

Khulna move into nat'l soccer qtrs

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Feb 18: Khulna became the latest team to reach the quarter-finals of the 18th Sher-e-Bangla Cup national soccer championship. They blanked Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) 6-0 at the local stadium here today.

The winners were allowed to completely dictate the tempo of the game right from the start and by the end of the first half they led 3-0.

They added three more goals in the second period to complete the goal rush.

Dhaka University take on Bagerhat in tomorrow's match.

Barisal, Pabna in zonal finals

Sports Reporter

Barisal and Pabna moved into the zonal finals of the 14th national Beximco youth cricket championship with emphatic victories in their respective ties held at different venues across the country yesterday.

Manju's 80 formed the core of Barisal's 146-run win against neighbours Jhalakathi in a Zone A semifinal played at Chandpur.

Batting first the winners rattled up 221 for eight wickets from the stipulated quota of 45 overs. With the bulk of the runs coming from Manju's bat Barisal were held in good stead by a string of useful scores including 29 extras.

Siddiq followed Manju with 42 while Tanmoy remained unconquered on 20. Arun and Nahid scored 16 each to add to the expansion of Barisal innings.

Himel toiled honestly among the Jhalakathi bowlers to capture three Barisal wickets for 45 runs.

Babu was the other bowler to take more than one wicket finishing with figures of two for 40.

The fact that Jhalakathi were no match for Barisal transpired as soon they went out to take up the heavy gauntlet in the form of a victory target of 222 runs in 45 overs. They were all out for 75 in just 29.4 overs with the combative Himel who had earlier taken three wickets emerging as the top scorer with 14 in an innings that saw just two double-digit scores barring 26 extras.

Rabi led onslaughts of the Barisal bowlers with a bag of three wickets for 31 runs followed by Ibrahim and Sohail who claimed two apiece at a very nominal cost.

Pabna subdued Tangail by a handsome margin of 50 runs in a Group C semifinal played at Satkhira.

The winners raised an impressive total of 219 for nine from 45 overs with four batsmen — Shakil, Jahangir, Jewel and Zahid weighing in notably. Shakil topped the list with 42 followed by Jewel who made 34. Jahangir and Zahid compiled 33 and 31 respectively.

Ripon and Islam of Tangail took two wickets each for 34 and 33 runs respectively.

Motnuzzaman of Tangail became the topscorer of the match with 47 but had to reconcile with the galling fate of ending up on the losing side as his side was bowled out for 169 in 39.5 overs.

He was trailed by Saikat and Russell who too ploughed in the sands with scores of 32 and 18 respectively.

Tareq and Rashed of Pabna were the main tormentors of Tangail sharing six wickets between themselves. Tareq had the more impressive analysis of three for 22 while Rashed's three scalps cost him 45 runs. Nadim completed Tangail's cup of woe with another two wickets for 23 runs.

All-German final

STUTTGART, Germany, Feb 18: Boris Becker and Michael Stich reached the showdown all-Germany want to see when they won their second-round matches at the 2.25 million dollar ATP tournament here on Thursday, reports AFP.

Stich, hero of his country's Davis Cup triumph in December and currently ranked number-two in the world, put out Russian Andrei Cherkasov with clinical precision — dropping only three games in the process.

Becker, returning after his extended end-of-season break from tennis and breezing confidence since his win at Milan last weekend, powered his way past Cherkasov's compatriot Alexander Volkov 7-5, 7-5.

The victories set up what promises to be one of the most explosive confrontations between two players determined to prove they are Germany's best for Friday. Becker, seeded seventh and currently ranked 14, trailed 0-3 in the second set. But the thunderous applause of the excited 8,000 crowd enabled him to raise his game and surge back.

Army maintains supremacy

Sports Reporter

Lance Naik Sulaiman Mozumder of Army took the gold, Wazir Rahman of BTMC and Ahsanuzzaman of Navy claimed the silver and bronze respectively.

In women's discus throw Jyotsna Afroz of BJMC captured the gold putting a dis-

brought the gold for BJMC clocking 2 min 41.0 seconds. Munira of Ansar and Mullika Kaur Dola of Noakhali managed the silver and gold respectively.

In the 500m dash for men, Habilder Laik Sheikh of Army got his gold timing 15 min



STAR OF THE MEET: Nilufar Yasmin of BJMC sails across a record breaking distance in the women's long jump of the national athletics championship at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday. Apart from setting the only new national record of the meet Nilufar finished as the most successful individual athlete with a haul of three gold medals. — Star photo by Enamul Haq

created at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Golam Ambia, the veteran sprint ace of the country, revelled in the absence of his injured but celebrated young rival Bimal Chandra Tarafdar to win the gold in his favourite 100m. Unluckily he had a bad start. But experienced Ambia made up his initial difficulties by his steady endeavour amidst the small but cheerful crowd.

