

Tigers lose Tapash too

Cricket

AL MUSABIR SADI from Colombo

Bangladesh will go into the Test series against Sri Lanka with one of their most inexperienced pace attacks after Tapash Baisya was also ruled out on Friday.

Tapash was originally not

included in the one-day squad because he complained of an ankle injury. But the Sylhet paceman was still sent to Colombo as a replacement for Mashrafee bin Mortaza, who failed to recover from a back spasm.

The injured pair is expected to return home on Saturday.

Tapash, who smashed 54 in the drawn three-day practice match, bowled only 11 overs in the match -- five overs on the second day -- as his ankle began to trouble him again.

With both paceman injured, the ill-fated Tigers for the first time in their short Test history have to rely on two rookies and paceman who is gradually making his way back into Test cricket after enduring a lengthy lay-off before the first Test starts on September 12.

Shahadat Hossain has yet to take a Test wicket from only one Test appearance, at Lord's this summer, and left-arm Syed Rasel has been waiting to make his Test debut. The other bowler is Talha Jubair, the

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

ICC to examine sub fielder rule

BBC ONLINE, undated

International Cricket Council chief executive Malcolm Speed has pledged to address the controversial substitute fielder rule next month.

Speed will meet with Test captains and umpires in Sydney to discuss the issue after Ricky Ponting hit out at England's use of substitutes.

"It's something we want to talk to the captains about and the umpires," Speed told BBC Five Live.

"But it's a delicate issue and a difficult issue."

Ponting was docked 75 per cent of his match fee in the fourth Test for an angry outburst after he was run out by substitute fielder Gary Pratt.

He called England's repeated use of replacements a "disgrace" and, while he admitted it was within

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5



Did U Know?

Billie Jean King was the first player in the Open era to win back-to-back US Open titles (1971-1972).

What to WATCH

ESPN
England vs Australia
Fifth Test, Day Three
Live at 3:30 pm

STAR Sports
English Premier Football League
Man United vs Man City
Live at 5:55 pm
Chelsea vs Sunderland
Same Day Delay at 10:00 pm

TEN Sports
US Open
Men's Semifinals
Live at 10:00 pm



TALK TURKEY

Sven-Goran Eriksson (England football coach)

"I'm not going to resign. I'm going to try to make it right. In October we'll win two games and qualify."

After losing to Northern Ireland in the World Cup qualifier.



Brothers Union's Russian striker Victor Edward (R) gallops past a Mohammedan defender at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Friday.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

Ashraful, Aftab enable draw

Cricket

AL MUSABIR SADI from Colombo

Mohammad Ashraful and Aftab Ahmed provided a silver lining for the injury-struck Tigers as the tourists drew their three-day match against the Sri Lanka Development Squad on Friday.

The result was morale-boosting in more ways than one for the tourists, who have lost the services of pace bowlers Mashrafee bin Mortaza and Tapash Baisya, before the first Test on September 12.

Ashraful celebrated his 21st birthday with a confident knock of 87 and Aftab scored a solid 67 as Bangladesh, 217 runs behind in the first innings, reached 273-6 in their second innings at the Colts Cricket Club ground.

The match was called off half an hour before schedule with Tushar Imran (23) and skipper Khaled Mashud (13) at the crease.

Resuming on 31-1, Bangladesh had a few nervous moments when in-form opener Javed Omar was bowled by a half-volley from Tharanga Lakshitha after missing the line completely in the third over of the morning.

He added just two runs to his overnight 12.

The scoreboard soon read 47-3 when left-handed Shahriar Nafees, having made seven after a duck in the first innings, played across and was struck plumb in front by left-arm seamer Gayan Wijekoon.

Ashraful, who has happy memories of the island nation, becoming youngest player to score a hundred on his Test debut four years ago, came to the wicket and repaired the damage with two significant partnerships -- adding 45 runs with night-watchman Manjul Islam (22) for the fourth wicket and was involved in a match-saving 123-run stand with Aftab for the fifth.

Manjul was caught at second slip after his 69-minute stay while the gifted right-hander Ashraful was lucky to reach his first fifty of the tour when Development Squad skipper Thilan Samaraweera dropped a sharp edge at slip off leg-spinner Gihan Ruaspinghe. Ashraful was then on 22.

The pair then dug in deep on a wicket where the ball kept low often and took the total to 113 without further damage at lunch. They

dominated the second session and almost played through it but Ashraful, invited by the rival captain to hit over the top, surrendered his wicket for a six but the number six batsman steered Ruaspinghe to Jeewan Mendis at point in the final session. His 123-ball knock was laced with seven fours and a six.

Ashraful said that he was confident about a big score before the Tests.

"I was doing everything right in England but did not get runs. It came in the one-day series and I knew as long as I was doing the right things, runs would come," he said.

"We are not going to face a similar attack against the Test team. But my plan was to play a long innings against whatever attack it was because we badly needed to pick up

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6



FINALLY HIS BAT SINGS! Bangladesh star Mohammad Ashraful plays a trademark pull on his way to 87 on the last day of the three-dayer against the Sri Lanka Development XI at Colombo on Friday.

ODI SERIES SA to visit India in November

BBC ONLINE, undated

South Africa have confirmed they will play five one-day internationals in India in November.

The sides played two Test matches at the same time last year, the home side winning 1-0 after a draw at Kanpur.

But they were unable to play the one-day series at the same time because both sides had other tour commitments.

Graeme Smith's men will play a single warm-up before opening the series in Hyderabad on 16 November. The last game is in Mumbai (Bombay) 12 days later.

