



Mahidul Islam Akon (R) and Asok Al Menaira put on a superb 221 runs for the unbroken fourth wicket to guide Khelaghara SKS to a six-wicket win against Agrani Bank in a Dhaka Premier League game at Fatullah yesterday.

## Unwise to blame coaches: Taskin

SPORTS REPORTER



Taskin Ahmed is among the select group of bowlers Courtney Walsh has worked with extensively since being appointed as Bangladesh's bowling coach. The well-built pacer caught the eyes of the legendary fast bowler with attributes of a perfect seamer, but the 22-year-old has not quite been able to live up to expectations and has failed to make the most of the vast experience offered by Walsh.

Since Walsh took charge of the Tigers' pacers in September 2016, Taskin's bowling has dipped in all three formats compared to his break-out performances.

The speedster made his Test debut under Walsh last year and has scalped seven wickets in five Tests at an average of 97.42. His best bowling performance in an innings came against India at Hyderabad last year as he scalped two wickets for 43.

Taskin's ODI record under Walsh has fared better compared to his run in the longest version of the game. He has taken 24 wickets in 17 games, albeit at an economy of over six runs. In that time, the right-arm has also claimed just one wicket in four T20Is while leaking 11 runs an over.

Walsh has come under increasing pressure following the Bangladesh pacers' listless performances in South Africa last September and in the recently-concluded home series against Sri Lanka, but Taskin believes that the bowlers should shoulder the brunt of the blame instead of the coach.

"It is not wise to unnecessarily blame the coaches. They give us the right plan and right advice and the team plan is also okay. If there was anything that was missing, it was the lacking of the bowlers and we will have to sort that out by doing extra work," the pacer told reporters in Mirpur yesterday during a special training for fast bowlers under Walsh.

According to the seamer, who has been dropped from all formats of the game since the South Africa debacle, it was his inconsistency and failure to execute that has been the biggest problem.

"What I have learned over the past four years with the national team is that execution is most important. If I can't execute, no plan will work. The bowlers who are in the camp are giving priority to variations like slower and length balls, yorkers and wide yorker," he said.

There was also speculation about whether cricketers tend to be shy in approaching Walsh due to the language barrier, but Taskin dismissed that notion, saying: "No, it's not. I can understand what he says and I think many other players also understand him. For those who don't understand, the senior players translate. It's not a big issue for me. The main thing is execution."



Bangladesh's bowling coach Courtney Walsh makes a point to his young pace bowlers at the BCB Indoor premises yesterday. PHOTO: BCB

## A day of spectacular chases

SPORTS REPORTER

**WALTON**  
DHAKA  
PREMIER  
LEAGUE  
2017-18

On a day of spectacular chases in the Dhaka Premier League, Mohammedan Sporting Club pulled off a thrilling three-wicket win against Premier Bank Cricket Club half an hour after promoted Shinepukur Cricket Club rode on their young brigade to post a six-wicket victory over Kalabagan Krira Chakra yesterday.

However, the day's most spectacular run-chase was reserved for Khelaghara Samaj Kalyan Sangha. After being reduced to 40 for 3 while chasing Agrani Bank's fighting 259 for 8, Mahidul Islam Akon and Asok Al Menaira produced a magnificent 221 runs for the unbroken fourth wicket for a rousing seven-wicket win at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah.

Akon, a 19-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman, hit a sublime 115 while Rajasthan's experienced left-hander Menaira hammered 113 as Khelaghara reached the victory mark of 261 for 3 in 47.4 overs. Akon struck half a dozen sixes and four fours in his 131-ball undefeated knock. Menaira hit nine fours and three sixes in his run-a-ball innings.

Earlier, Agrani Bank recovered from a hopeless 160 for 6 to post a fighting total mainly due to a combative 54-ball 56 from Jahid Javed and a whirlwind 17-ball 30 from veteran spinner Abdur Razzak. Agrani opener Soumya Sarkar (26) once again got a start but failed to make it big. Masum Khan, Robiul Islam and Rafsan Al Mahmud picked up two wickets each for Khelaghara.

Away at the BKSP in Savar, Mohammedan were staring down the barrel when they were reduced to 205 for 7 while chasing Prime Bank's 259 for 9. But a

### SCORES IN BRIEF

#### MOHAMMEDAN SC V PRIME BANK CC

**PRIME BANK:** 259 for 9 in 50 overs (Al Amin 110, Ariful 87; Taijul 3-53, Bipul 2-43, Anik 2-47)

**MOHAMMEDAN:** 260 for 7 in 48.5 overs (Raqibul 64, Rony 60; Rubel 2-4, Delwar 2-49)

**Result:** Mohammedan won by three wickets

#### KALABAGAN KC V SHINEPUKUR CC

**KALABAGAN:** 232 for 9 in 50 overs (Akbar 71, Mahmudul 52; Shuvagata 3-34, Naeem 2-33)

**SHINEPUKUR:** 233 for 4 in 42.3 overs (Afif 67 not out, Towhid 63, Shuvagata 30 not out; Abul 1-29)

**Result:** Shinepukur won by six wickets

#### AGRANI BANK CC V KHELAGHAR SKS

**AGRANI BANK:** 259 for 8 in 50 overs (Zahid 54, Razzak 30; Robiul 2-19, Masum 2-30)

**KHELAGHAR:** 261 for 3 in 47.4 overs (Mahidul 115 not out, Maneria 113 not out; Shaiful 3-33)

**Result:** Khelaghara won by seven wickets

departed after scoring a quick-fire 64 that contained five fours and three sixes.

Taijul's all-round show however overshadowed Mohammed Al-Amin's fine 110. The Prime Bank top-order batsman held the innings together when wickets fell like nine pins. Sent into bat, Prime Bank were reduced to 36 for 6 before Ariful Haque joined Al-Amin to produce 161 runs for the seventh wicket. Al-Amin hit nine fours and a couple of sixes in his 126-ball knock. Ariful struck 87 off 100 balls laced with four fours and as many sixes.

At the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, half centuries by Afif Hossain and Towhid Hridoy, the two members of the Bangladesh youth team that took part in the ICC Under-19 World Cup in New Zealand earlier this year propelled Shinepukur to a comfortable six-wicket win against Kalabagan.

Hridoy scored a 71-ball 63 while Afif hit an unbeaten 67 as Shinepukur raced to 233 for 4 in 42.3 overs. But it was experienced off-spinning all-rounder Shuvagata Hom who won the player-of-the-match award for picking up three wickets for 34 runs that helped Shinepukur restrict Kalabagan to a below-par 232-9 in 50 overs.

Shuvagata also hit an unbeaten 30 to expedite the victory.

Earlier, Kalabagan recovered well from 3 for 18 with Akbar ur Rahman (71) and Mahmudul Hasan (52) hitting fifties and pace bowling all-rounder Abul Hasan hammering a 27-ball 47. But it was not enough for Kalabagan to avoid their fourth defeat in five games.

However, on completion of the fifth round today, Mohammedan and Shinepukur joined the crowded second spot behind runaway leaders Abahani with six points each.

combative 55-run stand for the unbroken eighth wicket between Enamul Haque and left-arm spinner Taijul Islam took Mohammedan to their third win.

Taijul followed up his 3 for 53 with an unbeaten 35 off 36 balls studded with a couple of boundaries and a six. Enamul scored a 33-ball 32. The pair not only rotated the strike well but also negotiated the searing pace of Rubel Hossain at the death.

Opener Rony Talukder with a 59-ball 64 gave Mohammedan a good start but they lost their way after experienced right-hander Raquibul Hasan

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