

T SPORTS

South Africa vs India
1st Test, Day 3
Live from 02:00 pm
STAR SPORTS HD 1
EPLSouthampton vs
Tottenham Hotspur
Live from 09:00 pm
Leicester City vs
Liverpool
Live from 02:00 am(Wednesday)
STAR SPORTS HD 2
EPL
Watford vs West Ham
Live from 09:00 pm
SONY SIXThe Ashes
Australia vs
England
3rd Test, Day 4
Live from 5:30 am
(Wednesday)

AUSTRALIA PACERS continue to trouble England

AGENCIES



England fleetingly hauled themselves back into the Ashes series on the back of a vintage bowling effort from evergreen seamer James Anderson, only to see the urn all-but snatched away in a final hour of batting mayhem.

Having restricted Australia's first innings advantage to 82, England then crashed to 4-31 in 12 rousing overs that saw Mitchell Starc miss a hat-trick by the barest margin and debutant Scott Boland grab 2-0 in a stunning over that had the MCG rocking, even allowing for social distancing.

Boland's double-strike ended a triumphant day for the hometown hero, with his Victoria teammate Marcus Harris top-scoring with a hard-fought 76 off 189 balls faced making him the only batter in the Test thus far to pass 50.

Captain Root was 12 not out, with Ben Stokes on two, the pair left to mount an improbable rescue mission at



Australia moved within tantalising reach of retaining the Ashes in Melbourne on Monday but the fate of the series may be decided in a laboratory rather than on the field after the England camp was hit by a rash of Covid-19 cases. England will need to wait for the results from more thorough PCR tests to be clear to return for day three on Tuesday, which they do not expect to receive until morning.

the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Even accounting for the fragility of England's top order the pace onslaught by Starc, Boland and Pat Cummins with the new ball was breathtaking.

"What they did again for the last hour tonight was unbelievable," said opener Marcus Harris, who top-scored for Australia with 76.

"I can't see (the pitch) getting a whole lot easier to bat on ... There's enough there for the bowlers and if you're willing to occupy the crease there's runs there as well."

It was a bitter pill to swallow for James Anderson and the other England bowlers, who had battled hard to drag their team back into the contest after Australia resumed on 66 for one in the morning.

Even at 39 Anderson showed he has lost little of his brilliance, finishing with 4-33 after dismissing Steve Smith (16), Harris and Cummins (21) on day two after removing opener David Warner on day one.

"I thought firstly on the bowling front we did really well to stick at our task throughout the day," Anderson told reporters. "We know that that last 12 overs was going to be tough with that new ball but even so, to lose four wickets was really disappointing."



After being roped in by the BCB-owned Dhaka, Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudullah Riyad wasted no time as they got involved in forming a squad for their upcoming Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) campaign during the tournament's draft held at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

DHAKA HOG SPOTLIGHT while Comilla, Barishal possess recipe for success

SPORTS REPORTER



The characteristic confusion and inconsistency in management carried forward in the special edition of the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League as the players' draft for the eighth edition of the franchise-based T20 tournament took place at a city hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

Following late drama over the ownership of the Dhaka franchise just a day before the players' draft, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) disqualified the frontline candidate sponsor for failing to complete the financial formalities in time and that led BCB to take Dhaka's ownership overnight.

Thus, serious questions were raised over the lack of foresight and mismanagement even after nine years since the introduction of the cash-rich tournament. However, according to Ismail Haider Mollick, the member secretary of BPL governing council, the board should instead be praised for taking necessary steps.

"As you all know, not all franchises are willing to follow the rules and regulations properly. If you compare previous editions in terms of financial aspects, this event is surely taking place on a smaller scale. But we are determined to follow the financial rules and regulations strictly."

"It's not that there were few interested sponsors but we decided not to give in. Although it didn't happen within the time frame, we had to verify properly before disqualifying them. The board deserves appreciation for not handing ownership only

for the money," Mollick informed the media.

At the end of day, Dhaka hogged the spotlight in the players' draft as well. Having recruited Tigers T20 skipper Mahmudullah Riyad as the direct signing, Dhaka went on to rope in ODI captain Tamim Iqbal on their first call and surprised everyone by picking former captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza in the third call. Interestingly, it will be the first time the three stalwarts will feature in the same team on the domestic circuit.

"We always enjoy playing with or playing for Mashrafe bhai (Mashrafe Bin Mortaza). We had a good time at the Bangabandhu T20 Cup and also managed to play good cricket."

Mahmudullah Riyad

"You don't expect this because normally we three play for different teams. Fortunately it happened this time and I am delighted. I think winning or losing is not everything in cricket as it's also important to enjoy the game as well. I think whenever we three play together, we definitely enjoy our time," said Tamim.

According to rules, where each team were allowed to recruit one local player and three foreign players as part of direct signing, Dhaka

picked Qais Ahmad and Najibullah Zadran from Afghanistan and Sri Lankan seamer Isuru Udana. Dhaka then roped in Mohammad Shahzad and Fazal Haque of Afghanistan alongside Rubel Hossain and Shuvagata Hom from the draft.

