

# SPORT

## Salahuddin thanks govt, spectators

SPORTS REPORTER

For the last one-and-a-half months, there was anxiety over Bangladesh's hosting of the World Cup qualifier against Australia, ever since the Football Federation Australia (FFA) raised its security concerns to the FIFA and the AFC.

But thanks to the unprecedented security measures taken from the government, the match finished without a blip and a full-house crowd enjoyed the match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, before the Socceros left the country later that night.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin yesterday thanked the Bangladesh government and its agencies for co-operating and ensuring the best possible measures were taken for the match while the BFF boss also thanked spectators for turning up in big numbers and getting behind the national team.

"First of all, I want to thank the Bangladesh government, especially the home ministry and the police department, for their complete co-operation," Salahuddin said. "I am grateful to the spectators, who turned up in big numbers and cheered the home team. However, I feel a bit sorry for them as our team could not perform that well. In future, we will try to satisfy the spectators because the team is working hard. It was not only a success for the football federation; it was also a success for the whole nation. We are very happy."

"There is nothing new to talk about safety and security in Bangladesh. Despite a lot of talks regarding security issues, no incident happened and we did not expect anything to happen either. It was a good day for Bangladesh," added the BFF boss.

However, in order to ensure the security for the Australian team, the game's governing body and the government agencies had to ensure a lot of things as the high-ups of home ministry and the police department held several meetings with the FIFA and FFA security officials who had come quite a few days in advance.

"Though we were confident about holding the match as per schedule, it was a bit troublesome for us," said BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

"At one stage, we had to provide government's security guarantee to the FIFA. We had to ensure compliance of FIFA security policy. We had to ensure additional things such as arranging backup generator, close-circuit cameras, archways with our own funds," said the BFF secretary, adding that after the end of the match, their attention was firmly on the proper departure of Australian team as well as the officials of FIFA and AFC.



Former Bangladesh coach Shane Jurgensen has a chat with Mushfiqur Rahim at the Mirpur Academy Ground in the midst of their respective training sessions yesterday. Jurgensen will be coaching the Rangpur Riders while Mushfiqur will lead the Sylhet Superstars in the BPL.

## BD A end with a draw

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A ended their long tour of Africa with a draw against their Zimbabwean counterparts at the Harar Sports Club yesterday and won the two-match series 1-0. The second-string side will depart for home today. The game which was in its fourth innings saw Bangladesh finish the day on 88 for 4.

The visitors, courtesy of a century from Tasamul Haque, had initially scored 402 in the first innings of the four-day encounter against Zimbabwe's 303. In reply, the hosts put in a much better batting performance with centuries from Brian Chari and Peter Moor to post 376 before declaring on the final day yesterday. Apart from the duo, their middle order batsman Ryan Burl and Goodwill Mamhiyo also got some batting practice as both of them posted half-centuries.

After the exchange, the visitors suffered a mini-collapse as Tasamul, Muktar Ali and Naeem Islam fell in the span of six overs. However, that wasn't enough to cause much panic and Bangladesh's middle-order merely batted out the rest of the overs.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

ZIMBABWE A: 303 and 376 for 5 dec (Chari 128, Moor 103, Burl 51 not out, Mamhiyo 50; Muktar 2-73, Saqlain 2-86)  
 BANGLADESH A: 402 and 88 for 4 (Rony 30, Mosaddek 25 not out; Nyauchi 3-23)  
 Result: Match drawn

## SLC clears 7 to play in BPL

CRICINFO, Colombo

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has agreed to release seven high-profile cricketers to play in the Bangladesh Premier League, an about-turn from their stance last week.

A desire to maintain a good relationship with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), and the one-week postponement of Sri Lanka's domestic one-day tournament have led to the change of heart. SLC's desire to see foreign cricketers - including those from Bangladesh - participate in its own city-based T20 league, may have also influenced the decision.

SLC had been opposed to issuing no-objection certificates to its centrally contracted players largely because their absence would have diluted the quality of the forthcoming Premier Limited Over Tournament. That tournament was originally scheduled to begin on November 20, but it now appears likely to be put off until around November 27, thanks to prevailing bad weather in Colombo.

### LIST OF PLAYERS

Jeevan Mendis, Ajantha Mendis, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Chamara Kapugedara, Thisara Perera, Sachithra Senanayake, Seekkuge Prasanna.

## Mushy has high hopes from BPL

SPORTS REPORTER

The cricket-crazed country is now all set to turn their attention to the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) as the third edition of the franchise-based tournament - which will roll into the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on November 22 after tomorrow's grand opening ceremony - has already gained momentum with the teams starting their preparations at the home of cricket.

