

# Star SPORT

WED JULY 22, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedaily

## More bad luck for Ben Arfa

Newcastle's Hatem Ben Arfa has been ruled out of the remainder of the club's North American tour after sustaining an ankle injury, a statement said Thursday. Frenchman Ben Arfa, who missed virtually all of last season after suffering a double leg fracture, was stretchered off during the Magpies 0-0 draw with Sporting Kansas on Wednesday. A statement on Newcastle's website later confirmed Ben Arfa would be flown back to Tyneside as the club seeks to assess the full extent of the injury.

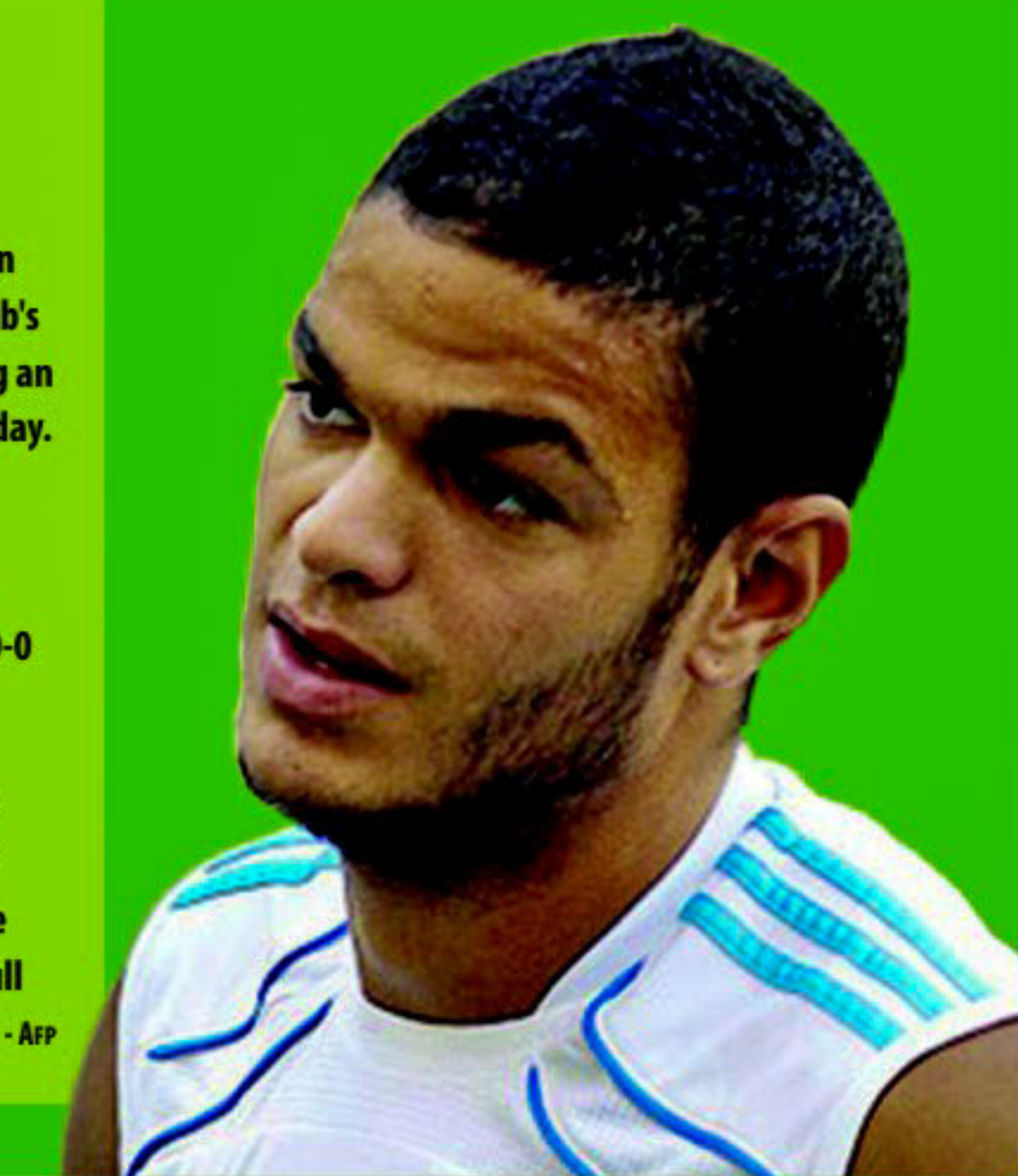


PHOTO: AFP

India pace bowler Zaheer Khan cries out in joy after trapping England opener Alastair Cook leg before during the first day of the first Test at Lord's yesterday.

