

Sport



Mohammedan Sporting Club's mercurial midfielder Arman (R) tries to stave off a challenge from a Wari defender during their Lifebuoy Premier football league engagement at the flood-lit Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Wari held Mohammedans to a goalless draw. — Star photo

Niaz's new mark

Sports Reporter

Grand Master Niaz Mursheed qualified for the next round of the World Chess Championship by virtue of finishing runner-up in the Asian Zone 3.1 qualifying round, held in the Indian port city of Madras early this year.

According to a recent survey of the FIDE handbook, Niaz, country's lone GM, along with Indian GM Dibyendu Barua have earned a rare distinction of becoming the first Bangladeshi chess player to qualify for the inter-zonal championship.



NIAZ MURSHED

At the flood-lit Dhaka Stadium Mohammedans predictably dominated the entire proceedings but once again sorely felt the need of a quality striker.

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Kalindi Krira Chakra defeated Suryosheha Sporting Club by 2-0 in one of the two Pioneer Division football league engagements at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

Ali and Sagar scored one goal apiece for the winners in the 26th and 58th minute respectively.

The other engagement between Dogair Chand Tara Club and Azampur Heroes ended in a goalless draw.

Lotus-Kamal cricket results

Sports Reporter

Stampford CC moved into the final round as Group 'B' champions after beating New Eagles CC by four runs in one of the three Lotus-Kamal Second Division qualifying cricket league matches played at three separate city venues yesterday.

In day's other matches, Lancashire Club and Lalkuthi CC recorded quite consummate wins in their respective encounters.

In a closely contested match at the City Club ground, Stampford CC scored a paltry 96 for seven in the stipulated 30 overs.

A devastating spell of four for 18 from Uzzal led Stampford to an unlikely victory as New Eagles were crumpled to 92 in only 21.5 overs.

At the Dhanmondi Stadium, Lancashire CC defeated Pallabi Club by four wickets.

Opting to bat first, Pallabi Club piled up a modest 102 for eight in the allotted 35 overs with Biplob scoring the highest 31.

Imtiaz of Lancashire took three for 16.

In reply, Lancashire CC reached their target of 103 in 30.4 overs losing six wickets.

Jagat was their top scorer with 29.

In the other match of the day, Lalkuthi CC won by seven wickets against Dilkusha SC at the Jagannath Hall ground.

Dilkusha batted first and could muster up a meager 100 before being all out in 28.2 overs with Mahmud remaining unbeaten on 29.

Lalkuthi CC cruised to their winning mark of 101 in 25.5 overs for the loss of three wickets.

Wari compound MSC's woe

Sports Reporter

After Arambagh it was Wari Club, who served another stunner in Mohammedans campaign for a clean-sweep when the traditional giant-slayers held the DMFA Cup and the Federation Cup champions to a goalless draw in the lone Premier league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The draw now left Mohammedan Sporting Club slip to the second slot behind holders Abahani Krira Chakra and last year's runners-up Muktiyoddha Sangsad, collecting eight points from four matches.

In the day's second match Mohammedans paid the penalty of poor-marksmanship and duly returned home suffering their second successive draw after Arambagh ended their fabulous all-win record of 12 matches this season in the previous match on Wednesday.

Apart from Wari's reputation of being the most deceptive outfit against the top guns, the outcome of yesterday's engagement also reveals the fact that Mohammedans, who appeared to be the most balanced team at the onset of the season are losing their touch of flair for the time being.

At the flood-lit Dhaka Stadium Mohammedans predictably dominated the entire proceedings but once again sorely felt the need of a quality striker.

Lodi Baba, who along with Milon led the Mohammedans charge in the upfront, offered a pedestrian display frustrat-

ing Mohammedans time and again.

The robust Nigerian himself missed three easy sitters in the first half while Milon, the highest scorer for the first Division football league champions Rahmatganj, seemed he had went on to prove that his last year's achievement was a gift of random fixed affairs.

In a bid to accelerate the attack Mohammedans brought on Ranjan and Rupu but the Arambagh defence kept their awe-some neighbours at bay with great aplomb rarely allowing any slipshod gets past them.

Besides, Minar, who stood firmly under the cross-bar also made some spectacular saves in the second half.

In the 52nd minute Minar fisted away a Ranjan close header diving to his left and four minutes from the long whistle Minar clung on to a fierce right footer of Jewel Rana enabling Wari to snatch away a crucial point from Mohammedan.

