

StanChart nat'l school cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Rain forced all five matches to be curtailed in the Standard Chartered Young Tigers National School Cricket Tournament yesterday at different venues in the city.

Choraila Nurul Haq High School crushed Maple Leaf International School by 81 runs at the Iqbal Road ground. Maple Leaf could only muster 114 runs in pursuit of a mammoth target of 196 set by Choraila in 20 overs. Debashish of the winning side hit a quickfire 55.

At the East End Club ground, Ispahani High School defeated National Bank Public School by 30 runs. Mazharul took four wickets for Ispahani.

Ibn Sina Pre-Cadet School, Ideal High School and Mirpur Government High School also won their respective matches.

BCB BRAC Bank Academy Cup sides named

SPORTS REPORTER

National cricket selectors have chosen three squads to participate in the first BCB (Bangladesh Cricket Board) BRAC Bank Academy Cup. The series will be part of the selection process for the first intake of scholarship holders to the new cricket academy.

The three teams will participate in two three-day and two one-day matches each during the series that will be played from April 23.

Players selected in the Maroon and Light Blue teams are requested to report to BCB High Performance Officer Shahidul Islam at BKSP by 5:00pm on April 22 and players from the Navy Blue team are to report on April 25 to the same officer.

SQUADS

LIGHT BLUE: Golam Rahman, Raquib Hassan, Sakib Al Hasan, Uttam Sarkar, Imtiaz Hossain, Mushfiqur Rahim, Farhad Reza, Arafat Sunny, Yasin Arafat, Abul Bashar, Shafaq Al Zahir, Kazi Kamrul Islam, Nazmul Hossain Milon, Dhiman Ghosh.

COACH: Sarwar Imran.

MAROON: Tamim Iqbal, Mehdi Hasan, Mehrab Hossain Jr., Shamsur Rahman, Farhad Hossain, Sagor Hossain, Waseluddin Ahmed, Nadif Chowdhury, Rezaul Islam, Nabil Samad, Ziaur Rahman, Sajidul Islam, Israaq Sonnet.

NAVY BLUE: Nazmus Sadat, Jahirul Islam, Nazimuddin, Marshall Ayub, Amit Majumdar, Golam Masud Shishir, Shirajullah Khadem, Mahmudullah Riyad, Humayun Kabir, Mosharraf Hossain, Dollar Mahmud, Mahbul Alam, Aslam Khan, Suhrawardi Shuvo.

Coach: Nazmul Abedin.



PHOTO: AFP

Arsenal players hold a training session at the club's training compound in north London ahead of their Champions League semifinal against Villarreal on Wednesday.

Gunners eye win at Highbury swansong



REUTERS, London

Arsenal will play their last European match at Highbury on Wednesday with all eyes firmly fixed on the future rather than looking back wistfully at the past.

Arsene Wenger's men take on Villarreal of Spain in a first Champions League semi-final appearance for both clubs, with a place in the final in Paris on May 17 against AC Milan or Barcelona the tantalising prize for the winners.

Arsenal start as favourites after reserving their best performances this season for the Champions League.

The Londoners defeated Real Madrid and Juventus in the previous two rounds, establishing a competition record of eight successive games without conceding a goal.

Wenger knows that record will come under the severest test from Villarreal, who have done well against English clubs this season, beating Everton in the qualifying round last August and drawing 0-0 home and away with Manchester United in the group stages.

The two teams have been hit by injuries and suspensions.

Wenger is hoping 18-year-old Spain midfielder Cesc Fabregas recovers from a foot injury for Wednesday's first leg so that he can unleash the sort of damage he inflicted in the home leg of the quarter-final against Juventus last month when he scored in a 2-0 win.

Arsenal will be without defender Sol Campbell, who is recovering from surgery on a broken nose, and banned Spain forward Jose Antonio Reyes.

Villarreal arrive at Highbury without Argentina centre-back Gonzalo Rodriguez, who will miss the World Cup after tearing ligaments in his left ankle in Friday's 1-0 defeat at Barcelona.

Juan Manuel Pena, a Bolivian international who has been Rodriguez's regular partner in central defence, is missing after straining knee ligaments against Barca. He is also a doubt for next week's second leg in Spain.

