

Saif, Siam share lead

Abdullah Al Saif and Ekramul Haque Siam maintained their lead in the Prime Bank 30th National Sub-Junior (U-16) Chess Championship at close of fifth round games held in Natore yesterday.

Saif and Siam have now 4.4 points each from five outings. Four players -- Shahidul Islam Shahin, Rahmam Mohammad Fahad, Sagar Mahmud Shaon, Iktal Ashif -- shared the second position with four points apiece.

ICL was a big

"It was a big mistake," acknowledged Bashar, adding that the last two years of his cricket career was not good.

"I can only blame myself because I went to the ICL. It could have been a smooth ending for me but for that, I could not finish my career while playing for the country," said the right-handed batsman who was renowned for playing the shots at a time when most Tigers batsmen failed to make an impact.

"I have a few grievances but you don't always get what you want. It has been a long journey from 1989 and I've played for Bangladesh since 1995 but I must say I am quite happy with my career," said the 37-year-old Bashar.

The moment he realised that he was surplus to requirements for Bangladesh, Bashar knew that his time was up.

"It is a harsh reality that I won't touch bat and ball but I've always said that when I'm not selected for the country, I would stop playing."

"But I played club and first-class cricket and even in the last few days of my career I heard some say that I should continue playing. But I knew my time was up," said the man who has three centuries in his 50 Test matches.

Bashar however slated the practice of senior cricketers being deprived of a retirement from the playing field.

"It has become a tradition. Khaled Mashud had the same treatment while (Aminul Islam) Bulbul bhui didn't even have a proper ending till today. I hope this trend changes in the future," said Bashar.

Jahirul remains

different ball game because the intensity is too high here. And what is important is that everybody is looking to me when I'm playing for my country which is not the case for the domestic or other competition," he added. Like his captain Shakib Al Hasan told on the previous day, Shafiqul also said that nothing could have been better than a spin-friendly wicket when they play at home.

Jahirul could barely hold back his emotion when asked whether he believed that they lost their focus following some bad decisions, which went against them on the third day.

"It's right. We were working hard yesterday and if you don't give out one specialist batsman, then you may not get the second chance. They didn't give out Matt Prior, he scored 62, then same mistake for [Tim] Bresnan, and he scored 91. If we had got those two wickets, they might have been bowled out for 275 to 300 runs. Then we would have been in a strong position," he said. He also said that the umpires made mistakes when asked about today's decisions some of which went against England bowlers. "We want a fair result."

From player

help the local players," said Niaz. However, Niaz's realisation on the local players was not much higher as he is thinking of reframing the next tournaments for the local IMs.

"They are not as talented as the Indians are, but they have potential to become IM and GM within a short period and I am rethinking to hold such tournaments that would help them much," said Niaz adding that he has decided to hold a WIM tournament in April after dropping the idea of holding an IM tournament for the male competitors. ("Sharmin Akhter") Liza and (Sharmin Sultana) Shirin have good chances to achieve WIM norms and I am going to hold a WIM tournament in April and then will arrange an IM tournament for the men, who are comparatively weaker than the Indian players," said Niaz. Apart from the Six Season Chess tournaments, Niaz is also planning to hold an open school chess tournament in June and the sponsors gave him the go-ahead signal. The winners will be given laptop so that they can practice after the tournament.



Australia's Phillip Hughes ducks a bouncer during his unbeaten knock of 86 on the fifth and final day of the first Test against New Zealand in Wellington yesterday.

NEW ZEALAND V AUSTRALIA FIRST TEST Aus take 1-0 lead



CRICINFO, undated

It took Australia longer than they expected, but Phillip Hughes' final-day blast allowed them to finish off New Zealand and gain a 1-0 lead heading into the final Test in Hamilton on Saturday.

Brendon McCullum's inspired 104 forced the visitors to chase 106, a target they achieved without loss before lunch thanks to Hughes' aggressive 86 off 75 balls.

After spending time in the field over four days, Ryan Harris, the debutant, sealed a quick finish of New Zealand's second innings, taking 4 for 77 as the hosts were dismissed for 407. Hughes, who grabbed 12 fours and a six, was then in a hurry to end the game and sped to the 10-wicket victory in 23 overs. It was left to Simon Katich, who played the anchor with 18, to take the winning single on the final ball before lunch.

The upbeat display will give Hughes confidence for the next Test he plays, but he will probably have to wait as he is seat-warming for the injured Shane Watson in this game. Daniel Vettori came on and his first delivery was hit by Hughes through cover for four and his fourth effort went for six to midwicket. Hughes charged down the wicket, wasn't put off by not being near the pitch of the ball, and swiped it flat and so hard that it came back damaged after hitting the bitumen in the car park.

