

National TT

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Biman clinched the men's team title of the 26th National Table Tennis competition beating Bangladeshi Ansars in straight 3-0 sets at the Jessoro Zilla Gymnasium yesterday.

Earlier, Biman outplayed Dhaka DSA 3-0 in the first semifinal, while Ansars beat Rajshahi DSA 3-1 in the other semis.

Meanwhile, in the first semifinal of sub-junior girls' singles, Narail DSA defeated Gaibandha by 3-0 sets in "Group A" while Kustia DSA brought down Jessoro DSA, also by 3-0 sets, in the second semis of the same group.

In "Group B" of the event, Joypurhat DSA beat Jessoro DSA by 3-0 sets in the first semis.

Div II chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Star Vision were leading the Second Division Chess League table with 18 points at the end of sixth round at the Chess Room of National Sports Council yesterday.

Muktijoddha Sangsads were in the second position with 17.5 and Friend Chess Power in third position with 17 points.

In the day's games, Star Vision beat Hazaribagh FSC by 2.5-1.5 points. Muktijoddha drew with Friends Chess 2-2, Protiva Daba Gosti beat Promise Cooperative by 3-1 points, Uttara Daba Sangha drew with Dhaka Chess Vision 2-2, RDCPA beat Rajshahi Unnayan by 3.5-5 points, Faith Chess Club beat Dhaka University B team by 3-1 points, Faith Gold beat Dohar Daba by 3-1 points, Deaf Sports beat Alam Nur by 3-1 points, Seikhdi beat BBCA by 4-0 points, Youth Society outplayed New Colony by 4-0 points, United Chess beat Dhaka College by 3.5-5 points, Notre Dame Blue blanked Dharmundi Progati 4-0, Josephite drew with Beginners 2-2 and Matuail drew with Notre Dame Gold 2-2.

The seventh round games start today (Tuesday) at 3:30pm at the same venue.

Nasser doubtful for Oval Test

AFP, Leeds

Nasser Hussain rated himself "doubtful" Monday for next month's fifth and final Test against South Africa at The Oval after sustaining an injury here Saturday.

Former captain Hussain suffered an undisplaced fracture on the big toe of his left foot after being hit by a delivery from fast-medium bowler Andrew Hall in England's first innings of the fourth Test at Headingley.

"Andrew Hall reverse swung in. It (my toe) is broken. I have broken the big toe near the joint. It is undisplaced at the moment."

Ashraful, Monjurul

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Karachi which was good to bat on even on the fifth day," he said.

On whether beleaguered captain Khaled Mahmud should be considered more as a batsman than a bowler, Whatmore said that he did not have any choice because the team needed three medium pace bowlers and he was one of them.

"Mahmud batting at number eight is not bad on paper but he would like to get some runs and I'm pretty confident that he can get that."

Asked if he was enjoying his new assignment, the former Sri Lankan World Cup-winning coach said that overall he was happy with the way things were going.

"Yes, I'm enjoying it despite having some frustrations and some mistakes."

'It's tainted sans sisters'



US OPEN

AFP, New York

Kim Clijsters hungers for a Grand Slam trophy, but the women's world number one from Belgium admits this year's US Open crown will be a tainted title without Serena and Venus Williams competing for it.

"That's always going to be said of course, because in the last few Grand Slams they have definitely been somewhat dominant," she said. "For any winner this year there's always going to be a point where they always point that out."

Clijsters and Belgian second seed Justine Henin-Hardenne spoke here Sunday on the eve of the year's final Grand Slam tournament. They are favourites on the Flushing Meadows hardcourts with the Williams sisters injured.

"It's still very early to talk about any 'Belgian final,'" Henin-Hardenne said. "A lot of other players can win this tournament."

Anything less than an all-Belgian final will be a failure for the caretakers of the women's throne, ruling only with six-time Slam winner Serena Williams out after knee surgery and fourth seed Venus out with a abdominal strain.

"It's going to be tough to win even if Serena and Venus aren't here," said Henin-Hardenne. "I don't feel much pressure. I don't feel like the favorite here. I think Kim is the favorite. She is number one in the world right now."

"On the paper, she is. On the court, we will see."

Clijsters, 20, is the first number

one without a Grand Slam title, a status she longs to erase here.

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