

SPORT



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Khulna's Nurul Hasan (C) takes a step back and creams a delivery through point during his entertaining 182 against Dhaka in Fatullah yesterday.



ANAMUL ... 100 AL-AMIN ... 157 SALMAN ... 146 TASAMUL ... 134 n o SANJAMUL ... 8 for 106

Five tons and an 8-for

SPORTS REPORTER
Have a glance at the scorecards of National Cricket League's (NCL's) fourth round matches and you would be surprised to see the contrasting performances put in by batsmen in the different innings in each of the matches. One may even reckon that each of these four-day games is being played on different pitches altogether.

wicketkeeper-batsman Nurul Hasan scored an unbeaten 182 and led the onslaught. He hammered 19 fours and a six in his 223-ball knock. Nurul was supported by Anamul Haque, who scored a cautious 100 by spending nearly five hours at the crease. And the attack, of course, didn't just stop there.

will now hope to survive the last day and not drop points. Khulna's batsmen weren't the only ones to turn a game around. At the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, brilliant centuries from Barisal's Al-Amin and Salman Hossain left Sylhet in a state of misery.

mere centuries, but continued on their merry way after reaching the three-figure mark. Al-Amin posted 157, while Salman scored 146. The former smashed 16 fours and three sixes while Salman hit 14 fours. Tasamul Haque was the other centurion of the day, scoring an unbeaten 134 for Chittagong at the

SCORES IN BRIEF			
KHULNA V DHAKA Khulna: 117 and 506 for 7 dec (Nurul 182 not out, Mahedi 104, Anamul 100; Masum 3-147) Dhaka: 154 and 37 for 2 (Joyraz 16; Ziaur 1-13)	DHAKA METRO V RANGPUR Dhaka Metro: 242 and 179 for 2 (Mehrab Jr 87 not out, Mahmudullah 48 not out; Saddam 1-16) Rangpur: 299 all out in 109.4 overs (Tanveer 78; Sharifullah 4-49, Arafat 3-70)	BARISAL V SYLHET Barisal: 155 and 464 for 7 (Al-Amin 157, Salman 146; Khaled 3-92) Sylhet: 172 and 54 for 2 (Imtiaz 32; Monir 1-14)	RAJSHAHI V CHITTAGONG Rajshahi: 208 and 97 for 2 (Nazmul 39 not out; Saifuddin 1-17) Chittagong: 350 all out in 155.5 overs (Tasamul 134 not out; Sanjamul 8-106)

Hard-hitting batsman Ziaur Rahman got his groove back after quite a while and smacked 89 runs at number seven. 66 of those 89 runs came through boundaries. It was an emphatic turnaround for the league leaders who declared on 506-7. Dhaka lost two wickets before the end of the day's play at 37 for 2. They

Barisal had posted just 155 in the first innings and conceded a 12-run lead. Their second innings, however, was a different story as they declared after posting 464. Al-Amin and Salman were involved in a 230-run stand for the fourth wicket. The best part about their knocks was that they weren't satisfied with

Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium against Rajshahi. That match also witnessed the best bowling effort of the day, coming from Rajshahi's Sanjamul who bowled 55.5 overs to take 8 wickets conceding 106 runs. Meanwhile, Dhaka Metro finished the day on 179 for 2 to lead Rangpur by 122 runs in Khulna.

Another series in December?

SPORTS REPORTER
Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is most likely come to a conclusion with their Zimbabwean counterparts today regarding the number of matches for the November series. Although the BCB has confirmed Zimbabwe's arrival in the first week of November, both boards are yet to finalise the number of ODIs and T20Is during the African nation's two-week trip. It was learnt that the BCB was still working on three possible options – five ODIs, three ODIs and three T20Is or three ODIs and two T20Is. According to sources because of time constraints the number of games became an issue as BCB needs to finish the series before the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), which begins on November 22. The BCB source also said that Zimbabwe were interested to play at least a couple of T20Is now without compromising their scheduled two-match T20I series when they return again in January to play the two-Tests. Since the postponement of the two-match Test series against Australia, BCB has been working with Zimbabwe Cricket to split the scheduled January fixture to ensure that the Tigers play some international

matches in the later part of the year. Initially both boards agreed in principle to play the two-match Test series in November, but BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon upon his return from the ICC meeting in Dubai, where he had another round of talks with Zimbabwe, on Friday made it clear that only limited-over games would be held in November. But whatever be the number of matches in November, it may not be the last international affair for the Tigers this year as there have been talks about an opportune slot in December. Bangladesh may play some matches in December either at home or abroad. But it will mostly depend on the outcome of this week's meeting between BCCI and PCB high officials over India's commitment for a series against Pakistan in Dubai in December. If the Indo-Pak series does not go ahead as scheduled it will leave both India and Pakistan without any international commitments in December like Bangladesh and also the West Indies. Although speculation is ripe of a possible tri-series involving India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. December is likely to become an opportune month for BCB to play some international cricket either at home or abroad and against any of the three teams.

BD A start with defeat

STAR SPORT DESK
Bangladesh A began their tour of South Africa on a losing note as they went down to Irene Villagers Cricket Club in Pretoria by four wickets. After being put into bat on a grassy track, the visitors finished on 272 for 7 in 50 overs. The hosts though reached the target with three overs and four wickets in hand. While Irene seemingly reached their goal with ample of amount of time, the situation could have been different had the visitors applied more pressure on their opponents after reducing them 23 for 4 during the chase. The hosts though, put in a century stand for the fifth wicket and took the game away from Bangladesh A.

