

3 rookies in T20 squad

SPORTS REPORTER

Newcomers Anamul Haque, Mominul Haque and Shohag Gazi have been drafted into the 14-man squad for the only T20 game against the West Indies scheduled to take place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur tomorrow.

Junaed Siddiqui and Mohammad Ashraful, who were in the squad which represented Bangladesh in the ICC World Twenty20 in Sri Lanka this October, have been dropped. Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and fast bowler Abul Hasan who were also present in the World Twenty20 squad missed out due to injuries. Shakib is currently undergoing a rehabilitation programme while Abul is recovering from a side strain.

SQUAD
Mushfiqur Rahim (captain), Mahmudullah Riyad (vice-captain), Tamim Iqbal, Anamul Haque, Abdur Razzaq, Mominul Haque, Jahurul Islam, Nasir Hossain, Elias Sunny, Rubel Hossain, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Shohag Gazi, Ziaur Rahman, Shafiqul Islam.

Ctg Premier League

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BCIC Krira Sangstha crushed Customs Sports Club by 3-0 goals in the Chittagong Premier Division on Football League at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday. BCIC's foreign recruit Esoko Lucky netted the first goal in the 69th minute before Atik scored two goals in the 80th and 87th minutes.

Riyad's just

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batted as if the pitch was perfect and the bowling ordinary.

In the past he has often been the man for a crisis, the person who repaired the damage only to see the rest of his teammates crumble at crucial junctures. Fortunately now, Bangladesh seem to have the depth in quality -- especially in the influx of brave young talent -- to pick up where he left off, and reward him with the results he deserves.

It so nearly might not have been because Riyad's place was under the scanner before the tour, but his performance in the series served as a reminder that someone like him, who almost always performs in crises, is invaluable and must be handled with care.

Shakib slips

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revealed that the cricketer would be marrying Umme Ahmed Shishir, a computers student based in Minnesota, America.

The wedding date has been scheduled on Wednesday, the 12th of December. Umme's father hails from Narayanganj. The 25-year-old cricketer was unavailable for any comments.

The left handed all-rounder was earlier ruled out of the ODI series against the West Indies as he was diagnosed with a shin injury following the Test series. He was advised to rest for six weeks by doctors.

The Moments

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very first over as Pollard missed a ball that stayed low. He also got the wicket of Darren Sammy in his very next over as the visiting captain edged one to the slips.

Tigers exult

SPORTS REPORTER

SAHARA CUP 2012
It was a grand party at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday night as the players sang their celebratory 'Aamra Korbo Joy' (We Shall Overcome) and danced to the tune of the YouTube sensation 'Gangnam Style', which ironically was popularised in cricket circles when the West Indies' celebrated their ICC World Twenty20 victory in October. Majority of the players were of the opinion that the series victory against the West Indies was the best in the history of Bangladesh's cricket, even surpassing the 4-0 whitewash against New Zealand.

The following are the comments from the ecstatic Tigers immediately after their resounding 3-2 series win over the West Indies.

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza

This victory easily beats all our other series wins. Hands down.

Tamim Iqbal

This is Bangladesh's biggest achievement.

If we won the Asia cup that would have

been the best but this is the best. Everybody performed when it mattered. This was one series that we played as a team. The matches that we lost we lost very closely.

As soon as the game got over I ran to the DJ and asked them to play the Gangnam style song. I think Riyad bhai dances the song best.

Abdur Razzaq

Personally for me this was an even better win than New Zealand. This was Bangladesh's biggest achievement according to me for as long as I have played. No doubt. Personally I am happy as well. I am always happy even if I don't get any wicket.

Nasir Hossain

I wanted to be a hero today. I wanted to make Bangladesh win the match. I told [spin-bowling coach] Saqlain Mushtaq that I will make 40 to 50 runs and win the game. I am happy that I did that.

