



A goalmouth action from the Bangladesh League match between Beanibazar and Mohammedan at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.

6 quit nat'l team, said Moshir, who however refused low offers from Abahani and Usha.

"That's why we see no reasons to play for the national team in future because we have been offered poor payment since we were bracketed in the pool system," said the defender.

Moshir also said that they demanded the game's governing body in the country to make all the national players free and reduce the quota of five foreign players to three.

The former BKSP student informed that BHF general secretary Khandoker Jamiluddin was informed about the steps and he told Moshir that he would take necessary measures.

It was not an unlikely incident compared to last season when 11 players were also victim of the pool system before the Usha Krira Chakra signed up eight of them through a mutual understanding deal with other participants clubs.

Before the start of the special transfers, there was an indication in the hockey arena that eight national players were trying hard to get a team and it turned true on the concluding day as Usha signed up only Sheikh Mohammad Nannu to complete their quota of four players from pool.

League committee secretary Anvir Adil said that they would place the matter to the governing body's meeting on March 14.

Meanwhile, Mohammedan also signed up four players on the opening day while Abahani took one player from the pool.

THIRD ODI IN NEW ZEALAND
Aussies take 2-1 lead

Cricket
CRICINFO, undated

Brad Haddin's second one-day international century gave Australia a 2-1 lead and the most one-sided victory of the tour, as they chased down their target with 16 balls to spare. Haddin's 110 was his highest ODI score and he ended Daniel Vettori's hopes of winning what he said before the match was "the most important game of the series".

Ricky Ponting was annoyed in the opening two games at his batsmen's inability to capitalise on their starts, and they resolved that problem at Seddon Park. Ponting made 69 and combined with Haddin for a match-winning 151-run partnership that justified Ponting's rare decision to send New Zealand in. It is a gamble he has taken 24 times in his ODI captaincy career for a remarkable 20 victories.

His bowlers did the job early by dismissing New Zealand for a thoroughly gettable 245 and in the chase, Haddin set about determining the result early. Haddin loves batting against New Zealand; his only two ODI hundreds and his first Test century have come against them, and in all three forms of the game he averages 52.06 against New Zealand compared to an overall career mark of 34.55.

He did cruel things to Michael Mason, who at 35 was playing his first international since mid-2008 and must have finished the day wondering if fighting back into the team was all worthwhile. A no-ball, was dabbled by Haddin for four past the wicketkeeper and the subsequent free-hit was slapped contemptuously back over his head for six.

It left Mason with the extraordinary economy rate of 66 after one legal delivery. Haddin drove two more boundaries in the over, which cost Mason 20, and the bowler was lucky that his ten overs cost only 68. Haddin brought up his fifty from 51 deliveries and also attacked with confidence against Scott Styris, who was hit back over his head for six.

SCORES IN BRIEF
NEW ZEALAND: 245 (Taylor 62, Styris 41, Hopkins 45; Johnson 3-41, Harris 3-48, Watson 2-26)
AUSTRALIA: 248 for 4 (Haddin 110, Ponting 69, White 25 not out)
Result: Australia won by 6 wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Brad Haddin.

Khulna cricket begins today

Cricket
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The 14th AB Bank Siraj Memorial DSA Cup Cricket Tournament, organised by the Khulna District Sports Association (KDSA), begins at the Khulna Stadium tomorrow.

Sixteen teams of the Premier and First Division Cricket Leagues will participate in the knockout tournament. This is for the first time that KDSA will provide coloured dresses to the participating teams, said ex-officio president and Deputy Commissioner of Khulna NM Ziaul Alam during a press conference yesterday.

The inaugural match will be held at the Khulna Stadium. However, some matches will also be held at the Sheikh Abu Nasser Divisional Stadium.

As sponsors, AB Bank will give Tk 111,000.

Bowling
FROM PAGE 17
Ashraf took the wickets of Michael Carberry, Kevin Pietersen and Tim Bresnan to peg back the English but in the end his efforts with both bat and ball were not good enough to earn him a recall.

For the ex-national skipper therefore, there remains a lot to do in the coming months to force a way back into the national fold.

