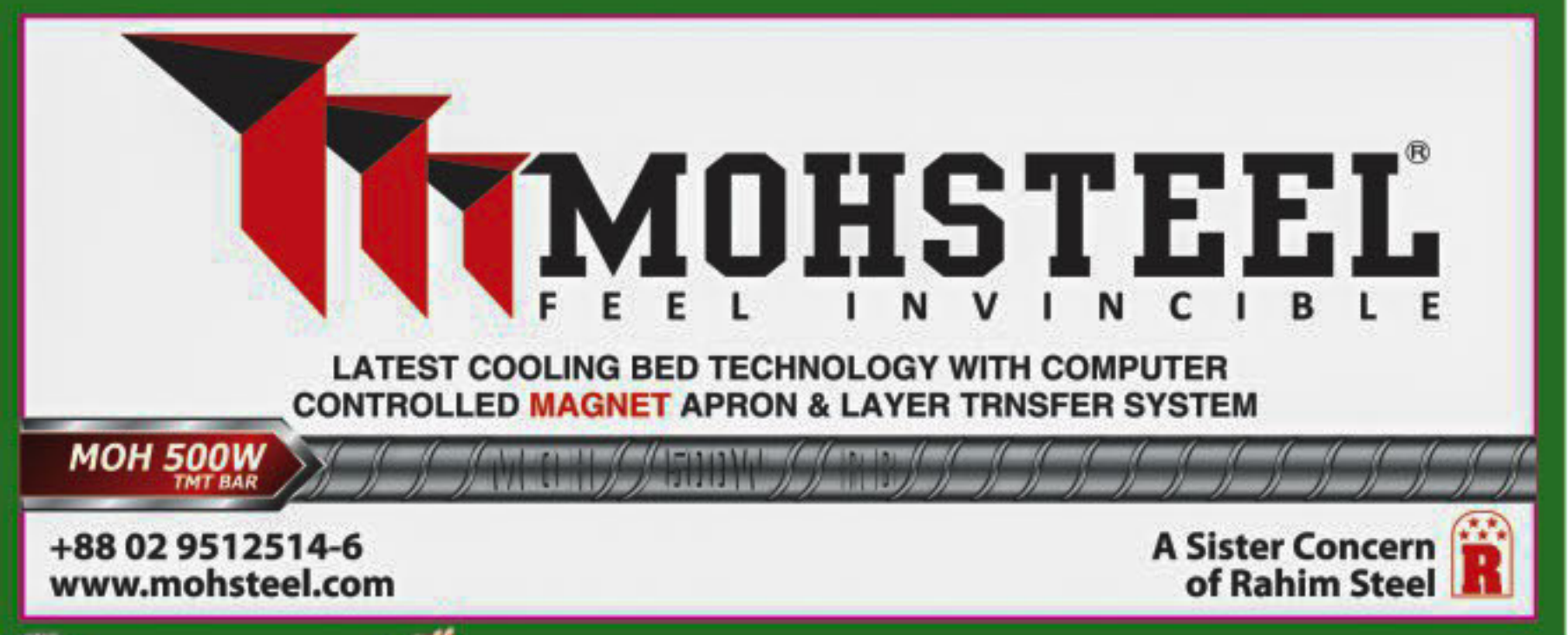


# SPORT



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The players of Solid SC get together for a lap of honour after their 2-1 victory over Kolkata Mohammedan in yesterday's first match of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## Zim to arrive on Nov 2

SPORTS REPORTER



After a long wait, the Bangladesh Cricket Board has finally announced the itinerary for next month's Zimbabwe series. The teams will face-off in three ODIs and two T20Is, all of which will take place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

As per the schedule, Zimbabwe will arrive in Dhaka on November 2. They will play a practice match at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah on November 5 after which they will play three ODIs on November 7, 9 and 11. All the matches will be day-night fixtures. The two T20Is will take place on November 13 and 15.

The announcement of the itinerary also confirms the scrapping of the idea of a tri-series also involving the West Indies. The BCB had earlier proposed to convert the Zimbabwe series into a tri-series and wanted to know if the cricketers from the Caribbean would be interested in taking part. The West Indies' cricket board however, failed to fit themselves into the schedule.

