

# Kings ignite celebrations with revenge victory

SPORTS REPORTER

Having confirmed their third Bangladesh Premier League title on the trot in their previous game, Bashundhara Kings readied their home venue to celebrate the glory and ahead of their match against Abahani yesterday and the celebrations were kicked off in raucous fashion after a 3-2 win over the Sky Blues in their penultimate league match at the Bashundhara Kings Arena yesterday.

The triumph against Abahani was not only further evidence of Kings' consistent performances, but also served as revenge against the Sky Blues, who beat Kings 3-0 in the Independence Cup final in the season's first meeting before a 2-2 draw in the first league meeting of the season.

Six-time champions Abahani looked on course for a rare domestic treble after winning the Independence Cup and Federation Cup to start the season, but Bashundhara Kings shattered that dream by clinching their hattrick of league titles with two games in hand.

Yesterday's tie was merely a battle for prestige, but Kings were determined to celebrate the championship with a win against Bangladesh's most successful outfit and they came out successfully, courtesy of a strong bench.

The tie itself was once again an ill-tempered affair, with



Bashundhara Kings players celebrate one of their three goals against Abahani during their penultimate Bangladesh Premier League match at the Kings Arena on Monday. (Bottom) Robson Robinho ensured the victory for the champions-elect with two goals after coming off the bench in the second half. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Not just a lunch

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) arranged a get-together and lunch for cricketers at a city hotel today and, although members of the team management downplayed the significance of the 'special' lunch ahead of the Tigers' tour of Zimbabwe, scraping past the surface the motive may have been to communicate some issues to the senior stars who might have been left a bit disappointed with the BCB's refurbishment of the T20I line-up for the upcoming T20I series.

Current decisions are in line with the BCB's aim to give more immunity to the young leader and the rest of the young side, away from the seniors' dispositions or lack of agreement on leadership issues in the shortest format.

The discussions in the get-together also ensured that players act more professionally in the face of disappointments due to lack of form or omissions from the squad. The lunch was also a means for the team to bond through the changes taking place as the BCB did not tinker with the experienced ODI outfit for the Zimbabwe tour, where both Riyad and Mushfiqur were included.

"It's not a big deal. It was a special lunch to encourage the Tigers. We will hold such gatherings more going forward. It's mainly to inspire players who may be going through hard times. We also talked about keeping their distance from criticism on social media or elsewhere," BCB

cricket operations chairman Jalal Yunus told The Daily Star yesterday.

Team director Khaled Ahmed Sujon said following the get-together that they needed to see new players. "Shakib, Tamim, Mushfiqur, Riyad and Mashrafe [Bin Mortaza] are icons of Bangladesh cricket. Although Mashrafe is not there anymore, the rest of them will not play forever. What we're doing in Zimbabwe T20Is is not experimental. It's not like Riyad or

from the front. The T20I side has to play with freedom, not just two to three players but the entire side."

Mahmud said that the players needed to show a professional attitude even when they are not performing or were dropped. Asked about a few curios posts on social media by Mushfiqur, Mahmud said: "I think it's a players' personal matter [what they post on social media]. But I have given a clear message to the boys that they need



Mushfiqur were dropped. We want to see what others can do in their positions," Mahmud told the media yesterday.

"We have to make the squad with new players at some point. It's not that the transitional period has started. Seniors still have the capability but it is also our responsibility to make younger players stand up and be counted," Mahmud said. "A skipper must lead

to have a professional attitude. We have to be professional and we have to develop our culture. Some of us might be sad and that is normal when someone gets dropped. We can't play well because of mental toughness but unless we can develop this [the ability to take things in stride] we cannot be a very good side," Mahmud said as BCB looks to impress certain standards going forward.

## Ali's 'Rumble' belt fetches \$6.18m

AFP, Washington

Boxing legend Muhammad Ali's championship belt from his 1974 "Rumble in the Jungle" victory over George Foreman has been purchased by Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay for \$6.18 million.

Noted memorabilia collector Irsay announced the purchase Sunday on Twitter, saying he was "proud to be the steward" of the historic World Boxing Council belt.

Irsay hinted the item might be shown at an August show of his collection in Chicago as well as in September at Indianapolis.

The sale price early Sunday through Heritage Auctions, reported by Sports Collectors Daily, was called among the highest prices ever paid for a sports memorabilia item.

Ali upset previously undefeated Foreman in Kinshasa, Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) with an eighth-round knockout to reclaim the world heavyweight crown.

Ali, who died in 2016 at age 74, kept the WBC crown until losing to Leon Spinks in 1978.

## Ramesh puts SL on top



AFP, Galle

Ramesh Mendis led an inspired Sri Lanka spin attack to leave Pakistan in trouble at 191-7 in reply to the hosts' 378 on day two of the second Test on Monday.

The tourists, who lead the two-match series 1-0, ended the day still trailing Sri Lanka by 187 runs in their first innings at Galle.

Agha Salman resisted the bowling attack with his maiden Test fifty but fell to Prabath Jayasuriya's left-arm spin for 62 in the final moments of play before stumps was called.

Jayasuriya got Salman caught at slip with a drifter coming into the right-handed batsman.

Salman, who made his debut in the previous match, put on 46 runs with Yasir Shah, batting on 13, to lift Pakistan from 145-6.

Ramesh rattled Pakistan's middle-order with his off-spin bowling on a pitch expected to turn more from day three onwards.

Pakistan suffered from a lack of partnerships after losing first-match hero Abdullah Shafique for a duck and skipper Babar Azam for 16 on either side of the lunch break.


Jayasuriya, who took 21 wickets in his first two Tests, bowled Azam on a turning delivery that got the edge of the dangerman's bat to crash onto the stumps.



Armand Duplantis vaults himself into history, setting a new world record in men's pole vault event in the World Athletics Championships in Eugene on the final day of the competition on Sunday. The 22-year-old Swede cleared 6.21 metres for his fifth world record, and third this year. (Inset) Meanwhile, Tobi Amusan became the first Nigerian athlete to win a World Athletics Championship gold as she stormed to victory in the women's 100m hurdles.

PHOTO: AFP



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Disclosure of Second Quarter (Q2) Un-Audited Financial Statements ended June 30, 2022				
This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Union Bank Limited in its 90 <sup>th</sup> meeting held on July 25, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. has considered and approved the Un-Audited Financial Statements for the Second Quarter (Q2) ended June 30, 2022 and disclosed the following financial information:				
Particulars	January-June 30, 2022		January-June 30, 2021	
	BDT (Solo)	BDT (Consolidated)	BDT (Solo)	BDT (Consolidated)
Net Asset Value (NAV) Per Share	15.24	-	10.13	-
Earnings Per Share (EPS)	0.78	-	0.87	-
Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS)	1.12	-	1.07	-
Particulars	April-June, 2022		April-June, 2021	
	BDT (Solo)	BDT (Consolidated)	BDT (Solo)	BDT (Consolidated)
Earnings Per Share (EPS)	0.44	-	0.62	-
The details of Un-Audited Financial Statements for the Second Quarter (Q2) ended June 30, 2022 shall be available in the website of the company at <a href="http://www.unionbank.com.bd">www.unionbank.com.bd</a>				
Dated: July 25, 2022 Dhaka			Sd/- Ali Hossain Bhuiyan Company Secretary	