

SPORT

Mashrafe off to Ireland

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh ODI captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza left Dhaka last night to join the team in Ireland.
Mashrafe returned home from Sussex on April 30 to be with his ailing wife Sumona Huq.

"The situation has little bit improved and that's why I am flying today," said Mashrafe over phone from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday. "Please pray for us," added the Tigers skipper, who endured a tough time during his short stay as his two children have also been suffering from illness. BCB director and media committee chairman Jalal Yunus, who will travel with the team in Ireland as a team manager, also departed with the Bangladesh captain.

Both will join the team in Belfast as the Tigers will travel to Belfast from Sussex today.

Bangladesh completed their ten-day camp in Sussex on Friday after playing the second warm-up game that they won by 134 runs against Sussex XI and Mashrafe missed both the practice matches. The tri-series campaign will start from May 12 and Mashrafe will get a chance along with Shakib Al Hasan and Mustafizur Rahman, who joined the team yesterday, to warm up before the series as there is another practice match on May 10.



Mustafizur Rahman takes a selfie with Shakib Al Hasan on way to Sussex on Friday night. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Wrestlers denied Indian training

SPORTS REPORTER

A host of Bangladeshi wrestlers' hopes of participating in a year-long training camp in India was thrown into doubt after the wrestlers were not granted Indian visas, said officials of the Bangladesh Wrestling Federation (BWF) yesterday.

The federation selected a total of 17 male wrestlers for the long-term camp after the Indian Wrestling Federation (IWF) had agreed to provide training facilities to them under high performance coaches apart from food, accommodation, local transport and medical support during the training camp in Uttar Pradesh.

The BWF had submitted the visa applications for those wrestlers in the first week of March, but the Indian High Commission here returned all the passports without issuing the visas.

Federation's joint secretary Mezbaul Haq Azad said the visa authority didn't provide any reason as to why the visas were denied.

"We submitted all relevant documents including request letters of youth and sports ministry, federation and government order with the passports for seeking visa," Azad said. "Bangladesh Olympic Association also requested Indian High Commission to give visas. But we really don't know why the players didn't get the visas."

Federation secretary Tabiur Rahman Pahlwan said he would meet with the officials of the high commission today to ask for reasons behind the visas being denied.



Opener Robiul Islam's second consecutive century propelled Khelaghar SKS to a 20-run victory over Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club in a Dhaka Premier League match at BKSP yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Robiul's 2nd ton upsets Sk Jamal

Gazi Group win seventh on the trot

SPORTS REPORTER

Robiul Islam Robi scored his second consecutive century to help Khelaghar Samaj Kallyan Samiti upset a relatively more powerful Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club in the seventh round of the Dhaka Premier League yesterday at the BKSP.

Khelaghar are not a powerhouse in the league and yesterday's win was only their third in the competition. In the previous game it was Robiul's 107 that helped them beat Victoria Sporting Club, a team that is languishing at the bottom.

This time though, Robiul's cautious 126-ball 103 helped Khelaghar score a win against one of the big teams of the competition. He hit ten fours, two sixes and anchored the innings. Batting first, Khelaghar were restricted to 266 for 8 with Amit Majumdar's 58 and Salauddin Pappu's 46 supporting Robiul's knock. For Sheikh Jamal their skipper Abdur Razzak, who finished with figures of 5 for 52, was the key man as the veteran slow left-arm bowler claimed his second five-wicket haul of the tournament. Unfortunately though, his efforts went in vain.

Sheikh Jamal lost early wickets during their chase as Tanvir Islam, who finished with figures of 4 for 41, ran through the top order and by the time he was done with his first two overs, Sheikh Jamal were reeling

SCORES IN BRIEF

KHELAGHAR SKS v SHEIKH JAMAL
KHELAGHAR SKS: 266 for 8 (Robiul 103, Amit 58, Salauddin 46; Razzak 5-52, 2-41)
SHEIKH JAMAL: 246 for 9 in 47.2 overs (Rajin 76, Ziaur 75, Prasant 44; Tanvir 4-41, Dolar 1-34)
Result: Khelaghar SKS won by 20 runs.
Player of the match: Robiul Islam Robi

BROTHERS UNION: 226 all out in 48.5 overs (Bisla 56, Kapali 49, Myshukur 38 not out; Haider 4-52, Shahjada 2-29, Mehadi 2-43)
Result: Gazi Group Cricketers won by ten runs.

KALABAGAN KC v PARTEX SPORTING CLUB
PARTEX: 278 for 5 (Irfan 58, Sajjadul 53, Sajjad 46, Jatin 34; Nabil 3-50)
KALABAGAN: 216 all out in 46.1 overs (Masakadza 45, Nuruzzaman 38; Imran 5-42, Mamun 2-41)



IMRAN ALI ... 5 for 42

at 22 for 3. Prasant, who seemed comfortable early on, was dismissed for 44 in the 16th over, putting the Dhanmondi outfit in futher trouble.

Ziaur Rahman and Rajin Saleh joined hands to post a 108-run stand for the fifth wicket and helped Sheikh Jamal recover. Ziaur, who

scored 75 off 62, was run out in the 35th over and with that wicket the game's momentum changed direction.

Sheikh Jamal were pegged back and kept losing wickets. Once Rajin was dismissed by Tanvir in the 47th over, Khelaghar got a strong foothold of the game and applied pressure. Soon after, Skipper Razzak was retired hurt and eventually Khelaghar won by 20 runs.

The other game at the BKSP was a close one as well with Gazi Group Cricketers edging past Borthers Union by ten runs. The win helped Gazi extend their league at the top with 14 points, four more than their closest rivals, Abahani.

Batting first, Gazi were bundled out for 236 in 48.4 overs. Anamul Haque was the key run-getter scoring 93 while Suhrawadi Shuvo supported him well with a 41.

