

Independence Day sports

Sports Reporter

Different sports federations celebrated the Independence Day with various programmes and exhibition matches on Sunday.

National youth hockey team beat Bangladesh 'A' team by 4-1 in one of the two exhibition hockey matches played at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium on Sunday. In the other match held between two selections of former players, Blue team beat Green team 3-2.

In a volleyball match held at the court adjacent to the Bangabandhu National Stadium, former players beat coaches eleven by 3-2 sets.

Our Brahmanbaria Correspondent adds that Uchaliapara Boys Club defeated Nua Hati Cricket Club by four-wickets in an exhibition cricket match at the Sarai football play ground.

Sirajganj cricket

Agradut clobber Masimpur

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Mar. 27: Agradut Ekadash beat Masimpur Krira Chakra by 86 runs in the opening game of the First Division cricket league at the Shaheed Shamsuddin Stadium here today.

Opting to bat, Agradut piled up a huge 206 in the stipulated 40 overs for the loss of eight wickets.

In reply, Masimpur were bundled out for 120.

Earlier on Friday, Home and Telecommunication Minister Mohammad Nasim inaugurated the 17-team competition.

1-Day chess

Reefat clinches

crown

International Master Rifat bin-Satter of Bangladesh Biman emerged as champion of the Independence Day Active Chess Competition securing 6.5 points at the federation hall room on Sunday, reports UNB.

Biman's other International Master Ziaur Rahman became runner-up bagging six points while Ruhul Kabir Shiplu of Titas Club placed in the third position with 5.5 points.

A total of 48 players took part in the day long competition organised by Professor Al-
dur Razak Chess Club.

Independence Day b'ball

Bangladesh Navy earned a facile 110-53 victory over Bangladesh Police in the Independence Cup Basketball tournament at the Dhanmondi Basketball gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.

They led the first half 66-37. Rashed caged 31, Fazal 24, Goswami 23 for the winners while Khair contributed 19 and Asad 10 for the losers.

In the day's other match, Eagles Club beat Josephites Club 57-49 after dominating the first session 30-23.

Abir scored 11, Azad 10 for the Eagles while Mujib made 14, Fazle 14 and Bony 10 for the Josephites.

Earlier on Sunday, Bangladesh Rifles defeated Dhumketu Club by 78-44 points while Bangladesh Air Force beat Josephites Club 73-67.

Barisal cricket

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Mar. 27: SBMC Students Union defeated Udiyan Ekadash by three wickets while Young Stars Club outplayed Suva Suntri Sangha by 20 runs in the First Division Cricket League at the Abdur Rab Serniabat Stadium here today.

Battling first Udiyan Ekadash were all out for 176 in 36 overs.

In reply SBMC scored 177 for seven in 31.3 overs.

In the other match Young Stars reached 283 all out in 40 overs.

Suva SS were shot out for 73 in 21.5 overs.

Shahjada Cup cricket

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Mar. 27: Titas Cricket Club defeated Progoti Boys' Club by 10 runs in the Shahjada Cup tournament here at the Shahjadpur Paschimara School ground today.

Electing to bat, Titas Club scored 130 in the allotted 30 overs.

Rose blooms

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SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the third day of the second Test and last between West Indies and Zimbabwe at Sabina Park on Sunday.

ZIMBABWE: First Innings 308 (M. Goodwin 113; R. King 5-51)

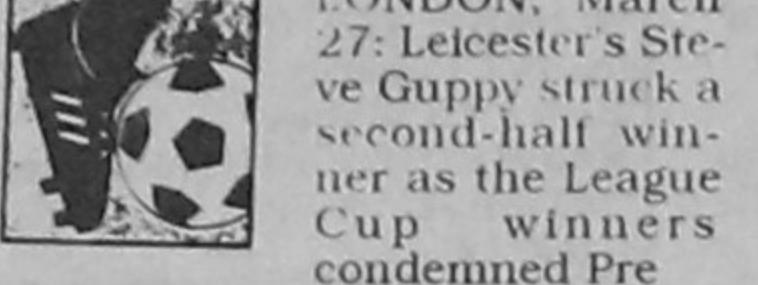
WEST INDIES: First Innings (overnight 106 for four) Griffith b Johnson 6 Campbell c Campbell b Murphy 48 Gayle c A. Flower b Olonga 13 C. Paul c A. Flower b Strang 12 Adams not out 87 Hinds c Campbell b Murphy 14 Jacobs c A. Flower b Olonga 27 Ambrose c Carlisle b Johnson 7 Rose not out 53 Extras: 6 (b-2; lb-15; nb-11) 28 Total: (For 7 wkt in 147 overs) 256 To bat: R. King, C. Walsh Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-69, 3-85, 4-89, 5-122, 6-161, 7-171 Bowler O M R W Olonga 29 8 58 2 Strang 30 15 36 1 Johnson 29 11 56 2 Murphy 36 11 99 2 G. Flower 17 8 14 0 Gripper 6 2 15 0



Leicester's Darren Eadie (R) and Lucas Radebe of Leeds United fight for possession during their Premiership clash at Leicester on March 26. —AFP photo

Premiership

Guppy spoils Leeds' plan



LONDON, March 27: Leicester's Steve Guppy struck a second-half winner as the League Cup winners condemned Premiership challengers Leeds United to a surprise 2-1 defeat at Filbert Street on Sunday, denting David O'Leary's side's hopes of catching leaders Manchester United, reports PA.

Leeds have 60 points, seven less than United, with just eight games remaining.

Stan Collymore's fourth goal in five games set City on their way to victory and all Leeds could manage was a solitary goal from Australian Harry Kewell, his sixth goal in six matches putting him within one of equaling the club record of scoring in seven consecutive matches set by Scottish striking legend Peter Lorimer in the 70s.

Arsenal scored three second-half goals through Frenchmen Thierry Henry and Gilles Grimandi and Nigerian international Nwankwo Kanu grabbing the third in a 3-0 win over Coventry at Highbury.

Victory takes Arsenal up into fourth on 54 points, two behind Liverpool in third as the competition for a Champions League place next season heats up.

In the London derby at Upton Park West Ham beat relegation strugglers Wimbledon 2-1 with Italian Paolo Di Canio and loan French striker Frederic Kanoute netting for the Hammers with Michael Hughes replying for the Dons.

For Leeds it might have been a case of one game too far after their gruelling programme which culminated in Thursday's UEFA Cup semi-final, second leg against Sparta Prague, as they seldom produced their best form.

Leicester looked as if they had finally awoken from the hangover evident in their performances against Wimbledon and Manchester United since the transfer of Emile Heskey to Liverpool for 11 million pounds (17.5 million dollars).

Kewell was unlucky to see his low shot beat Flowers and cannon back off a post to safety after he cut inside Gerry Taggart.

Leeds now held the initiative and it came as no surprise when they drew level in the 38th minute.

Kewell brought down a pass from Harte on his chest, held off the challenge of Taggart before driving a low shot across Flowers into the corner of the goal from 18 yards.

Collymore shot into the side-netting after more good play by Izzet and in the 48th minute City regained the lead.

A free-kick from Stefan Oakes flicked off the head of a Leeds defender into the path of

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Guppy at the far post.

The England wing-back drilled a low shot across Martyn into the corner of the net for his first goal since returning to action from a knee injury in mid-January.

Leeds lacked much of the flair that has been the trademark of their performances this season.

They only spasmodically flickered into life - chiefly through Kewell who hit the target in clinical fashion for his 16th of the season.

Leeds posed less of a threat in the initial stages of the second period.

Eadie seemed less than happy when replaced by Tony Cottee after 66 minutes but the veteran striker's first touch almost produced a goal and it needed Radebe to get a vital block on his close range shot.

Leicester looked the more likely to score again with Izzet inches over the top with an overhead kick, but they held on for a victory which has put the Premiership title on a plate for Manchester United.

French goal ace Henry broke Coventry's stubborn resistance in the 49th minute to set up a comfortable win for the Arsenals.

Henry took his tally for the season to 18 - including seven in the last eight matches - when he collected Patrick Vieira's inch perfect pass before slotting a measured side foot shot into the corner of Steve Ogrizovic's goal from 18 yards.

Then the floodgates opened late in the game. Grimandi headed in the second in the 79th minute, his fourth of the season, before Kanu demonstrated his trademark fancy footwork a minute later to fool Ogrizovic and roll in the third.

Kanu was the toast of east London with a goal on his West Ham debut - but Di Canio outshone the Frenchman with one of the goals of the season.

The fiery Italian scored with an exquisitely scissored-kick volley after eight minutes.

Former Hammers favourite Hughes pulled one back with 15 minutes remaining, but it was not enough to save struggling Wimbledon from another defeat.

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Primera Liga

Makkay keeps Deportivo ahead

MADRID, March 27: Deportivo La Coruna went back to the top of the Primera Liga on Sunday as they ran out 3-1 winners over relegation-threatened Real Oviedo - Dutch striker Roy Makkay grabbing his first goals in three matches as he scored two of them, reports AFP.

Deportivo, who made a specialty of choking in the 90s with the league title theirs for the taking on a couple of occasions, lead Catalan giants Barcelona, who had gone top on Saturday after a hard fought 2-1 win over Malaga, by two points.

Makkay sent Deportivo, who were missing four of their Brazilian contingent, in to the halftime break with a comfortable 2-0 lead after he had headed home twice.