

SPORT



Rain played the decisive role in yesterday's eighth-round matches of the Dhaka Premier League. Apart from the rain, (INSET) bad light delayed play at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah.

PHOTOS: FIROZ AHMED



Last warm-up before tri-series today

STAR SPORT DESK



The Bangladesh team will play their final practice match before the Ireland tri-series against Ireland Wolves at the Stormont Cricket Ground in Belfast today. The match will start at 3:45pm (Bangladesh time). The Tigers practised in two batches at the same venue yesterday. A group of nine players -- Imrul Kayes, Shakib Al Hasan, Sabbir Rahman, Mahmudullah Riyad, Sanjamul Islam, Shafiqul Islam, Subashis Roy, Nurul Hasan and Mustafizur Rahman -- practised in the morning from 9:15am local time (2:15pm Bangladesh time). The rest -- skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Tamim Iqbal, Soumya Sarkar, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mossadek Hossain, Nasir Hossain, Rubel Hossain and Mehedi Hasan practised from 10:30am (3:30pm Bangladesh time) onwards. The only player from the 18-man squad in Ireland who did not practise yesterday was Taskin Ahmed. It was learnt that the fast

bowler was being rested in order to keep him fresh for the first ODI against Ireland on May 12. He will likely be rested from today's practice match too. Shakib, the ODI vice-captain and newly appointed T20I captain, will lead Bangladesh in the first ODI of the tri-series against Ireland as regular skipper Mashrafe will be serving out a one-match ban he picked up for slow over-rate in the third ODI in Sri Lanka on April 1. It may turn out that Shakib will lead in the practice match today as well, although Mashrafe is likely to play. A decision on that will be taken in the morning. The Ireland tri-series, which also features New Zealand, will be a league-based event without a final; the team with the most points at the end of two rounds will be named the winner. The tri-series will be followed by the England leg of Bangladesh's tour, where they will participate in the eight-team Champions Trophy starting with the Bangladesh-England match on June 1.

Duckworth & Lewis reign in the rain

Gazi Group Cricketers keep their record perfect

SPORTS REPORTER



Late afternoon provided relief from the scorching heat to the masses and Gazi Group Cricketers, Prime Bank Cricket Club and Brothers Union were probably not frustrated by the sudden shower as they were well enough placed in their respective Dhaka Premier League matches to win by the Duckworth-Lewis (D/L) method by the time the rain stopped in Fatullah and BKSP yesterday. At BKSP, Gazi Group handed Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club a 24-run defeat through the D/L method to continue their lead at the top of the table by notching their eighth win in as many games. Gazi Group were 114 for two in reply to Sheikh Jamal's 232 for nine in the curtailed 43-overs-a-side match before rain came to decide the fate, with the D/L calculations requiring Gazi Group to score 91 runs from those overs. A 68-run second wicket partnership between Jahurul Islam and Mominul Haque kept Gazi

Group ahead of the target. At the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah, Prime Bank returned to winning ways after two consecutive losses thanks to their bowlers who dismissed Partex Sporting Club for 192 in 50 overs. Mehedi Maruf and Zakir Hasan then batted brilliantly during their unbeaten 114-run opening stand in 24 overs before rain stopped play. The D/L target at the end of 24 overs and without any wickets lost was 78. In the other match, Brothers Union registered their third win as they scored 82 for one in reply to Kalabagan Krira Chakra's 171 before rain stopped play at BKSP. Kalabagan finally excluded their struggling captain Mohammad Ashraf, who was yet to get back his touch after returning to competitive from a three-year ban for match-fixing, giving veteran Tushar Imran the reins to change their fortunes, but Kalabagan failed to put a challenging total on the board as they were bundled out for 171 in 42.2 overs; the match was reduced to a 43-overs-a-side affair due to a delay for bad light.

