

Sport

Nat'l tennis begins

Sports Reporter

The national tennis championships got underway at the Rafta Tennis Complex yesterday with 32 first round and seven second round matches being decided on the opening day.

Eighty-six players including a dozen women are taking part in the six-day meet organised by the Bangladesh Tennis Federation.

Twenty-six outstation players are competing in this year's championships. Eight teams from the country's four divisions namely, Bangladesh Krira Shikhiya Protishthan (BKSP), Mymensingh, Dhaka, Natore, Pabna, Comilla, Rajshahi and Jhunjhunwala are the participating teams.

Kazi Asaduzzaman, Secretary for Health and Family Planning, who is also the BTF president, inaugurated the competition.

Pioneer soccer final tomorrow

Sports Reporter

The final match of the Metropolis Pioneer football league will be held tomorrow at the Outer Stadium.

Siddiqur Rahman, President of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will be the chief guest on the occasion.

Bashaboo Tarun Sangha will take on Gandaria Famous SC in the final starting at 2.45 p.m.

Both the teams have already qualified for promotion to the Third Division next season.

Brothers benefit from Abahani's lapses

Sports Reporter



Two dropped catches by Abahani Krira Chakra fielders allowed Brothers Union to recover from a disastrous start to finish on 229 all out on the first day of their two-day 75-overs-a-side Navana Premier Division cricket league match at the Dhaka Stadium.

Reigning champions Abahani, in reply, were 49 for two wickets in 14 overs when stumps were drawn for the day.

Brothers' skipper Atahar Ali Khan, winning the toss, decided to bat. His decision appeared to have been an unwise one when his side was reeling at 26 for the loss of four wickets. National players Farooq and Atahar Ali himself both went for ducks. Akram Khan and opener Zahid Razzaq Masoom managed to score just six runs each. Abahani's medium-pace bowler Babu took three of those wickets while Sri Lankan Nishanta Ranatunga claimed the other one.

Salahuddin joined the other Brothers opener Shovon and the two put their heads down to repair the early damage.

When the score reached 61, Salahuddin was run out for a patient five runs going for a cheeky single.

Brothers' West Bengal recruit Arup Bhattacharya then

joined Shovon. The left-handed Arup betrayed a sudden rush of blood and tried to lift. Abahani leg-spinner Nadir Shah, only to sky the ball at mid-wicket where Efee, to everyone's dismay, dropped the simplest of catches. This was before Arup could open his account. The lucky Arup and Shovon then made the most of the good fortune to add three invaluable runs for the sixth wicket.

Shovon, who was playing with great discipline, then lofted an easy catch to Nishanta, having failed to read Ehsan's slower delivery.

Shovon made 42 well-grafted runs.

Brothers lost their seventh wicket when Arup, on 24, tried to lift Efee out of the ground only to see Javed Omar Golla make a fine running catch.

Abahani's fast bowler TL Fernando joined all-rounder Golam Farooq Suru.

Abahani captain Rafiqul Alam made a costly mistake when he dropped Suru early in his innings off Efee's bowling.

Fernando and Suru added 87 priceless runs for the eighth wicket. Which could prove extremely dear for the champions.

Fernando ran himself out rather needlessly while going for a non-existent second run. His brilliant 50 off just 69 balls, studded with four bound-

aries and one straight six off Efee, brought Brothers back in the game.

Suru followed soon afterwards after making 33.

Prince, 17 not out, and Shamshul 10 added 27 vital runs for the last wicket.

Babu with three wickets for 37 runs and Nishanta with two for 40 were the leading Abahani bowlers. Asif, Efee and Ehsan bagged one wicket each.

Abahani, in reply, were 49 for two wickets in 14 overs by the close.

Abahani have bolstered their batting line-up with the arrival of ex-Sri Lankan Test captain Duleep Mendis, who despite his age is still capable of playing well on the placid Dhaka Stadium wicket.

