

# SPORT



Opener Tom Latham's century powered New Zealand to an unassailable target of 344 as they defeated Ireland by a handy 190 runs in the fifth match of the tri-series in Malahide yesterday.

PHOTO: SPORTSFILE

## Still a lot to play for

**STAR SPORT DESK**

The Bangladesh cricket team have one more tilt at New Zealand in the tri-series in Dublin on May 24 to get some valuable confidence ahead of the Champions Trophy starting in England and Wales on June 1.

A win over New Zealand will take the Tigers to 93 ranking points, equal with Sri Lanka in sixth place.

Bangladesh, who are in second spot on the three-team table after their clinical win over Ireland at the Clontarf Cricket Club Friday, had a rest day on Saturday and focused on gym work yesterday morning. As the league table stands, with New Zealand winning their third successive match of the league by defeating Ireland yesterday, Bangladesh have no chance of topping the table even if they beat the Kiwis on Wednesday.

Apart from the rankings incentive, a win over the Kiwis will give them added confidence especially as they will face New Zealand in a tough Champions Trophy Group which also features England and Australia. They seem well-placed to do it as in the win against Ireland, their batting and bowling clicked -- with Mustafizur Rahman returning to his wily best with a four-wicket haul.

The team will practise at the Malahide Cricket Club from 10:00am to 1:00pm local time today.

## Younis honoured at Lord's

**AGENCIES, London**

Record-setting former Pakistan Test batsman Younis Khan was accorded a warm reception held at Lord's the other day.

The simple yet impressive event took place in The Long Room at the game's headquarters.

Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK Syed Ibne Abbas, Wisden editor Lawrence Booth, members of Pakistan cricket squad, former Test cricketers and a large number of fans attended the ceremony.

Heaping praise on Younis, Pakistan team head coach Mickey Arthur said the thoroughly professional manner the batsman went about his business was fantastic.

The 39-year-old Younis, in his speech, thanked all for honouring him, and expressed the resolve that he would continue to serve cricket in Pakistan.

"It is a great honour for me to have played cricket for Pakistan and cross the 10,000-run milestone," the right-handed batsman said, while thanking the people of Pakistan for their love and support they gave to Younis throughout his cricket career.

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# Super chase sees Jamal to Super League

## Gazi lose invincible aura; Kalabagan fight clear of relegation

SPORTS REPORTER

The last batch of matches in the first phase of the Dhaka Premier League could have seen some changes to the Super League line-up that had taken shape after the first 10 rounds of matches, but through an astounding performance from Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club at the BKSP-3 yesterday, the status quo held after 11 rounds of the country's premier limited-overs competition.

Jamal, who finished the first phase in fifth position, would have dropped to seventh and seen their Super League hopes go up in smoke if they failed to climb the mountain that was Mohammedan's mammoth 339 for five, but fireworks from the bats of Prashant Chopra, Shohag Gazi and Tanbir Hayder took them home with two balls and a solitary wicket to spare. It is likely the highest successful chase in the league's history, although the previous highest chase could not be identified.

Their seventh win from 11 games gave Sheikh Jamal 14 points, two clear of Legends of Rugganj, who would have gone through if the teams finished on equal points by virtue of having a winning head-to-head record over Sheikh Jamal. Instead, Rugganj will now miss out on the Super League, having finished equal in terms of points with Mohammedan, who had



Mohammedan opener Shamsur Rahman's (L) unbeaten 144 went in vain as Shohag Gazi's 89 off 64 propelled Sheikh Jamal to one-wicket victory in a Dhaka Premier League high-scoring thriller at the BKSP yesterday.

PHOTOS: FIROZ AHMED



beaten Rugganj in their sixth-round match.

In the day's other matches, the aura of invincibility surrounding Gazi Group Cricketers -- who had won nine out of nine heading into the 10th round -- dissipated as they suffered their second defeat on the trot, losing to Prime Bank Cricket Club by seven wickets at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah. At BKSP-4, Kalabagan Krira Chakra moved clear of the relegation zone by defeating Khelagar Samaj Kallyan

Samity by five wickets.

The story of the day, however, was Sheikh Jamal's epic victory. Mohammedan batted superbly after being asked to bat first, with opener Shamsur Rahman hitting an unbeaten 152-ball 144 with seven fours and as many sixes and putting together a 173-run second-wicket stand with Rony Talukder, whose innings of 110 off 99 balls with 10 fours and three sixes provided the impetus through the middle overs.

In the chase, although they lost three wickets within the first 19 overs, a scintillating innings from Chopra meant that Sheikh Jamal were well ahead of the required rate by the time Chopra was third man out, caught off Mohammad Azim for a 60-ball 86 with the help of 10 boundaries and five sixes. The runs were however flowing from the bat of Gazi, and it seemed like Sheikh Jamal would run out of wickets while being ahead of the run-rate.

When Gazi was out off the bowling of

Charith Asalanka for a 64-ball 89 that included eight fours and three sixes, Sheikh Jamal were 233 for six in the 33rd over. It was then that Tanbir steadied the ship with 77 off 72 balls. There was late drama as Azim came back to dismiss Tanbir with 20 runs to win off 26 balls, and the drama was enhanced when the same bowler dismissed Mahmudul Haque and Nuruddin Nobin, but Elias Sunny and Shahadat Hossain took them home in a nail-biting finish.

In Fatullah, 79 from Mominul Haque and 66 from Jahurul Islam, who retired hurt, carried league leaders Gazi Group to 214 for nine, but fourth-placed Prime Bank easily overtook that score courtesy of solid top-order batting led by 66 from opener Zakir Hasan, who incidentally also retired hurt.