With this drew Wari raised their collection to three points from four matches.

Yellow card: Mong Bathui, Babu Zaman and Zakir Sr (Wari Club), Ruhul Amin and Arman (Mohammedan SC).

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Panir, Kaiser Hamid, Ruhul Amin, Jewel Rana, Munna, Parvez (Ranjan), Arman, Alfaz (Rupu), Milon and Lodi Baba.

WARI CLUB: Minar, Atiq, Razzak, Shahed, Miraz Ahmed, Shankar, Paritosh, Rikto, Mong Bathui, Babu Zaman and Zakir Sr (Russell).

Christie's rusty riposte

BIRMINGHAM, England, July 16: Linford Christie defended a controversial victory in the national championships after being allowed to compete in the 100m final as a guest, despite failing to qualify from his heat here on Sunday, reports AFP.

But after clocking a respectable 10.18 secs, he admitted to panicking over an injury which could threaten his defence of the world title in Gothenburg.

Along with hurdler Colin Jackson, he has pulled out of an Italian meeting in Padua today for more treatment on an area behind his right knee.

The 35-year-old sprinter said: "I'm running in pain that I could do without three weeks before the World Championships.

"It's taking too long to clear up and I'm beginning to panic. I'm having to go out and give my best shot hoping it doesn't go completely."

Christie paid the penalty for easing up in his heat. He was overtaken on the line by two rivals, finished fourth in 10.93 and did not make the semifinals.

But his request for an outside lane in the final was accepted by meeting manager Malcolm Rogers and track referee Maureen Smith.

Christie, appearing for the first time at a domestic meeting after settling his pay dispute with the British Athletic Federation (BAF), outpaced Darren Braithwaite (10.33).

Braithwaite said: "It felt funny at first, but then Linford told me to go first around the track."

NBL v'ball results

Sports Reporter

Wari Club and Dilkusha SC won their respective matches by identical 3-2 sets in the NBL First Division volleyball league at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Wari Club needed 133 minutes stave of a tough resistance from Bangladesh Bank Club to win the best of five 16-14, 15-11, 12-15, 4-15 and 15-11.

While Dilkusha scrapped home with a 15-4, 4-15, 6-15, 15-6 and 17-15 win over Chand Textile is another grueling five setter.

Brothers Union sauntered past East End Boys 15-3, 15-13, 15-10 in another billing of the day.

The day's last encounter between Water Development Board and Bangladesh Police AC was on progress till filing this report.



Action from yesterday's NBL First Division volleyball league engagement between Dilkusha Sporting Club and Chand Textile at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

Victoria ride on Angur

Sports Reporter

An early strike from Angur paved Victoria Sporting Club's way to earn their first win in the Lifebuoy First Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Angur scored a gem of a goal in the 13th minute as Victoria squeezed home with lone goal win over Dhanmondi Club in the first match of the day.

The Tangail booter after winning a ball on the top of the Dhanmondi box hammered a spectacular side volley that whistled past a freezing custodian Ali Hossain.

In an evenly contested match had their best chance of neutralising the margin in the 64th minute. But Liton's header into an open net surprisingly missed the mark as the ball sailed out through the rear post.

The win now left Victoria raised their tally to six from four outings while Dhanmondi Club remain stuck to their previous collection of four from as many matches.

Away at the Mirpur Stadium, Sadharan Bima maintained their solo lead when they shared honour with babes Badda Jagorani Sangsad to a one-all draw.

Sirajul Islam put Sadharan Bima into the lead in the 43rd minute before Jahed restored parity for Badda 19 minutes into the second half.

With this draw, Sadharan Bima earned eight points from four league matches while Badda maintained the second slot with seven points from four matches.

World jr v'ball

Italy take bronze

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, July 16: Italy defeated Finland 15-9, 7-15, 15-11, 15-13 Sunday for third place as European nations dominated the 8th men's World Junior volleyball championships, reports AP.

Russia and Brazil, the only non-European nation in the top eight, were to play later Sunday for the championship in Johore Bahru, 300 kilometres (185 miles) south of Kuala Lumpur.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Lifebuoy Premier Division football league: Bank SC vs Rohmatganj MFS (6.30 pm Dhaka Stadium)

Lifebuoy First Division football league: Eskaton Shabuj Sangha vs Police AC (4.30 pm Dhaka Stadium)

Pioneer Division football league: (RAJUK ground) Rainbow SC vs Arambagh KC (Junior) (2.30 pm).

