

SPORT



WHACK-O-METER

TOTAL 6s HIT **122**
TOTAL 4s HIT **251**

Most 6s hit by a player: 9, Nicholas Pooran, Sylhet Sixers
Most 4s hit by players: 8, Rilee Rossouw, Rangpur Riders and Paul Stirling, Khulna Titans

In what was the first Super Over in Bangladesh Premier League history, Chittagong Vikings all-rounder Robbie Frylinck ensured that Khulna Titan's measly 11-run target was just out of grasp as the South African restricted Mahmudullah Riyad and Co. to win the one-over eliminator by two runs in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Aliss back in Kansas as action reported

SPORTS REPORTER



There were many questions within the local cricket fraternity after Aliss Al Islam made headlines by becoming the first bowler in T20 history to pick up a hat-trick on debut, with many wondering how it was possible that a bowler whose action has repeatedly come under the scanner during local league matches had gotten the chance to play in a tournament like the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL).

In a tournament that is televised, there is no scope to sweep things under the rug and the relatively unknown Dhaka Dynamites off-spinner was reported for his suspect bowling action yesterday.

However, the cricketer from Savar is familiar with such situations as there have been observations from most umpires over his bowling action in the first division league, where he played for Old DOHS Sports Club. Opposing teams would always object to his bowling action, creating a chaotic scenario.

"He [Aliss Al Islam] has been reported by the umpires. We are waiting for the match referee's report as he will give a guide line for him before deciding about his immediate future," BPL technical committee chairman Jalal Yunus told the media yesterday.

Jalal added that the cricketer will undergo a bowling action test in 14 days and a decision will be taken after that, however, Aliss will not be barred from playing during this period.

Aliss became the third bowler in BPL history

to pick up a hat-trick when he wrecked Rangpur Riders' batting order to help his side earn a two-run victory in a BPL encounter at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on Friday.

In a press release, Rangpur Riders stated that Aliss was present in the first division's list for suspected bowling actions and although they were informed that he was clear to play, they still have doubts over his legitimacy.

"We were informed four days earlier that out of draft players can be included in teams and Al Islam was included in Dhaka Dynamites squad in that regard. Although we did not have any official problem regarding his inclusion, it should be mentioned that his name is on the suspected bowling action list for the first division of Dhaka League.

"We have been told that his action was reviewed but looking at his bowling action in today's [Friday's] match it seems that his action has not yet been rectified and it seem his arm bends more than the tolerance limit of 15 degrees while bowling, especially when he is bowling his 'Dusra' deliveries," said Rangpur as quoted in the press release.

On the other hand, Aliss informed after the match in question that he is confident about not having any flaws in his bowling action and countered sceptics over the legitimacy of his action.

"No, it [his bowling action] didn't come under controversy ever. However, everybody was pondering. No, actually it wasn't questionable at all," Aliss, who hails from Savar on the outskirts of Dhaka, said on Friday.



Dhaka Dynamites' surprise package Aliss Al Islam made history by becoming the first bowler in T20 history to pick up a hat-trick on debut but just a day later the young off-spinner was reported for suspect bowling.

PHOTO: STAR

Smith out of BPL

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Australian captain Steve Smith's Bangladesh Premier League stint with Comilla Victorians has officially come to an end. The middle-order batsman, who was experiencing discomfort in his elbow, returned to Sydney on Thursday seeking a diagnosis and was later informed that he would require surgery.

Smith had previously expressed that he would return and complete the tournament if the injury was not too serious and so, the news came as a huge blow for the cricketer who is also now likely miss out on the upcoming Pakistan Super League and the first phase of the Indian Premier League.



Smith is scheduled for surgery on Tuesday after the specialised MRI he underwent in Australia revealed that his injury was far worse than expected. Smith will be required to wear a shoulder brace for the next six weeks, further delaying his comeback to international cricket following the one year ban due to ball tampering.

Smith led Comilla in the first two BPL fixtures before succumbing to the injury. He was expected to return to the international level in March through a series against Pakistan.

The injury also raised concerns over his inclusion in Australia's World Cup squad since the last date of submission for the finalised team list is April 23.

TALK ON



Batting at seven and bowling late, I was in this situation many times before. I have to hit 15 off the last over or to defend 10 in the last over. Fortunately, over my career I had to do it and you just needed to be calm and obviously with a lot of practice. You practice the skills you have and if you practice well, you will back yourself in these situations.

ROBBIE FRYLINCK
CHITTAGONG VIKINGS
ALL-ROUNDER

Olivier puts SA on top

REUTERS, Johannesburg



South Africa's fiery seamer Duanne Olivier took five wickets as the hosts powered into the ascendency on day two of the third and final Test against an outgunned Pakistan at the Wanderers on Saturday.

South Africa, seeking a clean sweep of the series, went to the close on 135 for five in their second innings, a lead of 212 runs in a Test that is rapidly moving forward with 25 wickets falling in only six sessions.

Hashim Amla (42 not out) and Quinton de Kock (34 not out) will seek to set the tourists a challenging target on day three.

