



(L) Sabbir Rahman and Imrul Kayes might have been involved in a fate-changing run-out in the second ODI on Thursday, but there clearly weren't any hard feelings between them off the field as they both smile while posing for a photo outside the team hotel in Nelson. (R) Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim are on their way back to the hotel following Friday prayers.



PHOTOS: BCB

'Our mistakes will help us'

AL-AMIN from Nelson



The Tigers did not train today. Since it's a Friday they performed the Jumma prayers at a mosque close to the team hotel. Most of the players also enjoyed a trip to the National Park in Nelson in the afternoon. But the crucial run-out that cost Bangladesh the second ODI at the Saxton Oval on Thursday understandably dominated the discussion.

The two players Sabbir Rahman and Imrul Kayes, who were involved in that comical run out, also had their say about the sorry episode that saw Bangladesh stumble to 184 all out from a strong 105 for one chasing New Zealand's 251.

"We batted well in the first game. I you consider that innings then we should have won our second game. Everyone wants to win games; it was a very good opportunity for us to win the game yesterday but we could not do that. If we get an opportunity like that we will definitely try and win the game next time," Sabbir told reporters in the parking area of Trailways Hotel today.

He was playing with a lot of authority on Thursday and hammered three massive sixes and two cracking boundaries for his 38. The way he was getting on top of the bouncing deliveries, it provided him the opportunity of becoming the hero of the match.

But when asked about it, he said: "I never thought of becoming a hero. I tried to play good cricket. The run-out was unfortunate. In cricket anything can happen. We did not bat well on a wicket which was very good. We will try not to commit the same mistake in the next game. I think we have adjusted with the conditions and we hope to play good cricket in the third ODI."

While reflecting on the run-out Sabbir said: I was not thinking of placing my bat first. I just normally tried to place my bat. He [Imrul Kayes] was lucky that he placed his bat first. It's nothing serious. He was the set batsman; I was supposed to forfeit my wicket. Next time I will definitely try not to commit the same mistake."

He also added that there were no hard feelings between them and they are not enemies.

He said that they want to put behind the disappointment of the last game and look forward to do well in the coming games including Saturday's final ODI.

"We have got one game. We have also got the T20s and Tests coming up next. Hopefully we can go neck and neck with them, which was our target when we came here," Sabbir said.

Opener Imrul Kayes had more responsibility after the run-out episode since he was the lucky one of the two. When asked if he should have carried his innings till the end, he said: "Certainly, I should have carried on with my innings. When Shakib got out I thought I will build a partnership with Mosaddek. When Mosaddek got out I became a little nervous. Actually when I was planning to play some strokes we lost wickets at the other end."

He said that the run-out is very much part of the game but admitted that it was the crucial moment of the game.

"Our understanding was very good and you have seen we were playing well. It was certainly the turning point of the game. But if I could have carried on we could have won the game," said the left-hander.

"We batted well in the first one-day and the bowling was not good. We have bowled well in the second game but we did not bat well. I think the mistakes we have committed will help us in the coming games."

SAFF WOMEN'S C'SHIP BD take on India today

SPORTS REPORTER

Fresh from an inspiring 6-0 win over Afghanistan, Bangladesh will be looking to carry the performance when they take on three-time champions and hosts India in their final group match of the 4th SAFF Women's Championship at the Kanchenjunga Stadium in Siliguri today.

Bangladesh are on the top of Group B, thanks to a better goal difference over India, and a draw against the hosts today will be good enough for the women in red and green to emerge group champions.

"India are very strong team as they have some experienced players while our squad is youthful. However, our players improved much in the last three years and we want to show reflections of that improvement in the match against India," coach Golam Rabbani Choton told reporters yesterday.

The charges of Choton played attacking football against Afghanistan in the opening match using both flanks, but the coach is mulling a different strategy for today's match by keeping his backline unbroken.

SA thrash SL

AFF, Port Elizabeth

Kyle Abbott struck twice in the first seven overs to set up a 206-run win for South Africa on the fifth day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at St George's Park on Friday.

It took South Africa just 70 minutes and 13.3 overs to claim the remaining five Sri Lankan wickets and take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Rajshahi pull off amazing chase

SPORTS REPORTER



An amazing batting performance from Rajshahi on the fourth and final day of the National Cricket League fifth-round matches led them to an unexpected eight wicket win over hosts Chittagong at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday.

