

Wanderers win Div II title

Sports Reporter Dhaka Wanderers Club emerged as champions in the Second Division cricket league when they beat Shantinagar Club B by three wickets in the final at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

However, for Rana of Wanderers Club the encounter was very rewarding since he took five wickets for only six runs from 3.5 overs.

Asad topscored with 59 with the help of half a dozen boundaries while Sujon scored 44, a knock inclusive of five hits to the fence.

Babiee claimed two wickets for 36 while Court, Liton and Skipper Jahangir got a wicket a piece.

In reply, Wanderers made 133 in 35 overs with three wickets to spare.

Babiee topscored with 33 and Chanchal made 28 while Gour remained unbeaten on 16.

Mamun bagged three scalps for 25 and Bappi and Sentu a wicket each.

Meanwhile, the Second Division relegation league will start on May 10. Concerned teams have been asked to take note of it.

BSMA delegate leaves today

Sports Reporter Secretary General of the Bangladesh Sports Medicine Association (BSMA) Dr Kanak Kanti Barua is expected to leave the city today for Karachi to participate in a six-day executive meeting of the Asian Sports Medicine Association to be held there from April 18 to 23, according to sources.

The BSMA secretary general will travel at his own expenses.

Kashem tops table

Sports Reporter Abul Kashem Bhuiyan emerged as unbeaten champion in the Dhaka Metropolis qualifying chess for the forthcoming national championship which concluded at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

Kashem, who drew with Abdullah Al-Rakib in the ninth and final round match yesterday, earned 8.5 points out of a maximum possible of nine.

Six players collected seven points each and secured the positions ranging from second to eighth after the tie-breaker. They were Kazi Mahubul Afzal, Abdullah Al-Rakib, Rezaul Haque, Tofazzal Hossain Tipu, ANM Rahul Guddu and Shaikh Md Aslam.

Eskaton Sangha's football camp

Sports Reporter The coaching camp for the forthcoming football season of Eskaton Sabuj Sangha will begin soon, says a press release.

Interested footballers have been asked to contact either the football secretary Bhola Ram or the joint football secretary Elias Hossain Jhonu tomorrow at 6:00 pm at the club premises.

BSWA programme

Sports Reporter The Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association will arrange a programme this afternoon at the National Sports Council conference room to mark the Bangla New Year 1400, says a press release.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain will attend the occasion as the chief guest.

New Boxing Fed chief

The government has appointed Major General Amin Ahmed Chowdhury the President of Bangladesh Boxing Federation, reports BSS.

World squash purse raised

KARACHI, Apr 15: Pakistan has raised prize money for World Open squash championships to be played here November 18-23 from 100,000 to 120,000 US dollars, officials said Thursday, reports AFP.

The hike was announced by Pakistan Squash Federations (PSF) vice chairman, Abbas Khataki who said all arrangements for the big event are progressing well.

The World Open will be followed by World Team squash championships between 23-29 in which 24 teams will take part, he said.

UAE beat Bangladesh 1-0

YOKOHAMA, Japan, Apr 15: The United Arab Emirates Thursday scored their lone goal on a penalty kick by Abdurazaq Ibrahim Al Baloooshi to beat Bangladesh 1-0 in an Asian Group F qualifying match for the 1994 soccer World Cup, reports AP. Abdurazaq netted the penalty kick eight minutes into the second half at Mitsuzawa Stadium in Yokohama. It was UAE's third victory against no defeats while Bangladesh are now 1-2, having lost 0-8 to Japan and beaten Shri Lanka 1-0.

UAE dominated the match, firing seven shots in the first half and nine in the second half. Bangladesh had four shots in the first half and two in the second half. At Tokyo's National Stadium Thursday night, Japan trounced Shri Lanka 5-0 for their third triumph against no defeats. Shri Lanka are 0-4. Thailand who were idle Thursday, are 1-2. A total of 28 teams in Asia are competing in round-robin preliminaries in six groups. The Group F first round will end April 18, and the second round will be held in the Emirates April 28-May 7 between the same five teams.

The top team from each of the six groups will advance to the Asian final round to select two teams to represent Asia in the 24-team World Cup final in the United States next year.

STANDINGS Table with columns: Team, GP, W, D, LGFGA, Pts. Rows: Japan, UAE, Thailand, Bangladesh, Shri Lanka.

