

Same squad for 2nd Test

SPORTS REPORTER

The national selectors have retained the same squad for the second Test against West Indies which will begin from November 21 at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna. “There is no point in bringing any changes in the team. And what I always tell you is that our selection panel is in favour of continuity,” said chief selector Akram Khan yesterday. “I’m really happy the way team has been playing in the first match. The team is playing as a unit. Many have been talking about our batting in the first Test but I think the bowlers are also doing an excellent job on a placid track. I especially want to thank Rubel Hossain who so far bowled brilliantly after recovering from injury,” he added.

The second Test between Bangladesh and West Indies will see the Khulna venue debut as the country’s seventh Test venue.

SQUAD
Mushfiqur Rahim (captain), Mahmudullah Riyad (vice-captain), Tamim Iqbal, Junaed Siddiqui, Shahriar Nafees, Shakib Al Hasan, Naeem Islam, Nazimuddin, Nasir Hossain, Elias Sunny, Shahadat Hossain, Rubel Hossain, Abul Hasan and Shohag Gazi.

Services kabaddi from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Walton Motorcycle Super Seven Services Kabaddi League begins today at the Kabaddi Stadium. Seven services teams, split into two groups, will play the round-robin matches and top two teams from each group will advance to the Super Four which will decide the title. Participating teams are (Group A) Border Guard of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Jail, (Group B) Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Air Force and Bangladesh Fire Service.

The Moments

FROM PAGE 16
evident from his figures. He bowled 47 overs in the first innings and 19 overs in the second. He also picked up a crucial wicket with a beauty in the last over. His 66 overs made him the only Bangladesh bowler to have bowled more than 60 overs in his first game.

From a duck to a double

Kieron Powell began his one-day career with a 'duck' against Bangladesh in 2009. His dramatic progress in the last three years, however, was reflected in the way he batted in this match. His patient 110 yesterday made him only the ninth West Indian batsman to score two centuries in a Test match.

A dramatic last hour

It seemed as though the visitors were going to finish the day in a comfortable position having lost just one wicket. Then a dramatic turn of events inspired by a burst from Rubel Hossain, changed the scenario of the game. With just 15 more overs left in the day, Rubel got Darren Bravo caught behind. This was followed by four quick wickets taken by Shakib Al Hasan and Shohag Gazi, as the West Indies ended the day on 244 for 6.

Booters take on Thailand today



Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national football team will be adopting a defensive strategy against Thailand when they take on the hosts in a FIFA friendly match today at the Rajamangala National Stadium. The match will start at 6:00pm local time (5:00pm Bangladesh Standard time). “They are better than us in every department. So we are planning to strengthen the backline and play counter-attack based football as we have not played against them in a long time,” said Bangladesh coach Saiful Bari Titu yesterday. “To take on an like Thailand, the players need to be mentally tough and I can promise you that we will fight against them till the last minute,” said the former national footballer hinting that he might opt for the same starting eleven that played against Nepal in September.

Playing FIFA friendlies is a new concept

Muktis' winning home debut

MOZAMMEL HOSSAIN MUNNA *from Gopalganj*



Muktijoddha Sangsad KC started their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League campaign on a winning note at their home venue of Sheikh Fazlul Haq Moni stadium in Gopalganj yesterday as they handed a single-goal defeat to visiting Arambagh KS.

Nigerian Chigozie Darlington struck the all-important goal in the 34th minute for last season's runners-up Muktijoddha Sangsad, who extended their winning record to seven, five in a row, in 11 professional football league matches against Arambagh.

This season Muktijoddha have chosen Gopalganj as their home venue after using the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka five successive seasons and the players of the home club got huge applause from some 8,000 home crowd.

However, the match was a feisty affair as two players from each side got booked

for Bangladesh, who played their first friendly against Nepal in Kathmandu which ended in a 1-1 draw. Bangladesh are set to play two more FIFA friendlies against Thailand and Malaysia as the game's governing body wants to give the national team more international exposure apart from the regular schedules of AFC Challenge Cup, SAFF Championship, qualifiers of World Cup and Olympic.

Bangladesh, who are 19 places behind of 152-ranked Thailand in the FIFA rankings, will play their first match against Thailand in 19 years. The last meeting between the two sides was held in Dubai in 1993 where Bangladesh lost 4-1. Bangladesh suffered an identical margin of defeat against Thailand in Tokyo later that year.