Habilder Golam Ambia, who was at the time struggling for his second gold in three, clocked 10.77 seconds. Emdadul Hoque Ranju of Customs and Towhidur Rahman of Rajshahi University finished second and third to secure the silver and bronze respectively.

In women's 100m, Custom's Rehana Parveen took the gold.

The 18-year-old girl from Rajshahi also had a bad start. But she edged past Feroza Khatun on the final lap to be crowned as the fastest woman of the country. She clocked 12.5 seconds. Feroza Khatun of BTMC, who led right from the beginning, had to be satisfied with the silver. Nilufar Yasmin of BJMC got the bronze.

Nilufar Yasmin of BJMC set up the only national record in the meet when she leaped 5.78 metres in women's long jump event. Her team-mate Jesmin Khanam took the silver while Rehana Khatun of Kushtia got the bronze.

Nilufar became the best individual women athlete as she bagged three golds as well as one bronze.

She got another gold in the day when her team BJMC became first in 4x100m event. BJMC clocked 50.76. Ansar and VDP got the silver while Customs managed the bronze.

Nilufar took her first gold in women's 200m event in the inaugural day of the meet.

In other events of the concluding day, Hemayet Kazi of Army took the marathon gold. He clocked 2 hours 28.01 minutes. Ansar's Aslam Khan got the silver while Abdul Khaleq of Army got the bronze.

In 110m men's hurdles,

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An all Biplab day

Sports Reporter

One Biplab scored an unbeaten century while another unbeaten half century as Fisons Bangladesh Limited registered a huge seven-wicket win against National University in the lone office cricket league tie at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The third unbeaten century since the inaugural of the meet introduced in Bangladesh for the first time, saw Biplab slam 106 with the help of 12 fours as his side posted 200 for three wickets to make short work of students' score of 199 for five.

Biplab who in fact bettered the feats of national cricketers Zahid Razzak Masum and Nurul Abedin playing for Acme Laboratories in this tourney, enjoyed good support from another grade cricketer Opee who made 38.

Zaman, Sharif and Monir got one wicket apiece for the latest addition in country's universities.

Earlier, Dear, a regular 'league' cricketer, missed a ton by three runs as National University batted through the quota of 45 overs to garner 199 for five wickets.

To make it a real day for cricketers named Biplab University Innings reaped 87 unbeaten runs from another gentleman by that name.

Left-arm spinner Shamsul Huda took two wickets for 29 while Opee's haul of two cost 36 runs among Fisons bowlers employed on the day.

Imran requests Hadlee to come back

WELLINGTON, Feb 18: Former Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan called today for retired New Zealand fast bowler Sir Richard Hadlee to consider returning to international cricket to help his country out, reports AFP.

New Zealand are currently being soundly beaten here by Pakistan in the second Test and is facing their fourth successive Test defeat.

Imran, on a brief visit to New Zealand to help raise money for a cancer hospital in Lahore and for the Anglican aged care Alzheimer's Hospital in New Zealand, told television New Zealand Hadlee had retired from Test cricket too soon.

Hadlee stepped down in 1990 with the world record of 431 wickets. That was broken last week by Indian all-rounder Kapil Dev, who has taken 432 wickets.

"Richard should start thinking of coming back," Imran said.

"He could break Kapil's record and give New Zealand a bit of help when they need it," Imran had no doubts Hadlee, now aged 42, would be able to make an impact.

He had such an economical action, I thought he could have kept going. He could have bowled in short bursts," Imran added.

Rao to honour Kapil

NEW DELHI, Feb 18: Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao will felicitate cricket all-rounder Kapil Dev at a special function to mark his Test bowling record here on February 21, reports PTI.

The Prime Minister will present a special memento to Kapil Dev alongwith a citation at the function organised by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, according to an official press release today.

Human Resources Development Minister Arjun Singh will preside over the function.

England-Windies Test today

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Feb 18: West Indies captain Richie Richardson is banking on his team's ability to shrug off their one-day defeat by England and hit winning form when the five-Test series opens on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Richardson takes his side into the first Test at Sabina Park with a clear warning for Mike Atherton's England cricketers, who were buoyed by their 61-run victory in the opening limited overs game at Bridgetown on Wednesday.

"We have the resilience to bounce back as we have done before and I am sure you will see a greater team effort in our upcoming games," said Richardson.

