



ANAMUL GUIDES PLATOON TO SECOND WIN

Anamul Haque is seen driving one through the off-side during his 62-run knock. The right-hander's 42-ball innings saw eight sweetly-timed boundaries and a six being hit. In addition, his 85-run opening partnership with Tamim Iqbal (31 off 28 balls) helped Dhaka Platoon post a commendable total of 182 for four in yesterday's second BBPL fixture against Sylhet Thunder at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. Platoon's Jaker Ali (20 off 12 balls) and Thisara Perera (22 off 11 balls not out) made a late surge to set a challenging target for Sylhet Thunder. Sylhet, in reply, were however nowhere near winning their first game in three matches, finishing the 20-over quota on 158 for 7 to suffer a 24-run defeat despite an unbeaten 60 from captain Mosaddek Hossain.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Won't force players to tour Pakistan: Hassan

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Nazmul Hassan yesterday informed that the board would not force cricketers to visit Pakistan even if they received security clearance for the upcoming tour.

The board is still awaiting security clearance to tour Pakistan but Hassan said that even if they received clearance, the BCB would take consent from cricketers and members of the team management.

"We cannot force our players to go to Pakistan. If any player doesn't want to go, he will not go. We are not going to pressure anyone. I don't think it's time to talk about a replacement team as it will depend on the situation," Hassan told reporters in Mirpur yesterday.

BCB had sent the national women's team and the Bangladesh under-16 team to tour Pakistan earlier this year after a delegation from the Bangladesh government recently visited the country for a security assessment and gave the green signal.

"We have applied to the government to know whether we will get security clearance for the Pakistan series. Two of our teams visited Pakistan recently. One is the women's team and other is the boy's team. We are yet to get clearance for the national team, but if you ask me about security, it should be the same whether it is the under-12 or the national team. We are assuming that we will get security clearance but we are yet to receive it. When we receive it, we can inform [the media] of our decision."



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NAZMUL HASSAN
BCB PRESIDENT

our decision.

"After security clearance, it will be the opinion of the cricketers. We want to hear who wants to go or who doesn't. There are lot of matters including the board. After getting the clearance we will sit to discuss about these things. We hope that we can make a final decision within next four to five days," he said.

Meals provided at BBPL give 25 food poisoning

SPORTS REPORTER



Panic spread across the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday after at least 25 individuals, including 17 journalists, were reportedly taken ill with food poisoning after having the food provided in the media facilities, sourced by Seven Hill Restaurant, for the ongoing Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL).

There have long been concerns among journalists regarding the quality of the food served to them and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) terminated its contract with Seven Hill after complaints from the mediapersons yesterday.

Seven Hill has been sourcing food to the media center since the start of the BBPL on December 11 but its quality has been in question ever since.

It is understood that the food, which comes in boxes from the restaurant, are prepared long before being served for lunch and as supper in the evening.

"I have been suffering from food poisoning since last night [Friday]. I had a tough time vomiting and also had severe dysentery. At one point, I fainted in the toilet. I am not in shape to come to the field and cover the matches," Maasranga TV senior sports

reporter Zahid Chowdhury informed on Sunday via the WhatsApp group maintained by the BCB.

Prothom Alo sports editor Tarek Mahmud, RisingBD reporter Yeasin Hasan and The Daily Star reporter Nabid Yeasin also complained of food poisoning for the past two days alongside others.

BCB president Nazmul Hassan was contacted by mediapersons so that they could inform him of the issue.

Meanwhile the chairman of the BBPL governing council, Sheikh Sohel, informed that they would investigate the issue and find a solution.

"Being the chairman, I have taken the matter seriously. Food supply is related to the logistics department and I will talk to them and we will also investigate the matter," Sohel told media.

Similarly, BBPL member secretary and BCB director Ismail Haider Mollick -- who is also chairman of the logistics department -- said that it was a matter of concern and ensured such complaints would not be heard again.

"I am aware of the matter and it's a matter of concern. I have already instructed to change the food and obviously we will look into the matter seriously so that such complaints do not come again," Mollick said.

Chattogram bounce back

SPORTS REPORTER



Chattogram Challengers returned to winning ways and registered their second win in three games after comfortably defeating Rangpur Rangers by six wickets in yesterday's first Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Chasing a modest target of 158 on a batting-friendly pitch, Chattogram rode on Chadwick Walton's fifty and Imrul Kayes remained unbeaten on 40 to clinch an easy win in 18.2 overs.

Walton and Avishka Fernando provided a solid start, adding a flying 68-run opening stand before the latter departed after scoring 37 off 23 balls with three sixes and two fours.

Imrul then joined Walton and Chattogram were cruising towards a win before the West Indies batsman departed after scoring his fifty off just 34 balls, which included three sixes and four boundaries.

Chattogram then lost two more wickets in quick succession as skipper Mahmudullah Riyad -- who staged a comeback after missing the first two games due to a hamstring injury -- departed after scoring fifteen and Nasir Hossain fell for three.

However, Imrul made sure there were no more hiccups at the other end and remained unbeaten on a 33-ball 44 with three fours and two sixes.

Earlier, young Naim Sheikh helped Rangpur

SCORES IN BRIEF

RANGPUR RANGERS: 157 for 8 in 20 overs (Naim 78, Nabi 21; Williams 2-35)

CHATTOGRAM CHALLENGERS: 158 for 4 in 18.2 overs (Walton 50, Fernando 37, Imrul 44 not out; Gregory 2-27)

Result: Challengers won by 6 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Mohammad Naim.



