

Inter-varsity hockey CU, DU made joint champs

CU CORRESPONDENT

Hosts Chittagong University (CU) and Dhaka University (CU) were declared joint champions in the inter-university hockey competition yesterday.

Both teams failed to score during regulation time at the CU central playground. Rajshahi Univer-sity emerged runners-up.

Later CU Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury distributed crests among the participants.

CJKS Premier Div cricket from tomorrow

CU CORRESPONDENT

The CJKS Ispahani Premier Cricket League begins on Sunday. MM Ispahani Limited will sponsor the league.

Managing director of MM Ispahani Ltd Salman Ispahani will formally inaugurate the league as chief guest.

Reigning champions Rising Star Club will meet Chittagong Port Authority on the opening day at the MA Aziz Stadium.

The CJKS made the announcement at a press conference on Thursday.

Twelve teams divided into three groups will take part in the Premier League. The top two teams from each group will feature in the super league while rest will battle for survival in the relegation league.

GROUPS

Group A: Rising Star Club, Mohammedan Sporting Club, Shahid Shahjahan Sangha and Bandar Kartipakkha,

Group B: City Corporation Ekadash Junior, Brothers Union, Shatadal Club Senior and Shatadal Club Junior

Group C: Abahani, Friends Club, Shatabdi Goshthi and City Corporation Ekadash Senior.

ID b'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

The semifinal line-up of the Maple Leaf Independence Day Basketball Competition was completed yesterday when Dhumketu Club finished Group B champions beating Bangladesh Rifles 66-55 at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium.

Dhumketu came from behind to beat Rifles to set a semifinal today against Josephites Club. Group A unbeaten champions Bangladesh Navy will take on Bangladesh Army in the day's first semifinal.

The Navy cagers maintained their unbeaten run when they defeated Josephites Club 71-51 on Thursday.

Sheetal h'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club and Usha Krira Chakra outplayed their respective opponents in the Sheetal Women's Handball League at the outer stadium handball court yesterday.

The Motijheel outfit smashed Madaripur Handball Training Centre 20-7 after dominating the first half 12-4.

Dalia, Shahida and Dipa netted four goals each for Mohammedan while Shipra scored three for Madaripur.

Usha Krira Chakra, on the other hand, handed Jatrabari Krira Chakra a 12-6 defeat after leading the first half 8-2.

Five-star Freddie



AFP, Bridgetown

Andrew Flintoff captured his first five-wicket haul in Tests to bowl England into a superior position on the opening day of the third Test against the West Indies on Thursday.

Ramnaresh Sarwan hit the top score of 63 and Shivnarine Chanderpaul made 50, but Flintoff took five wickets for 58 runs from 16.2 overs, as West Indies were dismissed for 224 in their first innings.

England reached 20 for one when stumps were drawn with Marcus Trescothick again falling with bat, being bowled for two off the inside edge for the third time in the series.

Victory here will give England their first series triumph in the Caribbean for 36 years.

Sarwan and Chanderpaul added 79 for the fourth wicket either side of tea to steady the innings, but West Indies lost their last seven wickets for 57 runs in a little under 18 overs.

Flintoff, bowling aggressively on a hard, true, bouncy Kensington Oval pitch, had the big wicket of West Indies captain Brian Lara just after the lunch interval and came back after the tea break to blow away the home team's lower order.

"It's been a long wait for my first five-wicket haul because we probably needed it after a bit of a partnership between Lara and Sarwan," Flintoff said.

"It was a very important milestone for me. Five wickets in any cricket match, let alone a Test match in Barbados with so many English people watching, it was a great feeling.

Steve Harmison, England main wrecking ball in this series, supported Flintoff with three for 42 from 18 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the third Test between West Indies and England at Kensington Oval on Thursday:

WEST INDIES: First innings	
Gayle lbw b Hoggard	6
Ganga lbw b Harmison	11
Lara c Butcher b Flintoff	36
Sarwan c Flintoff b Harmison	63
Chanderpaul c Thorpe b Flintoff	50
Hinds c Jones b Harmison	5
Jacobs c sub (Collingwood) b Flintoff	6

Best c Butcher b Flintoff	17
Collins c Trescothick b Jones	7
Collymore not out	1
Edwards c Read b Flintoff	0
Extras: (lb-14, w-1, nb-7)	22
Total: (All out in 75.2 overs)	224
Fall of wkts: 1-6, 2-20, 3-88, 4-167, 5-179, 6-197, 7-198, 8-208, 9-224, 10-224.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hoggard	16	5	34	1
Harmison	18	6	42	3
Flintoff	16.2	2	58	5
Jones	16	1	55	1
Giles	9	1	21	0

