

SPORT

High-octane tie ends in draw

SPORTS REPORTER



Defending champions Abahani were held to a 2-2 draw in their Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League fixture at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The high-voltage encounter remained halted for 20 minutes following a decision by umpire Hari Sharan, who was conducting his first match, after the Singaporean awarded a penalty corner to Mohammedan just a couple minutes before the final whistle. However, he reversed the decision after consulting with fellow umpire Khaled Hossain of Hong Kong following protests of Abahani players.

The change in decision left Mohammedan supporters angry and they threw water bottles, broken chairs, sandals, tea pots into the field. The players of Mohammedan followed suit by refraining from playing. Eventually the intervention of Bangladesh Hockey Federation's general secretary Abdus Sadeque helped resume the match.

The fixture was equally important for both sides as the Black and Whites targeted regaining the lead while the Sky Blues' aim was to make up for the two points they dropped in the 3-3 draw against Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club.

However, the outcome saw Usha KC remain on top of the 12-team table with

maximum 15 points from five matches, two ahead of Mohammedan and four in front of Abahani.

Even though it was a fight of country's two traditional foes, the game turned into a battle among 10 Pakistani players, who were at the centre of all four goals that were scored.

Abahani had beaten the same opposition 4-2 in the Club Cup, but this time they found it hard against the Black and Whites, who fielded a full strength side with five Pakistani players.

"The last time we played against Mohammedan who were without any foreign players and were also missing a couple of key local players. Moreover, today we made a lot of mistakes and could not avail some scoring chances," Abahani's coaching advisor Mahbub Harun said.

"Thought I am not satisfied with the outcome, I am happy with the way the players performed and I think we are on the right track in title race," said Mohammedan coach Azizullah Haider Jamal.

Pakistani recruit Tasvar Abbas put Mohammedan ahead in the ninth minute by converting a penalty corner, but the lead lasted only four minutes when Tousehique Arshad levelled the margin, also from a penalty corner.

Abahani then took the lead in the 28th minute through a reverse-hit from Shafiqat Rasool but Tasvar converted yet another penalty corner to equalise in the 48th minute.



Mohammedan's Taposh Barman (R) tries to shield the ball from Abahani's Shakeel Abbasi during a highly charged Premier Division Hockey League affair at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday

PHOTO: STAR



Sunrisers Hyderabad clinched their maiden Indian Premier League championship last night, denying Royal Challengers Bangalore at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. Young Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman's played a pivotal role throughout the season, taking 17 wickets.

Hyderabad rise to IPL throne

SPORTS REPORTER



A late burst from Ben Cutting and disciplined death-over bowling led Sunrisers

Hyderabad to the Indian Premier League championship for the first time as they beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by eight runs in the final at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore yesterday.

Needing 18 runs to eclipse the 208-run target from the last over after Mustafizur Rahman's last ball in the 19th over was hit for a six by Sachin Baby, Bangalore fell eight runs short as Bhuvneshwar Kumar bowled a fine last over which also included the run-out of Chris Jordan.

Bangladesh pace sensation Mustafizur -- adjudged the emerging player of the tournament -- had a vital role to play in the win as he briefly stopped the Chris Gayle carnage by giving away only four runs in the fifth

over, before picking up the crucial wicket of Shane Watson at the death. Watson tried to hit a signature Fizz cutter into the stands, but ended up skying it to extra cover in the 17th over. The six off his last ball spoiled his figures somewhat as he finished

with one for 37, his second-most costly figures of the season.

Chris Gayle gave Hyderabad a royal fright as he started to make the huge chase look like a cakewalk during his 38-ball 76. The Jamaican hit eight huge sixes and just four boundaries during a 114-run partnership with skipper Virat Kohli, whose spectacular talents were relegated to a supporting role.

Needing 51 from the last five overs with seven wickets in hand, it was up to Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Mustafizur to ensure that Bangalore lose the IPL final for a third time.