Akram among Wisden's five best cricketers

LONDON, Apr 15: Pakistan captain Wasim Akram, at the centre of a drugs row in the last week and ball tampering allegations eight months ago, was named one of Wisden's five cricketers-of-the-year on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Akram, currently leading his country on a three-Test tour of the West Indies, was accused with his pace bowling partner Waqar Younis of ball tampering during last year's series against England by batsman Allan Lamb.

The pair, who captured a combined haul of 43 Test wickets and inspired Pakistan to a 2-1 series victory, strongly denied all such accusations.

The Lancashire all-rounder was joined by England vice-captain Alec Stewart, Ian Salisbury, Martyn Moxon and Nigel Briars as cricketers-of-the-year.

Favourites in nat'l semis

Sports Reporter Former champions Bangladesh Biman and Dhaka University entered the semifinals of the 19th Gold Leaf national cricket championship with wins in their respective matches held at different city venues yesterday.

Bangladesh Biman overcame a stiff challenge by strong Faridpur to record a narrow, exciting six-run victory at the Dhaka Stadium while Dhaka University had a comfortable passage into the semifinals following a 30-run win against Mymensingh at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Sent in to bat by Faridpur skipper Sajidul Anam Effe, the bowlers managed 191 for eight wickets from their quota of 45 overs with Mahbubur Rahman Selim topscoring with 40.

A hurricane 35 not out by Biman's borrowed pacesman Saiful made from 20 balls with the help of two fours and a sixer helped Biman shake off the mid-innings tardiness. Wicketkeeper Debashish Barua and skipper Enamul Haq Moni were the other notable scorers with 24 and 28 respectively.

Khaled Mahmud Sujon with two for 20 was the most successful of the Faridpur bowlers. Anis, Shamim, Asif, Effe and Suman claimed one wicket each. A fine start by Faridpur openers - Javed Omar Belim Golla and Towhid - followed by sensible middle order batting brightened Faridpur's chances considerably. But a sudden collapse saw them slump to 185 for seven in their stipulated quota.

Golla topscored with 55. Faruque Ahmed remained unbeaten on 35.

Sinh with 30 runs. Bating first DU collected 195 for six with the Shoel topscoring with 50. Atiq remained unbeaten on 48. Mamun, skipper Selim Shahed and Tutul were the other scorers with 20, 29 and 22 respectively.

Rafiq was the highest scorer with 53, followed by Bulbul who made 49. Lipu and Shantu were the other notable contributors with 27 and 24.

Rajshahi got off to a shaky start and never recovered from that to muster 142 for nine with Nayan and Tarek making 25 each.

Shantu was Sylhet's best bowler claiming two for 25.

champions Chittagong and last year's runners up Sylhet advanced to the quarter finals with facile victories against their opponents in their respective matches played on Wednesday.

At the Dhaka Stadium a brilliant 125 by burly Akram Khan made off 93 balls, inclusive of eleven fours helped Chittagong rattle a mammoth 271 for four. Azam Iqbal was the other major scorer with 72.

Aggressive bowling by pacesman Saad of Rajshahi went abegging as his side lost to Sylhet by 56 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Saad took five for 36 as Sylhet sent in to bat made 198 for nine from the possible 44 overs.

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Twenty city schools in four groups are participating in the robin league.

M Azizul Haq, Secretary in-Charge of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, who is also the president of the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation, will inaugurate the tourney as the chief guest.

The Bangladesh Rifles School play Dholairpar High School at 4:00 pm while CA Staff Welfare School take on Mirpur Bangla High School at 4:30 pm in the two matches of the inaugural day.

Today's Matches: Sylhet vs Narayanjanj (Dhaka Stadium), Chittagong vs Kushtia (DCS)

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS: Meanwhile, the remaining

medals in Barcelona last year. I need to sleep, all day and all night, he said. I competed very badly today. I made small mistakes, some extra steps on landings and compared with Barcelona last year I feel much more tired.

He did not explain the reasons for his fatigue, but recent exhibitions in the United States coupled with the birth of baby daughter there early last month appear to be the main factors.

Reigning world overall champion, Grigori Misutin of Ukraine carrying a chronic injury in his left shoulder for which he will have surgery after the championships, was eighth.

Scherbo, the 21-year-old from Minsk, led the qualifiers in the vault and parallel bars and was second in the high bar and the floor.

He also qualified for the pommel final but failed to reach the rings final, in which he won one of his six gold medals in Barcelona last year.