Manikganj cricket on

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Green Valley recorded a 44-run victory over Bangladesh Cricket Academy and School (BCAS) on the opening day of the Manikganj Poura Gold Cup Cricket Tournament at the Shaheed Miraj-Tapan Stadium yesterday.

Green Valley batted first and scored 145 for Nadim hitting highest 55 and Mithun 30 runs. Sajal (senior) took three wickets while Sajal (junior) took two wickets for BCAS.

In reply, BCAS were bowled out for 101 runs in 28.2 overs. Mahi managed 17 runs. Mithun of Green Valley took five wickets while Saad took two.

Mithun of Green Valley was adjudged man-of-the-match for his all-round performance - five wickets and 30 runs.

A total of eight teams are taking part in the tournament.



Shamima Akter Liza (L) of Bangladesh and Minina Veronika of Russia are engaged in cerebral warfare during their Parachute Advansed International Chess Tournament second round engagement at the Conference Room of Uni Resort in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Atherton Drama as game

FROM PAGE 17
were announced at a gala dinner in London.

Cricket also featured in three other awards, with Gareth Copley winning Sports Picture of the Year for his photo of Jonathan Trott being run out at The Oval, while Lawrence Booth, writing for the Daily Mail, won the online award for a Regular Blog or Column and the BBC's Tom Fordyce took the best Live Blog award.

Drama as game

FROM PAGE 17
himself back into the Test side.

Sahagir Hossain also contributed 51 from 45 balls, capitalizing on the Cook-Carberry partnership.

England came out with the mission of getting some batting practice and started well with the opening pair putting on 57 in fourteen overs before Michael Carberry perished to Ashraf's leg spin.

Ashraf also accounted for the wicket of Kevin Pietersen for 20, as the flamboyant batsman continued his struggles in the tour. The ex-national skipper also accounted for Tim Bresnan as he returned with figures of 3-76 before play was called off early.

England coach Andy Flower said that they gained a lot from this match.

"This was a useful exercise for the players since the first Test will be held at the same venue," Flower said.

"The players got confidence from the match and I think the pitch of the Test match will also not be different from the pitch

Ashraf

FROM PAGE 17
"We are hopeful that he will deliver in the number three position. On the other hand Afab got back his confidence," Rafiq defended the two batsmen's selections.

The evidence was there that the Bangladesh team think-tank has been emphasising on the spin attack at their home condition as left-arm spinner Enamul Haque was recalled. Captain Shakib Al Hasan and Abdur Razzak, who impressed the selectors by his performance in the one-day series, are the other two left-arm spinners in the team.

"We took one extra spinner as we believe that the spin bowlers will make a good impact in the home conditions," said Rafiq.

Enamul however was not too excited as he wants to be a member of the playing eleven.

"I was in the squad against India but didn't play any match. I had a decent performance against West Indies and Zimbabwe but still it was not good enough for me to continue playing the matches. So, the most important issue for me whether I will play or not," said Enamul.

FIRST TEST AGAINST BANGLADESH
England in a dilemma

CRICINFO, undated

A tour of Bangladesh was never intended to be this complicated. And yet, a spate of injuries, an absent skipper, a star player who cannot buy a run, and an unfamiliar surface that may lend itself to a two-spin attack has England's preparations for the first Test at Chittagong in a state of undeniable flux.

By the time the warm-up match at Chittagong had been concluded, the only players in the 17-man party who could safely be ruled out of contention were the reserve wicketkeeper, Steve Davies, and Graham Onions, whose back injury prevented him from bowling for yet another day. Luke Wright, who did not feature even after the match ceased to be first-class, is also way down the pecking order, along with Liam Plunkett, who was outflanked on the seam-bowling front by the squad's new additions, Tim Bresnan and Steven Finn.

However, every other player in the squad has a better-than-average chance of playing in the Test, including the senior seamer, Stuart Broad, whose injured back stood up to nine overs in the nets today -- six at lunch, three at tea -- and who will be given a sterner work-out on Wednesday, assuming he comes through the night with no adverse reaction.

"These are the sorts of things that made the job interesting and challenging," said England's coach, Andy Flower. "Sometimes it pans out that selection is really simple. In this instance I don't think it is, because of injury and because conditions are a little different to what we're used to."

