



Abahani players and officials celebrate with their fourth Club Cup trophy after handing a 1-0 defeat to Dhaka Mariner Young's Club in the final of the 12th edition at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Abahani clinch fourth title

SPORTS REPORTER



Abahani clinched the Khaza Rahmatullah Club Cup hockey tournament title with a single-goal win over Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Sohanur Rahman Sabuj scored the all-important goal, which helped the Sky Blues equal Mohammedan SC and Usha KC's record of four club cup trophies as well. On the other hand, Dhaka Mariner Young's Club had to be content with a runners-up trophy from their first appearance in a final for the last 14 years.

In the final, which was delayed for approximately one hour due to heavy rain, Mariner Young's initially showed promise as they pressed hard for the lead, seemingly motivated to win their first club cup. The Arambagh-based outfit came close in the very third minute when Moinul Islam Koushik launched a fierce hit from

the right but Hasan Jubair Niloy failed to connect from inside the circle.

The Sky Blues grew in confidence after that and built up their game from behind after thwarting a few more attacks. Abahani thought they got their noses ahead through former national forward Krishna Kumar, but the goal was disallowed as referee Selim Lucky reverted his initial decision after consulting with his assistant Shabbaz Ali following protests from Mariner Young's players, halfway through the first half.

However, Krishna found the back of the net a few minutes later but once again it was cancelled as the ball embraced the net after a deflection from a Mariner Young's defender. Koushik also took another fierce shot from the right but similarly Niloy failed to connect from in front of the post, frustrating the Mariner Young's fans.

After resumption, Abahani had better control over the ball and got their first penalty corner in the 40th minute. That proved decisive though as Sohanur Rahman Sabuj converted it with a combination of Izwan Firdaus and Sarwar Hossain.

Afterwards, Abahani kept up their dominance and earned three more penalty corners but could not convert any of those. Mariner Young's had a great opportunity to level the margin from a penalty corner in the dying minutes of the game but failed to score while Abahani goalkeeper Abu Sayeed Nippon also thwarted a ferocious shot from Nayeemuddin to ensure their second title in a row.

Abahani dedicated the trophy to the late Khaza Rahmatullah, former national team and Abahani player and BHF general secretary.

"It was a really exciting final. The opponents were better than us but we played according to the plan of coach Mahbub Harun and that was the reason behind such a victory," said Abahani captain Ruman Saker.

"Both teams played a very good and high-octane match, which was very close. It was hard luck for our boys but I am proud of them. We are now looking forward to defending the premier league title," said Mariner Young's German coach Oliver Kurtz.

Need Mash more in T20Is: Minhajul

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) chief selector Minhajul Abedin yesterday reignited the Mashrafe Bin Mortaza debate, namely whether he will come back to

T20I cricket even though Bangladesh's ODI captain called it quits in the shortest format last April in Sri Lanka.

Speaking at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur about the upcoming T20I series against Afghanistan in June -- the dates for which are yet to be confirmed -- Minhajul was asked whether Mashrafe's recent form in the 50-over Dhaka Premier League for Abahani was reason enough to call him back to the Test side on the tour of West Indies in July-August.

"It is completely up to him and the board," said the chief selector about the pacer who last played a Test in June 2009. "We will move according to the directives [from the board]. If Mashrafe wants to play in Tests, he will play. But we want him to return in T20s; we need him more there.

"When a player retires from a format, you have to look beyond him. But even then, if he wants to return we will look at his perfor-

mances and decide."

Rumblings about Mashrafe returning to the format, which he said during his retirement announcement that he was not particularly fond of, first surfaced in February. Then, after a cross-format hammering at home against Sri Lanka, BCB president Nazmul Hassan had said that he wanted Mashrafe back for the Nidahas Trophy that was held in March in Sri Lanka. Mashrafe did not return, and Bangladesh went on to turn their form around and reach the final, where they lost to India.

Five national players -- Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiquir Rahim, Taskin Ahmed, Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Nasir Hossain -- are currently laid low by injuries of varying severity.

"We have not received any directives about resting players. Every match is important when it comes to the national team; our best team will play against Afghanistan. I believe most of the players will be available.

"We have a medical team and [local] physios working on the players," said Minhajul when asked about the absence of national physio Thihan Chandramohan, who is currently on vacation. "I think everyone will be involved in the national camp two and a half weeks later. Our medical staff is working well."

Shakib, Fizz unconvincing in losses

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi duo Shakib Al Hasan and Mustafizur Rahman had disappointing outings in their respective Indian Premier League matches last night as both ended in losses for their sides.

Mustafizur's team, Mumbai Indians, posted 167 for seven against Rajasthan Royals after electing to bat. Suryakumar Yadav (47 off 72) and Ishan Kishan (58 off 42) forged a steady 130-run partnership for the second wicket. However, the innings fell away after Kishan's departure in the 14th over was exacerbated by the loss of Yadav in the very next over.

Rajasthan were struggling in response and when Mustafizur dismissed Heinrich Klaasen for a golden duck and left the Royals needing 43 off 17, it seemed it would be Mumbai's day.

However, match-winner Krishnappa Gowtham (33 off 11) came in and hit the Fizz for a four and six to ease the equation before Jasprit Bumrah conceded 18 off the penultimate over. Gowtham sealed the win in style when, needing 10 off the last over, he hit Hardik Pandya for a six and four. Mustafizur had figures of 1-35 in the three-wicket loss.

In the day's first match, Shakib's team, Sunrisers Hyderabad, failed to chase down Chennai Super Kings' 182, set up by a Suresh Raina half-century and Ambati Rayudu's 37-ball 72.