Abahani resume their innings with Nadir Shah batting on 23 with five boundaries and Asif yet to score. The champions need another 181 runs in their remaining 61 overs with eight wickets in hand. It should be an interesting battle between the Abahani batsmen and the Brothers bowlers today. Brothers possess perhaps the best balanced attack in this year's league while the Abahani batting, without Mendis, has looked rather brittle at times.

The men out in the Abahani innings are Sohel for 11 and Javed Omar Golla for two, both falling lbw to Arup Bhattacharya and Prince respectively.

Nat'l jr hockey next month

Sports Reporter

The national junior hockey championship will begin from the first week of April in Dhaka, according to a press release issued by the Bangladesh Hockey Federation.

All the affiliated DSA's Education Boards, and the BKSP have been requested to send their entries by March 20 at the latest to the Federation office.

Jr wrestling

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Division were leading with four gold medals on the second day of the tenth national mini-cadet wrestling competition organised by the Bangladesh Wrestling Federation yesterday at the National Coaching Centre.

Altogether seven five wrestlers representing eight teams from the four divisions are taking part in the four-day meet which began Saturday.

Reception for former athletes

CHITTAGONG Mar 10 : The Chittagong Cosmopolitan Lions Club will accord a reception to the renowned athletes of yester years who reigned on the tracks from the erstwhile Pakistan period till 1985, beginning on March 12 at the Chittagong Stadium.

Chairman of National Sports Council Major General Mahabubur Rahman will inaugurate the two-day programme as the chief guest, club sources said.

The programmes include a rally, a cultural show, a seminar and mini-marathon races over 10,000, 5000, 1800 and 800 meters for school, college and university students, respectively.

The subject of the seminar is "Our position in athletics".

Besides, the guests of honour will also speak, recollecting their personal experiences and offer advice on ways of improving our athletic achievements.

Spanish goalie's world record

PAMPLONA (Spain) Mar 10 : Atletico Madrid Goalkeeper Abel Resino claimed a world record of 1.230 minutes without conceding a goal in top-level soccer after his side scored 3-0 away win over Osasuna in the Spanish First Division on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Abel, 31, surpassed the 1.143-minute sequence set by Dino Zoff in the Italian national team between 1972 and 1974.

His unbeaten stretch also beat the previous Spanish domestic all-division record of 1.223 minutes established two seasons ago by Manolo Lopez, who was then playing for Second Division Ceuta.

Atletico, second behind Barcelona in the First Division, scored three times in 10 minutes deep into the second half to plunge Osasuna to their first home defeat of the season.

German midfielder Bernd Schuster and Portuguese Paulo Futre set up the first goal for Roberto Solozabal in the 70th minute.

B'Baria cricket

BRAHMANBARIA Mar 10 : The Moulvibazar Cricket 'A' team moved into the final of the Haz A Khaled Gold Cup cricket league defeating Moural Cricket Club by the close margin of seven runs in the second semi final at the local Niaz Stadium today, reports UNB.

Winning the toss, Moulvibazar batted first and scored 83 runs for loss of 10 wickets.

In reply, Moural Cricket Club were all out for 76 runs in the 40 overs-a-side match.

Tuhin took four wickets while Aman and Ashfaque got two wickets each for Moural Club.

Moulvibazar's Rubel took five wickets, Shamim and Nantoo Modak got two wickets each.

Rubel of Moulvibazar was declared the man-of-the-match while Parvez became his side's highest scorer with 32 runs.

The final match of the month-long tournament will be held between Moulvibazar Cricket 'A' and Muslim Friends Club on March 15.

Fifteen clubs took part in the league.

Copenhagen tennis

BARISAL Mar 10 : The 23rd annual sports competition of the Government Syed Hamed Ali College was held at the college ground on Thursday.

Presided over by Professor Md. Shahjahan Khan, principal of the college, the function was attended by Professor Gazi Abdus Salam, Chairman, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Jessore.