"We were waiting for the West Indies, but since they couldn't provide us with a suitable date, we decided to carry on with the Zimbabwe tour. We have got the BPL starting at the end of November, so it wasn't possible to wait any longer," said Papon.

The BCB president further said that the South Africa women's cricket team has agreed to arrive in Bangladesh on November 3. The women's cricket team was originally scheduled to arrive on September 28 but the boards had then decided to mutually postpone the tour on security grounds.

Papon also said that a final decision regarding the host nation of next year's Asia Cup would be taken on October 26 at the Asian Cricket Council meeting in Singapore. As of now, the contenders are India and Bangladesh.

The next few months are going to be busy times for Bangladesh cricket.

After the Zimbabwe series ends on November 16, the BPL's third edition will run from November 22 to December 15. After that Bangladesh are open to negotiating a few matches in December before the Zimbabwe Tests in January, followed by the Asia Cup in mid-February and the T20 World Cup in March.

### FIXTURE

- Nov 2: Zimbabwe arrive
- Nov 5: Warm-Up Match, Fatullah
- Nov 7: First ODI (D/N), SBNCs
- Nov 9: Second ODI (D/N), SBNCs
- Nov 11: Third ODI (D/N), SBNCs
- Nov 13: First T20I, SBNCs
- Nov 15: Second T20I, SBNCs
- Nov 16: Zimbabwe depart

## Sorry day for Mohammedans

ANISUR RAHMAN from Chittagong



Mohammedan of Dhaka and Kolkata had to endure the same sorry fate in the opening fixtures of Group A of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday. The Kolkata outfit squandered a first-half lead to lose 2-1 against Sri Lankan champions Solid SC while local favourites Dhaka Mohammedan lost by a solitary goal against Afghan champions De Spin Ghar Bazan.

Despite putting up a dominating show, the Black and Whites of Dhaka failed to find an equaliser to Anwar Akbari's 33rd minute strike. The Afghan striker took advantage of a fumble from Mohammedan defender Yonta Michael to give the visitors the lead before Mohammedan put up a display of failed attempts. The two Mohammedan strikers, Mohammad Ibrahim and Nabib Newaj Jibon, were wasteful in front of goal, with the latter squandering at least three easy chances.

In the first match of the day, Kolkata Mohammedan took the lead in the 38th minute when forward Taurus Tecompleh Manneh dinked the ball over Solid SC goalkeeper Fazeel. But the lead lasted only nine minutes as Solid SC's Nigerian forward AO Shola beat Mohammedan keeper with a low shot in the 47th minute before S Gnanaruban sealed the victory with a tap-in two minutes from the end of time.

Kolkata Mohammedan were struggling to field tempo at the other side of the break. Taurus was provided with a long ball from the right flank and he cleverly sent the ball over the advancing goalkeeper after defender Kareem Momolaja had rattled the woodwork in the 16th minute.

Solid SC, though, shelved their counter-attacking strategy in the second half and put Mohammedan under the sword, thanks to the admission of attacking midfielder Priankara, who injected much-needed pace in the Lankans' game.

The Lankans levelled the scoreline two minutes into the second half when Shola ran down the right flank and drove a low shot from the top of the box to beat goalkeeper Billal Husain.

Solid SC kept on pressing and came close to taking the lead twice before Mohammedan's defender Kareem rattled the crossbar once again in the 70th minute.

However, the last laugh belonged to Solid SC as Monirul's miscued header off a Figurado free-kick fell onto the feet of unmarked Gnanaruban, who tapped in for the winning goal.

**SOLID SC 2 - 1 KOLKATA MSC**  
**SPIN GHAR BAZAN 1 - 0 DHAKA MSC**

## Pacers shine on first day

STAR SPORT DESK

The three-day encounter between Irene Villagers Club and Bangladesh A began in Pretoria, South Africa yesterday with the hosts finishing on 270 for 6 on a rain-affected day.

Bangladesh A's bowlers could bowl just 58 overs before the day was called off due to inclement weather.

