



6-STAR MOHAMMEDAN: Mohammedan Sporting Club players celebrate their 6-1 victory over Solid SC in the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Do-or-die for Abahanis

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani and their Chittagong namesakes will face an acid test today as they look to ensure semifinal berths in the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup.

Abahani will face Kolkata powerhouse East Bengal at 7:30pm after tournament hosts Chittagong Abahani take on already-eliminated Karachi Electric at 4:30pm. Both of the Group B fixtures will take place at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong.

Group B is still wide open as three teams -- East Bengal, Abahani and Chittagong Abahani -- are vying for the two semifinal spots.

East Bengal top the table with six points, while Abahani and the hosts are tied on three each, leaving winless Karachi languishing at the bottom. Both Abahanis are also tied on goal difference (0), while East Bengal are three ahead in that department.

So, East Bengal have the best prospect of advancing, while Abahani are in a better position than the hosts, since they have scored more goals throughout the tournament.

Bangladesh A humiliated

STAR SPORT DESK

The Bangladesh A team's batting crumbled in the final day of their three-day match against the Irene Villagers Club in Pretoria, South Africa yesterday. As a result, the visitors lost by 131 runs.

Bangladesh had conceded just a 24-run lead after failing to make the most of their starts in the first innings and the match seemed to be heading towards a draw going into the final day. However, the teams mutually decided that they would bat for only 50 overs per-side on the final day.

Irene Villagers Club scored 277 runs before declaring at the 50-over mark. Stefan Klopper was bowled after scoring 94, while Theunis de Bruyn scored an unbeaten 47-ball 102. De Bruyn smashed six 4s and eight 6s.

After the exchange Litton Das (33) and Rony Talkuder (39) had a 56-run partnership after opener Sadman Islam was dismissed for nought. Sabbir Rahman (33) and Soumya Sarkar (30) also provided some runs, but failed to build on their foundations.

Thomas Kaber, a slow left-arm chinaman bowler, tore through the Bangladesh lower-middle order. He took six wickets 54 runs and lifted the Villagers.

"We lost the ODI match [on October 19] due to a bad batting approach, and we lost for the same reason today," explain former Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar over phone.

"Our batting was not sensible. We could not bat according to what the situation demanded of us," concluded Bashar.

Mohammedan run riot

ANISUR RAHMAN from Chittagong

Mohammedan Sporting Club stormed back into contention for a final-four berth in the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup after a resounding 6-1 victory against Solid SC of Sri Lanka in their Group A fixture at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Six players got on the scoresheet for the Black and Whites, who were handed a 1-0 defeat by De Spin Ghar Bazan in their opening match on Wednesday, as they ran riot over the Sri Lankan outfit. The second match of the day, and arguably the best match of the tournament so far, saw the Afghans being held to a 3-3 draw by Kolkata Mohammedan as all four teams of the group kept their hopes of advancing into the knock-out rounds alive.

Mohammedan coach Josimuddin Joshi made some positional changes to his side and brought a couple of changes to the starting eleven as well by drafting in winger Faisal Mahmud and defender Sohel Rana in place of Mobarak Hossain and Olabanji Alani

respectively. Midfielder Mashuk Mia Johnny was fielded upfront in a bid to creating more space for striker Nabib Newaz Jibon, who was the architect behind the first two goals.

Jonny ran into the box from the right to provide a cut-back for Jibon, who left the ball for unmarked Faisal and the winger placed the ball home to put Mohammedan ahead in the 10th minute.

DHAKA MSC	6 - 1	SOLID SC
KOLKATA MSC	3 - 3	SPIN GHAR BAZAN

Then Jibon, who squandered at least three scoring chances in the first match, suddenly accelerated his pace in the middle of the opposition midfield and teed the ball up for Johnny, who tapped in to double the margin in 18th minute. Six minutes later, skipper Arup Kumar Baidya found the back of the net with an angled shot from inside the box before Jibon made it 4-0 from a rebound off a Faisal cross in the 32nd minute.

Solid SC pulled one back in stoppage time of the first half through OA Olayemi, who danced past two defend-

ers and rounded off goalkeeper Ashraful Haque Rana with a solo effort.

However, Mohammedan struck two more goals to wrap up the victory when Lamine Camara headed a Faisal cross home in the 49th minute and substitute Habibur Rahman Shohag stabbed home from inside the box in the 76th minute.

Joshi dedicated the win to Mohammedan's former under-16 player, Razib, who died in a road accident on Tuesday on way to Manikganj from his home district of Magura.

Meanwhile Kolkata Mohammedan and De Spin Ghar Bazan shared the spoils of a topsy-turvy draw in the day's second match under floodlights. The Afghan champions took the lead three times only to see the Kolkata outfit hit back to salvage a point, which kept the latter hanging by a thread and extended the former's wait for a semifinal berth.

