

# Enamul back for Tigers

## Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Enamul Haque returned to the national fold after a gap of almost one year while the national selectors also recalled batsman Rajin Saleh for the upcoming Tests against Sri Lanka that begins on December 26.

The national selectors, led by Rafiqul Alam, called up fourteen players for the two-match Test series yesterday with three changes from the Tigers' last assignment in South Africa earlier this month.

When all-rounder Naveem Islam injured his finger during Wednesday's ninth round National Cricket League match for Rajshahi and has been ruled out for up to two weeks, the selectors were in a pickle and ended up picking the experienced right-hander from Sylhet. But the exclusion of Nazmul Hossain, who did not feature in the African tour, and Abdur Razzak were a given.

Enamul replaces Razzak, who has been suspended indefinitely by the ICC (International Cricket Council) after being diagnosed with a 28-degree bent arm in his bowling action. The Sylhet leftarmer last played a Test in January this year in New Zealand. Dropped subsequently, Enamul took leave from the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) after Ranji Trophy side Maharashtra recruited him for the ongoing season.

Rafiqul Alam admitted that he saw little of the left-armer for the last year.

"It has been almost a year but Ranji Trophy is a tournament of better standard and right now he's playing a match (in Karnataka)," said the former national batsman during a press conference at the

Andrew Strauss became the eleventh

England player to score a century

India recently,

each innings in the first Test against

STAR Cricket

Australia v South Africa

First Test, Day Three

Live from 8:30am

**Neo Cricket** 

India v England

Live from 10:00am

ESPN

Sportscentre India

Sports News

Live at 8:30pm

What to

Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

After a barren first three match where he took just two wickets, Enamul took two wickets in the first day of the seventh round Ranji Trophy Super League match against Karnataka yesterday. He is expected to return on December 23 in time for the first Test.

Enamul was overlooked throughout



**ENAMUL HAQUE** 

the year and his sudden recall surprised many. "Enamul is a back-up spinner because we do not want to have a situation on the day of the match. But Shakib is our No 1 spinner for the last few months and in addition he also bats well," said Rafigul.

But the choice of the batsman was sur-

prising to say the least given the form shown by the national discard Mahmudullah Riyad, who has three first-class centuries under his belt in the National Cricket League.

Rajin, on the other hand, had the added advantage of having played the last home Test series against New Zealand. He totalled a paltry 26 runs from three innings and since being cast aside for the South Africa tour, the one-time national captain has made 266 runs with a top score of 94 against Dhaka in the seventh round.

"First of all the conditions were different in South Africa and we played the ODI series first there so he (Rajin) would have needed some time to adjust," said Rafigul who added, "Butwe couldn't find a place for Riyad despite his very good form. We are happy for his rich vein of form and he will definitely be in consideration for the tri-series."

There was another injury worry for the Tigers when Tamim Iqbal pulled out of the Chittagong-Barisal clash this week through a finger problem but Rafiqul assured that the left-hander has recovered and is available. The chief selector also informed that Syed Rasel has a serious back problem and will be out for almost three months.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Ashraful's reign as captain will continue till the trination as it will be part of the Sri Lanka series but the cricket operations committee will decide his extension.

### SQUAD

Mohammad Ashraful (captain), Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (vice-captain), Zunaed where we land without a specialist bowler Siddiqui, Imrul Kayes, Rokibul Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Mehrab Hossain, Shakib Al Hasan, Rajin Saleh, Mushfigur Rahim (wicketkeeper), Shahadat Hossain, Enamul Haque, Mahbubul Alam, Sajidul Islam.



PHOTO: STAR

Sri Lankan superstar Muttiah Muralidaran (R) is about to get up while teammate Thilan Samaraweera (C) is taking his time after arrival at the Zia International Airport yesterday.

# Mahela has India win on mind

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Sri Lanka cricket team arrived in the capital yesterday and captain Mahela Jayawardene made it clear that they are determined to maintain their supremacy against the Tigers.

famous 2-1 series victory against India is still fresh in their mind and that's why their absence form Test cricket for a couple of months would not play any part in their performance during the two-match

Test series. "The last series we have played was against India in Sri Lanka and yes it was about two and a half months ago. But then the memories of beating India 2-1 are still fresh. So it is always good to think about those things and make sure that we get ourselves ready for the series," said make an arrangement for him. Jayawardene while talking with the

"We have been playing a lot of domestic cricket, the three-day competition. Most of the guys had 4-5 games under their belt before they came here. So the preparation has been really good," said the Lankan skipper, who looked tired after the flight arrived one and a half hour late due to heavy fog.

Sri Lanka scripted the victory as the much-vaunted Indian batsmen were The Lankan skipper said that the devastated by a mystery spinner throughout the series and it was none other than the sensational Ajantha Mendis.

