

“Virat Kohli needs confidence? What are you saying? I don't see anything wrong with his game. The team management is not at all worried.”

India's ODI captain Rohit Sharma on Virat Kohli's form



Jacks bails out Chattogram

SPORTS REPORTER

Will Jacks smashed a cracker of a match-winning innings and helped his side qualify for the playoff stage as Chattogram Challengers beat Sylhet Sunrisers by four wickets in the day game of the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Chasing a competitive 186-run target set by Sylhet, Jacks played his career-best T20 knock and remained unbeaten on 92 off just 57 balls. The Englishman hit four sixes and five fours as Chattogram eventually reached their target with five balls to spare.

With five wins in 10 matches, Chattogram finished the group stage with 10 points and occupied the third spot after Fortune Barishal and Comilla Victorians had already confirmed the top two spots for the Playoffs.

Jacks, who struck his fourth fifty of the tournament, said he had to play a responsible knock to see Chattogram qualify for the last four.



Khulna Tigers opener Andre Fletcher raises his arms after reaching a 59-ball century, which helped his side overhaul Comilla Victorians' 182-run total with nine wickets in hand in a BPL fixture in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Fletcher trumps Du Plessis ton

SPORTS REPORTER

Chattogram Challengers and Khulna Tigers secured the last two playoff spots after winning their final group stage games against Sylhet Sunrisers and Comilla Victorians respectively in the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League yesterday.

With five wins in 10 matches, Chattogram finished the group stage with 10 points and qualified as the third team for the playoffs after beating Sylhet by four wickets in the first encounter of the day.

Meanwhile, South African batsman

Faf du Plessis scored a 54-ball 101, yet ended on the losing side. Riding on Du Plessis' ton, Comilla posted 182 for five but it went in vain, thanks to an 182-run opening stand between Andre Fletcher (101*) and Mahedi Hasan (74). The record partnership of this edition saw Khulna cruise to a nine-wicket victory.

Barishal, with 15 points from 10 games, finished top of the points table while Comilla, with 13 points, finished in second position.

With five wins in 10 games, Khulna finished with 10 points and qualified as the fourth team for the playoff stage while

Minister Dhaka, with nine points, crashed out of the top-four contention. Sylhet finished the tournament at the bottom of the table with only three points.

Khulna will take on Chattogram in the Eliminator tomorrow, the first fixture of the day, while the top two teams -- Comilla Victorians and Fortune Barishal -- will lock horns in the First Qualifier in the night game.

The losing team from the First Qualifier will get a second chance as they will take on the winners of the Eliminator between Khulna and Chattogram in the Second Qualifier scheduled for February 16.

The final of the tournament will take place on February 18.

Delhi buy Mustafizur; no takers for Shakib

STAR SPORTS DESK

Ace Bangladesh left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman was roped in by Delhi Capitals for the base price of two crore rupees in the Indian Premier League (IPL) auction in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Delhi were the only one to bid for the left-arter in the auction. Having represented Sunrisers Hyderabad, Mumbai Indians and Rajasthan Royals, the left-arter moves to the Indian capital for the tournament that is expected to be held in April-May this year.

No other side bid for the Bangladesh pacer. Earlier, Bangladesh's premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan went unsold in the first bid of the two-day IPL auction.

The all-rounder, who had a poor season with the KKR last season when he scored only less than 100 runs and took four wickets in eight matches, was not bought by any team in the first round of bids for all-rounders.

Shakib, who has been in fantastic form recently in the ongoing BPL with five man-of-the-match awards in last five matches, could still be bought on the second and final day of the auction today alongside Liton Das, Taskin Ahmed and Shoriful Islam -- the three other representatives from Bangladesh in the auction.



Meanwhile, Indian batsman Ishan Kishan bagged a \$2.02-million deal while overseas spinners were largely snubbed on the opening day of the auction. IPL giants Mumbai Indians bought back explosive batsman Kishan for 152.50 million Indian rupees after staving off competition from Punjab Kings, Gujarat Titans and Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Holders Chennai Super Kings forked out 140 million rupees to keep seamer Deepak Chahar.



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