## Eng consolidate after Zak strikes

Cricket

AFP, London

India spearhead Zaheer Khan left the field injured as England fought back on the first day of the first Test at Lord's on Thursday.

England, having lost the toss in overcast seam bowler-friendly conditions, were 127 for two when bad light forced an early tea before rain prevented any further play on the day.

Jonathan Trott, missed twice, was 58 not out and Kevin Pietersen 22 not out with the two South Africa-born batsmen's unbroken third wicket stand so far worth 65.

Left-arm fast bowler Zaheer had been the pick of India's attack, with two wickets for 18 runs in 13.3 overs, when he suffered what appeared to be a hamstring injury and slowly walked off the field with England 107 for two.

Shortly afterwards, Trott drove off-spinner Harbhajan Singh for four.

But he was lucky to be at the crease at all by that stage.

Before lunch he'd been missed on eight when, to Harbhajan's first ball of the match, he got an outside edge that slip Rahul Dravid could not grasp.

And Trott should have been out for 32 in the second session when, having nicked Zaheer, he saw India captain and wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni inexplicably fail to move across to his right for a catch that was never going to carry to first slip Dravid.

Instead he went on to complete a valuable 89-ball fifty with seven boundaries.

India had held England to 43 for one off 21 overs at lunch in the 2,000th Test match of all time and the 100th between the two countries after the start had been delayed by 30 minutes.

Zaheer had in-form opener Alastair Cook lbw for just 12, the first time in seven Test innings the left-hander had failed to make a fifty.

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## Kapali, Shuvo to play in S'pore meet

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has selected all-rounders Alok Kapali and Sohrawardi Shuvo for the IA T20 Super Challenge Cup in Singapore.

The two cricketers will leave the capital on July 28 to play for ICS Lion in the four-team competition which starts on July 29.

Sri Lankan paceman Lasith Malinga is the icon player of ICS Lion while his compatriot Sanath Jayasuriya, Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar and former New Zealand speedster Shane Bond are the other icon players in the competition which has been organised by the Indian Association in Singapore.

## Absent Shakib risks BCB ire

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan went AWOL for a second successive day in an event that evoked a strong reaction in the cricket community and has apparently forced his employer Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to think of disciplinary measures.

Shakib skipped training under new head coach Stuart Law yesterday without taking any prior permission from the board, only to add fuel to a growing dissatisfaction against his inexplicable act that followed his allegation against chief selector Akram Khan over the selection of the Zimbabwe-bound squad.

The all-rounder, who returned home on July 17 after playing for English county Worcestershire, was reported to have sent a text message to BCB's cricket operations committee chairman Enayet Hossain Siraj yesterday, seeking leave till July 24, three days before he leads the Tigers to Zimbabwe

for a single Test and five ODI's.

Siraj, apparently annoyed with the unusual approach, asked Shakib to go through a proper process.

Finally, he submitted a written application in the evening to BCB's chief executive officer (CEO) for granting him leave. According to a close source in the board, the CEO did grant his leave till July 22, but also asked him to appear at the BCB headquarters today.

In his belated letter, Shakib wrote that he needs the break as he was tired after playing county cricket. It was however learnt that Shakib, whom everyone expected to attend the first training session of new Australian coach, was busy shooting a commercial for the last couple of days.

A close associate of Shakib informed that he is going to join the camp today but the game's governing body, which is convinced that the captain has crudely violated the players' code of conduct, is planning to come down hard on him to set an example.

CEO Manzur Ahmed however was

not ready to make any comments regarding the action but he said that they have decided to thoroughly investigate the matter.

"I'm not in a position to make any comments right at the moment but we took the matter seriously and will thoroughly investigate before taking any decision," said Manzur.

BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus however said that Shakib already breached the code of conduct after the way he made his comments against the selectors regarding the team selection for the coming Zimbabwe tour and his second act of skipping the training without permission was termed as a more serious crime than the first one.

"He (Shakib Al Hasan) clearly breached the code of conduct after the way he made his comments over the team selection. The cricket operations committee chairman and CEO are looking after the matter and we are waiting for their action regarding the issue," said Yunus.

