

# SPORT



Mariner Youngs Club players celebrate jubilantly as they take their team to the top of the table with a comfortable 4-2 win over Mohammedan Sporting Club in their Super Six encounter at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

## Siddikur sneaks into third round

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman squeezed into the third round of the ISPS HANDA Global Cup tied for 50th position yesterday. The 31-year-old Bangladeshi golfer, who had started the day at 22nd position after a three-under-par (68) in the first round, managed a one-over-par (72) in the second round at the Tokinodai Country Club in Ishikawa, Japan.

The two-time Asian Tour winner—who is participating in the 100-million-yen event as a wild card entry—traded three birdies for two bogeys and a double bogey yesterday for an aggregate score of two-under-par (140). Siddikur was one of 67 golfers to have made it into the weekend rounds, with Emiliano Grillo of Argentina and Sang-Hyun Park of Korea enjoying the lead at 10-under-par (132).

## Browne replaces Lloyd as WI selection chief

REUTERS, Port of Spain

Former wicketkeeper-batsman Courtney Browne has replaced Clive Lloyd as West Indies' chairman of selectors with immediate effect, according to their cricket board (WICB).

Browne, who played 20 Tests and 46 one-dayers for West Indies, has been a member of the senior men's selection panel and was given a two-year term as the chairman.

The WICB said that Lloyd, who led West Indies to two World Cup triumphs, will be appointed as a special ambassador effective from October 1.

## Mariners keep the heat

SPORTS REPORTER



2 win over Mohammedan in their Super Six encounter at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The significant win over the Black and Whites means Mariners have kept themselves in the title race with 37 points despite having played 14 matches to Usha's 13. Mohammedan are now in fourth position

with 26 points from 13 matches.

A revamped Mariners, who had beaten Mohammedan SC 3-1 in the first meeting of the league, were dominant for most of the match before conceding two late goals from penalty corners.

They seemed to have little to no chance of losing from the get go as Mohammedan hardly posed any threat with their under-par attackers and penalty-corner takers.

Mariners played with vigorous speed to create a chance in the fifth minute when Mainul Islam Koushik saw his fierce hit connected by Waqas Sharif, but goalkeeper Zahid Hossain thwarted the attempt.

However, the title contenders took little time to take the lead as Istiaque Ahmed

flicked home a Fazole Rabbi reverse hit in the ninth minute. The promising midfielder then doubled the lead in the 44th minute in the same fashion by connecting with a fierce hit from Ashraful Islam.

National defender Ashraful then made the margin 3-0 by converting a penalty corner in the 50th minute while Waqas took the match away from Mohammedan by striking the team's fourth goal, availing a cut-back from Kenyan midfielder Willis in the 59th minute.

Mohammedan attempted to come-back in the last ten minutes when Pakistani Tasvar Abbas and Mohammad Imran pulled two goals back by converting penalty corners in the 66th and 69th minutes.

## A free rein to reign?

SPORTS REPORTER



During last Wednesday's crucial Dhaka Premier League match between Abahani and Prime Bank, a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) official asked his colleague where the national team's head coach was. The other BCB official had no clue. Later, it was learnt that Chandika Hathurusingha went on leave once again; having left Dhaka on June 19 night soon after the BCB extended his tenure till the 2019 ICC World Cup to be held in England.

The Sri Lankan had earlier gone on leave soon after the completion of the World Twenty20 in India and returned to Dhaka after about two months' break on June 1.

According to sources, as per the agreement with the BCB Hathurusingha can enjoy 60 days' leave over two years but he has already enjoyed nearly 220 days of leave during his first two-year tenure. BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury confirmed later that day that the coach was on leave and said that he will be back by July 17 when the players return to practice.

"We have terms and conditions in the agreement and it was mentioned there how many days' leave he can enjoy, but the higher authority has the right to give him leave at any time. Anyway, for the second term we have made a better arrangement and we are going to have a better plan for the coach," he added, but was not ready to divulge how many days' leave is stipulated in the contract.

Sources informed that the BCB has increased his monthly salary to 30,000 US dollars from 22,000 US dollars for the second term, a figure that excludes all his other expenses like air fare, house rent, worldwide insurance, local transportation, etc.

Time will tell whether this unprecedented free rein will set a bad example. The immediate question however is whether the BCB can get a satisfactory return on the substantial investment they have made on Hathurusingha, who is considered the most powerful man after BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon.



## The Hales-Roy show sinks SL

STAR SPORT DESK



A record, unbeaten 256-run opening stand between Alex Hales and Jason Roy made a mockery of what looked like a competent total as England beat Sri Lanka by 10 wickets in the second ODI at Edgbaston yesterday.

Set 255 to win after the tourists chose to bat, both openers hit centuries on way to notching up the highest partnership for any wicket in England's ODI history, beating the 250-run second-wicket association between Andrew Strauss and Jonathan Trott against Bangladesh at the same ground in 2010. They reached the target with 15.5 overs to spare.

Hales hit an unbeaten 133 off 110 balls with 10 fours and six sixes, while Roy was unconquered at the other end on a 95-ball 112 with seven fours and four sixes.

Earlier, Adil Rashid took two quickfire wickets as England held Sri Lanka to 254 for seven.

England now lead the five-match series 1-0 after the opening match at Nottingham ended in a tie.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: 254 for 7 (Tharanga 53 not out, Chandimal 52, Mathews 44, Perera 37; Rashid 2-34, Plunkett 2-49)

ENGLAND: 256 without loss in 34.1 overs (Hales 133 not out, Roy 112 not out)

Result: England won by 10 wickets.

