



# No performance, no central contract

SPORTS REPORTER



All eyes were on the Sher-e-Bangla National stadium in Mirpur yesterday, where the executive meeting of the Bangladesh Cricket

Board (BCB), after which board president Nazmul Hassan addressed the media. National players' central contracts were among the major issues in the meeting, with six cricketers cut from the contracts after consideration of their performance. 10 cricketers were retained the central contracts list and three more players will be added as rookies to make it 13. There were a few other issues addressed by the BCB president.

#### NATIONAL PLAYERS' CENTRAL CONTRACTS

It was learned that only Liton Das has been confirmed so far among the three rookies.

The 10 players retained in the central contracts are: Tamim Igbal, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfigur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Taijul Islam, Mominul Haque, Mustafizur Rahman, Rubel Hossain and Mehedi Hasan Miraz.

The board is yet to categorise the players and the BCB president also informed that they are not increasing the players' salaries for the year 2018 as the board had increased the salary just six months ago.

The six cricketers to miss out on the contracts from the previous year are: Soumya Sarkar, Mosaddek Hossain,

### **OUTCASTS' CROSS-FORMAT STATS IN 2017**



IMRUL | MATCHES | RUNS | AVE 366 17.42

Kamrul Islam Rabbi, Imrul Kayes,

Taskin Ahmed and Sabbir Rahman.

Among these six, Sabbir's name was

already known as he is currently serv-

ing a six-month domestic ban for

assaulting a young fan during a

National Cricket League game in



| MATCHES | RUNS | AVE SARKAR | 26 | 929 | 29.96 |



MATCHES | RUNS | MOSADDEK 280 HOSSAIN



52.83 ISLAM

"We have reduced in number because - the cricket operations and selectors have decided it. They think that their performances have not been up to a level that makes a compelling case for them to be included in the contract," said BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Younus.



SABBIR | MATCHES | RUNS | AVE 812 23.2 RAHMAN

The BCB president also informed the finance committee will take the budget into consideration and make a recommendation on how much can be paid to those who are on the payroll in first-class cricket, and the salaries of other payroll personnel.

BANGLADESH TO PLAY T20I SERIES AGAINST AFGHANISTAN

The BCB boss also informed that Bangladesh want to play a three T20Is against Afghanistan in the upcoming series instead of ODIs, but the dates are yet to be finalised. The venue of the series is still Dehdarun, but Hassan informed that the BCB wanted to play the series in Mumbai or Bangalore.

"Basically we play very few T20s. We have a T20 World Cup coming up, and although there is some time in between, we do not have any T20Is scheduled. We have Tests and ODIs. So in that respect we thought that it is better to play T20Is," said Hassan. HASSAN TO BECOME THE NEXT

ACC PRESIDENT It is Bangladesh's turn to nominate the next president of the Asian Cricket that we were talking about regional Council (Asian Cricket Council) and Hassan informed that the board has recommended his name for the post.

"The next ACC president will be from Bangladesh, and we have to recommend a name from the board, and the board decided to put forward my name. So in the next ACC board meeting, my name will be put forward," he said.

Hassan will take over the post from Thilanga Sumathipala, who is also the president of Sri Lanka Cricket. FOUR FOREIGNERS PER SIDE IN BPL 2018

"In the last BPL five foreign players could play per match, but we have decided that only four foreign players can play at a time in a match in the next edition," said Hassan.

"There is some confusion surrounding the retention of local and foreign

players every time, so it is better to clarify it ahead of time. We decided that any franchisee can retain four players, be they local or foreign. The maximum number of players to be retained is four, and they can be any combination of local or foreign players, but a maximum of four." He also said that the board has

accepted the proposal of the BPL governing council to start the BPL by the first week of October and wants to finish the league by mid-November. REGIONAL CRICKET ASSOCIATION The Board has stressed on initiating immediate implementation of the

Regional Cricket Association structure with the inclusion of the provision for Regional Cricket Academy. "The other very important thing is

cricket associations for a long time. That is done. In fact if we had gotten it in the board today, it would have been final today. Even so, we have allowed 15 days; the final proposal will arrive within two weeks and we will approve it. And I hope that all operations of the regional cricket associations can commence within one month," said Hassan. COACHES' TERMS TO BE REVISITED

All the support staff of the national team, including the physio, are currently on vacation which raised concerns especially in light of recent injuries to national players in the Tigers' off-season. Hassan said that pending a proposal from the cricket operations committee, the terms of some coaches will be revisited and changed from a days-based contract so that they will not all be absent at the same time, even during the off-season.