On a peculiar day made memorable by some pie-chucking of the highest order from Alastair Cook and Michael Carberry, there were no doubts winners and losers in the England camp, and while Kevin Pietersen's continued travails emerged as the main talking point once again, Flower confirmed that there was no scenario in which he could possibly be left out, despite a tally of 69 runs in seven innings.

Instead, the man who appeared to have dropped the baton was Carberry, who had the chance to claim the vacancy left by Andrew Strauss at the top of the order, but who followed up his first-innings 5 with a punchy but insubstantial 35 from 28 balls.

Afterwards, Flower was typically cagey about the permutations of England's selection, but implied that Jonathan Trott, who impressed with a century on the second day of the match, was also being earmarked to go in alongside Cook.

The biggest winner of the day was the 20-year-old Middlesex seamer, Finn, who did not arrive in Bangladesh until the eve of the warm-up match, yet showed no ill-effects whatsoever as he bagged three wickets in 18 overs across the two innings, including a beauty to remove Bangladesh's star performer, Raqibul Hasan, in a hostile burst on the third morning. Though he had initially been called up as cover for the injuries to Broad and Onions, Flower confirmed he would not be stood down again, regardless of how the senior bowlers progressed.

"I thought both Finn and Bresnan bowled really well in the first hour today, on a pitch that wasn't doing a hell of a lot, so they are obviously strong contenders for the first Test," Flower added. "I thought

THIRD ODI AGAINST WINDIES TODAY
History beckons Zim

Cricket
AFP, Kingstown

Zimbabwe will be looking to edge closer to becoming the latest visiting side to make history in the Caribbean, when the third One-Day International against West Indies is contested on Wednesday at the Arnos Vale Multiplex.

Zimbabwe have never beaten West Indies in a bilateral ODI series, but the conditions, and their opponents' penchant for self-destruction have combined to enhance their chances of creating their own bit of cricket history.

The five ODI series is currently level at 1-1, after the Zimbabweans won the first ODI last Thursday by two runs, and the hosts rebounded last Saturday to take the second ODI by four wickets.

The pitch at the Arnos Vale Multiplex is notoriously slow and low, and the Zimbabwe spin bowlers should again prosper and continue to put a squeeze on the feeble West Indies batting.

The Zimbabweans have suffered a setback with the news that Kyle Jarvis has been ruled out of the remainder of the series, after suffering a stress fracture in his lower back.

This will hurt Zimbabwe's plans of fortifying their bowling attack, since the specialist seam bowlers they have tried in the series have been disappointing.

Shingirai Masakadza almost cost them the first ODI, when West Indies needed 15 from the final over, and he conceded 11 from the first three deliveries, and Christopher Mfopu also failed to impress in the second ODI, when he was easily the least economical bowler.

For West Indies, Dwayne Bravo and his younger brother Darren have pushed Andre Fletcher and Dwayne Smith out of the 14-member squad.

Ramnaresh Sarwan however, remains on the sidelines, as the West Indies Cricket Board have decided not to rush his return from a back injury.

All-rounder Dwayne Bravo has spent the last two months on the periphery, after breaking a thumb when playing for the Victoria Bushrangers in the Australia Twenty20 Big Bash in January.

His flamboyant batting, steady medium-fast bowling, and live wire fielding should give a boost to the home team which has found it hard to dislodge opponents rated below them in the World rankings.

The younger Bravo was dropped from the squad, following the T20I between the two sides, when he played an ill-advised pull shot for a first-ball duck.

The Arnos Vale Multiplex has been kind to West Indies in the 17 matches they have played here.

The home team has won 14 of the matches, but two of their three losses have come in the last two ODIs at the ground, where Pakistan won by 59 runs five years ago, and Australia triumphed by 84 runs two years ago.

MSC held again

FROM PAGE 17
equalled the margin but he had no objection against the referee's decision.

With the second successive draw, Mohammedan widened the gap with leaders Abahani, who are now four points ahead having played the same number of games.

Beanibazar are in ninth position with eight points from nine outings.

Away in Chittagong, ace striker Alfaz Ahmed struck the league's third hat-trick to propel Arambagh Krira Sangha to a 4-1 win over Chittagong Abahani at MA Aziz Stadium.

