

School kabadi

SPORTS REPORTER

Ansar VDP High School defeated Mirpur Siddhanta School in the opening match of the 12th school kabadi competition at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court yesterday.

In the day's other matches, Dolairpar School beat Khilgaon Government School 59-47 while Maniknagar Government Primary School won Tamijuddin School 67-56.

CJKS hockey

CU CORRESPONDENT

Defending champion Abahani won their opening match of the CJKS First Division Hockey League beating South Club 1-0 at the MA Aziz yesterday.

Sumon of Abahani netted the lone goal in the 55th minute.

Earlier, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin inaugurated the league as chief guest.

Six teams are participating in the league arranged by Chittagong Jila Kira Sangstha (CJKS).

WHIZZ KID-211

winner

Shermin Akhter Simu

(Engineering University School & College)

Please produce your ID card and an attested passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star at 7:30 pm on May 31.

WHIZZ KID-211

correct answers

1. Who is Bangladesh's fastest woman? Ans: Iva.

2. Who is Zimbabwe's cricket captain? Ans: Taibu.

3. Name the man-of-the-series in the India-Pakistan Test series: Ans: Sehwag.

4. How many runs did Brian Lara score in the first innings of the final Test against England? Ans: 400.

5. Who won the Singer 30th national chess title? Ans: Zia.

Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

A brilliant century by Asad guided Saifur Rahman Smriti Sangsad to a 191-run victory over Jagarani Krira Chakra in the final of the Abdul Latif Smriti cricket tournament at the Mithun-Musa-Kajal playground in Magura yesterday.

Winning the toss, Saifur Rahman Smriti decided to bat and they scored 286 all out in the stipulated 35 overs with Azad hitting 118 and Nimai making 49. Asif grabbed four wickets for Jagarani KC.

In reply, Jagarani were bundled out for 95 in 19.5 overs.

Cairns has

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With number 11 Chris Martin, the only New Zealander with no batting pretensions lending dogged support, Cairns went into full attack mode, hitting Simon Jones over long-on for six, then stepping outside his leg stump to send Harmison over the cover boundary for another.

He continued to attack the bowlers to all parts of the ground, before trying for one boundary too many and leaving the field to a standing ovation.

Eng openers defy NZ



AFP, London

Openers Marcus Trescothick and Andrew Strauss took England to 136 without loss in reply to New Zealand's first innings 386 at tea on the second day of the first Test at Lord's on Friday.

England captain Trescothick, deputising for injured skipper Michael Vaughan, was 60 not out of 121 balls with 10 fours.

His fellow left-hander and Test debutant Strauss, who took Vaughan's place in the side, was 65 not out.

The Middlesex captain, batting on his home ground, faced 109 balls including seven fours. The duo's unbroken stand left England 250 runs behind.

New Zealand, missing the express pace of Shane Bond, still regaining full fitness following a stress fracture of the back, lacked variety in their attack with Daniel Vettori's left-arm spin the only change to four right-arm seamers of similar speed.

Strauss, 27, in his first Test innings, began by nudging runs in the manner of England middle-order left-hand batsman Graham Thorpe.

But as his innings progressed he played some bold strokes, including a grand cover-driven for off seamer

Chris Martin.

A cut four down to third man off the same bowler gave Strauss a maiden Test fifty off 90 balls. Trescothick brought up the duo's partnership with a four off Martin.

New Zealand's final total owed much to Chris Cairns's rapid 82 during which he broke Viv Richards' world record for most sixes in a Test career when he hit his 85th six, off Andrew Flintoff.

In all his 47-ball innings featured four sixes and 10 fours, as well as a five courtesy of an overthrow, in what was Cairns's best Test score against England, surpassing his match-winning 80 at The Oval during New Zealand's last tour here five years ago.

He added one more six before he was last man out, caught by Stephen Harmison at fine leg off Flintoff. New Zealand resumed on their overnight score of 284 for five with Oram 64 not out and night-watchman Tuffey unbeaten on two.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the first Test between England and New Zealand at Lord's on Friday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 284-5)

Table with 4 columns: Player, Runs, Balls, Wickets. Includes Richardson lbw b Harmison 93, Fleming c Strauss b Jones 34, Astle c G Jones b Flintoff 64, Styris c G Jones b Jones 0, McMillan lbw b Hoggard 6.