Chittagong had declared at 299 for three after their batsmen Tasamul Haque and Yasir Ali reached their respective centuries in the morning session. They had set a target of 385 when they declared at 10:30am today and were hoping to put the pressure on Rajshahi. However, Rajshahi's batsmen chased that target down in just 66 overs, going at almost six runs an over. Openers Myshukur Rahman and

Mizanur Rahman scored 81 and 80 respectively to lay a solid foundation. Junaid Siddique and Forhad Hossain then scored 104 off 97 and 113 off 77 balls respectively to lead them home. Forhad, who was the main aggressor, hit five sixes and nine fours on a flat wicket.

In the day's other games, Rangpur beat Sylhet by 10 wickets, while Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka and Dhaka Metro churned out draws.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Sylhet: 272 and 150
Rangpur: 398 and 27 for no loss (Saymon 14 not out, Liton 12 not out)
Result: Rangpur won by ten wickets.
Dhaka: 366 and 278 for 8 dec
Khulna: 342 and 92 for 3 (Hasanuzzaman 55; Nazmul 2-

32)
Result: Match drawn
Dhaka Metro: 292 and 223
Barisal: 280 and 171 for 6 (Al-Amin 69, Fazle 31; Hider 3-51)
Result: Match drawn

Chittagong: 315 and 299 for 3 dec (Yasir 105 not out, Tasamul 100 not out; Saqlain 2-102)
Rajshahi: 230 and 387 for 2 (Forhad 113 not out, Junaid 104 not out, Myshukur 81, Mizanur 80; Iftekhar 1-79)
Result: Rajshahi won by seven wickets.

Dramatic collapse hands Aus series

AFF, Melbourne



Mitchell Starc shone with bat and ball as Australia dismissed Pakistan for 163 to secure an innings and 18-run victory in the second Test on Friday, the win giving the hosts an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. Starc smashed 84 with the bat, including a record seven sixes at the MCG, then tore through Pakistan's tail with 4-36 as Australia's bowlers snatched an unlikely win from a rain-blighted match.

Pakistan's capitulation left their captain heart-broken and after falling for a second-ball duck with a rash sweep-shot, 42-year-old veteran Misbahul Haq said he would consider retiring before the series finale in Sydney.

For home captain and man of the match Steve Smith, it was a golden day as he smashed an unbeaten 165 in the morning session and watched Pakistan disintegrate in the afternoon.

After declaring Australia's first innings at 624 for eight just before lunch, Smith gave his bowlers 68 overs to run through the tourists. In the end, they needed only 53.2 overs as Pakistan's demise hastened against the reversing ball after tea.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: First innings 443 for 9 decl
AUSTRALIA: First innings 624 for 8 decl (Warner 144, Khawaja 97, Smith 165 not out, Handscomb 54, Starc 84; Sohail 3-131, Yasir 3-207, Riaz 2-147)
PAKISTAN: Second innings 163 (Azhar 43, Younis 24, Sarfraz 43; Starc 4-36, Hazlewood 2-39, Lyon 3-33)
Result: Australia won by an innings and 18 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Steve Smith.

Champions Abahani end unbeaten

SPORTS REPORTER



Champions Abahani wrapped up their JB Bangladesh Premier League campaign with an unbeaten record after registering a come-from-behind 3-1 victory over Rahmatganj MFS at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nabib Newaj Jibon struck a brace while Englishman Jonathan David scored the other for the Sky Blues in the second half after Siyo Zunapio had given an early lead to Rahmatganj, who finished sixth with 27 points from 22 matches.

Abahani came into the last match having already confirmed their fifth professional league title, and the only point of interest was whether they could end the campaign as the only side to remain unbeaten. The charges of George Kottan, despite conceding the lead, accomplished that target quite clinically and became the first team to win the professional league title with an unbeaten record.

As soon as the referee blew the final whistle, a few hundred fans under the banner of Abahani Supporters Forum, who were waiting at the sidelines after jumping over the fence without any obstacle, started the celebration by putting garlands on the players.

Awami League's sports secretary Harunur Rashid congratulated the champion team.

The Abahani players, officials and fans, dressed in sky blue t-shirts, rejoiced as the champions and

runners-up trophies were handed over to the teams on the ground.

