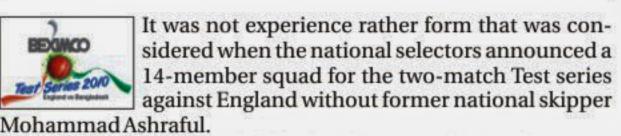
Ashraful fails form test

Bangladesh's team for England Tests named

SPORTS REPORTER



The axe fell on Ashraful for the three-match one-day series against England due to a poor run of form. Subsequently the right-hander continued his poor run of form in the domestic competition as well as against England in the three-day match which sealed his fate.

But as expected middle-order batsman Rokibul Hasan retained his place in the Test team after his impressive 107* that was followed by a fifty in the second innings against England at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong.

"At the moment he (Ashraful) is totally out of form. We feel that it would be better for him to score some runs in the coming domestic matches to get back his confidence. There is no doubt about his class as a batsman and we are hopeful he will come back to the team very soon," chief selector Rafiqul Alam explained the reason behind the omission of the ace batsman.

Left-hander Zunaed Siddiqui has also been struggling but his fifty against India and 37 in the second innings of the three-day warm-up match was good enough to retain the place while Aftab Ahmed also looked in out of touch after his return from ICL but his 46 in the 3rd ODI gave the selectors an impression that the right-hander is all set to get back to his rhythm.

"Zunaed looked good in the second innings (of the practice match against England) and he had also looked good in New Zealand.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4



Shakib Al Hasan (captain) Left-handed batsman, left-arm spinner Age: 22, Tests: 17 Runs: 977, Wickets: 58

Rokibul Hasan

right-arm leg-spinner

Right-handed

Age: 22,

Tests: 7

Runs: 268



Nayeem Islam

Age: 23,

Tests: 2

Runs: 44,

Wickets: 1

Right-handed batsman

right-arm off-spinner

Mushfigur Rahim Tamim Igbal Left-handed (vice-captain) batsman, right-arm Right-handed off-spinner batsman, wicketkeeper Age: 21, Tests: 19 Age: 20, Tests: 15 Runs: 893, Runs: 940 HS: 151 Catches/Stumpings: 29/4

Rubel Hossain

batsman, right-arm

Right-handed

fast bowler

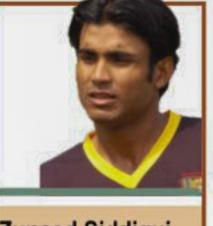
Age: 20,

Tests: 5

Wickets: 9



Imrul Kayes Left-handed batsman, right-arm off-spinner Age: 23, Tests: 9 Runs: 247 HS: 33



Zunaed Siddiqui Left-handed batsman, right-arm off-spinner Age: 22, Tests: 14 Runs: 617 HS: 78

Abdur Razzak

Left-handed

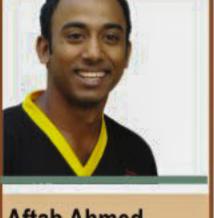
left-arm spinner

batsman.

Age: 27,

Tests: 5

Wickets: 7



Aftab Ahmed Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pacer Age: 24, Tests: 15 Runs: 555

Enamul Haque

left-arm spinner

Left-handed

batsman.

Age: 23,

Tests: 14

Wickets: 41



Mahmudullah Riyad Right-handed batsman, right-arm off-spinner Age: 24, Tests: 5 Runs: 387,

Shahadat Hossain

right-arm fast bowler

Right-handed

batsman.

Age: 23,

Tests: 26

Wickets: 60

Wickets: 16

Upon hearing the news, Ashraful was visibly upset and manage to leave the ground without speaking to the waiting reporters. However, it was learnt that he had spoken to Rokibul Hasan to get some tips on his batting before leaving the ground.

Bowling spark

doesn't spare

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR, Ctg

Mohammad Ashraful was

bowling when the selectors announced the squad for the first Test against England on

Friday. Hence, the ex-national skipper was not aware that he

had been left out of the side

until after both sides decided

to call the game off with nine

overs remaining.

him

Ashraful however has only himself to blame for failing to make the cut. He failed to spark with the bat as he managed only 30 in the second innings and with his run of poor form not showing any signs of abating, his omission was almost a foregone conclusion.

