

# SPORT



Gazi Group Cricketers batsman Mominul Haque proved that he was more than a Test specialist with a blistering 120-ball 152 against Prime Doleshwar in their Dhaka Premier League match at the BKSP yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Mominul stakes his claim

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahmudullah Riyad and Mushfiqur Rahim scored some runs and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza turned in a player-of-the-match performance, while a few others who were also scheduled to take the England flight late last night had little impact on their last appearances in the Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League yesterday, except the recalled Nasir Hossain, who continued his good form with an all-round performance.

All those national players scheduled to leave the country last night to play the tri-series in Ireland and the ICC Champions Trophy in England before a after a 10-day camp in Sussex, however failed to hog the spotlight. Instead, it was little Mominul Haque who reminded the national selectors that he is not a stranger to the 50-over format. The left-hander, who has been categorised exclusively as a longer-version cricketer -- and dropped from the Test team recently -- by the think tank and last played an ODI in February 2015, showed yesterday at the BKSP that he has got the ability to meet the demands of 50-over cricket with a blazing 120-ball 152.

His scintillating knock -- which was his best in List A cricket -- and a 153-run partnership with Nasir Hossain, who scored 76 off 64 balls before taking three wickets, guided Gazi Group Cricketers to their straight fourth win with a 35-run victory over Prime Doleshwar.

Mominul came to the crease in the second over after the dismissal

of Anamul Haque and with Nasir repaired his team's early damage after they lost both openers for nine runs. Mominul reached his fifty in 54 balls and then reached his ton in 89 balls; his third fifty came from only 28 balls. In the fourth-wicket

stand with Parvez Rasool he shared 101 runs in 12.4 overs as Gazi were all out for 307.

During his third List A hundred, Mominul hit 16 fours and six sixes and it was none other than national Test and Legends of Rugganj skipper

Mushfiqur Rahim who watched the Mominul's mastery as his match at the other BKSP ground against Kalabagan Kirira Chakra was delayed due to a wet outfield. They later won the curtailed 27-over-a-side match by three wickets, with Mehrab Hossain jnr of Kalabagan notably carrying his bat through the innings in a losing cause.

Losing five wickets for 98 runs, Doleshwar made a disastrous start but finally they finished their quota with 272 for nine.

Away at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, a tornado from Ziaur Rahman snapped defending champions Abahani's winning run as they lost to Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club by six wickets.

Mahmudullah made yet another half-century as the right-hander scored 62 off 66 balls with the help of two fours and three sixes while opener Liton Das also contributed 62 off 82 balls, helping Abahani to score 269 runs.

Leg-spinner Tanbir Haider, who had failed to fulfil the expectations of the national team management during the New Zealand trip, however made sure that the score will not go beyond the reach of Sheikh Jamal as he claimed four wickets for 45 runs in 10 overs.

In reply, Sheikh Jamal lost national opener Imrul Kayes early but Fazole Mahmud (63) and Prashant Chopra (57) steadied the innings with a 104-run stand for the second wicket, before Ziaur Rahman took charge to take his team to victory with two overs in hand.

Zia smote six sixes and three fours during his unbeaten 57-ball 73-run.

SCORES IN BRIEF	
<b>GAZI GROUP:</b> 307 all out in 48.2 overs (Mominul 152, Nasir 64, Rasool 53; Delwar 3-39, Farhad 4-41)	<b>SHEIKH JAMAL:</b> 270-4 in 48 overs (Fazle 63, Chopra 57, Nurul 46, Zia 73 not out)
<b>PRIME DOLESHWAR:</b> 272-9 in 50 overs (Imtiaz 42, Nafees 36, Samiullah 55, Jaker 52, Enamul 30; Shaiful 2-51, Nasir 3-40)	<b>Result:</b> Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club won by six wickets.
<b>Result:</b> Gazi Group Cricketers won by 35 runs.	<b>KALABAGAN:</b> 176-8 in 27 overs (Mehrab 79, Masakadza 29; Sharif 2-46, Mosharraf 2-28, Mashrafe 2-36)
<b>ABAHANI:</b> 269 all out in 50 overs (Liton 62, Mahmudullah 62, Shuvagata 32; Shahadat 2-58, Razzak 2-48, Tanbir 4-45)	<b>LEGEND OF RUGGANJ:</b> 178-7 in 26.4 overs (Hasanuzzaman 30, Mushfiqur 44, Zaidi 37; Abul 2-



