

SPORT



Mohammedan picked only one fast bowler in Subashis Roy (C), and one was all they needed as the paceman turned in a hostile performance to prise three wickets to defeat archrivals Abahani in their Dhaka Premier League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Mohammedan win Mirpur anticlimax

SPORTS REPORTER

An impressive spell of pace bowling from Subashis Roy, a few clean hits from Ezaz Ahmed, an eye-catching cut and a drive from Mushfiqur Rahim, a beautiful cover-drive from Sri Lankan Upul Tharanga; these were the few things one could take from yesterday's highly anticipated clash between the two traditional rivals Abahani and Mohammedan in the Dhaka Premier League.

But excitement or intense rivalry was conspicuous by its absence in Mirpur and in the end it could not live up to the billing as Mohammedan simply outclassed their archrivals to stay at the top of the table with 10 points. Within the first six overs the fate of the match seemed

to have been decided when Abahani were reduced to 15 for three. Taskin Ahmed's unbeaten 38-run knock finally saw Abahani putting up 183 runs on the board. Had it been the 1980s or '90s, one could still have kept hope, but those days are gone and Mohammedan, riding on Tharanga's unbeaten 77, ensured that Abahani paid the price for their poor batting to put their Super League berth at risk by losing three matches in six games.

One can in no way discount Mohammedan's good bowling effort, especially the way Subashis terrorised the batsmen with the rising deliveries while the slow bowlers bowled in perfect areas. But Abahani captain Tamim Iqbal best described why it became a one-sided affair.

"Even with best team in the world you cannot win a match if you play like we

SCORES IN BRIEF

ABAHANI: 183 all out in 48.4 overs (Nazmul 42, Taskin 38 not out; Subashis 3-34, Habibur 2-30, Naeem 2-30)
MOHAMMEDAN: 185-2 in 43.5 overs (Ezaz 42, Tharanga 77 not out, Naeem 25 not out)
Result: Mohammedan Sporting Club won by 8

have been playing," said the left-hander while reflecting on his side's poor batting approach. Some batsmen like 31-year old Indian batsman Manvinder Bisla (23), Nazmul Hossain (42) and Mosaddek Hossain (27) threw their wickets away after settling in the middle and thus Abahani's batting got worse in the crucial match, failing to give their weak bowling attack any chance to avoid their third defeat in Mirpur.

Tamim chased a delivery outside off-

stump from Subashis to offer a catch to slip in the first over while spinner Habibur Rahman took the wickets of Liton Das and Avishek Mitra to initiate the early collapse, after which Abahani could do little to post a challenging total. A 51-run eighth wicket partnership between Abul Hasan and Taskin averted total embarrassment but could not prevent the huge defeat.

Subashis was adjudged man of the match for his bowling figure of three for 34. The pacer said that there was something for the pace bowlers in the pitch. In spite of the assistance on offer, Mohammedan played the match with only one pacer and one could be disappointed with the old-fashioned strategy but in the end they were the winners and reestablished the claim that they have a balanced spin attack which has got the ability to make the difference.

Why so serious?

BISHWAJIT ROY



Mushfiqur Rahim was in high demand after his team Mohammedan won the battle of prestige against archrivals Abahani at Mirpur yesterday. It is but natural to want to hear the thoughts of a captain whose side won a crucial match quite comfortably.

And if that man also happened to be the Bangladesh Test captain the demand obviously would be redoubled, so the reporters sent the message continuously to the dressing room through the club officials but every time the officials returned with gloomy faces.

"He [Mushfiqur Rahim] said no. I don't know why he has been giving the cold shoulder to the media," was the answer given by Ziaur Rahman Topu, a Mohammedan official. The reporters have also no clear idea about why he was so desperate to avoid the media. It was even difficult for the wicketkeeper-batsman to allow the presence of some media people who went to the ground the other day to gather



Perera dope test botched, cleared to play

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan wicketkeeper Kusal Perera targeted a swift return Thursday to international cricket after officials admitted the analysis of a doping test which triggered his suspension had been botched.

An emotional Perera told reporters he had suffered "tremendous mental stress" after testing positive for a banned anabolic steroid in Qatar last year but insisted he always knew he would be eventually cleared.

