



Led to a win by skipper Mahmudullah Riyad's elegant 114-ball 107 and crucial three-wicket haul against Brothers Union at the Savar BKSP yesterday, Sheikh Jamal rose to fourth place in the Dhaka Premier League yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

New selection formula in the works

SPORTS REPORTER



The working committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has proposed a complete revamp of the national selection panel after a meeting yesterday. As per the recommendation, the new selection panel will consist of four selectors, the national team's head coach and manager, apart from the chairman of the cricket operations committee. The decision on whether this proposal is to be adopted will be taken at BCB's next board meeting, due to take place within a week.

The three incumbent selectors Faruque Ahmed, Minhajul Abedin and Habibul Bashar are most likely to get a new contract and one more selector, most likely from the current age-group panel, will join them.

"The current selection panel's contract has already expired and that is why the board asked us to give a recommendation regarding the new panel. We realised that there were some problems in understanding and there was a communication gap between the national team management and the selectors," said Enayet Hossain Siraj, chairman of the working committee.

"We have proposed a new structure to bring harmony. As the team management ultimately picks the playing 11, they must also have their say in selecting the main team," he added after yesterday's working committee meeting at a restaurant in Gulshan.

"Basically, the selectors will pick the team but the head coach and the manager will give their input, while as the head of the panel, the cricket operations chairman will conduct all the planning and provide guidelines to the selectors about how to do their duty and how to scout new talent," informed Jalal Yunus, a working committee member.

"The coach and manager being part of the selection panel is nothing new as England and Australia are already doing that. We felt that it will help to avoid the existing discord between the selectors and the team management. Our main objective is to ensure a coordinated effort in the selection procedure. We proposed a one-year contract to see whether the new structure is effective or not," continued Yunus.

According to sources close to the developments, age-group selector Sajjad Ahmed is most likely to join the senior panel while the name of former national batsman Hannan Sarkar was also discussed.

The working committee talked about the much-discussed issue of forming a bowling review committee to deal with illegal bowling actions in domestic cricket.

"You see, already a lot of complaints about illegal bowling actions in the ongoing Dhaka Premier League came from the umpires. We have proposed a committee comprising five to seven members with former pace bowlers, spin bowlers, coaches and a computer analyst," informed Siraj.

BCB media committee chairman Jalal Yunus is most likely to head the committee.

Siraj also informed that they have discussed a proposal from International Cricket Council (ICC) which suggested a two-tier Test competition. "It's just a proposal from ICC where they are seeking opinions from the member countries. It suggests a top tier with the top seven Test nations and a lower tier with the bottom three and the two top Associate member nations. The top team from the lower tier will qualify to the top tier and the bottom team from the top tier will be demoted to the lower tier every two years."

The working committee also discussed an ICC proposal that mooted a two-tier Test competition

Riyad's all-round show dazzles BU

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club skipper Mahmudullah Riyad came up with a stellar all-round show to clinch a nail-biting victory by 11 runs over Brothers Union in their Dhaka Premier League eighth-round match at the BKSP in Savar yesterday. The elegant right-hander hit a century that took him past 5,000 List A runs and then picked up three crucial wickets with his off-spin when things were getting tight in Brothers' chase.

In the day's other matches, Mohammad Mithun scored 90 to help Legends of Rugganj defeat Cricket Coaching School by six wickets in Fatullah. Meanwhile, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur the Mashrafe Bin Mortaza-led Kalabagan Krira Chakra put one over Victoria Sporting Club, beating the higher-placed side by eight runs courtesy of a fine innings from Mehrab Hossain Jnr and crafty bowling from the captain.

At the BKSP, Riyad came in to bat when Sheikh Jamal were reduced to 52 for two in 13 overs after being asked to bat. He then put on a 119-run third-wicket partnership with Marshall Ayub, with whom the national star had shared a double-century partnership earlier in the season. Riyad hit five fours and three sixes in his 114-ball 107, an innings

made all the more special when he reached 71 and became the fourth Bangladeshi after Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim and Shakib Al Hasan to cross 5,000 List A runs.