Hughes had collected 10 from the opening over of the innings from Chris Martin and added another 10 from Vettori's first six offerings. He followed that with a trio of boundaries off Martin -

an on-drive, a glide through the cordon and a straight drive - and was dropped at second slip by Tim McIntosh off Brent Arnel.

The chance didn't concern Hughes, who was playing his seventh Test, and in the same over he brought up his half-century from 43 balls. Cut boundaries continued to come easily in his best five-day performance since his debut tour of South Africa last year.

New Zealand used up both their umpiring reviews in two overs early in the innings, but neither Martin's appeal against Hughes nor Arnel's shout against Katich were overturned by the third umpire. Katich's was closer, with the ball tracking showing it hitting the top of the bats, but it was not decisive enough to change Asad Rauf's not-out call.

Following their courageous fight on the fourth day, New Zealand were unable to repeat their resistance. McCullum, the main obstacle, was removed in the fourth over after bringing up his fifth Test century almost instantly. He sliced behind point from the second ball of the morning to go to 98 and gained a thick edge to third man from Bollinger's next effort for another boundary.

The celebration included ripping off his helmet and raising his arms to the dressing room, but it wasn't long before he pushed on to the back foot and edged Harris to Michael Clarke. There weren't many people at the ground but they were all appreciative of McCullum's performance, which included 13 fours and one six from his 187 balls. The innings showed McCullum's ability to mix long periods of defence with bouts of attacking brilliance and gave his side some short-lived hope.

New Zealand began on 369 for 6, holding a lead of 67, and after losing their last

specialist batsman the job was left to Daryl Tuffey and his bowling teammates. Tim Southee gave Harris his third wicket when nicking to Clarke without scoring and Brent Arnel (3) was lbw in Harris' next over.

Harris had a chance for a five-wicket haul when Tuffey drove hard back at him but the ball went down in his follow-through. Mitchell Johnson ended the innings by bowling Martin, leaving Tuffey stranded after contributing a valuable 47, as the hosts lost 4 for 38 in less than an hour. Tuffey's effort was even more admirable considering he was carrying a fractured hand - he was hit by Johnson - that is likely to keep him out for at least a month.

Harris collected six wickets for the game while Nathan Hauritz had 3 for 119 from 49 overs in the second innings after spending most of yesterday bowling into the gale-force wind. After the awful weather on Sunday, the conditions were clear and sunny, which was a shame for the hosts who wanted some more rain. New Zealand were forced to follow-on after scoring 157 on Saturday and produced a strong performance to get so far ahead, but they will need two solid innings if they are to trouble the tourists in Hamilton.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 459 for 5 decl. NEW ZEALAND: First innings 157 (Vettori 46, Guptil 30, McCullum 24, Taylor 21; Bollinger 5-28) NEW ZEALAND: Second innings 407 (Watling 33, McIntosh 83, Taylor 25, Vettori 77, McCullum 104, Tuffey 47 not out; Bollinger 2-30, Hauritz 3-119, Harris 4-77) AUSTRALIA: Second innings 106 no loss (Hughes 86 not out, Katich 18 not out) Result: Australia won by 10 wickets. Man-of-the-match: Michael Clarke.

Onions injury worse than feared



CRICINFO, undated

Graham Onions faces an extended period on the sidelines after the back injury which forced him to leave the Bangladesh tour proved to be more serious than first thought. He now has a battle to be fit for Bangladesh's return visit with the series starting at the end of May.

The ECB had asked Durham to take Onions, who is a centrally contracted player, with them to Abu Dhabi for their floodlit match against MCC but he will now remain in England for further treatment and is unlikely to make the start of Durham's Championship defence on April 15.

"He came back from Bangladesh with a back injury, which they initially thought was a minor complaint," Geoff Cook, the Durham coach, told the Journal. "X-rays, though, have shown it is a bit more serious and he has gone for another set of scans. He may be out for a month, he may be out for a month or two."

"We have not been able to identify the exact cause of the problem," Cook added. "He had another scan over the weekend and we are waiting for the results. It is disappointing he probably won't be fit for the start of the season, especially for Graham as he has international aspirations. I am sure it is also a concern for England because they were starting to pull a bowling group together."

Will Smith, the Durham captain, had earlier

told Cricinfo he hoped to have Onions available for the start of the season but now it appears he won't have the luxury of the added firepower during the opening weeks of the summer. Smith, though, believes Onions has a key part to play in England's bowling attack.

