

SPORTS

JABBARER BOLI KHELA Shamshu ends Didar's reign

MINHAJ UDDIN, Chittagong
Shamshu Boli clinched the title of Jabbarer Boli Khela, the century-old wrestling competition, in Chittagong yesterday afternoon.

For Shamshu, a wrestler from Ukhia of Cox's Bazar district, it was the first win in the 107th edition of the wrestling tournament after taking part three times. He defeated 10-time champion Didar boli from Ramu of Cox's Bazar.

The fight lasted for over half an hour but none of the two wrestlers could defeat the opponent by slamming his back into the ground, which is the requirement to win a match. After the stipulated 30-minute time was passed without a clear winner, the referees decided to declare a winner by comparing their tactics. The judges declared Shamshu as the champion.

"My dream came true as I have won the largest wrestling championship of Chittagong," said Shamshu. A timber trader by profession, Shamshu said wrestling is his passion and he wants to take part in future competitions too.

Earlier, Didar and Shamshu defeated their semi-final opponents Habibur Rahman of Naryangonj and Oly Boli from Brahmanbaria respectively.

The champion received Tk 20,000 and the runner-up Tk 15,000, and the 37 qualifiers received Tk 1,000 each. The competition was held in two sessions with 96 wrestlers fighting each other and 37 winners emerging as some were disqualified. The second session featured the semi-finals and final.

The tournament is named after Abdul Jabbar Sowdagor, a rich businessman of Badarpati in Chittagong who initiated the competition on Baisakh 12 in Bengali year 1316 (1909 AD) to inspire youths to anti-British struggle and displays of physical strength. It has become a fixture of the sport calendar since, with scores of wrestlers fighting each other in front of thousands of spectators.



DIDAR BOLI UPSTAGED! Shamsu Boli (L) of Ukhia dethroned 10-time champion Didar Boli of Ramu in the 107th Jabbarer Boli Khela at the Laidighi Maidan in Chittagong yesterday. Even though neither of the wrestlers managed to upend the other, which is considered as the requirement for winning a bout, the judges declared Shamsu as the winner on count of showing better tactics.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Bangladesh still 7th, not 5th

SPORTS REPORTER



The good news that Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon provided in the afternoon yesterday, regarding the Tigers having aed a landmark by climbing to fifth spot in the ICC ODI rankings, could not last the day as further research revealed a different and rather deflating outcome.

As things currently stand, the annual update of the ICC rankings, which will be released on May 2, 2016, will still see Bangladesh ranked seventh.

The ODI rankings are calculated on a three-year cycle. When the annual update will be carried out on May 1, 2016, series results from the seasons of 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 will be used for calculation purposes.

As per the rules, the results of 2013-14 and 2014-15 will be weighted at 50 percent while the results of the 2015-2016 will be weighted at 100 per cent. Going by those calculations, Bangladesh's ranking as far as May 2, 2016 is concerned, will remain seven.

Under the same three-year calculation policy, the direct qualification system for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 will be decided and England, along with the seven next highest-ranked side will progress.

The series which will be used for calculation are 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, with results of 2014-15 and 2015-16 to be weighted at 50 per cent and the results of 2016-17 to be weighted at 100 per cent.

So what was all the confusion about? The briefing that Papon provided to the reporters at his Beximco office seemed to be based on a hypothetical projection that covered results from just the 2014-15 and 2015-16 series.

According to sources from the ICC, if one only considers the results from 2014-15 and 2015-16, as no matches in the 2016-17 season have been played as yet, then Bangladesh will be ranked fifth. That is of course if the

series in 2015-16, when Bangladesh beat Pakistan, India and South Africa, is weighted at 100 percent.

So, the results that will be most important in deciding direct qualification to the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019, considering that the cut-off date for those rankings is September 30, 2017, are those that will take place over the next 17 months. The matches that will take place over the next 17 months will be weighted at 100 percent, while the results from 2014-15 and 2015-16 will be reduced to a weighting of 50 percent.

In other words, the substantial rating points that Bangladesh received upon defeating the then higher-ranked teams of Pakistan, India and South Africa will be halved.

In all likelihood, what was displayed during the ICC meeting to Papon and the other board presidents was just a projection of how things stand if the results from the 2016-2017 season are not considered.

However, to state that Bangladesh are now ranked fifth based on the projection would be misleading since there is still an entire season of cricket to be played.

According to Papon, the projections showed that Bangladesh have a rating of 101 points, which was more than that of England, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and the West Indies.

However, going by these figures would be misleading since this scenario does not include the results from the 2016-2017 season.

This does not mean, however, that Bangladesh will not be able to break into the top five in the near future. The two-season

projection only goes on to show how well the Tigers have progressed over the last two years and if they can continue the good run for one more season, they can be in a good position before September 30, 2017. It is a deadline before which they will have to be ranked within the top eight, as England -- currently ranked sixth -- will qualify automatically, in order to qualify directly for the ICC World Cup in 2019.



NAZMUL HASSAN PAPON

Patel, pacers guide Mumbai to big win

STAR SPORTS DESK



Skipper Rohit Sharma might have scored a duck, but good knocks from Parthiv Patel and Ambati Rayudu led the Mumbai Indians to a much-needed victory in Punjab.

Batting first Patel and Rayudu put on a 137-run stand for the second wicket.

Rayudu was the first one to depart, in the 15th over. He smacked a 37-ball 64, in an innings which witnessed four fours and four sixes. Jos Buttler joined Patel and he too joined the fun. He smacked 24 off 13 balls with three fours and a six. By the time Buttler was bowled, in the 18th over, Mumbai were poised at a healthy 174 for 3.

They could have crossed the 200-run mark had Patel been there, however, he was caught in the 19th over for 81. It was a good knock scored off 58 balls. It witnessed ten fours and two sixes. Mumbai finished on 189.

