Star SPORT
DHAKA TUESDAY DECEMBER 1, 2015, e-mail: sports@thedailystar.net

WHACK-OMETER

TOTAL 6s HIT 106 | TOTAL 4s HIT 326

Most 6s hit by a player: 8, Tamim Iqbal, Chittagong Vikings
Most 4s hit by a player: 27, Dilshan Munaweera, Sylhet Superstars

Barisal Bulls all-rounder Kevon Cooper, who had a field day against Chittagong Vikings at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday, gets airborne to click his heels after grabbing the top-edge of Vikings skipper Tamim Iqbal. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Bulls spoil hosts' party

SPORTS REPORTER *from Chittagong*

A near-capacity Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium welcomed the second leg of the Bangladesh Premier League in Chittagong yesterday. Although the venue's capacity is half of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, the buzz in the afternoon seemed three-fold.

And the reason behind that was obvious; a major share of them had arrived to cheer for the home team, the Chittagong Vikings. Unfortunately, the celebrations were short-lived, for the Barisal Bulls pulled off a brilliant turnaround to defeat the Vikings by 33 runs.

There were several heroes for the Bulls yesterday. However, a major share of the credit should go to their skipper Mahmudullah Riyad, who scored his second half-century of the competition and helped his side climb out of a hole.

When Riyad arrived at the crease, Barisal were in trouble. Chittagong's Mohammad Amir was steaming in and they were struggling at 12 for 3.

Riyad initially decided to play anchor and just rotate the strike. However, that didn't help much as the visitors lost two more wickets and crumbled to 63 for 5 in 11.1 overs.

The momentum of the match started shifting in the 14th over. Riyad received a reprieve after a nervous Ziaur Rahman missed an opportunity to run him out. At that point, Riyad had seen enough and started attacking the bowlers. He smacked Ziaur for two sixes in the next two balls.

In the next over he slammed Enamul Haque jr for a six over long-on. Seekuge Prasanna, who arrived at number seven, got the signal and joined the party. He hit Shafiul Islam for two consecutive sixes in the 16th over before getting out for a valiant 36 off 20.

However, that didn't help Chittagong much as an even more explosive batsman, Trinidadian Kevon Cooper replaced the Sri Lankan. The 26-year-old took a few singles and got set. In the meantime, Riyad reached his half-century. After that it was all about the ball reaching the fence.

Elton Chigumbura bowled a terrible 19th over, which saw him giving away 22 runs. Cooper smacked for two sixes and a four. Chigumbura didn't do himself any favours, bowling a no-ball and two wides in that expensive over.

Barisal amassed a mind-boggling 98 runs in the last seven overs and eventually posted a competitive 170.

Chittagong never got the momentum going and crashed after the exchange. While 171 wasn't an extremely difficult target to chase on a flat track, they seemed to be under immense pressure.

Tamim Iqbal tried too hard to accelerate and in the process got out in the second over. Kamran Akmal was run-out soon after, oddly deciding against placing his bat in the crease. By the time Chittagong reached 50 they had lost their top order.

There were a few consolatory hits from Naeem Islam and Amir towards the end, however, all that did was reduced the margin of defeat to respectability. Chittagong were bowled out for 137 in 19.5 overs.

Tamim fumes at teammates

NAIMUL KARIM *from Chittagong*

In a matter of 20 minutes, the Chittagong Vikings went from dominating the game to being flayed to all corners of the park. The floodgates had been opened after the 13th over of the match and the hosts were drowning.

It therefore wasn't a surprise to see Tamim Iqbal laugh in despair right after the first question was asked at the post-match press conference.

A defeat of this sorts wasn't easy to digest and the left-hander made no effort to conceal his disappointment.

"I can't hold them by their hand and explain to them as to what they need to do in this level. They need to understand what they need to do. I think that is what we are lacking. People need to understand what they need to do."

"I can be the captain but I can't tell them where to bowl and what to do. When I bat nobody comes and tells me how I need to bat," said Tamim acidly while reflecting Elton Chigumbura's erratic 19th over, that produced 22 runs.

