



After having scored the opening goal and the last goal of the Federation Cup, Bashundhara Kings striker Raul Becerra (2nd from L) was in the act again as his first-half goal led the defending champions to a 2-0 win over Uttar Baridhara Club in the opening match of the Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Becerra keeps shining as Kings start with a win

SPORTS REPORTER

Argentine striker Raul Oscar Becerra's goal spree continued as reigning champions Bashundhara Kings got off to a winning start in the Bangladesh Premier League with an easy 2-0 win over Uttar Baridhara Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Becerra, who scored in all five matches as Kings lifted the season's curtain-raising Federation Cup, struck his first goal in the professional football league in Kings' opener before Mohammad Ibrahim sealed the win in the second half against a team that last season had held them till the 86th minute before going down 1-0 in Nilphamari.

Baridhara, who stunned everyone by advancing to the quarterfinals of the Federation Cup before being eliminated at the hands of Abahani in extra-time, hardly showed last season's

spirit or the fighting attitude they showed against Abahani in that quarterfinal.

"There is a gulf of difference between Kings and Uttar Baridhara, who have a lot of national players. And the difference was reflected on the ground," said Uttar Baridhara Club coach Sheikh Jahidur Rahman Milon. "However, I'm satisfied with the performance of the boys, who created some chances but could not cash in."

Star-studded Kings came into the match with two changes to the squad that won the Federation Cup final against Saif SC on Sunday and Oscar Bruzon's charges dominated as expected against Uttar Baridhara, who came into the match on the back of a few days of training compared to Kings' four-months of training.

Brazil's Jonathan Da Silveira Fernandes and Robson Da Silva and Argentina's Becerra were instrumental as usual and yielded at least three scoring chances within the first 25 minutes, with

Becerra rattling the crossbar in the 17th minute.

Becerra then put Kings ahead in the 35th minute with a header from a Bishwanath Ghosh cross before delivering a defense-splitting pass for Ibrahim, who raced into the box before placing the ball to the right-hand side of Baridhara goalkeeper Mamun Alif.

Baridhara twice came close to pulling a goal back but tame shots from national striker Suman Reza failed to bother Kings goalkeeper Anisur Rahman Zico.

"I think we are going to face the kind of defensive play that Baridhara played against us today. Baridhara played with a 5-4-1 formation and did not allow us to take up central positions," said Kings coach Bruzon. "Following a tough semifinal and final in the Federation Cup, the boys maintained the same tempo and intensity and confidence to see out the game although we had some difficulties in the first 30 minutes."

BFF rejects Oman offer

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh have refused to play their three remaining World Cup qualifying matches in Oman, rebuffing the Gulf nation's proposal to host the rest of the Group E fixtures at a centralised venue.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Teams Committee of Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday, in view of the proposal sent by Oman a few days ago.

The proposal had offered to host Bangladesh's three matches against Afghanistan, Oman and India in the last week of March.

"We were offered [by Oman] to play our three world Cup qualifying matches in their country. But we have already declared our venue. So we will play all three home matches in Bangladesh as per schedule," NTC chairman Kazi Nabil Ahmed said.

BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag, however, claimed that India, Afghanistan and Qatar have given their nod to play at a centralised venue in March.



POGBA VOLLEYS UNITED TO THE TOP

Paul Pogba's 71st-minute volley gave Manchester United a 1-0 win away to Burnley on Tuesday, taking Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side three points clear of Liverpool at the top of the Premier League. The Red Devils have 36 points from 17 matches and will have the chance to extend their lead when they visit Anfield on Sunday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Mathews returns for England Tests

AFP, Galle

Former Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews has recovered from injury and was named Wednesday in a 22-player squad to face England in two Tests in Galle.

But the injured pair of batsman Dhananjaya de Silva and pace bowler Kasun Rajitha will miss the series starting Thursday after being part of the 2-0 Test series defeat in South Africa this month.

Mathews, 33, did not make the South Africa trip because of a hamstring injury

but is expected to line up against England in matches that count towards the inaugural world Test championship.

The Dimuth Karunaratne-led team will resume a series that was halted in March after England flew home because of coronavirus fears.