Olivier was the pick of the bowlers for

South Africa with 5-51 as his pace and steep lift off the wicket restricted Pakistan to 185 in their first innings, the visitors losing their last five wickets for 16 runs.

Babar Azam (49) and captain Sarfraz Ahmed (50) mounted an excellent fightback after lunch with a 78-run sixth-wicket partnership in 10 overs before the latter edged seamer Kagiso Rabada (2-41) to Amla at second slip, precipitating a collapse.

SCORES IN BRIEF
SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 262 and second innings 135 for 5 (Markram 21, Amla 42 not out, Bavuma 23, De Kock 24 not out; Ashraf 2-19)

PAKISTAN: First innings 185 all out (Imamul 43, Azam 49, Sarfraz 50; Philander 3-43, Rabada 2-41, Olivier 5-51)



Although Minhajul Abedin Afridi has never played a single game in the Dhaka leagues, the Rangpur Riders may employ his leg-spin against Rajshahi Kings today, hoping that the surprise will pay off for them like it did when Dhaka Dynamites gambled on Aliss Al Islam.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Spectacular Frylinck seals super over

Dhaka Dynamites stay perfect

SPORTS REPORTER



The eleventh match of the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) between Chittagong Vikings and Khulna Titans had drama written all over it with the game eventually being won by Chittagong through a Super Over -- the first ever in BPL history -- after the match ended in a draw in Mirpur yesterday.

Meanwhile in the day's second match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Dhaka Dynamites maintained their perfect run in the tournament by defeating Sylhet Sixers by 32 runs under lights.

In the day's first fixture, it was Chittagong's South African all-rounder Robbie Frylinck who authored the drama, which began in the final over when he took Khulna's all-rounder Ariful Haque for 18 runs while needing 19 to win, leaving the game to be decided by a Super Over.

Chasing a par-total of 151 runs, Chittagong looked to be in control but lost the wickets of Yasir Ali, Sikandar Raza, Mosaddek Hossain and skipper Mushfiqur Rahim within a span of just five overs for 35 runs. Khulna's left-arm quick Junaid Khan then bowled an excellent 19th over, conceding only four runs and changing the complexion of the match with Chittagong requiring 19 off the last over for victory.

Ariful was struck for a six by Chittagong's Nayeem Hasan off the second ball of the over before taking his wicket with the next ball,

caught in the deep by Najmul Hossain.

However, Frylinck had crossed over to the other end and dispatched the next ball for a six before pulling the fifth ball of the over, a waist height full toss, for a maximum over the square leg fence, a delivery which could have been called a no-ball.

The drama was not over yet though as Chittagong then needed one run off one ball. To the Vikings' dismay however, Frylinck swatted and missed the delivery and was run out to leave the game at the mercy of a Super Over.

During the post-match press conference, Frylinck insisted that the fifth ball of the final over was a no-ball.

"I am still convinced that that was a no-ball. But we didn't get like that. The ball came nicely, that slow ball I missed, and that obviously got us into the Super Over" said Frylinck.

Junaid did well coming in to bowl the Super Over, conceding just eleven runs. It was then Frylinck who was made to defend their low Super Over score and the 34-year old kept his nerve and bowled a tight over, giving away only nine runs to eventually win it for his side.

In the day's second match, despite Nicholas Pooran's heroic 47-ball 72-run knock, Sylhet Sixers could not register a win as only two of their other batsmen managed to score double-figures in chase of Dhaka Dynamites' 173-run total.

Dhaka opener Rony Talukdar took the match home with his brilliant 34-ball 58, ensuring that their winning streak stays intact.