Foreign recruits like former Bangladesh coach Shane Jurgensen, who was appointed as the coach of Rangpur Riders, and former South Africa and Australia coach Mickey Arthur - the Dhaka Dynamites coach - are now already in the city and overseas cricketers have also started to arrive.

The cricketers have always welcomed the tournament despite all those off-the-field controversies which marred it, as there is no denying the on-field impact which the tournament brings. And Mushfiqur Rahim, the Sylhet

Superstars' icon player, reminded that while speaking to reporters at Mirpur yesterday. The Bangladesh Test captain believes that this tournament will help players ahead of the Asia Cup and ICC World Twenty20 next year.

"We reached the Asia Cup final for the first time after the first BPL. It's always a good experience for our cricketers. It will be a big deal for our cricketers to play and share the dressing room with legends like Chris Gayle, Shahid Afridi and Kumar Sangakkara," opined Mushfiqur.

"Playing in this format is not so easy and you know we are not strong in this format. We will get ten matches in the group stage and we must make full use of them. It will be good practice for the players who will play the next year's Asia Cup and World Cup," he continued.

Mushfiqur said that there is always pressure no matter what kind of tournament he is playing, but none can compare to the pressure of

national commitments.

"You cannot compare anything to playing for the national team when it comes to pressure. Of course you have responsibility when you play for a franchise because the owners are spending their money [on you], so the dedication, attention and commitment will be the same. And it's also an opportunity to draw the attention of the national team by playing good cricket," observed Mushfiqur.

The second edition was marred by the fixing scandal, but the little man hoped that there would be no untoward incidents this time.

"It's not only in BPL, I think many tournaments all over the world have been experiencing such things and no doubt it's bad for the players as well as any tournament. I believe everything will be okay this time because the board [BCB] has taken many initiatives and we want to focus only on our performances," said Mushfiqur.

## Cahill lauds Bangladesh



Want to say a massive thank you to everyone that played a part in making our trip to Bangladesh a successful one. It's been a tough week for everyone but we really enjoyed the hospitality, the fans and the country of Bangladesh. The reception we got from the crowd before and after was amazing and we appreciate the support. Finally the FFA security team and also the local Dhaka Metropolitan Police for taking care of us and treating us like royalty. Overall want to focus on everything that's great about football and also countries working together to make everyone happy and safe. #THANKYOU

## Federer ends Djokovic streak

AFP, London

Roger Federer got one over on world number one Novak Djokovic as the Swiss great booked his World Tour Finals last four spot with a straight sets victory on Tuesday.

Federer triumphed 7-5, 6-2 in their group stage clash in the packed O2 Arena in London, to hand the Serb his first indoor defeat in 39 matches - a streak stretching back to 2012.

But after becoming the first man through to this year's semis, Federer insisted Djokovic was still the favourite to win the season-ending tournament, which is disputed between the top eight players, divided into two groups.

Earlier in the same group of four, Japan's Kei Nishikori gave his hopes of reaching the semis a major boost with a 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 victory over Tomas Berdych.

## BPL PREVIEW: DHAKA DYNAMITES

# Onus on the locals

SPORTS REPORTER

A first glance at Dhaka Dynamites' squad would suggest that the management might have taken a leap of faith by banking on players who haven't regularly played T20 cricket for their respective international teams. Of the 15 players that they have, only three of them - Mustafizur Rahman, Nasir Hossain and Pakistan's Mohammad Irfan - are regular members of their respective national sides.

However, it's not as if that factor is bound to play a big role in this format of the game. After all, if one were to go by that logic, then experienced T20 campaigners such as Ryan Ten Doeschate - who doesn't represent his national side - wouldn't have been valued as much. But what the make-up does go on to show is that the Dynamites are expecting quite a bit from their local players.

Aside from Mustafizur and Nasir, they have the likes of Mosaddek Hossain, Saikat Ali and Irfan Sukkur. The trio already have quite a few runs under their belt this year and will look to further improve that statistic.

To support the local players, they have signed up skipper Kumar Sangakkara, opener Nasir Jamshed and all-rounder Ten Doeschate.

Despite his retirement, Sangakkara has been in good form and the Dynamites will hope that the Sri Lankan legend can continue on his run. Jamshed recently blasted a century for Rawalpindi in a Pakistani domestic T20 competition and the opener seems to be in good touch.

Unfortunately the Dynamites will be missing Dawid

Malan and Shahzaib Hossain, both of whom are in good form, due to the players' respective international duties.

While their batting department may be missing out on a recognised outright hitter, it has the potential to put in consistent performances.

