



## Indians dominate the day

Abahani, Sheikh Jamal cruise; Forhad stuns Khelaghar

SPORTS REPORTER

The Dhaka Premier League has over the years seen Pakistani players dominating the number of foreign recruits. The Sri Lankans also turned up in numbers in the 50-over competition but the Indian players were few and far between in the competition. However, this year the league offered more Indian cricketers and understandably they are not top players.

Still, those less glamorous Indian cricketers are dominating the Dhaka League. For instance, in yesterday's opening Super League games as many as four Indian players made healthy contributions with the bat, including two stupendous centuries, at different venues.

Making his first Dhaka League appearance, Gade Hanuman Vihari hit a fabulous 109 to guide leaders Abahani to a 73-run win against holders Gazi Group at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. The 24-year-old right-hand batsman from Andhra Pradesh lifted Abahani from a precarious 4 for 91 to a commanding 276 for 8 with 10 fours and a six in his 124-ball knock. He shared a vital 138 runs for the fifth wicket with Mohammad Mithun, who hit an unbeaten 72 off 61 balls. The other highlight of Abahani's innings was a six-ball 23 by Mosaddek Hossain in the final over, when he smashed the last three deliveries from Naeem Hasan for consecutive sixes after hitting the second ball for boundary.

Gazi, in their chase, were bundled out on 205 in 43 overs. Interestingly, another Indian batsman - Anustup Majumdar hit a team high 64 for Gazi.



**GH Vihar (L) made his Dhaka Premier League debut with a fine 109 for Abahani at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, a day when his compatriot Unmukt Chand (bottom R) hammered a more impressive 127 for Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club at the BKSP in Savar, while experienced Bangladesh all-rounder Forhad Reza struck a stunning unbeaten 68 for Prime Doleshwar at Fatullah.**



PHOTOS: STAR

Away at the BKSP in Savar, Unmukt Chand struck a superb century to guide Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club to a comprehensive seven-wicket win against Legends of Ruppang.

Winning the toss and electing to bat, Ruppang posted 260 for nine in their share of 50 overs with captain Naeem Islam hitting 51 and their Indian recruit Parvez Rasool notching 44. Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahim scored a 32-ball 39. However,

they failed to prosper in the death overs, scoring 34 runs off the last 36 deliveries while losing four wickets. Robiul Hoque picked up five wickets for 33 runs for Sheikh Jamal.

Opening the innings for Sheikh Jamal, Unmukt, the 26-year-old Delhi right-hander, smashed 127 off 133 balls to take his side close to victory as he hammered 20 boundaries. Leg-spinning all-rounder Tanbir Hayder also hit an unbeaten 66 off 52 balls that contained four boundaries

and three sixes as Sheikh Jamal reached 262 for three in 48 overs.

At the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah two Indian batsmen hit half centuries, the league's leading run-getter Ashok Menaria, struck 54 along with left-hander Amit Majumdar's 50 as Khelaghar Shamaj Kalyan Shamity posted a fighting 258 for eight against Prime Doleshwar.

However, this was the game where the power of a Bangladesh batsman overshadowed the Indian efforts and pulled off a thrilling three-wicket win for Prime Doleshwar, thanks to a stunning unbeaten 68 off 37 balls from Forhad Reza.

The experienced medium pacer, who has a first-class century under his belt, turned the game on its head after Doleshwar looked dead and buried at 172 for 7 by the end of the 40th over. His blistering innings contained a mind-boggling seven sixes and two boundaries. He got able support from Shahanur Rahman (19 not out) at the other end as they clobbered 86 runs in the last ten overs. Reza also captured two wickets for 56 runs.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

