

DHAKA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2013, E-M... @thedailystar.net



Mercurial Mohammad Ashraful's (2nd from R) job was to bat sensibly the day before, but the Walton Central Zone cricketer stunned all with a hatrick yesterday, the second day of the Bangladesh Cricket League final, against BCB North Zone at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. The feat, however, is unlikely to sway the national selectors who snubbed Ashraful for the Sri Lanka tour next month.

PHOTO: FROZ AHMED

## Ash hatrick in even battle

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Ashraful proved he is never far from the limelight as Bangladesh cricket's prodigal son hogged the spotlight with a hatrick on the second day of the five-day Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) final at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur last night.

In the 79th over and his first over, spinner Ashraful made best use of the pink ball as he dismissed Forhad Reza, Sajedul Islam and Saqlain Sajib in the last three deliveries to become the first bowler to achieve this feat in the newly-designed first-class competition.

It also meant that the Walton Central Zone ended the day with a 62 run overall lead with eight wickets in hand at stumps over BCB North Zone.

"Obviously I am excited and hope this success gives me some confidence to bat well in the second innings. I bowled straight and flat to get the first two wickets and then it was a slower ball," said an excited Ashraful after the day's play.

Ashraful became the eighth bowler to take a hatrick in the domestic first-class competition after Waswaurni Palash, Elias Sunny (who has done it twice), Nur Hossain Munna, Yasin Arafat, Mohammad Sharif, Dollar Mahmud and Shohag Gazi, who have all achieved the feat in the National Cricket League (NCL).

But it was left-arm spinner Mosharrar Hossain who combined with young paceman Taskin Ahmed to give Walton Central Zone a slim three-run lead. Almost all the North Zone batsman got starts but failed to carry on. Mosharrar finished with 4-65 and Taskin claimed three wickets for 50 runs.

Nasir Hossain was the brightest player for North Zone as he scored a well-made 74 from 88 balls with eight fours and four sixes, but missed out on the second cen

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

## Shakib out of tour

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan will miss out on Bangladesh's tour of Sri Lanka next month as he is scheduled to undergo an operation in Australia on his right leg this week. He'll be going under the knife to treat one of the three problems that he was earlier diagnosed with by the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) physicians.

Chairman of BCB's cricket operations committee Enayet Hossain Siraj confirmed the news at Mirpur yesterday. The operation is expected to sideline the player for six weeks.

"He'll have to stay in Australia for a week or 10 days immediately after the operation. After a week there will be an assessment. Once he can move, he'll return to the country. Theoretically it'll take him six weeks to return to the cricket field. He'll begin exercising three weeks after the operation," said Debashish Chowdhury, BCB's physician, adding

All-rounder to undergo surgery on right calf in Australia by Thursday, says national team's physician Debashish Chowdhury

Chowdhury hopeful of Shakib's return before Zimbabwe tour in April

Losing Shakib a big loss.... But we were

that hopefully Shakib will be available for the Zimbabwe tour in April.

"He has an appointment with a podiatrist (feet specialist) this Monday. We just wanted to talk to a podiatrist to get a bio-mechanical assessment from him and get as much information as possible. After that he is most likely to undergo surgery by Thursday," added Chowdhury.

Shakib's impending surgery and subsequent time out of the team made life difficult for the national selectors, who met with the national team's head coach yesterday afternoon to finalise the team for the first Test against Sri Lanka.

"Losing Shakib for the series is obviously a big loss. It's almost impossible to replace a player of his calibre. It's as good as losing a batsman and a bowler," said chief selector Akram Khan.

"But it's a part of life and honestly speaking we were ready for it and we'll choose someone from the preliminary squad accordingly. We will be finalising a 15-member team by Sunday and hopefully the management can work out a good strategy.

Shakib, who went to Australia on Wednesday night for a second opinion on his shin bone injury, met Dr. Scott Burne on Thursday. After checking all the reports the Sydney expert suggested the all-rounder have surgery on his calf to eliminate the stiffness that has been causing him problems for some time.

"The main problem is the Exertional Compartmental Syndrome, which means that his right calf muscle, due to repeated

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

## Ronaldo to open PSG-Marseille

Brazilian Ronaldo will kick off Paris St Germain's home Ligue 1 clash against Olympique Marseille on Sunday, in which his former Real Madrid team mate David Beckham is poised to make his debut for the French club.

"The club decided to honour former Brazil international Ronaldo... who will be the special guest for this PSG-OM," the Ligue 1 leaders said on their website (www.psg.fr) on Friday.

"He will virtually kick the match off."

REUTERS, PARIS



## Quiet day for Siddikur

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman had a quiet but flawless day in the Asian Tour yesterday when he carded two-under-par in the third round of the Zaykabar Myanmar Open. The 28-year old golfer could not replicate the heroics of the previous day at the Royal Mingalardon Golf and Country Club, but did a decent enough job by sinking birdies in the 12th and 18th holes and going bogey-free. The two-under-par score took his tally to seven-under-par (209) which put him on joint 31st position.

Siddikur was eight shots off the leader, Chawalit Plaphol of

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

## Dwyer new Tigers trainer

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has appointed Australian David Dwyer as the 'Head Strength and Conditioning Coach' of the national team for two years. Dwyer, who reached the country last night, will be joining the team at the training camp in the morning today. He'll also be travelling with the national team to Sri Lanka next month.

