

# SPORT



**Prime Doleshwar skipper Forhad Reza scored the fastest half-century in Bangladesh's List A cricket with a 20-ball 56 during a Dhaka Premier League match against Sheikh Jamal at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.**  
PHOTO: STAR

## BCB wants extra security for Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER



Following the Bangladesh team's narrow escape from the horrific Christchurch shooting at Al Noor mosque last month, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury informed yesterday that the board has asked for a security plan from the Ireland Cricket Board for the upcoming tri-nation series scheduled next month.

The Tigers will also conduct a conditioning camp for five days in England ahead of the World Cup and the BCB has also asked the International Cricket Council (ICC) for special security.

"We have already communicated with the Ireland board and we have asked them to provide us the detailed security plan when Bangladesh tour Ireland for the tri-nation series. We are expecting that they will send us the security arrangement plans soon," Nizamuddin told reporters yesterday.

Although in the World Cup the ICC and host board take the adequate security measures during the event, the BCB is ready to provide security expenses during the camp in England ahead of the World Cup.

### WEST INDIES NOT COMING EITHER

Meanwhile, after the New Zealand Under-19 team postponed their Bangladesh tour as they are yet to recover from the trauma of the Christchurch attack, the West Indies A team's tour of Bangladesh was also in doubt but for wholly different reasons.

"There is some doubt. The West Indies Cricket Board has some limitations. It's not only the Bangladesh tour, but the discussion is also going on about a few other tours as well. Nothing has been decided yet," the CEO said.

The West Indies A team were scheduled to arrive in May to take part in five one-day and three four day matches.

# Forhad fury sinks Sk Jamal

SPORTS REPORTER

Skipper Forhad Reza's superb all-round performance, which started with him scoring Bangladesh's fastest List A fifty, guided Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club to a scintillating one-run win in the last over against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club in the Dhaka Premier League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium (SBNS) in Mirpur yesterday.

Abahani Limited and Legends of Rugganj continued their dominance in the league and qualified as the first two teams for the Super League stage after beating Khelaghar Samaj Kallyan Samity and Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) respectively in the other fixtures of the day.

The force of Sunday night's storm in the capital blew the covers off the square inside SBNS and exposed the pitches and outfield to the elements, resulting in yesterday's match being reduced to a 26-overs-a-side affair.

It was an exciting game that went down to the wire. Sheikh Jamal needed 11 runs off the last over and Forhad, who dismissed a well-set Tanbir Hayder and conceded just four runs in the first four balls of the over.

Last man Khaled Ahmed struck a four when six were needed off the last ball from as Doleshwar registered a nail-biting win. After being asked to bat Doleshwar openers Intiaz Uzzaman and Saif Hasan added a fireworks-filled 97-run opening stand in just 12.3 overs before the latter was dismissed for 36. Imran, after scoring a team-high 75 off 54 balls with six fours and four sixes, also

### SCORES IN BRIEF

#### ABAHANI v KHELAGHAR SKS

**Abahani:** 262 all out in 48.4 overs (Nazmul 60, Sabbir 49, Mehedi 47; Robiul 5-64, Irfan 3-42)

**Khelaghar:** 130 all out in 32.5 overs (Mosaddek 36 not out, Shahriar 32; Sunzamul 4-36, Nazmul 2-14, Mehedi 2-18)

**Result:** Abahani won by 132 runs.

**Player-of-the-match:** Nazmul Hossain Shanto.

#### PRIME DOLESHWAR v SHEIKH JAMAL

**Doleshwar:** 239 for 6 in 26 overs (Imran 75, Forhad 56, Saad 51; Salauddin 3-40, Ziaur 1-30)

**Sheikh Jamal:** 238 for 9 in 26 overs (Ziaur 46, Majumdar 44, Nurul 37; Forhad 3-35, Jayed 3-48)

**Result:** Doleshwar won by 1 run.

**Player-of-the-match:** Forhad Reza.

#### BKSP v LEGENDS OF RUGGANJ

**BKSP:** 181 for 9 in 50 overs (Shamim 52, Prantik 38, Fahad 20; Dhawan 5-51, Muktar 2-29)

**Rugganj:** 182 for 5 in 45 overs (Mominul 93, Naeem 31, Mehedi 27; Kayium 2-28, Sumon 2-32)

**Result:** Rugganj won by 5 wickets.

**Player-of-the-match:** Rishi Dhawan.

departed while Pakistani recruit Saad Nasir added a quick 51 off 36 balls.

