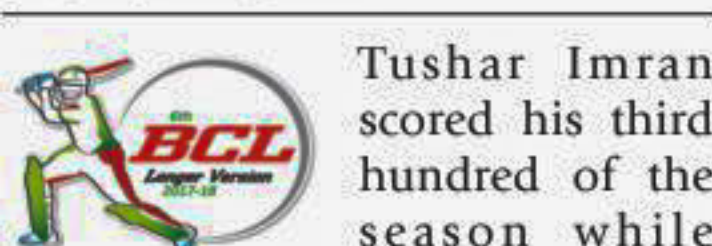


# Tushar's third, Shadman's first

*Accustomed to habit of scoring, says Tushar*

SPORTS REPORTER



Tushar Imran scored his third hundred of the season while Shadman Islam

got his first ton on the opening day of the Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) yesterday.

Tushar barely made any headlines while representing Legends of Rupganj in the recently-concluded Dhaka Premier League (DPL), but the 34-year-old wasted no time in making his presence felt in his favoured longer-version game at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium.

Though the BCL was on a two month hiatus due to the DPL, the right-hander was able to carry his form. Tushar scored 130 off 221 balls with 15 fours and a six during his four-and-a-half-hour stay in



PHOTOS: STAR

South Zone batsman Tushar Imran (L) scored his third century in the ongoing Bangladesh Cricket League, which returned after a hiatus yesterday, against East Zone in Sylhet while Central Zone opener Shadman Islam (R) bagged his first ton of the season against North Zone in Bogra.



SCORES IN BRIEF
<b>CENTRAL ZONE V NORTH ZONE</b> Walton Central Zone: First innings 249 for 3 (Saif 94, Shadman 107, Marshall 20 not out, Mahmudullah 21 not out; Shortliff 2-50)
<b>SOUTH ZONE V EAST ZONE</b> Prime Bank South Zone: First innings 299 for 7 (Mahmud 89, Tushar 130, Mithun 22; Saifuddin 2-40, Khaled 2-67)

the middle on the opening day and shared a 165-run partnership with Fazle Mahmud for the third wicket as South Zone scored 299

for seven against East Zone before bad light stopped play.

"Don't you think I have to do something special if I want to get a place in the national side," responded Tushar over phone with a laugh when he was asked to disclose the secret of his continuous success in the longer-version domestic competitions.

"Actually, I enjoy batting in the longer-version game as I get time here to prolong my innings. There is no hurry for me. Scoring runs is a habit and fortunately I have become accustomed to this habit. In the league matches I batted at number

six and I had to focus more on scoring runs rather than staying at the crease, that is the difference," he quickly explained the real reason.

Tushar also impressed with his navigation of the wicket. "There was a grass on the wicket which helped the pace bowlers but it was also good for batting. This kind of wicket really helps our cricket in the long run," he added.

However, East Zone left the field with some satisfaction as the second new ball worked for them brilliantly. Mohammad Saifuddin took two quick wickets, dismissing

Mohammad Mithun and Nayeem Hasan after right-arm pacer Abu Jayed removed Tushar.

Openers Shahriar Nafees and Anamul Haque returned to the pavilion with the scoreboard reading 44. However, Tushar and Mahmud repaired the damage before the latter was dismissed for 89 runs by Sohag Gazi. Though refreshed after a 154-run innings in the last relegation league match in the DPL, Soumya Sarker failed to capitalise on that form as he was dismissed for four. Saifuddin and Khaled took two wickets each for East Zone.

At the Shahid Chandu Stadium in Bogra, bottom-side Central Zone made a confident start against leaders North Zone through a 200-run opening partnership between Saif Hasan and Shadman.

In his first appearance in this season's BCL, Saif missed a hundred by just six runs but Shadman batted for more than five hours and scored 107 off 239, hitting nine boundaries. After losing three wickets for seven runs, Marshal Ayub (20) and Mahmudullah Riyad (21) remained not out as Central Zone ended the day on 249 for three.