The tourists have yet to receive a final ruling on whether opening batsman Herschelle Gibbs and spinner Nicky Boje will be able to make the trip without fear of arrest.

The duo were accused of match-fixing in India in 2000 and want guarantees they will not be interrogated during this trip.

SCHEDULE

14 One-day warm-up game, venue TBC
16 First ODI, Hyderabad
19 Second ODI, Bangalore (D/N)
22 Third ODI, Chennai (Madras) (D/N)
25 Fourth ODI, Calcutta (D/N)
28 Fifth ODI, Mumbai (Bombay) (D/N)

Ebrahim ton hurts India

CRICINFO, undated

India's Test squad were provided with unexpectedly stiff opposition by a Zimbabwe Board XI at this small border town close to Mozambique on the first day of a three-day match on Friday.

Hamilton Mazakadsa, the Zimbabwe Board XI captain, won the toss and decided to bat in the match which is being used by both sides as a warm-up for the first Test in Bulawayo starting next Tuesday.

Dion Ebrahim, who was dropped for the one-day international against India last Sunday, made a strong case for inclusion in the Test team by scoring an almost faultless unbeaten 163. He came in at 16 for 2 and hit a six and 25 fours, and was at the wicket for all but the first half hour of the day. Zimbabwe made 265-7.

He has been out of form in recent weeks and in any event is generally regarded as a marginal player, but he is much more suited to the longer

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

Kartik joins Lancashire

BBC ONLINE, undated

Indian spin bowler Murali Kartik has joined Lancashire for the remainder of the county season.

The 28-year-old has been signed as cover for Gary Keedy, who has a hand injury, and made his debut in the current Championship game with Essex.

The club had an overseas player

vacancy after Marcus North left to prepare for the Australia A tour to Pakistan.

"Kartik will give us more depth for the remaining games of the season," said team manager Mike Watkinson.

"We are glad that a player of his quality has joined us at such short notice."

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

It's all to play-off for

BU-1; MSC-1

SPORTS REPORTER

Premier Bank

service first

Senior Division Football League

This season's Premiership football title will have to be decided by a play-off match as a late strike from the mercurial Matir Munna enabled Mohammedan Sporting Club to hold 10-man Brothers Union 1-1 in the last match of the league at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Friday.

The two bitter rivals whose war of words preceding the game had only added spice to the confrontation, now meet again on Monday having completed their league campaign with 39 points from 18 matches. If needed the play-off would go into extra time and even tie-breaker to ensure a result.

Friday's outcome in front of an estimated 25,000 boisterous fans however buried Abahani's (38 points) hopes of getting a play-off against the losing side for the runners-up position. They have to remain satisfied with the third position like in the previous year.

The atmosphere at the Big Bowl was electrifying as the crowd got involved with every move. There were no shortages of excitement on and off the pitch also.

Defending champions Brothers looked more organised of the two teams in the initial exchanges and took a deserving lead in the 17th minute thanks to their goal-machine and league's top marksman Russian Victor Edward.

But the Gopibagh outfit lost the plot after their in-form left-back Parvez Babu received the marching orders in dramatic fashion in the 60th minute.

Babu, who was a constant threat

FINAL STANDINGS

Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Brothers	18	12	3	3	41	17	39
MSC	18	11	6	1	33	13	39
Abahani	18	11	5	2	38	15	38
Muktijoddha	18	11	1	6	34	23	34
Russel	18	7	6	5	33	18	27
Farashganj	18	6	5	7	18	19	23
Arambagh	18	4	8	7	23	24	20
Wanderers	18	2	7	9	18	43	13
Youngmen's	18	3	3	12	20	50	12
Dipali	18	0	2	16	20	57	2

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5



PART AND PARCEL OF NERVE GAMES: Brothers coach Wazed Gazi (C) protests against the red card awarded to Parvez Babu with fourth referee Ibrahim Nesar while a couple of Brothers officials also react during the tense match with Mohammedan on Friday.

Openers defy England

Cricket

AFP, London

Australia gave England a reminder of how Ashes contests used to be with an unbroken century stand between Justin Langer and Matthew Hayden leaving them well-placed at tea on the second day of the crunch fifth Test at The Oval here Friday.

Australia were 112 without loss, 261 behind England's below par first innings 373, in a match the tourists had to win to square the series at 2-2 and so retain the Ashes they'd held since 1989.

Langer was 75 not out and Hayden 32 not out with the left-handers' partnership their first three-figure stand of the series and well in excess of their previous best of 58 in the drawn third Test at Old Trafford.

One small consolation for England, who only needed to avoid defeat to win their first Ashes series since 1986-87, was that the skies had clouded over and rain seemed imminent. Covers were placed over the pitch as a precaution.

Australia resumed after lunch on 19 without loss.

Langer was 16 not out and Hayden, who hadn't scored more than 70 in his last 30 Test innings, was unbeaten on 22.

With a becalmed Hayden taking 53 balls to get double figures, it was left to Langer to do the bulk of the scoring in a reversal of their usual roles.

England though were without form fast bowler Simon Jones, who'd taken 18 wickets at 21 in the first four Tests of the series.

The Glamorgan quick was missing because of an ankle injury and England, who had called up fast bowler James Anderson into their squad, instead chose all-rounder Paul Collingwood, a medium-pacer, as his replacement.

England, needing only to avoid defeat to win their first Ashes series since 1986-87, had clearly hoped for runs from Collingwood but he only scored seven.

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