"I had not done anything wrong, but I went through tremendous mental stress," Perera said at a press conference staged by Sri Lanka's board.

"I want to start practising and get back to international cricket at the earliest."

The 25-year-old said he was hopeful of being fit and ready to play in the home series against Australia at the end of July, linking up with his teammates who are currently on tour in England.

"I thank my fans and the board who stood by me during this trying period. I knew I would be cleared. I am relieved all this is over and I want to get back into form."

While Perera was suspended during Sri Lanka's tour of New Zealand last December, his positive result came from out-of-competition testing at a laboratory in Qatar accredited by the world antidoping authority (WADA).

But the International Cricket Council (ICC) lifted the suspension with immediate effect late Wednesday when it described the test as "an atypical finding" that could not be construed as evidence of doping.

"We regret what Mr. Perera has had to endure, and would like to commend him for the manner in which he has conducted himself throughout this period," ICC chief executive David Richardson said in a statement.

Victoria take 2nd spot after Shuvo ton

SPORTS REPORTER



Suhrawardi Shuvo hit his maiden List A hundred as Victoria Sporting Club cruised to a nine-run victory (Duckworth-Lewis Method) against Prime Bank Cricket Club in the rain-affected Dhaka Premier League match at BKSP yesterday.

Victoria jumped to second position on the points table with nine points from six matches while Legends of Rupganj secured the third position also with the same number of points after beating Prime Doleshwar by six wickets at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah.

At BKSP, Shuvo took charge along with the in-form Al-Amin in chase of a 275-run target. The left-hander hit six fours and two sixes during his 118-ball 105 and added 155 runs for the third wicket with Al-Amin, whose unbeaten 90-ball 82 featured six fours and a six.

With Victoria requiring 64 off 47 balls, rain forced the game to be called off with the score on 211 for two in 42.1 overs with Victoria needing 203 runs to win in 42.1 overs according to the D/L method.

Earlier, Prime Bank rode on Mehedi Maruf's 63 to post 274 for seven. Maruf struck nine fours and two sixes during his 70-ball innings. Kamrul Islam Rabbi and Enamul Haque took two wickets each.

At Fatullah, Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club suffered their second defeat in six matches following a poor batting effort.

Half-centuries from Mohammad Mithun, Mosharraf Hossain and Asif Ahmed guided Legends of Rupganj to reach the target of 217 runs with six wickets and 22 balls remaining.

Mithun and Mosharraf added 63 runs for the third wicket. Mithun made 51 off 66 balls before Mosharraf, who top-scored with 81, added 96 with Asif for the fourth wicket. Asif was unbeaten on 51 off 59 balls while Mosharraf struck seven

fours and three sixes in his 98-ball knock.

Earlier, Doleshwar could only manage 216 runs before they were bundled out in 48.2 overs. Sri Lankan Chamara Silva made the team-highest 89 that came from 76 balls with seven fours and a six. He put on a 67-run seventh-wicket stand with Sunzamul Islam, who made 25.

Left-arm bowler Abu Hider and offspinner Nahidul Islam took two wickets each..



SUHRWARDI SHUVO... 105 not out



MOSHARRAF HOSSAIN... 81

SCORES IN BRIEF

PRIME BANK: 274 for 7 in 50 overs (Mehedi 63, Shahnaj 36, Nurul 40, Taibur 45, Rana 35 not out; Kamrul 2-53, Enamul 2-31)
VICTORIA: 211 for 2 in 42.1 overs (Shuvo 105 not out, Al-Amin 82 not out)
Result: Victoria won by 9 runs (D/L method)

PRIME DOLESHWAR: 216 all out in 48.2 overs (Silva 89; Hider 2-25, Nahidul 2-52)
RUPGANJ: 222 for 4 in 46.2 overs (Mithun 51, Mosharraf 81, Asif 51 not out)
Result: Legends of Rupganj won by 6 wickets.

Manohar elected chairman

AFP, New Delhi



Former Indian cricket supremo Shankar Manohar became the first elected chairman of the International Cricket Council on Thursday, unanimously chosen by his peers to lead the game's world governing body.

