

SPORT

'Happier than ever'

Shahadat ban lifted

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has lifted the temporary suspension it had imposed on Shahadat Hossain in September last year. The pacer has been allowed to take part in the ongoing Dhaka Premier League (DPL) and will be playing for Abahani Limited, despite having trained with Mohammedan Sporting Club in the last few days.

The pacer was temporarily suspended by the BCB in September last year after a domestic help brought allegations of torture against Shahadat and his wife and also filed a case against them under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act. Shahadat was arrested on October 5 and granted bail in December.

While Shahadat can take part in the DPL, he however will not be in contention for the national team until a verdict regarding the case, which is still pending, is reached.

The BCB however, withdrew the suspension based on 'humanitarian grounds'. According to the BCB CEO, Nizamuddin Chowdhury, Shahadat appealed against the suspension and also provided the board with a document that showed that Shahadat had reached an agreement with the victim and her family.

Speaking to reporters at Mirpur yesterday, Nizamuddin said: "Shahadat was temporarily suspended due to an unexpected incident. He then appealed to the BCB. Later we came to know that Shahadat and the complainant had reached an agreement. He submitted that document to us."

"We haven't given him any permission to play in the national team. We are waiting for the full verdict from the court and we can't take a decision before that. We considered his request on humanitarian grounds.

"He is a professional cricketer and this is his only source of income. He was outside cricket for a long time and he had a financial strain. We analysed the entire scenario and decided to lift the suspension," the CEO added.

While speaking to reporters in Mirpur yesterday Shahadat expressed his relief after the decision was announced.

"To me this decision means everything. I have come out of bad times before, but this decision tops all of that. I think I am happier than the time I got bail and got out of jail in December.

"Yes I did have tough times while I was in jail, but my entire life depended upon this decision. If I can't play cricket, there's not much to do. And that's why this decision means so much to me," said Shahadat.

"I have played for the national team for 10 years and I believe that I can play there for five to six more years. The last few months were tough, but I was adamant to do well. I even worked on my fitness when I was in jail, even though there wasn't a gym there," he added.

When asked as to why he decided to play for Abahani as opposed to Mohammedan, a side he trained with in the last few days, he said: "It was a decision that my family and I thought would be the best for me."



Shamsur Rahman (L) and Anamul Haque put on 155 runs for the opening wicket to help Gazi Group Cricketers seal a comfortable win over Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's Kalabagan Krira Chakra at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Three-digit tonic for Riyad & Marshall

SPORTS REPORTER



The fifth round of the Dhaka Premier League ended yesterday with batting exhibitions from Mahmudullah Riyad and Marshall Ayub at BKSP, which guided Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club to their third success with a 90-run victory over Cricket Coaching School (CCS). The two batsmen shared a 203-run third-wicket partnership on way to their individual tons, helping Sheikh Jamal post a formidable 290 for five.

In March last year, during the World Cup in Australia-New Zealand, Riyad secured a prominent place in Bangladesh's cricket history by hitting consecutive hundreds against England and New Zealand, memories of which are still fresh in the minds of millions of cricket fans. Still there was no shortage of excitement in the elegant right-hander after he made a 139-ball 130, his first century in the ongoing competition, as he said: "A three-digit figure is always a tonic for any batsman because it gives that player huge confidence."

As a captain Riyad however was more interested to praise his partner rather than talking about his own knock, which

featured eight fours and five sixes.

"I enjoyed the partnership most. Someone can definitely enjoy his batting if he has a batsman like Marshall at the other end. We have a good understanding as we have had enough experience of batting



MAHMUDULLAH RIYAD... 130

together. His calmness and batting style is always nice and pleasing to watch from the other end," said Riyad about Marshall Ayub's maiden List A century.

"It feels good as it was my first List A hundred though I had some hundreds in

the league [before the DPL attained List A status]. My average is not good in limited-over cricket and even the young cricketers have better averages than me. So this innings gives me the confidence. I am out of the national side but I always take inspi-



MARSHALL AYUB... 103

ration from the young cricketers. I am getting the opportunity to bat at number three, so I am trying to cash in on it," said Marshall while talking about his 115-ball 103, which featured 12 boundaries.

At the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium

in Fatullah, two foreigners stole the show as Sri Lankan Upul Tharanga cancelled out Indian Jatin Saxena to help Mohammedan secure a four-wicket victory against Kalabagan Cricket Academy in a rain-interrupted match.

In reply to Kalabagan's 231, Mohammedan were at 97 for one in 20.5 overs when the match was stopped due to rain.

