

Six more in zonal semis

Sports Reporter

Chapainawabganj, Kushtia, Sylhet, Gaibandha, Magura and Habiganj DSAs yesterday moved into their respective zonal semi-finals of the Straj memorial 12th national youth cricket championship.

At Thakurgaon, Chapainawabganj posted a convincing 207-run victory over Panchagarh.

Chapainawabganj will now take on Pabna DSA in the zonal semifinal on April 15.

Electing to bat, Chapainawabganj blazed away to a mammoth 256 all out off only 28.1 overs, scoring at an incredible strike rate of 9 runs per over.

Pakka top scored with 69 while Shamsu made 67 and Salahuddin 28 for Nawabganj, making minced meat of the Panchagarh attack.

Yet Manik survived the savagery to claim three wickets for 5. Masum and Rustam bagged two Nawabganj wickets apiece.

Facing a monumental score, Panchagarh fiddled around for a while before being dismissed for a paltry 49 in 20 overs with Shakil making a brave 11 and Masum 10.

At Jessore, Kushtia also registered a massive win, beating Chuadanga by 112 runs thanks to Sabuj and his intelligent bowling.

Kushtia's win pits them against Patuakhali in the semi-finals tomorrow.

Batting first, Kushtia were all out for 185 in 45 overs.

In reply, Chuadanga were restricted to just 73 in 30.5 overs with Tutul making 14.

Sabuj of Kushtia ran through the Chuadanga batting claiming six wickets on only 13 runs.

At Tangail, Sylhet registered an impressive 49-run victory over Munshiganj, thanks to the all-round performances by Nasir.

Sylhet will now clash with Mymensingh in the zonal semifinals scheduled to be held on April 15.

Batting first, Sylhet were all out for 186 in 36.1 overs with Nasir scoring 32.

Despite a fine 51 by Imran, Munshiganj fell short, being dismissed for 137 in 36.1 overs.

At Pabna, Gaibandha cattered past Joypurhat by five wickets.

Gaibandha will now meet Rajshahi in the semifinals on April 15.

Joypurhat lost the toss and could muster only 130 in 33 overs with Pradip scoring 28 and Protim 22 while extras contributed an invaluable 38 runs.

Gaibandha coasted to 131 for five wickets in 34.1 overs.

At Barisal, Magura and at Sylhet Habiganj got walk-overs against Sakhira and Feni respectively.

Magura will take on Khulna and Habiganj will meet Chittagong in their respective zonal semifinals on April 15.

Dalim is Biman's hero



The man behind the wicket in the game of cricket is a figure on whose shoulders often a lot of responsibility rests. And against spin bowling it can become doubly challenging. Well, Dalim, the Bangladesh Biman wicket-keeper...



Zakaria of Biman steers a ball during yesterday's national cricket quarterfinal match against Khulna at the Dhaka Stadium. —Star photo

per, passed a stern test yesterday when he stem-ped four Khulna batsmen, helping Biman record an emphatic eight-wicket victory in the quarter-finals of the Gold Leaf national cricket championship at the Dhaka Stadium.

Bangladesh Biman will now clash with star-studded Chittagong DSA in the first semifinal scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday.

Khulna DSA skipper Salahuddin won the toss and elected to make first use of the pitch.

But despite a reasonable opening stand of 38 runs, Khulna were dismissed for a poor 126 in 41.3 overs.

Veteran Biman off-spinner Anwarul Amin Azhar, in combination with Dalim, got the initial breakthrough for Biman. Badshah of Khulna fat-led to read one of Azhar's deliveries that moved away from him and an agile Dalim made no mistake in whipping the balls off in a flash.

Khulna wicketkeeper Chunnu came at number three but Ali Ahsan Babu, the Biman paceman soon trapped him lbw. Only two runs were added to the score.

Then captain Salahuddin teamed up with Samu, the other opener, and concentrated on

Sports Reporter

one's and two's to gradually take the score along to 73 when Samu deserted his captain, caught by Jahangir off the bowling of Shipar for 32, made from 85 balls.

The fourth-wicket partnership between the captain and Ansar added another 12 runs before Salahuddin was run out

match.

SCORE BOARD
KHULNA
Samu c Jahangir b Shipar 32
Badshah at Dalim b Azhar 10
Chunnu lbw Babu 0
Salahuddin run out 20
Ansar st Dalim b Mori 21
Akram st Dalim b Jahangir 3

of 20. He faced 31 balls and hit just one four.