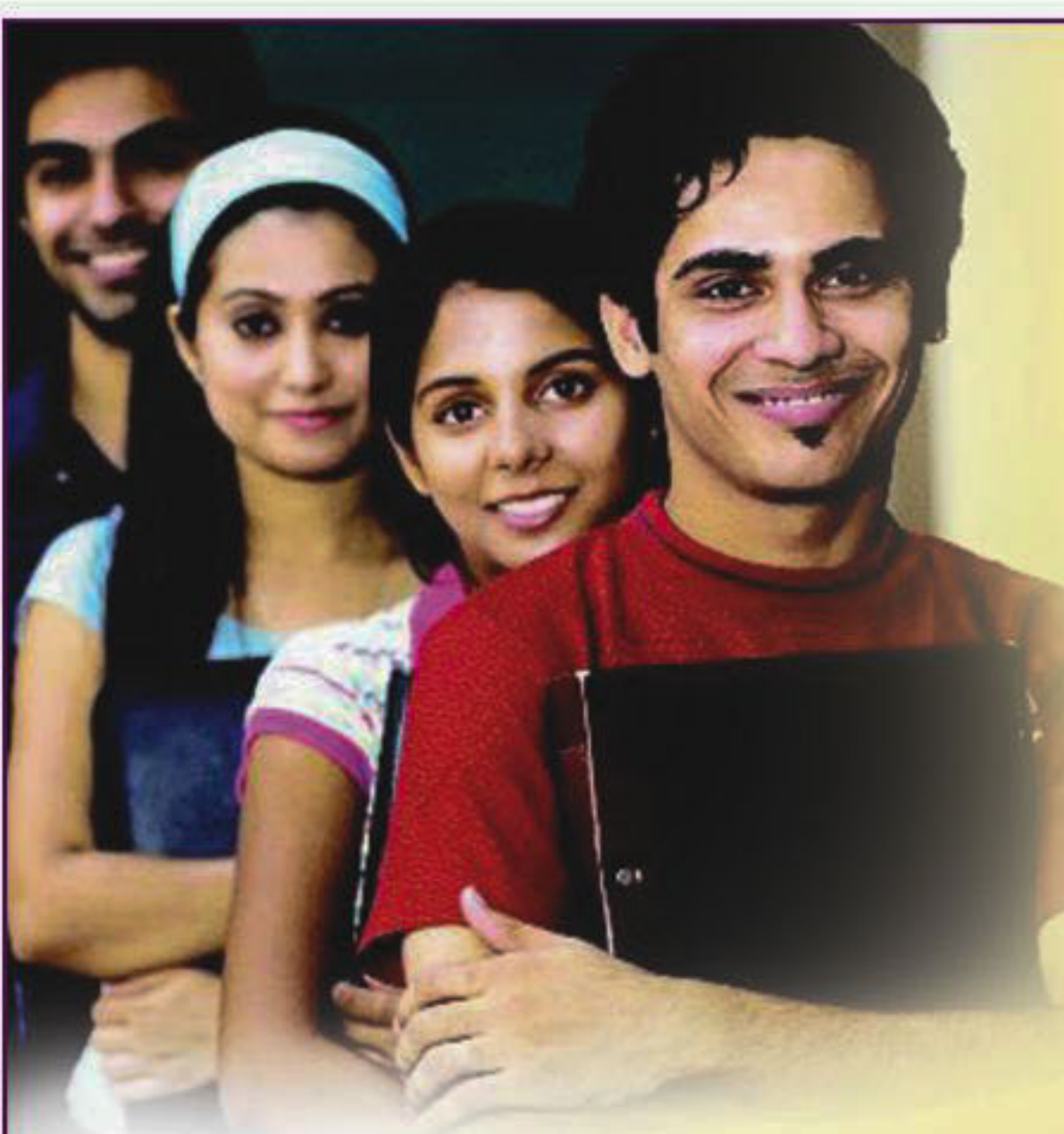
Meanwhile runners-up Chittagong Abahani also ended their league campaign on a winning note after coming from a goal-down to beat over Brothers Union 2-1. Chittagong Abahani finished with 47 points, five behind the champions, while Brothers finished fourth with 30 points.

Kawsar Ali Rabbi put Brothers ahead in the first half before Mezbabul Haque and Chencho Gyltshen scored one apiece to deliver the victory to the port city outfit.

The league will be wrapped up today with two matches – Feni Soccer taking on Muktijoddha Sangsad and Arambagh KS playing against Team BJMC.



Players and officials of champions Abahani celebrate with the Bangladesh Premier League trophy at the end of their final league match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR



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ADMISSION TEST

Wednesday, 4 January 2017 at 10:30 am

LAST DATE FOR ONLINE APPLICATIONS

Tuesday, 3 January 2017 till 10:00 am

CLASSES COMMENCE

Sunday, 15 January 2017