

# SPORTS



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Pakistani all-rounder Shoaib Malik bludgeoned a 30-ball 63, punctuated by nine fours and two sixes, to help the Chittagong Vikings post 185 against the Barisal Bulls in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

## The tax icons

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricketers Tamim Iqbal, Shakib Al Hasan and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza will be conferred tax cards, a first time for sportspersons in the country, as the government has decided to recognise taxpayers from different sectors for exemplary compliance for the 2015-16 fiscal.

A notice in this regard was issued by the Internal Resources Division of the finance ministry on Monday which stated that a total of 141 tax cards will be distributed among individuals and entities. These cards will be handed over at a programme tomorrow, according to a source inside the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

The tax cards, which will remain valid for one year from the date of issuance, will grant privileges in making reservations for seats on the state-run airline, trains and water transports. The card holders will also be able to use the lounge for commercially important persons at airports. The cardholders, along with their family members, will easily get cabins at government hospitals and will get priority in hotel

bookings, according to the policy.

Mashrafe, the captain of Bangladesh cricket team for the shorter versions, said he was elated in learning the news.

"I am really glad to hear the news. As responsible citizens it is our duty and responsibility to pay taxes regularly," Mashrafe told The Daily Star over phone last night. "Our source of income was limited when we started playing cricket. But now that we earn from various sources like endorsement, sponsorship and playing in different leagues apart from national contracts, our income has increased, so has the amount of tax."

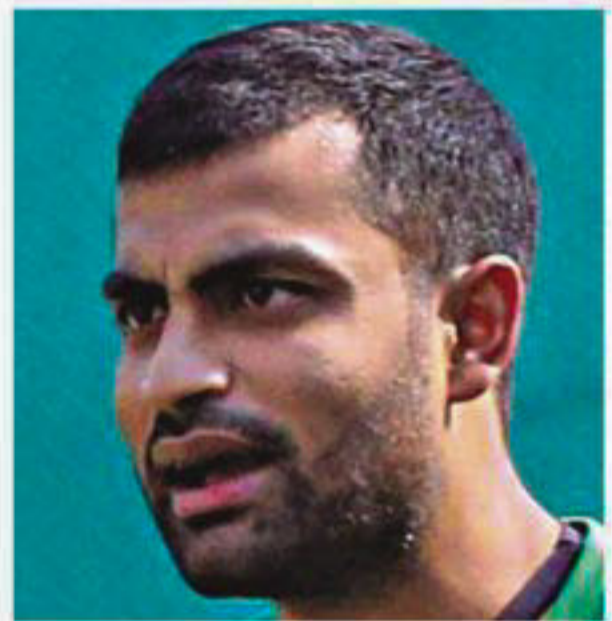
A source inside the NBR said that the list has been expanded this year under the amended, comprehensive tax card policy in order to encourage people from different sectors to pay taxes. "The number of cards has been expanded so as to make people from different sectors willingly pay more taxes. The sportspersons have been included for this reason, and we hope for more from them," said the source, who preferred to remain anonymous.



MASHRAFE BIN MORTAZA



SHAKIB AL HASAN



TAMIM IQBAL

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### SCOREBOARDS

#### TITANS V RIDERS

KHULNA TITANS	R/B	4s/6s
Fletcher lbw b Arafat	8/8	1/0
Mazid b Arafat	10/13	3/1
Wessels c Naeem b Rubel	27/33	2/1
Mahmudullah c Anwar b Afridi	11/10	1/0
Taibur c Shahzad b Rubel	32/37	3/1
Ariful run out	22/13	1/2
Howell b Afridi	3/4	0/0
Kapali not out	3/2	0/0
Extras: (lb-8, w-1)	9	
Total: (For 7 wickets in 20 overs)	125	
Did not bat: Shafiq, Mosharraf, Junaid.		
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-20, 3-38, 4-94, 5-96, 6-109, 7-125.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Arafat	4	0	16	2
Anwar	2	0	19	0
Dawson	4	0	27	0
Afridi	4	0	30	2
Shohag	2	0	6	0
Rubel	4	0	19	2

RANGPUR RIDERS	R/B	4s/6s
Shahzad c Kapali b Mahmudullah	37/38	4/1
Soumya c Shaiful b Junaid	3/13	0/0
Mithun not out	49/41	1/3
Afridi b Howell	26/20	2/1
Dawson not out	5/4	1/0
Extras: (lb-1, w-6, nb-2)	9	
Total: (For 3 wickets in 19 overs)	129	
Did not bat: Ziaur, Anwar, Sohag, Arafat, Rubel, Naeem.		
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-87, 3-122.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mosharraf	4	0	23	0
Junaid	4	0	23	1
Howell	4	0	31	1
Shafiq	3	0	23	0
Kapali	1	0	14	0
Mahmudullah	3	0	14	1

Result: Rangpur Riders won by 7 wickets.  
Player-of-the-match: Shahid Afridi.

