

Nazmul to cover for Mashrafe

AFP, Dhaka

Bangladesh on Monday named medium-pacer Nazmul Hossain as a cover for injured captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza for the remaining two-Test series against the West Indies.

Hossain, who played his first and only Test in December 2004, would fly to the Caribbean later Monday night, Bangladesh Cricket Board spokesman Rabeeb Imam told AFP.

"Nazmul Hossain has been named as a cover for Mortaza. The Bangladesh captain will undergo scan on his injured knee and then the team will decide whether he will feature in the remaining matches of the series," he said.

Mortaza, named captain just ahead of the West Indies series, fell over and injured his right knee while bowling on Saturday, the third day of the ongoing first Test at Kingstown, St Vincent.

The fast bowler left the field and was taken to hospital for a precautionary medical examination.

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Did U Know?

The England football team first appeared with numbers on their shirts in 1937.



TALK TURKEY

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari.

Victoria Club reached the final of the first Telekarta cricket tournament after defeating Masterpara Cricket Club by a massive 179 runs in the second semifinal held at the Khagrachhari government high school ground on Monday.

Batting first, Victoria Club amassed 253-7 in the 30 over a side match. Zakaria played a brilliant stroke of 104 runs in just 66 balls, while Faruk scored 70.

Mollik of Masterpara picked up two wickets for 44 runs while Gisan Chakma, Jhony, Masum and Amlan picked up a wicket each.

In reply, Masterpara Cricket Club was bundled out for just 74 runs in 17 overs. Middle order batsman Masum contributed the highest 26 runs.

Murad Hossen and Faruq of Victoria Club damaged the Masterpara Cricket club by picking up three wickets for 10 runs each.

Among others Morshed Ali picked up two wickets, while Mosarraf Hossen and Habib Mia picked up a wicket each.

Top scorer Zakaria was adjudged the man-

of-the-match in the game.

PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE

Rangpur Kimor Kira Sangstha defeated Fulchhari Kira Shikha Pratishthan by 26 runs while Gaibandha Jagorani Club defeated Kachua UP Eleven by 34 runs during the Bonarpura Premier Cricket League held at the Bonarpura Kazi Azher Ali High School ground on Monday.

In the first match, Rangpur Kimor Kira Sangstha scored 85-8 in their stipulated ten overs. Jewel, who scored the highest with 27 runs, was later declared the man-of-the-match. In reply Fulchhari Kira Shikha Pratishthan were bundled out for just 59 runs.

In the second match, Gaibandha Jagorani Club batted first and scored 58-4 in ten over. In reply Kachua UP Eleven was bowled out for just 24 runs.

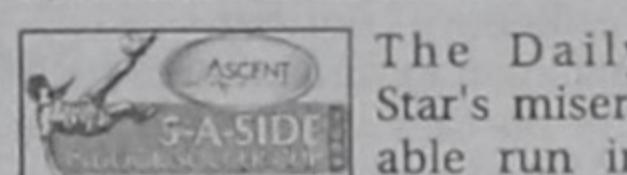
KIDS TENNIS '09

The KIDS Tennis Series Tournament '09 started at the National Tennis Complex on Sunday. The training program will involve children between the ages of 8-14 years and is expected to create enthusiasm towards tennis.

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Daily Star's misery on

SPORTS REPORTER



The Daily Star's miserable run in the Ascent 5-a-side indoor corporate soccer cup continued as they were humbled 4-1 by Commercial Bank of Ceylon at Scholastica's STM Hallin Uttara.

The bankers were on top from the start as they scored two goals in the first half courtesy of some schoolboy defending from the newspapermen.

However early in the second half, Ashfaq Wares pulled a goal back from a direct free-kick. At one point a comeback looked likely but the hopes of the men from Karwan Bazar fizzled out as soon as the lights

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PHOTO: AFP

RISING TO THE OCCASION: Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal jumps in the air to negotiate a rising delivery from West Indies paceman Tino Best (not in picture) during his superb knock of 128, his maiden Test ton, on the fourth day of the first Test at Arnos Vale in Kingstown on Sunday.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

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SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

What an escape!

Cricket

AFP, Cardiff

James Anderson and Monty Panesar staged one of cricket's great escapes as England clung on for a dramatic draw in the first Ashes Test at Sophia Gardens here on Sunday.

England's last-wicket duo batted together for 40 minutes to deny Ashes holders Australia what seemed a certain victory.

The left-handers' stand of 19 spanned 69 balls after England had been in desperate trouble when Paul Collingwood was out for 74 after a gutsy innings lasting nearly five-and-three-quarter hours.

Collingwood's exit left England on 233 for nine.

But the 10th-wicket duo held firm as England ended the match on 252 for nine with Anderson 21 not out and Panesar unbeaten on seven.

The teams now head to Lord's, where Australia have not lost a Test since 1934, for the second match in this five-Test

series starting on Thursday.

"It is huge for us," said Anderson, who batted for 72 minutes.

"To go to Lord's in a couple of days now still level in the series is a massive boost."

Panesar praised "cricket buddy" Collingwood for helping him with his batting.

"He's been throwing me balls and working really hard with me on my batting and it has paid off today."

England captain Andrew Strauss said: "All credit must go to Paul Collingwood -- he was outstanding."

"Also we have to mention Jimmy and Monty. The batsmen shouldn't have let them get in that position, but they showed a lot of character."