Dwyer has worked with a number of sporting teams in different countries, the most prominent being the Pakistan cricket team from 2007 to 2010. He also spent two months with the Afghanistan Cricket Board as a consultant.

Having a background in rugby, he has been involved in coaching teams in other sports as well. He spent the year 2012 with the 'Mt Pritchard Rugby League Club'. In 2011 he worked as an Assistant Coach for the Fiji Rugby Union for eight months.

## Bangladesh past Fiji hurdle

Play against India tonight

SPORTS REPORTER

Mamunur Rahman Chayan's four goals in the second half took Bangladesh out of a sticky situation to deliver an 8-4 goal win against minnows Fiji in their Hockey World League Round Two match at New Delhi's Dhyanchand Stadium yesterday.

The win helped Bangladesh land their third win from four games and, with a game against India tonight, Bangladesh are hopeful of causing an upset to try and make it through to round three.

Bangladesh made their intention of winning by a big margin very clear from the beginning as they went for the long-ball play instead of building attack. And it looked like it would pay off when Krishno Kumar Das scored twice in the opening eleven minutes, first with a tidy one-on-one finish, next when he guided home Moshir Rahman Biplob's whipped pass. Veteran Kamruzzaman Rana then made it 3-0 in the 16th minute excellent rising effort before Fiji stormed back into contention with two goals late in the first half to make it 3-2 at half-time.



Mamunur Rahman Chayan raises his arms after scoring one of his four goals from penalty corners in Bangladesh's 8-4 win against Fiji in the their penultimate World Hockey League Round 2 match at New Delhi's Dhyanchad Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIH

Bangladeshi strikers were guilty of spurning quite a number of easy chances while, on the other hand, Fiji made sure they got in the scoresheet each time they got the ball inside the Bangladesh's danger zone.

The penalty corner specialist Chayan, who was playing despite an injury, however got in on the act in the second half to make sure no upset was on the cards. Chayan made it 4-2 from a penalty corner the spot in the 48th minute before Fiji pulled another goal back three minutes later. Chayan, though, killed off the game with

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

## De Kruif's challenge

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Lodewijk de Kruif has quite a task at hand.

With only six days left for the start of the AFC Challenge Cup, some of Bangladesh's key players are struggling with injuries with two influential wingers, Zahid Hossain and Shakil Ahmed, missing the practice sessions. Veteran striker Zahid Hasan Emily is also struggling with a rib injury. And there is not enough time

for recovery as the team leaves the country tomorrow after only three sessions of practice under the new coach.

If those three influential players are not available for the tour, Bangladesh's AFC mission may fall apart. However, De Kruif is not banking on ifs and buts and planning alternatives, according to sources. The Dutch coach is expected to field two youngsters -- Alamgir Kabir and Sohel Rana, both of whom have been in excellent form -- on the wings. Abdul Baten Komol and Tauhidul

Alam will also be in the reckoning for first-team spots at those positions. The lone striker's choice is thought to be Abahani's in-form striker Shakhawat Hossain Rony, who scored six League goals and has impressed the coach in the training sessions.

Bangladesh will be fielding a relatively inexperienced frontline against the likes of Palestine, Nepal and Mariana Island. However, the challenge will not only come from those quarters; the challenge will also be for the whole team to adapt to the coach's Dutch style of play and tactics.

The coach tried to get his charges acquainted with the pressing game -- where a host of players including defenders go pressing into the opposition half and retreat in defence -- during yesterday's practice session. He formed two groups of seven players who would go for the ball all the time in seven-minute periods which test the players' skill, strength and stamina.

De Kruif's style of coaching has already won the admiration of his assistant local coach and some of the players. It remains to be seen if it conjures up any unexpected results in the short time they have at hand.



Lodewijk de Kruif relays his ideas to his charges at the BNS yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Master batsman Sachin Tendulkar struck an unbeaten 71 to lead India's fightback against Australia on the second day of the first Test in Chennai yesterday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

## Tendulkar in the runs

Cricket

PTI, Chennai

Sachin Tendulkar showed glimpses of his vintage form with a fluent unbeaten half-century as India recovered from two early jolts to leave the first Test against Australia evenly poised here on Saturday.

The 39-year-old veteran, who had been struggling for form for a long time, played with decisive footwork and a positive frame of mind to guide India to 182 for three in 52 overs on the second day at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, which saw local boy Ravi Ashwin grab a career-best seven-wicket haul.

Tendulkar (71 batting) and Virat Kohli (50 batting) were at the crease when stumps were drawn with India still trailing by 198 runs. The two have so far added 77 runs for the fourth wicket.

Tendulkar, in the course of his 67th Test half-century, touched another milestone by surpassing 7,000 runs on home turf. Kohli, on the other hand, completed his seventh Test half-century at the fag end of the day.

Resuming at the overnight score of 316 for 7, the Australians continued to frustrate the Indians with captain Michael Clarke (130) and the tail-enders combining to score 64 more runs to take the score to a competitive 380.

Ashwin, who had scalped six wickets on the opening day, claimed the wicket of last man Nathan Lyon to return

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1