# Tournament moved to UAE

AFP, Kuala Lumpur



Cricket's Asia Cup has been moved from India to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over Pakistan's refusal to cross the border, as relations simmer between the arch rivals, the Asian Cricket Council said Tuesday.

The biennial event was due to be held in India in September, sparking protests from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) who called for the event to be relocated.

"This year's Asia Cup is moved out of India to UAE and will be held from September 13-28," Sultan Rana, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) development and event manager, told AFP.

India has suspended bilateral cricket ties with Pakistan since the 2008 attacks in Mumbai, which New Delhi blamed on militants based across the border.

However, India has continued to square off with Pakistan in international events like the 2016 Asia Cup in Bangladesh, the World Twenty20 at home and the 2017 Champions Trophy in England.

The Asia Cup has been marred by strained Indo-Pak relations since its inception when the UAE hosted it in 1984.

Two years later, India pulled out of the event in Sri Lanka, while Pakistan refused to send its team to India when it hosted the cup in 1991.

With Pakistan and India unable to host, Bangladesh held three straight Asian Cups from 2012 to 2016.

Rana said six Asian teams will compete in the 50-over Asia Cup.

"India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan are the five top teams while, there will be a qualifying round to select the sixth team," said Rana, a former Pakistan first class player.

Meanwhile, the ACC Emerging Asia Cup was also jeopardised earlier this month when India refused to send their team to Pakistan to compete.

"Emerging Cup will now be hosted jointly by Pakistan and Sri Lanka in December this year," said Rana.

India will play its Emerging Cup matches in Sri Lanka.

# Shovon frustrates in 50m Rifle Prone

*Shirin finishes last in 200m sprint*

SPORTS REPORTER



South Asian Games silver medallist Shovon Chowdhury frustrated at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games by finishing 20th out of 30 participants in the 50m Rifle Prone event at the Belmont Shooting Centre in Brisbane yesterday.

Shovon, who won a silver medal in the 10m Air Rifle event in the 2016 SA Games in Assam, had to take part in 50m rifle prone after losing his place in the men's 10m Air Rifle event to teammate Abdullah Hel Baki and Rabbi Hasan Munna. However, he could only produce a frustrating performance, scoring 604.5, 8.2 points less than Englishman Kenneth Parr, who was the final qualifier for the eight-shooter final round.

Baki was also scheduled to take part in the event but the 28-year-old refrained following his silver medal triumph in the 10m Air Rifle event on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's fastest woman Shirin Akter finished last in the women's 200m sprint with a time of 26.17 seconds. A total of 36 sprinters took part in the event.



South Africa's Caster Semenya smashed Zola Budd's long-standing South African 1,500 metres record at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in Brisbane on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Semenya smashes Budd's record

AFP, Gold Coast



Caster Semenya smashed Zola Budd's long-standing South African 1,500 metres record at the Commonwealth Games on Tuesday as her dominance on the track continued to be dogged by controversy off it.

Semenya, who has elevated levels of male sex hormones, made her move on the last lap, overtaking Kenya's Beatrice Chepkoech on the final bend and accelerating away to win in 4min 0.71sec.

The 27-year-old's victory by more than two seconds sliced 1.1sec off Budd's 1984 South African record and earned Semenya her first Commonwealth medal, to go with her swathe of Olympic and world titles over 800m.

It was a victorious moment for Semenya, who called for assistance for an exhausted rival lying on the track before setting off for a lap of honour wrapped in the national flag.

"I want everyone to know that South African athletes are here to stay. I'm proud to be a South African. We are a great nation and we want to display that to the world," she said.

