

SPORT

Jupiter, Sanwar get provisional bans

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Premier League's (BPL's) governing council has decided to provisionally suspend Rangpur Riders player Jupiter Ghosh and their team manager Sanwar Hossain from the league.

The decision was taken on Sunday after Jupiter spoke to a number of journalists and openly accused the Rangpur manager of approaching him to fix games in the fourth season of the BPL.

Speaking to The Daily Star, member-secretary of the BPL's governing council IH Mallick said: "We came to know about the issue and as of now we have suspended both the individuals. There will be a hearing regarding this issue organised by the BPL's governing council after the end of the BPL.

"We have decided to provisionally suspend Sanwar because of the allegation that has come up against him," added Mallick.



JUPITER GHOSH

Interestingly, Sanwar was also accused of match-fixing when he was a part of the Dhaka Gladiators back in 2013.

Speaking to The Daily Star regarding the matter Sanwar said: "Since this investigation is going on I won't be able to say anything on the matter. I have told the BPL's governing council all that they wanted to know. I will only speak once the investigation is over."

As per the guidelines a player is supposed to immediately report an illegal approach to the ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU). Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Jupiter said that he would contact the ACU on Monday. While Jupiter was not ready to speak to the media regarding the matter yesterday, a Bangladesh Cricket Board source said that the player had in fact reported the matter to an official of the ACU yesterday.

However, when Mallick was asked if Jupiter had contacted the ACU and whether the ACU had contacted the BPL's governing council regarding the matter, he replied in the negative.

"We haven't been contacted by the ACU," said Mallick.



Mehedi Hasan Miraz (L) and Forhad Reza put on a clinical, unbeaten 85-run stand to rescue Rajshahi Kings from the doldrums of 43 for seven in their Bangladesh Premier League fixture against Rangpur Riders at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

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Romana keeps setting records

SPORTS REPORTER

Romana Akter kept on lighting up the pool in the 28th National Swimming Championships at the Bangladesh Army swimmer produced another record on the second day at the Syed Nazrul Islam Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

Romana, who created two records

in 200m individual medley and 100m breaststroke on the first day, broke her previous record to create a new one in 400m individual medley by clocking 5:47.59 minutes (hand-timing). The previous record was 5:55.20 minutes. Her teammate Kulsum Khatun Munni won the silver medal clocking 6:53.59 minutes.

Apart from Romana's feat, Nazma Khatun and Jewel Ahmed also produced new national records.

Nazma of Bangladesh Navy broke Sabura Khatun's 400m free-style record by timing 5:07.10 minutes to win the gold. The previous record of Sabura was 5:12.03 minutes. Sharmin Sultana of Army won the silver medal with a time of 5:09:95 minutes.

Later, Nazma broke another record of Sabura in 100m free-style as she took 1:05.28 minutes to erase the previous record of 1:05.91 minutes.

Naima Akter broke Sabura's record in 200m backstroke clocking 2:44.80 minutes. Previous record was 2:49.14 minutes.

However, Jewel set the day's first record in men's 400m individual medley. The Army man eclipsed Jewel Ahmed Senior's record of 4:55:22 minutes by clocking 4:52.15 minutes. Palash Chowdhury of Navy won the silver medal with a time of 4:59:71 minutes.

South Asian Games double-gold medalist Mahfuza Khatun Shila won her first gold medal in individual event after creating two national records in relay events for Bangladesh Navy. Shila, who gave up midway through the 100m breaststroke following her knee dislocation on Sunday, won her pet event of 50m breaststroke timing 35.28 seconds yesterday, leaving Romana to finish second with a time of 36.78 seconds.

A total of six national records were set on the second day following the five records on the first day.