Sheikh Jamal's innings relied mostly on these two -- Marshall scored an 84-ball 54 with three boundaries -- as the next highest score was opener Abdullah Al Mamun's 27.

Riyad was stumped off Milind Kumar in the last ball of the 48th over with the score on 236 for five and the remaining batsmen took the score to 252 for eight. Sanjit Saha was the most successful bowler for Brothers with figures of three for 69.

In the chase Brothers Union gave a strong reply through opener Imrul Kayes and

number three Tushar Imran's 100-run partnership. At one stage, they were 171 for two in the 38th over, with a win seeming very possible. That is when Riyad the bowler showed up and had Imrul caught. He then added the wickets of Zakir Hasan and Nur Alam to have Brothers reeling at 215 for six in the 46th over. Riyad finished with excellent figures of three for 29 in 10 overs, many of them bowled during the death.

In Fatullah, a century from former national captain Rajin Saleh went in vain as CCS failed to defend 242. Rajin scored 106 off 138 balls with eight fours and a six. The innings was however overshadowed by Rugganj number three Mithun's 114-ball 90 and an equally important brisk, unbeaten 72 from Asif Ahmed that took Rugganj home with six wickets and 10 balls to spare.

Mashrafe marshalled his troops as only he can to defend a modest score of 213 against Victoria Sporting Club in Mirpur. Choosing to bat, Kalabagan were bowled out in 49 overs, with a 112-ball 86 from Mehrab forming the backbone of the innings. Mahbubul Anam was the main wicket-taker for Victoria, picking up three for 54. Victoria's number four Al-Amin hit 67, but Kalabagan's bowlers -- particularly off-spinner Sharifullah (3-32) and skipper Mashrafe (2-24) -- strangled the life out of Victoria's chase, getting them all out for 205.



Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's Kalabagan KC tasted just their third win of the tournament as they defeated Victoria SC by eight runs in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

SCORES IN BRIEF

Sheikh Jamal: 252 for 8 (Riyad 107, Marshall 54, Mamun 27; Sanjit 3-69, Nur 2-32)
Brothers Union: 241 for 8 (Imrul 70, Tushar 55, Arman 26; Riyad 3-29, Shafiqul 3-40)

Result: Sheikh Jamal won by 11 runs
Cricket Coaching School: 242 for 7 (Rajin 106 not out, Majumder 56, Pinak 30; Mosharraf 3-32, Tajjul 2-33)

Asif 72 not out, Soumya 22; Saif 3-38, Saeed 1-26
Result: Legends of Rugganj won by 6 wickets
Kalabagan KC: 213 all out in 49 overs (Mehrab 86, Jashimuddin 24, Tanveer 21; Mahbubul 3-54, De Silva 2-35)

Victoria SC: 205 all out in 49.4 overs (Al-Amin 67, Jubair 35 not out, De Silva 16 not out; Sharifullah 3-32, Mashrafe 2-24, Razzak 2-45)
Result: Kalabagan KC won by 8 runs.

Fizz-fired Sunrisers face Raina's Lions

SPORTS REPORTER



When Sunrisers Hyderabad take the field at the Feroz Shah Kotla today for the second time in 48 hours they will once again bank on Bangladesh's young pace bowler Mustafizur Rahman's cutters and yorkers to cross the virtual semi-final hurdle against Gujarat Lions and set up a date on Wednesday for the grand Indian Premier League (IPL) final against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Mustafizur has been a talking point in the cash-rich T20 competition ever since making his IPL debut this year. Although he did not claim a single wicket in Sunrisers' victory over Kolkata Knight Riders on Wednesday, the 20-year-old played a big part in his side's defence of a fighting 162. With 16 wickets under his belt, Mustafizur is easily the best bowler at the death in the competition with an economy of 7.28 (16-20 overs).

Mustafizur hogged the international spotlight with his slow cutters when he arrived on the big stage last year. But in the IPL it is his deadly yorkers that added additional bite to his already famous repertoire. It was again on display against Kolkata in that crucial Eliminator in the 17th and 19th overs when he conceded just 14 runs in two overs. But those runs could hardly speak for how well he bowled.

