T SPORTS BPL (Football) Sheikh Russel vs Mohammedan Live from 03:30 pm

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Sheikh Jamal made to wait

SPORTS REPORTER

Tamim Iqbal made Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club wait for their maiden Dhaka Premier League title with a 90-run knock, which helped Prime Bank Cricket Club to a comfortable eight-wicket win in a super league game at the BKSP- 4 ground in Savar yesterday.

Despite the defeat, Sheikh Jamal, who have 22 points from 13 games, are in pole position. With two games remaining in the super league stage, a win will be enough for the Imrul Kayes-led side to register their maiden DPL title. Legends of Rupganj, who are in second position with 18 points from 13 games, are also in the race despite suffering an 81-run defeat against Abahani vesterday

After being sent in to bat. Sheikh Jamal posted 232 for eight in 50 overs, thanks to a three-wicket haul from Taijul Islam and a two-fer from Rakibul Hasan. Nurul Hasan top-scored with 71 runs but none of the others were able to contribute significantly.

In reply, Prime Bank rode on a solid 121-run opening stand between Tamim and Anamul Haque, with the latter striking his eighth halfcentury in the ongoing tournament before being dismissed for 52 runs.

Tamim, who was inching towards his hundred, missed out after being stumped while going after Jamal's Indian off-spinner Parvez Rasool. Tamim scored 90 off 85 balls with four sixes and 10 fours. Shahadat Hossain Dipu remained not out on 52 while Mohammad Mithun was unbeaten on 31 as Prime Bank reached the target in 40.2 overs.

Meanwhile, Jamal's two national team cricketers - Mushfigur Rahim and Mehedi Hasan Miraz were injured during the game and were taken off the field immediately. Miraz twisted his right hand little finger while trying to take a catch and was later taken to hospital. Mushfiqur twisted his ankle. Both cricketers were kept under observation.

In the other super league game, Rupganj Tigers registered a 84 run win over Gazi Group Cricketers.



Wicket-keeper Nurul Hasan Sohan looks on as Tamim Iqbal of Prime Bank tonks over deep-midwicket region during his 85-ball 90, which laid the platform for a successful chase of Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club's 232. [Below] Sheikh Jamal's Mehedi Hasan Miraz (L) and Mushfiqur Rahim react after hurting themselves while fielding in the same Dhaka Premier League fixture at the BKSP vesterday.

Injury concerns surround Tigers' SL squad

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced the squad for the upcoming two-match Test series against Sri Lanka, slated to begin from May 15, and there were no big surprises in the squad though a few injury concerns reared their ugly heads following the squad announcement.

Pacer Taskin Ahmed's unavailability for the series was already known beforehand and as expected, Shoriful Islam, who had recovered from the ankle injury he incurred in South Africa, was named in the squad.

SQUAD

Mominul Haque (Captain), Tamim Iqbal, Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Mushfigur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Liton Das, Yasir Ali, Taijul Islam, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Ebadot Hossain, Khaled Ahmed, Nurul Hasan Sohan, Rejaur Rahman Raja, Shohidul Islam and Shoriful Islam (subject to fitness).

Shoriful, who may yet undergo surgery for a non-sports related injury abroad, played the Dhaka Premier League (DPL) match for his side Prime Bank against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club yesterday. The left-arm paceman bowled 10 overs for 56 runs, bagging one wicket and will likely be able to play the second Test in Dhaka on May 23. However, the selectors have included him in the squad which was

announced for the first Test so that the pacer can be available for the first Test in case he is fit.

BCB physio Dr. Debashish Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday that they have kept their options open regarding Shoriful and the pacer may go abroad before the series for consultation as there is no emergency for the surgery right away.

The biggest takeaways were the exclusions of opener Shadman Islam and seamer Abu Jayed Rahi while 23-year-old quick Rejaur Rahman Raja was included in the squad. Raja has so far bagged 11 wickets in eight matches for Prime Bank this DPL season, which includes a fifer against Brothers Union.

"Raja has improved in our HP training and in domestic games we have seen that he can bowl at a good pace. Due to the pace variation we have made a little change here. We have kept Shadman in the practice-match squad and are watching a few players in that position. We will call

upon whoever is needed," chief selector Minhajul Abedin told reporters yesterday.

"Even in the last series, he was in the squad but he is not getting games. Since the series is on home soil, we have talked so that there is a different plan and that's why Rahi is not there," Minhajul said

Meanwhile, both Mushfigur Rahim and Mehedi Hasan Miraz suffered injury blows while fielding for Sheikh Jamal yesterday, with the latter taken to hospital following

"Mushfigur has an ankle sprain and according to the physio there, he has



a grade-one sprain. We will see him tomorrow but we heard it's a small sprain," Debashish informed The Daily Star.

"Miraz had a finger dislocation and it had to be relocated in the field. There could be fractures with dislocation. We asked him to undergo an X-ray and see us tomorrow morning. In case there is a fracture, it could take time to heal but we can't say until we see him."

