

SPORT

Salahuddin elected for a third term

A win for football; a win for truth, says the BFF boss

SPORTS REPORTER

Kazi Salahuddin was re-elected for the third consecutive term as the president of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday, putting behind all talks of pressure and rumours which surrounded the polls over the last few days.

The former national skipper won a comprehensive victory by bagging 83 votes while his competitor Kamrul Ashraf Khan Poton received 50 votes. One vote was cancelled.

Salahuddin, who has been in the hot-seat of Bangladesh football's governing body for the last eight years, termed the victory as a win for football and truth.

"It is a win for football; it is a win for truth. There will always be criticism if you work, and there will be no criticism if you don't work," Salahuddin said in his instant reaction, adding that he would elaborately speak about his plans for the next four years a couple of days later.

"From my heart, I want to thank every delegate, councillor and voter who gave the right decision for the love of football. After a lot of drama and things surrounding the election, they proved that football is above all. I will try to repay the trust the delegates have put on me. It gives me more responsibility to complete my remaining task," Salahuddin said.

"I felt mental torment till 3:00pm as all pressure was on me. Anyone else might have given up in a situation like this. But I was player who played full 90 minutes and I am the person who went to the Independence War by walking from Dhanmondi and crossing the river at the age of 17. I never gave up," Salahuddin later said, alluding to the whispers of pressure tactics and other rumours that flew around in the air right up to the day of the election.

The defeated candidate, Poton, reiterated his desire to remain with football. "Before the elections, I said that I

want to be with football and I am still with football. However, my involvement in football depends on the newly-elected body. If they call me, I will definitely respond to them," Poton said.

The Salahuddin-led panel, namely the Combined Panel, won three out of four vice-president posts and 12 out of 15 member posts. Abdus Salam Murshedy was elected unopposed as the senior vice-president.

Prior to the elections, the annual general meeting approved the financial statement of 2015 with some observation and also approved the draft 2016 expenditure of Tk 30 crore in a peaceful meeting. The only notable issue raised by a councillor was that of Tk 8 crore outstanding loan from the arrangement of Argentina versus Nigerian friendly in Dhaka in 2011. A BFF executive committee member replied to that query by saying that that particular loan owes to the chief sponsors of that event, and not the BFF.

KEY WINS

President

Kazi Salahuddin (83) beat Kamrul Ashraf Khan (50)

Senior vice-president

Abdus Salam Murshedy (unopposed)

Vice-presidents

Kazi Nabil Ahmed (92)
Badal Roy (73)
Mohiuddin Mohi (72)
Tabith Awal (66)

Members

Shawkat Ali Khan Jahangir, Amirul Islam Babu, Harunur Rashid, Ilyas Hossain, Satyajit Das Rupu, Bijon Barua, Iqbal Hossain, FR Babul, Arif Hossain Moon, Amit Khan Shuvo, Jakir Hossain Chowdhury, Mahiuddin Ahmed Selim, Abdur Rahim, Sheikh Mohammad Aslam, Mafuza Akter Kiron.



Kazi Salahuddin (C) was visibly relieved after being elected as the Bangladesh Football Federation president for a third consecutive term. The BFF boss here gestures to the media along with the victorious members of his panel.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

All square at Bhasani

SPORTS REPORTER

Both the matches of the Marcel Club Cup Hockey Tournament ended in draws at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. In the day's first match, Ajax were held to a 2-2 draw by Shadharan Bima. Ajax took an 18th minute lead through Mir Mahbub Ali before Khaled Mahmud made it 2-0 in the 53rd minute. But Afsaruddin and Shamim scored two late goals as Shadharan Bima salvaged a point.

The second game also ended 2-2, with Hasan Jubayer Niloy opening the scoring for Usha Krira Chakra. Arshad Hossain equalised for Mariner Youngs, only to see Zuhairi Bin Hashim earn the lead back for USha. Koushik's 38th minute, however, made sure the spoils were shared in this high-profile encounter.

The results mean Usha went through to semifinals as group champions while Mariners followed them as group runners-up.

Misbah, Azhar kept from A team tour

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan's Test captain Misbah-ul-Haq and some other senior players have been told they can't be allowed to tour England next month with the Pakistan A team.

Misbah and some other players including Azhar Ali, who leads the national one-day squad, had requested the Pakistan Cricket Board to allow them to tour England with the A team to play a few games so they could get acclimatised to English conditions before the senior team's tour in late June.

"Chairman Shahryar Khan had a discussion with chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq and it was felt it would be unfair to the upcoming players if seniors were accommodated in the A squad," a well-informed source told PTI.

"The consensus was that the Pakistan A team's tour to England was being organised with the sole purpose of giving exposure to the bench players," he said.

Misbah and company wanted a chance to play some matches in England before the senior team's tour since the national team is not slated to play many tour games before the first Test on 13 July.



