

SPORT



Abahani batsman Mosaddek Hossain continued his rich vein of form, scoring a vibrant 110 against Khelaghar in their Dhaka Premier League match at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Mosaddek shines on day of national stars

SPORTS REPORTER

The first round of the 2017 Dhaka Premier League, the country's most celebrated limited-overs domestic tournament, started with the cream of the crop strutting their wares as the national stars came to the fore with telling performances in wins by Legends of Rugganj, Prime Doleshwar and defending champions Abahani. While former national spinner Arafat Sunny and current limited-overs captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza displayed their bowling wiles, Rugganj skipper Mushfiqur Rahim displayed his virtuosity in turning an innings around, which was replicated for Abahani by national middle-order mainstay Mahmudullah, but it was youngster Mosaddek Hossain who outshone his national seniors yesterday.

He translated his good form at international level to an even more stellar level by scoring a brilliant century to take Abahani past Khelaghar Samaj Kallyan Samiti at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah yesterday.

Batting first, Khelaghar rode on Robiul Islam Robi's 74 and Nafees Iqbal's 78 to finish on a decent 293 for six.

Abahani were clearly the stronger outfit on the field, but they would have been nervous going into the dressing room during the innings break, which was reflected

at the start of the chase.

Abahani were reduced to 85 for three with Saif Hasan, Sadman Islam and Nazmul Hossain returning before the 20th over. It was only when Mosaddek and Mahmudullah got together that Abahani began to change the pace of the innings.

Together the duo put on 127 runs off 124 balls for the fourth wicket. While Mahmudullah scored a 67-ball 59, Mosaddek finished on 110 off just 85.

Mahmudullah and Mosaddek

format. Eventually Abahani reached home with five wickets in hand.

For the sixth wicket, Mohammad Mithun had joined in along with Mosaddek and made his life easier by hammering a 27-ball 42. He hit four fours and a six.

The day's other games took place at the BKSP with Brothers Union taking on the Legends of Rugganj and Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club against Partex Sporting Club.

Batting first, Brothers were

to lead Rugganj home with four wickets in hand.

It was not a very calm start though for Rugganj as they were reduced to 81 for three in 18 overs. It got worse when Naeem Islam and Yasir Ali were sent back soon after and they were reduced to 141 for five. However, despite the odds, Mushfiqur stood by and ensured that his team got home.

Mushfiqur, who captained instead of Mashrafe, scored 75 off 103 balls with one six and five fours.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KHELAGHAR SKS V ABAHANI LIMITED
KHELAGHAR: 293 for 6 (Nafees 78, Robiul 74; Saifuddin 3-45, Kazi Anik 2-69)
ABAHANI: 297 for 5 in 47.3 overs (Mosaddek 110, Mahmudullah 59, Nazmul Hossain 45, Mithun 42 not out; Sadekur 2-36, Dollar 1-24)
Result: Abahani won by five wickets.

BROTHERS UNION V LEGENDS OF RUGGANJ
BROTHERS UNION: 206 for 9 (Myshukur 65, Dhuman 30; Sharif 3-25, Mashrafe 2-28, Asif 2-31)
LEGENDS OF RUGGANJ: 207 for 6 in 46.1 overs (Mushfiqur 75 not out, Hasanuzzaman 31; Abhishek 2-22, Nehaduzzaman 2-34)
Result: Rugganj won by four wickets.

PRIME DOLESHWAR VS PARTEX SPORTING CLUB
PRIME DOLESHWAR: 287 for 9 (Abdul 77, Marshall 63, Imtiaz 38; Golam 3-41, Shahnur 2-47)
PARTEX: 209 for 9 (Yashpal 74, Sajjadul 43; Arafat 5-33, Forhad 2-10)
Result: Prime Doleshwar won by 78 runs.

both love to play under pressure and yesterday's situation was ideal for them. They had taken the team past the 200-run mark with the 40th over approaching. However, it was precisely at that moment that Riyad was dismissed and Abahani needed another partnership.

Mosaddek kept his cool and took the team almost all the way to the target. He scored 12 fours and two sixes and got out only after the scores were tied in the 48th over. This was Mosaddek's second List A century and his highest score in this

restricted to 206 for nine. They were in trouble very early in the innings when they were reduced to 91 for six, courtesy of some good bowling from Mohammad Sharif and Mashrafe.

