

Nat'l youth hockey

BKSP take on Faridpur in final

Sports Reporter
Holders Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protishthan (BKSP) moved closer to retain the title after eliminating Dhaka DSA by three goals to nil in the second semifinal of the 14th national youth championship at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The defending champions will take on Faridpur in the final today.

BKSP, who found the going tough against a spirited Dhaka outfit and had to be content with a goalless first half, however, scored all the three goals in the second session with Zi-aur Rahman netting twice in quick succession.

But it was Shamsuzzaman, who broke the deadlock scoring in the 43rd minute with a nice field goal.

Australian Cup golf results

Sports Reporter
Riazur Rahman became the men's winner in the Australian Cup golf tournament held at the lush green course of the Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC) yesterday.

In the day-long meet featuring about 160 golfers and enthusiasts with Mrs Morikawa claiming the title on the distaff side.

The Chief of Army Staff Lt. General A S M Nasim, who is also the president of the KGC, distributed prizes among the winners.

The concluding ceremony was attended among others by the Australian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, Kenneth W Aspinall, Major General Abdur Rab and the Chief of Air Staff Altaf Hussain Chowdhury.

The other winners are — junior runner-up: Rahib Bahar; junior winner: Fabin Hussain; longest drive: Kamran T Rahman; Nearest to pin: Mahbub Hussain; ladies runner-up: Mrs J Y U; men's runner-up: A Momen Chowdhury; ladies best gross: Mrs M S Kwon; men's best gross: Shawkat-Uz-Zaman.

National T T ends today

The Rindu-Rochi pair and the Shamima-Manash pair reached the mixed doubles final of the 20th Karnaphuli national table tennis championship at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.

In the semifinals, Rindu (Ansars) and Rochi (Biman) beat Julekha (Ansars) and Hamlet (Biman) 21-18, 15-21, 21-14, 21-19 while Shamima (Barguna) and Manash (Chittagong) eliminated Linu (Ansars) and Kochi (Biman) 21-17, 21-8, 8-21, 19-21 and 22-20 points.

In the boys' singles, Mahbob and Tuhin of Dhaka, and Pappu and Edison of Narail advanced to the semifinals from their respective groups.

The closing ceremony of the championship will be held today with Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury attending as the chief guest.

Office cricket league results

Acme Laboratories Limited and Banque Indosuez yesterday won their respective matches in the Office cricket league, reports UNB.

Acme Laboratories beat ANZ Grindlays Bank by seven wickets at the Jagannath Hall ground as they made 161 for three eclipsing the Grindlays Bank total of 160 for six.

In the other match at the City Club ground, Banque Indosuez defeated Eurotek International by nine wickets. Indosuez scored 154 for the loss of one wicket chasing the target of 150 made earlier by Eurotek.

Hampshire for Aussie-style academy

SOUTHAMPTON, Apr 21: Hampshire want to create England's first Australian-style cricket academy as part of a 15-million-pound cricket village, reports AFP.

The country plan to move from their ground near the city centre to a 40-acre site on the outskirts by the turn of the century. With a cricket academy they hope to bring on a new generation of Hampshire and England players.

Launching the Hampshire 2000 appeal, former Hampshire and England star David Gower said: "This will take cricket in Hampshire into the 21st century and provide a lead for the country. The academy idea does work, as can be seen by the likes of Shane Warne and the current crop of players in the Australian side."

21st Pepsi nat'l championship

Dhaka, Biman in semis

Sports Reporter
Last year's beaten finalist Dhaka University made an early exit from the 21st Pepsi national cricket championship when Dhaka DSA handed them a humiliating seven-wicket defeat in one of the two quarterfinals held at different venues in the city yesterday.

At the Dhaka Stadium, playing against a strong Dhaka outfit, the new-look Dhaka University who lost some of their key players in this year's competition, could muster only 156 for eight in the stipulated 45 overs.

In reply, Dhaka DSA, a blend of experience and youth, posted 160 for three in 44.1 overs with Asif Iqbal scoring a sedate but very significant half-century.

Asif, who opened the Dhaka DSA innings along a seasoned Azhar Hossain Shantoo, struck five four in his 95-ball 53 before falling victim to Naimur Rahman Durjoy.

Shantoo, the former national opener, scored a cautious 26.

After the Dhaka University skipper Durjoy removed both the openers, Sajjad Ahmed Monsur Shipon and his captain Halim Shah guided Dhaka close to victory before Shipon departed for a patient 36.

Halim Shah, who collected the required runs, remained unbeaten on a 37-ball 36 embellished with three hits to the fence.

Earlier, winning the toss and electing to bat, Dhaka University could score only 156 on a damp wicket assisting the bowlers.

Nahid, with a plucky unbeaten 41, was the top scorer for Dhaka University while Sajid Hassan, with an obdurate 34 off 72 balls, was the other 20-plus scorer for the losers.

In the other match of the day at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Bangladesh Biman recorded a huge 150-run win over lowly Rangpur on their way to the semifinals.

Biman will take on Dhaka DSA in the second semifinal followed by the first one between defending champions Sylhet and Chittagong.

In an one-sided affair, Biman electing to bat in the morning, compiled an awe-

World Youth Championship

Quarters quorum complete

DOHA, Apr 21: Portugal, Argentina, Cameroon and Australia clinched the last four quarterfinal places in the World Youth Championship on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Portugal beat the Netherlands 3-0 to make it three wins in three matches in Group C, while Sebastian Pena scored a hatrick for Argentina who overcame Honduras 4-2 to finish second in the group with two wins and one defeat.

Cameroon and Australia qualified from Group D, Cameroon beating Costa Rica 3-1 and Australia drawing 1-1 with Germany in their last group games.

Brazil, Russia, Japan and Spain had secured their places in the last eight on Wednesday.

Roberto Beto put Portugal ahead from the penalty spot after 26 minutes, following a foul by Dutch goalkeeper Jim van Pessem on Ricardo Ramires.

Dani Carvalho made it 2-0 in the first minute of the second half and Agostino Ribeiro headed the third in the 68th minute from a free-kick from Carvalho.

The best Dutch chance came early in the match but Mendel Witzhausen shot wide.

Pena scored for Argentina in the 39th, 43rd and 71st minutes after Ibagaza had given them the lead in the sixth minute.

The Honduras goals came from team captain Amado Guevera in the 48th and Edwin Medina in the 59th.

"There was heavy pressure on us because we had to win this match to qualify," Argentina coach Jos Nester Pekerman said.

Thornberry wins IBO crown

MELBOURNE, Apr 21: Ricky Thornberry scored an eighth-round TKO victory over fellow Australian Rod Carr on Friday night to win the vacant super-middleweight title of the fledgling International Boxing Organization, reports AP.

Carr was badly cut over his left eye and could not start the ninth round of the scheduled 12-round contest.

Thornberry improved his record to 10-1, while Carr dropped to 13-6-3.

The IBO is one of a number of lightly-regarded international boxing bodies which sanction title fights.

Unbeaten Nathan Sting improved his record to 10-0 when he defended his Australian super-bantamweight title on the same card.

Sting scored a 12th-round TKO victory over challenger Johnny Binge. The referee stopped the one-sided contest within one minute remaining.

No weights were immediately available for either fight.

Malaysian in custody

DOHA, Apr 21: A Malaysian man was arrested late on Thursday in connection with attempts to bribe players taking part in the World Youth Championship, reports Reuter.

But a second man, who is believed to be a Thai and is wanted for questioning for his alleged involvement in the plot, was still at large in Doha.

The Malaysian escaped detection during the day after he had changed hotels, a spokesman for FIFA, world soccer's governing body, said. But the man was apprehended by security officials on Thursday night in his hotel room.

FIFA immediately sought his deportation from Qatar but he is likely to remain in custody until Friday at the earliest.

The spokesman explained that the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) had requested the man be questioned in Doha.

Earlier in the day, a FIFA spokesman told reporters here they were investigating reports of attempted bribery at the 16-team championship.

According to statements from some delegations, believed to be Portugal, Honduras, Burundi and Cameroon, players were approached by the two men and offered money to spend in local stores.

There were also reports of prostitutes being involved.

The attempts, which were reported by players to their delegation officials, were acknowledged in a statement from soccer's ruling body, signed by deputy secretary general Michel Zen-Ruffinen.

FIFA stressed that no bribes had been accepted and that "All matches at this championship have been free of outside influence."

However, in written statements submitted to FIFA officials here, certain delegations reported that initial contacts had been made.

"It was FIFA's clear opinion that such invitations could have been a preliminary stage to attempting to influence the players later in the tournament."

FIFA added that it now considered the matter closed "except for FIFA to repeat that it will continue to fight any attempts at corruption, not only in FIFA competitions but throughout football as a whole."

China backs ROK 2002 Games' bid

SEOUL, Apr 21: China has pledged its support for the bid by the South Korean port city of Pusan to host the 2002 Asian Games, Yonhap news agency said today, reports AFP.

The agency said in a dispatch from Pusan that the pledge was made to a local MP of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party by visiting Chinese leader Qiao Shi, president of the National People's Congress.

Qiao Shi is winding up a six-day trip to South Korea, which is also angling to have the World Cup 2002 held in Seoul.

Wyatt passes away

LONDON, Apr 21: Bob Wyatt, one of the last surviving members of the England squad that played in the controversial Bodyline series in Australia in 1932-33 has died aged 93, reports Reuter.

Wyatt appeared in 40 Tests from 1927-37 — 16 of them as captain — scoring 1839 runs at an average of 31.70. He also took 18 wickets.

He made his first-class debut for Warwickshire in 1923 and captained the county from 1930-1937.

In 1946 he moved to Worcestershire and became captain there for two years until his retirement in 1951.

Though he often opened the batting, Wyatt will probably be best remembered as a solid and dependable middle-order right-hander. He also bowled useful medium-pace swing.

In his first-class career he scored 39,404 runs at an average of 40.04, including 85 centuries, and took over 900 wickets.

He leaves a widow, Molly, 80, who said: "He had tremendous fighting qualities, which he showed in his life as well as on the pitch, he was an indomitable man."

Medvedev in Nice Open qtrs

NICE, France, Apr 21: Andrei Medvedev shrugged off recent injury worries to crush Spaniard Javier Sanchez and reached the quarterfinals of the Nice Open on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The fourth-seeded Ukrainian never looked in trouble on his way to a comfortable 6-0, 6-3 win.

"After a few physical problems, I feel fine again and I enjoy playing tennis," said Medvedev, looking forward to next month's French Open.

"Hopefully, I will be able to do well there and to give the best players in the world a hard time," he added.

Medvedev now meets Australian Richard Fromberg, who beat Spaniard Alex Corretja 6-4, 6-2 in a second round match.

Fifth seed Marc Rosset of Switzerland also made it through to the last eight by beating Spain's Roberto Carrero 6-4, 6-3.

Hard-hitting Rosset will face Australian Mark Woodforde for a place in the semifinals of the claycourt tournament.

Army hockey

JESSORE, Apr 21: The Bogra Area retained the title of the Army hockey championship which concluded at the Jessore Cantonment yesterday, according to an ISPR press release issued today, reports BSS.

They bagged the championship defeating the Chittagong Area 2-0 in an exciting final match. Lieutenant Sanaur Rahman and Havildar Abdul Hamid scored the goals.

Nalk Maksudul Haque Siddique of the Jessore Area was adjudged the best player.

Viola collapses

RIO DE JANEIRO, Apr 21: Brazilian international striker Viola collapsed and was taken from the pitch unconscious on a stretcher during a made for his club Corinthians on Wednesday night, reports Reuter.

All-London Cup Winner's Cup final foiled

Seaman bails Arsenal out

LONDON, Apr 21: Goalkeeper David Seaman performed heroically in a penalty shoot-out on Thursday to take holders Arsenal into the final of the European Cup Winners Cup and a showdown with Real Zaragoza of Spain, reports Reuter.

Seaman kept his nerve under the sternest pressure in Genoa after Italian opponents Sampdoria had ended 3-2 up after extra-time in the second leg of their semifinal to match the victory the English club had achieved in the first leg in London two weeks earlier.

land international Seaman saved three of the five spot-kicks fired at his goal, finally denying Attilio Lombardo to ensure Arsenal won the shoot-out 3-2 and marched on to the final in Paris on May 10.

Arsenal, who beat this season's UEFA Cup finalists Parma in last season's Cup Winners' Cup final, now take on Real Zaragoza who last contested a major European club tournament final way back in 1966.

Chelsea, who won the Cup Winners Cup against Spartans Real Madrid in 1971, won 3-1 on the night at their Stamford Bridge home but could not recover all the ground they lost

the first away goal of the tie. Frank Sinclair netted Chelsea's second nine minutes later and Mark Stein added a third four minutes from the final whistle but the English club still needed two more goals for outright victory and time ran out.

Zaragoza won the old Inter-Cities Fair Cup — precursor of the UEFA Cup — in 1964 and were beaten finalists in the same competition in 1966.

Sampdoria went ahead in the tie when striker Roberto Mancini scored in the 14th minute to make it 3-3 on aggregate and give the Italians the edge on the away-goals rule.

But England striker Ian Wright put Arsenal back in front 17 minutes into the second half, achieving an unprecedented European club tournament feat of scoring in each leg of every tie on the way to the final.

Sampdoria, winners of the trophy in 1990 and runners-up the previous season, looked doomed as the last 10 minutes ticked by. But then substitute Claudio Bellucci dramatically turned the tie their way with goals in the 84th and 86th minutes.

Arsenal, however, gave this fluctuating contest one more twist and, one minute away from oblivion, they were suddenly back in the game with Schwarz's priceless goal.

Seaman crowned Arsenal's happy night by saving the first two spot-kicks in the shoot-out from Sinisa Mihajlovic and Vladimir Jugovic.

Eddie McGoldrick and Paul Merson failed for Arsenal but Seaman brilliantly palmed away Lombardo's effort to clinch the place in the final and give the London club the chance of becoming the first team to retain the trophy — a feat they denied Parma last year.

London bookmakers make Arsenal 4-6 favourites to win the final, with Zaragoza at 11/10.