Some good bowling after the exchange by Tim Southee and Jasprit Bumrah pegged Punjab back. The pacers removed the top four batsmen. They lost the first two wickets within the first powerplay and were reduced to 32 for 2 in five overs.

Akin to the first innings, Shaun Marsh and Glenn Maxwell put in a 118-run stand to bring them back in the game. However, after the stand the game changed. From 121 for 2 in 14 overs they crashed to 139 for 4 in 17.2 overs. From there on it was a one-way road and they were eventually restricted to 164 for 7.

SCORES IN BRIEF

MUMBAI INDIANS: 189 for 6 (Patel 81, Rayudu 65; Sharma 3-38)

KINGS XI PUNJAB: 164 for 7 (Maxwell 56, Marsh 45; Bumrah 3-26, Southee 2-28, McClenaghan 2-32)
Result: Mumbai Indians won by 25 runs

Depleted Sheikh Jamal face desperate Tampines

SPORTS REPORTER



After four matches in their debut AFC Cup campaign, Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club are still waiting to get off the mark. But with only two games remaining -- today's home match against Tampines Rovers being the penultimate one -- the biggest worry for the three-time Bangladesh Premier League champions is not whether they can put up a respectable fight against the Singapore giants. The biggest worry for Sheikh Jamal DC is whether they can even field eleven players who are fit and eligible.

With two key players -- centre-back Yeasin Khan and defensive midfielder Jamal Bhuiyan -- ruled out due to suspension, Sheikh Jamal coach Shafiqul Islam Manik is having to grapple with 11 players of his own and three on loan. But even among those available, Wedson Anselme and Emeka Darlington -- two of the key forwards -- are not hundred percent fit.

"Since Yeasin and Jamal are not there, I will have a lot of trouble in those positions. Besides Emeka and Wedson have got knocks on their feet.

It's difficult to motivate players when you have injuries and not enough players to replace them," the veteran coach said during a pre-match press conference at the BFF House yesterday.

Manik said that he was hoping to get Topu Barman, Jewel Rana and Monaem Khan Raju -- three players who originally registered for the tournament but left the club in the transfer window -- on loan for this fixture. He was also looking to field Raju in Jamal's position.

Sheikh Jamal's opponents, Tampines Rovers, have a different challenge altogether on their hands. Having set the early pace in this group, the Singapore side have slipped behind Ceres La Salle FC after a draw followed by a defeat against the Philippines side. So the Singaporeans are looking to get back to the top with a win against Sheikh Jamal, whom they had beaten 4-0 in home fixture.

"We are on seven points along with Selangor and Ceres are on eight points. The defeat against Ceres is something we want to move on with. This is a very important match for us. We will try to go out and win this game to put us in a good position before the Selangor game," Tampines Rovers coach V Sundramoorthy said about his team's target.



Tampines Rovers players go through their practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday evening. The Singapore outfit will take on Sheikh Jamal DC in an AFC Cup fixture today.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

CSA banned from bidding

REUTERS, Johannesburg

South Africa on Monday banned its national cricket and rugby federations from hosting or bidding for international tournaments for at least a year due to their failure to increase representation of black players.

Sports minister Fikile Mbalula said the athletics and netball federations were also barred from bidding to stage global events after a report showed that four out of the five biggest sports have failed to create enough opportunities for black players.

The minister's decision was a major blow to the South African Rugby Union's intention to bid for the 2023 Rugby World Cup. The bidding process starts next month.

"I have therefore resolved to revoke the privilege of Athletics South Africa (ASA), Cricket South Africa (CSA), Netball South Africa (NSA) and South African rugby (SARU) to host and bid for major and mega international tournaments," Mbalula said in a statement.

The soccer federation was the only one of the five to meet its transformation targets, he said.

Tigers now draw huge viewership

SPORTS REPORTER



BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon yesterday revealed that the Bangladesh-India game during the World Twenty20 received

similar viewership numbers to that of the India-Pakistan encounter. Furthermore, Papon also said that the other boards were keen on playing Bangladesh later this year and that the Tigers could play games outside the Future Tour Programme (FTP) in 2016.

"We spoke to two, three countries and we have also received a proposal. I can't tell you the names or the dates scheduled, but there is a good possibility for us to play more matches than what's scheduled in the FTP. If the matches do take place then they will be scheduled for after October.

"We are hoping for a tri-nation at the least. For now we just have to fix the dates. We have got the England series and the Bangladesh Premier League during that period and we just have to find a gap," said Papon.

The BCB president also had some special words reserved for Mustafizur Rahman, who has been dazzling the world with his artistry in the Indian Premier League. He spoke about how everyone has been talking about the left-arm pacer and also about the importance of utilizing him appropriately.

"Just the other day the Cricket Australia's president asked me, 'where did you get this boy?' Everyone is

Younis in hot water

PTI, Undated

Pakistan's top Test run-getter and former captain Younis Khan is likely to face a ban of three to five matches for walking out of the Pakistan Cup national One-Day tournament after a dispute with the match referee and umpires.

Younis had a run-in first with the umpires over some decision. When the match referee, Aziz ur Rehman summoned him for a disciplinary hearing, the senior player did not show up, thereby drawing a fine of a maximum of 100 per cent of his match fees.

The incidents involving Younis and the umpires and match referee took place over the space of two matches that involved the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa team which Younis led in the tournament being organised by the Pakistan Cricket Board in Faisalabad.

"The PCB Chairman, Shaharyar Khan has taken serious notice of the incidents involving Younis and has summoned a report from the match referee," a source in the PCB told PTI.

He said the chairman was also trying to speak to Younis but his phones were switched off since he returned from Faisalabad to Karachi on Saturday night.