

SPORTS



Kalabagan Krira Chakra's (KKB) Hamilton Masakadza smacks one straight down the ground during his game-changing 115 in KKB's Dhaka Premier League encounter against Cricket Coaching School in Fatullah yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

MSC take 2nd spot; KKB notch 1st win

SPORTS REPORTER

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza-led Kalabagan Krira Chakra (KKB) secured their first win of the Dhaka Premier League yesterday when they eased past Rajin Saleh's Cricket Coaching School (CCS) by 49 runs at Fatullah.

The day also saw Mohammedan hop over Abahani Limited and Prime Bank Cricket Club to move to second place in the league table after they comfortably beat Gazi Group Cricketers at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The BKSP in Savar witnessed a rain-interrupted match between the Legends of Ruppangj and Kalabagan Cricket Academy (KCA). Ruppangj ended up winning the game by 29 runs despite the failure of their key player Soumya Sarkar.

The match at Fatullah was bound to be a crucial one for both KKB and CCS. Neither team had a win in the tournament prior to

the game.

In the end, a century from KKB's Zimbabwean recruit Hamilton Masakadza turned out to be the decisive factor between the two sides. The aggressive batsman, who had scored a half-century in his previous

After the exchange, Abdur Razzak scalped four wickets and Mashrafe took two to restrict CCS to 221 for eight.

Two four-wicket hauls from slow left-arm bowlers Enamul Haque and Naeem Islam Junior helped Mohammedan post an easy

The game was over early as Upul Tharanga's 47 and Saikat Ali's 42 led hem home in 31.5 overs with seven wickets in hand. Skipper Mushfiqur Rahim, who has scored half-centuries in each of the club's first three outings, was not needed to don his batting gear during the one-sided match.

Half-centuries from Asif Ahmed and Sajjadul Haque led Ruppangj to a 29-run win over Kalabagan Cricket Academy at the BKSP. Asif scored 82 off 106 balls while Sajjadul 70 off 78 with three sixes. The interesting thing is that Kalabagan were initially struggling at 81 for five in 23.1 overs with their key batsmen, including Soumya, having departed early. Pacer Abu Jayed was the chief destroyer with a four-wicket haul.

However, Asif, who came in at five, and Sajjadul at seven turned the game around with a 131-run stand. After the exchange, Kalabagan were restricted to 141 for seven. Due to rain during the innings break, the target was reduced to 171 from 25 overs, which KCA were well short of.



ABDUR RAZZAK... 4 for 32



ENAMUL HAQUE... 4 for 26



NAEEM ISLAM... 4 for 38

game, bettered his performance and smacked 115 off 105 balls. Coming in at three, he hit 10 fours and two sixes and helped KKB post 270. The rest of the team however failed to contribute except for Sadman Islam, who scored 47.

win over Gazi Group. Batting first, they were bundled out for just 141. Alok Kapali, who scored 48, was the only batsman who seemed to be able to negotiate the bowlers well. However, the rest of the team crumbled against Mohammedan's spinners.

Everyone is playing their part: Nasir

SPORTS REPORTER



At the end of four rounds of the Dhaka Premier League, Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club handsomely sit at the top with a perfect score: four wins in four games. Except for the game against Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's Kalabagan Krira Chakra, which they edged through by four runs, they did not have to sweat for any of the wins.

Critics may argue that the reason behind Doleshwar's good start is the fact that they played their opening games against teams that have been struggling at the bottom of the table. And that a better measure of the strength of the team will be revealed once they lock horns with the likes of Abahani, Mohammedan or Prime Bank.

While that may be a logical analysis, one cannot ignore the brilliant balance that the team has shown so far. They have got a strong batting order led at the top by Imtiaz Hossain, who has already scored two centuries and a 73. He has been well supported by the likes of Rakibul Hasan, Nasir Hossain and Rony Talukdar.