Svensson finished strongly to win a fluctuating match against hard-hitting Swiss Jakob Hlasek, seeded third, 6-2, 1-6, 6-3.

In the other semifinal, Jarayd maintained the impressive form he has shown throughout the tournament, brushing aside sixth seed Todd Woodbridge of Australia in straight sets.

The chief guest gave away the prizes among the winners.

A total of 100 students took part in 15 events.

Aussies go 2 up

PORT-OF-SPAIN (Trinidad), Mar 10: Australia took a 2-0 lead over the West Indies in a five-match

one-day cricket series when they won the second game by 45 runs on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Dean Jones was the mainstay of Australia's 172 for nine in their 34 overs at Queen's Park Oval, scoring 64 before he became one of six victims of Trinidadian bowler Tony Gray.

Des Haynes (45) and Viv Richards (27) both threatened to win the match for the West Indies before Mike Whitney, who finished with three for 41, dismissed both.

As the rate climbed from five-an-over at the beginning, to 84 off 12 and 60 off seven, the match slipped beyond the reach of the West Indies.

Craig McDermott took three for 29 and Mark Waugh two for six as the tail folded and West Indies were dismissed for 127.

Australia began slowly in a match reduced first to 42 overs due to morning rain, then to 34 by a combination of slow over-rates and an unreasonable over-target.

After David Boon departed for five Geoff Marsh found it difficult to make headway against tight bowling, particularly from Curtly Ambrose, and reached a personal run-an-over rate only in the 17th over.

But at the other end Jones was displaying his customary one-day form, driving Malcolm Marshall, cutting Ezra Moseley and swatting Gray. He reached 50 in 59 balls before he was bowled by Gray.

The tall pace bowler had already dismissed Marsh and Allan Border -- first ball -- in successive deliveries and went on to take six for 50 as the tail collapsed.

Boon shone in another good Australian fielding display.

While the Australians celebrated after the match, the West Indians went back on the Oval for practice ahead of the third game at the same ground today.

Scoreboard

Scoreboard in the one-day international between the West Indies and Australian on Saturday.

Australia

Boon c Hooper b Moseley 5

Marsh c Hooper b Gray 23

Jones b Gray 64

Border c Dujon b Gray 0

M.Waugh b Simmons 16

S.Waugh b Gray 26

Healy not out 13

Taylor c and b Gray 1

McDermott b Ambrose 1

Whitney c Hooper b Gray 0

Extras (b-2 lb-7 w-7 nb-7) 23

Total (for nine wickets, 34 overs) 172

Fall of wickets, 1-9, 2-84, 3-84, 4-106, 5-141, 6-161, 7-167, 8-168, 9-172.

Did not bat: B. Reid

Bowling: O M R W

Ambrose 8 2 17 1

Moseley 5 0 22 1

Marshall 6 0 37 0

Gray 9 0 50 6

Hooper 3 0 18 0

Richards 1 0 4 0

Simmons 2 0 15 1

West Indies

Simmons c Healy b Reid 13

Haynes c Healy b Whitney 45

Richardson c S. Waugh b

McDermott 5

Hooper c Healy b Whitney 3

Richards c Marsh b Whitney 27

Logie run out 7

Dujon b McDermott 7

Marshall c Boon b McDermott 5

Moseley c P. Taylor b M. Waugh 2

Ambrose c P. Taylor b M. Waugh 7

Gray not out 0

Extras (b-2 nb-4) 6

Total (31.1 overs) 127

Fall of wickets: 1-14 2-47, 3-52 4-78 5-90 6-112 7-113 8-116 9-126

Bowling: O M R W

Reid 5 0 25 1

McDermott 7 1 0 29 3

Whitney 9 0 41 3

S. Waugh 8 0 24 0

M. Waugh 2 0 6 2

Result: Australia won by 45 runs and lead 2-0 in the five-match series.

DEAN JONES

like she doesn't have a care in the world. The serious demeanor has been replaced with reduced intensity and it seems to be working.

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