Anwar Akbari, Fardin Hakimi and Reza Allah Yari struck for De Spin Ghar while Omolaja Nurain, Taurus Tecompleh and Kazeem Amobi netted one goal each for Kolkata Mohammedan.

Hockey impasse ends

Rahmatullah replaced by Sadek; Rebel clubs welcome change; Players to join camp

SPORTS REPORTER

The long-standing impasse in hockey came to an end yesterday after Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) general secretary Khaza Rahmatullah resigned from his post and a transfer window for the premier league was announced during an emergency meeting of its executive committee.

Rahmatullah, resigning from his current position, assumed the post of vice-president which was vacant since the death of former vice-president Sabbir Yousuf last year. Abdus Sadek, former player-turned-organiser who was a vice-president of the incumbent elected committee, took over the duties of the general secretary.

The president of BHF, Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Abu Esrar, chaired over the meeting.

"The big decision from today's [Friday] meeting is that we have appointed [Khaza] Rahmatullah, who was general secretary of the committee, to the vacant vice-president post while selected Sadek Bhai [Abdul Sadek] has been appointed as the new general secretary," the BHF president told reporters after the meeting.

The BHF president said that the decisions were taken in line with the constitution of the federation.

"We have made the changes as per constitution and everyone in the committee unanimously approved of the decisions," said the BHF president.

Sadek said that his first priority will be to prepare the national players for November's AHF Under-21 Championship and the South Asian Games scheduled for February next year.

"Our first preference will be to run the training camps properly. I have requested all the players to join the camp immediately

because we have to take part in the AHF U 21 tournament next month. If we finish among top four in that tournament, we will qualify for the World Cup," said Sadek.

Meanwhile, the BHF declared that the inter-club players' transfer window for next season's premier league will take place from December 13 to 15. The meeting also decided the season will start through the Victory Day Hockey Tournament in December, followed by the club cup and the premier league.

The national team players, who had been boycotting both the under-21 and senior team camps, welcomed the announcement of transfer window and informed that they were getting ready to join camp.

"Our only demand was the announcement of a transfer window. I am happy that that demand has been met. I, along with the others, will join the camp within a day or two," said national team forward Moinul Islam Koushik.

The ice-breaker in the long-standing impasse came after Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president and Abahani director Nazmul Hassan Papon, throughout last week, mediated with the four rebel clubs, led by Mohammedan SC and Mariner Young's Club, who have been boycotting all hockey related activities under Rahmatullah since 2013. The rebel clubs took the removal of Rahmatullah from general secretary's position as a positive step and pledged to participate in the transfer window.

"We appreciate the decision, which we wanted for the last two years," said Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan, director-in-charge of Mohammedan SC, adding: "We will follow decisions that the BHF will take and we agree to participate in the players' transfer."



KHAZA RAHMATULLAH



ABDUS SADEK

Root leads resistance

AFP, Dubai

Joe Root took the attack to the Pakistan bowlers with an enterprising half-century to guide England to 182-3 at close of play on the second day of the second Test in Dubai on Friday.

Root, unbeaten on 76, built the innings after England lost the key wicket of skipper Alastair Cook as they fought hard against a pace-cum-spin Pakistan attack on a Dubai stadium pitch.

With Root was Jonny Bairstow on 27 as England were 196 behind Pakistan's first innings total of 378 with seven wickets intact.

The first Test in the three-match series ended in a draw in Abu Dhabi last week.

Cook, who hit an epic 263 in the first Test, added 113 runs for the third wicket with Root as the pair negotiated leg-spinner Yasir Shah and left-armed Zulfiqar Babar with confidence.

They built on the early loss of Moeen Ali (one) and Ian Bell (four) and challenged Pakistan's superior bowling attack.

Cook reached his 45th half-century with a flicked boundary off paceman Imran Khan before he was caught off a leg-side push off the bowling of Shah.

Cook hit 10 well-timed fours during his 117-ball stay.

Paceman Stuart Broad believes England can gain upper hand tomorrow.

"We are delighted as a bowling unit at getting ten wickets on a first-day pitch for under 400," said Broad. "It was good to only lose three wickets for a decent score and tomorrow will be an important day."

"Maybe if we can manage to get 400 or 400 plus on a deteriorating pitch then we will be in the box seat."

Pakistan seamers Wahab Riaz and Imran Khan had given their team an early breakthrough in the post-lunch session.

Earlier, Pakistan, resuming at 282-4, lost their last six wickets for 96 runs in the two-and-a-half hour session, extended due to Friday prayers.