The English team played better (in the one-day match) and they won and we must give them credit for their performance. We will put this game behind us and think ahead to the other games," he added.

Atherton, though delighted with the victory at Kensington Oval, is sufficiently realistic not to read too much into one limited overs success at the start of a demanding international programme in the Caribbean.

The Test match is a totally different game. We have to be on our guard against a backlash. If they were complacent before this game, you can bet your bottom dollar they won't be on Saturday," said England's captain.

West Indies have not lost a Test series at home since early 1973 when Ian Chappell's Australians won a five-Test encounter 2-0 — a proud record that Richardson's men will seek to defend with total commitment and resolution.

England hinted at breaking the sequence on their last tour four years ago, winning the first Test and being prevented by rain and time-wasting tactics from going 2-0 up in the series, before West Indies stormed back with victories in the last two Tests.

Fast-medium bowler Angus Fraser played an influential role in the early part of that campaign and, following his return to the Test arena last August after a two-and-a-half-year injury absence, he was optimistic about making a similar impact this time.

However, Fraser fractured a finger on his left hand during the recent match against Barbados and missed Wednesday's one-day clash, leaving

the four selectors to decide whether to gamble on playing him in the first Test.

Fraser's bowling would not be particularly hindered by the fracture but England's worry is that he might suffer a blow to the injury while batting or fielding, which would rule him out of action again.

England's other pace bowling options are Andy Caddick, who is set to return after a shin injury, Alan Iddesden and Chris Lewis, who each bowled impressively in the one-day victory, and Steve Watkins.

West Indies will be without middle order batsman and off-spinner Carl Hooper, who has a back injury that means he is also to miss the second of five one-day internationals, in Kingston on February 26.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Jimmy Adams may be retained from the limited overs team even though specialist keeper Junior Murray is set for the Test side.

If Adams plays and with Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh and Winston Benjamin to head the pace attack, West Indies must complete their bowling line-up with one from pacemen Anderson Cummins and Kenny Benjamin or off-spinner Roger Harper.

Prabhakar pulverises Sri Lanka

India win in instant too

HYDERABAD, Feb 18: Indian all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar sparked with both bat and ball as the hosts trounced Sri Lanka by seven wickets here Friday to take a decisive 2-0 lead in the one-day series, reports AFP.

Prabhakar returned career-best figures of five for 35 to restrict Sri Lanka to 226 for seven from 50 overs after Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin won the toss and elected to field first.

The 30-year-old then smashed a gutsy 39 in a 98-run opening stand with Navjot Sidhu (79), as the Indian finished the one-sided match at the Lal Bahadur Stadium with 10 deliveries to spare.

The easy victory puts India in line to win the one-day series 3-0 after blanking the tourists by a similar margin in the Test rubber. The third and final international will be played in Jalandhar on Sunday.

The Sri Lankans, who needed a win here after suffering a eight-run loss in the first one-dayer in Rajkot on Tuesday, were dealt a heavy blow by Prabhakar within the first hour's play.

The wily seamer, later named man-of-the-match, took advantage of the early moisture to grab four wickets in a hostile opening spell and make Sri Lanka 31 for four.

Opener Anura Gunawardene and Hashan Tillekeratne were caught behind, Roshan Mahanama was held in the slips while Aravinda de Silva holed out in the deep against the unplayable Prabhakar.

The Sri Lankans were rescued from complete humiliation by a brilliant 98 off 115 balls from skipper Arjuna Ranatunga and a defiant 51 by Ruwan Kalpage.

The pair put on 132 for the sixth wicket against wayward bowling on a wicket that lost its early fire and played easy as the game progressed.

Prabhakar returned in his second spell to have Ranatunga edging to wicket keeper Nayan Mongia, who dived to his left to take his fourth catch in the innings.

Sri Lanka were hand-capped by the absence of star seamer Pramodaya Wickramasinghe for this match.

Did not bat: M. Muralidharan, C. Vaas.

Bowling: O M R W
Prabhakar 10 0 35 5
Srinath 10 1 45 1
Kapil 6 1 19 0
Tendulkar 8 0 35 1
Chauhan 9 0 40 0
Kumble 7 0 39 0

INDIA:
Prabhakar c Jayasuriya b Muralidharan 39
Sidhu run out 79
Kambli not out 56
Asharuddin c Pushpakumara b Jayasuriya 16
Tendulkar not out 11
Extras: (b-10, lb-7, w-6, nb-8) 26
Total: (3 wks) 227
Fall of wickets: 1-98; 2-161; 3-197

Bowling: O M R W
Pushpakumara 7.2 0 30 0
Vaas 7 1 22 0
De Silva 6 0 34 0
Muralidharan 10 0 39 1
Jayasuriya 8 0 38 1
Kalpage 10 0 47 0

India won by seven wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Manoj Prabhakar

The victory came through two successive no balls by debutant Ravindra Pushpakumara, who replaced Wickramasinghe for this match.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the second one-day international between India and Sri Lanka at Hyderabad today.