"We knew that Cooper loves to hit over cover and straight. When Elton was bowling I was trying to tell him to bowl in such a way that the batsman is forced to hit towards the square leg or the midwicket area.

"That way we had a better chance of getting a wicket or giving away a single. But unfortunately, he bowled in the wrong line," said the disappointed left-hander.

Of all the aspects though, he seemed most disappointed with the way Kamran Akmal got run-out.

"That was a school-boy error," he lamented, while referring to the Pakistan batsman's decision to not ground his bat while taking the single.

He also seemed a bit perturbed with his side's overseas players.

"We pay a lot of money to bring foreigners. They are all professionals. If you see the names, they are the best in the world. But of course, performance is something that you can't buy.

"I have no answers for Akmal's run out or even the way [Tillakaratne] Dilshan was batting. In T20 cricket he is right up there with [Chris] Gayle as the two top batsmen. If he could have continued we would have been in a different position," said Tamim.

"I think there is a lack of responsibility. We depend heavily on them. They are world-class cricketers and the best in the world. They need to take this responsibility," he added.

Player-of-the match Kevon Cooper, who took three wickets and smacked 21 runs, on the other hand, was in high spirits.

"We don't have the big name players with us as yet but we are playing good cricket. Hopefully when Chris [Gayle] comes for our remaining games the guys embrace him and hopefully we can bat better as a team and go all the way to win the competition," said Cooper.

Ravi Bopara took four wickets and scored a 38-ball 50 to guide Sylhet Superstars to a four-wicket victory -- their first of the BPL 2015 -- against Comilla Victorians at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

PREMIER cement

SCOREBOARDS

BULLS V VIKINGS

BARISAL BULLS	R/B	4/6
Lewis lbw b Dilshan	4/3	1/0
Rony lbw b Amir	0/2	0/0
Maruf c Asif b Ziaur	28/25	1/2
Sabbir lbw b Shafiul	0/5	0/0
Mahmudullah c Akmal b Chigumbura	51/45	3/1
Nadif lbw b Ziaur	7/7	1/0
Prasanna c Chigumbura b Amir	36/20	1/4
Cooper not out	21/11	0/2
Sami not out	9/4	1/0
Extras: (lb-1, w-7, nb-6)	14	
Total: (For 7 wkts in 20 overs)	170	

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-10, 3-12, 4-52, 5-63, 6-124, 7-159.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Dilshan	1	0	9	1
Amir	4	0	20	2
Shafiul	4	0	34	1
Asif	3	0	18	0
Enamul	3	0	26	0
Chigumbura	2	0	38	1
Ziaur	3	0	24	2

CHITTAGONG VIKINGS	R/B	4/6
Tamim c Cooper b Al-Amin	6/8	1/0
Dilshan c Sami b Taijul	19/12	4/0
Akmal run out	0/1	0/0
Anamul c Nadif b Al-Amin	12/13	2/0
Naeem b Cooper	38/40	3/0
Chigumbura c Rony b Cooper	5/11	0/0
Ziaur c Cooper b Sami	13/13	1/1
Amir b Cooper	20/12	0/2
Shafiul run out	12/6	2/0
Enamul b Mahmudullah	3/3	0/0
Asif not out	0/0	0/0
Extras: (b-2, lb-3, w-4)	9	
Total: (All out in 19.5 overs)	137	

Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-19, 3-36, 4-40, 5-51, 6-77, 7-122, 8-129, 9-137.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Sami	4	0	19	1
Al-Amin	4	0	34	2
Cooper	4	0	28	3
Taijul	3	0	20	1
Prasanna	4	0	25	0
Mahmudullah	0.5	0	6	1

Result: Barisal Bulls won by 33 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Kevon Cooper.