After Gayle departed, Kohli, in sight of being the first to score 1,000 runs in a single IPL season, assumed the lead role, reaching his 50 with a six off Sran in the 13th over. But then Kohli played on to Sran in the same over, falling 27 runs short of 1,000.

There was still AB de Villiers, but for once he could not create magic as he followed his partner in the very next over, caught off Bipul Sharma.

Earlier, Sunrisers Hyderabad blasted 52 runs in the last three overs after skipper David Warner hit a magnificent 38-ball 69 to post a mammoth 208 for seven.

Choosing to bat first, Warner came out all guns blazing as he and Shikhar Dhawan added 63 for the first wicket in just 6.4 overs.

After Dhawan's dismissal Yuvraj Singh hit 38 off 23 balls, with two big sixes and four boundaries. At 125 in the 14th over, Warner departed with his eight fours and three sixes providing a solid platform from which to explode. And explode Cutting did, hitting three sixes and taking 24 off Watson's last over.

SCORES IN BRIEF
HYDERABAD: 208 for 7 (Warner 68, Cutting 39 not out; Jordan 3-45)
BANGALORE: 200 for 7 (Gayle 76, Kohli 54, Baby 18 not out; Cutting 2-35, Sharma 1-17, Mustafizur 1-37)
Result: Hyderabad won by 8 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Ben Cutting.

ROLL OF HONOUR	
Year	Champions
2008	Rajasthan Royals
2009	Deccan Chargers
2010	Chennai Super Kings
2011	Chennai Super Kings
2012	Kolkata Knight Riders
2013	Mumbai Indians
2014	Kolkata Knight Riders
2015	Mumbai Indians
2016	SunRisers Hyderabad
Emerging Player: Mustafizur Rahman	
Most Valuable Player: Virat Kohli	
Most runs: Virat Kohli	

Bowling coach to be named in three weeks

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is expected to find a replacement for Heath Streak within the next three weeks. The position of Bangladesh's national bowling coach has been up for grabs since the Zimbabwean announced that he would not continue with the Tigers after his contract ends this month.

Speaking to reporters in Mirpur yesterday, BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Younus said: "We have made quite some progress regarding this issue. We are hopeful that we can confirm someone within the next 15 to 20 days. I can't provide any names as of now but we have been in touch with different candidates."

8 booters likely in Fed Cup

SPORTS REPORTER



The eight footballers who were barred from taking part from any domestic football activities following writ petition are likely to be available for their respective clubs in the upcoming Federation Cup as the Bangladesh Football Federation on Thursday received a copy of the full verdict of the High Court clearing the players.

The copy came seven weeks after the high court, on April 13, had disposed the writ petition filed by Sheikh Jamal DC and directed the players' status committee of BFF to resolve the issue as per status regulation of FIFA under the article 5 and 53 of status of BFF, which was asked to take decision within two weeks of receiving the full judgement.

"The Players Status Committee is supposed to sit tomorrow [Monday] to see the full judgement of the court and take necessary steps on the eight players," BFF's general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag said, adding that the committee must come to a final decision by June 8, two days before the start of the Federation Cup.

During the players' transfer window, Mamunul Islam, Raihan Hasan, Yeasin Ahmed Munna, Nasir Chowdhury and Sohel Rana signed for Chittagong Abahani while Jamal Bhuiyan and Alamgir Kabir Rana signed for Sheikh Russel KC and Shahidul Alam Sohel was roped in by Dhaka Abahani. Sheikh Jamal, however, claimed that all of those eight players took money from the club before joining other clubs.

Stay order on chess fed polls

SPORTS REPORTER

A high court division bench yesterday passed an order to halt the election of Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) for three months after Golden Chess Club's advisor Mohammad Sarwar Hossain filed a writ petition alleging irregularities on voters' list.

The court issued the order on Wednesday but the certified copy was issued yesterday.

The court also issued a rule asking the sports secretary, chairman, director (planning and development) of the national sports council, the election commissioner of the polls asking why the voters' list should not be declared to have been issued without lawful authority and to be of no legal effect. The responders were asked to reply within three weeks.