SHRI LANKA:
Mahanama c Tendulkar b Prabhakar 15
Gunawardene c Mongia b Prabhakar 2
Tillekeratne c Mongia b Prabhakar 0
De Silva c Chauhan b Prabhakar 0
Ranatunga c Mongia b Prabhakar 98
Jayasuriya c Mongia b Tendulkar 9
Kalpage c and b Srinath 51
Fernando not out 20
Pushpakumara not out 3
Extras: (b-10, lb-10, w-9, nb-6) 38
Total: (for seven wickets, 50 overs) 226
Fall of wickets: 1-7; 2-11; 3-17; 4-31; 5-65; 6-197; 7-217

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ICC results, standings

NAIROBI, Feb 18: Results of ICC (International Cricket Conference) Trophy 50-overs matches on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Ireland beat Gibraltar by 6 wickets, Gibraltar 136-9 in 50 overs (Charlie McCrann 4-16), Ireland 138-4 in 37.3 overs (Alan Lewis 44).

Hong Kong beat Fiji by 7 wickets. Fiji 126 in 35 overs (Stuart Brew 4-16), Hong Kong 127-3 in 17 overs (Pat Fordham 50 not out, Riaz Farcy 48).

United Arab Emirates beat Argentina by 8 wickets. Argentina 128 in 49.2 overs (Atif Butti 3-30), United Arab Emirates 131-2 in 25 overs (Saleem Raza 46 not out).

United States beat East and Central Africa by 9 wickets. East and Central Africa 105 in 35.1 overs (Derek Kallicharan 3-18), United States 106-1 in 14.4 overs (F Lewis 68 not out).

Papua New Guinea beat Malaysia by 49 runs. Papua New Guinea 165 in 47.5 overs, Malaysia 116 in 46.2 overs (K Ila 3-32).

Denmark beat West Africa by 4 wickets. West Africa 146 in 47.2 overs, Denmark 147-6 in 37.2 overs.

STANDINGS

Standings in the ICC (International Cricket Conference) Trophy after Thursday's matches (tabulated — Played, won, lost, points):

Group A
Papua New Guinea 3 2 1 8
Netherlands 2 2 0 8
Ireland 2 2 0 8
Malaysia 2 0 2 0
Gibraltar 3 0 3 0

Group B
United Arab Emirates 3 3 0 12
Bangladesh 2 2 0 8
United States 2 1 1 4
Argentina 2 0 2 0
East and Central Africa 3 0 3 0

Group C
Canada 3 2 0 10
Kenya 2 2 0 8
Namibia 2 1 1 4
Singapore 3 0 2 2
Israel 2 0 2 0

Note: Canada and Singapore totals include two points for a no result.

Group D
Denmark 3 2 1 8
Hong Kong 3 2 1 8
Bermuda 2 2 0 8
West Africa 2 0 2 0
Fiji 3 0 3 0

Kings Cup soccer

BANGKOK, Feb 18: Thailand A held Russia's Totor to a 1-1 draw in the last Group A match of the 25th Kings Cup football tournament here Thursday, allowing both teams to qualify for the tournaments semi-finals, reports AFP.

Valeri Ezzipov scored for Russia in the 39th minute before Ronachai Sayomchai found the equaliser for the Thai team in the 71st minute.

In the other Group A match, South Korea's Industrial Bank beat Malaysia's National Bank team 5-1. Pak Doo Heung scoring two goals for South Korea in the sixth and 74th minutes, with Chin Mun Cheong adding another two in the 70th and 75th minutes, and Park Kuk Chong adding one in the 84th. Arku Bakar scored for Malaysia in the 85th minute.

In the semifinals Thailand B will face Russia and Thailand A will play Germany.

Standings after Thursday's matches (played, won, draw, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Group A
Thailand A 3 1 2 0 6 3 4
Russia 3 1 2 0 3 1 4
South Korea 3 1 1 1 6 4 3
Malaysia 3 0 1 2 2 9 1



Army's long-serving sprinter Golam Ambia who held the mantle of country's fastest man before Bimal Tarafdar's emergence as the quickest man of South East Asia, won the gold in 100m dash for men yesterday. Bimal the new sprint king had to skip the 22nd national meet due to an injury suffered during the last SAF Games. — Star photo