Myshukur Rahman, who generally bats in the top order, came in at number six and scored 65 off 90 balls to help them recover and cross the 200-run mark. Mashrafe finished with figures of two for 28 in eight overs, while Sharif scalped three for 25 in nine.

After the exchange, Mushfiqur Rahim scored a calm, unbeaten 75

On the other hand, Prime Doleshwar put in a dominating performance to beat Partex Sporting Club by 78 runs. Batting first, Abdul Majid scored 77, while Marshall Ayub posted 63 to help them post 287.

During the chase, Yashpal Singh tried to make a game of it by scoring 74, but he could not accelerate and that came from 96 balls. The majority of the other batsmen though fell prey to Sunny, who put in a brilliant bowling effort, finishing on five for 33 in 10 overs with three maidens.

'Weaker BCCI means weaker Bangladesh'

PTI, New Delhi



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) chief Nazmul Hassan Papon said issues that India has regarding ICC's proposed revenue model need to be sorted as a "weaker BCCI means weaker Bangladesh".

The BCB chief, who is also a part of ICC working group, met Vinod Rai, chief of the court-appointed Committee of Administrators (COA) on Wednesday to discuss issues related to the ICC board meeting later this month.

"Everybody is trying to find a middle path and solve (the revenue structure problem) in a more amicable manner," Hassan told mediapersons after his meeting with the COA.

"We don't want any member country to get hurt. Especially India, as they have always supported us. If India becomes weak, we also become weak."

However, the BCB chief is an advocate of equitable distribution of ICC revenue.

"I was a party to the decision when N Srinivasan was there and Big Three (India, Australia, England) concept was mooted.

Look I believe we need a more equitable distribution but that certainly doesn't mean, you take away India's share. No, no that's not what we want."

Having said that, BCB supremo said there is a need to help member countries which are going through financial crisis.

Asked about the proposed changes in ICC's governance structure, Hassan said different member nations have different issues.

"Not all of us had agreed on the governance structure. There are a lot of issues that others don't agree and there are some with which we don't agree. That's why it was placed at the ICC Board Meeting for everybody's observation," he said.

Hassan further said that both BCCI and BCB have submitted their observations on the governance issue.

While he didn't divulge the details of the meeting today, the BCB chief discussed their differences with the COA.

"The COA put forth their point on what their concerns on revenue model and governance structure are while we also told them why we are supporting a few issues and not all. We would meet again and want more countries to join us," he concluded.



NAZMUL HASSAN

A matter of great pride: Bashar

SPORTS REPORTER



The International Cricket Council (ICC) named Habibur Bashar as one of the ambassadors for the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy in England and Wales, alongside seven other legends of the game.

Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi, England batsman Ian Bell, New Zealand pacer Shane Bond, Australia batsman Mike Hussey, India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, Sri Lankan batsman Kumar Sangakkara and former South Africa captain Graeme Smith were the other ambassadors.

Bashar, the current selector of the Bangladesh cricket team, was elated by the news.

"It's a matter of great pride for me to be appointed as one of the ambassadors for this year's ICC Champions Trophy. Not many things can give you more satisfaction than promoting an ICC event, that too one in which the top eight sides will be fighting for top honours. I eagerly await my role and also look forward to penning my thoughts, which I feel is a great opportunity for me," Bashar said.

"It is definitely a big step forward for our country to qualify directly to this year's Champions Trophy, and it is really important for the team as well."

Bashar is confident the tri-series in Ireland in May will help the side acclimatise to English conditions ahead of the Champions Trophy.

"We have been planning for the Champions Trophy for the last two years," he explained. "We did not have much success outside our home grounds, but we are prepared now. We played well in the 2015 World Cup in Australia and the last series against Sri Lanka gave us a lot of confidence."



MSC rope in Nayeemuddin

SPORTS REPORTER

Syed Nayeemuddin is going to take charge of falling giants Mohammedan SC for the upcoming season as the Black and Whites roped in the Indian coach following a poor show in the last season.

The 73-year-old coach, who was supposed to arrive in Dhaka on Monday to take charge of Brothers Union for the third successive season, delayed his arrival after getting the offer from Mohammedan. He will join the Black and Whites after his visa issues are resolved, informed MSC director-in-charge Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan.

"Nayeemuddin will join us within days as head coach. We decided to appoint him to guide our team which will have quite a few senior players. We are preparing his visa," Lokman said yesterday over phone.

"Nayeemuddin was supposed to arrive here on April 10 but he didn't. Today I communicated with the coach who told me that he got an offer from Mohammedan and he is thinking about it," Brothers Union manager Amer Khan had said earlier in the day.