Anamul Haque

It feels awesome. Can't describe it. Although I couldn't score anything at all today, I scored my first century in this series so it makes it even better.

Khulna, Rajshahi 50-50

SPORTS REPORTER

WALTON
Sixteen wickets fell a t t h e Sh a h e d C h a n d u Stadium in Bogra yesterday as the final-round game between Khulna and Rajshahi headed towards an enthralling finish.

CHITTAGONG v RANGPUR

Riding on Liton's century, Rangpur began strongly after Chittagong were bowled out for 350 yesterday. Liton was ably supported by Tanvir Haider's unbeaten half-century. The port city currently lead the game by 90 runs.

DHAKA METRO v SYLHET

Dhaka Metro are in complete control of the game in Rangpur as Ashraful's five-for made short work of the Sylhet batting. Alok Kapali fought briefly with a 42 but was bowled off Sharifullah in the last session of the game.

KHULNA v RAJSHAHI

Rajshahi stumbled from an overnight score of 90 for 1 to getting bowled out for 222, six behind Khulna in the first innings. However, they came back in the game through their bowlers as they picked up eight quick wickets to leave Khulna on 165 for eight at the close.

BARISAL v DHAKA

In a must-win game for the capital city, Dhaka rode on their top order batsmen Rony Talukdar and

SCORES IN BRIEF

BARISAL: First innings 256 all out in 92.1 overs.

KHULNA

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Tigers showed character

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Interestingly, the West Indies skipper credited the passionate supporters in the stadium as being the twelfth man in the Tigers' victory. "We could clearly see that the crowd came to support the home team. It's funny how quiet they went when we took a wicket. The crowd should be the 12th man for the home team and they supported them, rightly so. Likewise I like playing in front of my home crowd," said the ever-smiling Sammy.

This reversal has put a dampener on an otherwise good year for West Indies. "Like I said, 2012 has been a good year for us. We won 4 Test matches in a row and won the T20 World Cup. We'd have loved to win the series here but we didn't. It's a step backwards. Monday [only T20 against Bangladesh] will be the last international match for us this year and we look to finish on a high."

'This is for the martyrs'

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ample support with the bat.

"The best thing about him is his fighting character. I just told him to stick to the plan and not to worry about the outcome. His wicket of Pollard was very crucial -- if we didn't take that they would have scored a 250-plus total," claimed Mushfiqur. "As for Shafiq, I think 70 to 80 per cent credit for our victory should go to him. To come and play against such aggressive players in the finals was a brilliant task," added Mushfiqur.

Declared as the man of the series for his 204 runs and the way he marshalled his troops on the field, Mushfiqur stated that he was successful only because of his team. The press conference ended in a similarly dramatic fashion as the game itself, as an emotional Mushfiqur dedicated Bangladesh's best ever win in the month of victory to the martyrs of the country's Liberation War. "It's the month of our country's victory, and although we haven't done a fraction of what they did [martyrs] for our country, we want to dedicate this win to them."

Eng close to victory

PTI, Kolkata

A spineless India were on the verge of a second successive humiliating defeat in their own backyard against England who were within sniffing distance of an emphatic victory in the third cricket Test here on Saturday.

After conceding a mammoth 207-run lead, India's famed batsmen put up a pathetic display but Ravi Ashwin (83 batting) and the tail-enders delayed the inevitable as the hosts reached 239 for nine at close on the penultimate day.

Ashwin, who flopped as a bowler, provided some resistance as the last two wickets added 80 runs after being at a precarious 159 for eight at one stage, forcing the game to stretch into the fifth day with India having a slender lead of 32.

With one full day left, England were on course for a huge win and take an unassailable 2-1 lead in the four-match series.

India got off to a good start with Virender Sehwag (49) and Gautam Gambhir (40) putting on 86 runs but the innings completely came apart after the lunch break with wickets falling with embarrassing ease on an Eden Gardens track, which gave some assistance to the bowlers.