SQUAD: Karunaratne (capt), Janith Perera, Chandimal, K Mendis, Mathews, Fernando, Dickwella, Bhanuka, Thirimanne, Embuldeniya, Hasaranga, D Perera, Lakmal, Kumara, V Fernando, Chameera, Shanaka, A Fernando, Roshen Silva, Sandakan, N Pradeep, R Mendis.

Depleted India out to breach Gabba fortress

AFP, Brisbane

Injury-hit India head to Australia's Gabba fortress for Friday's final Test with high hopes of retaining the Border-Gavaskar trophy after securing an epic draw in Sydney to leave the series locked at 1-1.

The visitors only need to avoid defeat in Brisbane after their heroics in Sydney, when they batted out the final day against Australia's much-vaunted bowling attack.

Australia have come under fire for captain Tim Paine's sledging and accusations that Steve Smith deliberately scuffed up batsman Rishabh Pant's guard during the tense fifth day. Allegations of racist abuse from the crowd also overshadowed the Test.

But Australia will be optimistic of snatching a series win at the Gabba, where they are unbeaten in more than three decades, especially as India have been hit by succession of injuries.

All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja became the latest ruled out on Wednesday after dislocating his left thumb in Sydney, while Indian media reported that fast-bowling spearhead Jasprit Bumrah could miss out with an abdominal strain.

The visitors were already without experienced quicks Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav and Ishant Sharma, and batsman KL Rahul, while captain Virat Kohli is on paternity leave.

If Bumrah cannot play, their already inexperienced attack will be led by Mohammed Siraj, who has only played two Tests, alongside Navdeep Saini who made his debut at Sydney plus one of the uncapped T. Natarajan or Shardul Thakur.

They also have doubts over the fitness of number six batsman Hanuma Vihari, who tore his hamstring during his 161-ball vigil for 23 runs that helped earn the unlikely draw on Monday.

Fellow Sydney hero Ravi Ashwin, who spent more than three hours at the crease with Vihari in an unbroken sixth-wicket stand to save the game, has a back issue.

Australia go into the game after stinging criticism of their desperate last-day antics in Sydney, with Paine forced to apologise for his ugly tirade at Ashwin.

Two new frontrunners to pick up pace baton

SPORTS REPORTER

One of the most demanding and risky disciplines in cricket is pace bowling because even promising fast bowlers with all requisite attributes can fade away or suffer debilitating injuries without proper guidance.

The Bangladesh team management is considering creating a culture with emphasis on pace bowling, much like India has over the last five years or so and are now reaping the benefits.

Head coach Russell Domingo had also pressed the issue and is now looking forward to preparing a good group of fast bowlers in all three formats, both home and abroad.

Two young seamers who have caught the eye with recent performances and were called up for the Tigers' preliminary squads are left-arm seamer Shoriful Islam and right arm quickie Hasan Mahmud.

Young Shoriful showed his talent and aggression during Bangladesh's ICC Under-19 World Cup-winning campaign last year, where the youngster impressed with a consistent line and length.

The six feet three inches tall pacer uses his height well and performed well during the Bangabandhu T20 Cup last year, picking up sixteen wickets in 10 games for Gazi Group Chattogram.

Shoriful was rewarded with selection to Bangladesh's 24-member preliminary ODI squad for the upcoming three-match ODI series against the West Indies.

According to prominent pace bowling coach Sarwar Imran, it will be important that young Shoriful work on his inswing

to the right-handers, which will help him thrive in the international circuit for a long time.

"Obviously, he is a bright prospect for Bangladesh but for left-arm seamers it's very important to be able to get the ball into the right-handers. He can take the ball away from the right-handers but at times you can become predictable in international cricket."

"If you look at [former Sri Lanka pacer] Chaminda Vaas, he used to bowl at a pace of 130kmph but still became one of the best left-arm seamers in world cricket because of his ability to move the ball both ways. Shoriful needs to work on this aspect as he has got all the attributes to become better in the coming days," Imran told The Daily Star.

Another young quick, Mahmud, was named in both the ODI and Test preliminary squads after he showed his ability to bowl at a good pace.

