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SPORT

Tridents bag Shakib; Riyad goes to Patriots

SPORTS REPORTER

The players' draft for the 2018 Caribbean Premier League was held in London on Thursday and Bangladesh ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan was acquired at the second-highest salary cap slot of 130,000 US dollars by the Barbados Tridents. The man currently substituting for an injured Shakib in the Test and T20I captaincy roles, Mahmudullah Riyad, was snapped up by St Kitts and Nevis Patriots.

Shakib featured for Jamaica Tallawahs last season, although he played only three matches for the franchise before flying back home for national team duties. Coincidentally, Mahmudullah replaced Shakib in the Tallawahs squad last season in his first CPL stint. Mahmudullah fetched a price of 70,000 US dollars from the Patriots this season.

Meanwhile West Indies stars such as Chris Gayle, Lendl Simmons, Andre Russell and Dwayne Bravo were fetched at the highest price -- 160,000 US dollars. Sohail Tanvir and Martin Guptill were also paid the same by their franchises.

This year's CPL is set to get underway in West Indies from August 8.

Onus on the best of the rest

SPORTS REPORTER

Less than a year has passed, but for Bangladesh cricketers it may seem much longer since their last visit to Sri Lanka. In April 2017, a month-long tour had ended with the Tigers owning equal shares in each of the Test, ODI and T20I series and the possibilities seemed endless for a rising Bangladesh side. There was to be some more success in a rain-assisted march to the Champions League semifinal in the English summer and a shared Test series against Australia at home in September, but it has been very bleak since then.

A disastrous tour of South Africa in September-October last year was followed by home losses in all formats against Sri Lanka in the first two months of this year. Making the picture even bleaker, the Tigers will head to Sri Lanka tomorrow with a big question mark over the availability of captain and trump card Shakib Al Hasan, who is still recovering from a finger injury sustained in the tri-series final. Moreover, the Tigers will be faced with a rejuvenated home team and arguably the best team in the world in India in the tri-nation T20I tournament -- Bangladesh's weakest format.

With the odds stacked against them, Bangladesh will be looking to the likes of Soumya Sarkar to make a difference, and the left-handed opener is well-placed to do so. Dropped from the Test and ODI sides following the tour of South Africa, Soumya has however been Bangladesh's best batsman in T20I cricket since the start of 2017, scoring 286 runs in nine innings at an average of 31.77 and strike rate of 153.76.

Speaking to the press on the first day of a two-day training camp yesterday, Soumya said that while it is always a bonus to have Shakib the bowler and Shakib the batsman in the team, the others will have to step up in his possible absence. And given his record, Soumya will have to lead the charge of the best of the rest.

"You can't be dependent on one bowler [Shakib] and think that if he does well then it will all be good," he said when asked about the effect of not having Shakib as a bowler to keep the runs down – a particularly crucial aspect after the profligacy of the bowlers in the recent T20I series against Sri Lanka. "But rather than think about that, if the rest of us can give our best then it will be possible to do something good."

The Tigers have been blighted by an inability to get their batting and bowling firing together in the same match, and Soumya identified that that will have to change if they are to have any success in the upcoming fortnight.

"I don't think you can win matches or do well by just doing well in one department. Even then, if you are lucky it is possible, but it doesn't happen 99 per cent of the time. If you can do well in all departments I think it is possible to win or do something good. It's not just batting or bowling, fielding is important too."

Bangladesh batsmen (From L-R) Soumya Sarkar, Mushfiqur Rahim and Imrul Kayes share a light moment during practice in Mirpur yesterday, but when they depart for Sri Lanka tomorrow they may have to shoulder the burden of scoring heavily if Shakib Al Hasan's all-round contributions continue to be unavailable due to injury. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

PREMIER DIV TT

Pallolic in solo lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Pallolic Group maintained their solo lead in the Premier Division Table Tennis League when they notched a 3-1 victory over Uttara TT Academy in the fifth round at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

The fifth straight win means Pallolic Group were on the top of the 11-team table with 10 points, followed by defending champions Orunima Sports Club, who secured eight points from four matches.

Sheikh Russel KC and Uttara Table Tennis Club occupied the third position with six points from five matches.

Pallolic Group started the day with a defeat as Mahbub Billah conceded a 0-3 defeat to India's Sourav Kumar Saha, but the leaders staged a strong comeback to win the three straight bouts. Egyptian Lashin beat Badol 3-0, Manosh Chowdhury beat Shahed 3-0 and Lashin beat Sourav 3-0 to ensure the 3-1 win.