## 'BPL, BSL to uplift football'

SPORTS REPORTER

The stakeholders of the country's football have urged for a combined effort to uplift the standard of the game as they believe the new format of the Bangladesh Premier League and the introduction of franchise-based Bangladesh Super League could prove to be a new beginning for football.

These opinions were expressed during a seminar titled "BPL and BSL: Searching for a new hope", arranged by the Bangladesh Sports Press Association [BSPA], at a hotel in Dhaka yesterday where high-ups of Bangladesh Football

Federation, sponsors, former footballers and senior journalists were present.

Sanat Babla, special correspondent of Daily Kaler Kantho, read the keynote paper at the seminar.

BFF president Kazi Salahuddin said the new format of the BPL could be a way of bringing football fans back to the galleries.

"To be honest, I didn't support the new format because with that the clubs will become more dependent. But we had to adopt this format to involve district organisers with mainstream football, which I believe will bring the fans back to the galleries."

Tarafder Ruhul Amin, chairman of BPL

and BSL rights holder Saif Global Sports Limited, asked the government to prepare the venues before the BPL starts on July 25.

BSPA president Mustafa Mamun believed a successful BPL could open the door for the BSL where millions of taka could be invested.

"Football organisers tried many ways to develop the game but we haven't seen much development. I think the new format of BPL can set a new example for the organisers who are eager to host BSL."

Deputy minister for youth and sports, Arif Khan Joy, promised to take necessary steps to prepare the venues for the forthcoming league.

# Would love to spend more time with my family

The Daily Star (TDS): From the Asia Cup, the World T20, the Indian Premier League, the Dhaka Premier League and now to the Caribbean Premier League. Don't you get tired? You are, after all, almost 30.

Shakib Al Hasan (SAH): (Laughs). Actually this is the time to play for me. I'll probably play for six to seven more years if I am in good form. Basically, the more I play now, the more I improve. Cricket is everything, an income source, my love, part of life, so you can never be tired or you can never feel bad about playing. Yes, I might get a bit tired physically, but mentally there is no chance for me to feel weak.

TDS: How different is life now with your child and your family?

SAH: I don't think my life has changed that much. I am just a little bit busier. What I miss doing is spending more time with my family. That is something I have not been able to do in the last few months and I regret that. Apart from that I don't have anything else that I regret.

That's because I love playing and I can never leave that. If I play less and give my family more time, I don't think I'll enjoy that either. What I have to do is play the same number of games and find a way to spend more time with my family.

I am sure I can do that. There will be some periods in a player's life when you are busy. After the CPL I will be able to spend plenty of time with my family in Bangladesh.

TDS: Is your family traveling along with you to see the CPL?

SAH: No. Not this time because my daughter is still not a year old. We will start traveling after she turns one. My wife is very cautious about my child's health. I think that's partly because she grew up in America and she wants everything to be perfect (laughs). She does not want to take any risk. But generally, my wife and I always travel together.

TDS: You, Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim are all around the decade mark. Do you think the next few years could be Bangladesh's golden era?

*Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan is all set to complete 10 years in international cricket on August 6 this year. However, there is a high chance that the player will not be in the country to celebrate that landmark. He will be leaving for the West Indies to take part in the Caribbean Premier League today and is expected to be there for at least one-and-a-half months. As a result, The Daily Star's Naimul Karim spoke to him regarding his decade-long ventures beforehand. The first segment of the exclusive interview was published yesterday. The following are excerpts of the second and final segment.*



SAH: It may be the case because, if you see, all the teams are going through transitions or have just finished their transition at the moment. In our case, the transition happened a long time

ago. And those present right now are established. We have seven to eight players who have played at least 70 to 80 ODIs each. The five of us, Mashrafe bhai, Mushfiq bhai, Tamim, Riyad

bhai have played 150 ODIs each. Even [Abdur Razzak] Raj bhai has played 150 ODIs. I think in world cricket, there are few players who have played 100 ODIs at the moment. Every team

may have three to four players but they won't have as many as seven to eight. So that's an advantage for us.

TDS: With six or seven more years to go, is there any particular place you want to see yourself reach by the end of your career?

SAH: I think if I set a target, it's going to get difficult. Alhamdulillah, what's happening now is going well. I will try to make it better. I will feel really good if I see that my team is in a good place before I finish. We had a good year in 2015. If we can continue this for the next few years and we are in good form, with the 2019 World Cup, I feel we have a good opportunity.

TDS: And maybe you see yourself as a captain as well. It's something that you enjoy, right?

SAH: No... it would be wrong to say that I enjoy captaincy. If someone hands it over to me, then that's because in that particular moment I am the best possible person to lead the team and I will try my best. But it's not as though I want this. If I get it, it's fine, but I don't care. Honestly speaking I don't even think about it.

TDS: Lastly, do you have anything else to say regarding your 10-year experience? What has been the ultimate learning?

SAH: We learn everyday. There have been many ups and downs in the last 10 years. People learn a lot when they struggle, but I feel I learnt a lot in my good times as well. I think the amount of love from the audience that I have received here... this would not have been possible to get in other countries. It's a big privilege for me and everyone in the national team. I am also really happy about our batch. We are contributing well to the national team. When I started playing cricket, everyone used to ask us where we wanted to see Bangladesh in the next six to seven years and we used to say that we want to see ourselves in the top five. Now we are ranked seven. If we do well in the next two series we may reach five. Back then we used to say these things just because we had to. Reality was different. But I think the fact that we could say these things was quite gutsy.