Table with 4 columns: Player, Runs, Balls, Wickets. Includes Oram c G Jones b Harmison 67, Tuffey b Harmison 8, Cairns c Harmison b Flintoff 82, McCullum b Jones 5, Vettori b Harmison 2, Martin not out 1, Extras: (b-9, lb-6, w-2, nb-7) 24, Total: (All out in 102.4 overs) 386, Fall of wkts: 1-58, 2-161, 3-162, 4-174, 5-280 6-287, 7-324, 8-329, 9-338, 10-386.

Table with 4 columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes Hoggard 22 7 68 1, Harmison 31 7 126 4, Flintoff 21.4 7 63 2, Jones 23 8 82 3, Giles 5 0 32 0.

ENGLAND: First innings

Table with 4 columns: Player, Runs, Balls, Wickets. Includes Trescothick not out 60, Strauss not out 65, Extras: (b-1, lb-2, nb-8) 11, Total: (For no wkt in 37 overs) 136, To bat: M. Butcher, N. Hussain, G. Thorpe, A. Flintoff, G. Jones (wkt), A. Giles, S. Jones, M. Hoggard, S. Harmison.

Bowler O M R W

Table with 4 columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes Tuffey 12 3 28 0, Martin 8 0 47 0, Oram 6 1 16 0, Cairns 6 1 27 0, Vettori 5 0 15 0.

Toss: New Zealand

Umpires: Darrell Hair (AUS) and Rudi Koertzen (RSA)

TV umpire: Mark Benson (ENG) Match referee: Clive Lloyd (WIS)

FA Cup final today

REUTERS, London

Millwall will pull off one of the greatest upsets in FA Cup final history if they beat Manchester United in Cardiff on Saturday.

The unfashionable first division side are hoping to emulate what is widely regarded as the biggest Cup final shock when Sunderland, then in the old second division, beat holders Leeds United 1-0 in 1973.

Few give the south Londoners much hope in their first FA Cup final against a United side who knocked out Arsenal, winners of the competition the last two years, in the semi-finals and are desperate to salvage something from a below-par season.

Their hopes of retaining the premier league title were hampered by the suspension of England defender Rio Ferdinand in January and they finished third, 15 points behind champions Arsenal after nine defeats.

United's Champions League campaign was ended in the second round by Porto's late equaliser at Old Trafford, sending the 1999 European champions tumbling to a 3-2 aggregate defeat.

"It doesn't figure in terms of disappointment if you win the FA Cup. You can't be disappointed," United manager Alex Ferguson said.

"It's a trophy and it's an important trophy. The romance of the FA Cup has been with Manchester United for a long, long time."

Real sign Samuel

REUTERS, Madrid

Real Madrid have agreed a five-year deal with Argentine defender Walter Samuel, the Primera Liga club said on its website on Thursday.



WALTER SAMUEL

Samuel is set to join the Spanish giants on July 1 from AS Roma.

Financial terms of the signing were not disclosed but sports daily Marca said on its website Real had secured Samuel for 22 million euros (\$26.22 million), beating off competition from Chelsea for the powerful 26-year-old who joined Roma from Argentina's Boca Juniors in 2000.

"We have reached an agreement in principle with Roma and with the player and we can finally announce we've signed a central defender, a priority for us for next season," Real Madrid's sporting director-general Jorge Valdano told Realmadrid.com.

Zafar Imam

FROM PAGE 13

His quikhwani will be held at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex tomorrow at 4 pm.

A condolence meeting will be organised at the NSC conference room at 4 pm on the next day.

Meanwhile, Asian Football Confederation president Mohammad bin Hammam and general secretary Peter Velappan sent a condolence message.

Zim series off

FROM PAGE 13

cricket fans want Australian teams to play the best teams from other countries and they don't want any of those teams selected on the basis of race."

Zimbabwe cricket has been in turmoil since 15 of their leading white players, including ex-captain Heath Streak, refused to play last month. They accused the Zimbabwe board of allowing politicians to dictate the make-up of the team and of rushing young black players into the side before they were ready.

The ZCU, which follows a policy of promoting black players to reflect the country's population, first offered to negotiate but then lost patience and sacked the players.

The players were invited back, and had said they were ready to play in the one-dayers. However, they were sacked again on Friday and said they would be taking their case to the ICC.

Players' lawyer Chris Venturasi said: "The ZCU lawyer called me to say the players are all fired and that they must return their cars to the ZCU. So most of them will be catching buses or on bicycles from tomorrow."

Rakib takes

FROM PAGE 13

Hossain Rajib beat IM Reefat Bin Sattar, GM Nguan Anh Dung beat GM Alexander Fominyh of Russian, IM Lanka Ravi beat Krishna Thapa, GM Niaz Murshed drew with Sandipan and GM Ziaur Rahman drew with Abdul Maleq.

