



The match officials had to stop play for five minutes soon after Bangladesh began their chase as there was no clarity on the target till that point. New Zealand had been forced off the field by rain after batting 17.5 overs, during which they had scored 173 for 5. It seemed that Bangladesh batted the first nine balls of their innings with the knowledge that their target in 16 overs was 148. Except, they were chasing 170. Which, later, correctly, was changed to 171. "I think there was a bit of confusion because we didn't know what the DLS score was, it kept changing on the scoreboard. It can happen in the game. First five overs we were on track but we didn't finish well enough. Naim and Soumya batted really well. We didn't capitalise on the balls we missed," said Bangladesh T20 skipper Mahmudullah Riyad. "I've experienced a few things in cricket and this is not one of them," New Zealand veteran Ross Taylor said on commentary.

'It all seemed to be stacked against us'

SPORTS REPORTER



The dramatic rain-interrupted second T20I in Napier between New Zealand and Bangladesh had everything. There was a bit of drama due to confusion about the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method and a blunder from officials kept Bangladesh in the dark for a while about their revised chase of 171 runs off 16 overs.

One thing that was constant was a lack of consistency from the visitors so far, be it with bat, ball or in the field. The result was also all too familiar, Bangladesh losing the game by 28 runs and handing the hosts an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match T20I series.

The result means the Black Caps have won all seven of their home series this season, an unbroken run of success on New Zealand soil that extends to nine if results against India last year are included. It includes wins over the West Indies, Pakistan and India in Tests, Bangladesh and India in one-dayers and the West Indies, Pakistan, Australia and Bangladesh in T20s. "It's been a great summer to be part of so it'd be good to finish it on the right note," said stand-in captain Tim Southee,



Soumya Sarkar 51

Rain led to a stoppage with New Zealand on 173 for 5 after 17.5 overs, which was eventually concluded at that point.

But for nine deliveries, Bangladesh were in the dark about their target. The big screen showed a target of 148 in 16 overs, which was also mentioned by the Black Caps' Twitter page.

It was later corrected to 171 in 16 overs.

Visiting head coach Russell Domingo expressed frustration over the mistake but the South African also mentioned that he did not want to use it as an excuse. "I don't think I have been involved in a

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND

173 for 5 in 17.5 overs (Guptill 21, Allen 17, Conway 15, Young 14, Phillips 58 not out, Chapman 7, Mitchell 34 not out, extras 7; Saifuddin 1-35 Taskin 1-49, Shoriful 1-16, Mahedi 2-45)

BANGLADESH

142 for 7 in 16 overs (Naim 38, Liton 6, Soumya 51, Mahmudullah 21, Aff 2, Mithun 1, Mahedi 12 not out, Saifuddin 3, extras 8; Southee 2-21, Bennett 2-31, Milne 2-34, Phillips 1-20)
Result: New Zealand won by 28 runs (D/L method) and lead the three-match series 2-0.
Player-of-the-match: Glenn Phillips.

yet. They were waiting for the printouts and calculations to take place. There were delays and all sorts of stuff. No excuses, but this is just very frustrating for us."

In their chase, Bangladesh were dominating the hosts at one point riding on Soumya Sarkar's blistering batting and had reached 94 for two before the left-hander was dismissed for a quickfire 51 off 27 balls.

Opener Naim Sheikh also started well and added 38 and skipper Mahmudullah added 21 but the batsmen, like the bowlers, could not finish well and eventually ended up scoring 142 for 7.

Questions raised by poor fielding will continue after Bangladeshi fielders once again dropped easy catches and fumbled the ball in the field, but Domingo believed the wet outfield played a role.

"I don't think a team field for that long in that much rain. It was slippery, the ball was wet. No excuses but it all seemed to be stacked against us this evening in terms of conditions. I have never seen a game starting in the rain when we came out for four or five overs. I don't think the rules have changed but I was under the impression the covers don't come off until rain stops. The first ball can't be bowled until the rain stops. Maybe the rules have changed. I am not too sure."

Domingo was still on a search for positives and said that the players would need to press the issue of consistency in the third and final T20I, which will be Bangladesh's 32nd attempt to win a match against the hosts in their backyard.

