

Al Amin called up, Razzak returns

War against polluters, not Saber: Papon



ABDUR RAZZAK

SPORTS REPORTER

Natural wicket-taking ability brought uncapped pacer Al Amin Hossain to the national fold, while Abdur Razzak was recalled after a long break as the selectors considered his recent development as a longer-version bowler when announcing the 14-member final squad yesterday for the first Test against New Zealand that begins in Chittagong on October 9.

Naem Islam, Anamul Haque and Marshall Ayub were also recalled while Enamul Haque, Jahurul Islam, Sajedul Islam, Shafiul Islam, Shahadat Hossain, Shahriar Nafees, Ziaur Rahman and the banned Mohammad Ashraful were the omissions from the side that played the last Test series in Zimbabwe.

"He (Al Amin) is the kind of



bowler who can take wickets and we need this kind of pace bowler for our Test team. He has had consistent performances in recent times and we believe that he is a future prospect for our struggling pace department," said selector Habibul Bashar -- the only one standing of the three-man panel -- on the only fresh inclusion in the squad.

The 23-year old paceman from Jhenidah, Al-Amin Hossain was excited about the call-up but he was looking forward to grab a place in the playing eleven. "A dream came true for me and I think it's a result of my hard work. Now I am looking forward to playing the first Test match in Chittagong. The main challenge however lies with how long I can keep my place in the team by putting in good performances," said the lanky paceman.

"One can raise questions about the exclusion of Ziaur Rahman as he played a big role in our last Test victory against Zimbabwe by taking four wickets in the second innings but we think these conditions will hardly suit his bowling and as a batting all-rounder he could not impress us at all," added Bashar.

Since his Test debut in 2006,



AL AMIN HOSSAIN

STATS(First-class)

Batting & fielding

M	I	R	HS	Ave	100	50	4s	6s	Ct	St
13	21	75	23	5.35	0	0	9	2	2	0

Bowling

M	I	B	R	W	Ave	Econ	4w	5w	10
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Razzak has played only nine Tests as he acquired the tag of a limited-overs specialist for his ability to contain the batsman. His last Test appearance was against Zimbabwe at Harare in 2011, so it was interesting to see the left-armer's return to the Test side.

"If you look at his (Razzak) performance in the domestic longer-version competitions, he has been quite successful. We observed that he made changes to his bowling; he is now giving the ball more loop and

getting more turn. Considering everything, we picked him over Enam (Enamul Haque)," explained Bashar.

Another name may invite interest. Vice-captain Mahmudullah Riyad was dropped from the Tigers' last Test in Zimbabwe after some meagre returns, but the batsman finds his name right below that of the skipper in this squad. "Riyad has been showing good form recently, and I am sure he will face no problems in the series," Bashar said.

On the other hand he said that Naem, Marshall and Anamul deserved their places for their reasonable performances.

"Jahurul is actually out of form but he can get back his place any time by putting in good performances," said Bashar.

BANGLADESH SQUAD FOR FIRST TEST

Mushfiquur Rahim (captain), Mahmudullah Riyad (vice captain), Anamul Haque, Tamim Iqbal, Shakib Al Hasan, Nasir Hossain, Abdur Razzak, Naem Islam, Sohag Gazi, Rubel Hossain, Mominul Hoque, Marshall Ayub, Robiul Islam and Al Amin Hossain

Four writs filed against BCB polls

SPORTS REPORTER

Two days after the election commission finalised the voters' list of the forthcoming BCB elections, a number of aggrieved individuals associated with district and divisional sports associations have filed four different writ petitions with the law court seeking cancellation of the list and pleading a stay on the high-profile BCB polls.

The law officer of the National Sports Council (NSC), which is the custodian of the country's sports federations, yesterday confirmed that four writ petitions have been filed regarding the BCB elections but did not provide further details.

The Daily Star Sports also tried to reach the acting CEO of the BCB Nizamuddin Chowdhury, one of the two respondents of the writ petitions, but could not get any response. Abdullah Al Fuad Redwan, general secretary of Jamalpur District Sports Association, said that he filed a writ petition alleging that the councillor nominated from that district was done so illegally and wanted it revoked. He also said that the final hearing will take place on Sunday.

However, The Daily Star could not confirm the other three individuals and details of their petitions till filing of this report last night.

Meanwhile, when contacted, an election commission official who preferred not to be quoted said that the commission is not aware of such writ petitions.

Ticket rates announced

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Wednesday announced the ticket rates for the upcoming home series against New Zealand, which will start with the first Test of the two-match series at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong from October 9.

United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCB) has won the ticketing rights for the series involving two Tests, three ODIs and one T20 International.

The ticket selling branches are Motijheel (principle branch), Gulshan (corporate branch), Nayabazar Branch, Sonargaon Janapath Branch, Mirpur Branch, Dhanmondi Branch, Chashara Branch (Narayanganj), Agrabad Branch and O.R. Nizam Road Branch (Chittagong), Shahjalal Uposhohor Branch and Sylhet Main Branch (Sylhet).

Gazi Ashraf Hossain informed during a press conference yesterday that tickets are

compromise with them."

Praising Saber's past achievements in the sport and vast knowledge of the game, Papon said that he got surprised to see his predecessor sitting with people against whom he once waged a war.

"I think he was trapped by those people who polluted our sports. I must say Saber bhai is not conspiring and I request him to come out from grasp of that vested quarter," said Papon.