Ziaur Rahman did what he does best, hammering six sixes during an unbeaten 57-ball 73 in Sheikh Jamal's Dhaka Premier League win over Abahani in Fatullah yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Uthappa takes KKR to top

PTI, Pune

Robin Uthappa made a mockery of Rising Pune Supergiant's bowling attack to anchor Kolkata Knight Riders closer towards a play-off berth with a convincing seven wicket win in their IPL match yesterday.

The right-hander struck a match-winning 87 off just 47 balls and was ably supported by skipper Gautam Gambhir, who made 62 off 46 deliveries, as two-time champions KKR regained their spot at the top of the standings with six wins from eight games.

While Uthappa decorated his knock with seven boundaries and six hits over the fence, Gambhir innings was laced with six fours and one six.

The duo stitched 158 runs off just 85 balls for the second wicket to help KKR chase down the 183-run target with 11 balls to spare.

Earlier, Steven Smith led from the front with an unbeaten 51 to lift Pune to a challenging 182 for five.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**PUNE:** 182 for 5 (Rahane 46, Smith 51 not out, Tripathi 38; Yadav 2-31)  
**KOLKATA:** 184 for 3 in 18.1 overs (Gambhir 62, Uthappa 87; Unadkat 1-26)  
**Result:** KKR won by 7 wks.  
**Player-of-the-match:** RV Uthappa.

## ICC BOARD MEETING End of Big 3?

### BCCI loses revenue & governance votes

PTI, New Delhi



The Indian Cricket Board's hegemony in world cricket today came under severe threat as the richest board was comprehensively voted out on governance structure and revenue model at the ICC Board Meeting in Dubai.

India was checkmated by former BCCI boss Shashank Manohar, who now helms the ICC as its first independent chairman.

The BCCI was thrashed 1-9 when representatives of all other member nations, except India's Amitabh Chaudhary, voted in favour of a change in the governance structure. Their opposition to change of the revenue model was also rejected 8-2 by the ICC board, with Chaudhary only finding support from Sri Lanka Cricket's Thilanga Sumathipala.

The bigger issue was the contentious revenue model, which is set to bring India's share down to half from USD 570 million. Manohar has advocated a more equitable distribution from the earlier 'Big Three' Model where India, Australia and England were the primary earners.

"Yes, the voting is over. It was 8-2 in favour of revamped revenue model and 9-1 in favour of constitutional changes," a senior BCCI functionary present in Dubai told PTI today.

"The BCCI has voted against both as we had, in principle, maintained that all these changes are completely unacceptable for us. At this point, we can only say that all options are open for us," he added.

It was learnt that since BCCI outright rejected the



SHASHANK MANOHAR AMITABH CHAUDHARY

additional USD 100 million pay-out in revenue, it was once again given the original option of USD 290 million.

**BANGLADESH AND ZIMBABWE'S ROLE**  
A peeved senior official today said that while it was expected that there will be resistance with Manohar at the helm, they were taken by surprise when Zimbabwe and Bangladesh -- the two votes that BCCI thought of as assured -- never came their way.

The heavy defeat indicates that the COA failed to read the minds of the likes of Nazmul Hassan, David Peever and Haroon Lorgat, all of whom came to India to discuss the changes.

"Zimbabwe has been promised USD 19 million by the ICC. On what grounds has Manohar made this promise? But strangely Bangladesh also went the other way. Today at the meeting, Manohar, in fact, said that the USD 290 million is a 'take it or leave it' offer," the fuming BCCI official said.

"Now at the SGM, there were only two resolutions passed. Our representative had two mandates. Propose for deferment of the decision which was rejected. And the next option was voting against during a floor Test.

"Our aim was to protect India's interest. Our tone was extremely conciliatory at the meeting for the best interest of the game. But what was shocking was Mr Manohar's stance," the official claimed.

**'ALL OPTIONS ARE OPEN'**  
Asked about whether India will now withdraw from the Champions Trophy, the official said, "All options are open. They have basically disrespected the Members Participation Agreement that was earlier signed.

