

Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY APRIL 27, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thecitizenstar.net

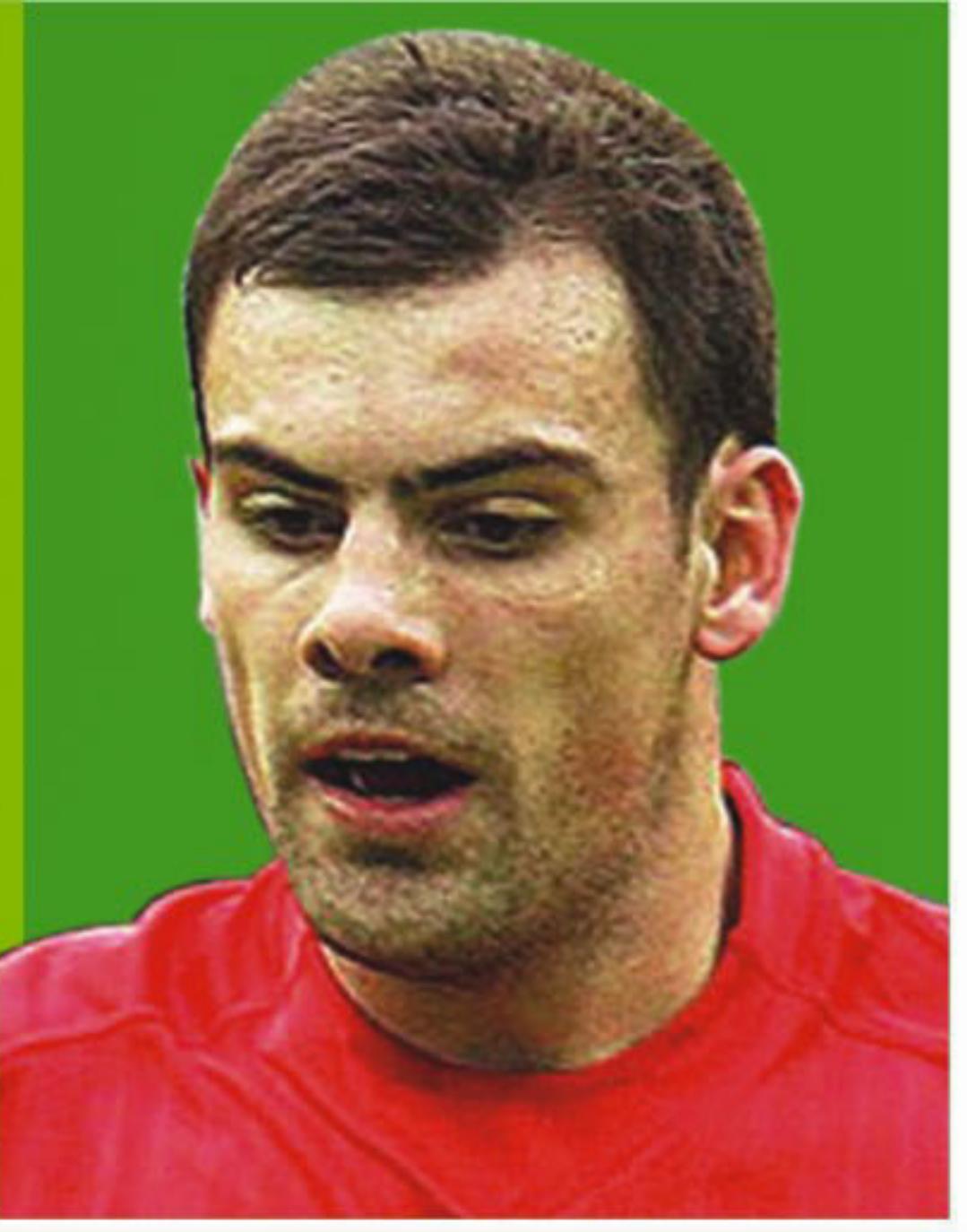
Gibson signs off Twitter

Manchester United midfielder Darron Gibson was forced to cancel his newly-created Twitter account on Monday after just two hours when the Irish international was subjected to a tirade of abuse.

The 23-year-old was born in Northern Ireland but has won 16 caps for the Republic of Ireland.

Some of the messages posted on his Twitter page included: "Darron Gibson is on Twitter, a traitor to his country". Another one said: "You are an abysmal excuse for a footballer. You're a one trick pony - a shit one at that. What Fergie sees in you I do not know..."