Villarreal goalkeeper Sebastian Viera is sidelined due to suspension. While Arsenal had to battle to overcome struggling West Bromwich Albion 3-1 on Saturday with a full-strength side, Villarreal fielded a virtual shadow team against fellow Champions League semi-finalists Barcelona at the Nou Camp on Friday.

Coach Manuel Pellegrini left playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme,

leading striker Diego Forlan and influential midfielders Juan Pablo Sorin and Alessio Tacchinardi out of the squad and kept several other first-choice players on the bench.

Defeat at the Nou Camp means Villarreal have won only once in seven games and their best chance of playing in next season's Champions League now lies in winning the competition.

That probably applies to Arsenal too, although the Gunners believe they can still finish as high as fourth in the Premier League and at worst go through to the qualifying stages.

Probable teams:
Arsenal: 1-Jens Lehmann; 27-Emmanuel Eboué, 28-Kolo Toure, 20-Philippe Senderos, 16-Mathieu Flamini; 8-Fredrik Ljungberg, 13-Alexander Hleb, 19-Gilberto, 15-Francisc Fabregas, 7-Robert Pires; 14-Thierry Henry

Villarreal: 25-Mariano Barbosa; 17-Javi Venta, 4-Cesar Arzo, 16-Quique Alvarez, 3-Rodolfo Arruabarrena; 12-Juan Pablo Sorin, 19-Marcos Senna, 18-Alessio Tacchinardi, 8-Juan Roman Riquelme; 23-Jose Mari, 5-Diego Forlan

Premiership United delay Chelsea party

AFP, undated

Chelsea moved within a point of retaining their Premiership title on Monday with an easy 3-0 win against Everton, although Manchester United managed to at least delay the party by beating Tottenham.

Frank Lampard's first-half shot, a header from Didier Drogba and a thunderous Michael Essien effort put Chelsea nine points ahead of United with just three games left, meaning a single point will guarantee the title.

Nonetheless, the champagne must stay on ice for almost a fortnight after two first-half strikes from England superstar Wayne Rooney gave United a 2-1 away win at Spurs in the day's early kick off.

Jose Mourinho admitted that his side were very nearly home and dry. "It is not easy for us to lose the three matches, it is not easy for Man United to win the three matches," the Chelsea boss said.

Spurs could have helped hand the title to their fellow Londoners but missed a series of chances to equalise against Manchester United after Jermaine Jenas pulled a goal back early in the second half.

It proved a grimmer result for Spurs, who are desperately trying to hang on to fourth place and the Champions League qualifying spot it brings.

Earlier Monday, Manchester United yet again had reason to be grateful to Rooney.

The 20-year-old, tipped to be one of the key players in this summer's World Cup, scrambled his first from point-blank range via Cristiano Ronaldo's low cross in a lightning eight-minute counter-attack.

Rooney grabbed his second after capitalising on an error from Lee Young-Pyo.

Sunny doesn't

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begins in the Caribbean next March. "Guys start going through the motions," he said. "Their bodies are extremely fatigued. They just can't keep doing it."

"Shahid Afridi isn't playing Tests because he says the amount Pakistan are playing is ridiculous. He's taken a brave step and, quite frankly, it's a step countless players are contemplating."

"If that's good for the game, I'm in the wrong business."

The ICC has suggested that teams should be restricted to playing between 12 and 15 Tests and 30 one-dayers in a calendar year.



Golden Ball for final

REUTERS, Berlin

A golden ball will be used at the World Cup final on July 9, organising committee president Franz Beckenbauer said on Tuesday.

"It only surprises me that no one thought of it before," Beckenbauer said at a bizarre ceremony at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate, where he removed a golden wrap off the 2.2-metre diameter ball with help from gold-painted Greek warriors.

"The final is such a special occasion for the players, the coaches and the fans around the world."

"Creating a special ball for this match, the most important match every four years, was a great idea."

Adidas chairman Herbert Hainer said the golden ball would be identical to those used throughout the month-long tournament in Germany except six of the 14 panels would be coloured gold.

"We would definitely like to see this as the start of a new tradition for the final match," he said.

The sets of 15 balls for each match at the tournament that runs from June 9 to July 9 will for the first time have the names of the teams, venue, date and kickoff time.

They will all be made in Thailand, with the exception of the 15 balls for the final which will be produced in Germany.