"It is an honour to be elected as the chairman of the International Cricket Council and for that I am thankful to all the ICC directors who have put their faith and trust in my abilities," Manohar said in a statement after the election at a meeting in Dubai.

"I look forward to working with all stakeholders to shape the future of cricket, which has a proud history and rich tradition."

Manohar had been serving as head of the ICC in his role as president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in line with the organisation's previous system of revolving chairmanships.

But under reforms that he himself had championed, the ICC has amended its constitution to bring in direct elections for the position which will now be officially an

independent post.

The 58-year-old Manohar had resigned as BCCI president on Tuesday in a move that freed him up to run for the ICC chairmanship, and his election had been widely predicted.

In its statement, the ICC said Manohar had been the sole nominee for the position and was "unanimously elected" for a two-year term.

Under the new reforms, the largely ceremonial position of ICC president has now been scrapped.

Manohar, who is a successful lawyer, had only taken over as BCCI president in October 2015 when he returned for a second stint in the position after the death of veteran administrator Jagmohan Dalmiya.

But he became frustrated after coming under pressure to introduce reforms to the BCCI's governance recommended by a panel convened by the Supreme Court, including age limits for the organisation's office-holders.

In an interview published by The Times of India on Wednesday, Manohar said his "conscience no longer permits me to continue" as BCCI president, and added that the recommended reforms were "not in the interests of the board".



India keen to host D/N Test with Oz

IANS, Adelaide

India wants to host Australia in a day-night Test match during their tour in 2017, Cricket Australia (CA) chief executive officer James Sutherland said on Thursday.

He said the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) officials had already reached out about pitting the two teams' against each other next year.

India are also planning to host their first day-night Test against New Zealand later this year.

The pink-ball format is steadily gaining a foothold with Pakistan also interested in playing Sri Lanka under lights.

"I think there's certainly some positive signals coming out of India and other parts of the world regarding day-night Tests."

A rare off day for Fizz

SPORTS DESK



It was one of those rare off days for Mustafizur Rahman and his team Sunrisers Hyderabad that suffered a punishing seven-wicket defeat against Delhi Daredevils at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium yesterday.

The Bangladesh pace prodigy went for 39 runs in his four overs without any success as Hyderabad failed to defend a sub-par score of 146. Mustafizur, who has so far captured 13 wickets in side's impressive runs in this year's IPL, conceded eight runs in his first over. He was expensive in his second and fourth over. Rishabh Pant and Sanju Samson, who put on 72 runs for the unbroken fourth wicket, took their side to an easy win with 11 balls to spare.

Pant, who struck 39 off 26 balls after South African opener Qunton de Kock had laid the foundation with 44, was particularly savage on those Mustafizur low full tosses, smashing two sixes against him. It was the most expensive bowling figure for Mustafizur in the IPL where the bowler with lethal cutters earned respect from top batsmen in the world.

Earlier, Sunrisers, who went into the game as leaders of the eight-team table, failed to build on an impressive start. Captain David Warner struck a fluent 44 and his opening partner Shikhar Dhawan scored 34. But they fell like a pack of cards after that with Yuvraj Singh failing to make any impact, scoring just eight runs. The victory however served as a boost for Daredevils to stay afloat in the race for the four-team knock-out stage.

Tait joins Kolkata

AFP, New Delhi

Australian fast bowler Shaun Tait has joined Indian Premier League side Kolkata Knight Riders for the rest of the season, replacing compatriot John Hastings who returned home with an ankle injury.

Tait, who went unsold in auctions held in February for IPL teams, joins a long list of Australian players taking part in the latest edition of the cash-rich league.

"Pleasure to welcome @shaun_tait32 to @KKRiders family. Welcome Taity!," Kolkata chief executive Venky Mysore wrote on Twitter.

The 33-year-old speedster will join fellow Australians Chris Lynn and Brad Hogg at KKR, which is in a strong position to qualify for the playoffs.

Tait is set for a second IPL stint after previously representing the former Rajasthan Royals, where he picked up 23 wickets at an average of 27.82 in 21 matches.