Records tumble as Rajshahi demolish Barishal



Rajshahi players take a selfie following their victory against Barishal on the second day of the second round Bangabandhu National Cricket League (BNCL) at the BKSP-3 ground in Savar yesterday.

PHOTO: BCB

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi entangled Barishal to register a first win in the Bangladesh National Cricket League (BNCL), ending the Tier-2 game before lunch on the second day amid a flurry of records at the BKSP-3 ground in Savar yesterday.

Left-arm spinner Sunzamul Islam ended with figures of 10 for 33, the most economic 10-or-more wicket haul in Bangladesh's first-class history as Rajshahi sealed an innings-and-nine-run win over Barishal in the second round.

After being bowled out for 82 in the first innings, Barishal folded meekly again for just 60. Their aggregate 142 runs is the lowest in a first-class match.

They had a chance after bundling Rajshahi out for 151 in their first innings, but were unable to utilise the opportunity.

Left-arm spinner and man of the match Taijul Islam bagged eight wickets in the game.

In the other Tier-2 game at the main ground of the Sheikh Kamal

SCORES IN BRIEF

TIER 1

Khulna v Rangpur
Khulna: First innings 221 all-out and Second innings 4 for 1 in 1.3 overs (Imrul 4 not out; Mukidul 4-1)
Rangpur: First innings 364 all-out in 97.1 overs (Ariful 97, Nasir 66; Masum 4-78, Robiul 2-41)
Sylhet v Dhaka Division
Sylhet: First innings 370 all-out in 114.4 overs (Zakir 159, Jaker 67, Asadulla 67; Shuvagata 4-86)
Dhaka: First innings 239 for 6 in 63 overs (Shuvagata 89 not out, Saif 42; Rahatul 3-65, Tanzim 2-42)

TIER 2

Barishal v Rajshahi
Barishal: First innings 82 all-out and Second innings 60 all-out in 34 overs (Mominul 28; Sunzamul 6-15, Taijul 4-23)
Rajshahi: First innings 151 all-out in 48.5 overs (Junaid 43, Taijul 37; Gazi 6-65)
Result: Rajshahi won by an innings and nine runs
Chattogram v Dhaka Metropolis
Chattogram: First innings 402 for 8 declared (Pinak 159, Shahadat 53; Sunny 3-120, Shohidul 2-78)
Dhaka Metropolis: First innings 132 for 3 in 48 overs (Shamsur 68, Zabid 46 not out; Nayeem 1-42)

International Cricket Stadium in Cox's Bazar, Chattogram declared on 402 for 8 in their first innings. In reply, Dhaka Metropolis ended the second day on 132 for 3 in their first innings.

After reaching his century the day prior, Chattogram's Pinak registered

his first-class best score of 159.

Dhaka lost opener Azmir Ahmed on ten but Shamsur Rahman and Zabid Hossain added 118 for the second wicket before Shamsur departed for 68.

However, Zabid was unbeaten on 46 as Dhaka Metropolis ended the day on 132 for 3, trailing by 270.

In a Tier-1 clash at the Rangpur Cricket Garden, the hosts took a first-innings lead of 143 over Khulna after being bowled out for 364.

Rangpur skipper Ariful Haque missed out on a hundred by just three runs, walking back for a 164-ball 97 that featured eleven fours.

Nasir Hossain also continued maintained form and scored 66 while pacer Masum Khan bagged four wickets for the bowling side. In their second innings, Khulna ended on 4 for 1 and trail by 139 runs.

At the outer ground of the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium in Cox's Bazar, Dhaka division trail Sylhet by 131 runs after ending the day on 239 for six.

Resuming on 282 for 6, Sylhet were bowled out for 370 in their first innings after riding on Zakir Hasan's second hundred of the league. Off-spinner Shuvagata Hom bagged four wickets for Dhaka.

Meanwhile, the BCB looks set to reduce the number of venues for the tournament with Covid-19 in mind after a few cricketers, including Test captain Mominul Haque, tested positive and missed the second round of the league.

According to BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury, the board is focused on continuing forward, but will also give top priority to the safety.