"As of now the joint secretary will go back and an emergent SGM will be called. He will then apprise the General Body about the developments and an appropriate decision will be taken."

The official said that BCCI still does not consider it as a setback as it is "the vendetta of one man [Manohar]".

## 'Performing is the only way back'

SPORTS REPORTER

Whether Mominul Haque is going to feature in international cricket this year remains a question. He was excluded from Bangladesh's last Test against Sri Lanka, a game which the Tigers went on to win.

And now, it is quite likely that he might have to fight for a place in a format in which he averages the highest in Bangladesh. That is a state that can de-motivate any player in the world. But Mominul's brilliant 152 off 120 balls -- the third highest List A score by a Bangladeshi -- which included 16 fours and six sixes, is perhaps a sign that he is not going to fall for that trap.

"I just don't think about all that. Yes, I got dropped from the Test team, but that does not mean I am going to die. Even if I don't play Test cricket again, will I not live? So there's no point being worried. I have to perform. That's the only way I can get back," a typically calm Mominul told

The Daily Star yesterday after scoring his highest ever one-day score.

"I think the wicket was really good and the ground (BKSP) was small as well. So, it was easier to score runs. When I came in to bat, we had lost two wickets. So Nasir [Hossain] bhai and I thought of staying at the wicket for as long as possible.

"I did not really think that I was going to make a 150-plus score. To me the innings began just like any other knock, but I continued to make it big and that felt really good," he added.

He has played longer knocks in first-class cricket and even in Test cricket. However, he has almost perennially been criticised for his game in the shorter version despite having a decent average at one of Bangladesh's most vulnerable batting positions -- number three.

And that was the reason why he described this knock as something special. "I think I enjoyed this innings because I managed to stay at the wicket for so long. To do this in one-day cricket was fun," said the left-hander.

## NATIONAL HOCKEY GOLD CUP C'ship begins today with 32 teams

SPORTS REPORTER

The ATN Bangla 31st National Hockey Gold Cup championship will get underway today at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey stadium with the participation of 32 teams.

Although the number of teams has been increased from 29, the competitiveness is not expected to be very high as the players, barring those representing the national team, have been out of action for nearly a year as there has been no competitive hockey.

Some districts like Thakurgaon, Kurigram, Meherpur, Narail, Natore, Rangpur, Khulna, Feni, Shariatpur are taking part alongside the Dhaka Educational Board to ensure their councillorship ahead of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) polls.

"It is a pleasure that we are staging the national championship with that highest number of teams," said tournament secretary Mahub Ehsan Rana, adding that

district likes Kurigram, Shariatpur and Natore were taking part at the senior level for the first time.

The game's governing body had held the National Youth Championship a couple of months ago with the participation of 40 district teams, but Jessore, Tangail, Manikganj, Madaripur, Barguna, Cox's Bazar, Jhenaidah, Gopalganj, Panchagrah, Brambaria and Noagoda did not send their entries.

The organisers may be satisfied with having the maximum number of teams in the championship, but the reduced competitiveness means that the title race will be confined to five or six teams -- defending champions Faridpur, national player studded Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Army, Dhaka, Dinajpur, Rajshahi and BKSP.

BHF general secretary Abdus Sadeque believes the championship will create buzz among players and spectators ahead of the Asia Cup, scheduled to be held in Dhaka in October.

## Ansari's shock retirement

AFP, London



Surrey all-rounder Zafar Ansari unexpectedly announced his retirement from cricket at the age of 25 on Wednesday, just six months after making his England debut.

Ansari, who had been with Surrey since the age of eight, said he wanted to pursue other opportunities and was contemplating a career in law.

"After seven years as a professional cricketer and almost two decades in total playing the game, I have decided to bring my cricket career to an end," he said in a

statement. "This has been a very difficult decision to make and I have not made it lightly. It is... with great sadness that I say goodbye.

"Nevertheless, I have always been clear that when the time was right for me to move on I would, and that time has now come.

"While the timing may come as a surprise, I have always maintained that cricket was just one part of my life and that I have other ambitions that I want to fulfill."

Ansari was first capped by Surrey in 2014 and made his one-day debut for England the following year.

He eventually won his first Test cap against Bangladesh last October.



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