Ansar stayed for quite some time but the support he needed was not available from the tail-enders who came and departed in quick succession.

Ansar was brilliantly stumped by Dalim, the hero of the day, off the bowling of left-arm spinner Enamul Huq Mori for 21.

Biman skipper Shahnewaz Shanu was the best performer with the leather claiming two wickets for 14.

Babu, Azhar, Shipar, Mori and Jahangir took a wicket apiece for Biman.

Facing an easy target, Bangladesh Biman made 127 for the loss of Tariqzaman Munir and Shipar, the openers, in 33.2 overs.

Zakaria top scored with an unbeaten 44 off just 38 balls, an innings embellished with four fours.

Skipper Shanu remained not out with 25. He faced 43 balls.

Tariqzaman Munir made a patient 26 off 55 balls while Shipar scored 17.

Mori and Salahuddin got the two wickets for Khulna DSA.

Dalim, the Biman man in gloves, was quite appropriately adjudged the man-of-the-

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Balls, Fours, Sixes, Extras, Total. Lists players like Tuhin c Pial b Shanu, Shaheen run out, Mustaq run out, Litu st Dalim b Shanu, Mori not out, Extras, Total (all out in 41.3 overs) 126.

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TODAY'S MATCH
Dhaka University vs Sylhet (Dhaka Stadium).

A dull draw

Sports Reporter

Arambagh Krira Sangatha and Adamjee Sports Club shared points in the first of yesterday's two matches of the First Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium in another inauspicious, dull encounter which contained hardly anything worth mentioning apart from the two spectacular goals scored by either team.

Adamjee, who dominated the first half, took the lead in the 16th minute when speedy winger Akhtar beautifully fired home a free kick from outside the box (1-0).

Kamal, the industrious Arambagh medio, levelled the score in the fourth minute of the second half which saw the team enjoy a distinct edge over their opponents. Kamal spectacularly volleyed from outside the box after Jahangir had relayed the ball to him from a free kick (1-1).

Arambagh's collection goes up to 16 points from 13 matches while Adamjee's soar to 11 from 13 matches.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Dhanmondi vs Police (6 pm)
Victoria vs Eskaton (8 pm)

Nirman finals from Apr 22

Sports Reporter

The final round of the Nirman schools cricket tournament will begin in the city from April 22.

Twenty-two schools who have qualified from the zonals will take part in the knock-out finals.

Meanwhile, Syedpur Islamia High School emerged as champions of the Nilphamari zonal Nirman schools tournament beating Syedpur Railway High School by two wickets in the keenly contested final held at the Nilphamari Stadium on April 9.

Islamia School thus earned themselves a trip to the capital to play in the final round of the competition.

Abu Mansur, vice-president of the Nilphamari DSA and ADC, witnessed the final as chief guest.

BDR spikers win

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Rifles thrashed Bangladesh Police 15-3, 15-6 and 15-6 in the qualifying meet of the four-team Services zone of the BGIC 15th national volleyball competition at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday.

The meet got under way on Saturday last.

On the day, Bangladesh Police beat Bangladesh Ansars 8-15, 15-7, 15-5 and 15-12. Bangladesh Rifles outplayed Power Development Board 15-5, 15-7 and 15-7 in the other match of the inaugural day.

Two teams from among these four will qualify for the finals expected to begin on May 2 in the city.

Premial powers PWD



Premial, the brilliant Shri Lankan who a couple of years back won the hearts of the millions of Abahani fans and helped the now reigning champions record

Sports Reporter

The office team, deemed by many as a tough side because of the presence of some promising players backed by the two very skilled and experienced Shri Lankans in Premial and Packeer Ally, com-

the PWD men as Munna another ex-Abahani man made the score three-nil in the second minute of the post-lemon session after Rakib had given him a lovely minus.

Fakirpool had the first and the last taste of the goal in



Action from yesterday evening's First Division football league match between Arambagh KS and Adamjee SSC at the Dhaka Stadium. The teams drew 1-1. —Star photo

many important and memorable victories, forgot the fact that age is catching up with him, scoring twice to inspire his present side Public Works Department (PWD) chalk up a 4-1 victory against Fakirpool Young-men's Club in yesterday's second match of the First Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium.

Premial put PWD ahead as early as the second minute when his powerful shot from outside the box following a flag kick rocketed into the net (1-

bined well and dominated most of the proceedings, a fact that was vindicated minutes before the short whistle when Rakib found the net with a long drive from the left side (2-0).