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Danes triumph COPENHAGEN, Apr 15: Kim Vilfort ended a frustrating night for European champions Denmark by scoring the first goal in their 2-0 World Cup win over Latvia on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Midfielder Vilfort, one of the heroes when Denmark beat Germany in the European Championship final last June, tapped in a rebound in the 68th minute.

As the Valiant Latvians succumbed to fatigue, substitute striker Mark Strudal broke away from the defence and his low, well-placed shot from 15 metres made it 2-0 in the European Group Three clash.

The victory left the Danes in second place in their group with nine points, behind Spain only on goal difference and with a game in hand.

The newly-independent Baltic state held the European champions to a goalless draw in Riga last autumn and the Danes were determined not to underestimate the Latvians again.

But a 30,000-strong home crowd were beginning to lose hope after their team hit the bar three times, the post once and set up a dozen scoring opportunities to no avail.

Denmark's striker Lars Elstrup (R) and an unidentified Latvian player fight for the ball during their soccer World Cup qualifying match in Copenhagen yesterday. Denmark won 2-0. -AFP photo



Players and officials of Usha Krira Chakra receiving the Independence Day hockey championship trophy from State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. - Star photo

Usha's golden dawn

Sports Reporter

Usha Krira Chakra got off to a dreamy start in the new Bengali year when the unheralded club beat an infinitely more celebrated Abahani Krira Chakra in the tie-breakers to annex the Independence Day hockey tournament title for the first time at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

After a barren 70 minutes of play, the finale of the 16-team tourney inevitably proceeded towards the penalty shootout where the Usha players proved better in handling pressure and came out with flying colours.

All five of their shooters - Rabiuddin Ahmed, Abdus Sadek Khan, Zahirul Islam Mital, Mahbubul Haq Mito and Irtza Qader Guddu - found the cage while Abdullah Piru, Mahbub Harun, Mamunur Rashid and Khurshid Alam found the target for Abahani.

Although Usha's remarkable feat of winning the final on their first appearance in the 20-year-old history of the meet tends to outshine almost everything, the fact remains that Abahani were, albeit marginally, the better team during the stipulated time of the match.

They created more openings, although the contest never rose above mediocrity but poor finishing by their forwards led to their debacle. In fact, Mamun of Abahani had the ball in the Usha net once but the umpire ruled it out in the 12th minute of the match for height.

Usha's Guddu saved his team 12 minutes later when he came in the way of a fine attempt by Abahani's Akhtar. Star forward Jamil Parvez Lulu did the spadework on both these occasions.

The second half saw Abahani withdrawn but this did not mean any added advantage for Usha who had earlier created a commotion by beating Mohammedans - another Titan in the local sports arena - in the semifinal on their way to the final. Although Kamal, Fayaz, Ehtesham, Ziyad and Guddu gave good accounts of themselves the team appeared more inclined to defend rather than go all out for an outright victory.

The best chance of the day was spoiled by Akhtar of Abahani when Lulu sent in a neat minus in the last minute of the regulation period but the former just failed to connect with Usha custodian Tushar at his mercy.

Both sides won three penalty corners and short corners each. Khwaja Irtza Qader Guddu was cautioned with the yellow card for dangerous play.

TEAMS USHA KC: Tushar, Guddu, Mito, Robi, Jamal, Mital, Shimul, Kismat (Khawaja Fayez), Kamal, Ehtesham, Ziad (Kismat) and Sadek Khan.

ABAHANI KC: Imtiaz, Jummon Lushal, Mamunur Rashid, Piru, Khurshid, Haroon, Tapan, Akhtar Hossain, Lulu, Alamgir Alam and Raju.

ROLL OF HONOUR Year Champions Runners Up 1973 Sonali Bank Abahani 1974 Abahani Sonali Bank 1975 Abahani Police 1976 Wari Sonali Bank 1977 Abahani PWD 1978 Not held 1979 Abahani Sonali Bank 1980 Army Police 1981 Not held 1982 Mohammedans Army 1983 Not held 1984 Army Ajax 1985 Army Abahani 1986 Usha Abahani

Pakistanis to continue Caribbean tour

1st Test now from today

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Apr 15: Pakistan's troubled cricket tour of the West Indies is to go ahead. But the start of the first Test has been put back 24 hours to Friday, reports Reuter.

Captain Wasim Akram one of four Pakistani players at the centre of a drugs charges row which sparked treats of calling off the tour, announced it would go ahead after a series of meetings on Wednesday.

