



Overflow of emotion has been quite frequent in the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League and Dhaka Dynamites skipper Shakib Al Hassan (R) was no exception as he vents his frustration during his side's game against Comilla Victorians at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



Not waiting for Hathurusingha anymore: Hassan

SPORTS REPORTER



After more than a week of speculation about the reasons for head coach Chandika Hathurusingha's resignation and whether he will reconsider his decision, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan said yesterday that the board is no longer waiting for the Sri Lankan's return. Hassan also said that there is a strong possibility that former Bangladesh captain-turned-BCB director and current Dhaka Dynamites coach Khaled Mahmud will step into the breach at least for the Sri Lanka series at the turn of the year.

Hassan had said on November 9, when news broke of Hathurusingha sending a resignation letter midway through the South Africa tour the previous month, that they will wait for Hathurusingha to return to Bangladesh and try to talk him into reconsidering his decision. Hathurusingha was contracted to coach the team till the 2019 World Cup in England.

As news of Hathurusingha's imminent deal to coach Sri Lanka has started to trickle through, however, the BCB boss ruled out a return and seemed to harden his usually conciliatory stance regarding Bangladesh's most successful coach.

"We are not waiting for Hathurusingha; we are waiting for his report," said Hassan during the day's BPL matches at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. "He said he will submit it within two or three weeks. We have to know whether he is leaving because of personal reasons or whether it is because of us. If it is personal, then there is no problem. There is no problem even if it is something to do with us, but we should know about it."

"As I said before, if someone does not want to stay, we do not want to force him to stay. But we need to know some things from him; as a professional coach, we need his

report on the whole series and the reason for his resignation. Now if he thinks that without any particular reason he has decided to become the coach of Sri Lanka, that is a different issue.

Hassan said that during the 40-day tour of South Africa, during which Bangladesh lost all seven international matches, a communication gap had developed between coach and the board.

"I spoke to him after the first Test [which Bangladesh lost by 333 runs on October 1], and that was the only time I talked to him during tour," Papon added. "He emailed his resignation after the second Test [which ended in an innings and 254-run defeat on October 8], so he probably decided to quit during the tour."

Contrary to rumours, Hassan denied that there was a problem between Hathurusingha and the senior players, before throwing in the trademark statement that defeats what came before. "These problems are only reported in the media; I have not seen any such problems. Shakib [Al Hasan], Tamim [Iqbal] and Mashrafe [Bin Mortaza] had no issue; [Mahmudullah] Riyad has no issues with anyone. There might be one, since there has been talk about some statements that [Test skipper] Mushfiqur [Rahim] has made, during this very series [second Test against South Africa, when he lashed out against management]. But even then, I don't think there is a problem."

With names of a number of international coaches doing the rounds recently, Hassan admitted that the BCB have started shopping for international coaches but said that they may be looking locally for the immediate future.

"If we don't get a foreign coach before the Sri Lanka series, then we will look at a local coach," Hassan said when asked about the Sri Lanka series. "We have Khaled Mahmud Shujon; the possibilities of him taking over are highest."

ধুলো ময়লার দ্বি শেষ!

Shoaib, Hasan lift Comilla

SPORTS REPORTER



Seasoned Pakistan batsman Shoaib Malik displayed calm amidst the chaos to salvage a win for compatriot pacer Hasan Ali and thwart West Indies' Sunil Narine's all-round heroics as Comilla Victorians surged to the top of the points table of the Bangladesh Premier League after beating Dhaka Dynamites by four wickets in an exciting, low-scoring match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

23-year old Punjab pacer Hasan completed staggering figures of 3.3-0-20-5 to wrap up the high-flying Dynamites for 128. Opener Evin Lewis got out cheaply and Kieron Pollard was victim of a senseless run-out and although fellow West Indian Narine hit a 45-ball 76 as an opener, it was not enough to put up a challenging total.

It was a match full of action, from the chaos surrounding the Comilla team sheet to the cheeky match-winning single by Malik, who deserves special credit for the patience displayed in his unbeaten 53-ball 54 that clinched the win

with two balls to spare.

Comilla Victorians captain Tamim Iqbal showered praise on Malik during the post-match press conference. "There is a lesson to learn for young players from the way he [Malik] handled the situation and I expected something like that from him. He showed that T20 is not all about hitting fours

six, and his patience and calm were critical as the side kept losing regular wickets around him. With nine required off the last over, Malik smashed pacer Mohammad Saddam for a four over point in the very first ball and was lucky in the third ball as an inside-edge to the fence levelled the scores before scampering for a single to end the match that saw Dhaka captain Shakib Al Hasan lose his temper twice.

In reply to the modest target, Liton Das was dismissed attempting an ugly slog against pacer Abu Hider while Tamim charged Narine, only to miss it for wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara to do the rest. Imrul Kayes and Darren Bravo then added 35 for the third wicket before the former was undone by Saddam's slower and Narine dismissed Bravo with a beautiful delivery.

It was then Mohammad Amir who put Comilla in real bother dismissing Jos Butler and Mohammad Saifuddin in the 17th over, with Comilla still needing 30 runs to win.