Fakirpool had a fair crack of the whip on the 45th minute when Babu took a shot at the goal from the close but Aman of PWD made a goal-line save to keep the margin unaltered.

The second minute proved to be particularly auspicious for

the match when Mash converted the penalty after the player was obstructed in the prohibited zone by PWD's Lokman in the 66th minute.

Towhid engineered PWD's last goal at the fag end of the match when he entered the Fakirpool box in a solo dash and teed a lovely pass for Premial and the effervescent striker gleefully accepted the offer (4-1).

PWD have 17 points from 13 matches while Fakirpool remain at 12 from 13 matches.

M United win League Cup



WEMBLEY, England, Apr 12: Brian McClair's 23rd goal of the season gave Manchester United a 1-0 victory Sunday in the English League Cup final against Nottingham Forest, reports AP.

It was United's first League Cup victory, making up for last year's defeat at Wembley by Sheffield Wednesday. Forest's defeat was its second in a row at Wembley after last year's Football Association Cup loss to Tottenham.

The win sets the Red Devils, who played today in their less-familiar blue uniforms to avoid confusion with red-shirted Forest, for a rare League Cup and league double.

Manchester United has not won a league championship since 1967, but is in second place on 71 points from 36 games behind Leeds on 72 points from 38 games.

Neither United, nor fifth-place Forest, played Saturday, allowing Leeds to snatch the

league lead with a 3-0 victory over Chelsea.

The League Cup victory secured Manchester United a place in European competition next season in the UEFA Cup or, if it wins the league, in the Champions Cup.

It's been a long time coming. United manager Alex Ferguson said.

"We were probably the better side with the better chances, but Forest kept plugging away."

Some 77,000 fans saw striker McClair hit the target in the 14th minute, putting a Ryan Giggs Cross pass Forest keeper Andrew Marriott after the 18-year-old Welsh winger had opened up the Forest defence.

McClair had the opportunity to score again midway through the second half, but his shot was cleared off the line by Forest substitute Brian Laws.

Just minutes from full-time Forest applied pressure and looked likely to equalise and

force overtime. But even with five players in United's area, Brian Clough's team just didn't get any shots on target.

LINEUPS: MANCHESTER UNITED: Peter Schmeichel, Paul Parker, Dennis Irwin, Steve Bruce, Mike Phelan, Gary Pallister, Andrei Kanchelskis (sub. Lee Sharpe), Paul Ince, Brian McClair, Mark Hughes, Ryan Giggs.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: Andrew Marriott, Gary Charles (sub. Brian Laws), Brett Williams, Des Walker, Darren Wassall, Roy Keane, Gary Crosby, Scott Gemmill, Nigel Clough, Teddy Sheringham, Kingsley Black.

Borg returns to circuit next week



NICE, France, Apr 12: Bjorn Borg makes his return to official tournament play this week in the Nice Open tennis tournament, reports AP.

The five-time Wimbledon and six-time French Open champion plays Frenchman Olivier Delaitre Tuesday afternoon in the first round of the \$100,000 event on clay.

Borg, 35, previously won the tournament in 1977 and 1980 when he was the No 1 player in the world.

After losing in Monte Carlo last year in his most recent comeback, Borg is now tied for 1121st and received a wild card for this tournament as well as for Monte Carlo next week.

Delaitre, ranked 44th in the world, is currently the No 2 French player behind Guy Forget, seeded second in this tournament. A good clay-court player, Delaitre, 25, made a burst at the end of 1991 to jump from about 100 to the mid 40's by gaining tournament finals in Lyon and Bordeaux. Both times he lost to top 10 players, Pete Sampras

and Foreget.

Sampras, a former US Open champion, is the top seed in the tournament which offers a \$100,000 first prize. Russians Andrei Chesnokov and Andrei Cherkasov are seeded third and fourth.

Jordi Arrese of Spain is the No 5 seed. He beat Borg easily in the first round at Monte Carlo last April when Borg came back to play after a eight-year absence.

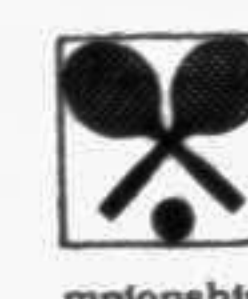
Borg played with a copy of his old wooden racket and succumbed to the power of the new game. Now he has switched to a modern graphite racket and has made steady improvement.

