets.

MLS ALL-STAR PICKS

Gerrard, Lampard cause a stir



STEVEN GERRARD

AFP, Los Angeles



Frank Lampard and Steven Gerrard's selection for Major League Soccer's All-Star Game against Tottenham has been given short shrift by rank and file players throughout the league.

Gerrard and Lampard were both named to the All-Star squad despite neither having yet kicked a ball in league competition for their respective clubs, the Los Angeles Galaxy and New York City FC.

But the selection of the former England stars as two "Commissioner's picks" by MLS chief Don Garber drew a withering response from several players on social media.

"And now for my next trick I'll pull these two names out of my 'Commissioners Pick' hat... Drumroll please," tweeted Seattle



FRANK LAMPARD

Sounders midfielder Brad Evans, citing the hashtag "#minutesdontmatter".

Colorado Rapids goalkeeper Clint Irwin reacted by suggesting that league chiefs should have included New York City's latest foreign acquisition, Italy midfield legend Andrea Pirlo. "No Pirlo?!!", Irwin wrote.

Irwin's team-mate Zac MacMath meanwhile suggested selectors should cast their net even wider: "I heard Neymar is in Vegas ... Quick flight to Denver."

Sporting Kansas City defender Ike Opara meanwhile snarked that perhaps Gerrard and Lampard had been selected on the basis of their performances in training.

"H a h a h a h a h a h a h a h a h a @thesoccerdon heard they are killing it in training," Opara quipped, referring to Garber's Twitter handle, @thesoccerdon.

ঐদ মোবারক

সাইথিস্ট হোম লোন

আপনার পূর্ণতাই আমাদের প্রত্যাশা

এই ঐদে

সাইথিস্ট ব্যাংক ডিসা ক্রেডিট কার্ড চেক প্রসেসিং ফি ১%

www.southeastbank.com.bd | f SEBLBD

সাইথিস্ট ব্যাংক
একটি দৃঢ়দর্শী ব্যাংক