KR Boys vs Lalbagh Tarun Sangha (4 pm) Shatadal Samajik and Sangskritik

Sangha vs Jatrabari Krira Sangha (4 pm) Jagannath University and College ground

Railway Blues vs Diba Sangshad (3.30 pm) (Dhupkhola Municipal ground)

NBL First Division volleyball league (volleyball court) Dhaka Shabuj vs Fire Service (4pm)

East End Club vs Dilkusha SC (4 pm) Water Development Board vs Bangladesh Rifles (5.30 pm)

Titas Club vs Power Development Board (5.30 pm)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

A crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. The clues include: 1 Base on balls, 5 The height of fashion, 8 Huck's carrier, 12 Chills and fever, 13 Praiseful verse, 14 Jamaican citrus fruit, 15 Swedish turnip, 17 Apothecary weight, 18 Peace (Sp.), 19 Previous to, 20 Ladd or Keaton, 21 Flushed Actor, 22 Counterfeit, 26 Ace of diamonds?, 30 Spirited stallion, 31 Motorists' org., 32 -contenders, 33 Vicesovereign's rule, 35 Add fuel to the fire, 36 Roost, 37 What to fill water, 38 Plaster flaw, 41 One for the road?, 42 Cable-TV station, 45 Long, easy stride, 46 Khayyam masterwork, 48 Potter's need, 49 "Cabaret" lyricist, 50 Gumbo base, 51 Writing, 52 Shell out, 53 Within earshot, DOWN: 1 Distort, 2 Oaxaca water, 3 Figure-skating leap, 4 One of the Maunas, 5 Huge stash, 6 Advantage, 7 "Cry - River", 8 Basics, 9 Taj Mahal site, 10 Custard-like dessert, 11 Use a stopwatch, 16 Honey, 20 - Jones Average, 21 Blushing, 22 Meadow, 23 Prevent, 24 Mined find, 25 Throttle, 26 Dave's competitor, 27 Card game, 28 Wapiti, 29 Caviar base, 31 Play division, 34 Enthusiast: suffix, 35 Poet, 37 Loquacious, 38 Coagulate, 39 Peregrinate, 40 Pinnacle, 41 One of the brass, 42 Young'un, 43 Theda of silents, 44 Constellation component, 46 Agent, 47 Smoke-detector output.

WI-Ireland match drawn Chanderpaul, rain reign

DUBLIN, July 16: Shivnarine Chanderpaul's century was the highlight of a one-day match between the West Indies and Ireland which ended in a rain-affected draw here on Saturday, reports AFP.

The tourists held the ascendancy throughout the match, declaring on 306 for four before a 70-minute rain interruption left Ireland facing an impossible target for victory.

They were set a target of 307 in 60 minutes plus 20 overs and finished on 187 for three as the 4.00-strong crowd went home wet but happy after a memorable run feast.

Chanderpaul, who has yet to play in a Test on this tour, was promoted to opener in place of Sherwin Campbell and took the opportunity to entertain the Irish crowds, disappointed by the failure of Brian Lara.

Chanderpaul scored 101 off 84 balls with 17 fours before he was third out on in only the 30th over as the West Indies scored at six runs an over throughout their innings.

Lara made just nine before he gave a return catch to Neil Doak, whose second wicket for Ireland will certainly remain his most treasured. Artherton was unbeaten on 94 off 97 balls at the declaration and shared a fourth-wicket stand of 114 with captain Richie Richardson, who hit four sixes and two fours in his 57.

After a long tea interval Ottis Gibson took two wickets in his first three overs to reduce Ireland to five for two and when captain Alan Lewis was caught behind off Vasebert Drakes for eight, the West Indies probably thought of going for victory.

A 50 partnership between Stephen Smyth and former Leicestershire opener Justin Benson saw off the front line bowlers and both teams had agreed the draw half an hour before stumps were drawn with Smyth 98 not out.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard after West Indies rain-affected one-day tour match against Ireland which ended in a draw here on Saturday.