#### VIKINGS V BULLS

CHITTAGONG VIKINGS	R/B	4s/6s
Tamim c Hider b Kamrul	19/19	2/1
Smith c Enamul b Perera	69/49	6/3
Anamul c Malan b Perera	11/13	1/0
Malik c Hider b Emrit	63/30	9/2
Nabi c Hider b Kamrul	4/4	0/0
Jahurul not out	7/6	0/0
Extras: (lb-3, w-8, nb-1)	12	
Total: (For 5 wickets in 20 overs)	185	
Did not bat: Saqlain, Subashis, Zakir, Imran, Taskin.		
Fall of wickets: 1-43, 2-82, 3-129, 4-140, 5-185.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Tajjul	4	0	38	0
Hider	4	0	37	0
Kamrul	4	0	29	2
Emrit	4	0	41	1
Perera	4	0	37	2

#### BARISAL BULLS

Malan b Nabi	R/B	4s/6s
Nadif c Malik b Nabi	5/7	1/0
Nafees b Subashis	4/2	1/0
Mushfiq c Nabi b Taskin	19/14	2/1
Mendis c Imran b Nabi	1/2	0/0
Emrit lbw b Taskin	6/13	1/0
Perera b Malik	0/2	0/0
Enamul not out	42/37	1/4
Tajjul c Tamim b Subashis	12/14	1/0
Hider b Imran	9/10	2/0
Kamrul run out	4/6	0/0
Extras: (w-4)	4	
Total: (All out in 18.4 overs)	107	
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-10, 3-11, 4-12, 5-37, 6-37, 7-39, 8-81, 9-94, 10-107.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Subashis	4	0	16	2
Nabi	3	0	16	3
Saqlain	2	0	16	0
Taskin	4	0	20	2
Malik	2	0	15	1
Imran	3.4	0	24	1

Result: Chittagong Vikings won by 78 runs.  
Player-of-the-match: Shoaib Malik.

## Riders surge to top spot

SPORTS REPORTER



Rangpur Riders. A team that signed up the least-wanted icon player, a team that is led by a cricketer who is past his golden years; a team dominated by cricketers who were recently left out from the Bangladesh national team, is today on top of the Bangladesh Premier League.

Skipper Naeem Islam is probably going through one of his most enjoyable phases in recent times, while Soumya Sarkar must be desperate to get back into form and help contribute to his team's success.

Not only have they secured the maximum number of points, following their seven-wicket win over the Khulna Titans in Chittagong yesterday, they also have a game in hand.

With a flawless record in Chittagong which saw them secure three wins, they have been the most successful team in the port city and

that has turned around their campaign completely.

The Chittagong Vikings, who beat the Barisal Bulls by 78 runs in the last game of the league in Chittagong yesterday thanks to blistering half-centuries from Dwayne Smith and Shoaib Malik, have also won three games in the port city and renewed their hopes of making it to the next round. They will also be boosted by the fact that Chris Gayle will be available to them from the next round.

Barisal, on the other hand, failed to win in Chittagong. The Khulna Titans won two, while the Dhaka Dynamites, the Rajshahi Kings and the Comilla Victorians won one each.

It just goes to show how unpredictable T20 cricket is. Except for Afghanistan's Mohammad Shahzad, the Rangpur Riders do not have a single player who regularly represents a national cricket team and yet they have just lost once in their last six outings.

The reason behind that is that their batsmen have clicked. Looking at the balance of the team it was obvious that batting was going to be their Achilles heel. However, with Shahzad, Shahid Afridi and Mohammad Mithun in good touch and former national bowlers Shohag Gazi, Arafat Sunny and Rubel Hossain, bowling well, everything seems to be going to plan.

Their players were once again on top against the in-form Titans yesterday. Arafat Sunny, Afridi and Rubel bowled brilliantly and took two wickets each to restrict the Titans for just 125 at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

Sunny, who revamped his bowling action, seems to have hit form in the BPL and finished with miserly figures of two for 16. He removed both openers, Andrew Fletcher and Abdul Majid, by the fifth over and laid the foundation for the rest of the bowlers.

Afridi got the key wicket of

Mahmudullah Riyad in the eighth over before Rubel Hossain removed both Riki Wessels and Taibur Rahman in the 17th over. After 17 overs, they were struggling at 96 for five. Two sixes from Ariful Haque in the last over produced 16 runs and that helped the Titans post 125 and gave them some hope.

While it did take the Riders 19 overs to overcome the total, and that's something that they probably need to work on ahead of the next game, they never seemed in trouble.