However, Bangladesh used to give more of a fight in their meetings prior to those two matches. Bangladesh even defeated Thailand twice on home ground in 1985 (1-0) and 1989 (3-1) and held them to draws three times in 13 encounters so far, according to FIFA statistics.

and Muktijoddha skipper Damy Emmanuel received serious head-injury that forced him to leave the field and being sent to the Gopalganj Medical Collage Hospital.

“He received treatment at the hpsital, but is now okay to go back to hotel, even though he feels a little bit of pain in his head,” said Muktijoddha coach Shafiqul Islam Manik.

Muktijoddha Sangsad enjoyed superior ball procession and came close to taking the lead in the eighth minute which wasn't capitalized fully. However, Darlington put Muktijoddha ahead in the 34th minute. Muktijoddha Sangsad came close to doubling the margin five minutes before the end when Biplob rattled the Arambagh post.

Arambagh, who adopted a counter-attacking strategy, put pressure in the last 15 minutes for the equaliser but could hardly breach the Muktijoddha backline.

Earlier, Major General (rtd.) Helal Murshed, chairman of Muktijoddha Central Command Council, inaugurated the match as chief guest.

Set for an exciting finish

FROM PAGE 16
batsman to make a century in both innings, and Darren Bravo (76) after the early dismissal of danger man Chris Gayle by Rubel Hossain, the fit-again pacer who also broke the inning's highest partnership by removing Bravo. West Indies lost 5 wickets for 35 runs in the space of 13.1 overs to hand the momentum to the Tigers as Shakib and Shohag, who finished the day fantastically by bowling Veerasammy Permaul with a superb arm ball, equally shared four wickets.

Before that however, the Bangladesh batsmen made a huge statement for their side -- which was playing its first Test in a year -- by amassing 556, their highest ever total by beating their previous best of 488 against Zimbabwe in Chittagong in January 2005. In the process they took a 29-run lead after resuming the day on 455 for six. They took the first-innings lead for only the ninth time in 74 Tests as Nasir Hossain cut loose in the morning.

Most fans would not have dreamed about a first-innings lead after West Indies had amassed 527 for four; instead the most they would have hoped for was that the Tigers avert the follow-on no matter how batting-friendly the wicket was. And after the third day's play the worry was whether they could bat at least one session on the fourth day, but the Bangladesh batsmen crossed all their previous limits at Mirpur

'We still can win'

FROM PAGE 16
collapse for the visitors as they lost five wickets for 35 runs. The batsman, however, believed that the game was still in their hands.

“I think we are still in a good position to try and get a win from here. Once we get to 300 tomorrow, we should be in a good position to look for a win or even try to save the game,” said Powell. “All we need to do tomorrow is bat the first session. Once we do that we should be in a safe position and then push forward from there,” he added.

Claiming that the ball bounced more

than the previous sessions, the batsman believed that the change in conditions towards the end of the fourth day played a key role in the fall of the West Indian wickets. “In the evening the ball started to stop a bit. There was a bit of extra bounce and the ball started to get a grip. A bit of moisture also made it difficult to play your shots,” claimed the batsman. “I think we have enough time, considering the wicket. We have to bat out the first session tomorrow. Once we get to 300 and are in a safe position we should be able to put some pressure,” he added.

Nasir out and about

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Test player Nasir Hossain was last night spotted attending a reception party organised by Agargaon Government New Colony Guardian's Forum at the Agargaon Government New colony.

The program was organised to felicitate the GPA-5 holders of 2011-2012 Secondary School Certificate exam and Nasir joined as special guest, said an eyewitness on condition of anonymity.

This violates the code of conduct for the national team players as Nasir is a member of Bangladesh team currently playing their first Test match against the West Indies.

When contacted, team manager Tanjib Ahsan Saad said he would look into the matter.

“I am not aware of such incident as he did not take any permission from me, which is a must. However, we will investigate the matter,” said Saad when contacted over phone last night.

Debaraj close to IM norm

SPORTS REPORTER

FM Debaraj Chatterjee maintained his solo lead in the Healthcare Pharmaceuticals Ltd 38th National 'A' Chess Championship at the close of the eighth round at the Media Centre of Bangladesh Olympic Association yesterday.

