



Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan Papon addresses the audience before the start of the players' auction for the third Bangladesh Premier League at the Radisson Blu yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Youths dominate auction

SPORTS REPORTER

The third edition of the Bangladesh Premier League officially got underway, after a gap of nearly two years, when the players' auction took place yesterday at a city hotel.

Almost at once, one could have easily noticed the differences of yesterday's programme compared to the auctions of the last two editions.

For starters, the franchises were more focused on some of the younger Bangladeshi players. For instance, four out of the six players selected in the first round of the competition are yet to complete a proper year in the international circuit. Soumya Sarkar, Mustafizur Rahman, Sabbir Rahman and Liton Das have only just become regulars in the international arena, but were the most wanted picks after the icon players.

The reason behind this is the brilliant runs that they have had with the Tigers. Mosaddek Hossain and Nurul Hasan are two other youngsters who were

bought as early as the second and third rounds of the auction.

19-year-old Mosaddek has been in terrific form, averaging above 100 in first-class cricket this year, and the Dhaka Dynamites snatched him with their third pick. Nurul, on the other hand, had scored a brilliant 185 in the last National Cricket League match and impressed the Sylhet Superstars.

On the contrary, some of the more experienced players who were quite prominent in the last season of the BPL didn't generate much interest. The likes of Alok Kapali, Robiul Islam and Shahriar Nafees were either ignored or bought towards the later rounds of the auction.

Interestingly, young leg-spinner Jubair Hossain Likhon, who is expected to feature in the upcoming Zimbabwe series, was ignored by all the six franchises. The leg-break bowler might not have been signed-up but the teams did pack their sides with a host of left-arm spinners, a trend commonly seen in all the other domestic leagues here.

The new buying system, where each of the players were assigned a particular value and the buying sequence depended on lotteries, also brought the

entire players draft programme to a comparatively early finish.

The last two seasons witnessed franchises competing with each other with their respective bids for every single player. Not only did that method escalate a player's price, but it also ensured that the programme went on for hours.

The new system though worked efficiently as far as the BPL governing council was concerned. The only aspect that they could have focused on a bit more was the presentation factor. To the common viewer, the player-by-choice method, which was broadcast live yesterday, may seem complicated. The event could have been a lot more enjoyable had the governing council arranged for a more viewer-friendly means of communication.

Unlike the last edition, Pakistani players will be participating in the BPL and they omitted the foreign players' category.

The six franchises bought a total of 15 Pakistani players including the likes of Shahid Afridi, Shoaib Malik and Mohammad Irfan. Nine Sri Lankans,

'Just a lot of luck'

SPORTS REPORTER

"God has been very merciful." These were the first words that Rangpur Riders owner Mustafa Rafiqul Islam uttered after coming out of players' auction programme.

A man of few words, Mustafa's statements to the media might have been short and concise. However, his expressions throughout the auction and in the post-auction press conference easily conveyed just how delighted he was with his team.

And why shouldn't he be? Not only did he get the opportunity to buy the first player of the auction, but he also got the chance to pick the first icon player of the competition; and he surely utilised his luck.

His first buy was Soumya Sarkar, arguably the most sought-after Bangladeshi batsman this year. And amongst the icon players, he picked the most obvious choice, roping in Shakib Al Hasan.

With the BPL auctions following the player-by-choice method, luck was always going to play a factor in the formation of teams.

The players were divided into groups and each of those groups were assigned a fixed value. The owners of the franchises had to take part in a number of lotteries in order to fix the buying sequence. So after every two rounds, the owners had to collect chits which had numbers ranging from one to six. The franchisee that collected the number one would make the first call and so on.

Rangpur's Mustafa received the number '1' on four occasions, two of which were during the first two rounds of bidding.

While the Sylhet Superstars also drew four 1s, they did so towards the end of the auction and by then a majority of the popular players were already bought.