Fortune Barishal directly signed star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan along with West Indian Chris Gayle, Sri Lankan Danushka Gunathilaka and Afghan Mujeeb Ur Rahman. They also picked Nurul Hasan Sohan and Sheikh Mahedi Hasan from the draft.

Experienced Mushfiqur Rahim was directly signed by Khulna Tigers, who also included Sri Lankan Thisara Perera along with Soumya Sarkar, Yasir Ali from the draft.

Comilla Victorians surprised everyone with their three top-class foreign signings which involved the South African Faf du Plessis, who will be playing BPL for the first time. West Indian Sunil Narine and England's Moeen Ali will also feature alongside the directly-signed Mustafizur Rahman. Comilla, who had won the BPL title twice, also picked Liton Das on their first call in the draft.

Chattogram Challengers banked on youth with Nasum Ahmed alongside West Indian Kennar Lewis and two Englishmen Benny Howell and Will Jacks from direct signing as they roped in Afif Hossain Dhrubo, Shoriful Islam, Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Shamim Hossain from the draft.

Last but not the least, Sylhet Sunrisers hired Taskin Ahmed as their direct signing and went on to recruit Mosaddek Hossain Saikat and Sri Lankan Dinesh Chandimal from the draft.

The six-team tournament is set to begin on January 21.

Kings, Baridhara penalised

SPORTS REPORTER

Bashundhara Kings and Uttar Baridhara will not be able to participate in the next edition of the Federation Cup after both teams pulled out of this edition citing their unwillingness to play at the Kamalapur venue and protesting the change in fixture format.

Both teams have been fined Tk 500,000 lakh while their opposition teams in group stages were announced 3-0 winners, according to a decision of the BFF disciplinary committee.

A press release from the BFF said that the disciplinary committee took the decisions based on disciplinary code no. 31 and clause no. 19.3 of the 2021 Federation Cup regulation.

The meeting also gave instruction to the executive committee to determine the amount of demurrage to be charged on the two clubs for not taking part.

Muktijoddha Sangsad, the third team pulling out of the tournament, are expected to be handed similar punishment today after their stipulated time for a show-cause reply ended last night.

Tigers' only warm-up game from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh are set to play their only two-day warm-up game at the Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui against New Zealand XI as build up for their two World Test Championship fixtures against the hosts next month.

According to Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) selector Abdur Razzak, who is with the team in New Zealand, the players are eager to perform in the practice game.

"Everyone seemed to be very positive in the practice sessions we had since the quarantine period ended. All the players recovered [after a challenging quarantine period] and coped well. And I hope that the two-day practice match that we have from tomorrow [Tuesday] will be a very good outing for the players. The players are also eager to play well," said Razzak in a video message to the media yesterday.

Farce in Fed Cup continues

SPORTS REPORTER

The Federation Cup witnessed a farther farcical situation yesterday as Mohammedan SC and Swadhinata KS players were brought back into the match venue after they thought their part for the day was done following a 1-1 draw in their last Group A match at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Stadium in Kamalapur Stadium.

Both adjudged 3-0 winners against Bashundhara Kings who opted out of the tournament, these two teams played out a draw in regulation time, with Souleymane Diabate giving Mohammedan a 39th-minute lead before Nedo Turkovic scoring the equaliser in the following minute.

The two teams left the ground for the team buses as the floodlights were put off at the venue as no instruction came from tournament committee or from match officials. However, the teams were then called back to play a tiebreaker to decide the group winners, some 42 minutes after the regulation time as wisdom finally dawned on the organisers. Eventually, Mohammedan prevailed in the shoot-out with a 4-3 win to seal the top spot.



Mohammedan captain Souleymane Diabate celebrates with teammates after scoring the opening goal against Swadhinata KS in their last Group A match of the Bashundhara Group Federation Cup at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday. Regulation time ended in a 1-1 draw before Mohammedan won the tiebreaker 4-3.

PHOTO: STAR

Hom smashes ton, Rishad bags fifer

SPORTS REPORTER

All-rounder Shuvagata Hom struck a ton to propel Walton Central Zone to a commendable first-innings total on the second day of their Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) encounter against BCB South Zone at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

Hom, who picked up his fifty on the opening day, went on to score a 211-ball 152, laced with 18 boundaries, as Central Zone piled up 481. In reply, an unbeaten fifty from Pinak Ghosh helped South Zone see out the day on 92 for one.

Having resumed the day on 293 for four, Central Zone's overnight batters Hom and Soumya Sarkar stitched together a 193-run stand before Soumya fell prey to Nahidul Islam. Soumya, who had registered his fifth first-class ton the previous day, was trapped in front after a 292-ball 150.

Following Soumya's departure, Central Zone skipper Hom starred in a 53-run stand with wicketkeeper-batter Jaker Ali before Hom's knock ended when Ziaur Rahman shattered his stumps in the 132nd over.

For South Zone, leg-spinner Rishad Hossain shone with the ball, bagging his second-ever fifer in first-class cricket. Having picked up two on the opening day, Rishad scalped three more yesterday.

Meanwhile, at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi, Tanzid Hasan Tamim (91 off 206) missed out on a century by just nine runs but helped his side BCB North Zone to a decent 310 all out in the first innings against Islami Bank East Zone.

East Zone are set to resume third day's play on 17 for no loss while trailing by 127 runs.