Mahmud, who made his T20I debut against Zimbabwe last year, has a great chance to make his ODI and Test debut in the upcoming home series against the West Indies. Imran said Mahmud could become the biggest prospect for the Bangladesh pace bowling department if handled properly.

"Mahmud has a very smooth action and can bang it into the deck hard. He can bowl at a very good pace, around 140kmph, and such quick bowlers are always handy in Tests and ODIs. He is still in his early 20s, so it's important for the management to make sure he isn't over-bowled and his workload management is maintained. I am very hopeful about Mahmud as he can be the next big thing in the pace-bowling department for Bangladesh in the coming days," he said.



Liton Das (R) attempts an airborne catch at full stretch as Mushfiqur Rahim, Yasir Ali and Mohammadd Mithun look on during a training session of the Bangladesh team at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Ground fielding and catching are in focus as training intensifies ahead of the series against the West Indies.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

ER		ইস্টার্ন রিফাইনারী লিমিটেড		Eastern Refinery Limited	
(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, North Patenga, Chattogram-4000)					
Invitation for National Tender					
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Energy and Mineral Resources Division.			
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.			
3	Procuring entity name	Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL).			
4	Procuring entity district	Chattogram.			
5	Invitation for & Invitation Ref. No.	1) Two yearly basis civil and sanitary maintenance work of ERL, RM-7 jetty, ERL housing estate, Joypahar Housing Estate & leased area of ERL Ref. No. ER/Civil-22/2020-2021			
KEY INFORMATION					
6	Procurement method	National one stage two envelope tendering method.			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
7	Budget and source of funds	Eastern Refinery Limited.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
8	Tender package No.	ER/TNC-13/2020-2021			
9	Tender publication date	14 January 2021.			
10	Tender last selling date	31 January 2021, 15:00 hrs.			
11	Tender closing date and time	01 February 2021, 14:50 hrs.			
12	Name & address of the office(s):	Office of the Asst. General Manager (C&P), Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram.			
	Selling tender document (principal)	Manager (Accounts), ERL, North Patenga, Chattogram-4000, Bangladesh.			
	Receiving tender document	Office of the Deputy General Manager (Development)/ERL Board Room, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram.			
	Opening tender document	Office of the Deputy General Manager (Development)/ERL Board Room, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
13		The minimum specific experience as a prime contractor or subcontractor or management contractor, who has completed at least one full contract within last 10 (ten) years in gov't/semi-gov't/autonomous organization as Civil maintenance of industrial/residential/office building/structure along with sanitary maintenance. This should not be renovation type work, where all the work is done at a time by following a specific schedule. It should be unseen small repair of building, supply-fitting of different sanitary item, fitting of window glass etc. throughout the year on instant demand basis. The contract has to be run continuously for minimum 18 month. (Summation of individual experience of 18 month repair-maintenance work will not be accepted). Moreover, the work value should be at least 15,00,000.00 (fifteen lac) & as per Tender Data Sheet (Section-2) (Year will be calculated from tender publication date to backward).			
14	Brief description of works	Price of tender document	Tender opening date and time		
	Two yearly basis civil and sanitary maintenance work of ERL, RM-7 jetty, ERL housing estate, Joypahar Housing Estate & leased area of ERL Ref. No. ER/Civil-22/2020-2021	Tk 2000 (two thousand) only (non-refundable)	01 February 2021, 15:00 hrs.		
15	Sl. No.	Identification of tender	Tender security	Completion time in days/weeks/months	
	01	ERIC-22/2020-2021	Inside ERL	Two years from the date of contract agreement.	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
16	Name of official inviting tender	Ahmad Fazle Rabbi.			
17	Designation of official inviting tender	Manager (Construction).			
18	Address of official inviting tender	Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram, Bangladesh.			
19	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tele No. 88-031-2501261-67, Ext-441, Fax: 88-031-2501269. E-mail: md-office@erl.com.bd, Website: www.erl.gov.bd, www.erl.com.bd			
20	a) The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings. b) If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working day at the same time and same venue. Contact: 01912250632/01675255742				
GD-86					