In fact, it seemed as though the batsmen wanted to take their time and reach their target without any worries. Shahzad scored a 38-ball 20-ball 26 before getting bowled by Afridi, who came in at number four hit one six and two fours during his 20-ball 26 before getting bowled by Howell.

Eventually, they reached home with seven wickets and six balls in hand. Afridi, who scalped two wickets and also hit 26 runs was

## Bhuvneshwar in, Pace promise in fresh U-19s

PTI, New Delhi



Having completely recovered from a back injury, seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar was on Tuesday recalled to the 16-member Indian team for the final three Test matches against England, while veteran opener Gautam Gambhir was shown the door.

Bhuvneshwar, who produced a game-changing five-wicket haul against New Zealand in Kolkata, has been out of action for more than six weeks due to a back injury.

Post recovery, he played a Ranji Trophy match against Mumbai as per team protocol. He took wickets in the match and bowled a total of 36 overs.

While spinners have dominated India's bowling composition, Bhuvneshwar's variations and his recent match-winning exploits in Test cricket gives skipper Virat Kohli another option with four specialist pacers in the squad.

For the 35-year-old Gambhir, a veteran of 58 Tests, it could well be the end of the road as far as his international career is concerned.

While KL Rahul did not set the stage on fire at Visakhapatnam, his recent form before injury prompted the team management to invest in his immense talent.

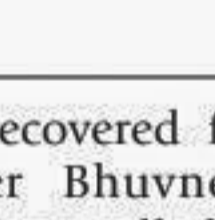
Murali Vijay is an assured presence at the top of the order and a fit Shikhar Dhawan means the reserve opener's slot is for Rahul. Also Dhawan is still an important fixture in the limited overs format where he has an impressive record.

All the permutations and combinations do indicate that Gambhir, who has played a key role in two World Cup finals (World T20 in 2007 and World Cup 2011) may well have ran his last lap as far as the national team is concerned.

**SQUAD:** Virat Kohli (captain), Ajinkya Rahane, KL Rahul, Murali Vijay, Cheteshwar Pujara, Karun Nair, Wriddhiman Saha, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Jayant Yadav, Amit Mishra, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Hardik Pandya.

## Buttler set to get recall

REUTERS, Mumbai



England are set to recall Jos Buttler as a specialist batsman in their team for the third Test against India in Mohali with Ben Duckett facing the axe after his struggles against off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin in the first two matches.

The left-handed Duckett scored 56 in the second innings against Bangladesh in Dhaka but has accumulated just 54 runs in six innings since.

Ashwin dismissed him three times in Rajkot and Vizag. Buttler, who boasts the three fastest ODI hundreds for England, has a modest record in Tests.

## Du Plessis avoids ban

AFP, Adelaide

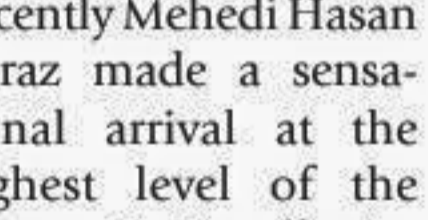
South Africa skipper Faf du Plessis was found guilty of ball-tampering on Tuesday but cleared to play in this week's third Test against Australia, who are fighting to avoid their first ever home Test series whitewash.

Du Plessis was fined his entire match fee after he was caught on camera sucking a sweet, or mint, and rubbing the ball with his saliva, in an attempt to alter its flight, during last week's second Test in Hobart.

Match referee Andy Pycroft found du Plessis guilty at an International Cricket Council (ICC) hearing in Adelaide which viewed video footage of the incident in Hobart.

## The new batch of the Bangladesh Under-19 players are engaged in a practice session to prepare for their first big assignment -- the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka next month.

PHOTO: STAR



The new group will play their first tournament in Sri Lanka and we will be able to get an idea about the newly formed team from this tournament. We will definitely play more international games before the World Cup in New Zealand but the Asia Cup will give us a good idea," said Nazmul.

"I think you will have noticed a huge change at the Under-19 level and that's why we are getting a number of

a player can bear a bamboozled look when they stay in a five-star hotel for the first time, but they are now accustomed to this in the age level," he continued.

He also explained the reason behind picking Saif as a new captain for the Under-19 team.

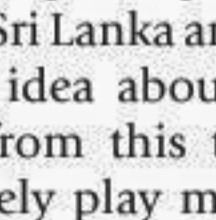
"He (Saif Hassan) is very keen and he is driven, like Miraz, to always do something. Saif is relatively senior in the side and he is very smart but we are

not sure whether he will be good as a captain. As it [the U-19 Asia Cup] is our first assignment, we will also scrutinise his captaincy," said Nazmul.

"Saif is relatively new in the Under-19 team and just started to play first-class cricket. It's my personal opinion he has the potential to become a good

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