After the exchange, Abu Hider took four quick scalps to put Brothers under pressure early on. Manvinder Bisla scored 56 and Kapali scored 49 to help them recover but they were dismissed soon after. Following that, Myshukur Rahman and Dhiman Ghosh posted 38 and 32 respectively to further put impetus. Eventually though Brothers were dismissed in 48.5 overs for 226.

Meanwhile at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah, a five-wicket haul from Imran Ali helped Partex Sporting Club secure a 62-run win over Kalabagan Krira Chakra.

Man killed over IPL betting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A man, who received injuries on the chest during an attack by a local youth over betting on a cricket match on Tuesday, died at the Rangpur Medical College Hospital yesterday.

The deceased, Santos Chandra, 33, of Bholarchawra village under Mahendranagar union in Sadar upazila, was a rickshaw-van puller.

Quoting locals, Sadar Police Station sub-inspector (SI) Nihar Ranjon Roy said Santos and his neighbour Nuruzzaman Miah, 32, bet Tk 50 over an IPL match on Tuesday night. After the match ended, the duo engaged in an altercation when Nuruzzaman, who lost the bet, refused to give the money.

At one stage, Nuruzzaman kicked Santos on the chest and fled the scene, leaving him critically injured.

Abdul Jalil, 65, a witness of the incident, said villagers rescued Santos in an unconscious state and admitted him to the hospital.

M'singh thrash Satkhira

SPORTS REPORTER

Mymensingh notched up the biggest victory of the day in the 31st ATN Bangla National Hockey Tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. Mymensingh beat Satkhira 8-2, with Rahat, Ismail and Tanvir scoring two goals each for the winning team.

In the day's other matches, Dhaka Education Board blanked Chittagong 5-0, Faridpur edged Narayanganj 3-1 and Kurigram outplayed Thakurgaon 4-2.

McCullum out of IPL

AFP, New Delhi

New Zealand's Brendon McCullum has been ruled out of the remainder of the Indian Premier League season with a hamstring strain, heaping fresh misery on his Gujarat Lions team.

The dashing opener injured his left hamstring during the seven-wicket defeat against Delhi Daredevils on Thursday -- a result that saw the Lions being knocked out of contention for the playoffs.

5-star Unadkat powers Pune

PTI, Hyderabad

Paceman Jaydev Unadkat revelled in a five-wicket haul that included a hat-trick as Rising Pune Supergiant eked out a 12-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad to jump to the second spot in IPL on Saturday.

Defending a modest 148, the Pune outfit came up with a superb bowling performance with Unadkat (5/30) and Ben Stokes (3/30) doing the maximum damage, especially in the final overs to restrict Hyderabad to 136 for nine in 20 overs.

Unadkat took a hat-trick in the final over of the match when Pune needed 13 runs, to shut the door on the visitors. He sent back Bipul Sharma, Rashid Khan and Bhuvneshwar Kumar in the second, third and fourth deliveries of the 20th over respectively. It was third hat-trick of the season.

At one stage, defending champions were cruising along comfortably when veteran Yuvraj Singh (47) and skipper David Warner (40) were at the crease.



Pacer Jaydev Unadkat celebrates his five-wicket haul, including a hat-trick, which helped Rising Pune Supergiant to a 12-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in an IPL match on Saturday. PHOTO: AFP

Yuvraj continued to play his shots but failed to take the team all the way home, falling for 43-ball 47 that included four boundaries and two sixes, with the scorecard reading 117 for five.

After Yuvraj's departure, 32 more runs needs for victory and as many as five wickets in hand, but no lower-order batsmen seem to show any resistance, even as Unadkat took three successive wickets in the final over to wrap up the match in Pune's favour.

Earlier, Sunrisers Hyderabad dished out a tidy bowling performance, led by Siddarth Kaul, to restrict Rising Pune Supergiant to a modest 148 for eight.

SCORES IN BRIEF
RISING PUNE SUPERGIANT: 148 for 8 in 20 overs (Rahane 22, Smith 34, Stokes 39, Dhoni 31; Kaul 4-29)
SUNRISERS HYDERABAD: 136 for 9 in 20 overs (Warner 40, Dhawan 19, Yuvraj 47; Unadkat 5-30, Stokes 3-30)
Result: Rising Pune Supergiant won by 12 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Jaydev Unadkat.

CA to send security team this month

SPORTS REPORTER

A delegation from Cricket Australia is expected to arrive in Bangladesh mid May to assess the security arrangements that will be made during Australia's scheduled tour of Bangladesh, which is expected to take place in August and feature two Tests.

"Teams like Australia, England and India have certain standard pre-tour activities. Going by that, Cricket Australia will send a team in the middle of this month. They will check the security arrangements and assess other opportunities," BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury told reporters at Mirpur yesterday.

"These are standard practices that always take place. Only after this visit can their board officially give them the green signal to come here," he added.

Cricket Australia were initially supposed to send its national team to

Bangladesh in October 2015. They however, decided to postpone the visit citing security concerns. CA additionally also pulled it's under-19 team out of the ICC Under-19 World Cup that took place in Bangladesh in 2016.

More recently though, Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan Papon had said that Australia confirmed it's tour of Bangladesh during an unofficial meeting between the two boards' leaders' on the sidelines of the ICC meeting in Dubai. As such, there is a high possibility of the tour to take place in August this time.

On another note, Chowdhury also said that the BCB had sent a tour itinerary to the Pakistan Cricket Board, with regards to Pakistan's expected tour of Bangladesh in July. Late last month, the PCB had told the media that they won't be touring Bangladesh in July. The PCB though is yet to communicate with the BCB with regards to the cancellation of the tour officially. That is essentially what the BCB is now waiting for.