ENGLAND: First innings	
Trescothick b Edwards	2
Vaughan not out	12
Butcher not out	3
Extras: (nb-3)	3

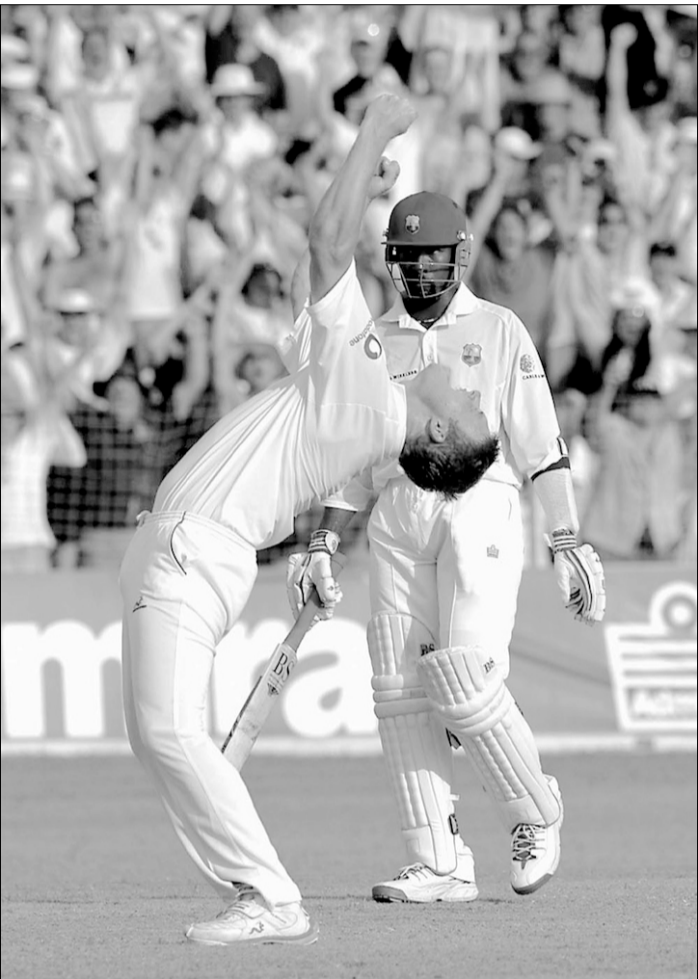


PHOTO: AFP
FIERY FRED: England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff exults after capturing his first five-wicket haul in Test cricket when the burly Lancastrian claimed the final wicket of the West Indies innings on Thursday.

Chappell sees whitewash

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youth and experience, that victory rather than personal milestones is the ultimate prize," he said.

Tendulkar, who scored a double-century in the last Test in Australia early this year, was unbeaten on 194 before India declared their first innings closed at Multan.

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar also lauded David's captaincy, saying he was innovative and never eased the pressure on Pakistan.

"He never missed a trick and his handling of the team, the planning, the bowling changes, the field placements, was spot on," he said.

"Rahul and the boys have done us old fogies proud and fulfilled our dreams and if they go on to win the series, the entire Indian cricketing community will be eternally grateful."

Former Pakistan captain Imran Khan, writing in the Times of India, blamed his team's "negative" approach for the debacle, saying the home side perished because they panicked.

"The Pakistan team got exactly what they deserved," he wrote.

"They thought if they played on a grassy wicket, their batsmen would not be able to handle talented Indian left-arm bowler (Irfan Pathan).

"As a result, they got the grass shaved off on the eve of the first Test. It was a senseless, negative move. Pace is this Pakistan team's greatest strength and once they denied the fast men a helpful wicket, Multan was a lost cause."

Meanwhile, Indian cricketers grabbed front-page headlines in newspapers after their memorable win.

"V-Day arrives after 50 years," screamed a Times of India headline separating two pictures of celebrating cricketers.

The Hindustan Times carried a picture of jubilant players under the headline "HISTORYMAKERS".

"Picture perfect," said the Indian Express, showing cricketers in a picture with a caption "India win a Test in Pakistan, for the very first time. Multan, April 1, 2004, 10:38 am."