On the bowling front, they have got other bowlers performing apart from their strike pacer Al-Amin Hossain. The likes of Sanjamul Islam and Forhad Reza have been regular performers in domestic cricket and their good form seems to be continuing.

The best part about the team is that they all seem to be feeding off each other's good form. That was an aspect Nasir emphasised on when asked about the reason behind his side's good run.

"There's no secret really. It's just that no one is winning it alone for us. Somehow or the other, everyone has ended up playing a helping hand in the games. That's the good part about our team. The spirit is really high," said Nasir at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Nasir, who has scalped four wickets and has averaged above 70 in the tournament so far, himself has been in good touch.

"It feels good. I have plenty of confidence at the moment. I have been working really hard in the nets and I am doing whatever it takes to do well. I really want to hold on to this form," he said.

On a separate note, the all-rounder was impressed with the way the under-19 players have performed in the league so far.

"Earlier teams used to depend on foreign players. But that's not the case now. Our own players are winning matches for the teams. They are scoring centuries and taking five-wicket hauls.

"There's plenty of competition among ourselves as well. It's good to see the youngsters and under-19 players doing well," said Nasir.



SCORES IN BRIEF			
RUPGANJ: 239 for 9 (Asif 82, Sajjadul 70; Abu 4-50, Rifat 2-27, Mehedi 2-29)	Result: Legends of Ruppangj won by 29 runs (D/L method).	CCS: 221 for 8 (Uttam 63, Pinak 42; Razzak 4-32, Mashrafe 2-43)	Shamsur 26; Enamul 4-26, Naeem Jr 4-38
KALABAGAN CA: 141 for 7 (Taposh 37 not out, Bishwanath 32 not out; Nahidul 2-15, Mosharraf 2-19)	KALABAGAN KC: 270 for 9 (Masakadza 115, Sadman 47; Nasum 3-47, Salman 2-49, Uttam 2-25)	Result: Kalabagan Krira Chakra won by 49 runs.	MOHAMMEDAN: 142 for 3 in 31.5 overs (Tharanga 47, Saikat 42; Sajedul 1-27, Kapali 1-31)
		GAZI GROUP: 141 all out in 37.1 overs (Kapali 48,	Result: Mohammedan won by seven wickets.

Sunrisers tame Lions

SPORTS REPORTER

On the back of brilliant bowling performances from Mustafizur Rahman and Bhuvaneshwar Kumar, the Sunrisers Hyderabad romped to a five-wicket win over the Gujarat Lions at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Hyderabad yesterday.

Although the game was much closer than it perhaps should have been, the result means that Hyderabad are now fourth with 10 points, two behind leaders Kolkata Knight Riders. Hyderabad however have a match in hand.

Gujarat Lions stayed second in the table with 10 points, but they have played ten games, two more than Hyderabad.

Hyderabad captain David Warner decided to put his bowling arsenal to work, opting to bowl after winning the toss.

His plan worked brilliantly as the bowlers took wickets at regular intervals to reduce Gujarat to 4-34 within the first eight overs.

Kumar struck in his second over picking up the wicket of Dwayne Smith with an outswinger which was caught safely by Mustafizur at short third man. He then returned in his third to dismiss Suresh Raina, taking a simple catch as the ball was

lobbed back to him.

Then it was time for the Mustafizur show.

He came on with Brendon McCullum at the crease and bowled his now-famous cutter. Baz took the bait and swung wildly at the delivery, which looped high into the air with Shikhar Dhawan settling underneath. Astonishingly, he missed the catch, somehow trapping the ball between his hand and chest, but the ball bounced out as he fell.

However, it took Fizz just three balls to claim a deserved scalp. Dinesh Karthik played two dot balls before flashing at a delivery outside off. The ball went hard, but Kane Williamson took a stunning catch to give Fizz his first wicket.

He returned to pick up Jadeja's wicket and gave away just 17 runs in his four overs.

After the exchange, a dynamic start from Warner and a composed 40-ball 47 took Hyderabad home.