Earlier it was Hasan's five for 20 that saw Dhaka bundled out for 128 after being 104 for two in the 13th over. Apart from Hasan's heroics, Sangakkara and Pollard's dismissals were the major setbacks for Dhaka Dynamites, who lost their first match in Dhaka this season.

WHACK-OMETER

TOTAL 6s HIT

223

TOTAL 4s HIT

445

Most 6s hit by a player: 12, Carlos Brathwaite, Khulna Titans

Most 4s hit by a player: 23, Evin Lewis, Dhaka Dynamites

and sixes. He is an asset in our team. Hasan took five wickets and all five batsmen were bowled out. I don't think anybody did that before. Hasan bowled in a very simple manner but there was a plan."

The 35-year-old Malik took 26 singles and three two apart from the four boundaries and a

SCOREBOARD				
DHAKA V COMILLA				
DHAKA DYNAMITES	R/B	4s/6s		
Narine c Tamim b Saifuddin	76/45	7/5		
Lewis b Hasan	7/5	0/1		
Maruf b Hasan	0/2	0/0		
Sangakkara run out	28/30	3/0		
Pollard run out	1/5	0/0		
Shakib b Saifuddin	3/8	0/0		
Mosaddek b Hasan	1/2	0/0		
Jahurul lbw b Rashid	2/8	0/0		
Saddam b Hasan	1/3	0/0		
Amir not out	6/2	1/0		
Hider b Hasan	0/2	0/0		
Extras: (lb-1, nb-1, w-1)	3			
Total: (All out in 18.3 overs)	128			
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-12, 3-104, 4-114, 5-116, 6-117, 7-120, 8-122, 9-128, 10-128.				
COMILLA VICTORIANS	R/B	4s/6s		
Tamim st Sangakkara b Narine	18/9	2/1		
Liton b Hider	0/3	0/0		
Imrul c Hider b Saddam	20/24	2/0		
Malik not out	54/53	4/1		
Bravo c Sangakkara b Narine	12/11	2/0		
Buttler b Amir	11/11	0/0		
Saifuddin c Sangakkara b Amir	4/2	1/0		
Mahedi not out	3/5	0/0		
Extras: (w-7)	7			
Total: (For 6 wickets in 19.4 overs)	129			
Did not bat: Rashid Khan, Hasan Ali, Al-Amin Hossain.				
Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-23, 3-58, 4-75, 5-99, 6-103.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Amir	4	0	28	2
Hider	4	0	25	1
Narine	4	0	17	2
Shakib	4	0	23	0
Saddam	3.4	0	36	1
Result: Comilla Victorians won by 4 wickets.				
Player-of-the-match: Hasan Ali.				

'I will miss Chandika'

SPORTS REPORTER



Mahmudullah Riyad yesterday became the first senior Bangladesh team member to come out and praise Chandika Hathurusingha, since the Sri Lankan's resignation as the Tigers head coach was confirmed.

The all-rounder praised Hathurusingha's contributions to the side at an event in a city hotel where he was appointed the goodwill ambassador for USAID Bangladesh.

"It's too early to make a comment. Obviously I will miss him. He has made huge contributions to my success and he has done good things for us," Mahmudullah told reporters.

Mahmudullah also cleared the air about Hathurusingha's reportedly 'bitter relations' with senior members of the team, informing that the rumours are baseless and that he always treated players equally.

"I totally disagree with his bitter relations with senior players and I think it's not right. Everyone had good relations with him all the time. At times you hear a few things in a family and it's better to work [it out together] for the betterment of cricket rather than focusing on such things," Mahmudullah said.

"He has always tried to be equal to the junior and senior members and we have always supported him," said the right-hand batsman, adding that he was looking forward to the upcoming series against Sri Lanka in January.



MAHMUDULLAH RIYAD

SCOREBOARD				
RANGPUR V SYLHET				
RANGPUR RIDERS	R/B	4s/6s		
McCullum c Plunkett b Nasir	33/21	3/3		
Gayle b Abul	50/39	2/5		
Mithun lbw b Plunkett	25/21	2/0		
Nafees c Fletcher b Abul	8/8	1/0		
Perera c Sabbir b Bresnan	15/12	2/0		
Bopara run out	28/12	3/1		
Ziaur not out	1/5	0/0		
Mashrafe run out	3/2	0/0		
Shohag not out	0/1	0/0		
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-1, w-3)	6			
Total: (For 7 wickets in 20 overs)	169			
Yet to bat: Rubel Hossain, Zahir Khan.				
Fall of wickets: 1-80, 2-88, 3-105, 4-129, 5-141, 6-165, 7-168.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Nasir	4	1	27	1
Shuvagata	1	0	12	0
Gunathilaka	2	0	24	0
Bresnan	4	0	23	1
Plunkett	4	0	49	1
Abul	4	0	24	2
Tajjul	1	0	8	0
SYLHET SIXERS	R/B	4s/6s		
Gunathilaka b Shohag	8/4	0/1		
Fletcher c Mithun b Rubel	12/11	2/0		
Babar c Bopara b Mashrafe	2/5	0/0		
Nasir not out	50/43	1/1		
Sabbir c McCullum b Perera	70/49	7/2		
Bresnan not out	12/9	0/1		
Extras: (b-5, nb-1, w-2)	8			
Total: (For 4 wickets in 20 overs)	162			
Did not bat: Nurul, Shuvagata, Plunkett, Abul, Tajjul.				
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-18, 3-25, 4-142.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	4	0	18	1
Shohag	1	0	6	1
Rubel	4	0	30	1
Zahir	4	0	29	0
Bopara	2	0	21	0
Perera	4	0	43	1
Ziaur	1	0	10	0
Result: Rangpur Riders won by 7 runs.				
Player-of-the-match: Chris Gayle.				