The BCF polls were scheduled to be held tomorrow.



Players of the Cricket Coaching School, largely comprised of under-19 cricketers, are ecstatic after the fall of the last Mohammedan batsman during their Dhaka Premier League encounter at Fatullah yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

SL fight after follow on

AFP, Chester-le-Street



Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews led from the front in the second Test at the Riverside on Sunday as his side avoided the embarrassment of another defeat by England inside three days.

Mathews made 80 as Sri Lanka, again forced to follow-on, stopped England strolling to a series-clinching win.

At the close of the third day, Sri Lanka were 309 for five -- still 88 runs behind England's first innings 498 for nine declared.

Mathews's fourth-wicket second-innings stand of 82 -- Sri Lanka's first fifty partnership of the series -- with opener Kaushal Silva (60) kept England at bay for much of Sunday's play.

Dinesh Chandimal (54 not out) and Milinda Siriwardana (35 not out) built on

that platform with an unbroken partnership of 87 that took Sri Lanka to stumps.

Sri Lanka had at least stopped the rot after becoming the first side since New Zealand in England back in 1958 to be bowled out for under 120 in three successive Test innings following their 101 first time around in this match.

Sunday's second-innings effort -- something badly needed for their own morale and that of all those who want to see competitive Test cricket -- kept them in this match.

It also left open the possibility of a stunning, come-from-behind, win if they could set England 100 or more for victory.

SCORES IN BRIEF
ENGLAND: First innings 498 for 9
SRI LANKA: First innings 101
SRI LANKA: Second innings 309 for 5 (Silva 60, Mathews 80, Chandimal 54 not out, Anderson 2-40)

CCS romp to a joyous upset

SPORTS REPORTER



They may be the least experienced side in the league and they could well be the unluckiest

group of players as far as the payment is concerned, but yesterday Cricket Coaching School proved that no matter what the situation, they have the ability to take down the big guns of the Dhaka Premier League.

A team filled with youngsters -- some of whom represented Bangladesh Under-19 -- led by veteran Rajin Saleh, there was no shortage of enthusiasm at Fatullah when they beat league leaders Mohammedan by 31 runs.

The game began on Saturday but

had to be pushed into the reserve day due to inclement weather. Mushfiqur Rahim's Mohammedan had to chase down 149 in 25 overs. They were however bundled out for just 117 in 21 overs.

Anyone at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah would tell you that what happened there was a sight to behold. Each of Mohammedan's wickets were celebrated in style. The CCS players even had their own dance

moves, seemingly inspired from Bebeeto's celebration from the 1994 football World Cup.

CCS's Mehrab Hossain and Salman Hossain were the key wicket-takers. While Mehrab finished with figures of four for 14, Salman, who had earlier scored a half-century, finished with a three-wicket haul. He took all three wickets in the last over of the game.

Mohammedan struggled from the very beginning. They had a 20-run stand for the opening wicket, but once Naeem Islam was sent back to the pavilion in the fourth over, they collapsed. Mushfiqur Rahim was dismissed for four. From 20 for no loss, they slumped to 53 for six in just eight overs. Nazmul Hossain Milon and Habibur Rahman tried to stitch a comeback towards the end, but their scores of 32 and 20 did not prove to be enough.

CCS now have four points and have a better chance of avoiding relegation.

In the day's other game at Mirpur, Prime Bank Cricket Club raced to an eight-wicket win over Kalabagan Cricket Academy. Chasing Kalabagan's 89, they reached home in just 10.3 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF	
CRICKET COACHING SCHOOL: 149	runs.
MOHAMMEDAN: 117 all out in 21 overs (Ezaz 35, Nazmul 32; Mehrab 4-14, Salman 3-27)	KALABAGAN CRICKET ACADEMY: 89
Result: Cricket Coaching School won by 31	PRIME BANK CRICKET CLUB: 92 for 2 in 10.3 overs (Sabbir 40 not out, Shanaaj 22; Mehed 1-