G14 lodge complaint against FIFA

AFP, Paris

The G14 group of Europe's 18 richest clubs have lodged a complaint against football's world governing body FIFA at Swiss competition commission Comco.

The G14, which is not recognised by FIFA, are making their first steps towards receiving financial compensation when players are called up for international duty.

Miandad slams

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to watch videos of former Test players to analyse where they had gone wrong.

The Multan wicket was blamed for India's dominating batting performance but their bowlers also made better use of the conditions to bowl out Pakistan for 407 and 216.

"A flat track is where the ball does not come above waist height," Miandad said.

"There was lot of bounce on all four days and even on the fifth day the wicketkeeper was collecting the ball around his chest. We just didn't apply ourselves like we should have."

Miandad said it was going to be difficult to contain India's batting unless his bowlers swung the ball around.

Media hails 'em

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Gaddafi stadium here on Monday, a match Pakistan must win to stay in contention for winning the three-Test series.

To achieve that, Kureishi noted, Pakistan needed "a huge leap of faith."

"An innings defeat carries its own stigma," he wrote. "It riles me and angers me when a team goes down without a semblance of a fight."

"One cannot even give the excuse that our players are tired. The Indians came to Pakistan after their hectic tour of Australia. They are the ones who should be tired."

"If the Pakistani players are tired, it must be from boredom, not from playing."

The performance of India's rookie left-arm seamer Irfan Pathan, who took a career-best 4-100 in the first innings and 2-26 in the second in only his third Test, drew much attention.

A report in the 'Nation' newspaper said the 19-year-old, who belonged to "India's strife-stricken, barbarically anti-Muslim state of Gujarat" had received tips from former Pakistani great Wasim Akram.



PHOTO: COURTESY
Participants of the ScanCement Cup golf tournament are seen with Chief of Army Staff and president of Kurmitola Golf Club Lt Gen Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury (4th from right) at the KGC course yesterday.

Adu era begins

AFP, Washington

Freddy Adu, a 14-year-old Ghana-born American billed as the savior of football in the United States, makes his professional debut here Saturday with skills already drawing comparison to a young Pele.

Turning down bids from Manchester United and other European powers to play for his hometown team, Adu will take the field for D.C. United against the reigning champion San Jose Earthquakes in the Major League Soccer opener.

Adu is already a millionaire footballer without having played among the pro adults, signing a one million-dollar Nike endorsement deal and a 500,000-dollar contract with 10-team MLS, which is banking its success on Adu's star power.

Adu's first television commercial will be a soft drink advertisement with Brazilian legend Pele, who 30 years ago was hailed as the US soccer savior when he played for the now-defunct New York Cosmos.

"That was a fantastic moment," Adu said of meeting the man who in "football and the rest was my idol."

Adu said Pele told him: "God gave you the talent. It's your talent and you are the only one who can use it."

In 1998, Adu's family won the US immigration lottery and moved here from Ghana. His talent was so heralded that an Italian club pitched a 750,000-dollar offer at age 10.

Now his mother, who once worked two jobs to keep the family in a two-room apartment, is building a new home that should be ready when Adu turns 15 in June, ending the millionaire's days of bedroom sharing with a younger brother.

What Adu lacks in size at 1.73m and 62kg he makes up for with his dazzling footwork, his visionary insight into the game, his ability to work well with teammates and a winning smile and personality that help fan his celebrity.

"The best solution is that I raise my game," Adu said.

He figures to lift the US league with him. DC United has already sold out his opener, although the club has trimmed its home-field capacity to 24,600 this season to try and create a "hot ticket" fever around Adu.

United won three of the first four MLS titles but barely reached the playoffs last season. As the league embarks upon its ninth campaign, Adu's presence boosts hopes of finding a home with a new generation of spectators.

As much as Adu will mean for US soccer clubs, the national team cannot wait to have him in the fold in the 2006 World Cup at Germany after a breakthrough run at the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea.

"I'm only 14," Adu said. "Of course I would like to play in England or Spain and in Germany in 2006 with the national team."

By then he will be 17, the same age as Pele in 1958.

Faith carries

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get the wickets. But he still has a long way to go," Tendulkar had said.

Pathan has also earned handsome praise from his stand-in captain Rahul Dravid who is impressed by the Baroda lad's progress in such short period.

Veteran leg-spinner Anil Kumble, who played a stellar role in India's first-ever Test triumph in Pakistan, also appreciates Pathan's improvement with every match.