Asad Shafiq scored 83 before he was caught by Root off Wood, 17 short of his hundred.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: First innings 378 all out (Hafeez 19, Masood 54, Younis 56, Misbah 102, Shafiq 83, Sarfraz 32; Moeen 3-108, Wood 3-39)

ENGLAND: First innings 182 for 3 (Cook 65, Root 76 not out, Bairstow 27 not out; Riaz 1-51, Shah 1-59)



Sri Lanka pacer Dhammika Prasad (C) celebrates with teammates after dismissing West Indies batsman Jermaine Blackwood on the second day of the second Test in Colombo yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

IN A NUTSHELL

Ronaldo's new ride

Cristiano Ronaldo's bulging fleet of motors has another item for the collection.

Along with his taste in fashion and grooming, the Real Madrid man is a massive car fan, and by this stage probably has a range to rival Batman's.

His fleet is at around 20 models, and features at least one BMW, Porsche, Lamborghini, and Bentley.

Ronaldo already owns two or three Ferraris, and he's gone for the Italian motor once again.

He showed off the latest addition to the fleet on Instagram yesterday, a stunning white Ferrari, which he is sat atop triumphantly. This model is believed to be worth around 320,000 dollars.



Something's fishy

Former Brazil, Porto and Bolton striker Mario Jardel has been caught attempting to carry 10 kilograms of fish through airport security in Porto Alegre.

Jardel had his luggage seized after returning from a trip to Portugal and officials confiscating 10kg of cod fish, several bags of nuts and roughly 1.2kg of cheese.

The Brazilian ministry of justice explained that the transport of this type of food "can only be done with the presentation of a health certificate issued by country of origin" and since Jardel's "snacks" were not cleared, they were incinerated.

Jail can't cage cricket

Bollywood's Munnabhai, Sanjay Dutt, has become an entrepreneur. The actor, who is in the jail, has bought a franchise in the UAE-based Masters Champions League (MCL), which is governed by Graham Gooch and Allan Border, among others.

Reportedly, the actor's wife was instrumental in sealing the deal in the new league for retired international cricketers.

Compiled by Star Sport Desk

Thirimanne picked for WI ODIs

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's selectors on Friday named three uncapped players in the squad for the upcoming ODI series against West Indies along with batsman Lahiru Thirimanne, despite dropping him from the ongoing Test in Colombo.

Right-handed batsman Shehan Jayasuriya, spin bowler Jeffrey Vandersay and all-rounder Dhanushka Gunathilaka will all hope to make their debuts in the three 50-over matches being held November 1, 4 and 7.

The hosts will also be boosted by the returns of experienced opener Tillakaratne Dilshan and fast-bowler Lasith Malinga who have both retired from Test cricket.

SL corner Windies

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka stretched their lead to 113 over West Indies Friday as they followed up a clinical bowling performance with a solid start to their second innings in a low-scoring Test in Colombo.

The opener Kaushal Silva was unbeaten on 31 and Dinesh Chandimal was not out on five as the visitors finished the second day of the final Test at the P. Sara Oval on 76-2.

Responding to their hosts' first innings total of 200, the tourists were all out in the last ball of the afternoon session for just 163 after pace bowler Dhammika Prasad took four for 34.

And having wrested the initiative away from the tourists, Sri Lanka then drove home their advantage as debutant Kusal Mendis justified the faith of the selectors with an entertaining innings of 39.

The opener Dimuth Karunaratne was out first ball of the innings, caught by a diving Devendra Bishoo, after flicking uppishly at a ball by Jerome Taylor, but 20-year-old Mendis showed few signs of nerves.

Hitting seven fours, Mendis became the second wicket to fall, caught behind off Jomel Warrican with the total on 55. Silva and Chandimal then saw out the

remaining 10 overs to leave the hosts well placed to clinch the series following their innings victory in the first Test in Colombo.

None of the West Indies batsmen passed the 50 mark in their first innings, with opener Kraigg Brathwaite top-scoring with 47.

After resuming in the morning on 17-1, few of the West Indies batsmen ever looked comfortable and found runs harder to get as the day wore on -- struggling in particular to score off the miserly Rangana Herath.

Between lunch and tea, the tourists lost six wickets for the addition of 86 runs.

Prasad led the way with his four wickets but he was well backed up by Dilruwan Perera who finished with 3 for 28 while left arm spinner Milinda Siriwardana also chipped in with 2 for 26.

Play began half an hour late due to a soggy outfield caused by heavy overnight rains. Although the light was gloomy at the start, it had improved significantly by the afternoon.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: First innings 200 WEST INDIES: First innings 163 all out (Brathwaite 47, Blackwood 16, Roach 17 not out; Prasad 4-34, Perera 3-28, Siriwardana 2-26)

SRI LANKA: Second innings 76 for 2 (Silva 31 not out, Mendis 39; Taylor 1-15)