

## 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, Junaid 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

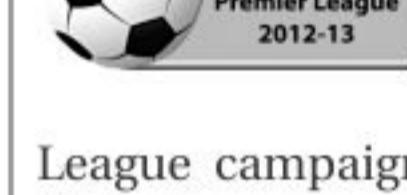
for Bangladesh, who played their first friendly against Nepal in Kathmandu which ended in a 1-1 draw. Bangladesh are set to play two more FIFA friendlies against Thailand and Malaysia as the game's governing body wants to give the national team more international exposure apart from the regular schedules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

## 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

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

"He received treatment at the hospital, 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 Mursheed, chairman of Muktijoddha Central Command Council, inaugurated the match as chief guest.

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 Shuvu 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.

## 'We still can win'

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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.

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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.

## 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.

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 Kamli

and Rahul Dravid.

Pujara batted 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 R Ashwin,

Swann,

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 2