#### ABAHANI v GAZI GROUP

**ABAHANI:** 278 for 6 in 50 overs (Hanuma Vihari 109, Mithun 72 not out; Hayder 2-45, Mahedi 2-49)

**GAZI:** 205 all out in 43 overs (Anustup Majumdar 64, Mominul 46; Sunzamul 4-50, Mehedi 2-28, Mashrafe 2-30)

**Result:** Abahani won by 73 runs

**RUPGANJ v SHEIKH JAMAL**

**RUPGANJ:** 260 for 9 in 50 overs (Naeem Islam 51, Tushar Imran 48 not out; Rasool 44; Robiul 5-33, Tanbir 2-48)

**SHEIKH JAMAL:** 262 for 3 in 48 overs (Unmukt Chand 127, Tanbir 66 not out, Rakin 52; Rasel 2-53)

**Result:** Sheikh Jamal won by 7 wickets

**KHELGHAR v PRIME DOLESHWAR**

**KHELGHAR:** 258 for 8 in 50 overs (Robiul 62, Menaria 54, Amit 50; Arafat 5-45, Farhad 2-56)

**PRIME DOLESHWAR:** 259 for 7 in 48.1 overs (Farhad 68 not out, Iqbal 35; Saddam 3-40, Hasan 2-57)

**Result:** Prime Doleshwar won by 3 wickets

### QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

**Rain frustrates New Zealand**  
Despite New Zealand's blitz start to the first Test against England, rain threatened to deny them any reward with only 17 balls bowled on Day Three in Auckland today.

**Dejected Djokovic looks for answers after Miami Open defeat**  
Six-time champion Novak Djokovic "ran out of gas" in a straight sets loss to Benoit Paire, while the red-hot Juan Martin Del Potro won his opening match at the ATP Miami Masters on Friday. "I'm trying, but it's not working," said Djokovic, who lost his opener 6-3, 6-4. "That's all it is. I mean, obviously I'm not feeling great when I'm playing this way."

**Bolt not ready for top level football**  
Borussia Dortmund head coach Peter Stoger said Usain Bolt had "a lot of work to do" to make it at the top level. The champion sprinter trained with the Bundesliga giants. Stoger was positive about the 31-year-old's talent, but said there were multiple areas for Bolt to work on if he wanted to pursue a career in the sport.

**Silva withdraws from Spain squad**  
Manchester City midfielder David Silva has been released from the Spain squad for personal reasons, the national team has announced.

**Brazil are two grades better than 2014: Kroos**  
Toni Kroos rates Brazil "two grades" higher than when Germany hammered the Selecao 7-1 at the 2014 World Cup, saying that they had a much better squad and harmony this time around.

**Lingard does the job against the Dutch**  
England ended a 22-year win drought against the Netherlands thanks to Jesse Lingard's strike for a 1-0 triumph after a performance of composure and quality in a friendly on Friday.



**Bangladesh's archery coach Martin Frederick gives his disciples some pointers during a practice session at the BKSP yesterday ahead of the 3rd South Asian Archery Championship.**

PHOTO: STAR

## South Asian archery underway

SPORTS REPORTER



3rd SOUTH ASIAN ARCHERY CHAMPIONSHIP

The 3rd South Asian Archery Championships was officially inaugurated at the Bangladesh Kriya Shikha Protisthan (BKSP) in Savar yesterday.

BKSP's director general Brigadier General Mohammad Shamsur Rahman inaugurated the meet where Bangladesh Archery Federation's general secretary Kazi Razibuddin Ahmed Chapal was present.

The official practice sessions were held and the managers' meeting took place on the opening day.

The qualification round of the meet will be held today at the BKSP, which also staged the inaugural edition in 2006.

The meet will feature a total of 65 male and female archers from the region who will

compete in ten events -- five in recurve and five in compound -- with Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka being the participating countries.

German coach Martin Frederick, who took charge of the Bangladesh team a month ago, is expected to use this competition to judge the state of the players before working on them in detail.

"It is hard for a coach to work out all the problems in a month's time," said local coach Ziaul Haque. "Martin's initial observation is that the local archers fail to carry their performance from the practice sessions into competitions. He will judge the archers during this competition and chalk out his plans accordingly."

"The Indian archers are our main competitors. There are good archers among the Nepalese and Sri Lankan contingent too," Haque added.

## Smith won't quit after admitting ball-tampering

REUTERS, Cape Town



CRICKET AUSTRALIA

Australia captain Steve Smith says he is embarrassed and takes responsibility for the actions of his side after they were charged with attempting to change the condition of the ball in the third test against South Africa on Saturday, but he will not be stepping down as skipper.