Mohammedan had earlier appointed Abdul Kaiyum Sentu, who guided them during the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup in February. Lokman informed Sentu will work as Nayeemuddin's deputy.

Mustafizur suffers in Sunrisers defeat

STAR SPORT DESK

Bangladesh seamer Mustafizur Rahman failed to make his Indian Premier League comeback a memorable one after proving extremely costly in Sunrisers Hyderabad's four-wicket defeat against Mumbai Indians last night.

The 20-year-old left-arter, who was named the best emerging player last year after taking 23 wickets for the champions, played his first match of the season yesterday, just a day after flying from Bangladesh to Mumbai. And the seamer clearly lacked the rhythm and control which had made him such a sought-after commodity in the richest twenty20 franchise league last year.

Mustafizur went for 19 runs in his first over -- his most expensive by far in the IPL -- before finishing with figure of none for 34 in 2.4 overs as the home

side romped to the victory target of 159 with eight balls to spare.

Batting first, Sunrisers were given a rollicking start by David Warner (49) and Shikhar Dhawan (48). But Jaspreet Bumrah and Harbhajan Singh stemmed the run flow, sharing five wickets between them as the run-scoring stalled midway through.

On a wicket ideal for batting, 158 never seemed a threatening total as Mumbai, riding on quick-fire knocks from Parthiv Patel (39), Nitish Rana (45) and Krunal Pandya (37), raced through to the target to inflict the first defeat in three matches on the champions.

SCORES IN BRIEF:
SUNRISERS HYDERABAD: 158 for 8 in 20 overs (Warner 49, Dhawan 48; Bumrah 3-24, Harbhajan 2-23)
MUMBAI INDIANS: 159 for 6 in 18.4 overs (Patel 39, Rana 45, Pandya 37; Rashid 1-19, Bhuvaneshwar 3-21)
Result: Mumbai Indians won by four wickets.

Jimmy likely to get international ban

SPORTS REPORTER



National hockey team captain Rasel Mahmud Jimmy is likely to face an international ban as the four-member investigation committee

comprising members of the selection committee and the national team has prepared a few recommendations for imposing a suspension on Jimmy for two to three years.

Four allegations -- criticising officials of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF), taking responsibility of publicity of the national team during the Hockey World League, threatening players of Army hockey team, and breaching the bond he had given to the federation previously -- were brought against Jimmy. The forward denied all the allegations during a hearing recently.

"We have all but prepared three recommendations which will be referred to the BHF working committee within a couple of days. We have recommended suspending Jimmy from international matches and foreign leagues for two to three years. We have also recommended serving a show-cause notice to national team coach Oliver Kurtz for allowing Jimmy to work in a publicity campaign and have asked him to consider players' past records, education and behaviour before selecting the captain of the national team," said a member on condition of anonymity.

"We could have recommended lesser punishment had Jimmy not refuted those allegations," said the source, adding that there was no recommendation made on suspending Jimmy from domestic competitions.

The final decision, however, will be taken at the next BHF working committee meeting.



Malik seals series for Pakistan

AFP, Providence



Shoaib Malik scored an unbeaten century as Pakistan beat West Indies by six wickets to clinch victory in their one day international series in Guyana on Tuesday.

Malik sealed the win -- and his ton -- in spectacular fashion, smashing a six off West Indies captain Jason Holder with nearly seven overs to spare.

Malik's 101, which included two sixes and ten fours, was matched by an assured 81 from Mohammad Hafeez as Pakistan finished on 236 for four in reply to the home side's 233 for nine.

Hafeez completely dominated their partnership, his innings coming off 86 balls with two sixes and eight fours before a miscued sweep off Ashley Nurse found a fielder on the square-leg boundary.

Permaul, the left-arm spinner brought into the match at the expense of fast bowler Alzarri Joseph on a turning track, proved expensive while leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo also lacked potency in helpful conditions.

SCORES IN BRIEF
WEST INDIES: 233 for 9 in 50 overs (Hope 71, Mohammed 59; Amir 2-41, Shadab 2-57)
PAKISTAN: 236 for 4 in 43.1 overs (Hafeez 81, Malik 101 not out; Gabriel 2-60)
Result: Pakistan won by six wickets and clinched the 3-match series 2-1.

Player-of-the-match: Shoaib Malik.
Player-of-the-series: Shoaib Malik.