## Wrong replay

**ESPNCRICINFO** 

in IPL

It might not have had much of a bearing on the result of the match, but the third umpire might have looked at the wrong replay when the on-field officials turned to him to check on a no-ball during the match between Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bangalore on Tuesday. Jasprit Bumrah is no

stranger to bowling no-balls - his costliest one coming in last year's Champions Trophy final - but he got away without scrutiny when he dismissed Umesh Yadav. The on-field umpire immediately asked to see if he had overstepped. The replay shown, though, has Umesh at the non-striker's end, and the heel of Bumrah's front

foot lands well inside the crease. The commentators were surprised that it was even checked. It went unnoticed that Umesh was in the picture at the non-striker's end

until Twitter user @ronak\_169 brought it to ESPNcricinfo's notice. While this was not significant to the result - Royal Challengers were 137 for 7, chasing 214, with only 13 balls left - it once again raises the possibility of this human error in more critical stages of the match. Sachin Tendulkar, in the 2011 IPL, and MS Dhoni on a tour of West Indies, suffered similar fates.

### Djokovic sets up Thiem clash

AFP, Monte Carlo

Novak Djokovic needed 10 match points to claim a hard-fought straight-sets victory over the dangerous Borna Coric on Wednesday, setting up a Monte Carlo Masters third-round clash with Dominic Thiem.

The 12-time Grand Slam champion, playing only his fourth tournament since Wimbledon last July after struggling with a right elbow injury, overcame some late nerves to win 7-6

(7/2), 7-5.The Serbian will next face Austrian fifth seed Thiem with a possible quarter-final against defending champion Rafael Nadal, who plays Aljaz Bedene later on Wednesday, up for grabs.

## Batsmen rule Mirpur, bowlers control Rajshahi

SPORTS REPORTER



If the first session saw stubborn batting from centurions Jahurul Islam and Ariful Haque, the last session

featured scintillating stroke play from Liton Das on the second day of the fifthround Bangladesh Cricket League match between North Zone and East Zone at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

AHMED

November last year.

Under the moderate afternoon sunlight, Liton exhibited some brilliant backfoot punches and it was thrilling to watch the way the right-hander smote left-arm spinner Taijul Islam over midwicket and pacer Shafiul Islam over square-leg. Liton remained unbeaten on 52 and his opening partner Tasamul Haque kept him company with 49.

If batsmen hogged the spotlight at Mirpur as East Zone ended the day on 110 for no loss in reply to North Zone's 415, veteran left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak dictated terms at the Shahid Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi. However, despite the seasoned campaigner Razzak's six for 106, his 32nd fivefor in first-class cricket, Central Zone took a handsome 111-run first innings lead against South Zone thanks to Shadman Islam's 93 and Irfan Sukkur's 54.

Back in Mirpur, the battle of the tabletoppers spiced up. Skipper Jahurul Islam and his partner-in-crime in a 184-run sixth-wicket stand, Ariful Haque, stroked centuries as leaders North, resuming the day on 204 for five, posted an impressive 415 before being bowled out in the first over after the tea break. Jahurul struck 113, his 13th first-class century, while Ariful's 101 was his seventh first-class ton.

Jahurul, who started the day on 43, hit a dozen boundaries in his 238-ball innings while Ariful, who resumed on 14, once against demonstrated his growing reputation as a pace bowling allrounder with an equally impressive century that contained seven fours and a

But the final session of the day belonged to East as they raced to 110 for no loss in 27 overs. On-song wicketkeeper-batsman Liton hit six fours and two sixes in his 70-ball knock. Tasamul Haque also played with authority at the other end on a green-top and scored an unbeaten 49 off 92 balls laced with six fours. It was certainly an ideal start for East in their attempt to overtake North's 415.

At Rajshahi, Central Zone tightened their grip with a first-innings lead and took one wicket in South Zone's second innings. South ended the day on 50 for one -- still 61 runs behind Central's first innings. South lost their opener Fazle Mahmud (9) in the final session but the experienced Anamul Haque (31) and Imrul Kayes (10) held the fort together for the rest of the day.

Earlier, resuming on 154 for two after a delayed start due to a wet outfield, Central Zone lost overnight batsman Marshall Ayub quickly as he fell victim of a run-out after adding one run to his



RAZZAK... 6 for 106



North Zone centurions Jahurul Islam (L) and Ariful Haque run between the wickets on the second day of the BCL fifthround match against East Zone at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

overnight score of 14.