Rangpur Rangers young opener Mohammad Naim admires the bat with which Imrul Kayes (L) took Chattogram Challengers to a six-wicket victory by scoring an unbeaten 33-ball 44 that cancelled out Naim's brilliant 78-run knock in yesterday's first BBPL match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

post a fighting total after they were asked to bat. His 54-ball 78 featured three sixes and four boundaries while none of the other batters were able to score significantly.

Skipper Mohammad Nabi's 21 was the second highest score as Rangpur kept losing wickets at regular intervals on way to their second defeat.

Ahead of the BBPL, the BCB President Nazmul Hassan informed that this edition of the T20 event would be a platform for local players to showcase their talent, keeping the upcoming T20 World Cup next year in mind.

Mahmudullah, who captained the Bangladesh

T20I team on a tour of India last month, informed that locals had so far performed according to expectations and that they were on the right track. However, he added that the BBPL could also be a great platform for local leg-spinners.

"So far we played three matches. Imrul played well and Mustafizur Rahman also bowled well today [Saturday] and I have spoken to him and he is working really hard. Tamim Iqbal also got runs and Mushfiqur Rahim is also in good touch. Naim Sheikh also batted well today so I think we are on the right track when it comes to performances from locals," said Mahmudullah.

SHORT CORNER

Shardul replaces Bhuvi



The Indian cricket board on Saturday named pacer Shardul Thakur as replacement for the injured Bhuvneshwar Kumar in the upcoming one-day international series against the West Indies.

Kumar, 29, was rested after he complained of pain in his groin following the third and final Twenty20 international in Mumbai on Wednesday.

"He underwent an ultrasound scan conducted by a specialist and the BCCI medical team found that his hernia symptoms have resurfaced," it said.

India will play the first of the three ODIs on Sunday in Chennai. -- AFP

Boucher named SA's head coach

Former wicketkeeper Mark Boucher has been appointed South Africa's head coach ahead of the four-Test home series against England that starts on Dec. 26, Cricket South Africa confirmed on Saturday.

Boucher, who has been given a contract until 2023, was unveiled by new CSA director of cricket Graeme Smith, with Enoch Nkwe to act as assistant coach and former Test opener Ashwell Prince to lead the South African A side.

"I felt at this stage that the Proteas need a hardened guy with international experience, one who is very knowledgeable and tactically very sound, and we also know what qualities he has as a man," Smith said. -- REUTERS

4th day's play called off

Overnight rain and poor light continued to mar Pakistan's first home Test in a decade on Saturday, with officials calling the fourth day off before play had begun. Groundsmen wiped water from the pitch covers and rolled out a super sopper, but overcast conditions and poor light forced umpires Richard Kettleborough and Michael Gough to call off play at 12:00 local time (0700 GMT). -- AFP

Australia take huge lead

AFP, Perth

Australia was building a massive lead over New Zealand on the third day of the first Test at Perth Stadium on Saturday.

After the home side made 416 the Kiwis were dismissed for only 166 in their first innings as Australian paceman Mitchell Starc terrorised the batsmen in continued sweltering conditions.

The home side were 75 for one in their second innings, with Joe Burns on 32 and Marnus Labuschagne on 18 -- an overall lead of 325 with nine wickets still in hand and more than two days to play.

The Kiwis burned both their reviews early, unsuccessfully challenging not out decisions against David Warner (19) and Labuschagne. Labuschagne, who made 143 in the first innings, was dropped on four by Colin de Grandhomme after skying a short ball from Neil Wagner into the leg side.

SCORES IN BIEIF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 416 and second innings 167 for 6 (Burns 53, Labuschagne 50; Southee 4-63, Wagner 2-40)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 166 all out (Williamson 34, Taylor 80, De Grandhomme 23; Starc 5-52, Lyon 2-48)

Raqibul recommends hearing for Santokie

SPORTS REPORTER



Former national captain and Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League technical committee chairman Raqibul Hasan said yesterday that a hearing would clear the air regarding a suspicious no-ball from West Indies pacer Krishmar Santokie.

"If the BPL governing council make arrangements for hearings, then he [Santokie] can explain it there. They would be need to see the footage and also see if he has the same track record in the past. He played the next match and didn't bowl well in one over. This is under the [jurisdiction of the] Anti-Corruption Unit. I was the match referee in that match but I didn't get any report regarding that," Raqibul said.

"The technical committee won't do anything [about it]. It comes under betting or match-fixing criteria [so it is up the Anti-Corruption Unit]."

"An official [Tanjil Chowdhury] of the board has raised the matter. That was a huge no-ball and I saw [Mohammad] Amir [in 2010 against England, which formed the basis for a spot-fixing charge and a five-year ban] doing it at Lord's. I can't comment on this," Raqibul added while speaking to reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

BCB president Nazmul Hassan later said: "We cannot do anything. It's not our issue, but the ICC (International Cricket Council) is looking into it. There is no way we can talk about this issue as ACSU (Anti-Corruption and Security Unit) and players interact about such issues."

Sylhet Thunder pacer Santokie's bizarre no-ball in Wednesday's BBPL opener against Chattogram Challengers raised eyebrows in Bangladesh and abroad.