He however did ruffle some feathers, only with the ball as his leg spin accounted for three of the four wickets to fall on the third and final day at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

honoured

Atherton

CRICINFO, undated

Michael Atherton, the former England captain, has won the UK's top honour for a sports writer, being named Sports Writer of the Year for 2009 by the Sports Journalists Association.

Atherton, cricket correspondent of The Times, was acclaimed for his coverage of the 2009 Ashes, with one of the judges, a sports editor, describing him as "peerless in his own sport, entertaining, thoughtprovoking and challenging on any other subject," and another saying "his elegant style, thoughtful but incisive opinions were, in an Asheswinning year, indispensable."

In a good evening for Atherton, he was also named Sports Columnist of the Year, highly commended in the Specialist Correspondent category, and took some credit for his commentary work as Sky Sports' Test cricket coverage won the TV Sports Programme award.

Atherton was in Chittagong covering England's tour of Bangladesh when the awards

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



ATN Bangla National Cricket League

Final, Day Five Chittagong v Rajshahi Live from 9:30am

SuperSport2 West Indies v Zimbabwe Third ODI Live from 7:30pm

Sportscentre India Sports News Live from 8:30pm

ESPN

SuperSport3

UEFA Champions League Man United v AC Milan

Live from 1:45am (Thursday)

SuperSport7 **UEFA Champions League** Real Madrid v Lyon Live from 1:45am (Thursday)





Time: 3:30pm Venue: Feni Stadium Abahani v Farashganj Time: 5:00pm Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

NATIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE

Rajshahi on the brink of title

SPORTS REPORTER

All-rounder Sohrawardi Shuvo consolidated Rajshahi's position with both ball and bat at the end of fourth day's play of the five-day final of 11th National Cricket league at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Shuvo took four wickets for 73 runs in Chittagong's first innings to restrict them for 301 that got Rajshahi a first innings lead of 71 runs. Then Shuvo scored 68 runs as Rajshahi reached 177 for 2 at the end of fourth day to have a lead of 248 with a day's play remaining. The defending champions Rajshahi will feel they already have a hand on the trophy since anything but a defeat would see them edge the port city side to the title having taken a lead in the first innings.

Chittagong resumed the day on 266 for six with Mominul Haque batting on 72 and Elias Sunny on 29. Mominul and Sunny added 24 more runs before Mominul was trapped in front of the wicket by Farhad Hossain for 82. That dismissal brought a mini collapse in the batting line-up as Chittagong lost their last four wickets for 11 runs. Saqlain Sajib took two wickets in the morning while Shuvo took one.

With a 71-run lead, Rajshahi made a good start to their second innings reaching 45 runs in 10 overs before Sabbir Rahman became a victim of Kazi Kamrul for 20. Zahurul Islam joined the other opener Shuvo and the two of them notched up a century partnership before Shuvo feel to Fasial Hossain's left-arm spin. But before that he played a patient knock of 68 runs off 158 deliveries that featured nine boundaries. Zahurul though remained unbeaten on 67 with Farhad Hossain on 13 as Rajshahi reached 177 before stumps were drawn for the fourth day.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJSHAHI: First innings 372 all out (Zahurul 59, Shuvo 32, Sabbir 41, Masud 55, Anisur 52, Dhiman 66 not out; Kamrul 2-84, Babu 1-71, Mamun 3-44, Sunny 2-73).

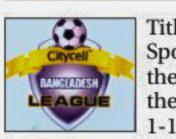
CHITTAGONG: First innings 301 all out (Nazimuddin 80, Mominul 82, Sunny 46; Shuvo 4-73, Sajib 3-62).