Meanwhile, Australia captain Ricky Ponting, named man-of-the-match for his 150 in an innings of 674 for six declared, was left with thoughts of what might have been.

"I am disappointed we didn't win the game, I thought we played well enough over the five days," he said.

"But I am still really proud of the boys. We can take a lot of heart out of the game although we came up a bit short in the end."

Apart from Collingwood, no other top-order batsman made more in the second innings than Strauss's 17.

And when Collingwood was eventually out, caught at the second attempt in the gully by Michael Hussey off fast bowler Peter Siddle, having faced 245 balls with six boundaries, it seemed England had lost all hope of avoiding a convincing defeat.

There were a minimum of 11.3 overs remaining when Anderson and Panesar came together.

But they demonstrated a defensive



PHOTO: AFP

England tail-ender James Anderson punches the air after salvaging a dramatic draw on the final day of the first Ashes Test against Australia in Cardiff on Sunday.

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Tamim takes Tigers in a position of strength

Cricket

AFP, Kingstown

Tamim Iqbal cracked a maiden Test hundred to lead Bangladesh to 321 for five in their second innings against West Indies in the opening Test on Sunday.

Tamim, who made 128, took advantage of a depleted West Indies attack, operating on an unresponsive pitch in sweltering temperatures, to smash 17 fours from 243 balls in close to five and a half hours of batting to give Bangladesh the platform for a lead of 252 at the stumps on

LATEST

West Indies were 22-1 in 3 overs chasing a target of 277, half and hour before lunch on the final day. Bangladesh were all out for 345 after resuming the day on 321-5, leaving the West Indies 80 overs to reach their target.

the fourth day.

Another middle-order collapse however undermined Bangladesh's progress in the final session before Shakib Al Hasan (26 not out) and Mashfiqur Rahim (28 not out) batted through the last 90 minutes to share an unbroken stand of 54 for the sixth wicket to get them back on track.

Tamim held centre stage and arrived at his milestone from 206 balls, when he guided a delivery from off-spinner Ryan Austin into square cover and scrambled a single as a bout of cramp surged through his right-leg.

Fortune had favoured Tamim twice in his

innings though.

He was 30 when Floyd Reifer dropped him at first slip off Darren Sammy, and he was 76, when Omar Phillips muffed a straightforward chance at mid-wicket off Austin.

The left-handed opener, however, kept his nerve, and anchored two vital stands.

He shared an opening stand of 82 with Imrul Kayes, who scored 24, and then added 146 for the second wicket with Zunaed Siddiqui, who made 78.

"It's a dream come true for any player to score hundred in Test match cricket," said Tamim.

"Our head coach Jamie Siddons always says that 'the more balls we can leave, the more our chances increase of us getting a big score'.

In other words, it is not always about the shots. The good balls you respect, and the bad balls you put away.

"The pitch is very flat, and if you do not want to get out, no one can get you out. It is a really flat pitch. I was going well, but then I got out playing a poor stroke."

He added: "We are going very well right now, but we lost four wickets in the last session which set us back a bit. Mashfiqur and Shakib are doing a good job though, and if we can get a lead of around 300, I think it would be enough to put them under pressure."

"Shakib is also one of the best spinners in the world, and I think he and the other bowlers can make it hard for the West Indies on the last day."

Shakib and Rahim eased the late pressure on Bangladesh, after the Tigers lost Siddiqui, Mohammad Ashraful, and Rakibul Hasan for nine runs in the space of 16 balls to slide to 267 for five.

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Alam ton brings Pakistan back

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Debutant Fawad Alam scored an unbeaten century as Pakistan produced a remarkable turnaround to claw their way back in the second Test against Sri Lanka on Monday.

The tourists, who were bowled out for 90 in their first innings, hit back to dismiss Sri Lanka for 240 and then cruised to 178-1 in their second knock by stumps on the second day.

Left-handed Alam led the way with a determined 102 not out to give Pakistan a lead of 28 runs with nine wickets in hand on a dry pitch that appeared to have eased out under the hot sun.

The fearless 23-year-old from Karachi moved to 98 by luring left-arm spinner



PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan opener Fawad Alam stretches to play a sweep shot during his fine knock of unbeaten 102 on the second day of the second Test against Sri Lanka at the P Sara Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

'Conquering heroes'

Cricket

AFP, London

Britain's media Monday hailed most of England's cricket team as conquering heroes after they salvaged a draw against Australia in the first Ashes Test in Cardiff.

James Anderson and Monty Panesar were praised for their gritty determination after the last-wicket duo saw out the final 40 minutes at Sophia Gardens during a 69-ball stand that took England to safety on Sunday.

"England tasted one of those glorious dramatic draws yesterday that only Test cricket at the highest level of intensity can deliver," Simon Barnes wrote in The Times newspaper.

Bowler Panesar, for his part, said he just tried to stay calm and focused in the final stages of the match.

Writing in the Daily Mail, Panesar also said he realised England had a "big chance" when Australia brought on part-time spinner Marcus North.

Paul Collingwood was also singled out in the press for his patient last-day innings of 74 which spanned nearly six hours.

"Collingwood, unshaven, sunburnt and mired in sweat and dust, batted for 17 minutes shy of six hours, 245 balls of sheer bloody-mindedness and self-restraint to take England

to the brink of safety," The Times' Mike Atherton, a former England captain, said.

But the press