It was a low-scoring encounter in BKSP-4 as Kalabagan overtook Khelaghar's 204 for seven with five wickets and 13 balls to spare.

The Super League is tentatively set to start on May 24 with Gazi Group, defending champions Abahani, Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club, Prime Bank, Sheikh Jamal and Mohammedan set to duke it out for the grand prize.

The relegation league is set to start from June 1 with two among Khelaghar, Partex Sporting Club and Victoria Sporting Club to be demoted after the league.

Teams	Mat	W	L	Pts	NetRR
Gazi Group	11	9	2	18	+0.404
Abahani	11	8	3	16	+1.014
Prime Doleshwar	11	8	3	16	+0.583
Prime Bank	11	8	3	16	+0.529
Sheikh Jamal	11	7	4	14	+0.051
Mohammedan	11	6	5	12	-0.125
Legends of Rugganj	11	6	5	12	-0.192
Brothers Union	11	5	6	10	+0.424
Kalabagan KC	11	4	7	8	-0.129
Khelaghar SKS	11	3	8	6	-0.336
Partex SC	11	1	10	2	-0.814

## ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY GAMES

# Shirin's bronze by default

SPORTS REPORTER

**BAKU 2017**  
4th Islamic Solidarity Games

Bangladesh's Shirin Sultana won a bronze medal from the 4th Islamic Solidarity Games in Baku, Azerbaijan yesterday despite not winning a single match in her 69kg weight category freestyle wrestling event.

The 29-year-old wrestler, one of the six participants in the event, got a bye in the quarterfinal before going on to lose the semifinal bout against Zhamila Bakbergenova of Kazakhstan by 10-0 technical points. However, as per the games rules, she won the bronze as both semifinalists are eligible for bronze medals.

Shirin, who had won a silver medal in the same event during the South Asian Games in India last year, was obviously very happy with her feat and believed that her hard work eventually paid off.

"This is a big event, so I'm obviously very happy. I practised for a medal for the country, and I am happy to win it," Shirin told reporters after winning the medal.

"I am grateful to the Almighty and indebted to my family and countrymen for this medal," added Shirin, who claimed Bangladesh's wrestlers have the quality to win bigger things if provided with better practice facilities and coaching.

Meanwhile, the other female Bangladeshi wrestler, Rina Akter, lost her quarterfinal bout against Zarina Kunangaryeva of Kazakhstan by 5-0 points, finishing outside the medal positions.

Shirin's bronze win completed a three-medal haul for Bangladesh from these games. Bangladesh's Abdullah Baki and Syeda Atkiya Hasan Disha had earlier won a gold medal in shooting's 10m air rifle team event while Munna Hasan Rabbi had won a silver medal in the men's 10m air rifle event. The 4th edition of the Islamic Solidarity Games closes today.

Bangladesh had won a silver and a bronze medal during the third edition of these games, held in Bali, Indonesia in 2013.



## SOUTH ASIAN B'BALL

# Cagers beat SL too

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh got their second win from as many matches in the 5th South Asian Basketball Championship in Male yesterday.

The Bangladesh team beat Sri Lanka by 90-80 points, according to a press release from the Bangladesh Basketball Federation.

Bangladesh had earlier beaten Nepal by 76-66 points in their opening match on Saturday.

Meanwhile, in yesterday's other match, Nepal edged past hosts Maldives by 61-59 points.

## Mumbai clinch third title in last-ball thriller

AFP, Hyderabad

**IPL**  
Pace man Mitchell Johnson inspired Mumbai Indians to a landmark third Indian Premier League title with crucial wickets for a single run victory over Rising Pune Supergiant in Hyderabad on Sunday.

Mumbai are the first team to win the IPL three times in its 10 year history.

Johnson claimed three wickets including the prized scalp of Pune skipper Steve Smith in the final over to help Mumbai triumph despite scoring just a modest 129-8.

Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah supported Johnson with two strikes, including the big wicket of former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who played his seventh IPL final. Chasing 130, Pune batsmen faltered on a

slow track to end on 128-6.

Smith's dogged knock went in vain as Pune, who needed 11 in the final over, lost three wickets to Johnson's left-arm pace.

Daniel Christian was run out while going for the third run to tie the game. The Rohit Sharma-led Mumbai erupted with joy after becoming the only team to win three titles after triumphs in 2013 and 2015.

Pune seemed to be cruising at 98-2 in the 17th over with Smith and Dhoni at the crease but Mumbai had other ideas in their fourth appearance in an IPL final.

**SCORES IN BRIEF:**  
MUMBAI: 129 for 8 (Pandya 47, Sharma 24; Zampa 2-32, Christian 2-34, Unadkat 2-19)  
PUNE: 128 for 6 in 20 overs (Rahane 44, Smith 51; Johnson 3-26, Bumrah 2-26)  
Result: Mumbai won by 1 run.  
Player-of-the-match: KH Pandya (Mumbai)



The Mumbai Indian players rushed to the centre of the field to celebrate after a last-over thriller saw them clinch a record third Indian Premier League title against Rising Pune Supergiant in Hyderabad yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## SOUTH ASIAN TABLE TENNIS

# BD youngsters win 4 bronze

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh have bagged four bronze medals from the South Asian Junior and Cadet Table Tennis Championship in Sri Lanka, said a press release from the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation.

Bangladesh got the bronze medals in the cadet group team, cadet group singles, junior group team and junior group doubles events.

Muntasir Ridoy led Bangladesh with fine efforts in both cadet and junior groups to win bronze medals, according to the press release.