

# SPORT



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**A NASIR SHOW:** He frustrated the hosts with a swashbuckling century and flummoxed them with a game-changing five-wicket haul. Cricket may be a team sport, but the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore witnessed a one-man show yesterday.

PHOTOS: PTI

## 'The victory was unbelievable'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's second-string unit came back from the brink of defeat yesterday to score an exciting win and keep the series alive. It was an effort that pleased both chief selector Faruque Ahmed and coach Heath Streak, both of who are currently with the team in Bangalore.

Speaking to The Daily Star over phone yesterday, both Faruque and Streak praised the team for the resilience that they showed on the field.

"It was an unbelievable win," an excited Faruque said.

"They [India A] were probably thinking that when we were five down, they would just bundle us out, but Nasir [Hossain] came back with a brilliant 100. Rubel [Hossain] bowled amazingly as well. We always kept the pressure on them despite the low score," he added.

He had special words reserved for Nasir.

"It was a special performance from a special man. He has been doing well for the past year, but he hasn't been getting chances to bat. He really showed his class today," said Faruque.

Coach Streak shared Faruque's sentiments and said that the team showed

'good character' during the game.

"250 on that wicket is a low score. We lost wickets early which was disappointing, but the boys fought back.

"I thought Liton [Das] and Nasir were once again brilliant and the also tailenders batted quite responsibly. Our bowlers were obviously really good and we also performed exceptionally on the field," said Streak.

Streak -- who looks after the national team's pacers -- was delighted with the way Rubel bowled yesterday. Rubel ended the day with figures of 4 for 33. Of his four wickets, three of them hit timber.

"It was a good sight to behold. I thought it was a very fierce spell. He was really quick and there was a bit of grass on the wicket. Mominul [Islam] brought him on in the middle overs to get wickets and that's exactly what he did. When he is in good rhythm, anything can happen," said Streak.

However, the Zimbabwean believes that his batters still have plenty of room to improve and can put up a much better show.

"If you stay on the wicket for 10 to 15 overs then it becomes an excellent wicket to bat on. They know that they can do better. We just need to be a little more cautious and capitalise towards the end," he concluded.

## Incredible Nasir scripts big win

SPORTS REPORTER

Half way through Bangladesh A's innings, with the visitors struggling at 82 for 5, one would have presumed that Mominul Haque and co were on their way to losing the one-day series against their Indian counterparts with a match to spare.

After all, Nasir Hossain and Liton Das had just shared a brilliant 120-run stand the day before. You couldn't have possibly expected them to conjure something up again. But that's exactly what they did.

From 82 for 5, Liton and Nasir took the visitors past 150. Liton departed soon after, but Nasir stood his ground. Fresh from a half-century in the second one day, Nasir wanted more.

He shared two more half-century stands with Arafat Sunny and Rubel Hossain, to take his side's total to a respectable 252. The fact that Arafat and Rubel scored just 17 and 9, speaks a lot about how Nasir dominated those partnerships.

His unbeaten 102 off 96 balls included 12 fours and a six and gave the visitors a glimmer of hope. Considering the way the hosts had belted Bangladesh's bowlers to post a mammoth 322 in

the first one-day, this score seemed below-par. But then again, Nasir had other plans. With momentum on his side, Nasir tweaked his way through India's batting line-up; and he got ample support from a ferocious Rubel Hossain, who according to the management bowled with plenty of heart.

After Rubel removed Mayank Agarwal in the eighth over, skipper Unmukt Chand and Manish Pandey steadied the innings with an 88-run stand. Nasir was introduced and he immediately got rid of the captain. Mominul Haque brought in Rubel to keep up the pressure and the plan worked. Rubel removed Pandey three overs later. What followed next was a flurry of wickets as India collapsed from 119 for 1 to 157 for 8.

The hosts didn't know what to do against the disciplined bowling partnership. If they were flummoxed by Nasir's line and length, then they were bamboozled by Rubel's pace. Nasir finished with a five-for, while Rubel scalped four wickets. India A were eventually bundled out for 187 in 42.2 overs and lost the game by 65 runs.

As good as Nasir's performance was yesterday, it definitely wasn't something that emerged out of the blue. Ever since Nasir came back to the team after getting dropped during the Zimbabwe

series in November last year, he has been in tremendous touch.