Mohammedan then needed to overcome the revised target of 207 runs in 43 overs and Tharanga's unbeaten 90 off 114 balls ensured that they achieved the target with three balls to spare and thus Jatin's 100-ball 97 went in vain. Opener Ezaz Ahmed was the other notable contributor for Mohammedan with a 68-ball 60 that contained two fours and four sixes.

At the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, a 155-run unbeaten opening partnership between Anamul Haque and Shamsur Rahman scripted the easy victory for Gazi Group against the Mashrafe Bin Mortaza-led Kalabagan Krira Chakra.

The partnership came to an end when Anamul retired hurt with a cramp after making an 83-ball 70 while Shamsur added a 91-ball 75 as Gazi overtook their opponent's 223 in 45.3 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SHEIKH JAMAL: 290-5 in 50 overs (Marshall 103, Riyad 130; Mehra 3-45, Saleh Ahmed 2-38)
CCS: 200 all out in 48.3 overs (Saif 47, Rajin 51; Shafiqul 2-28, Muktar 2-40, Mendis 2-15)

Result: Sheikh Jamal won by 90 runs.
KALABAGAN KC: 223 all out in 48.4 overs (Masakadza 40, Tasamul 47; Saeed 2-39, Moinul 2-27)
GAZI: 225-4 in 45.3 overs (Anamul 70, Shamsur 75;

Mashrafe 2-43)
Result: Gazi Group Cricketers won by six wickets.
KALABAGAN CA: 231 all out in 49.2 overs (Myshukur 31, Jatin 96, Miraz 50; Naem 2-54, Enamul 3-46, Naem 2-56)

MOHAMMEDAN: 210-6 in 42.3 overs (Ezaz 60, Tharanga 90 not out; Bishawnath 2-39)
Result: Mohammedan won by four wickets in D/L method.

AFC Cup Sk Jamal end with heavy defeat

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club completed their debut AFC Cup campaign with a humiliating 5-0 defeat to Ceres La Salle FC at the Pana-ad Park and Football Stadium in Bacolod City, Philippines yesterday.

The three-time Bangladesh Premier League champions, who had confirmed their elimination from the group stages after suffering four successive defeats, finished the campaign with a single win and having conceded 19 goals in six outings.

The Dhanmondi giants had gone to Philippines with high hopes after winning their previous match against Tampines Rovers 3-2 at home last month, but had to surrender meekly to the Philippines outfit, thanks to a hat-trick by Adrian Gallardo, who had also scored a brace against Sheikh Jamal in Dhaka in March.

Ceres La Salle, who emerged group champions with 12 points from six matches to move into the round of 16, took only eight minutes to open the scoring when Bienvenido Maranon put them ahead before Gallardo doubled the lead one minute later. The Spaniard completed his hat-trick by scoring in the 58th and 65th minutes before Patrick Reichelt completed the rout in the 70th minute.

In the other group match, Tampines Rovers beat Selangor FA 1-0 to seal the second qualifying spot from Group E.

Manohar resigns from BCCI

APP, New Delhi



Shashank Manohar resigned as the president of the Indian cricket board on Tuesday, as the embattled organisation comes under growing pressure from the country's top court to introduce wide-ranging reforms.

Manohar wrote to board secretary Anurag Thakur to announce his resignation "with immediate effect," in a move expected to trigger his bid for re-election as chairman of the International Cricket Council.

"The BCCI confirms that Mr. Shashank Manohar has resigned from the post of President, BCCI," Thakur said in a statement.

"He has also resigned as the BCCI representative on the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Asian Cricket Council.

"The BCCI places on record its deep appreciation of the immense contribution to Indian cricket made by Mr. Manohar."

Manohar had only been in his post since October last year, when he returned for a second stint as president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in the wake of the death of Jagmohan Dalmiya.

The 58-year-old lawyer had been widely regarded as a safe pair of hands who could bring some much needed stability to a board whose reputation has been tarnished by several scandals.

Manohar had pledged to clean up the board after being elected as head of what is the most powerful body in world cricket.

After becoming BCCI president, Manohar swiftly moved to topple another of his predecessors, Narayanaswami Srinivasan, from the ICC chairmanship and reverse some of the recent rule changes that had been designed to give greater power to India, England and Australia.

Manohar had publicly blamed Srinivasan for bringing the BCCI into disrepute following a Supreme Court probe that found Srinivasan's son-in-law guilty of corruption in the Indian Premier League.

