

'Commentary a good option for future'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh ODI skipper Tamim Iqbal yesterday said that commentary could be a good option for him in future when he hangs up his bat after making an impromptu appearance as a commentator during a match of the Bangladesh Premier League in Mirpur yesterday.

Tamim, whose team Minister Group Dhaka exited from the group stage, did not let pass the opportunity to take up the mic when asked by the broadcasters.

"Feeling really good after commenting for the very first time," the left-handed batsman said during his brief commentary stint.

"No plans regarding commentary at the moment, but it could definitely be a good option for future," Tamim added.

The highest run getter of this edition of BPL, Tamim has a reputation as a good speaker and a good leader. However, he admitted he felt a little nervous when he first picked up the mic in the commentary box.



Chattogram Challengers spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz is ecstatic after an excellent last over that helped his side to beat Khulna Tigers by seven runs in BPL eliminator at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. However, it was Chadwick Walton who led the Chattogram batting effort with an unbeaten 89.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Miraz, Chattogram offset blues

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

It was the penultimate delivery of the final over of the Khulna Tigers innings and everything had come to a head since Chattogram Challengers began their BPL campaign, cascading towards that penultimate delivery yesterday. It was symbolic that Mehedi Hasan Miraz had the ball in hand, shorn off captaincy role under dramatic circumstances during the Chattogram phase. There was grief and war of words after that incident, but yesterday Miraz was not shy of doing his bit, instigating, instructing the other youngsters. He was the one dictating this Chattogram side.

Andre Fletcher was on strike, nine needed off two deliveries. Miraz had gotten away with a poor delivery the ball before but held his nerve, putting in a perfect delivery in the blockhole that did not allow

Fletcher -- batting on a scintillating 79 then -- any room for a heavy bat-swing. The west Indian could only manage a single, leaving an impossible eight needed off the last ball. Miraz took a high catch off the last bowl, dispelling his own personal blues. The young ones rushed in to meet Miraz and celebrate the seven-run win, having struggled throughout the tournament over changes in captaincy and coaching staff and being in the focus of a media hailstorm. That they did it without their ace batsman Will Jacks, who suffered from food poisoning just before the game, just put the stamp on what has been a bag of surprises from this Chattogram side.

Without Jacks to carry them, Chattogram had stuttered to 66 for four in 10 overs before recovering with the bat and finally bagging the victory. Khulna captain Mushfiqur Rahim, feeling the

aftereffects of being at the wrong end of the result, said bowling was where they let themselves down.

"Our main collapse happened with the ball. They had lost their top three wickets and half the overs down were gone. Whoever is there after that, if you concede 130-something runs, it's not expected," Mushfiqur said.

Chadwick Walton, who found it hard to get going throughout the tournament, hammered an unbeaten 40-ball 89 in a record 115-run stand earlier with Miraz, who himself struck a 30-ball 36 as Chattogram reached 189 for five.

Fletcher cut loose for Khulna following his ton the other day with a brilliant 80 off 58 balls. Mushfiqur's 43(29) and Yasir Ali's 45 (24) almost got them home. But in the end that last over from Miraz, who defended the 16 runs required, offset his and Chattogram's blues.



All focus on Mbappe as PSG face Real

AFP, Paris

As Paris Saint-Germain prepare to face Real Madrid in the Champions League, the French club hope a victory in the tie could yet help convince Kylian Mbappe to stay rather than move to the Spanish capital.

The clock continues to tick down on the World Cup-winning striker's contract in Paris which expires in June, five years after he joined his hometown team from Monaco in a 180 million euro (\$204m) deal.

It is understood PSG turned down an equivalent offer from Real last August to keep Mbappe for at least one more season and team him up in attack with Lionel Messi and Neymar.

That seemed to prove money is no object for the Qatar-owned club, but it appears that all the money in the world may not be enough to convince Mbappe, now 23, to stay at the Parc des Princes.

Real's pursuit of the France star goes back to when he was a young teenager and they invited him and his parents to take in a game at the Santiago Bernabeu, having Zinedine Zidane meet him at their training

ground.

He opted to sign for Monaco then, and he chose PSG in 2017 despite again being linked with Real, yet an eventual move to Madrid has always seemed inevitable.

In Paris, they are clinging to the hope Mbappe could change his mind if Mauricio Pochettino's team beat Madrid in their Champions League last-16 tie, with the first leg at the Parc des Princes on Tuesday to be followed by the return in Spain on March 9.

It is a pivotal moment for PSG. This season has simply confirmed that, while a 34-year-old Messi is on the wane and Neymar remains plagued by injury, Mbappe represents the future.

A loss to Real, followed by Mbappe confirming his departure would feel like a humiliation for a club still chasing elusive Champions League glory, 11 years on from the Qatar Sports Investments takeover.

