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PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



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PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Evans, ten Doeschate shine

SPORTS REPORTER



It was a perfect outing for Rajshahi Kings with both bat and ball as Laurie Evans struck the maiden hundred of this season's BPL and Kamrul Islam Rabbi followed that with a four-wicket haul to register a convincing 38-run win over a strong Comilla Victorians. With four wins in seven games Rajshahi now stand fourth in the points table while Comilla, despite the defeat, are still in third position with the same number of wins from seven matches.

A RECORD FOURTH-WICKET STAND FROM EVANS-TEN DOESCHATE

It was not the ideal start for Rajshahi after being asked to bat at point they were struggling on 28 for three inside seven overs. But it was Laurie Evans who held the ship together

with Netherlands' Ryan ten Doeschate. The pair started cautiously with Rajshahi reaching just 70 after 13 overs. Since then, however, both Evans and ten Doeschate took on Comilla's bowlers and added an unbeaten 148-run fourth-wicket stand -- the highest for the wicket in the BPL. The previous record partnership for the fourth wicket was between Marlon Samuels and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza for Comilla Victorians back in 2016 when they added 123 runs. Evans who reached his hundred in 61 balls, remained unbeaten on 104 off 62 balls while Doeschate brought up a half-ton and was not out on 59 off 41 balls as Rajshahi hammered 74 runs in the last five overs.

EVANS'S MAIDEN T20 TON

With scores of 10, 1 not out, 0, 2 and 0 in his last five innings, yesterday was probably the last chance for left-hander Evans to prove his worth. The English cricketer grabbed the opportunity

SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJSHAHI KINGS v COMILLA VICTORIANS

RAJSHAHI: 176 for 3 in 20 overs (Evans 104 not out, Doeschate 59, Nafees 5; Dawson 2-20, Mahedi 1-4)

COMILLA: 138 all out in 18.2 overs (Anamul 26, Tamim 25; Kamrul 4-10, Doeschate 2-15, Mehedi 2-46)

Result: Rajshahi won by 38 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Laurie Evans.

with both hands, responding to the demands of the situation and starting cautiously. At one stage, Evans was batting on a run-a-ball 30 before he started to accelerate. It was in the 14th over of Thisara Perera that Evans struck two sixes to reach his fifty off forty balls and since then it rained sixes from the left-hander's willow, which unleashed six in total as well as nine boundaries. He eventually reached his maiden T20 ton with a single in the second ball of the last over to help post an ultimately match-winning total of 176 for three in 20 overs.

KAMRUL'S CAREER-BEST AND FIZZ AS USUAL

Defending 176, it was Rajshahi's local pacer Kamrul Islam Rabbi who led the bowling attack with great effect and made things difficult for Comilla's batsmen right from the start. After conceding just one run in the first over of the innings the right-arm seamer picked up the big wicket of Tamim Iqbal, who was caught at long on going for a big shot. In his third spell Kamrul picked three wickets in the 18th over -- he removed Shahid Afridi and followed that by dismissing Liam Dawson and Mohammad Saifuddin in consecutive deliveries. By then it was all over for Comilla, as Kamrul ended up with career-best bowling figures of four for 10 from his three overs. Mustafizur Rahman did what he has been doing throughout the tournament, not giving the batsmen any respite as he conceded just eight runs from 3.2 overs and picked up the last wicket of Mahedi Hasan.



Chittagong Vikings all-rounder Robbie Frylinck casually swats away one of the three sixes he hit in the last over in a BPL encounter against Dhaka Dynamites at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

TALK ON BPL



Nothing is wrong. I think there were a few crucial games where we couldn't get over the line. Nothing is wrong at all. Everything is good and we just have to get ready for tomorrow's game... No we are not thinking about one guy's performance. We are thinking about our performances as a team. We know that Chris [Gayle] is just one game away from scoring big runs and we are hoping that it will be in the next [today's] game.

BENNY HOWELL
RANGPUR RIDERS ALL-ROUND

Muntasir ton denies Sunflower

SPORTS REPORTER

Mymensingh Lab High School boys put up a great show with the bat to grab a narrow three-run victory over Sunflower School in a Prime Bank Young Tigers National School Cricket tournament encounter at the Gymnasium Ground in Mymensingh yesterday.

Electing to bat after the game was reduced to 47 overs a side, Mymensingh Lab lost four quick wickets to be left reeling on 51 for five at one stage. However, a 206-run fifth-wicket stand between centurion Muntasir Islam and Mushfiqur saw the side to a respectable 297-run total for the loss of eight wickets. Muntasir remained unbeaten with 119 runs off 137 balls while Mushfiqur missed out on his ton by just five runs.

SERIES AGAINST INDIA Taylor's cause for concern

AGENCIES, Auckland

Ahead of the ODI series against India, veteran New Zealand batsman has said that his team needs to be careful against plotting only for Virat Kohli as India have two quality openers in Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan, who could do significant damage at the top of the order against the new white ball.

"Kohli's a sensational player, probably the best one-day player going round - easily, really," Taylor was quoted as saying by Stuff.

"It's easy to get caught up in him, but they've got two pretty good openers up the top in [Rohit] Sharma and co to come out before Kohli gets in. [Shikhar] Dhawan's got a very good record as well. I'm sure the fast

bowlers will have their work cut out," he added.

India, who scripted history in Australia by clinching the Test and ODI series, appear to be favourites against the hosts, but New Zealand have been a team in form especially in their home conditions.

Former New Zealand coach Mike Hesson too said that the hosts need to have specific plans against the Indian top order.

"Rohit Sharma is in incredibly good form at the moment and has been for a long time. The thing with Rohit is that once he is in, once he gets himself set, he generally dictates the outcome of the game. It's making sure that the new-ball bowlers can attack Rohit early on whether it'll be with swing or with some other variations wide outside the crease or whatever," Hesson told.



New Zealand players train in Napier yesterday ahead of their first ODI against India tomorrow.

Progoti wants fresh match

SPORTS REPORTER

After refusing to play in their Second Division League fixture on Sunday, Dhanmondi Progoti Sangho officially lodged a complaint in a letter to the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) yesterday, urging action against allegedly partial umpiring and requesting a re-match of their fourth-round match against Azim Cricket Club.

A Progoti official confirmed that they have issued a letter to CCDM chairman, and also gave a copy to Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan, in which they asked for a fresh match under new and honest umpires.

In the match in question, Progoti have alleged that on-field umpires Shah Alam and Saidur Rahman gave several biased decisions in favour of Azim Cricket Club on Sunday at BKSP-3, prompting Progoti players the club to leave the field in protest.

"We gave a letter to CCDM chairman, asking for a re-match against Azim Cricket Club. We didn't find anyone but him to issue the letter to. Now it's up to them to make the decision. We staged the protest so that people will be informed about biased umpiring, which has been happening for many years. Now let's see what they decide about the matter," Riazuddin Ahmed Raju, the team manager of Progoti Sangho, told reporters yesterday.

CCDM in-charge Tawhid Mahmood claimed that they have received a letter and would take a decision on the matter only after getting reports from the match referee.

"We are yet to make a decision but according to the playing conditions, if a team refuses to play, the other team will get the full points. The rest is dependent on the match referee's report. It didn't come directly to us."

"It first goes to the umpiring department and then it comes to us," Tawhid informed the media yesterday.



WHACK-O-METER

TOTAL 6s HIT 265 | TOTAL 4s HIT 505

Most 6s hit by a player: 18, Nicholas Pooran, Sylhet Sixers

Most 4s hit by a player: 32, Rilee Rossouw, Rangpur Riders