The 1966 World Cup was the last tournament to feature a ball without any company logo. Adidas has

BITS AND BOBS

provided the balls for the tournament since 1970 and has the rights until 2014.

Emirates and FIFA sign deal

REUTERS, Dubai

Emirates has signed a \$195 million partnership deal with football's governing body which would give the Dubai-based airline sponsorship rights to all FIFA competitions for seven years from 2007.

Emirates is a sponsor of the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany. The deal was signed by the airline's chairman, Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed al-Maktoum, and FIFA President Joseph Blatter.

Referees' wages doubled

REUTERS, Frankfurt

Referees at the 2006 World Cup have won a 100 percent pay rise and will earn \$40,000 each.

The refereeing bill at the month-long tournament will top \$4 million, FIFA said on Tuesday.

Twenty-three referees have been chosen to run the 64 games.

Each referee will be backed by two assistants. They will also get \$40,000 as will each member of the seven "reserve" refereeing trios, even if they are not called into action.

Portugal are in Group D along with Angola, Iran and Mexico. The country kicks off its campaign against former African colony Angola on June 11.

REUTERS, Berlin

The city of Leipzig will hand out World Cup "first aid" packages including condoms and tissues so soccer fans can dry their eyes after a defeat.

The kits, to be handed out by volunteers on trams and buses in the eastern German city, will also include plasters and plastic whistles, city officials said on Tuesday.

The month-long World Cup kicks off on June 9.

Chicken soup for homesickness!

AFP, Lisbon

Luis Figo, Cristiano Ronaldo and the rest of Portugal's national team will be served healthy doses of chicken soup during the World Cup in Germany to ward off homesickness, the squad's chef has said.

Helio Loureiro, who has cooked for the team for eight years, told daily newspaper 24Horas there is nothing like the soup "to give strength and revive family memories."

"We are going to give them a good chicken soup. Nutritionally it is the wrong option but it is a dish that warms and comforts. We are going to give them what they need physically but also what they need spiritually," he added.

Portugal are in Group D along with Angola, Iran and Mexico. The country kicks off its campaign against former African colony Angola on June 11.

Malik restricts

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Draivid run out	20
Pathan run out	26
Yuvraj c Akmal b Anjum	7
Raina c Anjum b Afridi	40
Rho not out	61
Dhoni b Malik	3
Agarkar c Anjum b Malik	12
Powar c Anjum b Malik	5
Harbhajan run out	3
Sreesanth run out	0
Extras: (lb-3, w-5)	8
Total: (All out in 50 overs)	197
Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-47, 3-65, 4-72, 5-136, 6-149, 7-171, 8-180, 9-196.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Asif	8	1	24	0
Rana	9	0	51	1
Anjum	7	1	24	1
Razzaq	6	1	13	0
Afridi	10	0	42	1
Malik	10	0	40	3

Toss: India
Umpires: Rudi Koertzen (RSA) and Brian Jerling (RSA)

BHF polls held

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Asaduzzaman Kohinor was re-elected as general secretary of Bangladesh Handball Federation (BHF) for another four-year term yesterday.

Besides the general secretary, four vice-presidents, two joint-secretaries and treasurer were also elected uncontested while 16 executive committee members came through election.

The four vice-presidents are Kazi Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, Principal Hamida Ali, Shamim Ahsan and Advocate Shah M Owarech Ali Mamun while the joint secretaries are M Hasan Ullah Khan Rana and M Nurul Islam. Jahangir Hossain was re-elected treasurer.

Ntini, Steyn turn the tables

FROM PAGE 12
Earlier it took New Zealand 29 minutes and 7.1 overs to capture the last South African wicket, with Steyn and Ntini adding 19 runs to South Africa's overnight total of 280 for nine before left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori trapped Ntini leg before for 16 with his first ball of the day.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the fourth day of the first Test between South Africa and New Zealand at Centurion Park on Tuesday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 276

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 327

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings (overnight 280-9)

Smith lbw b Martin	7
Gibbs c Styris b Franklin	2
Dippenaar c Fleming b Oram	16
Kallis c Vettori b Styris	62
Prince c McCullum b Franklin	11
De Villiers c Franklin b Oram	97
Boucher b Mills	21
Pollock lbw b Vettori	10
Boje c McCullum b Astle	31
Steyn not out	7

Ntini lbw b Vettori	16
Extras: (b-12, lb-2, nb-5)	19
Total: (All out in 98.1 overs)	299
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-19, 3-42, 4-73, 5-140, 6-194, 7-205, 8-270, 9-276.	