Shakib gave away 32 in four overs with no wicket and although he fared a bit better with the bat, scoring 24 off 19, it was not enough as Chennai won by four runs.

Batting position bugs Mosaddek

SPORTS REPORTER



Mosaddek Hossain's status as one of the bright young prospects of Bangladesh cricket took a minor hit last week when he was one of six players excluded from the national central contracts list, but as he showed with a match-saving century in the Bangladesh Cricket League fifth-round match against Central Zone on Friday, the 22-year-old is prepared to take it on the chin. However, while speaking to reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, the South Zone batsman did express discontent at his batting position in domestic cricket and called on the national team management and selectors to look into it.

He scored his unbeaten ton from number eight in the second innings of their match, having also been unconquered on 21 in the first innings after coming in at seven. "I have a slight objection to this. I have no problem batting down the order in the national team, because I have nothing to say about those who come before me -- they have been contributing to the national team for a long time and continue to do so," said Mosaddek, who usually bats at seven or eight in international cricket.

"But that does not mean that I will bat at number seven or eight in domestic cricket. I hope the team management will look into it, because I cannot say anything about it directly. I hope the selectors will look into it," he added.

Of the four matches he has played in the league so far, he batted at number five in the first two rounds and scored a century. After the first three rounds the league took a break to accommodate the Dhaka Premier League, during which he batted down the order for eventual champions Abahani, although he will not have much to complain about as he hit just one fifty in 15 innings.

While admitting that he did not contribute this time, unlike in the previous year, he said that he was not Chris Gayle or Andre Russell and that he needed four or five overs to get going.

He missed a big chunk of international cricket last year because of an eye infection. "As I could not play matches because of the injury, how can I expect to be part of the contracts? I am not thinking about how to get back in the contracts; I believe that if I can perform well, a lot of things will become easy."

Having taken South Zone to a position from where they could challenge for the title in the last-round match against leaders North Zone starting from tomorrow in Khulna, and boasting a first-class average of 67.94, it will be interesting to see if South coach Khaled Masud decides to heed Mosaddek's demands.



Bangladesh face Maldives today

SPORTS REPORTER



Hosts Bangladesh will look to emerge Group A champions in the Bangabandhu Asian Senior Men's Central Zone International Volleyball Championship when they take on Maldives today at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur.

Bangladesh, the 2016 champions, have no alternative but to win this match as Nepal, who lost the opening game against the hosts, beat Maldives in 3-0 sets [25-21, 25-18, 25-15] yesterday while in Group B favourites Turkmenistan thrashed Kyrgyzstan by the same margin [25-23, 35-33, 28-26] to make a winning start.

Ahead of today's match, the Bangladesh team had a light training, which can be termed as a recovery session. The men in red and green are confident about beating Maldives, a team they handed a straight 3-0 sets defeat in the 2016 edition at the same venue.

"We are not thinking about anything else but a win against Maldives. We beat them in Dhaka in 2016 but we are not taking them lightly either," skipper Horosit Biswas said. "Though Maldives are an easier side compared to Nepal, we will not give them any room in the match."

The Bangladesh team management is motivating the team with Tk 10,000 cash award for each player for their convincing victory over Nepal. The charges of Alipour Aroji believe that such incentives would inspire them to play better against Maldives.



Bangladesh and Sunrisers Hyderabad's ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan rotates into a pull during an IPL match against Chennai Super Kings in Hyderabad yesterday. Hyderabad lost the match by four runs.

PHOTO: BCCI

আমাদের পণ্য

এই গ্রুমে আপনিও থাকুন একেবারেই Cool..

ডিজিটাল ক্যালেন্ডার এবং ওয়ালটন এসি, ফ্রিজ ও টিভির সাথে নিশ্চিত ক্যাশব্যাকসহ

হাজার হাজার ফ্রি টিভি এসি

মেয়াদ: ১ এপ্রিল থেকে ৩০ জুন '১৮ পর্যন্ত

এছাড়াও থাকুন আইফোন ও আইপ্যাড

ওয়ালটন এসি কিনে

সম্মানিত ক্রেতার প্রতিদিনই পাচ্ছেন

অসংখ্য টিভি, ফ্রিজ ও এসি ফ্রি

IoT Smart Air Conditioner

ওয়ালটন এসির নিয়ন্ত্রণ স্মার্টফোনেই

ঘরে বাইরে যেখানেই থাকুন

ওয়ালটন এসি সচেতন ক্রেতাদের পছন্দের শীর্ষে- যার রয়েছে অসংখ্য কারণ :

৩৬ মাসের সহজ কিস্তি

০% ইন্টারেস্ট ৩ মাস পর্যন্ত

৳ ৬৯৯৯ ক্যাশ ডাউন পেমেন্ট

৳ ২৯৯২ ০% ইন্টারেস্ট ১২ মাসের EMI (Credit Card)

100% Copper Heat Exchanger

NUSDAT-UTS Tested সঠিক BTU

IONIZER

খুশা-মহলা, দুর্গন্ধ ও ব্যাকটেরিয়া মুক্ত বিতক বাতাস নিশ্চিত করে

Intelligent INVERTER Technology

৬০% পর্যন্ত কম বিদ্যুৎ খরচ ও দীর্ঘস্থায়ী

ইন্টেলিজেন্ট ইনভার্টার কন্ট্রোলারে

৮ বছর গ্যারান্টি

Made in Bangladesh

Helpline: 16267

WALTON