He won a round-robin seniors event in Indian Wells in March after an exhibition with another old-timer, John Lloyd in Los Angeles.

Last week he was at the River Oaks invitation where he battled Foreget on the current circuit. He barely beat a young Swede, Peter Svensson in the first round before losing to Nicolas Pietrangola in the second round.

Pietrangola, of Venezuela, is ranked 170th in the world.

Graf in final



AMELIA ISLAND, Fla., Apr 12: Top seed Steffi Graf reached the final of the bausch and Lomb Championships for the sixth time when she rallied Sunday to defeat Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 6-7, 6-4 6-3 in the rain-delayed semifinal, reports AP.

Graf and Sanchez Vicario, the No. 3 seed, were tied 6-6 in the first set when a thunderstorm bailed play on Saturday. The match resumed with a morning tie-breaker that Sanchez Vicario won 7-3.

But a sore leg muscle limited Sanchez Vicario's mobility the rest of the way. Graf took control of the match with a service break for a 4-3 lead in the second set.

Defending champion Gabriela Sabatini met No. 4 seed Conchita Martinez in the other semifinal at Amelia Island Plantation. The final was scheduled for later Sunday.

Sanchez Vicario injured her right leg when she fell during a rally in the opening set on Saturday. Her thigh was wrapped on Sunday and she received attention from a trainer twice during the second set.

Down a service break in the last set, Sanchez Vicario pulled even at 3-3 when Graf, who

had saved two break points with aces, lost her concentration and double-faulted for the second time in the game.

The three-time Amelia champion would not be denied, though. She broke Sanchez Vicario in the next game, held serve for a 5-3 lead and finished the 2-hour, 43-minute match by breaking Sanchez Vicario again.

Graf, playing her first clay-court tournament of the season, won titles here in 1989, 1987 and 1990. She to Sabatini in the final in 1989 and 1991.

Costa meets Gustafsson in final

BARCELONA, Apr 12: Unseeded Spaniard Carlos Costa beat Argentine Alberto Mancini on Saturday, capping a week of upsets at the Spanish Open in which all the top seeds have tumbled, reports Reuter.

Costa trounced seventh-seeded Mancini 6-3, 6-3 in the 70-minute semifinal and now meets eighth-seeded Swede Magnus Gustafsson for the title today.

In the men's singles, Malaysia's number one, Rashid, who is also Commonwealth champion, was into top form and took a quick 7-lead in the first set. The continued to pile up points with aggressive cross court smashes which often caught his opponent off-guard.

Rashid collected 4,000 US dollars for his winning effort in

Pinto, Dorre win London marathon



LONDON, Apr 12: Portuguese Antonio Pinto made a dramatic late surge to join the leading trio in the final stages and snatch second place in 2:10:07 with Naali third to 2:10:08.

Dorre, three times winner of the Tokyo marathon, showed the benefits of her

stages.

Poland's Jan Huruk made a dramatic late surge to join the leading trio in the final stages and snatch second place in 2:10:07 with Naali third to 2:10:08.

Dorre, three times winner of the Tokyo marathon, showed the benefits of her

Pinto, formerly a 10,000 metres specialist, ran the race of his life to win one of the world's major marathons in two hours 10 minutes two seconds.

The women's race was won by Olympic and world bronze medalist Dorre in two hours 29 minutes 38 seconds after Portugal's Olympic champion Rosa Mota dropped out soon after the halfway stage of the 42.195-km event.

In the men's event, which started 20 minutes after the women's race, Pinto took the front with three kilometres to run after running most of the second half in company with Tanzanian pacemaker Thomas Naali and Ethiopia's Tena Negere.

Naali, who was recruited as a pacemaker, ran an erratic first half, but showed his immense natural talent by staying in contention until the final

immense international experience by surging over the last few kilometres and quickly stretching to winning lead over Pole Renata Kokowska. Kokowska clocked 2:29:58

with Briton Andra Wallace, running only her second marathon, finishing third in 2:31:32.

The races began at Greenwich in cool, cloudy conditions, a sharp contrast from the warm sunny weather of the past few days.

Naali and his half-brother.

Naali's pace slackened and by the halfway stage he had been joined by Pinto and Negere, the latest in the long line of talented Ethiopian distance runners.