Kalabagan Krira Chakra captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza defied a fever to scalp his first four-wicket haul in over a year in one-day cricket in the Dhaka Premier League encounter against Prime Bank Cricket Club in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Mash defies illness with 4-wicket haul

SPORTS REPORTER



"He's not human," exclaimed Kalabagan Krira Chakra (KCC) coach Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury while referring to his captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza yesterday.

Mashrafe had put in a brilliant performance and finished with figures of 4 for 56 in ten overs, but that still wasn't enough to prevent KCC from losing their third consecutive match.

So why was an amazed Jalal keener to speak about Mashrafe rather than the defeat on the whole? That's because the Bangladeshi skipper played yesterday's game despite suffering from fever.

He was running a high temperature prior to the game and was initially not supposed to play the match. However, with KCC yet to win a match in the Dhaka Premier League, Mashrafe was adamant. He had taken his medicines in the morning and forced himself to play the game.

Under such dire circumstances, not to forget that Mashrafe's side had to bowl in extremely hot conditions in the morning, the skipper bowled an eight-over spell. He

was the only one getting wickets and hence, he carried on.

"If it was anybody else, he would have sat out the game. But this is Mashrafe for you. What's sad is that the other players couldn't provide him with enough support. When your captain puts up such a brave effort, you expect your other players to get encouraged," said Jalal.

What was even more surprising was that Mashrafe played the entire game without his leg-straps, devices he needs to wear since he is so prone to injuries.

The last time Mashrafe scalped a four-wicket haul in one-day cricket was back in January 2015 and prior to that he had recorded such a figure in September 2013.

KCC eventually were bundled out for 233 in pursuit of Prime Bank Cricket Club's 280. The skipper, who looked extremely tired after the post-match presentation had started.

He may have lost a few points when it comes to fitness levels over the last few years, however, his performance yesterday just goes on to show how he still possesses that hunger to win; and how that desire constantly brings out the best in him.

A day of oddities

Doleshwar, Abahani and Prime Bank win in third round

SPORTS REPORTER



A team which had displayed their batting prowess in their previous match to manage a thrilling last-ball win faced an embarrassing batting collapse. A leg-spinner, who began the league with a bang, not only got success with the leather, but also showed uncharacteristic batting strength to ensure victory for his side. A battle-hardened fighter once again showed his character and played through fever, although his four-wicket haul ultimately went in vain as his side's losing streak continued. These were the highlights of the third round of the Dhaka Premier League across three different venues yesterday.

Mahmudullah Riyad-led Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club showed batting depth to overtake Abahani's huge total in the previous match at Mirpur, but yesterday at Khan Shaheb Osman Ali in Fatullah they were bundled out for a paltry 99 runs against Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club. Riding on Rokibul Hasan's unbeaten half-century, Prime Doleshwar romped to the target in 20.1 overs with eight wickets in hand to maintain their unbeaten run.

"There was nothing wrong with the wicket, rather we showed too much aggression," said Jamal batsman Marshall Ayub as he attempted to explain the reason behind their batting failure.

Pacer Al-Amin Hossain initiated the carnage by removing last match's centurion Mahbubul Karim. Medium pacer Farhad Reza then appeared as wrecker-in-chief by taking the wickets of Joyraz Sheikh, Nazmus Sadat, Riyad and Sohag Gazi, while left-arm spinner Sunzamul Islam picked up three wickets. Al-Amin later returned to dismiss Ayub.

Angelo Perera (33) and Riyad (24)

were the only batsmen to get into double-digits.

At BKSP, leg-spinner Jubair Hossain -- returning after a one-match break -- was a bit expensive but played a vital part in demolishing Brothers Union's top-order, taking four for 44 in seven overs. However, in the end it was his contribution with the bat along with Saqlain Sajib that helped Abahani return to winning ways.



JUBAIR HOSSAIN

SCORES IN BRIEF

SHEIKH JAMAL: 99 all out in 27.1 overs (Perera 33, Mahmudullah 24; Farhad 4-20, Al-Amin 2-25)
PRIME DOLESHWAR: 101 for 2 (Rakibul 53 not out, Silva 27 not out; Shaiful 1-12, Gazi 1-20)
Result: Prime Doleshwar won by eight wickets.
PRIME BANK: 280 all out in 48.4 overs (Shuvagata 60, Sabbir 53, Taibur 52; Mashrafe 4-56, Dewan 2-44, Sharifullah 2-56)
KALABAGAN KC: 233 all out in 45.4 overs (Masakadza 61, Sadman 45; Raihan 4-38, Shuvagata 2-44, Rubel 2-51)
Result: Prime Bank Cricket Club won by 47 runs.
BROTHERS: 244 for 9 (Imrul 69, Nur 39, Sadiqur 38 not out; Jubair 4-44, Taskin 2-45)
ABAHANI: 248 for 8 (Kaul 59, Mosaddek 47, Abul 23, Saqlain 20 not out, Jubair 19 not out; Nur 2-29, Tushar 2-39)
Result: Abahani won by two wickets and one ball to spare.