- Afp



Players of Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club (L), at the BUET Ground, and Abahani (R), at the Mohammadpur Mina Bazar Ground, go through their training regimes yesterday, ahead of locking horns in the first match of the second leg of the Bangladesh League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

PHOTOS:
ANISUR RAHMAN

SECOND LEG STARTS FROM TODAY

Abahani, Sk Jamal face off

SPORTS REPORTER

Grameenphone
Bangladesh League 2010

Abahani and Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club will be looking to put behind the disappointment of the Independence Cup when they meet at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today as the Bangladesh League resumes after a break of six weeks.

Federation Cup champions Abahani were eliminated from the quarterfinals stage while runners-up Sheikh Jamal were defeated in the semifinal of the Independence Cup, both by eventual champions

Farashganj Sporting Club. Those defeats may serve as a wake-up call for both sides before the start of the second leg of the professional football league.

Three-time champions Abahani are just two points behind league leaders Muktijodha Sangsad with 26 points while Sheikh Jamal are breathing down their neck with 24 points after the end of the first leg.

So the clash between the two heavyweights is a crucial one for keeping themselves in the title race and officials of both clubs are taking the game cautiously.

History is tilted slightly towards

the Sky Blues as they have never lost to Sheikh Jamal in the two meetings so far. Abahani beat Sheikh Jamal in the Federation Cup final and played out a goalless draw against them in the opener of the fourth edition of professional league. Apart from that, Abahani's victory in their last league match against archrivals Mohammedan will be a morale boost before they take on their star-studded neighbours.

"It is a crucial game for us because if we lose to Sheikh Jamal tomorrow (Wednesday), the gap between us (Abahani) and leaders Muktijodha will be widened. We will be going into

the match with an eye on maintaining our current position at the points table and try to close the gap with the leaders," said Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu yesterday.

Rupu also said the defeat against Farashganj in the Independence Cup has been a lesson learnt for them and they have worked on their mistakes in the practice which would help them in league matches.

Abahani's Iranian striker Keivan Seyadi may pair with Ghanaian hitman Awudu Ibrahim in today's match as his international transfer certificate was expected to reach the

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Bashar set for selection role

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The new selection committee is likely to be announced today after an executive committee meeting of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Former national captain Akram Khan, who was also a member in the last committee, seems the most likely candidate to become the new chief selector in the three-member committee which will replace the Rafiqul Alam-led committee.

BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal met with some influential board directors yesterday to discuss the issue and they prepared a short list with Akram, Habibul Bashar, Minhajul Abedin, Selim Shahed and Khaled Mashud.

"Yes, board president met with some directors today to discuss the issue and prepare a short list from where the three-member committee will be picked after discussion about tomorrow's board meeting," said BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus after the meeting, without elaborating.

"Lot of names came to the discussion and finally we have agreed on a five-member short list and what I can assure you is that the final decision will be taken in tomorrow's board meeting," he added.

The names of the two former skippers Akram and Bashar was all but confirmed although the question was raised about the latter's involvement with the banned and now defunct Indian Cricket League (ICL).

It was learnt that the board has yet to decide about who will be the third member in the selection panel. Former skipper and wicketkeeper batsman Mashud has little chance to get a nod as there has been a reservation against him on disciplinary grounds.

The board is going to form the new panel as they had decided in their last meeting to terminate the contract of the national selection committee led by Rafiqul Alam, whose

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Fourth BD A one-dayer today

SPORTS REPORTER

The fourth one-day between Bangladesh A and South Africa A will be held at the de Beers Diamond Oval in Kimberley today.

The five-match series is locked 1-1.

Riding on captain Mohammad Ashraful's blazing hundred, the second string Bangladesh side won the first one-day but the home team strongly bounced back in the second game to level the series.

The third game was washed out following heavy rain.

The fifth and final one-day will be take place at the Sahara Willowmoore in Benoni on April 29.

Natore crush Jaipurhat

SPORTS REPORTER

Natore thrashed Jaipurhat by 170 runs in their Inter District Cricket Championship match at Rajshahi yesterday.

Moinul (93), Moklesur (73) and Mehedi (71) helped Natore pile up a massive total of 316 for eight in their 50 overs. In reply, Jaipurhat were bundled out for just 146 in

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