But Zaragoza, with Chelsea out of their way, will be eager to claim their second English and second London club scalp.

They will seek to emulate fellow Spartans Valencia who beat Arsenal in the final to win the trophy in 1980, prevailing in a penalty shoot-out after a goalless draw.

But, with Seaman in such inspired mood, they will no doubt hope a shoot-out will not be necessary in Paris.



MAN OF THE MOMENT: Arsenal goalie David Seaman dives to his left to palm away Sampdoria's last spot kick during their European Cup Winners' Cup semifinal second leg match in Italy on April 20. Arsenal won the encounter. — AFP/UNB photo

The final had looked out of Arsenal's reach until Swedish World Cup player Stefan Schwarz rescued them with a goal a minute from the end of normal time to take the match into extra-time.

The extra 30 minutes remained goalless and then Eng-

FIFA to seek FAM's assurance

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 21: The governing body of world soccer wants Malaysia to guarantee that the 1997 World Youth Cup tournament will be free of rigged matches, it was reported Friday, reports AP.

This follows reports that Malaysian and Thai bookies tried to bribe players at the current World Youth Cup meet in Doha, the Sun daily quoted Asian Football Confederation secretary Peter Vellapan as saying in a telephone interview from Doha.

Vellapan said the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) "is pretty shaken up. Personally I'm also shocked that these two chaps are here."

It is a very serious matter and FIFA is treating it with extreme caution," Vellapan said.

After what has happened, FIFA will probably want some guarantees from the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) that it does not happen in Malaysia," he added.

Bribery and match fixing are common in Malaysia. Earlier this week 57 players and an assistant coach were banned from soccer worldwide for periods ranging from one to four years after they confessed to rigging the scores of games.

Another 22 players and coaches have been banished to live in remote areas and can't move about without police permit.

More than 1.32 million ringgit (dhs 517,000) was reportedly paid to rig results in last year's Premier League season.

The football association's general secretary Paul Mony Samuel said FIFA contacted Malaysia on Wednesday regarding a Malaysian identified as Tio Kim Swee, following a complaint by two Portuguese players who were invited to his hotel in Doha.

Samuel said in an interview with the Malay Mail newspaper. "The Portuguese players upon entering the room saw a lot of cash on a table and quickly left."

"The players complained to team officials who in turn brought it to the attention of FIFA officials. The Malaysian identified himself as Tio Kim, but upon checking his passport his real name was discovered," he said.

The Malay Mail said police have seized Tio's passport and he was expected to be picked up for questioning when he returns.

The daily also said apparently Tio shared a room in Doha with a Thai named Wittaya and when the Portuguese entered the room there were two players from Cameroon.

News reports from Doha said FIFA did not release the names of the two men involved, but added there was no match-fixing in the current youth tournament.

The FAM contacted by telephone said Samuel was on leave Friday and they could not comment on the Malay Mail report.

Zimbabwe sack German coach

HARARE, Apr 21: Zimbabwe have sacked German Reinhard Fabisch as their national soccer coach for allegedly interfering in local football administration and inciting a revolt by senior players, reports Reuter.

Zimbabwe's Football Association (ZIFA) chairman Leo Mugabe announced the dismissal late on Thursday, saying the coach, hired as a technical adviser in June 1992, was trying to hold the country to ransom.

He accused Fabisch of backing Zimbabwean players who have threatened to boycott the African Nations Cup qualifier with Malawi this weekend unless they get a bigger slice of the gate takings.

Fabisch denies the charge and another of influencing Zimbabwe's foreign-based players not to turn up for national duty if the demand was not met, saying he knew that ZIFA was cash-strapped.

River, Penarol split points

BUENOS AIRES, Apr 21: Home team River Plate played Uruguay's Penarol to a 1-1 tie Wednesday, winning first place in the first-round Argentina-Uruguay group of the Libertadores Cup soccer tournament, reports AP.

Defender Roberto Ayala opened the scoring for the home team, in the 65th minute. Gerardo Magallanes scored the equalizer in the 78th.

River have 12 points to runner-up Penarol's 9. Both teams had qualified for the second round before the match.

In the home-and-away second round, April 25 and May 3, River will face Chile's Universidad Catolica. Penarol will play Atletico Nacional of Colombia.

Thursday, Independiente of Argentina host Uruguay's Cerro for third place and a berth in the second round. Both have four points but Independiente, with a better goal average, need only a draw to qualify.

The players are demanding 40 per cent of the gross takings, which soccer officials say could amount to more than 50,000 dollars.

In previous African and World Cup campaigns they have been allocated 40 per cent of net receipts.



An identified Sampdoria player surges past Arsenal's Ian Wright (L) and Paul Merson (C) during their European Cup Winners' Cup second leg semifinal in Italy on April 20. — AFP/UNB photo