

# SPORT



Mohammedan captain Rasel Mahmud Jimmy (L) celebrates one of his five goals against title-contenders Usha Krira Chakra during their Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## BCB steps in as clubs falter

SPORTS REPORTER



The player payments of two of the four Dhaka Premier League (DPL) clubs, which had not paid its players, were completed by the Bangladesh Cricket Board over the last two days.

Of the four, the players of Rajin Saleh's Cricket Coaching School and Mahmudul Hasan Limon's Kalabagan Cricket Academy were given their second instalment. The two clubs now join the players from the list of eight clubs who have received at least 60 per cent of their league's payment.

Victoria Sporting Club, which includes the likes of Mominul Haque and Nadif Chowdhury and Shahriar Nafees's Brothers Union are yet to be paid.

The players of Cricket Coaching School were each paid just Tk 1 lakh until last week. The board ensured that they got 60 per cent of their payments, much to the relief of skipper Rajin and his teammates.

"Many of them faced the danger of going back home empty-handed for Eid and now they have some relief. They used to keep calling me in order to get more information on the payments and I couldn't tell them anything," said Rajin, who earlier criticised the board and the clubs for their non-payment. "I would like to thank the media for taking this issue up so seriously."

As per the rules, the players should have received 60 per cent of their payments before the end of the tournament and the remaining within a month of the league's completion.

Kalabagan Cricket Academy's players, who had earlier been paid 30 per cent of their dues, received another 30 per cent according to their skipper Mahmudul.

"We got the payments on Tuesday from the board. We are thankful to the board. We haven't contacted the club and neither did they contact us," said Mahmudul, while adding that he was not sure when they would get the remaining 40 per cent.

Victoria and Brothers Union however have not been as lucky. According to Nafees, Brothers are expected to complete the payment by July 3.

"The club had invited us for iftar today. We went there and were told that we would be paid before Eid. I am positive we will get paid," said Nafees.

Victoria captain Nadif Chowdhury has said that the fate of his teammates now depend upon the BCB. The board, according to him, is likely to complete their payment after Eid.

## Tamim upset at lengthy layoff

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal has said that the Tigers' lengthy break from international cricket will hamper their chances of performing to their best while also suggesting that other teams should be more willing to play against them.

"After such a great season, we are not playing for six months," Tamim told ESPNcricinfo. "It will definitely hamper us. People should be more interested in playing against us but instead we are sitting on the sidelines. We don't know who we are going to play after six months. There's no team in the world apart from Zimbabwe who sit out for so long between matches."

Bangladesh have not played an international fixture since the World Twenty20 in India, which ended in April, although the players have since been engaged in local leagues. Their next international series will be at home against England in October.

"I could have understood if we played like we did five years ago when our result was predictable, but after performing so well they still don't want to play us, I don't know. Take any top team and tell them to sit for six months," Tamim said. "You will see how they perform after sitting for eight months. They won't play the way they were playing."

## Jimmy quintuple sinks Usha

SPORTS REPORTER



Rasel Mahmud Jimmy slammed five goals including a hattrick as Mohammedan Sporting Club beat Usha Krira Chakra 5-3 in their Super Six encounter of the Premier Division Hockey League to deal a massive blow to Usha's chances of retaining the title they had won jointly with Abahani in the last edition.

The veteran national forward scored all five goals for his club, all coming from open play, as Mohammedan moved to 32 points from 15 matches and consolidated fourth position, one point behind Abahani. Usha, on the other hand, failed to regain the lead, thanks to their first defeat of the league. The defeat left the Old Dhaka outfit trailing leaders Mariner Youngs Club by two points.

With Usha on 38 and Mariners on 40 points from 15 matches each, the title will be decided when the two sides meet on Friday, but Mariners will have the definite advantage as they only need a draw to win the title for the first time.

Mohammedan took the lead in the third minute when Pakistani recruit Salman Sadiq ran down the right flank to enter the circle and cut the ball back to Jimmy, who only needed a gentle push to the back of the net. In the next seven minutes, Salman exposed the Usha backline in same style but neither Jimmy nor his strike partner Tasvar Abbas could avail the opportunities.