It was Bangladesh's pacers who claimed a majority of the wickets. Kamrul Islam Rabbi and Abu Jayed Chowdhury got two wickets each while national pacer Mohammad Shahid and leg-spinner Jubair Hossain each scalped one.

Despite sending back half the side on Day One, BCB selector Habibul Bashar -- who is with the team in South Africa -- wasn't too pleased with the way his charges bowled. "It was a good track to bat on no doubt, but there was also plenty of grass on the wicket. I thought we gave away too many boundary balls. That's something we have to work on," Bashar told The Daily Star over phone yesterday.

"Regardless, I feel that this is a learning experience since our players are playing in foreign conditions. The trick will be to get used to these conditions as soon as possible," he added. After this three-day encounter, Bangladesh A will play two more one-dayers in South Africa before leaving for Zimbabwe to play two four-dayers and three one-dayers against their counterparts.

## BD U-17s eye win

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board U-17s will have to scalp 14 wickets today if they want to beat Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) Under-17s in their final three-day encounter.

The BCB colts began the second day on 273 for 6 and added 84 runs without losing any wicket in Rangpur. Aminul Islam, who was on 92, reached his century with ease and remained unbeaten on 129. His partner Shahadat Ridoy scored an equally responsible 67 off 126 balls and together, the pair frustrated the Indian bowlers. The hosts declared on 357 for 6.

After the exchange, CAB finished the day on 158 for 6. Bangladesh's Hasan Mahmud was the pick of the bowlers finishing with figures of 2 for 23. The visitors began well with their openers putting up a stand of 63. However, once Sharnik Banerjee was bowled by Hassan for 38, wickets began to tumble. A resolute 77 from opener SK Biswas ensured that the visitors cross the 150-run mark.

## Players' auction today

SPORTS REPORTER



The players' auction for the Bangladesh Premier League's third edition is scheduled to begin at 10 am today at the Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel. The auction will be telecast live on Channel 9. About 117 local players and 196 foreign players are expected to take part in the auction. Of the 196 foreign players, 53 are from England, 53 from Pakistan, 34 from the West Indies, 25 from Sri Lanka, four each from South Africa and Australia, six from Zimbabwe, two from New Zealand and 15 from the non-full-member nations. The auction will follow the players-by-

choice method whereby the franchises will have to depend on a lottery system to buy their respective players. The local and overseas cricketers have been divided into different grades with each grade assigned a particular value and the franchises will have to buy the players according to the values set for them.

At the start of the auction the franchises will be asked to pick up bids, each of which will have numbers ranging from one to six on them. These numbers will decide the order in which the franchises will be able to buy their respective players.

A lottery will be held after every two rounds. For instance if Dhaka Dynamites draw number one, then they will be able to pick any player of their choice first.

Each franchisee will have to purchase at least three foreign and ten local players. Due to a provision enabled by the governing council, foreign players can be bought by franchises through direct contact as well. The players directly signed by the franchises will be omitted from the auction list.

The BPL governing council has also announced six icon players, Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Mahmudullah Riyad and Nasir Hossain. Each of these players will be earning Tk 35 lakh, the highest amongst the local cricketers. The auctioning of these players will take place in a similar way in the final stage of the auction.

## India aim to stay alive

IANS, Chennai



India will aim to stay alive in the five-match One-Day International (ODI) series when they take on South Africa in the fourth match at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Thursday.

Trailing 1-2, India's batting has been a cause for concern as they lost the first and third matches. In the second match in Indore, where they won, a defiant skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni's unbeaten 92 saved them from the danger of being bowled out inside 200.

Dhoni may also face a test of making a good batting combination. It's a conundrum that Dhoni has to solve as his batting position has also been questioned -- primarily due to India's failure in chasing down gettable totals.

Opening batsman Shikhar Dhawan and seasoned left-hander Suresh Raina have not delivered so far and pressure will increase on them if they don't pull up their socks in Chennai.

On the bowling front, leg-spinner Amit Mishra's availability is in doubt following a police case registered in Bengaluru by a Mumbai-based film producer against the Haryana cricketer, so he is unavailable which may force Dhoni to consider his options. Other slower bowlers will be Harbhajan Singh and young left-arter Axar Patel.

left-handed batsman's replacement Dean Elgar's late arrival might force captain AB de Villiers to bring in right-arm paceman Chris Morris, who also can be a handy lower-order batsman.

However, South Africa are on top of their game, winning 2 ODIs already.

With Faf du Plessis and AB de Villiers in good form, opener Quinton de Kock scored a century to mark his return to form in Rajkot. David Miller, who was struggling, also showed signs of recovery as he scored 33 after being promoted to open the batting.

The South African pace attack has not been at its very best on the Indian tracks, but Dale Steyn, Morne Morkel and Kagiso Rabada have been effective. Leg-spinner Imran Tahir will lead the Proteas' spin attack.



South Africa opener Hashim Amla (L) and their ace spinner Imran Tahir will be hoping that their performances can help South Africa clinch the ODI series against India in the fourth ODI in Chennai today. PHOTO: AFP

## Yasir boost for Pakistan

2nd Test against Eng from today

AFP, Dubai

Pakistan will be looking to fit-again leg-spinner Yasir Shah to lift their bowling in the second Test against England starting in Dubai from Thursday after Shah missed the drawn first Test in Abu Dhabi with a back spasm.

But he is back to full fitness and was able to bowl without any pain in the nets, something which Pakistan captain Misbahul Haq sees as a big positive.

"Shah looks good and is raring to go and that's a good sign for us," said Misbah. "We missed him a lot in the first Test and his return will give us that boost in the spin bowling."

## Windies looking for inspiration

AFP, Colombo

The West Indies will look to the legendary Garfield Sobers for inspiration as they bid for an unlikely series-saving victory when they take on Sri Lanka in the second Test in Colombo on Thursday.

The tourists have yet to win a Test in Sri Lanka at 10 attempts and they suffered an innings defeat last weekend in the first Test in Galle where veteran spinner Rangana Herath took 10 wickets in the match.

The 79-year-old Sobers is in Colombo to watch the second and final Test alongside Sri Lanka's Michael Tissera.



National opener Tamim Iqbal signed a two-year contract with Goldmark Foods Limited yesterday and will now play the role of the company's Brand Ambassador. PHOTO: STAR

## 'What's gone is gone'

SPORTS REPORTER



The postponement of the Australia Tests may have disappointed many, but opener Tamim Iqbal saw a silver lining in Cricket Australia's decision.

Yesterday afternoon the left-hander became the first national player to comment on the issue.

"Playing the Tests against Australia would have been the best thing for us, but it was something that was not in our hands. There was a reason behind the postponement. But the one good thing that has happened is that the national players have managed to play four matches in the National Cricket League (NCL)."

"We don't usually get that opportunity. I am sure there won't be any complaints about the quality of the National Cricket League this time," said Tamim during a signing ceremony at a city hotel yesterday.

"Regarding the Australia series, the BCB is looking after it and I am sure we will play them soon," he added.

The Australia Tests have since been replaced with a limited-overs series against Zimbabwe next month and Tamim hopes that the hosts can continue their good run against the African nation.

"Look, what's gone is gone. I believe that the more we play, the more we will learn. We are a young team and we will improve with every game, whether it's a Twenty20 or a one-day," said the left-hander.

## BPL excites Aamer

AFP, Lahore

Returning paceman Mohammad Aamer Wednesday said playing a Twenty20 league in Bangladesh next month will be the first step towards reviving his international career, halted by a spot-fixing ban.

The 23-year-old is contracted to feature in the Bangladesh Premier League for Chittagong Vikings starting from November 24 in a pre-draft deal finalised and signed last week.

"I am really thankful to the team for choosing me and I will try my best to give them my 100 per cent performance and enthrall the Bangladeshi fans," Aamer told AFP. "It will be the first step towards reviving my international career."

His burgeoning talent was halted by a five-year spot-fixing ban in 2011. In January this year the International Cricket Council allowed Aamer to feature in domestic home matches after an amendment to its anti-corruption code.

Aamer has been in great form in the qualifying rounds of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, taking 34 wickets in just four matches. Aamer said he was happy with his form.

"I am focusing on the Quaid-e-Azam trophy right now, and my dream is to