"It's amazing how much he has improved. It is an overall important and it augurs well for Indian cricket," he remarks.

One of the more aggressive bowlers to come out of India in recent time, Pathan says that he does not believe in flaunting his aggression needlessly.

"Aggression is something that comes to person naturally. I believe in using it when it matters, otherwise one will take you seriously," he says.

Pathan, who burst into the limelight after his nine-wicket haul in the under-19 Asia Cup in Pakistan last year, said his knowledge of conditions here has helped him a lot.

"Since I have already played matches in Pakistan, I knew what to expect. I must say that it has helped me a lot on this tour," he adds.

FA Cup preview

As big as the final



AFP, London

Arsenal midfielder Fredrik Ljungberg is well aware of how much it meant to the club the last time they lost an FA Cup semi-final to Manchester United.

And the Swede is determined he and his team-mates will not have to suffer the same bitter experience as the 1999 Gunners side, who were beaten 2-1 by United at the same stage of the competition.

"Hopefully it goes better for us this time," said Ljungberg as he looked ahead to Saturday's last four showdown against their bitter rivals at Villa Park in Birmingham.

A superb solo goal from Ryan Giggs in injury time after Peter Schmeichel's last-minute save from a Dennis Bergkamp penalty gave United victory that day and the Reds went on to complete a treble of league, Cup and Champions League titles.

Now however it is Arsenal who are pursuing the treble and Ljungberg believes they will take heart from the way they dominated their opponents in Sunday's league encounter, despite the late goal by Louis Saha that enabled United to come away with a morale-boosting 1-1 draw.

"We showed against United in the league last week that we could make some good chances in the first half and we will take that with us to Villa Park," Ljungberg said.

"We were not happy just to draw

in the end. We played a bit safe late in the game and it rebounded on us when we conceded with a few minutes to go. We were not very pleased.

"But we have learned from that and we know we can play even better on Saturday."

Ljungberg in particular should be raring to go after missing out on Sweden's win over his adopted country on Wednesday night in order to be fully fit for Saturday's clash.

French stars Patrick Vieira and Robert Pires were also spared international duty but Thierry Henry played in France's goalless draw in Holland.

With Tuesday's Champions League quarter-final second leg against Chelsea also in mind, Gunners boss Arsene Wenger has hinted he could even leave his star striker on the bench on Saturday.

Brazilian midfielder Gilberto is also set to be rested after travelling to South America for the midweek World Cup qualifier in Paraguay and Wenger will again be without the injured Ashley Cole, who is still battling to recover from a knee injury.

United go into Saturday's match knowing defeat will erase their last chance of some silverware with six weeks of the season still to go.

But defender Wes Brown is confident United have turned the corner.

"We showed a lot of spirit on Sunday which has lifted our self-belief and hopefully we can take that into tomorrow's game," Brown said.

Primera Liga preview

Real get Zidane boost



AFP, Madrid

Having put their recent bout of jitters behind them, league leaders Real Madrid will hope to be able to consolidate their position at the top of the table with a win at Albacete on Saturday.

To boost their confidence, Real medical officials on Thursday said that Zinedine Zidane would be fit to play after missing France's 0-0 draw with the Netherlands due to a bruised leg.

David Beckham is expected to be able to play after also being absent from international action during the week due to a dead leg.

"His right hamstring is still inflamed and there is a bit of pain when he runs but every day he is getting better and we hope he will be ready to face Albacete," said Real club doctor Juan Carlos Hernandez.

One minor concern for coach Carlos Queiroz is that he is likely to be without his Spanish international defender Ivan Helguera, who has a groin injury, but Francisco Pavon stands by for a recall to the back four.

Pavon is likely to be the uncapped player in the Real starting line up but, by contrast, Albacete are unlikely to be able to boast of any-

one in their first 11 who has ever played internationally.

The differences between the two clubs do not end there.

Real have been the kings of Europe nine times while Albacete have only ever spent six seasons in the top flight of Spanish football and only once finished in the top half of the table.

Albacete started the season as the poorest team in the Spanish first division with a budget of 13 million euros while Real boast of a listed budget more than 20 times greater, with 293 million euros to their name for this season.

Nevertheless, despite languishing down in 15th, Albacete have often proven a handful at home this season and, given their spluttering away form, nobody is assuming that Real will walk away with three easy points.

Real will have to win though if they are to maintain pole position.