POINTS TABLE					
Teams	Mat	W	L	Pts	Net RR
Gazi Group	8	8	0	16	+0.929
Abahani	8	6	2	12	+0.864
Prime Bank	8	6	2	12	+0.682
Prime Doleshwar	8	5	3	10	+0.456
Mohammedan	8	5	3	10	+0.158
Sheikh Jamal	8	5	3	10	+0.071
Legends of Rupganj	8	5	3	10	-0.077
Brothers Union	8	3	5	6	+0.225
Khelaghar	8	3	5	6	-0.120
Kalabagan	8	1	7	2	-0.62
Partex	8	1	7	2	-1.062
Victoria	8	0	8	0	-1.396

SCORES IN BRIEF			
Sheikh Jamal: 232-9 in 43 overs (Fazle 38, Chopra 35, Tanbir 57; Hider 2-47, Mahedi 2-36)	Partex: 192 all out in 46.2 overs (Jony 69, Jatin 40; Nazmul 3-23, Asif 2-34)	Kalabagan: 171 all out in 42.2 overs (Mehrab 28, Muktar 28; Nihaduzzaman 2-22, Bisla 3-23)	Brothers: 82-1 in 22.2 overs (Junaed 38, Bisla 31 not out)
Gazi Group: 114-2 in 20.5 overs (Jahurul 49 not out, Mominul 46)	Prime Bank: 114-0 in 24 overs (Mehedi 52 not out, Zakir 55 not out)	Result: Brothers Union won by 17 runs (D/L method)	Player-of-the-match: MS Bisla.
Result: Gazi Group Cricketers won by 24 runs (D/L method)	Player-of-the-match: Zakir Hasan		

Ireland to blood Singh in tri-series

STAR SPORT DESK

Ireland named a 14-member squad for the upcoming tri-nation series from 12 May, where they will be playing alongside New Zealand and Bangladesh. The hosts made just one change from the side that toured England, with Indian-born all-rounder Simi Singh set to debut for the hosts, replacing Andy Bracey. After receiving his citizenship only last month, Singh will be looking to make a splash against Bangladesh in the hosts' first game on May 12 and he has already caught the eye of Irish coach John Bracewell. "I've been impressed by his quality with both bat and ball. He is an intelligent cricketer who can adapt to all situations. He strikes the ball very cleanly, has good technique, and scores all round the wicket," Bracewell said. After playing their first match in the tri-nation series against Bangladesh, Ireland will face New Zealand on May 14.

SQUAD: William Porterfield (captain), Andrew, Peter Chase, George Dockrell Ed Joyce, Tim Murtagh, Barry McCarthy, Kevin O'Brien, Niall O'Brien, Simi, Paul Stirling (Middlesex), Stuart Thompson, Gary Wilson, Craig Young.



Stump uprooted, but bails intact

STAR SPORT DESK



It isn't often your middle stump is uprooted but you still have umpires seriously considering whether or not it's out. Yet that is exactly the strange situation in which Moonee Valley batsman Jatinder Singh found himself last weekend. The gravity-defying incident occurred in a winter competition in north-west Melbourne on Saturday when Singh was clean-bowled during a match against Strathmore Heights. But amazingly, the two bails remained serenely perched in their grooves atop the other undisturbed stumps, seemingly wedged together above where the unearthed middle peg recently stood. After some deliberation, Singh was correctly given out, though the umpires could have been forgiven had they come to the opposite conclusion. Law 28 of the Marylebone Cricket Club's Laws of Cricket dictates, "the disturbance of a bail, whether temporary or not, shall not constitute its complete removal from the top of the stumps", meaning just because the bails had moved, it doesn't necessarily mean it's out. The MCC-produced Tom Smith's Cricket Umpiring and Scoring goes into more detail; if both bails remain "on top" of the stumps, or if any part of a displaced bail is above unbroken stumps, the stumps are not deemed to be 'down'. In this case, both bails were on top of stumps, weren't "displaced" and were both technically above "unbroken stumps", weren't they? Keen cricket followers would of course know the first part of Law 28 also states that a wicket is considered down if a stump is "struck out of the ground".

End of Amir's Test career?

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan's left-arm pacer Mohammad Amir is considering ending his Test career in order to focus on ODIs and Twenty20s. According to reports in the Pakistani media, Amir discussed the prospect with teammates and management after the second Test against the West Indies. "Amir himself is now upset that how this private discussion came out in the open and who leaked the discussions," one report said. "The team management are now investigating who is responsible for leaking this private discussion," it added. Reports said that Amir made it clear that he felt playing Tests required more fitness and he indicated he would like to focus on one-dayers and T20 cricket.