While Papon is complaining of conspiracy, his predecessor is blaming him for manipulating the elections. But the incumbent president faced questions whether he really believed that the constitutional amendment was done in line with the ICC guidelines or spirit as it adopted clauses like three directorship from NSC, two councilorship from one club and district commissioner's final power to nominate the councillor.

Papon however said wrong interpretations are being publicised regarding government's interference under the 2012 amended constitution.

"There is no question of government interference. Some people are giving wrong explanation regarding this constitution. ICC wants non-politicisation, but you can't survive without the government's help. So you have to understand this point," Papon defended the 2012 amended constitution.

Clubs dictating Test policy?

SPORTS REPORTER



Fit-again Shakib Al Hasan was drafted in the BCB XI squad as pressure from the clubs forced the selectors to bring last-minute changes to their plan for the three-day match which will start at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong tomorrow.

Jahurul Islam was initially included in the 14-member team and his absence meant that, according to sources close to the national team, Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club would miss both their wicketkeepers for the ongoing League as national skipper Mushfiquur Rahim will also not be available.

The selectors wanted to see left-

handed batsman Mehrab Hossain in the practice match and initially included him in the side, but they had to release him as his club Brothers Union has a match on the same day.

Not many would even try to argue that there is justification in disrupting national plans to accommodate the convenience of the clubs -- each Test for Bangladesh is crucial as the team tries to climb the slippery slope towards respect in the Test arena, and ideally the management should focus only on the upcoming Test when settling on the team for a practice match. But when asked about the last moment changes, selector Habibul Bashar took some time to make a comment on the club influence and was diplomatic in his answers.

"Actually we didn't make any big

changes. We needed to make some adjustments considering the ongoing Dhaka Premier League. Shakib didn't get enough chances to play matches in the Premier League and that is why we gave him a chance in the practice match while Naem (Islam), Riyad (Mahmudullah) and Anamul (Haque) need some longer-version practice ahead of the Test series," said Bashar.

Shakib had missed the first four rounds of the DPL due to a thumb injury.

BCB XI SQUAD

Mahmudullah Riyad (captain), Shakib Al Hasan, Anamul Haque, Ziaur Rahman, Naem Islam, Shamsur Rahman, Marshall Ayub, Sajedul Islam, Souyma Sarker, Muktar Ali, Nur Hossain and Farhad Reza.

Abahani in a shambles

SCORES IN BRIEF

PRIME BANK: 272 for 9 (Bhanuka 69, Saykat 59; Parnavitana 3-39, Nabil 2-36)
ABAHANI: 152 all out in 35.5 overs (Md Al Amin 28; Enamul 4-43)

Result: Prime Bank won by 120 runs
GAZI TANK: 248 for 9 (Rakibul 75, Riyad 68; Mendis 4-57, Mashrafe 2-38)
MOHAMMEDAN: 145 all out in 38.4 overs (Tharanga 56; Zaidi 3-30, Riyad

2-27)
Result: Gazi Tank won by 103 runs.
PRIME DOLESHWAR: 85 all out in 26 overs (Shohag 26; S Sarker 3-25, Shalika 3-29)

SPORTS REPORTER



Abahani face the rare danger of a demotion to the relegation league this year as they continued their losing streak in the Dhaka Premier League with a thrashing 120-run defeat against Prime Bank Cricket Club at Fatullah yesterday.

Chasing a target of 272, Abahani were dismissed for just 152.

In the day's other games, Gazi Tank

Cricketers posted a 103-run win over Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium at Bogra and Prime Doleshwar went down to Victoria Sporting Club by nine wickets

at the BKSP. The win took Victoria to top spot in the league with nine points, while Prime Doleshwar were in second place with eight points.

Prime Bank made the most of their decision to bat first, courtesy of half-centuries from Bhanuka Rajapakse (69) and opener Saykat Ali (59). The pair scored 82 runs in 76 balls for the second wicket. After both the batsmen departed, Sri Lankan Lahiru Thirimanne's 52 off 57 guided the middle order. A late surge from Taposh Baisya, who scored an unbeaten 30-ball 39, took Prime Bank to 272.

In reply, Abahani lost wickets regularly and struggled throughout the chase. They were bundled out in 35.5 overs with Mohammad Al Amin top-

scoring with 28 runs.

Half-centuries from Mahmudullah Riyad (68) and Rokibul Hasan (75) rescued Gazi Tank from a precarious 95 for 4 in 27.2 overs to a respectable 248. The pair shared a 94-run partnership for the fifth wicket that changed the script of the game.

In reply, Mohammedan gave in for just 145 runs in 38.4 overs. Their Sri Lankan recruit Upul Tharanga top-scored with 56 runs.

Prime Doleshwar's good run in the tournament came to a halt at the BKSP when they were bundled out for just 85 runs by Victoria. Both their in-form batsmen, Mominul Haque and Roshane Silva, failed to perform as their batting order suffered a collapse.

Kiwis go to Ctg today

SPORTS REPORTER from Ctg

The hartal called in Chittagong in protest of Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury's death penalty compelled the 22-member New Zealand contingent to postpone its travel plans by a day.

The visitors will instead leave for the port city this afternoon today along with the 14-member Bangladesh Test squad and the players for tomorrow's three-day warm-up. The second batch of New Zealand cricketers, which includes Ross Taylor, Tim Southee and Mark Gillespie, arrived in Dhaka yesterday.



National team's former captain Shakib Al Hasan (C), brand ambassador of Lifebuoy, kicks off the Global Handwashing Day festivities by cutting a cake to celebrate the birthday of 50 children, who have reached the critical age of five years. KSM Minhaj, brand building director of Unilever Bangladesh Limited, was also present at the occasion.

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