SCORES IN BRIEF

GUJARAT: 126 for 6 in 20 overs (Finch 51 not out, Raina 20; Mustafizur 2-17, Kumar 2-28)
HYDERABAD: 129 for 5 in 19 overs (Dhawan 47 not out, Warner 24; Kulkarni 2-17, Bravo 2-14)
Result: Hyderabad won by 5 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: B Kumar.

Arthur named Pakistan coach

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan Friday appointed South African Mickey Arthur as head coach of their national cricket team, replacing Waqar Younis who resigned after a disastrous World Twenty20 last month.

Arthur "has confirmed his acceptance of the post of Head Coach of the Pakistan National Cricket team" after a "detailed and transparent process", the PCB said in a statement.

"The modalities vis-à-vis his contract are being finalised. It is expected that Arthur will join the PCB toward the end of this month," the statement continued.

Arthur successfully coached his native South Africa from 2005-2010 before migrating to Australia, where he remained coach for 19 months.

But he found his job in danger after Australia lost a Test series in India followed by a poor showing at the Champions Trophy in England, and was sacked just before the 2013 Ashes.

Arthur's first task will be to prepare his team for their upcoming tour of England, where Pakistan plays four Tests, a Twenty20 and five one-day internationals.

He is faced with the difficult task of lifting his players from their lowest-ever world ranking of ninth in one-day cricket.

But the PCB expressed faith in their new coach, saying he has an outstanding record and led South Africa to world number one rankings across all formats.



Usha Krira Chakra players are elated after overcoming Mohammedan in a penalty shootout in the semifinal of the Marcel Club Cup at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Usha in final again

SPORTS REPORTER



Holders Usha Krira Chakra moved into the final of the Marcel Club Cup with a 4-2 shootout victory in the first semifinal over Mohammedan SC after regulation time produced a pulsating 3-3 draw at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

National striker Pushkor Khisha Mimo converted the fifth penalty stroke to send Usha to their third consecutive final after goalkeeper Abu Sayeed Nippon had brilliantly blocked the third and fourth strokes from Mohammedan's Kamruzzaman Rana and Omar Bhutto.

Krishna Kumar, Faisal Bin Shari and Naimuddin had earlier converted their strokes for Usha within stipulated eight seconds after Mahbub

Hossain saw his opening stroke blocked by Mohammedan goalkeeper Zahid Hossain. Pakistani duo of Taswar Abbas and Rizwan Jr. converted the first two shots for Mohammedan.

Though both sides fielded four foreign players each in the high-voltage match, it virtually failed to bring the excitement except for the last two goals as local players struggled due to lack of fitness.

Krishna put Usha ahead in the seventh minute before Taswar, after being set up by Rana, levelled the margin with a reverse-hit in the 28th minute.

With the backline of Usha looking tired, Mohammedan took the lead in the 39th minute, with Salman Hossain running from the right flank to enter the circle before cutting it back to Bhutto, who tapped home. The lead, though, lasted only two

minutes as Usha hit back through Shafiq Bin Cholan, who converted the penalty corner after four earlier PCs had gone in vain.

With only two minutes left to the final whistle, Bhutto restored Mohammedan's with a harmless reverse-hit, with Nippon failing to stop the shot.

As the Black and Whites were dreaming of moving into the final for the first time since 2010, Mimo smashed the ball at the back of the board to level the margin after connecting a fierce-hit from Ismail Bin Abu with just a few seconds left. The match rolled into shootout where Usha came up trumps to reach the tournament's final for the seventh time in 11 editions.

Usha will take on the winners of today's second semifinal between Abahani and Mariners Youngs Club in the final on May 9.



DYNAMIC DUO: Mustafizur Rahman and Bhuvaneshwar Kumar formed a lethal partnership yesterday as the Sunrisers Hyderabad defeat Gujarat Lions by five wickets. Between them, the pair took four wickets and conceded just 45 runs.

PHOTO: BCCI