

SPORT



Gazi GC's Mohammed Mithun (L) and Mohammedan's Mushfiqur Rahim both had great outings in their respective Dhaka Premier League matches yesterday, but the results weren't the same. While Mithun's 75 helped his team to a win against Legends of Rugganj, Mushfiqur's 104 went in vain against Victoria SC. PHOTOS: STAR

ILLEGAL ACTIONS List keeps growing

SPORTS REPORTER
The rate at which illegal bowling actions are being reported has been increasing as the Dhaka Premier League has progressed, and according to Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) sources two new names were added to the list during yesterday's second-round matches at the BKSP.

The sources revealed that the actions of Mohammedan left-arm spinner Naem Islam Jr and Faisal Hossain were reported during their match against Victoria Sporting Club at the BKSP. Meanwhile, the bowling of spinner Mustafizur Rahman Bashar of Gazi Group Cricketers was once again reported during the match against Legends of Rugganj at Fatullah. Bashar's bowling was also reported during Gazi Group Cricketers first match against Prime Bank Cricket Club.

That brings the tally of reported bowlers to eight after the second round as left-arm spinner Amit Kumar of Abahani, left-arm spinner Rejaul Karim of Prime Dolshwar Sporting Limited, left-arm spinners Moinal Islam and Asif Ahmed Ratul of Legends of Rugganj, and Cricket Coaching School's Mohammad Saifuddin also came under the scanner earlier.

What happened at Mirpur yesterday when young spinner Sanjit Saha, who made his List A debut for Brothers Union against Kalabagan Cricket Academy yesterday, returned to action after a three-month rehabilitation programme to rectify his action. Sanjit took two wickets giving away only 23 runs in his nine-over spell and according to sources the umpires found nothing wrong in his action as he avoided the faster deliveries. But sources confirmed that he will be under the scanner in every match.

In January this year Sanjit was reported during Bangladesh Under-19's ICC U19 Cricket World Cup match against South Africa at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong and subsequently the International Cricket Council (ICC) suspended him from bowling in world-level cricket as it found his bowling action illegal.

The BCB made a promise to take proper action against illegal bowling ever since Taskin Ahmed and Arafat Sunny were banned from bowling in international cricket midway through the World Twenty20 in India.

Nadif's 51 trumps Mushfiqur's ton

Wins for Victoria, Legends of Rugganj and Brothers Union

SPORTS REPORTER
As he always says that the team comes first, Mushfiqur Rahim was not a happy man despite making a scintillating hundred at BKSP yesterday as his effort was not good enough for Mohammedan Sporting Club to avoid a two-wicket defeat at the hands of Victoria Sporting Club in their second match of the Dhaka Premier League.

In the end it was the once-promising Nadif Chowdhury who stole the show with a match-winning unbeaten half-century. Chasing 248, the run-rate was never an issue for Victoria after a 114-run second wicket stand between Abdul Mazid and Mominul Haque built the foundation. But left-arm spinner Enamul Haque revived Mohammedan's hopes by removing Dhiman Ghosh and Suhrawardi Shuvo in the 43rd over. In the next over Enamul effected the run-out of his Victoria namesake to give the opposition a scare.

Nadif however was resolute at the other end and smashed left-arm spinner Naem Islam Jr for a six in the first ball of the 49th over and after two dot balls he smote the winning boundary to negate Mushfiqur's brilliant 104-run knock. A 39-ball 51 that saw three fours and four sixes by Nadif also made sure that Victoria made up for their tied match against

SCORES IN BRIEF	
MOHAMMEDAN: 247-9 in 50 overs (Tharanga 21, Mushfiqur 104, Faisal 26, Ariful 42 not out; Shuvo 4-29, de Silva 2-41)	VICTORIA: 250-8 in 48.4 overs (Mazid 55, Mominul 67, Al-Amin 27, de Silva 38, Nadif 51 not out; Habibur 2-43, Enamul 2-49, Naem 2-53)
Result: Victoria won by two wickets.	Player-of-the-match: Mushfiqur Rahim (Mohammedan)
GAZI GC: 255-8 in 50 overs (Anamul 42, Shamsur 69, Saeed 70, Faruque 30 not out; Mosharrif 2-52, Zaidi 2-45, Soumya 2-14)	LEGENDS OF RUGGANJ: 256-7 in 49 overs (Mithun 75, Zaidi 37, Asif 54 not out, Nahidul 25, Alauddin 34 not out; Delwar 2-28, Mahedi 2-31, Kapali 2-42)
Result: Legends of Rugganj won by three wickets.	Player-of-the-match: Mohammad Mithun (Legends of Rugganj)
KALABAGAN CA: 213-7 in 50 overs (Irfan 42, Taposh 30, Mahmudul 54; Shahid 2-43, Sanjit 2-23)	BROTHERS: 214-4 in 45.3 overs (Nafees 26, Tushar 67 not out, Williams 70)
Result: Brothers Union won by six wickets.	Player-of-the-match: Tushar Imran (Brothers Union)

Legends of Rugganj, who snatched one point courtesy of the last-ball six by Taijul Islam in their first encounter.

Earlier, Mushfiqur clobbered four boundaries and five

sixes during his 108-ball innings while Ariful Haque added an unbeaten 42 off 35 balls with two fours and as many sixes as Mohammedan scored 247, which was ultimately inadequate. Left-arm spinner Suhrawardi Shuvo was the pick of the Victoria bowlers with four for 29 but the Mohammedan total could have been much better had the big-hitting Nazmul Hossain Milton not fallen to a run-out.