"To be honest, yes, I love batting at that position [of a finisher]. I have played many innings like this earlier in my career. So that experience helped me a lot. My main motive was to bat the full 50 overs, irrespective of who was with me at the other end. When I was batting, the pitch was favouring the batsmen too. At least, that's what I felt," said Nasir at the post-match press conference yesterday.

"I always enjoy batting with Liton. To be honest, there wasn't any target in our minds. We thought of playing out the overs instead of looking for runs, and build a solid partnership. And luckily, that worked well for us today," he added.

Furthermore, Nasir said that despite posting a below-par total, the players had the belief that they could bounce back in the series.

The third and series-deciding one-day takes place at the same venue tomorrow.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**BANGLADESH A:** 252 for 8 in 50 overs (Soumya 24, Anamul 34, Liton 45, Nasir 102; Dhawan 3-44)  
**INDIA A:** 187 all out in 42.2 overs (Chand 56, Gurkeerat 34; Rubel 4-33, Nasir 5-36, Al-Amin 1-35)  
**Result:** Bangladesh A won by 65 runs

## U-14 TENNIS SERIES Ishtiak, Popy win singles titles

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Ishtiak won the boys' singles title of the Bengal Plastic Asian U-14 Tennis Series (2nd phase) after a 6-3, 6-1 victory against Mehedi Hasan in the final at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday. Hridoy Hasan and Arnob Saha pair won the boys' doubles title with a 6-4, 6-4 victory in the final against Ishtiak and Naimul Islam pair.

In the girls' singles final on Thursday, Popy Akter beat Fabiha Lamisa Suchona 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 to win the title before pairing up with Eti Akter to win the doubles title as well.

## Colts out with a whimper

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh ended their AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers campaign with a 6-1 defeat against United Arab Emirates yesterday, having lost their opening fixture against Saudi Arabia by 5-1 two days earlier. The two heavy defeats left the beleaguered hosts at the bottom of Group D without a point as the race for the qualification spot became a straight battle between the two gulf nations, who will meet in the last fixture of the event at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow.

The recently-crowned SAFF U-16 Championship winners were let down by a fragile defence and a nervous second-choice goalkeeper as the visitors ran riot with four goals in the first half. Bangladesh showed some promise early in the second half and deposited a goal through Mohammad Shawon, but two more goals from the visitors put paid to their hopes of a comeback.

"The difference between the teams of South Asia and those of Middle East was evident from the show on the pitch," was the simple admission of Bangladesh coach Syed Golam Jilani, who added that they must plan long-term preparation to get anywhere near these teams.

## IN A NUTSHELL

### Dalmiya stable after heart-attack

The head of India's cricket board Jagmohan Dalmiya was in intensive care Friday after being rushed to a hospital in Kolkata with chest pains, medical officials said.

The 75-year-old president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) was treated for clogged arteries after undergoing a coronary angiography at the city's B.M Birla Heart Research Centre on Thursday night, the hospital said in a statement.

Since his return as BCCI president earlier this year, Dalmiya has been dogged by health problems.

### Gabba under threat?

The Gabba has traditionally hosted the first test of each Australian summer but has begun to look dated after major renovations at the Sydney Cricket Ground and Adelaide Oval.

A new 60,000-seat stadium at Burswood in Perth is slated to be finished in time for the 2018 season, stripping high-profile test matches from the same city's rickety WACA ground.

The Gabba completed its last renovation in 2005, lifting its capacity to 42,000, but it has since been upstaged by refurbishments at the 48,000-seat SCG and the 52,000-seat Adelaide Oval.

Gabba venue manager Blair Conaghan said the stadium would start a "master planning exercise" to map out spending priorities in coming years.

### Stop running after India: Afridi

All-rounder and national T20 captain Shahid Afridi has advised the Pakistan Cricket Board to stop running after their Indian counterparts to have the proposed bilateral series in December.

Afridi told reporters in Lahore at the national training camp that the PCB should instead try to focus on inviting other teams to tour Pakistan.

"I don't think we need to push so much to play India. I don't know why we are after them to play the series again and again. If they don't want to play why should we show that we are keen to play them," Afridi said.