They have 64 points from 30 games but Valencia are only one point behind and play host to bottom club Murcia on Sunday, who have yet to win away from home this season.

Barcelona, fourth with 55 points but only one point behind and a game in hand over third-placed Deportivo La Coruna who are at home to Real Betis on Sunday, are championing at the bit to get back into action.

"This game is our last shot at winning anything this season because Arsenal are running away with the league."

"If we don't win we will end up with nothing and that is a situation no-one wants."

Already without Louis Saha, who played earlier in the tournament for Fulham and is therefore ineligible, United boss Sir Alex Ferguson also faces an anxious wait to see if Ruud van Nistelrooy can start the game.

The Dutchman insists he will be fit but remains a major doubt with a knee injury which has prevented him from training this week.

Despite their injury worries and the constant stream of stories about the perceived crisis at Old Trafford, United have received a vote of confidence from the most unlikely source - Arsenal captain Patrick Vieira.

Chelsea may be snapping closer to the Gunners' heels in the league race, but Vieira has no doubt about who his side's biggest rivals are.

"You can never write off Manchester United, they have really talented players who can make the difference in any game," Vieira insisted.

"We are really close to one another and it always comes down to small mistakes or a piece of brilliance from one player. You need your special players to perform at a special time."

The Catalan club had their game at Betis postponed due to bad weather last Sunday but they are defending a nine game winning streak and looking to extend their current run in the Nou Camp against Villarreal on Saturday.

Things could hardly be better for Barca coach Frank Rijkaard at the moment, apart from having a travel-weary striker Javier Saviola to hand.

"The Argentine federation insisted that Saviola went to Buenos Aires early and then he sat on the bench and didn't get to play a minute in their World Cup match against Ecuador," said Rijkaard.

FIXTURES	
Saturday (kick off GMT): Sevilla v Espanyol (1600), Albacete v Real Madrid (1800), Barcelona v Villarreal (2000)	
Sunday: Athletic Bilbao v Celta Vigo (1530), Deportivo La Coruna v Real Betis (1530), Osasuna v Malaga (1530), Real Mallorca v Real Sociedad (1530), Real Zaragoza v Racing Santander (1530), Atletico Madrid v Valladolid (1730), Valencia v Murcia (1930)	

Razzak rules

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SCORECARD

Scoreboard of the third limited-overs match between Bangladesh A and the visiting Zimbabwe A at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday:

BANGLADESH A

Al-Shahriar run out (Ewing)	62			
Manjarul run out (Sibanda)	9			
Ehsanul c Maregwede b Rinke	11			
Kapali c Gripper b Ewing	33			
Ashraful c Sibanda b Sims	21			
Faisal not out	61			
Dhiman run out (Nicolle)	38			
Alamgir c Nicolle b Chigumbura	19			
Razzak not out	5			
Extras: (lb-6, w-22)	28			
Total: (For 7 wtkts in 50 overs)	287			
Fall of wtkts: 1-21, 2-72, 3-136, 4-137, 5-166, 6-240, 7-273.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Rinke	10	1	45	1
Nicolle	3	0	16	0
Mwayenga	6	0	55	0
Gripper	10	0	34	0
Chigumbura	7	0	54	1
Ewing	10	0	61	1
Sims	4	0	16	1

ZIMBABWE A

Rinke c and b Razzak	49			
Gripper c and b Razzak	49			
Sibanda c Manjarul b Razzak	9			
Chigumbura b Manjarul	16			
Sims c Razzak b Manjarul	24			
Matsikenjyre c Jamal b Razzak	48			
Covenrynt st Dhiman b Razzak	15			
Maregwede c Kapali b Razzak	3			
Ewing c Dhiman b Razzak	0			
Nicolle b Kapali	1			
Mwayenga not out	0			
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, nb-5, w-5)	13			
Total: (All out in 46.1 overs)	327			
Fall of wkts: 1-99, 2-108, 3-125, 4-137, 5-181, 6-216, 7-224, 8-224, 9-227, 10-227				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Alamgir	5	0	24	0
Tareq	6	0	41	0
Ehsanul	2	0	22	0
Jamal	10	1	35	0
Razzak	8	1	17	7
Manjarul	9	0	53	2
Kapali	6.1	0	32	1

Result: Bangladesh A won by 60 runs.
Toss: Bangladesh

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

37 Washing-ton city emblem

5 Jackson 5 song

8 Iceboat loudly and necessarily

12 Prom carriage

13 Actor Kil