Meanwhile, regardless of the outcome of this tie, Madrid need a new talisman. Karim Benzema is 34 and Luka Modric will soon be 37, while Gareth Bale and Eden Hazard have been increasingly sidelined

under Carlo Ancelotti.

City's latest 'diamond' Cancelo key to CL pursuit

Manchester City's quest to win the Champions League resumes this week with a homecoming for three of their most consistent players this season in a trip to Sporting Lisbon.

Joao Cancelo, Ruben Dias and Bernardo Silva all began their careers on the other side of the Lisbon divide with Benfica before following the familiar path abroad for the best Portuguese talent.

Cancelo made just one Portuguese league appearance before the first step on a journey that at 27 has already taken him to Spain, Italy and England when he moved to Valencia in 2014.

But he looks set to play his prime years in Manchester after extending his City contract to 2027 earlier this month.

City look well set to win a fourth Premier League title in five years and second in Cancelo's three seasons at the club. But the Champions League has continued to prove elusive despite the billions poured in by the club's Abu Dhabi owners over the past decade.

What to WATCH

TEN 1
UEFA Champions League
Sporting vs Man City
Live from 02:00 am (Wednesday)
TEN 2
UEFA Champions League

PSG vs Real Madrid
Live from 02:00 am (Wednesday)
STAR SPORTS HD 1
EPL
Manchester United vs Brighton
Live from 02:15 am (Wednesday)

day)
SONY SIX
Australia vs Sri Lanka
3rd T20I
Live from 02:10 pm

Wholesale changes for Afghan ODI series

SPORTS REPORTER

The Minhajul Abedin-led selection panel made wholesale change to the ODI squad for the three-match home series against Afghanistan, starting from February 23 in Chattogram.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced a 15-member squad, where as many as seven players from the 16-member ODI series against Zimbabwe in July last year.

SQUAD: Tamim Iqbal (captain), Liton Das, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Mahmudullah Riyad, Afif Hossain, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, Ebadot Hossain, Nasum Ahmed, Yasir Ali Chowdhury and Mahmudul Hasan Joy.

OUT: Naim Sheikh, Mosaddek Hossain, Mohammad Mithun, Nurul Hasan Sohan, Taijul Islam, Mohammad Saifuddin and Rubel Hossain.

IN: Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Ebadot Hossain and Nasum Ahmed.

COMEBACK: Najmul Hossain Shanto made a comeback alongside uncapped all-rounder Yasir Ali Rabbi.

A stalemate despite two wonder goals

SPORTS REPORTER

The Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium in Tongi staged two superbly struck goals but eventually Mohammedan Sporting Club and Chittagong Abahani played out a 1-1 draw yesterday.

Mohammedan went ahead in the 27th minute, courtesy of an unbelievable strike from Souleymane Diabate, who had now scored three on the trot for the Black and Whites. Three minutes after resumption, Abahani equalised through Kamrul Islam, who somehow found the back of the net from a direct corner kick.

Meanwhile at Munshiganj, the day's other match between Uttar Baridhara and Swadhinata Krira Sangha too had ended in a draw, a goalless one in this case.



BAFFA Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association

BAFFA Board of Directors heartily congratulates The Daily Star on their 31st Founding Anniversary.
The newly elected Board of Directors at BAFFA for the term 2021-2023



Kabir Ahmed
President & Chairman, Conveyer Logistics Ltd.



Amirul Islam Chowdhury
Senior Vice President & Managing Director, Transworld Logistics & Distribution.



Nurul Amin
Vice President & Managing Director, Tower Freight Logistics Limited.



Aktar Kamal Chowdhury
Director & Managing Director, Snibon Cargo System Ltd.



Khairul Alam Suzan
Vice President & Partner, SOL Logistics.



Nasir Ahmed Khan
Director & Chairman, Aryan Freight Liners Ltd.



Md. Khorshed Alam
Director & Managing Director, Marvel Freight Ltd.



Md. Kamruzzaman Iqbal Amin
Director & Director, RMRK World Freight Ltd.



Zahid Hossain Firoze
Director & Chairman, Awards Transportation Ltd.



Md. Alamgir Hossain
Director & Managing Director, Kerry Far East Logistics Ltd.



S.M. Mahbubur Rahman
Director & Managing Director, BS Cargo Agency Ltd.



Jannatul Firdous Akbar
Director & Director, Freight Express Ltd.



Mazahar Hossain
Director & Managing Director, Sun Star Cargo Systems Ltd.



A.K.M. Fazul Haque
Director & Managing Director, Capital Logistics Ltd.



Dolan Barua
Director & Proprietor, Asia Pacific Logistics.



Kazi Md. Mahfuzur Rahman
Director & CEO, Cargostar Bangladesh.



Mohammed Jahir Ahmed Sarker
Director & Managing Director, Air Sea Global Freight Ltd.



Mohammed Shah Alam
Director & Chairman, Ambrosia Shipping Ltd.



Sumon Howlader
Director & Managing Director, Rex Eco-Logistics Limited.