It was Forhad who mounted the late assault as he reached his fifty off just 18 balls -- the fastest List A half-century, surpassing Nazmul Hossain's 19-ball fifty back in 2007 -- and was eventually

dismissed for 56 off 20.

Sheikh Jamal fought till the end, riding on Ziaur Rahman's 21-ball 46 and Indian recruit Anustup Majumdar's 44. Skipper Nurul Hasan also kept hopes alive with a quickfire 37 off 20 deliveries.

At the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah, Mominul Haque missed out on his hundred by just seven runs as Rugganj registered a comfortable five-wicket win over BKSP.

Chasing a modest target of 182, Mominul provided the platform before being dismissed on 93 off 112 balls, which featured eight fours and two sixes, while skipper Naeem Islam added 31 as Rugganj reached the target with five overs to spare.

Earlier, BKSP struggled through the innings after being asked to bat. Shamim Hossain's 51 was the top score for the batting side. Indian pacer Rishi Dhawan bagged five wickets as Rugganj restricted the opponents to 181 for nine in 50 overs.

Khelaghar were unable to put Abahani under any sort of pressure after bundling out the opposition for 262 as batting failure cost the newcomers, who were eventually all out for just 130 runs to fall to a punishing 132-run win at the BKSP-4 ground in Savar.

Left-arm spinner Sunzamul Islam bagged four while Nazmul Islam and Mehedi Hasan Miraz took two wickets each during Khelaghar's surrender.

Nazmul Hossain top-scored with sixty while Sabbir Rahman and Mehedi scored forties to post a challenging total. Right-arm seamer Robiul Haque was the pick of the bowlers for Khelaghar and bagged five wickets for 64 runs.



**Legends of Rugganj batsman Mominul Haque ensured a five-wicket win for his side with a 112-ball 93 in their DPL match against BKSP at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah yesterday.**  
PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Sawhney ICC's new CEO

ICC

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday announced that Manu Sawhney will assume the position of Chief Executive with immediate effect.

Sawhney, who has been a non-executive director of football giants Manchester United, succeeds former South African Test wicketkeeper Dave Richardson in the position.

Sawhney has been working alongside the outgoing CEO for the last six weeks to ensure a smooth transition for the organization. Richardson will remain with the ICC until July as originally planned to oversee the delivery of the ICC World Cup 2019.

Commenting on his appointment Sawhney said: "I am absolutely delighted to be taking over the reins from David, who has steered the sport so capably over the last seven years. I am pleased to say he will continue to lead the delivery of the ICC World Cup 2019 and there is no better person to ensure the event is the greatest celebration of cricket ever."

Things seem to be going swimmingly for former Bangladesh national team bowler Mosharraf Hossain Rubel (R) following a successful operation to have his brain tumour removed. The left-arm spinner was in high spirits while detailing the ordeal to Mahmudullah Riyad, who was surely relieved to hear his old friend is recovering well, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

## SL captain apologises for DUI

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's Test captain Dimuth Karunaratne apologised Monday for his "unbecoming behaviour" after being arrested for drink-driving in an accident that left a taxi driver injured.

Karunaratne, 30, was taken before a magistrate who suspended his driving licence and fixed a trial for May 2. The cricket star was also asked to take a medical test.

Police told the court that while driving under the influence of liquor, Karunaratne went through a red light and hit a taxi whose driver was hospitalised for minor injuries after the pre-dawn crash on Sunday.

"My actions were utterly unbecoming of a Sri Lankan national cricketer and I do apologise to all of you for this incident," Karunaratne said in a statement.

The incident came as Sri Lanka decides who will be captain for the national team at the World Cup starting in England on May 30.