"When he did play I don't think he did a great deal wrong and was unlucky not to play the last Test in South Africa and he has done himself proud this winter," he said. "The more we see him the better for us, of course, but for Graham's career I would love to see him playing for England as much as he can."

It has been a difficult few months for Onions after he was surprisingly left out of the final Test against South Africa, at Johannesburg, when the management felt he was fatigued. This was despite him having bowled impressively, but without luck, during the first three Tests and twice surviving the last over at Centurion and Cape Town to secure thrilling draws.

With James Anderson rested for the tour of Bangladesh he had been earmarked for a recall, but arrived for the trip with his back problem and when it didn't improve ahead of the first Test at Chittagong he was sent home.

Meanwhile, Onions' county teammate Liam Plunkett will leave Bangladesh a day early after experience discomfort in his elbow. He will be assessed back in England and may yet link up with Durham in Abu Dhabi for the MCC match which starts on March 29. Plunkett's winter has been spent on the sidelines with just one international appearance in the third one-day against Bangladesh.

Independence Cup handball from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Independence Cup Handball Competition gets underway today at the newly-built Handball Stadium adjacent to Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The tournament will feature three services -- Bangladesh Rifles, Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh Ansar -- teams and a BHF President's XI, with Police and BHF XI taking part in the opening day's match.

UDRS in next

The ICC president expected that there will be a day soon enough when every Test match will have the UDRS in use.

"The UDRS system is being rolled out and is being used significantly more than in situations such as this when it is not in use," said Morgan. "Boards and broadcasters are being pressed to ensure it is available, and I think it will not be too long before we have the system operating with the optimum equipment available at each Test match, wherever it is played in the world."

But he expected the involvement of broadcasters as well as the cricket council in both monetary and logistics perspectives to ensure that the UDRS gets going soon.

"Cricket is not aloof with dollars, and pounds and euros, it's not a rich sport. So, there has to be some contribution from the broadcasters as well as from the ICC."

Onus on Shakib

FROM PAGE 17

innings from 76 deliveries with five fours and two sixes. The England off-spinner flighted the ball high and well outside off to draw a drive from Jahirul but it spun back between bat and pad and gunned into off stump.

Still the home side could have finished the day with some relief had in-form Mushfiqur Rahim managed to survive till the end. England however ensured they finished on top by removing the wicketkeeper batsman who was bowled by Broad.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the second and final Test between Bangladesh and England at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on Tuesday: BANGLADESH: First innings 419 (Tamim 85, Naeem 59 not out; Swann 4-114) ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 440-8) Cook c Kayes b Razzak 21 Trotter b Shakib 64 Pietersen c Kayes b Shakib 45 Collingwood lbw b Rubel 0 Bell c Jahirul b Shakib 138 Prior b Shakib 62 Bresnan st Mushfiqur b Razzak 91 Swann run out 6 Broad lbw b Mahmudullah 3 Tredwell st Mushfiqur b Razzak 37 Finn not out 0 Extras: (b-9, lb-12, nb-7, w-1) 29 Total: (All out in 173.3 overs) 496 Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-105, 3-107, 4-174, 5-272, 6-415, 7-

Table with 5 columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows include Shafiqul, Razzak, Shakib, Riyad, Rubel, Naeem, Tamim.

Table with 5 columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows include Broad, Pietersen, Tredwell, Jahirul, Mahmudullah, Shakib, Mushfiqur, Shafiqul, Extras, Total, Fall of wickets.

MIRPUR MASALA

As the Tigers wrapped up the England innings for 496 half-hour before lunch, the supporters started to pour into the galleries, especially the shaded areas. The closer stands however remained sparsely populated as Tamim Iqbal and company came into bat in the second innings. But with the home side's score on 172 for 6, it would be interesting if anyone would bother turning up in this weather on the fifth day.

Afridi named

FROM PAGE 17

"I am very happy to be appointed captain and I will do my utmost to help Pakistan defend the World Twenty20 title," he told AFP. Local media had reported that all-rounder Abdur Razaq and senior batsman Misbahul Haq were also in the running for the captaincy.

Bresnan sniffs

FROM PAGE 17

cause and not disheartened for not getting a hundred. "It would have been nice to get a hundred in my second Test innings but hopefully I'll get a lot more opportunities to do that. "But obviously it's the team contribution and not my own what matters. [Ian] Bell played unbelievably to lead the fightback and mine was just a supporting role," said Bresnan giving most of the credit to his partner for his classy hundred. Ad he also praised his co fast bowlers for putting in a lot of hard work to get them in a dominant position. "All the seamers have bowled extremely well. We've controlled the reverse swing and bowled a lot better than the first innings which has been the key to the success. The early bite on the cherry got it to move sideways and we used it very well."