While the Indian bowlers looked completely ineffective, the English bowlers exploited the conditions far better and raise hopes of their first series win on Indian soil in 28 years.

After the humiliating 10-wicket defeat in Mumbai, the hosts once again seemed clueless in their own den with neither batting nor bowling clicking against the English side.

Mash may

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And the Tigers, who had an emotional breakdown after that two-run defeat in the Asia Cup final against Pakistan, have finally built a significant bridge between two significant months of our country's history by conquering a team that wanted a 5-0 ODI whitewash after a 2-0 Test series triumph.

We salute every member of the national cricket team for not just winning the one-day series in a spectacular fashion but seeing them fighting as a unit and oozing self-belief. Self-belief was perhaps the most defining factor for the Tigers in the series. Over the years we have won a number of one-day matches but our players have not showed the mentality to pull themselves out from desperate situations like they did in this series and to some extent in the preceding Test matches.

And the first sign of it was seen at the sight of Shohag Gazi. After being hit for a six off the first ball he bowled in Test cricket, the young off-spinner made the biggest impact by becoming the most successful Bangladesh bowler. In the cut throat professional world character is all about how you react when the chips are down. And this series was all about character starting from captain Mushfiqur to the youngest member of the side, Anamul Haque. We believe the Tigers have passed the formative years. It's now time to grow.

Sports Editor



PHOTO: CRICINFO

England spinner Graeme Swann roars for joy after dismissing superstar Sachin Tendulkar cheaply in India's second innings on the fourth day of the third Test at Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday.

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Youngmen's Club of Fakirpul defeated Dhaka Wanderers Club 1-0 in the lone match of the Popular Life Insurance Senior Division League at the Birsreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday. Mohammad Shamim scored the only goal of the match in the 45th minute.

Pioneer League

Tangail Football Academy and Khilgaon Jagoroni Sangsad won their respective matches of the Dhaka City Corporation Pioneer Super League at different venues yesterday. Tangail thrashed Matherbari Mukto Kantha 5-0 while Khilgaon defeated Gazipur Ekadash 2-0. The other match of the day between Monsur Sporting Club and Nasrin Sporting Club ended in a 2-2 draw.

BKSP's goal-fest

BKSP demolished Rajshahi Division 13-0 in the super four stage match of the Agrani Bank National Youth Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. Khorshedur Rahman and Joy Chakrabarty scored four goals, Deen Islam bagged three while Naimuddin and Arshad Hosain scored one goal each. In the other matches of the day, Rajshahi District beat Dinajpur 3-1, Faridpur beat Jaypurhat 5-1 and Dhaka outplayed Chittagong 3-0, thanks to a hattrick from Shahidul Islam.

Final phase of BFF talent hunt on

The final phase of the talent hunt for the Sylhet Football Academy of Bangladesh Football Federation began yesterday at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. FIFA's technical director Jean Micheela is conducting the talent hunt, where some thirty footballers of U-14 level will be picked today. Another 30 of U-18 level will be selected tomorrow.

Laila Alam chess

Begum Laila Alam 6th Open International Rating Chess Tournament-2012 WIM Shamima Akter Liza and WFM Zakia Sultana jointly led the Begum Laila Alam 6th Open International Rating Women Chess with maximum four points at the end of the fourth round yesterday. Nine players are share the second position

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ice cream flavor, for 38 Cera- short Pardo

5 Greek mountain

8 Raced

12 Head light?

13 Sister

14 Superhero

15 Right angles

16 Powerful

18 Vicinity

20 Mideast

22 "the fields we go"

23 Skillet

24 Energizes, with "up"

27 Geometric curve

32 401(k) alternative

33 Leave unpaid

34 Charged bit

56 Spotted

57 An- nouncer

58 Dissolve

10 Duel tool

11 Bargain

19 Exist

21 Hot tub

24 Spot on a die

25 Geologi- cal period

26 Eden

28 Dumb- found