RAJSHAHI: Second innings 177 for two (Shuvo 68, Sabbir 20, Zahurul 67 not out, Farhad 13 not out; Kamrul 1-48, Faisal 1-47)

MSC held again

Alfaz slams hattrick

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet



RATING CHESS

the table

SPORTS REPORTER

Three players were sharing the

lead with four points each at

the end of fourth round of

Prime Bank 12th Int'l Rating

Chess at the Chess Federation

yesterday. The joint leaders

were Mihaz Uddin Ahmed,

Oten, and Zaved. Four players

were in joint second position

matches, Mihaz Uddin beat

Farhad Imam, Zaved beat

Abdul Momin, Oten beat

Feroz Ahmed, Sohel beat

Rashid, Monir beat Salim, Saif

beat Shaokat, and Siam bet

Dulal. Fifth round matches

will start at 4pm today.

In the fourth round

with 3.5 points each.

Three top

Title contenders Mohammedan Sporting Club stumbled again in the Bangladesh League when the Dhaka giants were held to a 1-1 draw with hosts Beanibazar Sporting Club in an ugly encounter at the Sylhet

Stadium here yesterday. After being held to a goalless draw against Sheikh Russel KC in the previous match, the Black and Whites intent was to return to a winning run through a victory against hosts Beanibazar and they also went ahead in the stoppage time of the first half through a strike

from Nigerian striker Alamu Bukola Olaleken. With the visitors leading the match, the match rolled into injury time in the dying minutes and it seemed Mohammedan were going to confirm their ninth win but suddenly Beanibazar's Liberian player Benjamin Cooper broke the heart of the visitors as he levelled the score four minutes into injury time.

The Mohammedan players protested against the equaliser citing offside but referee Tayeb Hasan stuck to his decision before blowing the long whistle.

Later, the Mohammedan players blocked the way of the referee and they along with manager Aminul Islam Babu behaved maliciously with Tayeb and the officials of Sylhet District Sports Association (DSA) came to solve the problem and one of them was assaulted by Mohammedan medio Mamunul Islam that led the spectators to break the fence to enter the ground and chased the players on way to their dressing room.

Later, Mohammedan players expressed their sorrow and the spectators calmed down. Mohammedan coach Maruful Hage told the

Daily Star by phone that manager Babu and a few players got hurt in the scuffle as a dozen cops were deployed in the game.

Maruf also said that five Beanibazar players appeared in an offside position when Benjamin SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



PHOTO: INTERNET

Indian cricket legend Kapil Dev (L) receives a commemorative cap from International Cricket Council president David Morgan after the former was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame in Dubai yesterday.

HOCKEY TRANSFERS

6 quit nat'l team

Shafiul Islam

Right-handed

right-arm fast bowler

batsman.

Age: 20,

Tests: 3

Wickets: 5

SPORTS REPORTER

As many as six hockey players tendered their resignation from the national team yesterday after failing to get a team on the concluding day of the two-day special transfers window for the national players at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

National skipper Moshiur Rahman, Mosharaf Hossain, Zahid Bin Talib, Abdus Sajjad, Rimon Kumar Ghosh and Khandokar Hasan, who all were kept in the pool, are the players to quit.

Apart from them, BKSP student Golam Mostafa and Pushkor Khisa, who are in the Netherlands, also failed to get a team for the domestic competitions after the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) kept 19 players, who toured Germany last year as part of their preparation for the 11th South Asian Games, in the pool as 11 players were bought by Mohammedan SC, Usha Krira Chakra and Abahani in the two-day bourse.

"After failing to find any teams on the concluding day of the transfers, we have placed our resignations to the federation today [Tuesday] because we are suffering financially only because of representing the national **SEE PAGE 18 COL 1**

Kapil in Hall of Fame

CRICINFO, undated

Former India captain Kapil Dev has been inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. The 51-year-old played 131 Tests and 225 ODIs across a 16-year career, and is best remembered for leading India to victory in the 1983 World Cup.

Kapil made his international debut in a one-dayer against Pakistan in Quetta in October 1978. His Test debut followed two weeks later in Faisalabad against the same opponents.

One of the greatest fast bowlers that India has produced and its finest bowling all-rounder, he ended with a remarkable 434 Test wickets and 253 ODI wickets.