> So, the obvious question was whether the visitors will miss Mendis in the series but Jayawardene played down the opin-

"I think the physio's report says he should be fit for the second Test. The team we have got here is a very good team as well. So we won't rush at this juncture. If he is fit to play, we will have a fitness test back home and I know the board will

"But we don't play as individual playreporters at the Zia International Airport. ers, we are a team that play cricket as a team. Ajantha (Mendis) is not here, yes it's a different combination, but whoever is going to replace him will do the job," the captain added.

Replying to a question Mahela said that it has always been a challenge for them to play against the Tigers despite the fact they have a very good record against them, winning the previous ten Tests quite comprehensively.

"It's very difficult to say (what kind of challenge we are expecting), we just need to settle down first. Obviously they have a good side.

"They have quite a few new faces now in the team which we need to analyse and every time we played them it has always been a challenge for us," he observed.

"So we won't be complacent and won't underestimate the challenge that we have got ahead of us. We have got a very good team and we just want to make sure that we play good cricket," he added.

In the last one-day engagement, Bangladesh produced some nervous SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

### The Indian cricket board Thursday cancelled "It will not affect the 2011 World Cup as that next year's tour of Pakistan on instructions is a different tournament," he said, adding he from the government in the wake of the believed that relations between the Indian and Mumbai siege. Pakistani cricket boards would not suffer due to Relations between the neighbouring coun- Indiascrapping the tour.

India call Pak tour off

tries have been strained since last month's terror attacks, which India blames on Islamic militants based in Pakistan.

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

during the five-week tour from January 6 to Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ijaz February 19. "We received a communication from the

government stating that in the present circumstances, it is not feasible to tour Pakistan," Ratnakar Shetty, chief administrative officer of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said, without elaborating.

He said no discussions had taken place over whether the series could instead have been

played at neutral venues. Shetty denied that the decision could wreck

the next Cricket World Cup, which is meant to be jointly hosted by India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

But Pakistan cricket officials said they were unhappy with Thursday's announcement.

"We take this decision as disappointing --India were scheduled to play three Tests, five something which will hurt Pakistan cricket one-day internationals and a Twenty20 match badly -- but it was beyond our control," Butt told AFP.

> Indian Sports Minister Manohar Singh Gill had said last week he was not in favour of the team playing in Pakistan when "people from their soil were indulging in mass murder in India.

> It was to have been the fifth series between the two countries since 2004, when cricket ties SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## welcome govt decision

PTI, New Delhi

Former cricketers yesterday welcomed the government's decision to call off the Indian team's tour of Pakistan, saying it was not the right time to play cricket under the tense atmosphere between the two countries in the wake of the Mumbai terror attacks.

The former cricketers said the decision was expected as the reason to cancel the tour, scheduled for early next year,

was beyond sports. Former captain Kapil Dev said the government must have taken the decision in the best interest of the country and cricketers.

"It is upto the government to decide. We have to respect the government's decision. Obviously, the government must have decided against the tour taking into account enough good reasons for it. The need of the hour is to follow the government's decision and the people's

decision," he told PTI. Former captain Anil Kumble, who retired from international cricket during the recent series against Australia, said it was a "good decision" under the circumstances.

"It is a good decision under the circumstances. We had known that we won't be travelling to Pakistan under the present situation", he said.

Ajit Wadekar, who led the country in some famous victories abroad, felt the Indian cricketers could not be safe in Pakistan under the circumstances and the government has taken a right decision.

## V-day tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

Amol Roy thumped Rafiqul Islam in straight sets in the first round of the Popular Pharmaceuticals Victory Day should be brought in for his third Test match in tennis tournament at the National Tennis Complex yesterday. The player from the host England may have to choose between spinners

club beat Rafigul 6-2, 6-2 while there were wins for Kanchan seamer from Steve Harmison or James Roy and Dipu Lal in the men's singles competition.

Pietersen, himself recovering from a frac-The women's draw was tured rib suffered while playing squash before also held yesterday with Sathi SEE PAGE 18 COL 2 Sarkar becoming the top seed.

# Indian greats Goals galore welcome govt Goals galore

SPORTS REPORTER



Goals flew left and right on resumption of the B. League with Brothers Union and Chittagong Abahani claiming huge wins while giants Mohammedan Sporting Club ensured a successful

trip down south with a 1-0 win over Khulna Abahani yesterday.

Farashganj Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium while Chittagong Abahani beat Arambagh Krira Sangha also by the 4-0 margin at the MA Aziz Stadium.

The country's only professional football competition was on an 11-day break for the Eid ul Azha holidays and no sooner the footballers returned to the pitch, action resumed as well.