Sylhet stumble at the death

SPORTS REPORTER



The 117-run partnership for the fourth wicket between Sabbir Rahman and Nasir Hossain proved insufficient for Sylhet Sixers to avoid a painful seven-run defeat against Rangpur Riders in a Bangladesh Premier League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Despite the magnificent stand, Sylhet managed to stumble even though it looked like they were heading for a comfortable victory. At one stage, Sylhet required 35 runs from 24 balls with two set batsman in the form of Sabbir and Nasir at the crease.

But Rangpur captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza changed the scenario with a tidy 17th over, where he conceded just two runs to finish with 18-1 in his four overs.

After Sabbir's dismissal on 70 off 49 balls featuring seven fours and two sixes -- he was caught at long on at the bowling of Thisara Perera in the 18th over -- Sylhet lost the momentum. Nasir remained unbeaten on a 43 ball 50 but was unable catch the growing run-rate. Sylhet eventually scored 162-4 and suffered their fourth consecutive defeat.

Earlier, the wait was finally over as the crowd witnessed a glimpse of explosive hitting by West Indies giant hitter Chris Gayle and Kiwi Brendon

McCullum as Rangpur made a flying start, courtesy of the two openers.

Riding on Gayle-McCullum's quick-fire 80-run opening stand, Rangpur managed to post 169 for 7.

Gayle took his time at the start of the innings, opening his account off 12 deliveries, but after that he launched five sixes to break the shackles. The first six came off Nasir when Gayle hit the ball over long-on. Gayle ended on 50 runs off 39 balls, with five sixes and two fours, before being bowled by an Abul Hasan slower delivery.

When asked after the encounter if his form in the first game affected his confidence, Gayle replied: "The confidence never went. Hopefully I will entertain the crowd in coming days."

The left-hander also saved praise for his team's bowlers. "I think our bowlers backed us pretty well. Mashrafe gave away just two runs in the 17th over which was crucial. Thisara Perera and Rubel also bowled very well," Gayle said.

McCullum on the other hand, fired right from the start as he smashed a 116-meter six off spinner Shuvagata Hom. He was dismissed by Nasir on 33 runs which included three sixes and as many fours. It was Rangpur's second win from five games.



After missing out in the first game, Chris Gayle entertained the Dhaka crowd with a typically flamboyant 39-ball 50 for Rangpur Riders against Sylhet Sixers yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

WANT TO RUN FASTER? TURN TO BOLT: Australia's cricketers have called on retired sprint king Usain Bolt to boost their running between the wickets ahead of the Ashes series against England.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



MOMENTS

RASHID OUT, RASHID IN

The first Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) match yesterday, between Dhaka Dynamites and Comilla Victorians, began in a state of confusion. To the surprise of many, the team list provided to the media by Comilla did not include Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan in the playing eleven. Curious reporters were eager to learn the reason behind the exclusion but Rashid soon appeared on the ground and prepared to bowl his first over. It was then that the Victorians team management, who had clearly made a blunder in the first list, provided a revised list which included Rashid.

TENSIONS TURN TO TURMOIL

Emotions continue to run high in BPL fixtures, and yesterday was no exception. Players seem to be losing their temper more often than not, with a recent example being the on-field altercation on Saturday against an umpire involving Comilla Victorians Tamim Iqbal and Liton Das. Two days later, it was Dhaka Dynamites' Mosaddek Hossain who lost his temper after being bowled by

Pakistani fast bowler Hasan Ali in the first ball of the 16th over. Following the wicket, Ali completed his trademark celebration before indicating the way back to the dressing room. This act clearly irked Mosaddek as he then stepped towards the bowler to exchange words. However, Tamim showed his versatility by playing peacemaker and calmed Mosaddek, ushering the reluctant youngster off the field.

The second incident of the day, involving the same umpire from Saturday, saw Dynamites skipper Shakib Al Hasan become furious at umpire Ranmore Martinez over a leg-before decision. It was during the fifth ball of the ninth over when Comilla's Imrul Kayes went for a flick off a back-of-a-length Shakib delivery which pitched towards the leg-middle but turned back to hit the pad. Shakib was confident of the wicket and optimistically made an appeal to the Sri Lankan, who turned it down. Shakib probably could not hold himself back, aiming a few harsh words at the official before kicking the ground in frustration. The crowd saw this as quite an ugly and unexpected reaction from the star all-rounder and booed from the stands.