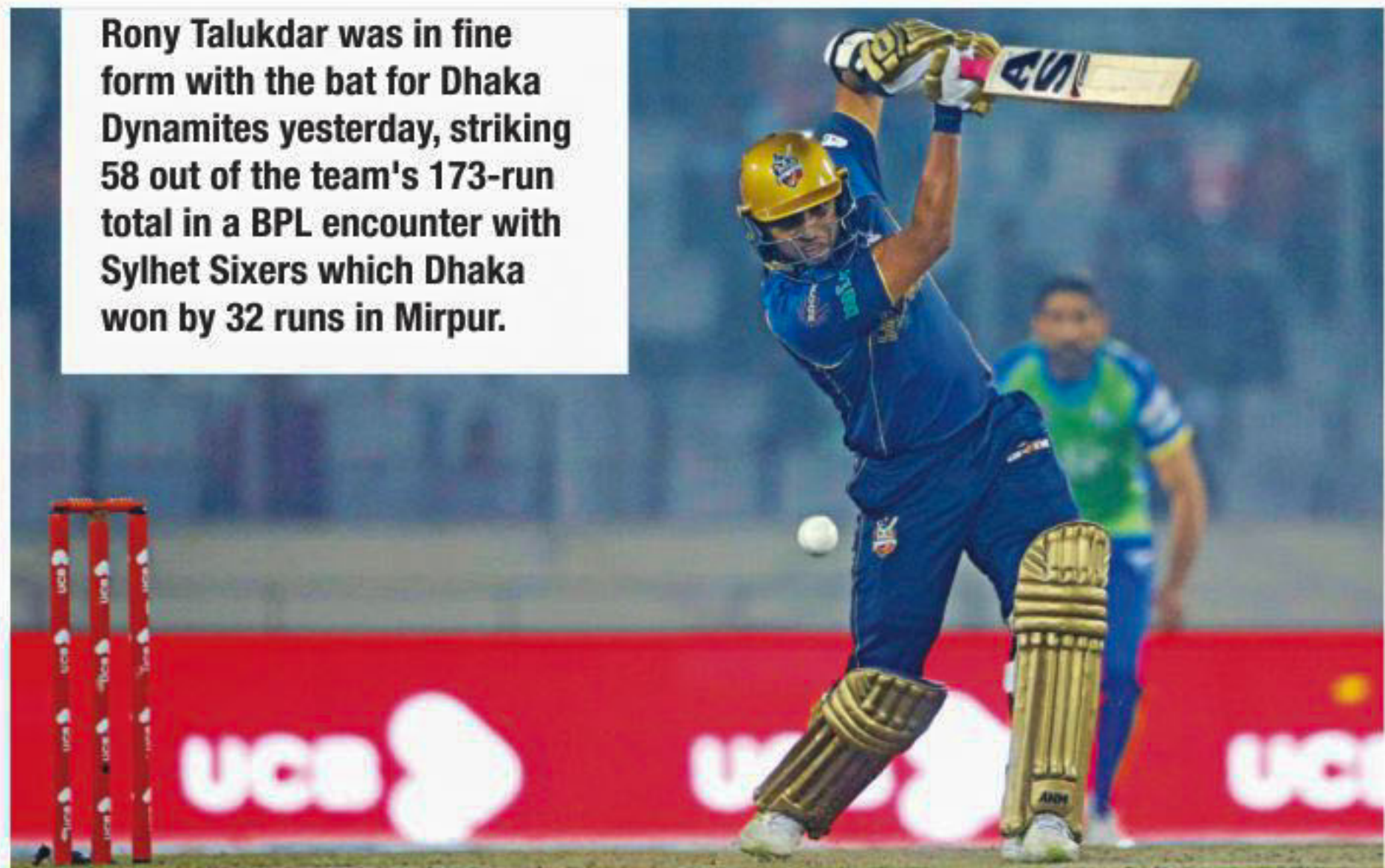


PHOTO: STAR

Rony Talukdar was in fine form with the bat for Dhaka Dynamites yesterday, striking 58 out of the team's 173-run total in a BPL encounter with Sylhet Sixers which Dhaka won by 32 runs in Mirpur.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KHULNA TITANS V CHITTAGONG VIKINGS
KHULNA: 151 for 6 in 20 overs (Stirling 18, Junaid 20, Malan 45, Mahmudullah 33; Sunzamul 2-37)
CHITTAGONG: 151 for 8 in 20 overs (Yasir 41, Mushfiqur 34, Frylinck 23; Brathwaite 2-30, Shoriful 2-31)
Result: Match tied (Chittagong Vikings won the one-over eliminator)
Player-of-the-match: Robbie Frylinck.

SCORES IN BRIEF

DHAKA DYNAMITES V SYLHET SIXERS
DHAKA: 173 for 7 in 20 overs (Narine 25, Rony 58, Shakib 23, Nurul 18 not out, Naim 25 not out; Taskin 3-38)
SYLHET: 141 for 9 in 20 overs (Pooran 72, Taskin 18 not out; Shakib 2-34, Shuvagata 2-28, Rubel 3-22)
Result: Dhaka Dynamites won by 32 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Rony Talukdar.

Mahadi falls at final hurdle

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahadi Hasan Alve had to be content with a runners-up trophy in the ITF Asian U-14 Development Championships 2019: Division-II Tennis tournament after losing the boy's singles final to Mohammad Alkotop of Jordan in Bangkok yesterday.

Mahadi, who became the first Bangladeshi to qualify for tournament's boy's final, offered no resistance against his Jordanian opponent, who lifted the trophy after an easy 6-1, 6-0 victory.

However, although Mahadi could not finish with a flurry, his teammate Ruman Hossain, paired with Pakistan's Hamid Isral Gul, defeated the Iranian duo of Amir Ali Gavam and Kasra Rahmani 6-2, 6-1 to become champions in the boy's doubles category, read a Bangladesh Tennis Federation press release yesterday.

Meanwhile, Zubaid Utsob beat Turkmenistan's Kakajan Bayramgellidiev and Ruman Hossain beat Myanmar's Saw Lin Htut in place-deciding matches to finish 11th and 17th in boy's singles respectively.

Meanwhile Mashfia Afrin beat Elizaveta Kiva, Sadia Suborna Khatun beat Varavara Liubchenko and Afrin beat Anastasiya Zimbayeva in place-deciding matches to finish 5th, 8th and 10th respectively in girl's singles.

RARITIES



Despite all the other drama, yesterday's match between Chittagong Vikings and Khulna Titans will be remembered as the first ever match in BPL history to be decided by a Super Over.

PHOTO: STAR