In the 17th over he bowled those yorkers so precisely and accurately that the batsmen could



only dig out and scamper for singles. It was only an odd full toss that was punished for a four by Manish Pandey. The 19th over was a classic example of a keen cricketing brain outsmarting a big-hitter like Jason Holder.

Holder faced four deliveries and struck a four which could have been a catch at mid-on had there been a taller and more agile fielder. Facing the second ball of the over, the giant West Indian charged down the wicket but ended up in no man's land as Fizz fired his famous off-cutter, which angled away. The next one was a leg-stump yorker that cramped Holder in his crease. Holder tried a reverse dab but Mustafizur, who has that uncanny ability to read a batsman's mind, adjusted his line and pace at the last moment and Holder could only take it onto his shin. There was a couple off the final delivery but it was more a case of digging a yorker to wide mid-wicket.

Considering the lofty standards he has set, Mustafizur is unlucky not to get more wickets. However that has more to do with the batsmen being reluctant to attack him, something that was evident with the likes of an all-guns-blazing MS Dhoni.

Already homesick after featuring in all 15 games for Hyderabad in a gruelling campaign, Mustafizur is now left with a maximum of two more games to accomplish a memorable IPL season for him and for his side, who are yet to win a title since being renamed from Deccan Chargers in 2012.

Shakib's return to bolster Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan is scheduled to return home today to boost Abahani in the ongoing Dhaka Premier League. Shakib returns home early from the Indian Premier League (IPL) as his side Kolkata Knight Riders were knocked out after a 22-run defeat to Sunrisers Hyderabad in the eliminator at Feroz Shah Kotla in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The return of the all-rounder came as a relief to the Abahani tent, which is struggling to make a Super League berth standing at seventh position with eight points after completion of the eighth round.

Shakib is most likely to play Abahani's ninth-round match against Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club at BKSP tomorrow. "I talked with him

(Shakib Al Hasan) today (Thursday) and he confirmed his return tomorrow (Friday). He will be available for the rest of the league for Abahani. We are desperately looking for his services," said BCB media committee chairman and Abahani official Jalal Yunus yesterday.

The Tamim Iqbal-led Abahani particularly struggled with their bowling department and Shakib joining will definitely help them in their efforts of averting the embarrassment of an early exit from the country's most prestigious 50-over tournament.

Streak ends stint with the Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh national bowling coach Heath Streak will part ways with the Tigers after his contract expires at the end of this month. He let the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) know of his decision, which comes after days of uncertainty regarding the renewal of his contract, yesterday.

Communicating with The Daily Star over Whatsapp, he wrote: "I have decided that I shall leave my role as national bowling coach when my contract expires at the end of the month. I would like to thank the BCB for opportunity afforded to me in 2014.

"It has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience and I will continue to follow Bangladesh's progress closely. I feel now is the right time for me and my family to make this decision and I look forward to the future as I look to continue my coaching career."

BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury confirmed receiving Streak's letter intimating his decision not to continue in his position, but declined to comment further on the issue.

Streak was appointed Bangladesh's bowling coach in June 2014 and was a part of the team throughout the World Cup and the ICC World Twenty20.

While he is yet to receive a job elsewhere, he did apply for a job as a bowling coach at Bangalore's National Cricket Academy recently. The Zimbabwean is currently working with the Gujarat Lions in the Indian Premier League.



Bangar named India coach for Zim tour

IANS, New Delhi

Former India all-rounder Sanjay Bangar was on Thursday appointed national head coach for the limited overs tour of Zimbabwe, starting June 11 while ex-domestic cricketer Abhay Sharma was named fielding coach.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) also announced that former cricketer Koka Ramesh will tour with the Men in Blue as administrative manager.

India will play the first One Day International (ODI) on June 11. The Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led young Indian brigade will take on Zimbabwe in three ODIs and as many T20Is in Harare.

"Sanjay Bangar has been appointed as the head coach of the Indian cricket team for the forthcoming tour to Zimbabwe, comprising three One Day International matches and three T20 international matches to be played in Harare," BCCI secretary Ajay Shirke said in a statement.

"Abhay Sharma has been appointed as the fielding coach of the team."