Aleem Dar withdrawn

STAR SPORT DESK
The International Cricket Council (ICC) yesterday announced that it has withdrawn Aleem Dar from the remaining matches of the ongoing India versus South Africa series. Aleem, a member of the Elite Panel of ICC Umpires, had officiated in the first three One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and was also scheduled to umpire in the fourth and fifth ODIs in Chennai and Mumbai on 22 and 25 October, respectively. "The ICC has made the decision following Monday's incident in Mumbai where a group of extremists stormed the Board of Control for Cricket in India offices, and threatened to prevent the umpire from standing in the fifth ODI on Sunday," stated an ICC press release. The ICC believed that it wouldn't be possible for Aleem to perform his duties well in such a scenario. "Under the present circumstances, it will be unreasonable to expect from Aleem that he will be able to perform his duties to the best of his abilities. As such, he has been withdrawn and his replacement will be announced in due course," an ICC spokesman said.

Jadeja recalled for SA Tests

AFP, New Delhi
All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja returned to India's Test fold after more than a year's absence on Monday. Jadeja, 26, was included in the 16-man squad for the first two Tests of the four-match series against world number one South Africa, in Mohali from November 5-9 and Bangalore from Nov 14-18. The left-arm spinner and useful lower order batsman, who played the last of his 12 Tests in England in August 2014, was back in favour after claiming 24 wickets and scoring 91 and 58 in two first-class matches earlier this month. The Test squad also includes fast bowler Ishant Sharma, who will miss the first match due to a one-Test suspension for bad behaviour during the preceding tour of Sri Lanka.

Sehwag hints at retirement

CRICINFO
Virender Sehwag has indicated that he will retire from international cricket in order to take part in the Masters Champions League (MCL), a UAE-based Twenty20 tournament. The rules of the MCL, which is scheduled to begin in January, state that players taking part must have retired from all international formats. On Monday, while reminded of this stipulation at an MCL event in Dubai, Sehwag said he would retire in order to play the tournament. The MCL, scheduled to start in January 2016, is due to feature a number of retired international greats. On Monday, the homepage of the tournament's website sported an image of eight players lined up side-by-side, seen from the back. On the backs of seven T-shirts were the names 'Sangakkara', 'Gilchrist', 'Sehwag', 'Lara', 'Wasim', 'Kallis' and 'Mahela', with a question mark on the back of the eighth T-shirt. Sehwag, 36, was widely considered one of India's greatest opening batsmen, and revolutionised the art of batting against the new ball in Test cricket with his aggressive approach, scoring at a strike rate of over 80 in the longest format. Sehwag had been out of India's plans for over two years, having last played for the national side in the Hyderabad Test against Australia in March 2013. Sehwag played 104 Tests, 251 ODIs and 19 T20Is, scoring over 17,000 international runs and picking up 136 wickets with his offspin. His greatest moments came in Test cricket, where he made 23 hundreds including the only two triple-centuries by any Indian batsman, while his ODI achievements included the format's second double-hundred



Ricky next in Aussie Hall of Fame

IANS, Melbourne
Former Australian Test captain Ricky Ponting will join the likes of Donald Bradman, Steve Waugh and Shane Warne in a unique club on Wednesday when he gets inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame. Athletes are required to be retired for two years before being eligible for the Hall of Fame, reported cricket.com.au on Monday. The 40-year-old, who played his last match for his country at the WACA, Perth, in December 2012 and retired from first-class cricket with a final match for Surrey at The Oval, London, in mid-2013, shares the Australian record for most Tests with Steve Waugh, and has scored more Test runs (13,378) and more centuries (41) than any other Australian. Only Indian batting legend Sachin Tendulkar has more Test runs and only the 'Little Master' and South African great Jacques Kallis have produced more tons. His record in the one-day arena is no less impressive. In 375 matches, the Tasmanian scored 13,589 runs -- more than any other Australian, including 29 hundreds.

Shiv Sena storms BCCI office

AFP, Mumbai
Dozens of activists stormed the Mumbai offices of India's cricket board on Monday to disrupt planned talks on resuming matches against Pakistan, the latest protest by hardline Hindu activists in the city. Around three dozen supporters of the Shiv Sena party barged into the headquarters of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and shouted anti-Pakistan slogans at its president, Shashank Manohar. "Six people are being held in custody and we are registering an offence of rioting," Mumbai Police Deputy Commissioner Dhananjay Kulkarni told AFP. "Thirty-five were involved so we are looking to arrest a few more," he added. The protesters demanded that Manohar cancel talks with Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Shahryar Khan that were planned in Mumbai on Monday. Khan arrived in the city on Sunday to discuss the possibility of an India-Pakistan series, which has run into doubt over strained relations. Local media reported that the talks would instead be held on Tuesday in New Delhi, but there was no official confirmation from the BCCI. India and Pakistan have been bitter rivals since gaining independence from Britain in 1947 and have fought three wars. The arch-rivals have not played a Test match since Pakistan toured India in 2007. Pakistan are due to host India for a full tour in



PHOTO: INTERNET

Shiv Sena activists crashed through the gates of Mumbai BCCI office yesterday.

Azhar Ali doubtful for second Test

AFP, Dubai
Pakistan's key batsman Azhar Ali will return home following the death of his mother-in-law and is unlikely to play in the second Test against England starting in Dubai on Thursday. The 30-year-old did not play in the first Test, which ended in a draw in Abu Dhabi on Saturday, due to a foot infection. Team manager Intikhab Alam said Ali would return home and it was not clear if he would be able to rejoin the squad before the Test. "It's sad that Ali has to return home following the death of his mother-in-law and his return before the second Test will depend on his visa for the United Arab Emirates," said Alam. Ali had recovered well from his foot infection and trained on Friday and Saturday. Pakistan will have the services of leg-spinner Yasir Shah who regained full fitness after missing the first Test due to back spasm.