Usha hit back through Aleem Belal's penalty corner conversion in the 29th minute, but Mohammedan restored the lead a minute later when Jimmy shrugged off his marker Shah Syed Kasif before finding the board with a reverse-hit.

Jimmy completed his fourth hattrick of the league just a minute before the break, as he received a pass from Salman and slotted the ball home with a drag-and-flick from a difficult angle.

Belal reduced the margin yet again from another penalty corner conversion in the 37th minute before Jimmy played a neat one-two with Tasvar to make it to 4-2 ten minutes later. The Mohammedan captain then put clear daylight between the two teams by scoring his fifth of the game and his 30th goal of the league in the 61st minute from a goal-mouth scramble.

Belal, too, completed a hattrick a minute before the end from another penalty corner, and moved on to the second-top scorer's position with 28 goals, but that was hardly any consolation for Usha who were desperate for a win.

## JB Group earn title rights of BPL

SPORTS REPORTER



Jaj Bhuiyan Group, one of the prominent conglomerates of the country, have earned the sponsorship rights of the Bangladesh Premier League, which will get underway on July 25 at six separate venues across the country.

Saif Global Sports Ltd, the commercial rights holder of the professional football league for five years, have roped in Jaj Bhuiyan Group as the title sponsors of the league. An agreement signing ceremony in this regard took place yesterday at the headquarters of the game's governing body in presence of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin.

"It is a special day for us as we have already sold the rights of the Bangladesh Premier League to Saif Global Sports Ltd and now JB group have joined hands," said BFF's senior vice president and league committee chairman Abdus Salam Murshedy.

"We are trying to give a commercial shape to football. Our target is to take football outside the capital to bring back its real excitement among spectators," said Saif GSL chairman Tarafder Ruhul Amin.

Ruhul Amin, also a director of Chittagong Abahani, informed that they would unveil the logo and trophy in the capital on July 12 before declaring the league open in Chittagong, through the league's brand ambassador Momtaz Begum.

JB Group's managing director Fayazur Rahman Bhuiyan said that the group, which is already involved with cricket, have come to football to bring back its glory days.



Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska shapes to play a forehand during her first-round victory over Kateryna Kozlova of Ukraine at Wimbledon yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Ganguly hits back at Shastri

AGENCIES, New Delhi

A 'disappointed' Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday retaliated to Ravi Shastri's barbs at him by saying that the former team director was living in a "fool's world".

Shastri lashed out at the former India skipper on Tuesday for skipping his interview for head coach, and accused the former skipper of being 'disrespectful'.

"I am deeply disappointed. He should have shown a bit more maturity. These comments are very personal," Ganguly told reporters. "If Shastri feels that I am responsible for him not being selected as the head coach, he is living in a fool's world."

"I also have advice for Shastri. When the coach of India is selected, he should be in front of the committee, not sit in Bangkok on a holiday and make a presentation on camera. Especially when one of the greatest cricketers of India [Anil Kumble] sat for close to two hours for his presentation," he said, referring to Shastri not being present during the interview process as he was on vacation.

## Twelve teams in WT20 main draw?

AGENCIES, Edinburgh



The International Cricket Council (ICC) is most likely going to add two more teams to the main draw of the reinstated World Twenty20 in 2018.

Discussions at the Associate Members' meeting of the ongoing ICC annual conference in Edinburgh also indicated that representatives of the associate nations on the ICC board may get full voting rights as well.

"What I have heard described is that two teams will go through from each first group to create a Super 12 [in the 2018 World T20]," Tim Cutler, the Hong Kong Cricket Association chief executive, was quoted as saying by EspnCrinfo.

"That seems to be the agreed format at the moment. Hopefully that means with two more going through, potentially two more could come into the qualifiers to make 18 but the sound of it at the moment is it's going to be 16 into 12. It's a move in the right direction."

tives on the ICC full voting privileges and therefore a voice when it comes to decision making.