Indian newspapers have been reporting for several days that Manohar would resign his post at the BCCI in order to stand for re-election as ICC head.

Under reforms that Manohar had himself supported, it will soon no longer be possible to be chairman of the ICC and head up the national board of one of its member countries.

In the wake of the IPL corruption scandal, India's Supreme Court commissioned retired judge Rajendra Mal Lodha to draw up a report on the BCCI's governance in a bid to avoid future conflicts of interest.

The Lodha Committee recommended that the board introduce term and age limits for its office bearers and a ban on television adverts in between overs during live broadcasts.

Its mega rights deals with Indian broadcasters have helped make the BCCI by far the wealthiest board in world cricket.

Many of the game's smaller Test-playing nations have been accused of bending to India's demands in the ICC, desperate to attract tours by India which can ensure their financial security.

Ump Nadir hit on head

SPORTS REPORTER

The match between Mohammedan and Kalabagan Cricket Academy at Fatullah yesterday needed the services of the reserve umpire after regular umpire Nadir Shah was injured in an on-field incident.

Shah could not continue officiating the match after a straight drive from Mohammedan's Ezaz Ahmed deflected off the bowler and struck Shah's head.

Speaking to The Daily Star after the accident, Shah said that he was fine and that there was nothing to worry about.

"I called my doctor and I was prescribed with a few antibiotics. My head feels a little heavy but it should be fine. After that blow I couldn't officiate the match any further. Instead I just got off the field and took some rest. That helped quite a bit. I was feeling much better after," he said yesterday evening.

"I have been umpiring for so long and this is the first time that such an incident has taken place," he added with a chuckle.

The ongoing Dhaka Premier League is the first competition that Shah is officiating since the Bangladesh Cricket Board lifted a 10-year ban for corruption.

Sunrisers hold nerve to take top spot

PTI, Vishakhapatnam



Despite a superb six-wicket haul by leg-spinner Adam Zampa, Rising Pune Supergiants suffered a narrow four-run loss against Sunrisers Hyderabad in an IPL clash to end their hopes of qualifying for the knockout stage, here on Tuesday.

It was the best bowling figures by an Australian in T20s as Zampa claimed six for 19 in his four overs to help Pune restrict Sunrisers to a modest 137 for eight after skipper David Warner elected to bat.

For Hyderabad, Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman bowled with his customary verve and accuracy, contributing to the exciting win by conceding just eight runs in the penultimate over which started with Pune needing 22 off the last two. His wicketless spell keeps him in joint-second place in the following over -- along the ground to deep cover for two.

Mustafizur's teammates also put in a disciplined effort, led by the veteran seamer Nehra, who claimed three wickets, to restrict Pune to 133 for eight in 20 overs. Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Moises Henrique and Barinder Sran also chipped in with a wicket each.

In the end, Pune needed 14 runs off the last over and Dhoni blasted Nehra's fourth ball for a six but he was run out in the next ball. Zampa too was dismissed in the last ball as Pune suffered yet another loss.

With this win Sunrisers reached the top of the points table with 14 points.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD: 137 for 8 in 20 overs (Warner 11, Dhawan 33, Williamson 32, Yuvraj 23, Henriques 10, Hooda 14; Zampa 6-19)
RISING PUNE SUPERGIANTS: 133 for 8 in 20 overs (Khawaja 11, Bailey 34, Ashwin 29, Dhoni 30, Perera 17; Nehra 3-29)
Result: Sunrisers Hyderabad won by 4 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Adam Zampa.

England can whitewash SL: Anderson

AGENCIES, London

England pacer James Anderson believes that his side can whitewash Sri Lanka when they lock horns in a three-Test series from May 19.

England are presently riding high after a 2-1 series win over South Africa in January, and Anderson said the recent run of form will hold them in good stead.

"If we build on how we played in the winter then there's no doubt we can win 3-0," Anderson was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au on Tuesday.

"Home conditions against a rebuilding Sri Lanka provides a great opportunity for us but it's important we concentrate on ourselves. If we do get everything right then there's no doubt in my mind we'll win," he added.

The last time Sri Lanka toured England, they had notched up a 1-0 Test series win. Anderson was the last wicket to fall in the deciding Test in 2014 at Leeds after making a remarkable 55-ball duck as he came perilously close to hanging on for a draw with all rounder Moeen Ali (108 n.o.).

"It was right up there with my worst moments," Anderson said.

"It had been a long game and to get within two balls of saving it left me crushed at the end. Hopefully we won't be in that situation this time."