In the day's other matches, Orunima beat Armanitola 3-2, Mariner Youngs Club upset Sheikh Russel KC 3-2, Ciciron TT Club beat Biman Bangladesh Airlines 3-1, Bangladesh Boys beat Wari Club 3-1 and Bangladesh Boys beat Mariner Youngs Club 3-2.

Abahani suffer first defeat

Doleshwar-Mohammedan match ends in thrilling tie

SPORTS REPORTER

High-flying Abahani Limited suffered their first defeat in seven games when they lost to Prime Bank Cricket Club by nine runs in a tightly contested Dhaka Premier League (DPL) encounter at the BKSP-3 ground in Savar yesterday.

Chasing 247, Abahani finished on 237 for nine in 50 overs as Prime Bank registered their third win in seven games.

Abahani did manage to recover from the early damage as opener Saif Hasan and skipper Nasir Hossain added 127 for the fourth wicket after struggling on 17 for three inside six overs.

However, after Saif was run out on a team high 124-ball 75, featuring five fours and a six, and Nasir departed as well on 67 runs off 88 balls, Abahani lost the plot. Abahani required 47 runs in the last five overs and Tigers ODI skipper Mahsrafe Bin Mortaza, who picked up four wickets earlier in the game, tried to oblige by adding 22 but that was not enough to evade defeat.

Pacer Shariful Islam scalped four wickets while Delwar Hossain took two for Prime Bank.

Earlier, Prime Bank were all-out on 246 in 49.2 overs, where Al Amin top-scored for the side with 84 runs, which included seven fours and a six, while young wicketkeeper-batsman Zakir Hasan added 62.

At the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali stadium in Fatullah there was a thriller between Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club and Mohammedan Sporting Club, which ended in a tie despite Liton Das smashing his second hundred of the league. Pacer Mohammad Azim managed to restrict Prime Doleshwar in the last over, off which they needed just six runs, by picking up two wickets with the first two balls and eventually end the game in a stalemate.

Azim bagged six wickets in total, conceding 67 runs from his ten overs, while young left-arm pacer Qazi Anik took three for Mohammedan.

Doleshwar's Liton was dismissed after scoring 129 runs, laced with eight fours and two sixes, and adding 114 for the fourth wicket alongside Farhad Hossain, who scored a run-a-ball 52.

Despite the dismissal of the two set batsmen, Doleshwar could still have won the game but went on to lose four wickets in quick succession while needing just 24 runs from the last four overs to eventually finish on a level 286 for nine in 50 overs.

Earlier, Mohammedan took the first guard and were all-out on 286 with a ball to spare. Skipper Shamsur Rahman scored a team high 75 off 93 balls, featuring five sixes and a four, and Bipul Sharma smashed a blistering 31 ball 53 as Mohammedan added 50 in the last over.

With nine points from seven games, Doleshwar are in second place behind Abahani on the league table.

At the Sher-e-Bangla National stadium in Mirpur, Defending champions Gazi Group Cricketers continued their poor run in the ongoing DPL by losing their fifth game in seven outings by 95 runs against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club.

Jamal posted 265 for 8 in 50 overs courtesy of a century from opener Shykat Ali, who eventually retired due to cramps after scoring 115 off 118 balls, featuring six fours and five sixes, while partner Hasanuzzaman added 45.

In reply, Gazi were bundled out on 170 in 42.4 overs as they kept losing wickets at regular intervals. Indian recruit Gurakreet Singh's 67 was the only notable performance with the bat while Sajedul Islam, Sohag Gazi, Kazi Kamrul Islam and Elias Sunny took two wickets each.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PRIME BANK V ABAHANI
PRIME BANK CC: 246 all out in 49.2 overs (Zakir 62, Al-Amin 84, Pathan 28, Monir 20; Mashrafe 4-41, Gony 2-53, Saqlain 2-47)
ABAHANI: 237 for 9 in 50 overs (Saif 75, Nasir 65, Rakib 25, Mashrafe 22; Shariful 4-51, Delwar 2-43)
Result: Prime Bank won by 9 runs.

SHEIKH JAMAL V GAZI GROUP
SHEIKH JAMAL DC: 265 for 8 in 50 overs (Shykat 115, Hasanuzzaman 45, Shohag 42, Elias 33; Kamrul 2-64, Nayeem 2-49)
GAZI GROUP CRICKETERS: 170 all out in 42.4 overs (Mahedi 36, Gurkeerat 67, Nadif 20; Sajedul 2-14, Shohag 2-30, Kamrul 2-29, Elias Sunny2-38)
Result: Sheikh Jamal won by 95 runs.