The hosts held visitors Arambagh till the 24th minute before the former national striker Alfaz broke the deadlock and doubled the margin in the 39th minute to go for a breather.

After resumption, Abahani pulled one goal back through Sumon in the 63rd minute and 10 minutes later Alfaz completed his hat-trick striking his seventh goal in the league.

Arambagh's Kenyan striker Nicodemus Anunda completed the rout getting the back of Abahani net two minutes from time.

The second win from nine matches took Arambagh to the fifth position along with Farashganj SC and Brothers Union, who are all equal with 10 points. Chittagong Abahani struck to the eighth position with eight points from nine matches.

SCHOOL HOCKEY
Barguna slam 14 past Kasba

SPORTS REPORTER

Barguna Zilla School and Pourasava High School of Dinajpur got off to winning starts in their respective opening matches of the Ecstasy School Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Barguna thrashed Kasba High School of Rajshahi 14-0 after dominating the first half with a comfortable lead of 9-0.

Pourasava High School defeated Chittagong University High School 2-1.

Kapil in

FROM PAGE 17
figures came in the group stages of the 1983 World Cup when he took 5 for 43 against Australia in Nottingham.

With the bat, he scored 5248 Test runs, including eight centuries and 27 fifties, at an average of 31.05. He also made 3783 ODI runs, including a highest of 175 not out against Zimbabwe at Tunbridge Wells during the 1983 World Cup.

At a ceremony at the ICC headquarters in Dubai on Monday, ICC president David Morgan, alongside former West Indies captain Clive Lloyd presented Kapil with a commemorative cap.

Speaking on the occasion, Kapil said, "I am proud and happy to have been inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame and it's amazing to think that I have been picked as one of the greats of Indian cricket."

"I am delighted to have been named alongside so many great players of the game but for me, when I was growing up, the man I always looked up to was Sunil Gavaskar from the moment I started playing cricket. Now to be named alongside greats of the game such as Clive Lloyd, Richard Hadlee and Wasim Akram it truly fantastic," he said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Little white lie
4 Sun-related
9 Beef moister, on menus
12 Genetics abbr.
13 Mediterranean island
14 Multi-purpose truck
15 Lake Erie city
17 Lisa Simpson's instrument
18 Clay, today
19 Care-less attitude?
21 Tyke
24 Antitoxins
25 Discoverer's call
26 Weir
28 Unpaid bills
31 Old letter opener
33 Science workplace
35 Drench

36 Clan emblem
38 Tooth-paste type
40 Reuters competitor
41 Birds, to Brutus
43 Took a nap
45 Straight
47 Past
48 Part of R.S.V.P.
49 1953 Eartha Kitt Christmas song
54 Compass dir.
55 Vinegar bottle
56 Golfer's prop

57 In medias
58 "Steppenwolf" author
59 Kitten's comment

10 Provo's state
11 Alluring
16 Spigot
20 War god
21 Greatest
22 15-Across' state
23 Small TVs
27 Periodical, briefly
29 Recording
30 Hit the ice
32 Golfer's Ballesteros
34 Scolds
37 Honorable guy
39 Emissary
42 Don't blink
44 Weep loudly
45 Addict
46 Three squared
50 Greek consonants
51 S dispenser
52 Spelling contest
53 Ever-green type

DOWN

1 Monk's title
2 — and outs
3 Scrooge's remark
4 Climbed
5 In a circular path
6 Romanian
7 Money of maps
8 Harvested
9 Almost

Solution time: 24 mins.

EBB RUFH EKES
TOU ERIE JOTA
NOM IREX GLAM
ASBIB GASEAWHALE
ANN GAT
SEEMS TOY AIR
KNOB JON SILO
YEN GEM SULKY
BIZ ACE
AWHALEOFATIME
VIES BOIL COY
IDEA EZRA ONE
DELL LEER NOD

CRYPTOQUIP

OKUTK RHBUTIZN DA IUFKB
OUII RHNN BKVDEFK LDNB
BKUJ AIDDV LHBVZNNZN?
AEBDJN' RKDBDJN.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: UPON DETECTING SOME UNKNOWN SUBSTANCE, ANY SCIENTIST WOULD PROBABLY ASK "WHAT'S THE MATTER?"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals H