

Sport

Hockey deadlock resolved

Sports Reporter

Club is the ultimate factor in any discipline of sports in Bangladesh. The truism surfaced once again yesterday as the country's hockey players decided to shelve all the pompous plans of rebellion and join the camp called in connection with Bangladesh's participation in Hiroshima Asiad.

Agitating under the banner of Hockey Players Association (HPA) with a view to force the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) into announcing the dates for players' transfers and the First Division league, the players had earlier threatened to boycott the national camp. Things really looked ominous as only seven players turned up for training on the opening day on April 27.

With BHF out of its depths to break in the reedy players, clubs whose want of funds actually brought the whole thing to a pass, were approached to resolve the snowballing crisis.

In a joint petition club supremos recently called for rapprochement among the warring parties.

With the career of the players rather too heavily hinged on the officials, the message or one should say the veiled threat immediately produced its desired effect. The rebels became good boys alluding to promises of transfers by June and, of course, the worn out cliché of national interest.

The full-fledged national camp will resume at the Hockey Stadium from tomorrow.

TT coaching

Sports Reporter

A month-long table tennis coaching programme for junior paddlers under the auspices of Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation will begin at the Dhanmondi Wooden floor gymnasium at 3.30 pm from May 4.

Interested boys and girls have been requested to take part in the programme.

Yzaga stuns Edberg

MADRID, Apr 30: Peru's Jaime Yzaga stunned top-seeded Stefan Edberg with a straight-set victory Friday in the quarterfinals of the dls 800,000 Madrid Open, ending the Swede's 15-set win streak in Madrid, reports AP.

The 26-year-old Yzaga, ranked 28th by the ATP Tour and unseeded at Madrid, won 6-4, 6-2.

The important thing was to keep pressure on him, especially with his return of serve," said Yzaga, whose last ATP Tour title was last fall in Sydney, Australia.

"Nowadays, lots of players are capable of beating the top players," Yzaga added. "The only exception might be (Pete) Sampras."

"It didn't serve well and I didn't return well," Edberg said. "I never did feel the ball. My timing was off — I was trying too much. I knew this would be a tough match, but I didn't expect to play like this."

In other quarterfinals Friday, No. 3 seed Sergi Bruguera of Spain, defeated No. 5 seed Carlos Costa of Spain 3-6, 6-2, 6-4; Spaniard Alex Corretja defeated Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland 6-3, 6-2; No. 4 seed Thomas Muster of Austria defeated No. 6 Ivan Lendl of the United States 2-6, 6-3, 6-0.

Bruguera faces Corretja in Saturday's semifinals and Muster plays Yzaga.

Minnows muddle through

Sports Reporter



Farashganj Sporting Club registered a convincing 2-0 win over Eskaton Sabuj Sangha in the DMFA Cup football tournament at the floodlit Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The First Division team playing its first match of the curtain-raising meet scored once in each half to eliminate Eskaton Sabuj Sangha. The winners will now play Premier Division team Agrani Bank in their next Group B match Monday.

Farashganj, who took full control of the match right from the word go, and came close to scoring in the 14th minute when their striker Liton's header came back to play after hitting the cross piece.

Opponents defender Rafiq made a brilliant save six minutes later clearing the ball from goalline before Farashganj took the lead in the 23rd minute.

Midfielder Nayan fired the ball home after receiving a pass from captain Ratan in the danger zone.

Zilani sealed the fate of the match when he took full advantage of a Eskaton defence lapse in the 57th minute of the play with a power packed right-foot shot from inside box 2-0.

Eskaton, who were totally off-colour in the match, got their only real scoring opportunity in the 67th minute but the feeble shot from substitute Rupom was saved by Farashganj custodian Dilu for a corner.

Tajul Islam of Farashganj was cautioned with yellow card for rough play.

SHANTINAGAR WIN

Red-letter day for SA soccer



JOHANNESBURG, Apr 30: Celebrating the key role played by athletes in the demise of apartheid, South Africa's national soccer team will play Zambia on May 10, the day Nelson Mandela is expected to be sworn in as president, reports AP.

"This will, by far, be the biggest match we have staged in South Africa," Solomon Morewa, president of the national soccer association, told a news conference Friday.

The match is scheduled for 4 pm at Ellis Park in Johannesburg. The giant screen at the stadium will be used to relay live coverage from Pretoria of Mandela's expected inauguration as South Africa's first black president.

"We are very proud to be part of the inauguration ceremony which starts a new era in our history and delighted that our national soccer team was chosen as the sporting highlight," Morewa said.

Back in the heyday of apartheid in the mid-1980s, when South Africa was the target of a comprehensive sports boycott, soccer established itself as a rare example of multiracial harmony and its officials worked in tandem with the anti-apartheid movement.

Though the fans were — and still are — predominantly black, the top pro league included a mix of mostly white and mostly black teams. One of Soweto's top teams, the Kaizer Chiefs, had a popular white goalie.

Thirteen players with two and a half points were in the second position.

will be the first major sports event to take place in the new, democratic South Africa. A team from a white-dominated sport will be the first to compete under the country's new flag.

The national surfing team is scheduled to fly to Brazil on Sunday to compete in the World Championships in Rio de Janeiro starting Tuesday.

The announcement of the soccer match came a year and a day after a plane crash that wiped out virtually all of Zambia's national team.

Regrouping after the tragedy, Zambia built a new team that barely missed out on a berth in the World Cup finals and which placed second in the recent African Nations Cup.

Zambian officials promised to bring a full strength squad to Johannesburg, including overseas-based stars such as the Bwalya brothers Kalusha and Johnson, Harrison Chongo and Douglas Mwambu.

The South African team to play Zambia will be announced on Tuesday, but Morewa said it was likely to be the same squad that beat Zimbabwe 1-0. That squad included three Turkey-based stars, captain Steve Komhela, Fani Madida and John "Shoes" Moshoeshoe.

Morewa said, "It was Zambia that had historical links with the South African liberation movement in the days of apartheid and was the first country to show a hand of friendship to us when the apartheid barriers were broken down."

The players were: Abdul Mobin, Abdulla, Mizaran Rahman, Enamul Hossain, Nooruddin, Riaz Ahmed, Md. Hasan, Shawkat Hossain, Arman, Moniruzzaman, Enayet Hossain, Mujibur Rahman, Motir Rahman, Motir Rahman, Sharifuzzaman and Majid Rana.

After solid innings from top-scorer Atul Bedade with 47 and Sachin Tendulkar with 25, only No 5 batsman Sandeep Patil managed a decent score with 27.

Bedade was by far the best of the Indian batsmen, smashing his 47 from 54 balls including three fours and two massive sixes — one of which cleared the stand and delayed play for several minutes until the ball could be found.

The Indian tail-order then crumbled as Maxwell bowled with both pace and accuracy.

The game was the first of three limited-over fixtures between the Indians and Australians being held as part of a month-long Indian cultural and trade promotion, underway across Australia.

The second match will be played Sunday.

Scores:

Navy tennis

CHITTAGONG, Apr 30: The annual tennis and squash championship of the Bangladesh Navy concluded at the BNS Issa Khan here yesterday, reports BSS.

BN Flotilla became the overall champions and the Dhaka Naval Area finished runners-up in the five-day meet.

Lt Commander S Kabir and Lt Commander Ashraf Haq clinched the tennis doubles title, defeating Commodore AKM Azad and Lt MNK Kishu 6-7, 6-3, 7-6 while Lt MNK Kishu became champion in the singles defeating Lt Commander M Ashraf Haq 6-1, 7-6.

In the squash championship, Lt Commander M A Razzak won the trophy defeating Lt Muhammad Nazrul Islam.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohamadul Islam witnessed the final matches as the chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners.