Their spin department seems a lot stronger with the likes of Mosharraf Hossain and Nasir in the side. They have also bought Pakistan leg-spinner Yasir Shah, who has done extremely well this year for the national side. Shah, who last played a T20I in 2011 and is yet to scalp an international T20I wicket, will hope that his performance in this competition can help him claim a spot in the national team ahead of the T20 World Cup.

Also in the side is slow left-arter Nabil Samad, who recently captured his 300th first-class wicket.

The pace-bowling department will be led by the in-form Mustafizur and he is bound to be Dhaka's key player in this tournament. The bowler has been successful in the death overs for Bangladesh and Sangakkara and co will hope he can continue doing that for the Dynamites.



SQUAD	
<b>LOCAL PLAYERS:</b>	Nasir Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Mosharraf Hossain, Mosaddek Hossain, Shamsur Rahman, Saikat Ali, Forhad Reza, Nabil Samad, Abul Hasan, Irfan Sukkur
<b>FOREIGN PLAYERS:</b>	Kumar Sangakkara, Ryan Ten Doeschate, Mohammad Irfan, Yasir Shah, Nasir Jamshed, Sohail Khan.
<b>COACH:</b>	Mickey Arthur

## Booters leave for China

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh national football team left for China's Yunnan province yesterday to take part in the 2015 Yunnan ASEAN International Football Tournament, scheduled to be held from November 20 to 30.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is yet to know the details regarding the number of participating teams as the organisers, the Yunnan Provincial Sports Bureau, sent invitation to 10 teams - most of which are club sides - through foreign ministry.

"We still don't know whether the tournament will feature eight or ten teams, which will be confirmed tomorrow [Thursday]. We are participating in this tournament under the cultural exchange programme between Bangladesh and China," said BFF general secretary Abu

Nayeem Shohag, adding that they are taking the tournament as part of preparation for next month's SAFF Championship in India.

Two clubs from China, one club each from Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam and Malaysia and the national teams from Bangladesh, Cambodia and Sri Lanka have been invited to this 11-day tournament.

Bangladesh coach Fabio Lopez retained 19 players from the squad which took on Australia on Tuesday, excluding Faisal Mahmud, Sohail Rana, Emon Babu and Yeamin Ahmed Munna while including midfielder Mashuk Miah Johnny.

Skipper Mamunul Islam said they would be trying to confirm the semifinal berth first.

"We don't have any idea about the participating teams but we know that some club teams will be taking part in the tournament, so we will be trying to confirm the semifinal berth," said Mamunul.

## Beckham 'sexiest man alive'

AFP, Los Angeles

David Beckham was declared "sexiest man alive" by People magazine Tuesday, becoming the first sportsman to win the award which is usually reserved for Hollywood A-listers.

The announcement was made on ABC's TV show "Jimmy Kimmel Live," where the magazine cover sporting Beckham's face was revealed.



Beckham was given a small facial mirror as his reward. "I never feel that I'm an attractive, sexy person," Beckham told People magazine. "I mean I like to wear nice clothes and nice suits and look and feel good, but I don't ever think of myself that way."

## Rugby mourns Lomu

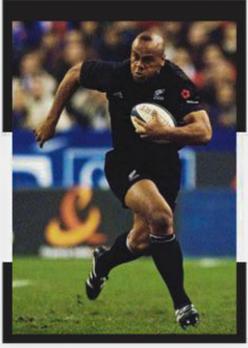
AFP, Wellington

Rugby great Jonah Lomu, a pioneering global superstar whose speed and power terrorised opponents, died unexpectedly on Wednesday aged 40 after a long battle with kidney disease, prompting an outpouring of tributes for "a legend of the game".

Lomu had for decades struggled with the kidney illness that cut short his playing career, but close acquaintances said his sudden death still came as a shock.

He passed away at his Auckland home, family spokesman John Mayhew said, after returning from a trip to Britain.

"It was totally unexpected, Jonah and his family arrived back from the UK last night and he suddenly died this morning," Mayhew told TV3. Lomu played 63 Tests and scored 37 tries



for New Zealand, rising to stardom at the 1995 Rugby World Cup in South Africa.

At his peak, the 1.96 metre (six foot five inch) Lomu weighed 120 kilograms and could cover 100 metres in 10.8 seconds.

Fellow legends paid tribute on social media.

"I am so, so devastated to hear of the passing away of @JONAHTALILOMU," England's Jonny Wilkinson tweeted. "The greatest superstar and just a fabulous human being. Deeply

saddened."

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key paid tribute to an "inspiration" and "game changer". "The thoughts of the entire country are with his family," he said.

Lomu is survived by his wife Nadene and sons Brayley and Dhyreille.