Bowler	O	M
Franklin	14	2
Martin	24	6
64	1	
Mills	21	5
57	1	
Oram	17	3
44	2	
Vettori	15.1	0
42	2	
Astle	5	1
15	1	
Styris	2	0
3	1	

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings

Marshall not out	24
Fulton c Boucher b Ntini	4
Mills c Dippenaar b Ntini	0
Fleming c Kallis b Steyn	6
Styris c Boucher b Steyn	2
2	2
Astle c De Villiers b Ntini	2

Oram b Ntini	2
McCullum c Dippenaar b Steyn	33
Vettori not out	18
Extras: (lb-2, nb-5)	7
Total: (For 7 wickets in 30 overs)	98
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-5, 3-17, 4-23, 5-26, 7-73.	

To bat: J Franklin, C Martin.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Ntini	11	2	41	4
Steyn	14	4	35	3
Pollock	5	1	20	0

Umpires: M Benson (ENG), D Harper (AUS).

Test boycott

FROM PAGE 12
The meeting also demanded withdrawal of the press note issued by the Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

Different journalist unions will observe a three-hour pen-down strike from 11 am Wednesday in Chittagong and hold a rally at the press club from where the next course of action will be announced.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the third day of the second and final Test between Bangladesh and Australia on Tuesday:

BANGLADESH: First innings 197 (Saleh 71, Mashud 34 n o; Gillespie 3-11, Warne 3-47, MacGill 3-68).

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 151-2)

Hayden c sub (Kapali) b Rafique	29
Jacques c Nafees b Rafique	66
Gillespie not out	102
Ponting run out	52
Hussey not out	93
Extras: (b-6, lb-10, w-4, nb-2)	22
Total: (For three wickets in 111 overs)	364
Fall of wickets: 1-67, 2-120, 3-210.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mortuza	18	3	62	0
Shahadat	26	3	107	0
Rafique	34	10	79	2
Razzak	27	5	81	0
Saleh	3	0	12	0
Aftab	3	1	7	0

Toss: Bangladesh
Umpires: Aleem Dar (PAK) and Ian Howell (RSA)

National school

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The champions and runners up will receive Tk two lakh and one lakh respectively while the third and fourth placed finishers Tk 50,000 and 30,000, respectively.

The venues are Patuakhali, Thakurgaon, Sylhet, Meherpur, Cox's Bazar, Maymensingh, Comilla, Sirajganj, Nilphamari, Feni, Faridpur, Pabna, Tangail, Kurigram, Narail and Natore.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39 Omelet ingredient	2 Actress an arm and —	19 Costs mountains
1 Complacent	41 Paradise score	4 Equine pace	22 Botted spirit?
5 Beavers' construction	45 "You've got a call" device	5 Moved feebly	24 Homer's expletive
8 False deity	49 Abusive speech	6 Onassis, familiarly	25 Jima precursor
12 Pre-euro Italian money	51 Bleachers choreography	7 Samoa studier	26 Plants with curative powers
13 Raw rock birthstone	52 Chutzpah city ... long way	8 German city ... and how to get there?	27 Debt ignorer
15 Exam format	53 — long way	9 ... and how to get there?	29 Pie filling?
16 Distance across, maybe	55 Otherwise	10 Help a felon	30 Type squares
18 Troubadour's offering	57 Cheer	11 Old instrument	33 Hook's henchman
20 Rid of a stripe	DOWN	17 Kitten's comment	36 Cloak
21 Couturier Cassini	1 Unkempt one		38 Unilateral
23 Symbol of intrigue			40 Mal de —
24 In nappies			42 Advan-lage
28 Appellation			43 Test tube
31 Hooper			44 Home, slangily
32 Splicer's materials			46 Remove the rind
34 Drone			47 Satan's specialty
35 Actress Celeste			48 Authentic
37 Ring rocks			50 Silithery squeezer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12				13				14				
15				16				17				
18				19				20				
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24	25	26						27		28	29	30
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