Mohammedan moved to eighteen points from the first leg of the league after Egyptian midfielder Hazem Mahmood struck in the 34th minute. The win takes the Motijheel giants to second place, four points behind league leaders Abahani.

At the Big Bowl, Brothers' Nigerian striker Henry Quae placed the ball into the Farashganj

goal after latching on to a right-sided cross from Topu in the 22nd minute. Eight minutes later, the hefty forward scored his second when his blistering half volley found the back of the net after initially receiving the ball from Shakil.

Henry's compatriot Divine made it 3-0 in the injury time of the first half when he headed the ball home from the corner sent in by Matiur Munna. The Nigerian defender now has four goals to his name for the season. Farashganj created two chances in the

Brothers struck four past a hapless second half but in the 80th minute, their defence messed up Liton's freekick and the ball trickled into the back of the net to put an exclamation point to the day's result.

Brothers move to third position with 18 points but remains behind Mohammedan due to the former's inferior goal difference.

Away in Chittagong, the port city's Abahani outfit banked on two late strikes from Rony Islam, who thumped in his goals in the 57th and 76th minutes. Earlier, Mithun Chowdhury opened the scoring before Arambagh's Mostofa Kaba scored an own goal to make it 2-0 for Chittagong Abahani. They are now in ninth place with 12 points while the Dhaka side are in tenth position.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

Brothers Union's Nigerian forward Henry Quae somersaults in delight after scoring his second goal against Farashganj in the B. League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.



tered to 243 for eight at stumps Australia who finished the

Mohali Test starts today

An unpredictable wicket and India's awesome

recent form have forced England to delay nam-

ing their team for the must-win second Test

decision on the playing XI would be taken just

before the toss as the tourists attempt to level

Test and a little abrasive, so we want to see how

"The surface is a bit different from the first

India won the first Test in Chennai by six

England resume battle at the Punjab Cricket

wickets after surpassing a seemingly improba-

ble target of 387 on the final day to achieve the

fourth-highest run chase in Test history.

on the second day of the first second day of a gripping Test against Australia at the contest on top. WACA on Thursday.

dancy.

Cricket

starting here Friday.

the two-match series.

said Pietersen.

AFP, Mohali

omous overs. De Villiers and Mitchell Johnson ruined Kallis had both raised half-South Africa's brave pushes centuries and thoughts had for safety with a dramatic turned to the size of South seven-wicket haul that Africa's lead. Johnson stopped included five late break- all that with 42 for 7 off 18 throughs as the visitors splut- overs and ensured it was

South Africa were 234 for 3, Jacques Kallis and AB de following a 124-run stand Villiers had almost put South between de Villiers and Kallis, Africa in a comfortable posi- but they both departed to tion when Johnson surged to edges to Brad Haddin in concareer-best figures and put secutive overs to start the nail Australia, who posted 375, on biting in the visiting dressing top during another fascinat- room. Soon there were unconing arm-wrestle for ascen- trollable shakes as the debutant JP Duminy was unlucky to In an incredible finish to be ruled caught behind off his the day Johnson grabbed 5 for arm and Morne Morkel and

England in a dilemma

England captain Kevin Pietersen said a final batsman Owais Shah, who hit three half-

place of Ian Bell.

Anderson.

Jason Krejza. This is a game that changes as quickly as a child's mind. The South Africans have

had dreams like this before, where they walk into gardens of success and don't notice the only cliff. How they recover from these brutal blows will determine how successful they are for the remainder of the series. They were not the only ones who were shocked.

Perth is a fitting venue for a performance like this. It was Dennis Lillee, the WACA hero and association president, who spotted Johnson as a teenager in Townsville and started his representative journey. They spoke before the match about how to bowl on the surface and Johnson listened. In the off-season

Association ground in the northern town of

Mohali, where their predecessors were ham-

mered by 10 wickets in 2001 and suffered a

defeat on world champions Australia at the

same ground in October on their way to a 2-0

centuries in the preceding one-day series,

series win in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

The Indians also inflicted a massive 320-run

England need to decide if middle-order

With fast bowler Stuart Broad fit after miss-

ing the Chennai Test with a hamstring injury,

Graeme Swann and Monty Panesar, or drop one

nine-wicket defeat in 2006.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

### Sir Alex Ferguson

(Man United manager) "He has been a fantastic player for us. When he was younger he would score 12-15 goals a season for us. He can't do that now but he brings other things to a game -- his intelligence on the field is terrific." On Paul Scholes.



Ctg Mohammedan v Muktijoddha enue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagon Time: 2:45pm Rahmatganj v Shelkh Russel Venue Bangabandhu National

Time: 4.30pm