Fans refuse to celebrate PSG league title

AGENCIES

Paris Saint-Germain have equalled the French record by winning their 10th league title, moving level with the mark established by the Saint-Etienne team of Michel Platini, but rarely has a such a historic achievement in football felt like such an anti-climax.

That is partly because the championship was effectively decided after PSG won their first eight games to sit nine points clear by the end of

It is also because domestic success no longer carries the same weight for the capital club, who did not sign Lionel Messi, or turn down 180 million euros (\$195m) from Real Madrid for Kylian Mbappe in the final year of his contract, just to reclaim the Ligue 1 crown from Lille.

The Oatar-owned club only really have eyes for the Champions League, and their collapse in losing to Madrid in the last 16 has made it a long end to the season.



The European exit has stoked anger among supporters, who greeted last weekend's key win over bitter rivals Marseille with indifference.

The 'ultras', the club's most vociferous fans, recently decided to stay silent to express unhappiness at what they perceive to be an underperforming side and at the club's management. Even before the Champions League exit, supporters held up banners to protest against the "overpaid mercenaries" in the team and to call for sporting director Leonardo to leave.

Paris St Germain's sporting director Leonardo admitted that mistakes were made after frustrated fans opted not to celebrate the capital club winning a record-equalling 10th French top flight league title.

But despite the wealth of talent in a squad spearheaded by Kylian Mbappe, Lionel Messi and Neymar, PSG will have to make do with just the Ligue 1 trophy this year as they were also knocked out of the French Cup early.

Messi has been a shadow of the wonderful player he was in Barcelona.

A player who was expected to tear apart defences in the French league had offered a paltry three goals before Saturday's game against Lens, an astonishing performance for someone who had scored between 25 and 50 league goals per season over the previous dozen years.

Lionel Messi looked to have curled in a fine winner in the 68th minute, but Lens dampened the already muted title party at the Parc des Princes through Corentin Jean with two minutes left. PSG have an unassailable 16-point lead over second-placed Marseille with four matches remaining.

Whether they will do better next term is anyone's guess as Mbappe's contract expires in June. Discussions are ongoing in Doha, where owners Qatar Sport Investment are based, but sporting director Leonardo said he did not know whether Mbappe would sign a new deal with the club.

Figueira shines on debut

SPORTS REPORTER

A brace from debutant Brazilian midfielder Miguel Figueira helped leaders Bashundhara Kings exact their first-leg 2-1 defeat against newcomers Swadhinata KS with a 2-0 victory in the return match of the Bangladesh Premier League at Shaheed Muktijoddha Smriti Stadium in Rajshahi yesterday.

At the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Goplaganj, title contenders Sheikh Jamal DC also notched a 2-0 win over Uttar Baridhara Club to stay within five points of Kings, who have 29 points from 12 matches. Although

Swadhinata stunned two-time champions Kings in their first match in top-flight football in February, the newcomers failed to put up any fight in this fixture. Playing without any foreign players, they were completely dominated by the Kings, who had bolstered their attack with two new foreign

Kings did not feel the absence of their suspended Brazilian forward Robson Da Silva as new-signings Figueira and Marong kept the Swadhinata defenders on their toes by creating at least three scoring chances before the former broke the deadlock in the 28th minute.

Marong headed a Matin Mia cross wide in the

18th minute before the Spanish forward saw his placing shot from a cutback from Tarig saved by the outstretched leg of keeper Sarwar Jahan in the next minute.

Unmarked Figueira saw his feeble header on a cross from Yeasin gripped easily by Sarwar in the 21st minute but he did not fail to find the target seven minutes later when a long throw-in

by Bishwanath Ghosh was headed down a

Swadhinata defender inside the box. Figueira then doubled the lead nine minutes later after a feeble clearance by Sarwar on a cross from Yeasin fell

on his feet. However, Kings could not extend their margin in the second half despite bringing some changes as the Swadhinata concentrated on defending.

In Gopalganj, Nigerian striking duo of Chijoke Alaekwe and Musa Najere made a remarkable debut in the Bangladesh Premier League as both of struck in the first half against hosts Uttar Baridhara Club.

Sheikh Jamal took only two minutes to take the lead when Alaekwe drove home from a goal-mouth melee after a long throw-in by Raihan Hasan made havoc in the opposition box. Najere doubled Sheikh Jamal's lead with a cleaver header on a long-ball over onrushing goalkeeper Mamun Alif in the 21st minute.



Bayern Munich players applaud the fans after winning their 10th consecutive Bundesliga crown with three games to spare on Saturday. Bayern defeated Borussia Dortmund 3-1 in front of a sold-out home crowd to go 12 points clear at the top of the table. They have now won 31 Bundesliga titles since the introduction of the top division in 1963, and 32 German league crowns in all.