Punjab keep hopes alive

PTI, Mohali



Chris Lynn's brilliant 84 went in vain as Kings XI Punjab produced a clinical bowling show under pressure to beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 14 runs in a tense IPL match and keep themselves afloat in the T20 tournament on Tuesday. Needing a win to keep their play-off hopes alive, KKR could put up just 167 for 6 after being put into bat but they defended the total courtesy a remarkable show by their bowlers at the PCA Stadium. The home side restricted KKR to 153 for 6 to win the match and remain in contention for a knock-out berth with 12 points from 12 matches. They are now at fifth spot in the league table. The pick of the KXIP bowlers was Rahul Tewatia who took 2 wickets for 18 runs from his two overs while Mohit Sharma got 2/24 from 3 overs. Sandeep Sharma did not take a wicket but conceded just 31 runs from his four overs. KKR, who have already booked a play-

offs berth, also remained at second spot with 16 points from 13 matches. The visiting side made a rollicking start but lost the way later on as wickets in a heap after the KXIP bowlers put pressure by drying up the runs in the later half of run chase. KKR began with all guns blazing with Sunil Narine and Lynn finding the runs with boundaries during the powerplay overs. But once Narine was out, the runs almost dried up though Lynn was getting the odd boundaries. Lynn played a lone hand for KKR and none of his team-mates contributed substantially. Manish Pandey and Narine were the next highest run-getters with 18 each. Captain Gautam Gambhir scored just 8 runs. Earlier, Glenn Maxwell hit a quickfire 25-ball 44 as Kings XI Punjab scored 167 for 6 after being put into bat. **SCORES IN BRIEF** **KINGS XI PUNJAB:** 167 for 6 in 20 overs (Vohra 25, Saha 38, Maxwell 44, Tewatia 15 not out; Woakes 2-20, Yadav 2-34) **KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS:** 153 for 6 in 20 overs (Narine 18, Lynn 84, Pandey 18; Sharma 2-24, Tewatia 2-18) **Result:** Kings XI Punjab won by 14 runs. **Player-of-the-match:** Mohit Sharma.

Ministerial ban on CSA lifted

CRICINFO

Cricket South Africa has regained the right to bid for and host major tournaments, after meeting the government's transformation criteria. Sports minister Thembelani Nxesi confirmed the lifting of the sanction at the annual Eminent Persons Group (EPG) report handover on Tuesday. The EPG report is a yearly assessment by an independent committee on various sports' commitment to and execution of transformation. After a season in which CSA established transformation targets for the national team - which stipulated that a minimum average of six players of colour including two black Africans should take the field over the course of the season - and exceeded those targets, it was widely expected that the ban, which was imposed last year, would be lifted. Cricket is among two other sports, rugby and netball, which has now satisfied the sports ministry, while athletics remains under sanction. In real terms, the news will only have an immediate effect on rugby, whose administrators are bidding to host the 2023 World Cup. CSA does not have any international events on its calendar for the next six years.

Iconic duo's final outing

Windies-Pakistan third Test starts today

AGENCIES, Kingston



After the West Indies staged a remarkable fightback to win the second Test and square the series against Pakistan, both sides will have it all to play for in the series decider which will get underway in Dominica on Wednesday. The West Indies will be seeking to prove that their win in 106-run win in Barbados was no fluke, while Pakistan will be attempting to get back to winning ways at Windsor Park in Roseau, which will be hosting only its fifth Test. For Pakistan stalwarts Misbahul Haq and Younis Khan, it will be their final outing on the international stage -- both players will retire from Test cricket after the match, having earlier retired from the other formats of the game. Misbah has already ensured that his final

series will go down in the history books after scoring 99 in both of the first two matches. He was stranded on the ill-fated in the first innings of the first Test at the Sabina Park in Kingston, before being dismissed for 99 in the first innings of the second. Meanwhile, Younis has underwhelmed in the two matches so far, scoring 69 across four innings with a high score of 58 in the first innings of the first Test. The second Test was an unspectacular one until Shannon Gabriel's five for 11 in the second innings brought the game to life, and both teams will be looking for much-improved performances across the board in the decisive Test. Aside from Gabriel's outburst, another positive from the second Test for the hosts was the performance of Shai Hope, who finally looks like making good on his promise as a Test batsman after registering his first fifty and falling just ten runs shy of a maiden century.



MISBAHUL HAQ



YUNIS KHAN



Bangladesh Premier League franchise Rangpur Riders will henceforth be guided by the Bashundhara Group, after signing a deal to take over from Sohana Sports Limited at a city hotel on Monday. PHOTO: COLLECTED