As the race entered the final kilometres Pinto looked the strongest of the leading trio but he was almost surprised by the fast finishing Hurek who finished just four seconds adrift.

In the women's race Mota, who was also forced to pull out of last year's Tokyo World Championships marathon, looked in trouble after 15 kms and pulled out soon after the field had crossed Tower Bridge.

She said the problem was apparently a recurrence of the stomach trouble which led to her quitting in Tokyo which must be a matter of major concern to the 32-year-old Portuguese as she prepares for the Barcelona Olympics.

After some initial skirmishing, Nancy Doak-Davis, a former American 10,000 metres champion, shot to the front and was leading at the halfway stage but she faded after Tower Bridge and the race developed, like the men's, into a three-day fight between Dorre, Kokowska and Wallace.

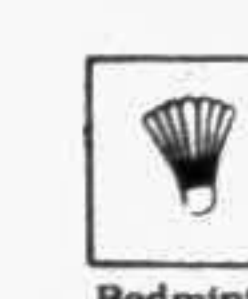


KATRIN DORRE



ROSA MOTA

Sidek, Ye lift singles crowns



KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 12: Favourite Rashid Sidek of Malaysia retained the men's singles title of the Asian Badminton Confederation championships by thrashing compatriot Foo Kok Keung at 15-9, 15-3 in a lachrymose final match here Saturday, reports AFP.

Ye Zhaoying of China lifted the women's singles title when she outwitted compatriot Zhou Lei 12-10, 11-2.

Indonesia's unseeded Joko Mardiano and Sri Untari lifted the mixed doubles titles after upsetting top seeds Chan Stu-

Kwong and Chung Hot-Yuk of Hong Kong 15-10, 14-17, 15-7.

The men's doubles title was won by the Malaysian pair, Rashid Sidek and his brother Jalani, while the women's doubles titles went to Wu Yuhong and Pan Li of China.

In the men's singles, Malaysia's number one, Rashid, who is also Commonwealth champion, was into top form and took a quick 7-lead in the first set. The continued to pile up points with aggressive cross court smashes which often caught his opponent off-guard.

Rashid collected 4,000 US dollars for his winning effort in

a tournament depleted by the absence of star players from Indonesia and China most of whom are preparing for the forthcoming May Thomas Cup tournament and the July Barcelona Olympics.

In the women's singles finals, top seeded Ye Zhaoying faced initial residence from Zhou Lei, who crept up form 2-9 to level at 9-9 forcing a deuce. But the lanky Ye dropped only one point before wrapping up the first set at 12-10 in 17 minutes with a sharp cross court drop shot on the left to collect 2,500 US dollars.

Jansher closer to British title

LONDON, Apr 12: Jansher Khan took another giant step towards succeeding injured compatriot Jahangir Khan as British Open squash champion when the trowned Australian Tristan Nancarrow 9-2, 9-0, 9-1 in the quarter-finals on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Jansher, 22, took over as top seed and hot favourite three weeks before the tournament when a back injury ruled out his fellow Pakistani, who has won the title for the last 10 years.

Jansher had eased into the favourite's role, surrendering just 11 points in his three matches.

Doohan rides to his second win



SYDNEY, Apr 12: Australia's Michael Doohan raced to his second victory of the year Sunday, pulling away from American Wayne Rainey in the Australian Grand Prix 500cc motorcycle race, reports AP.

Doohan, who became Rothman Honda's top rider after Wayne Gardner broke his leg in the season-opening Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka two weeks ago, thrilled the home crowd by passing Rainey on the 13th lap on the 3.93-kilometer (2.44-mile) Eastern Creek track.

"He was in front and I

couldn't pass," said Doohan, who started on the pole but saw Rainey zip past him early. "I was wondering if I could ever get by. I don't know what happened. I suddenly got a few extra horsepower."

Doohan then steadily opened up a lead that Rainey's Yamaha could not overcome, completing the 30 laps in 46 minutes, 4.276 seconds for his fifth Grand Prix victory.

Rainey finished 6.822 seconds behind. Doohan's new teammate, 21-year-old Rookie Daryl Beattie, cruised unchallenged to third place, 18.425 seconds behind the winner.

Doohan, a two-time runner-up in the Australian Grand

Prix, was swarmed by the crowd after completing his victory lap with an Australian flag hoisted in his fist.

"It's especially good to win in Australia," Doohan said, "Rainey, who has been plagued by injury, was pleased with his performance and the adjustments made by his team during the week."