VICTORIANS V SUPERSTARS

COMILLA VICTORIANS	R/B	4/6
Liton lbw b Bopara	42/24	6/1
Imrul c Milon b Bopara	48/45	1/2
Mukhtar c & b Bopara	1/4	0/0
Shuvagata b Bopara	0/2	0/0
Zaidi not out	53/36	5/2
Kapali run out	2/2	0/0
Mashrafe not out	10/7	1/0
Extras: (b-2, lb-2, w-4)	8	
Total: (For 5 wkts in 20 overs)	164	

Did not bat: N Kulasekara, Abu Hider, Sunzamul Islam, K Santokie.

Fall of wickets: 1-56, 2-66, 3-66, 4-128, 5-132.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shahid	4	0	28	0
Rubel	4	0	48	0
Azam	2	0	19	0
Munaweera	3	0	26	0
Bopara	4	0	18	4
Jayasuriya	3	0	21	0

SYLHET SUPERSTARS	R/B	4/6
Munaweera c Sunzamul b Hider	36/26	3/2
Mominul c Liton b Hider	9/14	1/0
Bopara c Imrul b Hider	50/38	4/1
Mushfiqur b Kulasekara	47/31	4/0
Azam c Shuvagata b Kulasekara	13/6	1/1
Jayasuriya b Hider	1/2	0/0
Nurul not out	0/0	0/0
Milon not out	6/1	0/1
Extras: (w-6)	6	
Total: (For 6 wkts in 19.4 overs)	168	

Did not bat: Rubel Hossain, Nazmul Islam, Mohammad Shahid.

Fall of wickets: 1-32, 2-52, 3-139, 4-157, 5-162, 6-162.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	4	0	26	0
Kulasekara	4	0	31	2
Santokie	3	0	31	0
Hider	3.4	0	28	4
Sunzamul	2	0	28	0
Zaidi	3	0	24	0

Result: Sylhet Super Stars won by 4 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Ravi Bopara.

TK 20 CR ALLOCATION FOR TRAINING

NSC awaits final nod

SPORTS REPORTER

The finance ministry is all set to allocate Tk 20 crore to 33 national sports federations including football and cricket to launch training programmes at the grassroots level for talented athletes, informed a National Sports Council (NSC) official yesterday.

The allocation, which is believed to be the biggest for the purpose of training, is waiting for the final approval from the finance ministry after scrutiny committee of the ministry okayed the allocation under three packages a few weeks ago.

"The programmes have been designed by the finance ministry, which asked the sports ministry to place a training budget for different national sports federations. And we have placed an estimated budget of Tk 20 crore for training after summing the amounts the 33 federations demanded for this purpose," said NSC planning and development director Narayan Chandra Debnath at his office yesterday.

Out of the 33 federations, six have demanded over Tk one crore each while nine federations have placed budgets worth more than Tk 50 lakh for one year. The Football federation demanded highest Tk 1.39 crore followed by athletics (Tk 1.20 crore), cricket (Tk 1.04 crore), handball (Tk 1.03 crore), archery (Tk 1.02 crore) and wushu (Tk 1 crore).

"Though the scrutiny committee okayed three programs initially, we are not sure whether the finance committee of the ministry will allocate the budget the federations have demanded," said Debnath, adding that they would form a strong monitoring committee to oversee training activities of the federations if the budget gets the final approval.

"I can't remember whether the finance ministry ever asked the national federations for training budget. I think such initiatives will help small federations continue their training programmes round the year as most of them are confined to holding national meets due to the financial constraints," said Bangladesh Handball Federation's general secretary Asaduzzaman Khohinoor, who is also member secretary of the national sports federations' forum.

Though the NSC is seemingly focused on construction works rather than giving emphasis on training, it is irregularly conducting two programmes -- training at the grassroots and non-residential training for under-18 athletes – from its own fund.

Cairns cleared of perjury

AFP, *London*

A British jury on Monday cleared former New Zealand cricket captain Chris Cairns of perjury charges over match-fixing in Test cricket.

After a nine-week trial the jury of seven women and five men at Southwark Crown Court in London found Cairns, 45, not guilty of perjury and perverting the course of justice.

Charges were brought against Cairns after he sued Indian Premier League chairman Lalit Modi for libel in 2012 over a 2010 tweet in which the administrator accused him of match-fixing.