Debraj defeated Mahatabuddin Ahmed Robin in his eighth round board to secure seven points from eight matches to raise the hope of achieving his first International Master norm.

GM Niaz Murshed, GM Reefat Bin Sattar and IM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar shared the second position with six points each while holder GM Ziaur Rahman was in the third position with 5.5 points.

In the day's matches, IM Sagar beat GM Zia, Reefat beat FM Mohammad Javed, Niaz beat Jamal Uddin, FM Nasir Ahmed beat Mohammad Sherajul Kabir.

Jahurul

FROM PAGE 16
continued his good momentum to score a brisk 72. Metro's captain Mohammad Ashraful took three wickets and was the leading wicket taker of the day.

RAJSHAHI v CHITTAGONG

There was nothing much to talk about Rajshahi's innings save a century by Jahurul. The next highest scorer in the team was Sanjamul Islam with 30. The reigning champions were bowled out for a disappointing 239 runs. Chittagong's Yasir Arafat was the main destroyer as he picked up four crucial wickets.

RANGPUR v DHAKA

After winning the toss and electing to bat, Rangpur slipped to 89 for 5 in just 32 overs. It was a string of late-order partnerships that helped the side recover to 282 for nine by the close. An 86-run partnership between Shuvo and Tarik for the sixth wicket was followed by a 74-run partnership between the latter and Alauddin Babu for the seventh wicket as Rangpur made a strong comeback. Mohammad Sharif and Mosharraf Hossain picked three wickets each.



India's Cheteshwar Pujara plays a defensive shot during his maiden double hundred on the second day of the first Test against England at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad yesterday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

Spin after Pujara double



Cricket

PTI, Ahmedabad

Cheteshwar Pujara showed immense concentration and skill to notch up his maiden Test double century as India put themselves in the driver's seat in the first Test by posting a mammoth first innings total and then compounded England's misery with three early jolts on Friday.

The 24-year-old Pujara scored an unbeaten 206 and batted for close to nine hours before the hosts declared the first innings at 521 for eight shortly after the tea break on the second day and then reduced the visitors to a precarious 41 for three at stumps.

Captain Alastair Cook (22) and Kevin Pietersen (6) were the two unbeaten batsmen at close with England still needing 281 runs to avoid the follow. Nick Compton (9), James Anderson (2) and Jonathan Trott (0) are the three batsmen back in the pavilion on a Sardar Patel track which has already started taking turn.

It was Pujara who hogged the limelight as he not only recorded his

second Test century in his sixth match but showed his class with some glorious shots on both sides of the wicket.

The left-handed Yuvraj Singh, playing his first Test since recovering from a rare germ cell cancer, was the other notable performer with a fluent 74 while captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (5) and RAshwin (23) and Zaheer Khan (7) could not hang around for long.

Off-spinner Graeme Swann was the pick of the English bowlers with figures of 51-8-144-5, recording his 14th five wicket haul in an innings.

Pujara became only the sixth Indian batsman to hit a double century against England. He joined the list of Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, Sunil Gavaskar, Gundappa Viswanath, Vinod Kambli and Rahul Dravid.

Pujara battled for a marathon 513 minutes, faced 389 balls and struck 21 fours during his epic unbeaten knock which served as the foundation for India's monumental total.

Off-spinner RAshwin, who opened the bowling, scalped two wickets and in the process became the fastest Indian to claim 50

Test wickets in his ninth Test, eclipsing Anil Kumble's record of achieving the feat in his tenth match.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA: First innings (overnight 323 for 4)
Gambhir b Swann 45
Sehwag b Swann 117
Pujara not out 206
Tendulkar c Patel b Swann 13
Kohli b Swann 19
Yuvraj c Swann b Patel 74
Dhoni b Swann 5
Ashwin c Prior b Pietersen 23
Zaheer c Trott b Anderson 7
Ojha not out 0
Extras: (b-1, lb-10, nb-1) 12
Total: (For 8 wkts decl in 160 overs) 521
Did not bat: Yadav
Fall of wickets: 1-134, 2-224, 3-250, 4-283, 5-413, 6-444, 7-510, 8-519.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	27	7	75	1
Broad	24	1	97	0
Bresnan	19	2	73	0
Swann	51	8	144	5
Patel	31	3	96	1
Pietersen	8	1	25	1

