First Test (Day 3)

Live from 11:00 am **STAR SPORTS SELECT** 1 & T SPORTS Liverpool vs Tottenham Live from 2:00 am (Friday) T SPORTS & SONY SIX Abu Dhabi T10 League Maratha Arabians vs

**Northern Warriors** Live from 6:00 pm Bangla Tigers vs Delhi Bulls Live from 8:15 pm Deccan Gladiators vs **Pune Devils** Live from 10:30 pm

## From scepticism to top 5 in world Life inside a 'royal jail'

SPORTS REPORTER



From a below-par performance in the first ODI against the West Indies to finishing the threematch ODI series

as the leading wicket-taker and now breaking into the top five of the ICC ODI Bowling Rankings --Mehedi Hasan Miraz has turned up and repaid the management and skipper Tamim Iqbal's faith.

The latest ODI rankings released on Wednesday saw Mehedi ranked fourth with 694 rating points. This is also the first time the rightarmer has broken into the top ten of the ODI Bowling Rankings. The youngster leaped nine spots after scalping seven wickets at an average of 10.28 in three matches against the West Indies.

"I never imagined being in the top five of the list," were the words Mehedi said upon hearing that he had attained a career-best ODI

The 23-year-old burst onto the international arena against England in a Test series in 2016 and announced himself as the after a number of disappointing cricket, I never considered sticking



next big thing in the Tigers' spin department, but a lack of impact and variation raised questions about his involvement in the team over the years.

There was discussion about dropping him from the ODI squad

performances in the format over the years and those discussions gathered steam after the off-spinner returned mediocre figures of one for 29 from seven overs in the first ODI of the series.

"When I started playing Test

to only that format because I always wanted to play with the white-ball too. So I prepared myself mentally for that. I thought I would need to maintain a good economy rate in order to play in ODIs and would need to provide breakthroughs when the team need," explained Mehedi.

However, Mehedi is not the only Bangladeshi in the top ten. Leftarm seamer Mustafizur Rahman is eighth on the list with 658 rating points. Mustafizur, who did not fail to give the Tigers a breakthrough in any of the three ODIs against the Windies and ended the series with six wickets at an average of 9.83, moved 11 places up the ladder.

This, of course, is not Mustafiz's career-best ranking. The cutter master was ranked fifth in December, 2018.

Premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who returned in Bangladesh colours following a year-long ban imposed by the ICC in 2019 for failing to report corrupt approaches by a bookie, moved up 15 places to 13th in the list. He took six wickets at an average of 8.33 and had an economy of 2.25 in three matches against the Windies.

MAZHAR UDDIN from Chattogram



The fourth floor of the Radisson hotel Chattogram, where Tigers are

staying for the duration of the port-city leg of the series against the West Indies, may be the most entertaining and productive abode for Bangladeshi cricketers during their lives inside the bio-secure bubble.

The health safety and protocols necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic has forced cricketers to adapt to a new life inside the bubble. And it is not easy -- at times it can be mentally challenging to keep the focus intact for cricketers.

It was also a huge challenge for the Bangladesh Cricket Board to host its first international series since the pandemic reached the country in March last year. The board is desperately looking to cover all aspects when it comes to maintaining the health safety of everyone related to the

Yesterday was a day off for the Tigers with the Chattogram City Corporation elections taking place, and the cricketers did not even go for a training session and spent the entire day in the hotel.

At the fourth floor of the team hotel, the BCB has created a dedicated recreational room for the Tigers -- with two billiard boards, a station with Xbox games, another PlayStation corner and a table tennis board -- where players spent most of their leisure

In the absence of Afif Hossain, wicketkeeper-batsman Liton Das and

pacer Abu Jayed are currently dominating the PlayStation battle, which takes place

Apart from that recreational room, there is another spot for cricketers where they spend a lot of time -- the room of

Bangladesh ODI skipper Tamim Iqbal. There are adda sessions during the break or even after lunch or dinner and players gather in Tamim's room for freewheeling conversations.

For others, Netflix and other online entertainment portals have been the biggest pastimes for cricketers in their respective

For lunch and other meals, in the past players would walk leave their hotel and roam around the city to visit their favourite restaurants. At times local Chattogram cricketers -- the likes of Tamim Iqbal or Yasir Ali Chowdhury -- would get boxes of food from home.

Nowadays, however, there is a dedicated restaurant for cricketers in the hotel where even the waitstaff are inside the bio-secure bubble for safety reasons.