Another national batsman's effort however did not go in vain as Mohammad Mithun's 94-ball 75 helped Legends of Rugganj to secure a three-wicket victory over Gazi Group Cricketers at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah.

In chase of the 256-run winning target, Rugganj made a disastrous start as they lost three wickets for 11 runs, including Soumya Sarkar, who once again failed to get back among the runs. Mithun however steadied the ship along with Ashar Zaidi, putting on a 91-run stand for the fourth wicket.

Asif Ahmed scored an unbeaten 54 but it was Alauddin Babu who finished the job in style with an unbeaten 22-ball 34 that featured one four and three sixes.

At the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, Brothers Union secured their first win with a six-wicket victory against winless Kalabagan CA. Tushar Imran made an unbeaten 67 and Zimbabwean Sean Williams scored 70 as Kalabagan reached the target of 214 in 45.3 overs.

PCB, Younis bury the hatchet

PTI, Karachi
The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and former captain Younis Khan finally appear to have put an end to the controversy which erupted after the latter walked out of the Pakistan Cup one-day tournament in Faisalabad after a run-in with match officials.

Just 24 hours after confirming it had issued a show-cause notice to Younis for breaching clauses of the tournament code and his central contract, the PCB said yesterday it had accepted an apology from Younis.

On Tuesday, the board had also stopped Younis from returning to Faisalabad and play for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa team which he led in the event before his run-in with the match officials.

"In his response to the show cause notice, Younis has expressed regret over his conduct and has duly apologized," the PCB said in a statement.

"In view of his acceptance of the wrong-doing and consequent apology, PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan has decided to accept his explanation," the statement said.

"Consequently, Younis may now join the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) squad should the team qualify for the final of the 2016 Pakistan Cup," it said.

KP sans Younis and led by Pakistan opener, Ahmed Shehzad qualified for the final on Wednesday after a close match.

23-year-old hits 21-ball century

AGENCIES, Trinidad
In what is a new world record, 23-year-old Tobago batsman Iraq Thomas smashed a 21-ball century in the Tobago Cricket Association's T20 tournament on Sunday, surpassing Chris Gayle's 30-ball blitz in the IPL.

Representing Scarborough/Mason Hall, Thomas finished with an unbeaten 131 off 31 to help his side chase Speyside's target of 152 in just eight overs.

Thomas got to his century off just 21 balls and eventually finished unbeaten on 131 off just 31 balls with 15 sixes and five fours to his name.

"I was just very happy to reach my first T20 century. I have played cricket for a while and to get this century in the shortest format left me very happy," he said.



Mustafizur-mania continues in full-force in the country. Taking wind ever since Mustafizur Rahman's debut against Pakistan last year, the country is still being swept by the craze, which has recently been fuelled by Mustafizur's eye-catching exploits in the Indian Premier League. On the walls outside the Planning Commission in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, dozens of posters of the boy wonder were put up to celebrate the 20-year-old from Satkhira. PHOTO: STAR

Watson, Mrs AB rock out

AGENCIES, New Delhi
Shane Watson has proved he is pitch perfect both on and off the field, joining Danielle de Villiers - wife of South Africa superstar AB - in a musical duet in India.

The Australian all-rounder, who is playing alongside AB de Villiers at Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Indian Premier League, showed off his guitar and singing skills as he joined the talented Danielle for a jam session on stage at an RCB event.

The pair performed the David Guetta hit



KKR, Shakib disappoint

STAR SPORT DESK
The Mumbai Indians comfortably chased down the Kolkata Knight Riders' 174-run total to secure a six-wicket win at the Wankhede Stadium yesterday.

Gautam Gambhir led the way for Kolkata with a half-century and all their batsmen except for all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan managed to get into double figures.

Shakib threw away his wicket, trying to play an ill-advised shot against a Hardik Pandya bouncer.

With the ball, the south-paw was a bit better. He conceded 30 runs in his four overs, picking up just one wicket.

Mumbai opener Rohit Sharma stayed till the end, hitting an unbeaten 68.

Later in the innings he got ample support from West Indian Kieron Pollard who also hit an unbeaten half-century as Mumbai eased home in 18 overs.

NZC chief throws weight behind pink-ball Tests

AFP, Wellington
Players and traditionalists need to accept pink-ball Tests or the five-day format will not survive, New Zealand Cricket chief executive David White warned Thursday.

Australia and New Zealand played the inaugural day-night Test in Adelaide last year, attracting huge crowds to rival those at limited-overs versions of the game.

But players from both sides complained about the pink ball, intended to be more visible under floodlights, and some conservatives felt it undermined a Test tradition dating back to 1877.

White said there was strong enthusiasm for more day-night Tests at a meeting of the International Cricket Council board in Dubai last weekend. He said there was also a groundswell of support from fans and television broadcasters, expressing confidence that players would eventually come around.

"I think the players will be very supportive going forward, [day-night Test cricket] is essential for the survival of the format, to be honest," he told Radio Sport.

White said day-nighters would never dominate Test cricket but he could envisage a

Donald wants full-time gig

AFP, Sydney
South Africa great Allan Donald said he had his eye on a full-time job with Australia Thursday after being named temporary bowling coach for their Sri Lanka tour.

The former pace spearhead is filling in after Craig McDermott stepped down as bowling coach at the end of the World T20 in India.

Head coach Darren Lehmann said it was a massive coup to secure Donald's services for the Test, one-day and Twenty20 tour from July to September.

Donald, who has previously coached with England, New Zealand and South Africa, said if the job was offered full-time, he would take it.

"If it does happen to be a long-term thing, then I would absolutely love to do that," the South African told the Cricket Australia website.

"But we'll take it small steps at a time and see how that goes."