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## Up-gradation work behind schedule

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The up-gradation works of the dressing rooms of the Bangabandhu National Stadium, ahead of the Argentina-Nigeria match in September, may not be finished within a one-month time frame, said a National Sports Council official yesterday.

Argentina and Nigeria will reach Dhaka on September 3 to play an international friendly on September 6 and the Bangladesh Football Federation has asked the sports regulatory body, NSC, to renovate both dressing rooms to make it up to an international standard. However the NSC has yet to complete the process of tender till yesterday.

"We have already floated the tenders but are yet to select any firm because BNS will host the away match of World Cup qualifiers against Lebanon on July 28 and then semifinals and finals of the Super Cup will take place. I guess the works of up-gradation of dressing rooms will not be completed within one month," said Habibur Rahman, deputy director of NSC planning and development.

Rahman informed that they would need 2000 square-meter

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## Booters reach Beirut safely

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national football team reached Beirut yesterday afternoon safely to take part in their away match of the World Cup pre-qualifier against Lebanon after an arduous 16-hour journey.

The match will be held on July 23.

Bangladesh counsel general in Beirut, Eng Mohammad AR Dandan received the Bangladesh national team at the Shafiq Rafiq Hariri International Airport, said a Bangladesh Football Federation press release yesterday.

The national teams were scheduled to have practice in afternoon as all players are in good physical and mental health, it added.

## Robiul suffers head injury

SPORTS REPORTER

Persistent rain ruined the Tigers' practice match yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Only 1.2 overs were bowled on the first day of the two-day match against GP-BCB National Cricket Academy side before rain stopped the game.

It was obviously frustrating for the players as well as the new coach, Stuart Law, but the rainy day brought more frustration to young paceman Robiul Islam, who suffered a minor injury in his head.

Robiul received the injury when he collided with pacer Rubel Hossain while playing football inside the dressing room. He needed four stitches, but the Bangladesh Cricket Board doctor confirmed that the injury was not serious and he would be okay in two days.

Weather permitting, the match will start freshly this morning.

## Siddikur in joint sixth

Golf

SPORT DESK

Ace Bangladesh golfer Siddikur Rahman continued his solid form in the second round of the Worldwide Holdings Selangor Masters, moving up one spot to joint sixth position after hitting a two-under-par 70 at the Kota Permai Golf and Country Club in Malaysia yesterday. The day, however, belonged to Thai teenager Panuphol Pittayarat, who snatched a surprise one-shot lead after an impressive seven-under-par 65.

Siddikur, with a cumulative score of six-under-par over the first two rounds, is just two shots shy of the lead, along with seven other golfers. Joonas Granberg of Finland, who set a course record of ten-under-par on Wednesday to take the early lead, endured an ordinary round of three-over-par 75 to slip to joint second position.

Granberg's fluctuating fortunes over the first two rounds were reflected by many of the players on view, with the likes of Sujjan Singh of India, Scott Barr of Australia and Chang Tse-Peng of Chinese Taipei all moving up from sixty-fifth in the first round to joint sixth in the second. Siddikur was one of the

more consistent players on show over the first two rounds, a fact that bodes well for the Bangladeshi for the rest of the contest.

The 26-year-old winner of last week's Sembilan Masters Invitational hit birdies in the first, third and twelfth holes, but a bogey in the fifteenth cost him a second-place finish.

Meanwhile, Thai teen sensation Panuphol overcame the flu bug to break away from a bunched leaderboard. Panuphol turned professional at the tender age of 14 as the talent pipe from Thailand unleashed yet another potential star. The bespectacled 18-year-old was delighted to top the leaderboard as he was feeling unwell.

LEADING SCORES AFTER ROUND 2

136 - Panuphol Pittayarat (Tha) 71-65  
137 - Joonas Granberg (Fin) 62-75,  
Namchok Tantipokhakul (Tha) 70-67,  
Panuwat Muenlek (Tha) 68-69, Marcus Both (Aus) 70-67

138 - Sujjan Singh (Ind) 72-66, Scott Barr (Aus) 72-66, Chapchai Nirat (Tha) 71-67, Chang Tse-Peng (Tpe) 72-66, Siddikur (Ban) 68-70, Jyoti Randhawa (Ind) 67-71, Airil Rizman (Mas) 71-67, Young Nam (Kor) 69-69.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh coach Stuart Law (R) makes some good use of the rain that washed off the practice match to impart some words of wisdom to mercurial Bangladesh batsman Mohammad Ashraful at Mirpur yesterday.