Karunaratne, who led Sri Lanka to a stunning Test series victory against South Africa last month, had been one of the favourites for the position.

Sri Lanka's cricket board said in a statement it would investigate the incident "in order to take necessary action."

## India's third in a row

AFP, New Delhi



Virat Kohli's India have topped the international Test rankings for the third year in a row -- boosted by their first ever series triumph in Australia -- earning a million dollar prize for the team.

India finished eight points clear of New Zealand in the contest, taking in matches up to Sunday.

Kohli, who led India to their maiden series win in Australia in 71 years of trying, said the achievement would inspire the team to try harder in the inaugural world Test championship which starts this year.

"Retaining the ICC Test Championship Mace once again is something we are all

really proud of," he said.

"We all know of the importance of Test cricket and of how only the best can prosper in the format," he said in a statement published by the International Cricket Council.

The five-Test Ashes series between England and Australia this summer will launch the first world championship. Nine teams will play in a Test league over two years with the top two teams to square off in a June 2021 final.

In the current world rankings, South Africa are third while England and Australia take fourth and fifth spots respectively.

New Zealand received \$500,000 for their second-place finish while South Africa got \$200,000.

# Langer in selection dilemma

AFP, Sydney



Australia coach Justin Langer Monday admitted some players will be "brutally unlucky" as he faces a World Cup selection dilemma with the return of Steve Smith and David Warner.

The defending champions must name their 15-man squad this month for the tournament in England and Wales and Langer said the make-up was becoming clear on the back of the resurgent team's stunning eight-game one-day win streak against India and Pakistan.

"It's actually becoming more obvious by the day to me. The same

with the other selectors," he said on the Cricket Australia website.

"We know categorically there are going to be one or two guys brutally unlucky not to get selected because they're all going so well... the blokes in the squad at the moment will be praying it's not them."

Australia made it eight in a row with a 20-run win in the fifth and final one-dayer against Pakistan in Dubai on Sunday to sweep the series 5-0 after coming from behind to beat India 3-2 last month.

Their red-hot form has been built on the back of a rock-solid opening partnership between skipper Aaron Finch and Usman Khawaja.

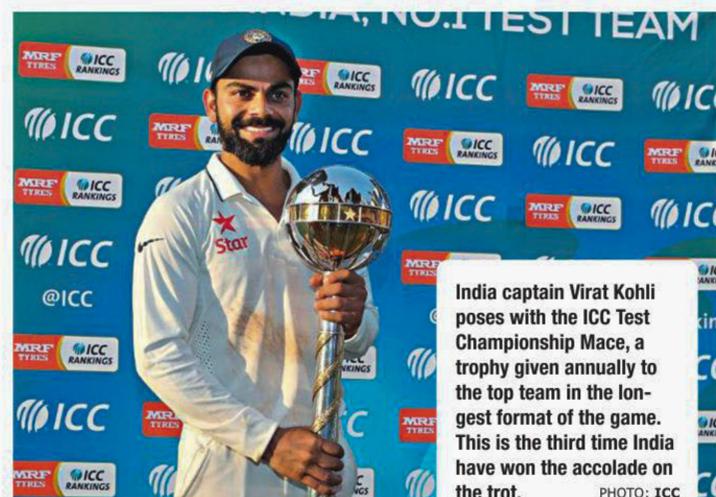
Shaun Marsh, Peter Handscomb and Glenn Maxwell have also been

in fine touch with the bat, leaving difficult decisions as to where Warner and Smith will fit back in after serving their one-year bans for their part in a ball-tampering scandal.

The bombastic Warner seems a certain starter for their World Cup opener against Afghanistan in Bristol on June 1 after his blistering return to the Indian Premier League.

He bludgeoned a century in 55 balls on Sunday after smashing 85 and 69 in his first two outings for Sunrisers Hyderabad last week.

Former captain Smith, who has scored more modestly with 20 and 28 for the Rajasthan Royals so far, is also expected to be recalled by Australia.



**India captain Virat Kohli poses with the ICC Test Championship Mace, a trophy given annually to the top team in the longest format of the game. This is the third time India have won the accolade on the trot.**  
PHOTO: ICC