MOHAMMEDAN V PRIME DOLESHWAR
MOHAMMEDAN SC: 286 all out in 49.5 overs (Jony 37, Shamsur 75, Raqibul 72, Bipul 53; Mamun 2-52, Reza 3-66)
PRIME DOLESHWAR SC: 286 for 9 in 50 overs (Liton 129, Ayub 22, Farhad 52, Zohaib 24; Onik 3-51, Azim 6-67)
Result: Match tied.

SHYKAT... 115

LITON... 129

AZIM... 6 for 67

Starc rips through SA

AFP, *Durban*

The spin of Nathan Lyon and the reverse swing of Mitchell Starc sent South Africa crashing on the second day of the first Test against Australia at Kingsmead on Friday.

South Africa were bowled out for 162 shortly before the close, giving Australia a lead of 189 runs on the first innings.

Lyon started the slide for the hosts and finished with three for 50 before the tall left-armer Starc gave a magnificent display of fast, reverse swing bowling to take five for 34.

AB de Villiers played almost a lone hand for South Africa, making 71 not out.

Mitchell Marsh struck 96 for Australia. Largely through his efforts, as well as an aggressive innings of 35 by Starc, Australia's last three wickets added 100 runs to take them to a total of 351.

On a pitch which has proved even slower than predicted by both captains, left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj took five for 123 for South Africa.

Spin continued to be effective when South Africa batted. Off-spinner Lyon was brought on in the eighth over and took two wickets in his first over.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 351 (Warner 51, Smith 56, S Marsh 40, M Marsh 96, Paine 25, Starc 35; Philander 3-59, Maharaj 5-123)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 162 (Markram 32, De Villiers 71 not out, De Kock 20; Starc 5-34, Lyon 3-50)

Australia speedster Mitchell Starc took three wickets in the space of eight balls to end up with a five-for and bundle out South Africa for 162 on the second day of the first Test in Durban yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Dhaka Half Marathon 2018 was held at Hatirjheel in the capital yesterday to project Bangladesh on the global platform from a new perspective. Dhaka Run Lords and Thousand Miles Expedition jointly organised the event, which was powered by Nestle Bangladesh Ltd., with Apex Footwear Ltd. and Milvik Bangladesh Ltd being the co-sponsors. PHOTO: STAR

Fizz misfires in thriller

STAR SPORT DESK

Andre Russell hit a last-ball six off Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman to clinch a thriller for Islamabad United in the Pakistan Super League match against Lahore Qalandars in Sharjah last night.

Three runs were needed off the last ball of the Super Over and Russell plonked a slower delivery from the left-armer straight over long on. The regular match had ended in a tie as United fast bowler Mohammad Sami took two wickets in the last over of Lahore's chase of 121 for nine to finish off Lahore on the same score. Lahore lost their last eight wickets for 44 runs.

Umar Akmal, skipper Brendon McCullum and Fakhar Zaman then hammered 15 runs in the Super Over from Shami for the loss of the skipper. Mustafizur, bowling to Russell and Asif Ali, nearly had the latter in the second ball of Lahore's Super Over defence, but McCullum parried a dropped chance for six at long on.

There was a wide and an edged four from Russell that brought the equation down to three off one before the last-ball six ended an exciting match in dramatic fashion and delivered Lahore's fourth defeat in as many matches this season.

Earlier, it was a rare bad outing from Mustafizur in regular play as he conceded 39 from his four overs after Lahore chose to field first. Three of Mustafizur's overs were bowled in the last five overs of United's innings and it was Andre Russel and Hussain Talat's attack on him and Sohail Khan that lifted them from six for 70 to their eventual score. Mustafizur did manage to take a wicket -- that of number 10 batsman Shadab Khan caught at long on off the penultimate ball of the innings. He could have had another off the last ball, but a top-edged pull by Talat was dropped at deep midwicket by Yasir Shah.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ISLAMABAD: 121 for 9 (Duminy 34, Talat 33; Yasir 3-30, Sohail 2-23)

LAHORE: 121 all out in 19.4 overs (Agha 48, McCullum 34; Sami 3-21, Russell 1-22)

Result: Match tied (Islamabad won in the Super Over)

Taylor out, Williamson returns

AGENCIES, *Wellington*

New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor has been ruled out of the third one-day international against England on Saturday, while captain Kane Williamson will return.

Taylor hurt his quad during the second ODI, which England won to level the five-match series at 1-1, on Wednesday.

After training on Friday, New Zealand announced Taylor would miss the third game in Wellington on Saturday before being assessed.

Williamson – who missed the second ODI due to a hamstring injury – passed a fitness test and is available.