Compiled by Star Sport Desk

## Hemanta served show-cause

SPORTS REPORTER

Midfielder Hemanta Vincent Biswas was yesterday served a show-cause notice by the national team management for allegedly taking part in a local football match in Dinajpur on Wednesday without taking prior permission from the football federation.

The 20-year-old midfielder, who is currently in his home in Dinajpur nursing a hamstring injury was supposed to join the national team's camp, which started on September 13, tomorrow.

"A show-cause notice has been issued to Hemanta [Vincent Biswas] today [Friday] and he has been asked to reply within tomorrow [Saturday]," confirmed national team's leader Iqbal Hossain, adding that the team management would take further decision after receiving a reply from the midfielder.

When contacted, Hemanta said he hasn't received any letter yet, but has been informed about the notice over phone. The young midfielder, however, claimed that he had played only 10 minutes as the organisers had wanted him to lead the local side.

It may be mentioned here that national strikers Zahid Hasan Emily and Mithun Chowdhury were suspended and also fined monetarily for a similar offence in 2011.



**Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan bowls for Khulna yesterday in his first four-day match in the country since November 2012. He scalped one wicket as visitors Dhaka ended the day at 174 for 8.**

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

## Young players shine on first day

SPORTS REPORTER

The focus was on the national stars as the first round of the National Cricket League (NCL) offered them an opportunity ahead of the home series against Australia, but three national hopefuls hogged the spotlight on the first day of the four-day matches yesterday.

19-year old Mosaddek Hossain struck the season's first century, while 24-year old off-spinner Mahmudul Hasan grabbed five wickets and 25-year old left-arm spinner Sanjamul Islam claimed six wickets on the opening day. From the national colours, bowling sensation Mustafizur Rahman captured three wickets.

Shahriar Nafees (75) and young Pinak Ghosh (21) gave Barisal a good start against hosts Rajshahi, sharing a 73-run opening stand and, after a mini-collapse, Mosaddek took charge on his way to making 122 off 149 balls that featured 11 fours and six sixes as Barisal went on to post 302 runs in their first innings. Shohag Gazi was the other notable scorer with a 54-ball 52.

Sanjamul was the most successful Rajshahi



**Mahmudul... 5-44 Mosaddek... 122 runs**

SCORES IN BRIEF	
<b>BARISAL:</b> 302 all out in 78.3 overs (Nafees 75, Pinak 21, Mosaddek 122, Gazi 52; Sanjamul 6-123)	<b>RAJSHAH:</b> 19-2 in 9 overs (Jahurul 8 not out, Nihaduzzaman 4 not out; Towhidul 1-5, Gazi 1-9)
<b>DHAKA:</b> 174-8 in 62.2 overs (Saif 68, Nadif 35 not out; Mustafizur 3-24, Razzak 3-60)	<b>DHAKA METRO:</b> 238 all out in 78.4 overs (Shamsur 54, Marshall 65, Elias Sunny 52 not out; Sajedul 2-28, Saddam 2-31, Mahmudul 5-44)
<b>RANGPUR:</b> 12-0 in 9 overs (Saymon 1 not out, Tanveer 5 not out)	<b>SYLHET:</b> 240-4 in 90 overs (Imtiaz 37, Rajin 72 not out, Ruman 70 not out; Merajul 2-35, Nabil 2-72)

bowler with figures of 6-123. However, losing two wickets at stumps in nine overs added woes to the hosts' camp.

In a rain-interrupted affair, Dhaka's batting failed against hosts Khulna. Mustafizur and left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak shared six wickets to initiate the Dhaka batting collapse. Shakib Al Hasan took one wicket on his return to the four-day league after a three-year break.

Saif Hassan hit highest 68 as Dhaka ended the day on 174-8.

Rangpur's two new ball bowlers, Saddam Hossain and Sajedul Islam, initiated an early collapse and then Mahmudul Hasan took the charges to wrap up Dhaka Metro's first innings for 238 runs. Three half centuries came from Shamsur Rahman (54), Marshall Ayub (65) and Elias Sunny (52 not out), but their efforts were not good enough for Metro to put up a big score at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

Mahmudul captured five wickets including the one of Mahmudullah Riyad (16).

At Fatullah, a 129-run unbeaten fifth wicket stand between Rajin Saleh (72 not out) and Ruman Ahmed (70 not out) helped Sylhet to finish the day at 240 for 4 against Chittagong.