ENGLAND: First innings
Cook not out 22
Compton b Ashwin 9
Anderson c Gambhir b Ojha 2
Trott c Pujara b Ashwin 0
Pietersen not out 6
Extras: (lb-2) 2
Total: (For 3 wkts in 18 overs) 41
To bat: Bell, Patel, Prior, Broad, Bresnan, Swann.
Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-29, 3-30.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Ashwin	8	1	21	2
Zaheer	5	3	6	0

We have the belief

FROM PAGE 16
the Tigers the all-important lead, showed up with the plucky demeanour that characterises his on-field exploits.

The Rangpur right-hander missed out on what would have been his maiden Test century in only his fifth match, but it is a measure of the team unity and perhaps the confidence among the young group that he appeared to have no regret at all over the missed opportunity.

“I was trying to give as little strike to Rajib Bhai (Shahadat Hossain) as possible. I did what I thought was right. No, I didn't think that (that refusing the singles contributed to him missing the century). Century is a matter of luck. It wasn't to be, so there is nothing to say about it,” said Nasir philosophically when asked whether he thought that farming the strike robbed him of the four runs needed to seal his ton.

On the state of the match, Nasir was optimistic but conservatively so. Perhaps he too was fearing that the penny might drop and the team would revert to type. The first focus understandably was on dismissing the visitors and then assessing the next course of action.

“I would say that we are in a very good position now. If we can get them out in the first hour, or within the first 20-25 overs then hopefully we will get a chaseable score,” said Nasir. “The way it looks now, it seems that we might have to bat out 60 overs, and maybe then the chase will be 300. We will have to see then, it has not yet been decided or discussed among the team.”

Whether the Tigers can pull off an unlikely and ground-breaking win today will likely depend on a few factors -- the state of the pitch which so far has played like a batsman's dream, Bangladesh avoiding the batting capitulation they have been historically prone to, and to a lesser extent the availability of the tenacious Chanderpaul.

“In the game of cricket a lot can happen, but we all have the confidence and self-belief that we will be able to do something good tomorrow (Saturday). The pitch is a beautiful batting wicket. Since it's the fifth day tomorrow, the ball will probably turn, but pace should not cause too many problems,” Nasir said and added that it will obviously be good for the home side if Chanderpaul is unable to bat today.

“I would say we batted very well. We still don't know the extent of our capabilities, what we can achieve. All of us batted well, which is why we achieved the score,” said Nasir when asked about Bangladesh achieving their highest Test score in this match.

While it is only natural to be prepared for disaster given Bangladesh's cricket history, as Nasir said, this is a team still discovering its limits. History has already been rewritten in this match. It is now a matter of continuing their bowling momentum and then repeating their first innings batting exploits. While fans across the breadth of the land will be fearing a fifth-day collapse, events so far have given them cause to hope that the penny stays airborne a day longer.

SL-NZ 1st Test starts today

AFP, Galle

Sri Lanka on Friday suffered a big blow when in-form opener Tillakaratne Dilshan was ruled out of the opening Test against New Zealand in Galle after failing to recover from a back injury.

Dilshan, who also missed the last two matches of the recent one-day series against the tourists, was replaced by uncapped opening batsman Dimuth Karunaratne, 24.

Walton-DRU media cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Nine matches were held on the second day of Walton-DRU Media Cricket Tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday with Financial Express, Ittefaq, Janakantha, BSS, Boishakhi TV, Diganta TV, Jugantor, Prime News and Bhorer Kagoj winning their respective matches.

The Financial Express defeated New Age by four wickets, Ittefaq beat Ajkaler Khabar by four wickets, Daily Janakantha beat Manabjamjini by five wickets, BSS defeated The Independent by 22 runs, Boishakhi TV beat Daily Samakal by 20 runs, Diganta TV edged Amar Desh by two runs, Daily Jugantor thrashed RTV by 35 runs, Bhorer Kagoj beat UNB by four wickets, Prime News beat Banglabazar Patrika by four wickets and Sangram got walkover against ATN News.