Romana Akter of Bangladesh Army swims to a gold medal in the 400m individual medley in record time, her third national record in the ongoing 28th National Swimming Championships, at the Syed Nazrul Islam Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

SCOREBOARD				
KINGS V RIDERS				
RAJSHAHI KINGS	R/B	4s/6s		
Mominul c & b Arafat	9/12	1/0		
Junaid c Shahzad b Rubel	2/4	0/0		
Sabbir c & b Afridi	16/20	2/0		
Patel c Shahzad b Arafat	2/3	0/0		
Hasan c Jamshed b Arafat	2/6	0/0		
Akmal b Afridi	1/4	0/0		
Sammy b Dawson	5/6	1/0		
Mehedi not out	41/33	3/1		
Farhad not out	44/32	2/2		
Extras: (lb-4, w-2)	6			
Total: (For 7 wickets in 20 overs)	128			
Did not bat: Sami, Nazmul.				
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-25, 3-27, 4-33, 5-36, 6-41, 7-43.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shahag	4	1	18	0
Rubel	4	0	38	1
Arafat	4	0	31	3
Afridi	4	0	10	2
Dawson	4	0	27	1
RANGPUR RIDERS				
RAJSHAHI KINGS	R/B	4s/6s		
Shahzad c Sammy b Sami	12/11	2/0		
Soumya st Akmal b Mehedi	1/5	0/0		
Mithun c Akmal b Patel	20/21	2/0		
Jamshed c & b Mehedi	1/2	0/0		
Dawson lbw b Nazmul	2/9	0/0		
Afridi st Akmal b Nazmul	7/7	1/0		
Ziaur st Akmal b Nazmul	5/15	0/0		
Shohag c Akmal b Hasan	8/11	0/0		
Muktar c Nazmul b Hasan	5/16	0/0		
Arafat b Hasan	9/7	1/0		
Rubel not out	1/2	0/0		
Extras: (lb-3, w-5)	8			
Total: (All out in 17.4 overs)	79			
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-25, 3-26, 4-29, 5-46, 6-50, 7-58, 8-66, 9-78, 10-79.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Sami	3	0	7	1
Farhad	2	0	20	0
Mehedi	2	0	12	2
Nazmul	4	1	8	3
Patel	4	0	18	1
Hasan	2	4	11	3
Result: Rajshahi Kings won by 49 runs.				
Player-of-the-match: Mehedi Hasan Miraz.				

Mehedi played like 'a king': Sammy

SPORTS REPORTER

It's not often that you get to see two players from a single team arrive for the post-match press conference after a Bangladesh Premier League game. However, it's also not that often that you see a team win a game after getting reduced to 43 for seven.

The Rajshahi Kings did exactly that yesterday. They overcame a mountain to beat the Rangpur Riders and their skipper Darren Sammy was so excited that he tagged along the player-of-the-match, Mehedi Hasan Miraz to the post-match presser. The youngster scored an unbeaten 41 coming in at number eight and then scalped two wickets with the ball in his hands.

According to Sammy, Mehedi played like a king.

"We all know what he is capable of doing. We needed two kings to stand up today and one of them was the youngest player of the team and the other was the vice captain.

"In the previous game it was me and a couple of games before that it was Samit Patel. When you start believing as a unit, there is more belief and you are more focused and you know someone is going to give it out there for the team," said Sammy.

Mehedi himself was delighted to have finally posted a good knock with the bat.

Considered as an all-rounder from a very young age, Mehedi didn't do justice to his batting talent during the recent England series. He didn't do too well at the start of the BPL either and therefore his knock yesterday was a relief.

"Batsmen just have one chance and it's difficult for them. There is a lot of pressure on them in this format. I like to play long knocks and take my time. And I got that opportunity today. I took my time and played my own game," said Mehedi.

"Obviously this knock has given me a lot of confidence. There was a lot of pressure on us to come back in the game. But then again, confidence won't always remain. It will be there one day, it will go the other, so I need to remain focused," he added.

One of the highlights of Mehedi's innings came in the last over of the first match when he went down the track and smashed Rubel Hossain for a six over the bowler's head. It was something that the youngster enjoyed a lot.

"Many people think that I can't hit sixes, but that shot just proved that I can. I try to hit big shots. But in general I always like to take singles. The big hits come only after I get settled," explained Mehedi, next to an excited Sammy who was jokingly nodding his head as though he understood every word that the youngster was saying in Bengali.

Sabbir and Shahzad stir the pot

SPORTS REPORTER

Sabbir Rahman and Mohammad Shahzad did not seem to like each other's company at Mirpur yesterday. The on-field umpires had to get involved a couple of times during the match between the Rajshahi Kings and the Rangpur Riders to settle the seemingly heated face-offs between the two yesterday.

It began when Sabbir Rahman came to bat in the second over of the first innings yesterday. Sabbir and Shahzad were having a chat and at one point the umpires and the players needed to separate them.