In 1994, he became the leading wicket-taker in Tests when he overtook Richard Hadlee, a record that was eventually broken by West Indies pacer Courtney Walsh. Also, in 1988 he leapfrogged another West Indies fast bowler, Joel Garner, to become the most successful bowler in ODIs, a record he held until 1994 when his tally of 253 wickets was passed by Wasim Akram.

Kapil's best bowling figures in a Test were 11 for 146 against Pakistan in Chennai in 1980, while in ODIs his best

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

Drama as game ends in draw

Cricket

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The three-day practice match between Bangladesh A and the touring England ended in a draw but only after proceedings at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong had descended to almost a farce yesterday.

The two captains called off play nine overs before the scheduled time with England needing a further 99 for victory.

But the main talking point of the day was England captain Alastair Cook's decision to force a declaration from the Bangladesh A team by serving up a spell of buffet bowling by the captain himself and part-timer Michael Carberry. Their 9 over spell went for an astonishing 189

runs, with Cook himself conceding 111, as

Shuvagoto Das scored 91 from 30 balls and Dollar Mahmud smashed an amazing 16 ball 66.

Both these would have been records, had the match not lost first class status after Bangladesh A replaced Mahbubul Alam with Syed Rasel in the second day due to an injury.

Bangladesh A scored 362 for six in their second innings to take an overall lead of 283 before giving in to England's overt suggestions and declaring.

The main focus was on the batting of Rokibul Hasan and Mohammad Ashraful, but both men perished early in the day. Rokibul just added one to his overnight 50 before falling prey to a super delivery from Steven Finn. Ashraful for his part, looked composed and settled but was bowled by a shooter from Ajmal Shahzad for only 30, continuing his poor run of form, and all but ruling out a chance to force

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



PHOTOS: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER HIS WOES GO ON AND ON! Bangladesh A batsman Mohammad Ashraful's castle is raided and taken over by Ajmal Shahzad of England on the third and final day of the practice match at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. His poor run of form also bowled him out of the squad for the two-Test series against the tourists.

Game or fun?

Cricket

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR, Chittagong

There was plenty of drama at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday after the touring England side served up a spell of what can best be described as exhibition bowling to force a declaration from the Bangladesh A side on the final day of their three-day practice match. There was an explosion of runs as captain Alastair Cook

decided to bring himself and part-time spinner Michael Carberry on, much to the pleasure of the Bangladesh A batsmen.

Soon after England had managed to remove both Rokibul Hasan and Mohammad Ashraful, Cook gave the signal to his fielders to ease up and let the batsmen plunder as many runs as they could, in the hopes of forcing an early declaration and giving their batsmen a go.

His wish was realized as Bangladesh A did declare with an overall lead of 283 but only after Shuvagoto Das and Dollar Mahmud had helped themselves to extraordinary scores racking up 189 in their nine over spell. Shuvagoto scored a 30-ball 91 while Dollar smashed an amaz-

ing 16-ball 66 Cook, who had to date bowled only one over in his career, bowled five overs conceding a mind-boggling 111 runs while

Michael Carberry, who yet to make his debut in international cricket, bowled four overs conceding 78 runs. Cook offered total 12 boundaries and 10 sixes while Carberry conceded 11 boundaries and five sixes in their nine over spell.

PARACHUTE CHESS Mahfuz takes

early lead

SPORTS REPORTER

FIDE Master Syed Mahfuzur Rahman led the points table in the Parachute Advansed International Chess Tournament at the end of second round at the conference room of Uni Resort in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Mahfuz beat WFM Tanima Parveen to earn two points from two outings.

FM Abu Sufian Shakil, Shamima Akter Liza and Indian Kiran Manisha Mohanty shared the second position with 1.5 points each as Liza beat Russian Minina Veronika, Shakil defeated compatriot Saif Uddin and Kiran outdid FM Mohammad Abdul Malek in their respec-

tive games. Besides, Peter Long of Malaysia beat Indian Dhyani Dave.