'A City legend forever'

APP, LONDON

Sergio Aguero, who will always be associated with a single gilded moment in Manchester City's history, is starting his long goodbye from the club with his position secure as one of the Premier League's all-time greats.

Fans in the blue half of Manchester are coming to terms with the impending departure of the 32-year-old striker, who will leave when his contract expires at the end of the season.

Aguero joined City from Atletico Madrid in 2011, three years after the club was taken over by Abu Dhabi owners, and will leave after 10 trophy-laden years as the club's record goalscorer, with 257 goals in 384 games so far. "When a cycle comes to an end, many sensations



arise," the Argentine wrote on Twitter. "A huge sense of satisfaction and pride remains in me for having played with Manchester City for a whole 10 seasons -- unusual for a professional player in this day and age."

Aguero has won four Premier League titles, with a fifth looking almost certain this season for City. Pep Guardiola's side also remain in the hunt for a historic quadruple.

City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak has revealed a statue of the striker has been commissioned to stand alongside those currently being made to honour Aguero's former team-mates David Silva and Vincent Kompany.

Team-mate Kevin De Bruyne hailed him as a "City legend forever" while City defender Aymeric Laporte described him as a "class act" on and off the pitch. Aguero has struggled with injuries since having knee surgery in the close season. A hamstring problem complicated his comeback and then he had to sit out a month after a coronavirus infection.

Day, Jamal fault system

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh coach Jamie Day is apparently satisfied to have achieved the target he set for the players in the Three Nations Cup football tournament in Nepal, but sees no immediate change of fate for the team until the domestic structure is reformed.

The men in red and green suffered a 2-1 defeat against Nepal in the final at the Dasharath Rangasala on Monday. The two goals Bangladesh conceded in the first half were due to childish errors, and Mahbubur Rahman Sufil's late strike only reduced the margin.

"The target was to give some new players international experience and see if they are ready for playing at this level. We have achieved that during this week and reaching the final was a bonus," Day told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

"We achieved what we needed to from the tournament. I was pleased with the matches apart from the first half of the final, but we saw players lacked composure in games when there was pressure."

Bangladesh played the final with a vulnerable defence, which looked nervous staying off constant pressure from the Nepalese forwards. The outcome is that the coach will likely have to rely on proven campaigners such as Bishwanath Ghosh, Tapu Barman, Rahmat Mia - all three missing this tournament due to injuries or sickness.

"There were two sloppy goals; they didn't pass the ball quick enough or with any purpose and did not create enough chances," said the 41-year-old coach urging the authority concerned to restructure the domestic league.

"I think the problem is never going to change. I said so many times that if we

don't change the league structure and if we don't care for the local players playing in the right positions, it is never going to change. A player plays in four positions (in domestic league matches); they don't know how to run' don't know how to play as a centre-forward and we have been seeing this for the last 15 years. What changed? Nothing," rued Day.

Captain Jamal Bhuiyan was disappointed and apologised to the fans while identifying the weaknesses of the forwards.

"We could not win because we could not score and the reasons for that is the foreign players playing in attacking positions in our domestic league," Jamal said. "I just want to say sorry to the fans. As a captain



I am really disappointed because we could not deliver in the final."

Jamal also lamented the childish mistakes in defence.

"We did not play well in the first half because of nervousness, having many new players in the squad even though I instructed them to play without pressure. They did not perform in new positions in front of a huge crowd. We made childish mistakes to concede two goals because there was no marking. We have to learn from this mistake and not repeat it in future," said the Bangladesh captain.

"I really feel sorry because it was a great stage and a great opportunity," said 30-year-old.



Bangladesh players try to catch a Nepal raider during their match of the Bangabandhu Cup International Kabaddi Tournament at the Volleyball Stadium in Paltan yesterday. Bangladesh beat Nepal 35-20 to register their third win in three matches.

PHOTO: STAR

At the moment we are going to reduce the venues of the BNCL as a precaution. We are preferring Dhaka and Cox's Bazar. The board is closely monitoring the situation but we still feel we can continue with proper management. So, our primary step is to reduce venues.

NIZAMUDDINCHOWDHURY
BCB CEO