A total of six floors at the Radisson have been reserved for both the Bangladesh and visiting West Indies side and also the match officials. Despite both teams staying at the same hotel, players of the two sides can hardly interact with each other due to their separate schedules for the swimming pool

Life inside the bio-secure bubble, according to a Bangladeshi cricketer, is a "royal jail" but despite that, they are willing to stay there as being able to play international cricket again outweighs any other disadvantage.

## Perfect Kings on top

SPORTS REPORTER



Reigning champions Bashundhara Kings extended their winning streak to four straight in the Bangladesh Premier League as they handed a 3-0

defeat to Rahmatganj at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. With four wins from as many matches, Kings are

now top of the 13-team table with 12 points, three more than Abahani and Sheikh Jamal DC, who have a game in hand Kings faced a stiff challenge from Brothers Union

before notching up a 1-0 win in their last home match in Cumilla, but it was comparatively easy sailing for the champions against the Old Dhaka outfit, although they had a couple of goalscoring chances in the match. Brazilian recruit Robson Da Silva again came up

trumps for Kings, giving them a 34th-minute lead

after rescuing his side in the past two matches with

Rahmatgani defender Mahmudul Hasan Kiron then struck an own goal while attempting to clear a fumble from his goalkeeper and substitute Towhidul Alam Sabuj wrapped up the victory with

### **JOBE NETS FOUR GOALS**

Pa Omar Jobe slammed the first hattrick of the 13rd edition professional football league as Sheikh Jamal demolished Arambagh 6-0 at the Bangabandhu Jewel equalised for Baridhara.

National Stadium.

Jobe, who scored once in Sheikh Jamal's 2-1 win over Muktijoddha Sangsad in the previous match, slammed home four goals. His Gambian teammate Sulayman Sillah netted the other two as Sheikh Jamal got a third win in as many matches.

The three-time champions Sheikh Jamal hardly faced any resistance and took full advantage against a side lacking either a head coach or assistant coach in the dugout, hitting an unorganised Arambagh for three goals on each side of the break.

Omar provided a 14th-minute lead with an effortless tap in before Silllah struck two successive goals in the 28th and 30th minutes respectively. Jobe completed his hattrick with strikes in the 60th and 62nd minute before adding the icing to the cake with his fourth in stoppage time.

### BARIDHARA, BROTHERS SHARE SPOILS

Hosts Uttar Baridhara came from behind thrice to hold visiting Brothers Union to a 3-3 draw at the Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium in Tongi.

Coming into the game with only defeat to their names, both sides fired blanks in the first half before the game burst into life after the break.

32 breathless minutes yielded six goals, Brothers always striking first but failing to hold on to their lead. Shafiqul Islam, Furkat Jon and Samson Iliatus struck for the Gopibagh-based outfit while Suman Reza, Evgeniy Kochnev and substitute Samin Yeasir



Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club's Gambian striker Pa Omar Jobe celebrates emphatically after one of his four goals in a 6-0 thrashing of Arambagh KS in their Bangladesh Premier League fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## Onus on MSC in clash against archrivals

SPORTS REPORTER

During the draw ceremony of the season's curtain-raising Federation Cup, Mohammedan SC's British coach Sean Lane eager wanted Abahani in the same group so that his charges could be tested, but he was perhaps the most frustrated person after the humiliating 0-3 defeat to the archrivals in their first meeting of the

Thirty-four days after that meeting, Lane will be hoping to avoid a repetition in the season's second meeting when they host Abahani in the Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Shaheed Dhirendranath Datta Stadium in Cumilla

"I won't call it a revenge match because it is another game and there is no pressure on us. We want to win," Lane said. "It is a prestigious game because of the big history between the sides, but whether it's a triumph over Abahani or Arambagh, we will get three points. But a win over Abahani carries a lot of prestige and we want to do it for our supporters," said Lane, whose side looked hapless in the face of Abahani's set-pieces and long throw-ins in the Fed Cup.

Lane once led his charges to a 4-0 of Abahani in 2018-19 season's league but they lost by the same margin in the last edition, which was however cancelled due to the pandemic.

Mohammedan have so far been inconsistent in the league with a win, defeat and draw in the last three matches while Abahani have won all three.

"It is a big match and also important for us to keep winning. We must win tomorrow," said Abahani's Portuguese coach Mario Lemos.

It will be only the second time that Mohammedan and Abahani will square off in a BPL encounter outside the capital, the first being their 2016 encounter in Gopalganj. The rivals played a total of 23 BPL matches with Abahani having the edge with 10 wins, 8 draws and 5 losses.