The allegations against Cairns resurfaced in December 2013 when the International Cricket Council confirmed it was investigating match-fixing claims involving three former New Zealand internationals.

Cairns, 45, won 90,000 pounds from the libel case, but he was alleged to have lied to the court when he said he had "never, ever cheated at cricket".

The retired all-rounder was said to have perverted the course of justice by trying to convince fellow cricketer Lou Vincent to provide a false witness statement.

Cairns' friend and "legal adviser", barrister Andrew Fitch-Holland, was also cleared of perverting the course of justice.

More D/N Tests planned

AFP, *Adelaide*

More pink-ball day-night Test matches are planned after the spectacular success of the historic trailblazer at the Adelaide Oval, which won plaudits from fans, players and cricket chiefs.

Test cricket got a pulsating makeover as Australia claimed a thrilling three-wicket win over New Zealand in the first Test in the game's 138-year history to be played under lights.

Thirty-seven wickets tumbled in three days as the pink ball dominated the bat, in stark contrast to the run-laden low-attended first two Tests in Brisbane and Perth.

The crowds loved the experience with a total attendance of 123,736 fans thronging into Adelaide Oval over the three lively days. The opening day gate of 47,441 was the biggest at the Adelaide Test since the famous 1932-33 'bodyline' series.

Host broadcaster, the Nine Network, was also beaming with 3.19 million prime-time TV viewers across the nation watching Sunday's last day, far more than normal for the third day of a Test.

Rival skippers Steve Smith and Brendon McCullum were in unison about the success of the initiative.

"The whole Test match was a great innovation, it was a great spectacle, and to get 120,000 people through the gates in three days is absolutely amazing," said Australia's Smith.

Superstars win at last

SPORTS REPORTER *from Chittagong*

The Sylhet Superstars overcame a huge mental barrier yesterday when they beat the Comilla Victorians by four wickets at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium (ZACS) yesterday.

While it seemed as though the Superstars would cruise to a win, courtesy of an 87-run stand between Mushfiqur Rahim and Ravi Bopara, a brilliant spell of bowling from young pacer Abu Hider however ensured that the match went right down the wire.

Sylhet required four runs in the last over with six wickets in hand. However, as the over progressed, Bopara, who had just reached his 50 in the previous over, got himself caught at long-on, while a nervous Shehan Jayasuriya saw his stumps get uprooted with a length delivery.

With three runs required off the last three balls, Nazmul Hossain Milon arrived at the crease and smacked one for six over the bowlers head to bring end to the drama.

It was Sylhet's first victory of the tournament – in their firth match -- and they have Ravi Bopara, who had earlier scalped four wickets, to thank for. The Englishman was well supported by the skipper Mushfiqur, who scored a gritty 47 off 31 balls.

Batting first, a half-century from Ashar Zaidi helped Comilla finish on 164 for 5 in 20 overs. While a similar score might have been difficult to overcome on the dull wickets of Mirpur, the pitch at the ZACS proved to be a different story altogether.

However, Sylhet were in trouble early during the chase when they lost both Dilshan Munaweera and Mominul Haque within the first eight overs.

That's when Bopara and Mushfiqur stitched an 87-run stand for the third wicket in 9.3 overs. It was a cautious stand with calculated boundaries.

By the time Mushfiqur was bowled by Nuwan Kulasekara in the 17th over, Sylhet required just 26 runs off 18 balls. They lost two more wickets before scrambling past the finish line.

For the Victorians, young pacer Abu Hider, who finished with figures of 4 for 28, was the highlight. The youngster bowled with plenty of passion and celebrated each of his wickets with a gusto that reminded many of his skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

Earlier, Comilla rode on contributions from Liton Das, Zaidi and Imrul Kayes to post 164. Liton found form for the first time in the competition, smacking a 24-ball 42, featuring six fours and a six. His opening partner Imrul scored a 48 off 45 balls Zaidi smacked a 36-ball 53 towards the end.