22-year-old left-hander Shadman, who started the day on 66, however scored 93 off 176 balls in his side's firstinnings total of 302. The opening batsman missed what could have been his third first-class century by seven runs. But his effort opened up the prospect of Central's first win after Ebadat Hossain's four-for bowled South out for 191 on the first day.

Shadman struck 12 fours in his polished knock. Wicketkeeper-batsman Irfan Sukkur also scored a vital 55 off 70

the England tour in 2014.

AFP, New Delhi

balls down the order. Despite Razzak's that they have got a long and tested to avoid their first defeat after four draws.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**BCB NORTH ZONE V ISLAMI BANK EAST ZONE** North Zone: First innings 415 (Mizanur 46, Nazmul 73, Jahurul 113, Ariful 101, Taijul 30; Shohag 4-91,

East Zone: First innings 110 for no loss (Tasamul 49 not out, Liton 52 not out)

Ashraful 2-63)

six wickets for South, they have a tall task batting line-up, which is needed to come to the party if they are to stay The inspiring aspect for South is close to the title race.

#### PRIME BANK SOUTH ZONE V WALTON CENTRAL ZONE South Zone: First innings 191 and second innings 50 for 1 (Anamul 31 not out, Imrul 10 not out; Tanbir 1-5)

Central Zone: First innings 302 all out (Saif 30, Shadman 93, Mazid 44, Tanbir 22, Irfan 54, Mosharraf 28; Nayeem 3-83, Razzak 6-106)

## Kolkata move to top

STAR SPORT DESK



Kolkata Knight Riders moved to the top of the Indian Premier League table with a comfortable sevenwicket victory against Rajasthan Royals in

Jaipur yesterday. Dinesh karthik's men made light work of a 161-run target, reducing the chase to 18.5 overs.

Opener Sunil Narine and one-down Robin Uthappa put on a 69-run secondwicket to lay the platform for victory after Chris Lynn was dismissed for naught. Skipper Karthik fittingly hit a six to wrap up the chase in the penultimate delivery of the penultimate over.

Earlier, the wily spin attack of KKR restricted Royals to 160 for eight in their stipulated 20 overs. The trio of Piyush Chawla, Kuldeep Yadav and part-timer

Nitish Rana conceded 52 runs in 10 overs, sharing four wickets among themselves.

Royals, put in to bat, were not able to build on the start provided by captain Ajinkya Rahane (36 off 19) and D'Arcy Short (44 off 43) after the openers shared a 54-run stand off 41 balls.

The win took KKR to six points and above Sunrisers Hyderabad due to superior net run-rate. However, KKR have already played five matches against three matches played by SRH, who will take on King's XI Punjab today.

**SCORES IN BRIEF** 

Rajasthan Royals: 160 for 8 in 20 overs (Rahane 36, Short 44, Buttler 24 not out; Rana 2-11, Curran 2-19)

Kolkata Knight Riders: 163 for 3 in 18.5 starting July. overs (Uthappa 48, Narine 35, Karthik 42 not out; Gowtham 2-23) Result: KKR won by seven wickets

"Playing county cricket will help me improve my game," the 29-year-old batsman told Indian TV channel NDTV.

Virat Kohli says he is keen to

play county cricket to get used to

conditions on English soil

ahead of India's tour of the

The prolific run-getter managed just 134 runs in 10

He wants to avoid a repeat of his poor form on English

innings, a far cry from the average 53.40 over 66 Tests, includ-

soil, and plans to train there to prepare for India's tour

ing 21 centuries, that earned him the moniker "King Kohli".

The Indian skipper -- the

country later this year.

second-ranked Test batsman in the world

and the best in one-day internationals -- had

an uncharacteristically ordinary spell during



in advance. "It's just about giving yourself more opportunity to get used to the conditions that you are

not used to. The all-important series will see India play England in three Twenty20 matches, three

ODIs and five Tests. It has been widely reported in Indian press that Kohli would join English county side

Surrey for a brief stint in June. Surrey's director Alec Stewart had expressed interest in signing Kohli after reports the Indian cricket board would allow their top batsman to skip a one-off Test against

Afghanistan starting June 14. Kohli had stressed the need for getting used to local conditions after India, the world's top Test team, lost a series

to South Africa 2-1 in January. "If players get an opportunity then why not," he said of

Indians taking whatever chances they get to hit abroad.

"I think it makes things more challenging and more