Requiring eight runs from the last over, Jubair managed one run from the first ball against Asif Hasan and after that Saqlain played two dot balls before he hit a boundary and a six to chase down the 245-run target with a ball and two wickets to spare.

Before the tense finale however, Jubair eased the pressure. When he came in to bat, Abahani needed 28 runs from 17 balls. He hit two magnificent boundaries during his first over at the crease and then smote a six during his 10-ball 19 which, coupled with his bowling, brought him the man-of-the-match award.

Before the unbeaten 31-run partnership between Saqlain and Jubair it was Uday Kaul (59) and Mosaddek Hossain (47) who set the foundation for Abahani's chase.

Earlier, Brothers suffered a collapse that saw them slip to 149 for 6 despite cruising on 128 for 1, as Jubair took four wickets. Imrul Kayes made 69 off 82 balls, smashing seven fours and a six.

At the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, brave-heart Mashrafe Bin Mortaza took the field despite suffering from fever and captured four wickets, but Prime Bank Cricket Club still scored 280 runs before being bowled out.

Prime Bank captain Shuvagata Hom showed all-round performance to help his side to a 47-run win over Kalabagan Krira Chakra.

Hom top-scored with a 54-ball 60, blasting six fours and two sixes, while Sabbir Rahman and Taibur Rahman also scored half-centuries.

Kalabagan began well in the chase with openers Shadman Islam and Jasimuddin adding 79 but they ultimately folded for 233 in 45.4 overs despite Hamilton Maskadza's 61.

Left-arm spinner Raihan Uddin, making his one-day debut, was Prime Bank's most successful bowler, taking four wickets.

Hyderabad rout Bangalore

AGENCIES, Hyderabad



Bangladesh's bowling sensation Mustafizur Rahman took one wicket to help restrict Royal Challengers Bangalore to 179 runs as his team Sunrisers Hyderabad comfortably won the match by 15 runs at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad yesterday.

David Warner showed his duck against Rising Pune Supergiants was just a one-off blip in his otherwise red-hot form. Much like he had clobbered the Royal Challengers Bangalore attack with a 25-ball 58 in their first face-off this season, Warner hammered the visitors' attack to all parts of the ground during his 50-ball 92, his fifth fifty in seven matches, to lead Sunrisers Hyderabad to the top half of the table with a 15-run win.

Warner used his force, timing and gigantic bat to pick boundaries at regular intervals. He found an able partner in Kane Williamson, who scored 50 off 38, for a second-wicket stand of 124 runs in 12.1 overs that charged them to 194 for 5, their highest total of the season.

The Royal Challengers chase showed promising signs initially and the hosts helped them further by dropping AB de Villiers twice, but Sunrisers' quicks and the mounting pressure of a rising asking rate was too much for the visitors.

After Kohli opted to bowl and Shikhar Dhawan handed a return catch to Kane Richardson, Warner changed gears after a watchful start once Kohli brought Harshal Patel, Warner showcased his power-hitting and collected 16 runs from the sixth over to launch Sunrisers' run rate into an orbit from which Royal Challengers could not pull it back.

Without Chris Gayle, who was not picked despite being available, Royal Challengers' chase was dependent largely on Kohli and de Villiers. KL Rahul got the innings kick-started with flowing boundaries on the off side using sheer timing and placement. However, Mustafizur handed them the first blow in his first over when Kohli crunched him straight to backward point, for 14.

In the day's other match Delhi Daredevils produced a thorough all-round performance to notch up their fourth win by beating Kolkata Knight Riders by 27 runs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD: 194 for 5 in 20 overs (Warner 92, Williamson 50, Henriques 31; Richardson 2-45)
ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 179 for 6 in 20 overs (Rahul 51, AB de Villiers 47; Nehra 1-32, Mustafizur 1-34)
Result: Hyderabad won by 15 runs
Man-of-the-match: David Warner

WICB, BCCI resolve issues

AFP, New Delhi

India's cricket board Saturday announced the resumption of bilateral cricketing ties with the West Indies, saying its team will travel to the Caribbean for a Test series later this year.

"The BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) and the WICB (West Indies Cricket Board) have resolved outstanding issues arising out of the abandonment of the tour of the West Indies team to India in 2014," the BCCI said in a statement released to the media.

"With this understanding, bilateral series as part of the Future Tours Programme will be resumed with the Indian cricket team touring the West Indies in July-August, 2016 for a four match test series," it added.

Earlier this month India's board dropped a \$42 million damages claim against the West Indies over the abandoned 2014 tour after the team agreed to return to play in India next year.

The huge damages claim lodged by the BCCI had threatened to cripple the cash-strapped West Indies, which has been at loggerheads with its own players.

"BCCI is happy to resume their bilateral ties with the WICB," Anurag Thakur, BCCI's Honorary Secretary, said in the statement.

The West Indies players flew home from India in October 2014 when a long-running pay dispute came to a head in the middle of the tour.