# Injury updates and Debashish's yellow card

SPORTS REPORTER

There is some good news and some bad news in the long list of injured cricketers in the Bangladesh camp, to which Nasir Hossain was the latest addition. Bangladesh Cricket Board chief physician Dr. Debashish Chowdhury yesterday briefed the media on the latest condition of Nasir, Tamim Iqbal, Taskin Ahmed and Mehedi Hasan Miraz, who are all suffering from various injuries. He identified playing football carelessly as one of the main factors behind recent injuries and prescribed cricketers to be more responsible and careful while playing football, adding that the high intensity among players to score goals and the body contact while playing led to injuries. Debashish also suggested that the cricketers play other sports alongside football such as tennis and badminton for warm-ups before training. The details of the injuries and the recovery period of the cricketers are given below.



NASIR HOSSAIN

**Nature of injury:** An MRI report confirmed yesterday that Nasir has a torn ligament in his right knee. It was learned that the all-rounder, who has been in and out of the national team, injured himself while playing football after attending a friend's wedding in Sirajganj.

**Recovery period:** As Nasir's anterior cruciate ligament is torn, the injury requires surgery and it will take six months for him to return to the field after the operation. The BCB is looking to send Nasir to either Thailand or Australia for surgery. There is no need for emergency surgery and Nasir was suggested to take complete rest.



MEHEDI HASAN MIRAZ

**Nature of injury:** Mehedi's MRI report confirmed that he has a labral tear on his right shoulder similar to what pacer Mustafizur Rahman faced and underwent surgery for. Mehedi, who first sustained the injury during his U-19 days, is suffering from pain while throwing and bowling.

**Recovery period:** The doctors are trying to manage the injury through conservative methods such as injections and physiotherapy and very soon he will be given a PRP (platelet rich plasma) injection. If the pain does not decrease following conservative methods, then Mehedi may require surgery.



TAMIM IQBAL

**Nature of injury:** The left-handed opener is suffering from an issue with his meniscus in his left knee. Tamim injured his knee while diving for a quick run during his stint with Peshawar Zalmi in this season's PSL and suffered from pain throughout the Nidahas Trophy. The 30-year-old is also suffering from few minor injuries around his left knee joint.

**Recovery period:** He still needs another three weeks for complete rehabilitation. He is facing problems while fielding and running, however there is no pain while batting. Tamim is recovering well and the cricketer does not require surgery.



TASKIN AHMED

**Nature of injury:** The fast bowler has been suffering from back pain for the past three to four months and the pain has increased in the recent past. The injury is normal for pacers and may be one of the major reasons for Taskin's recent poor performances.

**Recovery period:** Taskin, who has suffered from many injuries in his career, will have to go through physiotherapy, take medicine and injections and exercise initially. Till now there is no need for surgery for the fast bowler and the physios are trying to keep the pain level manageable.



Members of the women's cricket team share a light moment at the BCB Academy, where they reported yesterday ahead of their training camp in Sylhet. The team will leave for South Africa on April 28 to play five ODIs and three T20Is.

PHOTO: BCB

# Sam stars in CSK's thrilling victory

PTI, Chennai



Sam Billings played a little gem as Chennai Super Kings once again pulled off a thrilling chase beating Kolkata Knight Riders by five wickets in an IPL encounter on Tuesday.

Chasing a stiff target of 203, CSK won the match with a ball to spare as Ravindra Jadeja deposited military medium stuff from R Vinay Kumar into stands. The India discard bowled a forgettable final over where CSK needed 17 runs to win.

This was after Englishman Billings set it up nicely with a magnificent 56 off 23 balls that five huge sixes apart from a couple of boundaries.

The pressure put by Mahendra Singh Dhoni's slow batting (25 off 28 balls) was neutralised by Billings.

Earlier, Andre Russell hit an incredible 11 sixes in his 36-ball-88 as Kolkata Knight Riders scored a competitive 202 for six after being put into bat.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KKR: 202 for 6 in 20 overs (Lynn 22, Uthappa 29, Karthik 26, Russell 88 not out; Watson 2-39)

CSK: 205 for 5 in 19.5 overs (Watson 42, Rayudu 39, Dhoni 25, Billings 56; Curran 2-39)

Result: Chennai Super Kings won by 5 wickets.