WEST INDIES S Williams c Smyth b Doak 34 S Chanderpaul st Oglby

Table with columns: b Harrison, B Lara c and b Doak, K Artherton not out, R Richardson c Doak, b Eagleson, C Hooper not out, Extras: (lb2, w1, nb2), Total: 4 wkts dec, Fall of wickets: 1-99: 2-117: 3-187: 4-301

Table with columns: Bowling: O M R W, Eagleson 11 1 75 1, Patterson 5 0 33 0, Graham 6 0 37 0, Doak 12.3 1 63 2, Harrison 10 0 54 1, Ireland 8 0 37 0

Table with columns: IRELAND, S Warke c Bishop b Gibson 0, J Molins b Gibson 0, S Smyth not out 98, D Lewis c Williams b Drakes 8, J Benson not out 74, Extras: (lb2, w2, nb3) 7, Total: 3 wkts (33 overs) 187, Fall of wickets: 1-0: 2-5: 3-26

Table with columns: Bowling: O M R W, Gibson 5 1 19 2, Bishop 5 4 1 0, Drakes 3 1 16 1, Dhanraj 5 0 35 0, Chanderpaul 4 0 36 0, Williams 6 0 46 0, Lara 5 0 32 0

Result: Match drawn



Striker Angur (L) of the Victoria Sporting Club, who scored the all-important goal for his side's 1-0 win over Dhanmondi Club, makes a desperate attempt to slip the ball past a bearded defender Kamrul during their Lifebuoy First Division football league engagement at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Wheaton whacks Black

NEWPORT, Rhode Island, July 16: Defending champion David Wheaton used an overwhelming service game to take a straight-set victory over Zimbabwe's Ryrton Black on Saturday in the semifinals of the Hall of Fame tennis championships, reports AP.

Wheaton, 26, the top seed in this grass court tournament, will face Germany's David Prinosil, a straight-set winner over Derrick Rostagno, in Sunday's final. It will be the sixth-seeded Prinosil's first ATP Tour final.

Wheaton had seven aces and won 77 per cent of his first serves on his way to a 6-4, 6-1 win over the fourth-seeded Black. He saved two of three break points and broke Black on four of six opportunities in the 61 minute match.

The turning point was the 10th game of the first set. Leading 5-4 after trading breaks in the third and fourth games, the American won four straight points to break and take the set.

Wheaton dominated the second set, losing just four points on his serve and breaking Black's serve twice.

"He sort of got on a roll and I didn't get a chance to break him and he put a lot of pressure on my serve," Black said. "I struggled to hang in there in the second set... He was serving big, serving huge."

Wheaton seemed able to fire at will in the second set, with the most impressive example coming in the final game. Serving for the match, Wheaton fell behind 15-40, then blasted his way back with a 187 kph (116 mph) ace, a 161 kph (110 mph) service winner to pull to deuce and another big service winner on match point.

"Today I won a lot of the big points," Wheaton said. "I know that I'm in for a tough match when I play him."

The 22-year-old Prinosil also advanced in straight sets, but not as easily as Wheaton. He downed Rostagno, a wild card entrant, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4).

Prinosil went up a break in the second game of the first set, then double-faulted four times in the seventh, game as Rostagno broke back. He recovered immediately, breaking Rostagno's serve in the next game, then holding serve in the ninth game to capture the set.

The scenario repeated itself in the second set, as Rostagno broke Prinosil in the sixth game, only to be broken back in the next game, losing the last two points on returns that bounced off the net cord.

"I just couldn't hold on to it, my serve was so poor," said Rostagno, 29, who was making a comeback after an elbow injury sidelined him for 18 months.

In the tiebreaker, Prinosil won a point on Rostagno's serve to go up 3-1, then held serve the rest of the way.

Wheaton and Prinosil last played each other in the 1994 Hall of Fame quarterfinals, with Wheaton winning 7-6 (7-4), 6-1.

"We play the same game," Prinosil said. "So we'll see who is serving better.... I have to serve very well."

CRYPTOQUIP

A cryptogram puzzle with the text: T E K W H A N G U V W U P H J K E Q K G V E K O T P H N U P W K I H N E U A P S S P K O P A S P J W P A P H. Below the text is the instruction: Yesterday's Cryptoquip: JUDGE'S RECORD COLLECTION OUGHT TO BE BASED ON JUST CHAMBER MUSIC. Today's Cryptoquip clue: K equals N. 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.