# Razzak added to selection panel

SPORTS REPORTER



Veteran left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak has been included as the third member of the national selection panel alongside Minhajul Abedin and

Habibul Bashar, according to a decision in the directors' meeting of the Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday.

Since the resignation of former national captain Faruk Ahmed from chief selector's post back in 2016, Minhajul led the twomember panel alongside Bashar. There were talks about Razzak's

appointment to the position recently, but the left-arm spinner had asked for time since he is still playing in domestic competitions.

According to the BCB, the board was willing to expand the selection panel considering Razzak's experience while keeping in mind the importance and workload of the selectors.

"To be honest, it's a big responsibility," Razzak told The Daily Star.

There will be pressure and it's the same in the selection panel as it's a matter of the national team," he added. Meanwhile, it has been learnt that

"I will try to fulfil my responsibility.

the board is willing to start coronavirus vaccination program by February and is keen to resume domestic cricket soon.

The existing contracts for the centrally contracted cricketers and First Class cricketers will remain in place until further decision, the meeting decided.



### বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

Bangladesh Water Development Board

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী'র দপ্তর গাইবান্ধা পওর বিভাগ বাপাউবো, গাইবান্ধা ফোনঃ ০৫৪১-৫১৬৪৯ (অফিস) ফ্যাব্রঃ ০৫৪১-৫১৬৪৯

Memo No. ET-1/369

পানি-৪৯২/২০২০-২০২১

৭˝x৩

xen.gaibandhabwdb@gmail.com





Date: 27-01-2021

e-Tender Notice No. 11/2020-21

An e-Tender has been invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the

Procurement of the following work.					
SI. No.	Tender ID	Package No. & Description	Location of the works	Tender/ proposal document last selling date & time	Tender/ proposal closing & opening date & time
1	541671	Re-sectioning of Ghagot Right Embankment from km 0.00 to km 1.450 = 1.450 km in connection with the Protection of Gaibandha town & its adjacent area from the flood of river Ghagot Project in Upazila Gaibandha Sadar Dist Gaibandha Under Gaibandha O&M Division BWDB Gaibandha during the year 2020-21.	Gaibandha Sadar upazila of Gaibandha district	11-Feb-2021 17:00	14-Feb-2021 12:00

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to banking hours on 11-February-2021.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) (01762625528-31) (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Mokhlasur Rahman (ID No. 850921001) **Executive Engineer** Gaibandha O&M Division

BWDB, Gaibandha

### Tricky path for Abahani



Six-time professional league champions Abahani will participate in the play-off stage of the upcoming AFC Cup as 2018-19 champions Bashundhara Kings were given direct entry into the group stages following the cancelation of last edition of Asia's second-tier

club competition due to the coronavirus pandemic. Kings have been placed in Group D alongside former I League champions ATK Mohun Bagan, Maldives Premier League champions Maziya S&RC and the winners of playoff stage featuring six teams -- Abahani, JSW Bengaluru FC of India, Club Eagles of Maldives, Tribhuvan Army FC of Nepal, SL Police SC of Sri Lanka and Thimphu City FC of Bhutan.

The draw for the 2021 edition was held in Kuala

Lumpur yesterday.

The matches of Group D will be held from May 14-20 in single-leg round robin format at a centralised venue, which will be decided based on bidding.

However, Abahani will start their campaign by taking on the winners between Thimphu City FC and Club Eagles on April 14 in Dhaka. If the Sky Blues win their first match, they will face the winners of another group comprising JSW Bengaluru, Tribhuvan Army FC and SL Police SC on April 20.

## Fawad hits ton as hosts gain upper hand



Fawad Alam Pakistan in control of the first Test against South Africa, chalking

up a superb century to lead the home side to 308 for eight by the close of day two in Karachi for a first innings lead of 88 runs.

Pakistan had been reeling on 33 for four in response to South Africa's 220 all out, but Fawad (109) tilted the match in Pakistan's favour as he demonstrated great skill and patience to compile his third test

Hasan Ali (11 not out) and Nauman Ali (6 not out) will resume on the third morning and look to push the Pakistan lead past 100 on a wicket that is expected to get progressively lower, slower and take more turn.

Fawad and Azhar Ali (51) put on 94 for the fifth wicket before the latter was caught they took the attack to the tourists.



by wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock off spinner Keshav Maharaj (2-71) Mohammad Rizwan added a breezy 33

but steered seamer Lungi Ngidi (2-55) to a diving Faf du Plessis at wide first slip. The unorthadox Fawad, who takes a

bizarre front-on stance at the crease, put on a further 102 with Faheem Ashraf (64) as