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Today's Cryptoquip clue: H equals W

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

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Controversy mars Kiwi start

LONDON, Apr 30: New Zealand skipper Ken Rutherford was hit on the head by a beamer as the Kiwis' summer tour began controversially against the England Amateur XI on Friday, reports Reuter.

Rutherford stormed off the field, clearly upset by the high full toss delivered by former Essex seamer Alan van Lint, and later went to a local hospital for a precautionary X-ray.

Sadharan Bima, who fared worse between the two sides, pulled one goal back when Biplob found the net from a goalmouth melee 2-1.

Shaiful Islam was booked by referee Mahabubur Rahman for handling the ball intentionally.

Meanwhile, organisers DMFA have stepped up security measures keeping in mind today's Group A championship deciding match between sensational Mukti Jodha Krira Chakra and Dhanmondi Club, which is scheduled to start from 7 pm.

A plan is being mooted to shift the playing arena in the middle of the stadium with a view to combat the "missile threat" from the western galleries. Besides, Mukti Jodha in a letter to the DMFA have asked them to ensure safe playing condition.

Mukti Jodha, who roped in 12 national players in this year's sensational players' transfer incurred the wrath of the dyed in the wool supporters of Mohammedans, Abahani and Brothers Union were subject to irresponsible stone-pelting during their opening match on April 23.

The selected men athletes are: Golam Ambia, Azhar Ali, Giasuddin, Farid Khan Chowdhury, Hemayet Ali, Salaiman Majumder, Nazrul Islam, Bani Amin, Mostafa Talukder (Army), Milaz Hossain, Manzur Morshed, Bimal Chandra Tareer (BJMC), Tawhidur Rahman, Matiul Alam (Rajshahi University), Aslam Khan, Mahboob Alam (Ansar & VDP), Abdur Rahim Nayeem (Navy) and Emdadul Haq Ranju (Customs).

The female athletes are: Rehana Parveen (Customs), Nilufar Yasmin, Lubna Mahrud, Lovely Begum, Jyotsna Afroz (BJMC) and Firoza Khatoon (BTMC).

Mortuza Iqbal Nuri was named the camp commander.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Wari Club vs Dhaka Wanderers Club 5 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Mukti Jodha KC vs Dhanmondi Club 7 pm (Dhaka Stadium).

Lara sets Edgbaston afire

BIRMINGHAM, England, Apr 30: West Indian batting star Brian Lara followed up his world record

Test score of 375 by hitting a masterful century Friday on his debut for Warwickshire in English county cricket. reports AP.

The left-handed Trinidadian, whose last innings was the world record score against England, appeared to carry on at Edgbaston as he had left off at St John's, Antigua, 11 days ago.

Lara, 24, hit five different Glamorgan bowlers for a six and 16 fours as he reached his century in only 104 minutes.

He raised his bat and helmet aloft after powering a ball from seam bowler Roland Lefebvre through extra cover for four.

He struck another six off spin bowler Robert Croft and seven more fours before he was out for 147. Going for a drive through the offside field, he thin-edged a catch to slip fielder Matthew Maynard off Croft's bowling.

Lara needed eight balls to score his first runs as a Warwickshire player, punching the ball through the offside field for a four.

He went on to produce his full range of shots, including a pull off his hips similar to the one in Antigua that took him past Sir Garfield Sobers' 36-year-old record of 365. That was his 100th century.

"If I felt a bit sluggish and I decided to rest the knee after batting, the knee is a bit sore and I can feel it more when I'm slowing down rather than when I'm pushing off for a run or playing a stroke."

"It's going to be a bit uncomfortable, but I've got to put up with that."

Apart from his bump on the head, Rutherford was pleased with his team's start to what will be a demanding 10-week tour.

Opener Blaith Pocock, one of the many young Kiwis trying to establish themselves as an international force during the next couple of months, anchored the innings with 109 from 149 balls. Only Mark Greatbatch failed against an enthusiastic, but toothless amateur attack.

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