The second incident took place in the fourth over of the second innings. After Shahzad was dismissed, replays suggested that he had poked Sabbir with the bat before leaving. Sabbir, surprisingly enough, immediately bent down and seemed to be wincing in pain. He however seemed perfectly fine while complaining about the incident to the umpires.

After the match Arafat Sunny and Darren Sammy spoke on the incident. While Sunny tried to dismiss the incident as a joke between the two players, he criticised Shahzad.

"I saw something happen and I don't see any reason for my player to lie about what happened on the cricket field. I am definitely going to have a word with him [Shahzad]. We don't play cricket like that no matter what the situation of the game is.

"We [Shahzad and Sammy] are good friends. But no matter what the situation, it's the player's responsibility to conduct himself. If he did what Sabbir said he did, it's not right and I am going to talk to him in the hotel," he said.

Taylor ton puts Kiwis on top

AFP, Hamilton

Ross Taylor shrugged off his eye problems to score a superb unbeaten century as New Zealand set Pakistan a formidable 369-run target to win the second Test on Monday.

Taylor finished 102 not out despite only being cleared to play two days before the Test after scarring on his left eye threatened his vision.

New Zealand declared late on the fourth day in Hamilton at 313 for five and Pakistan were one without loss after facing three overs before stumps.

Both sides vowed there would be no holding back on the final day with Pakistan needing to win to keep their world number two ranking and New Zealand looking to improve on seventh place.

SCORES IN BRIEF
NEW ZEALAND: First innings 271
PAKISTAN: First innings 216
NEW ZEALAND: Second innings 313 for 5 decl (Latham 80, Williamson 42, Taylor 102 not out, Nicholls 26, de Grandhomme 32; Imran 3-76)
PAKISTAN: Second innings 1 for no loss.

Bangladesh strike back

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's cricket team bounced back strongly in the Women's Twenty20 Asia Cup when they outclassed Thailand by 35 runs at the Asian Institute of Technology Ground, Bangkok yesterday.

Panna Ghosh along with Rumana Ahmed tore apart the Thailand batting in defence of 88 runs to secure their first win after a humiliating 64-run defeat to India in the first game.

Panna claimed four wickets for nine runs in four overs while Rumana captured three for five in 3.3 as the home side were bundled out for 53 runs in 18.3 overs. Jahanara Alam however started the

carnage by taking the first two wickets.

Earlier a 48-ball 38 by Sanjida Islam helped Bangladesh put up 88 runs for six wickets in 20 overs.

Farjana Haque (15) and Salma Khatun (10 not out) were the other batters who reach double figures.

Bangladesh will play their third match against Nepal today at the same venue.

SCORES IN BRIEF
BANGLADESH: 88 for 6 in 20 overs (Sanjida 38, Farjana 15, Salma 10 not out, Jahanara 9 not out; Laomi 3-18)
THAILAND: 53 all out in 18.3 overs (Chantam 21, Tippoch 10, Sangsoma 5 not out; Jahanara Alam 2-21, Rumana 3-5, Panna 4-9)
Result: Bangladesh women won by 35 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Sanjida Islam.



Opener Sanjida Islam receives the player-of-the-match award after helping Bangladesh to a 35-run victory over Thailand with a 38-run knock during their Women's Twenty20 Asia Cup match in Bangkok yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Ashwin's wiles hurt England

AFP, Mohali

Ravichandran Ashwin rattled England's top order with three wickets to leave them reeling on 78 for four at stumps on day three of the third Test on Monday, still trailing India by 56.

The visitors had earlier conceded a 134-run first-innings lead after India's lower-order batsmen gave the hosts control of the game in Mohali.

At close of play Joe Root (36) and nightwatchman Gareth Batty (0) were at the crease.

Ashwin drew first blood, getting England skipper Alastair Cook bowled for 12.

The England skipper had been living dangerously, with two leg-before calls against him going for reviews, first by India and then by the batsman himself. But he survived only to see his stumps shattered later on.

SCORES IN BRIEF
ENGLAND: First innings 283
INDIA: First innings 417 (Patel 42, Pujara 51, Kohli 62, Ashwin 72, Jadeja 90, Yadav 55; Rashid 4-118, Stokes 5-73)
ENGLAND: Second innings 78 for 4 (Root 36 not out, Bairstow 15; Ashwin 3-19)

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