ICC chairman Shashank Manohar made the announcement and it could be ratified later in the week.

"Everything we're hearing from the ICC chairman really does point towards a new era in ICC governance and the structures behind that," Cutler said.

"We talk about one man, one vote, are we going to have a 105-member federation with votes? Highly unlikely in the short term but if we do get to a point where the three Associate directors have a vote each, that really does shift the paradigm that was the ICC board and really moving things in the right direction where emerging nations really do have a true voice at the top table."

There has also been a change in associate representation on the International Cricket Council board with Cricket Ireland's Ross McCollum winning a vote to replace Bermuda's Neil Speight.

The other two incumbents -- Singapore's Imran Khawaja and Namibia's Francois Erasmus -- maintain their places on the board.

## Novak, Agnieszka roll on Federer ends Willis fairytale

AGENCIES, London



World number one Novak Djokovic racked up his 30th successive Grand Slam victory on Wednesday when he brushed aside Adrian Mannarino 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (7/5) to reach the Wimbledon third round.

The defending champion, bidding for a third consecutive title at the All England Club and fourth in all, will face either American 28th seed Sam Querrey or Thomaz Bellucci for a place in the last 16.

With rain halting play, number three seed Agnieszka Radwanska was ready to become an armchair fan after her 6-2 6-1 first-round win over Ukraine's Kateryna Kozlova.

Their delayed match survived the cull after being moved on to the roof-covered showcourt, opening play before Djokovic and Roger Federer took to the stage.

Her path through the French Open was also blighted by rain, and lost in the fourth round before blasting organisers for forcing her to play in

misty drizzle.

Radwanska's potential second-round opponents, Italy's Karin Knapp or Croatian Ana Konjuh, were still waiting for the showers to abate to get their match completed as the postponed fixtures began to pile up.

The Pole raced into an early lead, breaking twice in the four first games before being pegged back by Kozlova, who did not seem in the least bit overawed despite making her debut at Wimbledon.

Radwanska, who reached the final in 2012, has never lost a first-round match on the Wimbledon grass and she kept up that record, sealing victory on her third match point on a second serve.

She thought she had it in the bag with an ace, before a Hawkeye challenge by Kozlova left her smiling ruefully at being just millimetres short.

But having got the job done, it was now "eating or talking, watching Centre Court" as organisers hastily try to redraw the schedules.

Tomas Berdych battled the elements and a gritty display by his unseeded Croatian opponent Ivan Dodig on Wednesday before sealing a

7-6(5), 5-7, 6-1, 7-6(2) win.

The 10th-seeded Czech served for the match when play resumed after being called off with him leading 4-1 in the fourth set the previous day.

Berdych steadied his nerves to take the breaker 7-2 when he forced a backhand error from Dodig.

Meanwhile, Marcus Willis's Wimbledon fairytale came to an end against Roger Federer, but the British qualifier's 6-0, 6-3, 6-4 defeat couldn't ruin a day to remember for the new star of the All England Club.

Willis has captivated the tennis world with his rags to riches rise and although the world number 772 was unable to spring what would have been Wimbledon's greatest upset, he enjoyed every minute of his unlikely second round meeting with world number three Federer.

The 25-year-old hit 24 winners, served nine aces and twice came within a whisker of breaking Federer, all while displaying the effervescent personality that has made him such a fan favourite.

Federer will play Dan Evans or Alexandr Dolgoplov in the third round.

## Sri Lanka post 305

AFP, London

Sri Lanka, after being put into bat, made 305 for five against England in a rain-disrupted fourth one-day international at The Oval on Wednesday.

A two and a quarter hour rain delay meant the game was reduced to a 42-over aside contest and Kusal Mendis (77), Danushka Gunathilake (62), Dinesh Chandimal (63) and Angelo Matthews (67 not out) were the main contributors.

Second wicket pair Mendis and Gunathilake put on 128 off 111 balls to lay the foundations for the total while England spinner Adil Rashid took 2-57 and seamer David Willey 2-58.

The revised victory target for England was 308 from their 42 overs. England lead the five-match series 1-0.