

Bangladesh recuperate

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh now touring Kenya to take part in the ICC Trophy championship...

Earlier Bermuda made 164 for eight wickets from the stipulated 50 overs.

Pak-NZ XI tie: First day washed out

NAPIER, New Zealand, Feb 4: The first day of Pakistan's four day cricket match against a New Zealand XI was abandoned here Friday, reports AFP.

Umpire Steve Dunne and Doug Cowie made the decision at 1.15 pm (0015 GMT) with steady rain falling at McLean Park.

The match is now reduced to a three-day fixture. MUSHTAQ FIGHTING TO BE FIT

Verdy ride out storm

BANGKOK, Thailand, Feb 4: Japan's J-League champions Yomiuri Verdy rode out a sharp shock in the first half of their match against Al Ansar from Lebanon before winning 2-0 to secure a semifinal berth in the Asian Club Championships here Thursday, reports AFP.

Three more teams in qtrs

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Shahabuddin scored the second hat-trick of the meet as three teams advanced to the quarterfinals of the 13th national youth hockey championship yesterday.

Shahabuddin took the cue and sounded the board in 20th, 46th and 55th minutes. His three field goals earned him a hat-trick, second in the championship following Shafiq's treble for BKSP Thursday.

Rajshahi had its tally completed when Shafiq sounded the board from a field goal to make it 5-0 in the 59th minute.

East Bengal regain title

CALCUTTA, Feb 4: East Bengal regained the Calcutta Super Division title when they overcame Port Trust 2-0 in their last match at their home ground here today, reports PTI.

Striker Sanjay Majhi and Ajay Singh struck a goal each in the opening session to seal the fate of their opponents in a rather one-sided contest and help the club regain the title.

Big bonus

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 4: Claude Le Roy, the first Frenchman to coach Malaysia's national football team, has been promised handsome rewards if he steers the team into the next Olympics, officials said Thursday, reports AFP.

Last year's runners-up trounced Protopur 4-0. Abdul Huq started the scoring spree for the winners by converting a penalty stroke in the 12th minute.

Then Tareq chimed in finding the target in the 41st minute.

Nineteen minutes later Abdul Huq was once again on target scoring a field goal this time which gave the fancied Dhaka DSA a vice like grip on the match.

East Bengal regain title

Mohun Bagan's Nigerian recruit Chibuzor shouldered much of the responsibility and created many openings but none of the other forwards were equal to the task as they invariably failed to provide the finishing touches.

Saudis face 'total' test

JEDDAH, Feb 4: Newly appointed coach Leo Beenhakker will use this month's four friendly matches as a litmus test to see whether the Saudi Arabian national team is ready for the world cup, reports AP.

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Kumble's rank soars

LONDON, Feb 4: India's Anil Kumble has become the highest-rated legspinner in cricket history after his 17 wickets against Sri Lanka, reports AFP.

He now has 903 points — just six fewer than Pakistan paceman Waqar Younis, who continues to head the coopers and lybrand bowlers' list.

South African fast bowler Allan Donald jumps one pace to fifth and Australian quickie Craig McDermott leaps six to seventh after their countries drawn series.

LEADING RATINGS

Batting: 1. Graham Gooch (England) 819, 2. Des Haynes (W. Indies) 818, 3. Sachin Tendulkar (India) 795, 4. Richie Richardson (W. Indies) 785, 5. David Boon (Australia) 725, 6. Brian Lara (W. Indies) 696, 7. Steve Waugh (Australia) 676, 8. Navjot Sidhu (India) 657, 9. Mark Taylor (Australia) 652, 10. Martin Crowe (NZ) 651.

SL bowlers toil

CHANDIGARH, Feb 4: Punjab opener Vikram Rathore hit an unbeaten 143 as Sri Lanka's bowlers were made to toil on the second day of their three-day match against Punjab on Friday, reports Reuter.

SHRI LANKA: First innings

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes Saranawara, Gunawardene, Tillekeratne, De Silva, Jayasuriya, Aravinda de Silva, Kapuge, Dassanayake, Extras, Total.

PUNJAB: First innings

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes Rathore, Mehra, Kalit, Gursiaran, Bhopinder Singh, Extras, Total.



A Rouf Chowdhury of Rangs Group of Companies (3rd from right) seen with the winners of the Lancer golf tournament — '94 held at the Kurmitola Golf Club course yesterday

Sajjad wins Lancer golf title

Sajjad S Ahmed won the men's title in the Lancer golf tournament — '94 beating Muhammad Noor at the Kurmitola Golf Club, course yesterday.