Bresnan, who was initially named for this series exclusively for the one-dayers, is clearly enjoying his time in Test cricket as well. And now he is looking forward to retaining his place for the Ashes series. "Coming in here has been a big opportunity for me. I feel like I've grabbed it and shown exactly what I can do so hopefully there'll be a lot more chances for me to prove myself," concluded Bresnan.

Vettori blames batsmen



CRICINFO, undated

Daniel Vettori has experienced a strong sense of deja vu over the past five days. A first-innings team failure, an admirable but futile second-innings fight and a heavy reliance on the lower-order batting have been recurring features of New Zealand's Test play over the past few years. But despite being bundled out for 157 and being made to follow-on, Vettori is not convinced bolstering the batting for the second Test in Hamilton would make any difference.

"I think it needs a run-scoring extra batsman," Vettori said when asked if the team needed another specialist. "It's all well and good to pick someone. Most of our runs came from Brendon [McCullum] and myself, so if we brought another batsman in it would just push us down. Whether that is the right answer or not, I'm not sure."

He has a point. Apart from the 83 from Tim McIntosh in the second innings, there weren't many contributions of note from the top five in the ten-wicket defeat. Peter Ingram will be under pressure to hold his place after making 5 and 1. BJ Watling's second-day golden duck was followed by an unconvincing 33, and Ross Taylor and Martin Guptil made middling contributions without really having an impact.

New Zealand will choose their squad for the second Test

on Wednesday and it is unclear if the balance of the side will be altered. Batting at No. 6, Vettori made 46 and 77 while McCullum scored 24 and 104, but it is first-innings runs that New Zealand need to find.

However, a strong bowling line-up is just as important for a team that took only five wickets for the match. "We obviously need to lift a lot, particularly our first-innings efforts," Vettori said. "We fought hard in that second innings but we need to show more penetration with the ball in that first innings and then stand up a bit more with the bat."

"It's been a trait of ours, particularly at the Basin, to get bowled out cheaply in the first innings and then fight pretty hard in the second. We can't afford to do that. We can't afford to be on the back foot at any stage against Australia in Hamilton."

The challenge is replicating the effort that New Zealand displayed on the weather-affected fourth day, when they lost only one wicket and pushed themselves into a strong position to save the match. The same fight could not be repeated on the fifth morning and they lost their last four wickets for 19 runs, allowing Australia a comfortable chase of 106.

"The fourth day was obviously our best day of the Test match," Vettori said. "It's something that we need to replicate over the whole five days to give ourselves a chance against Australia. Unfortunately we weren't able to build that pressure for long enough. After what we did

yesterday it was a little bit disappointing to front up today and lose quick wickets. We wanted to bat for a long period of time but that's the nature of the game."

The key wicket was that of McCullum, who began the day on 94 and required only three balls to bring up his fifth Test century. In the fourth over McCullum edged to slip.

Bangalore

FROM PAGE 17

but not enough to make an impact on the outcome.

BRIEF SCORE ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 171 for 5 in 20 overs (Uthappa 68 not out, Kohli 24, Pandey 20, Kallis 19; Muralidaran 3-25) CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 135 for 7 in 20 overs (Hayden 32, Badrinath 31; Vinay 4-40) Result: RCB won by 36 runs Man-of-the-match: Robin Uthappa

Mohammedans

FROM PAGE 17

through a strike from Jewel Rana before Walid Khan levelled the margin in the 68th minute. After the allotted 12 first-leg matches, Chittagong Abahani have collected 14 points to stay at joint fifth position with Brothers Union and Arambagh KS while Beanraisar with their sixth draw raised 12 points to stay behind the trio.

Both Muktiyoddha with seventh draw and Rahmatganj with seventh defeat have 11 points from 12 matches.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with ACROSS and DOWN clues. Includes a solution time of 24 mins and a solution grid.

Grid for Cryptquip puzzle with numbers 1-55 indicating letter positions.

CRYPTOQUIP

BNY YNMF NGL ELVLE QN WCQO NV PNOOCU OUELKF WX K ZNQLD'O UKXCGP PMLOQO? QBL ENNZLEO' EMZNEO.

Saturday's Cryptquip: SINCE I'M BEGINNING THE DOG TRAINING, I SUPPOSE IT COULD BE TIME TO START THE HEELING PROCESS. Today's Cryptquip Clue: N equals O