"I am not just satisfied, but I am very excited with my team. We wanted Shakib and we got him. That's just a lot of

DHAKA DYNAMITES CHITTAGONG VIKINGS SYLHET SUPERSTARS BARISAL BULLS COMILLA VICTORIANS RANGPUR RIDERS

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| <p>Icon Player:
Nasir Hossain (All-rounder)</p> <p>Local Players:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mustafizur Rahman (Pace bowler) Mosharraf Hossain (Left-arm spinner) Mosaddek Hossain (Batsman) Shamsur Rahman (Batsman) Saikat Ali (Batsman) Forhad Reza (All-rounder) Nabil Samad (Left-arm spinner) | <p>Icon Player:
Tamim Iqbal (Batsman)</p> <p>Local players:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Anamul Haque (Batsman) Taskin Ahmed (Pace bowler) Ziaur Rahman (All-rounder) Elias Sunny (Left-arm spinner) Naeem Islam (Batsman) Enamul Haque Jr (Left-arm spinner) Yasir Ali Chowdhury (Batsman) Shafiqul Islam (Pace bowler) | <p>Icon Player:
Mushfiqur Rahim (Batsman)</p> <p>Local Players:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Rubel Hossain (Pace bowler) Mominul Haque (Batsman) Abdur Razzak (Left-arm spinner) Nurul Hasan (Batsman) Mohammad Shahid (Pace bowler) Nazmul Hossain Apu (Left-arm spinner) Junaidd Siddique (Batsman) | <p>Icon Player:
Mahmudullah (All-rounder)</p> <p>Local Players:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sabbir Rahman (Batsman) Al-Amin Hossain (Pace bowler) Shohag Gazi (Off-spinner) Tajjul Islam (Left-arm spinner) Shahriar Nafees (Batsman) Mehedi Maruf (Batsman) Nadif Chowdhury (Batsman) Rony Talukdar (Batsman) | <p>Icon Player:
Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (Bowler)</p> <p>Local Players:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Liton Das (Batsman) Imrul Kayes (Batsman) Shuvagata Hom (All-rounder) Sanjamul Islam (Left-arm spinner) Kamrul Hasan Rabbi (Pace bowler) Ariful Haque (Batsman) | <p>Icon Player:
Shakib Al Hasan (All-rounder)</p> <p>Local Players:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Soumya Sarkar (Batsman) Arafat Sunny (Left-arm spinner) Mithun Ali (Batsman) Muktar Ali (All-rounder) Saqlain Sajib (Left-arm spinner) Jahurul Islam (Batsman) |
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|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Abul Hasan (All-rounder) Irfan Sukkur (Batsman) <p>Foreign Players:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Kumar Sangakkara (Batsman, SL) Ryan Ten Doeschate (All-rounder, Netherlands) Mohammad Irfan (Bowler, Pakistan) Yasir Shah (Leg-spinner, Pakistan) Nasir Jamshed (Batsman, Pakistan) Sohail Khan (Pace bowler, Pakistan) David Mallan (Batsman, England) Shahaib Hasan (Batsman, Pakistan) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Asif Ahmed (Batsman) Nafees Iqbal (Batsman) <p>Foreign players:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Robin Peterson (Left-arm spinner, SA) Saeed Ajmal (Off-spinner, Pakistan) Jeevan Mendis (Leg-spinner, SL) Umar Akmal (Batsman, Pakistan) Kamran Akmal (Batsman, Pakistan) Mohammad Aamir (Pace bowler, Pakistan) Chamara Kapugedera (Batsman, SL) Elton Chigumbura (All-rounder, Zim) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nazmul Hossain Milon (Batsman) Abu Sayem Chowdhury (Batsman) <p>Foreign Player:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sohail Tanvir (Bowler, Pakistan) Joshua Cobb (Batsman, England) Chris Jordan (Pace bowler, England) Shahid Afridi (All-rounder, Pakistan) Ravi Bopara (Batsman, England) Brad Hodge (All-rounder, Australia) Ajanta Mendis (Spinner, Sri Lanka) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mohammad Sharifullah (Off-spinner) Sajedul Islam (Pace bowler) <p>Foreign Players:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Imad Wasim (All-rounder, Pakistan) Mohammad Sami (Pace bowler, Pakistan) Seekkuge Prasanna (Spinner, SL) Chris Gayle (Batsman, West Indies) Brendon Taylor (Batsman, Zimbabwe) Kevon Cooper (All-rounder, West Indies) Evin Lewis (Batsman, West Indies) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mahmudul Hasan Limon (All-rounder) Naeem Islam Jr (Left-arm spinner) Abu Haider Ronny (Pace bowler) Dhiman Ghosh (Batsman) <p>Foreign Players:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nuwan Kulasekara (Pace Bowler, SL) Andre Russel (All-rounder, WI) Lahiru Thirimanne (Batsman, SL) Darren Stevens (All-rounder, England) Sunil Narine (Off-spinner, WI) Marlon Samuels (Batsman, WI) Ahmed Shehzad (Batsman, Pakistan) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Abu Jayed Chowdhury (Pace bowler) Murad Khan (Left-arm pacer) Russel Al Mamun (All-rounder) <p>Foreign Players:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lendl Simmons (Batsman, West Indies) Darren Sammy (All-rounder, WI) Thisara Perera (All-rounder, SL) Sachitra Senayanake (Off-spinner, Sri Lanka) Wahab Riaz (Pace bowler, Pak) Mohammad Nabi (All-rounder, Afghanistan) |
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BCB U-17s win series

Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) Under-17s held their nerves to secure a draw against the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Under-17s at the Sheikh Kamal International Stadium in Cox's Bazar yesterday in the last of their four three-day encounters.

The series ended 1-0 in BCB's favour.

Of the three previous matches in the series, two ended in draws while BCB U-17s won the second by an innings and 65 runs.

CAB began the day in a precarious position at 158 for six, with BCB needing fourteen more wickets to win. However, CAB batted strongly and Tribit Roy's 72 not out powered them to 273 for nine, where they eventually declared.

Hasan Mahmud claimed three CAB wickets for 73 runs, while Sharif Islam took 2 for 42.

In the BCB's second innings, Sojibul Islam (72) and Ratul Khan (113) made a 172-run opening stand in 35.3 overs. Sojibul scored 72, while Ratul remained unbeaten on 113 at the end of the day. Sojibul hit four 4s and three 6s before being run out, while Ratul smashed thirteen 4s and two 6s.

The game was over five overs after Sojibul's dismissal, with BCB at 215 for one.

Misbah century steadies Pakistan

Misbahul Haq hit a brilliant century to help Pakistan post a respectable 282-4 on the opening day of the second Test against England in Dubai on Thursday.

Pakistan's Test skipper held the innings together with an unbeaten 102 for his ninth century and, with him, Asad Shafiq was 46 not out after Pakistan won the toss and opted to bat on a brownish-green pitch which is expected to turn as the game progresses. Misbah added 93 with Younis Khan (56) and another 104 for the unbroken fifth wicket stand with Shafiq as Pakistan aim for a big score to force a lead in the three-match series.

The first Test ended in a draw in Abu Dhabi last week.

Misbah, who hinted at retirement from international cricket after this series, hit two sixes in spinner Moeen Ali's final over of the day and then reverse-swept for two to complete his hundred off 190 balls.

In all he has hit eight fours and five sixes during his 192-ball innings.

Shafiq, who survived a run-out when on 12 and a reviewed lbw appeal on 31, shaped up well during his 93-ball knock, hitting six fours.

England did take the second new ball after 83 overs with Pakistan on 247-4 but failed to dislodge the Misbah-Shafiq partnership.

Pakistan lost Younis in the third over after tea, caught off a lazy-looking leg-side glance off seamer Mark Wood.

Younis hit four fours during his 115-ball innings and became the 14th highest run-scorer in all Test cricket, surpassing England's Graham Gooch, who made 8,900 in 118 Tests.

Younis now has 8,953 runs from 103 Tests.

Masood also fell, to the first ball after lunch, as he edged paceman James Anderson to wicketkeeper Jos Butler and unsuccessfully reviewed the decision.

SCORES IN BRIEF
PAKISTAN: First innings 282 for 4 (Hafeez 19, Masood 54, Younis 56, Misbah 102 not out, Shafiq 46 not out; Anderson 1-33, Moeen 1-82, Wood 1-26)

Bangladesh A concede lead

Bangladesh A conceded a 24-run lead in the first innings of their three-day encounter against Irene Villagers Club in Pretoria, South Africa yesterday.

The hosts, who had an overnight score of 273 for 6 declared, after 70 overs, on 323 for 9. Bangladesh pacer Al-Amin Hossain, who had earlier taken a five-wicket haul in the one-day encounter between the sides, added three more wickets to his tour's tally. He was well supported by Karmul Islam Rabbi who took three scalps as well.

Pacer Mohammad Shahid and leg-spinner Jubair Hossain took a wicket each.

After the exchange, Bangladesh's batsmen once again failed to make the most of their starts. They were eventually bundled out for just 299.

Sabbir Rahman top-scored in the second innings with 75, while Mohammad Mithun posted 72. Akin to the previous occasions of the tour, the batsmen failed to reach their centuries despite getting set. 19-year-old Mosaddek Hossain who has had a brilliant run at home this season was sent back to the pavilion for 48.

The final day of the match will take place today. The visitors will play two more one-dayers in South Africa before they leave for



Virat Kohli hit a sublime 138 as India won the fourth one-day international against South Africa by 35 runs in Chennai yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

India make it 2-2

South Africa to 264 for 9.

The chase did not go according to plan for South Africa as opener Hashim Amla (7) fell to Mohit Sharma early in the innings. Other opener Quinton de Kock (43) was looking very good, but he perished soon after the introduction of Harbhajan Singh. Faf du Plessis (17) too didn't last long as he edged Axar Patel to Dhoni.

Kohli scored 138 off 140 balls trumped AB de Villiers stunning knock of 112 off 107 balls to set up a mouthwatering finale in Mumbai on Sunday.

India scored 299 batting first thanks to splendid batting from Kohli along with Suresh Raina (53) and Ajinkya Rahane (45) on a slow Chepauk track, but things could have been different if AB de Villiers had batted for a few more overs.

The Indian bowlers did well to restrict

SCORES IN BRIEF
INDIA: 299 for 8 in 50 overs (R Sharma 21, Kohli 138, Rahane 45, Raina 53, Dhoni 15; Steyn 3-61, Rabada 3-54)
SOUTH AFRICA: 264 for 9 in 50 overs (De Kock 43, De Villiers 112, Behardien 22, Phangiso 20; Kumar 3-68, Harbhajan 2-50)
Result: India won by 35 runs and level 5-match series 2-2.
Player-of-the-match: Virat Kohli.

WI halt SL at 200

West Indies spinner Jemel Warrican took four wickets to bundle Sri Lanka out for 200 on day one of the second Test Thursday, raising hopes of a series-saving victory for the visitors.

The 23-year-old, playing in his first Test, grabbed 4 for 67 off 20 overs, after Sri Lanka won the toss and elected to bat at the P Sara Stadium in Colombo.

Bad light stopped play when the visitors were 17-1 off 5.2 overs in their quest for the first West Indian Test win on Sri Lankan soil.

They lost Shai Hope lbw to Dhammika Prasad in the very first over for just four.

With Kraigg Brathwaite on four not out was the nightwatchman Devendra Bishoo on five.

Warrican took the scalps of Milinda Siriwardana, who top-scored for the Sri Lankans with 68, and tailenders Dhammika Prasad and Nuwan Pradeep, as the hosts slid from 145 for 6 at tea to be all out in just 66 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF
SRI LANKA: First innings 200 all out (Chandimal 25, Siriwardana 68, Janith 16, Herath 25 not out; Taylor 2-50, Holder 2-22, Warrican 4-67)
WEST INDIES: First innings 17 for 1 (Brathwaite 4 not out