Naser poked the title in the junior category defeating Shahan. Veteran Jalal Ahmed was the winner of the senior title for men.

Among others who excelled on the day were Y Aratsu who hit the longest drive. C W Park was the pick of them all in the race for the nearest to pin feat. Syed Emdad Ali was the Back Nine winner.

Mrs J I Lee won the ladies' dividend pipping B H Keum to the post.

Maradona turns a fugitive

BUENOS AIRES, Feb 4: Soccer star Diego Maradona, at war with the press after firing an air rifle at the reporters, was smuggled out of his country home under cover of darkness early Thursday and went into hiding, reports Reuter.

Diego left at dawn, hidden in a pickup truck to avoid the pressure from journalists, one of his lawyers, Hugo Wortman, told DYN news agency. "Let's not turn this into a manhunt."

The 33-year-old soccer wizard, depressed and in physical pain from muscle injuries, lost his temper after being sacked this week by Newell's Old Boys of Rosario for repeatedly failing to show up for practice.

The investigating judge said Maradona, who threatened at one point to switch from the air gun to real bullets, would be summoned to testify, but could remain free even if formal proceedings were opened. The charges carry a maximum two-year prison sentence which is not always enforceable. Even after the air gun incident, Maradona continued his fight with the press standing guard outside. Television crews reporting live from the street outside the star's residence for the main newscasts Wednesday night were doused with water from a house inside the eight foot (2.5 metre) walls. A small crowd of Maradona fans nearby jeered and spat at reporters. Maradona's career has been in decline since the 1990 World Cup in Italy. He failed a routine dope test for cocaine while playing for Napoli in March 1991 and was banned for 15 months by FIFA, world soccer's governing body. He returned to Argentina, declared he had retired and entered a treatment programme. He came out of retirement in Spain with Sevilla last season but was sacked in June and returned again to Argentina. After a four-month break followed by an intense slimming and fitness programme, Maradona signed with Newell's Old Boys in October, then inspired Argentina to victory over Australia in a critical World Cup playoff. Maradona said before his clash with reporters that he planned to continue playing despite having been fired, and looked forward to the World Cup in the United States later this year.

Germain going for 'double'

PARIS, Feb 4: Leaders Paris Saint Germain can maintain their stranglehold on the French Championship by extending their unbeaten run to 20 matches this weekend, reports AFP.

They take on relegation zone club Angers at the Parc Des Princes, where they have proved virtually impregnable all season, conceding just two goals in 11 starts.

Another success will see them close in on the French League record of 26 matches without defeat — a run recorded by the Parisians themselves in 1985-6.

Their only rivals in the race for the title are now Olympique Marseille, four points off the pace. But while Paris Saint Germain, inspired by Brazilian midfielder Valdo, have been drawing rave reviews, Marseille, wracked by match-rigging and financial scandals all season, now face a league investigation into their last win over fading Monaco.

Montaco coach Arsene Wenger hit out after a physical, bruising encounter that saw six players booked and Marseille defender Jocelyn Angloma sent off for the second match in a row. Yet Bernard Tapie's club, forced to sell off top players Marcel Desailly, Alen Boksic and Paulo Futre to meet mounting debts, continue to command sympathy after managing to stay in contention despite fielding a team packed with reserves.

Anderson, another Brazilian, has notched six goals since joining Marseille in December from Swiss club Evrette, a feat which has brought him to the verge of Brazil's World Cup squad. Meanwhile Spanish side Real Madrid must bounce back quickly from their Cup misery against league leaders Deportivo La Coruna this weekend — with coach Benito Floro's position increasingly precarious.

The loss-making soccer legends ran out of what credit they had left with fans when beaten 3-1 at home by bogey side Tenerife in the Spanish Cup quarter-final on Tuesday. Real had three players sent off and seven booked against Tenerife, the same side which cost them the championship on the last day of the previous two seasons.

Supporters have been calling for Floro's head for weeks, with a new opinion poll in the sports Daily Marca showing 62 per cent in favour of a change at the top. Latest press reports claim Floro will be ditched if his side fails against Deportivo and Paris Saint Germain in the Cup Winners Cup.

On top of the psychological impact, Real will have to dig into its reserve players to take the place of the nearest to pin feat. Syed Emdad Ali was the Back Nine winner. Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen M Nouruddin Khan was the Front Nine winner. John Allgood had the best gross followed by J H Chang. Letter the prizes were distributed at a dinner at the KGC pavilion in the evening.



Youngsters enjoying themselves during the annual sports competition of Universal Tutorial School held on Thursday at the Dhanmondi Women's Complex.