Stephen Camacho, secretary of the West Indies Cricket Board of Control, hurriedly called in to negotiate with the Pakistan team, said later it had been agreed the start of the West Indies-Pakistan Test had been postponed for one day.

It will now be played over five consecutive days without a rest day. Camacho said in a statement the cricket board regretted any embarrassment which the Pakistanis suffered after the players were charged with marijuana possession in Grenada last week.

They were arrested along with two English women and a Grenadian man late last Thursday. The charges were dropped on Monday by Grenada's Director of Public Prosecutions.

Pakistan still threatened to abandon the tour, saying they were not in the frame of mind to play. Khalid Mahmood, manager of the Pakistan squad, said early on Wednesday the chances of the tour going ahead were less than 50-50.

He had said on arrival in Trinidad: 'My boys are totally demoralised, frustrated and too weak to continue the tour. They want to leave the Caribbean and return home. Everybody in Pakistan wants us to come back.'

Mahmood said Camacho, who is based in Barbados, flew to Trinidad at his request. 'We put to him several matters and irritants facing the players on the tour. Mr Camacho was very receptive and understanding.'

After the meeting with Camacho, Akram said: 'We are going to play, definitely. It's (the drug incident) gone now. We are tough cricketers. We can come back anytime.'

Vice-captain Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed and Aaqib Javed were the three other players arrested on the drugs charge.

Akram said he had not been in favour of returning home but some of his colleagues had felt too upset to continue the tour.

After an hour-long meeting with Mahmood, they had all agreed to stay.

TEAMS PRACTISE AP adds: The Pakistan cricket team held a practice session Wednesday - the team's first since arriving here - at the Queen's Park Oval, the venue of the team's first Test against the West Indies scheduled for Friday.

The West Indies also staged a practice session in the nets Wednesday and manager David Hoford said they would disregard speculation that the Pakistanis would be below their best.

'We are not expecting this incident to affect them tremendously,' he said during the practice session. 'We are going to assume that they're going to be up and ready for the match and we are basing our preparations on that.'

Hoford said that he was not anticipating that '(the Pakistan team) would be demoralized and jaded and affected. They have come back from adversity before - the one-day series was a case in point - and they are a very good side.'

Pakistan were down 2-0 in the five-match series of one-day internationals earlier in the tour, but came back to level it at 2-2 before the final match ended with a last-ball tie. The two teams are considered the best in the world.

German blitz stuns Ghana

BOCHUM, Germany, Apr 15: Germany, 1-0 down until the 69th minute, stormed back with three goals in three minutes to put recent disappointments behind them with a 6-1 destruction of Ghana on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The world champions seemed to be slipping to their first defeat at home for almost five years when substitute Ulf Kirsten, Stefan Effenberg and striker Juergen Klinsmann scored in the 69th, 70th and 71st minutes respectively.

Effenberg and Klinsmann then both hit their second goals in the 81st and 86th minutes before Andy Moeller completed the rout in the 88th minute.

Prince P. Polley put Ghana ahead with a close range effort after a shot from Marseille's Abdel Pele hit the bar in the 44th minute.

The result was just reward for a spirited performance from Bert Vogts' team who showed more determination and flair than in a lacklustre performance in their friendly against Scotland last month.

Pele played after flying into join the Ghana squad a few hours before the match after Marseille, who had a French league commitment, had initially denied him permission.

Despite their industry and aggression, Germany took time to find their touch in front of goal although they dominated most of the game.

As time wore on they looked in danger of a first home defeat since losing to the Netherlands in Hamburg in the 1988 European Championship finals.

But Kirsten, who came on at the start of the second half, turned the game around when he broke away on the left and scored coolly 21 minutes before the end.

In the next attack, Effenberg cleverly chipped over Ghana goalkeeper Salifu Ansa before Klinsmann dribbled through the box for a superb goal less than a minute later.

Germany found more and more space in the final 10 minutes and Klinsmann excelled again with another run down the right to score the best of the last three goals.

The result will take pressure off Vogts ahead of next year's World Cup after the poor showing in Glasgow when Germany were fortunate to win 1-0 and the defeat by Brazil in December.

The game was only a friendly on paper. There was nothing half-hearted about some of the ferocious tackling from both sides in the early stages.

The Germans looked determined to make up for their disappointing form. Veterans Lothar Matthaus and Uwe Bein led by example with some hard running in midfield.