Smith detailed an orchestrated effort from the team's "leadership group" to use sticky tape to pick up hard granules from the pitch and rub these against the ball to try to alter its condition and get it to swing.

Opening batsman Cameron Bancroft, 25, the most junior member in the side, was the player tasked with implementing the plan and he has been charged by the International Cricket Council (ICC), which could lead to a one-match ban and a 100 percent fine of his match fee.

"I'm embarrassed, the boys in the shed are embarrassed and I feel for Cam as well," Smith told reporters.

"It is not what we want to see in the game, it's not what the Australian cricket team is about. Being the leader of the team I am incredibly sorry for trying to bring the game into disrepute like we did today."

A remorseful Bancroft admitted he was nervous at taking on his role in the scam and panicked when he realised that cameras in the stadium had caught him in the act, placing the tape in his underwear to keep it out of the gaze of the umpires.

"I guess once I was sighted on the (TV) screens, that resulted in me shoving it down my trousers," Bancroft said. "I am not proud of what has happened. I have to live with the

consequences and the damage to my reputation that comes with it. I will do my best to move forward and play cricket."

Smith said it was the first and last time the team had hatched such a plan and while he would not name the other conspirators, he said head coach Darren Lehmann was not involved.

"The leadership group knew about it, we spoke about it at lunch," Smith said. "I'm not proud of what has happened. It's not in the spirit of the game, my integrity and the integrity of the team has been damaged and rightfully so. It's not on and it won't happen again, I can promise you."

"The coaches weren't involved, it was purely the players and the leadership group who came up with this. A poor choice, our actions are deeply regrettable."



**Australia's Cameron Bancroft was caught on camera using a sticky tape to tamper with the ball against South Africa yesterday.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Proteas build big lead

AFP, Cape Town



CRICKET SOUTH AFRICA

CRICKET AUSTRALIA

AB De Villiers hit his second consecutive fifty as South Africa took the lead

close to 300 against Australia before bad light stopped play in the final session of the third day at Newlands yesterday.

De Villiers was unbeaten on 51 while Quinton de Kock was on 29 as the home side scored 238 for five in 72 overs, a lead of 294 runs going into the fourth day of the third Test.

Earlier, opener Aiden Markram survived two dropped catches and went on to make 84 as South Africa extended their lead beyond 200 before we was shortly before tea with South Africa reached 151 for three, an overall lead of 207.

Markram, out for nought in the first innings, could have completed a "pair" but he was dropped off the fourth ball of the second innings when he edged Mitchell Starc low to the left of Usman Khawaja at gully.

He survived another much more difficult chance on 59 when Australian captain Steve Smith flung himself to his right at second slip and got his fingertips to a flying edge off Josh Hazlewood.

Smith, who held a world record-equaling five catches in the first innings, had already added to his tally by catching first innings century-maker Dean Elgar off Pat Cummins for 14.



**South Africa opener Aiden Markram rode on two dropped catches to make 84 on the third day of the third Test against Australia at Newlands yesterday.**

PHOTO: REUTERS

despite his lapses and hit ten fours and two sixes in a 145-ball innings. He shared partnerships of 76 with Hashim Amla (31) and 47 with AB de Villiers, who was unbeaten on 18.

Markram was out in the last over before tea when he chipped Mitchell Starc to mid-on where Cummins held a low catch.

The series is poised at one match apiece.

De Villiers opened his scoring with a slapped six off the back foot over cover off Cummins but it was the only scoring shot in the first 20 balls he faced as he made a cautious start to his innings.

There was a moment of potential drama when the umpires questioned fielder Cameron Bancroft over what appeared to be an object in his pocket when he had the ball in his possession.

But play continued without the ball being changed and it was unclear what was discussed.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**SOUTH AFRICA:** 311 and 238-5 (Markram 84, De Villiers 51 not out; Cummins 2-47)

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 255 (Bancroft 77, Lyon 47; Rabada 4-91, Morkel 4-87)