In the fourth round, Rakib beat Krishna, Sandipan beat Maleq, Rajib drew with Dinesh, Zia beat Reefat, Niaz drew with Nguan and Fominyh drew with Lanka.

ARAF crowned champs

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The dashing Yuvraj came to the wicket with the side reeling at 35-3 but the southpaw's 19-ball effort, which saw four singles only, frustrated a 12,000-strong holiday crowd who anticipated early fireworks from the latest Indian one-day wonder.

Yuvraj, who was dismissed for a duck in the semifinal, drove a simple catch to Anisur Rahman at mid-on to give Rubaiat his second wicket.

Sandeep was relieved briefly as Naimur Rahman cracked three boundaries off Rubaiat just after his arrival. The former national captain, who contributed 24 off 35 balls during a 40-run stand with Sandeep, was removed by Afridi when he edged a flash to Arafat Sunny at gully.

Sandeep, who smashed 10 well-timed boundaries and a six in 121 balls, finally found an ally in Enamul Haque and the two added 64 runs in ten overs. The tall Indian opener went on the rampage when he whacked Afridi over the mid-wicket fence in the 43rd over for the only six of the innings.

Afridi, who took 3-40, had the last laugh in his next over when he lured his rival into repeating the shot but

this time, the ball skied to Kamrul Islam for an easy catch at deep mid-wicket.

It was the second time Sandeep was dismissed in the 90s after smashing 99 in the semifinal. He ended the tournament with 356 runs with one century and three half-centuries from four matches.

After his departure, the last three Bashundhara wickets fell in the space of seven runs, leaving Enamul stranded on 23 not out off 39 balls.

SCORECARD

Scoreboard of the GP Corporate Cricket League Cup final between Bashundhara and ARAF Apparels at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday:

Table with 4 columns: Player, Runs, Balls, Wickets. Includes Al-Shahriar b Rubaiat 9, Sandeep c Kamrul b Afridi 92, Sabbir c Anisur b Ashraf 2, Akram Khan run out 0, Yuvraj c Anisur b Rubaiat 4, Naimur c Sunny b Afridi 24, Shahin b Sunny 3, Enamul not out 23, Hasibul c Anisur b Ashraf 1, Shahjada st Salim b Afridi 0, Saifullah run out 0, Extras (b-2, lb-5, nb-3, w-17) 27, Total (all out, 48.2 overs) 185.

Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-28, 3-35, 4-53, 5-93, 6-107, 7-171, 8-178, 9-180, 10-185.

Table with 4 columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes Rubaiat 10 0 46 2, Ashraf 9 2 19 2, Kamrul 9.2 0 33 0, Sunny 10 0 40 1, Afridi 10 1 40 3.

ARAF

Table with 4 columns: Player, Runs, Balls, Wickets. Includes Rafiqul c Akram b Yuvraj 35, Fahad Ullah lbw b Naimur 36, Ehsanul c Sandeep b Yuvraj 0, Afridi b Yuvraj 6, Halim Shah not out 32, Salim c sub b Yuvraj 19, Anisur not out 41, Extras: (b-1, lb-5, w-11) 17, Total: (For five wkts in 43 overs) 186, Fall of wickets: 1-72, 2-73, 3-79, 4-83, 5-115.

Table with 4 columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes Hasibul 7 0 35 0, Shahjada 5 0 21 0, Naimur 9 2 26 1, Saifullah 6 0 42 0, Yuvraj 10 1 35 4, Enamul 5 2 9 0, Sabbir 1 0 11 0.

Result: ARAF Apparels by five wickets.

Dwayne up close

FROM PAGE 13

this West Indies ODI squad with so many new players coming together and starting off their careers at the same time?

DS: I'm very proud. This is something I always wanted to play for the West Indies. Hopefully I can go on to become one of the better cricketers.

DSS: Who were your idols when you were growing up?

DS: My idol then and still is Vivian Richards. Then there is Brian Lara of course, Sachin Tendulkar and in bowling Courtney Walsh, Curtly Ambrose, Glenn McGrath. In fielding it's Jonty Rhodes.

DSS: What is it like having Viv Richards, the chairman of selectors, close by? Do you talk to him often?

DS: He motivates me. Sometimes he would come down and have a chat and tell me what I'm doing wrong and what I'm doing

right. He'll say you've got to work on this and that. I'm listening to him and using his tips in the nets and I put it out in the second game. It's working for me.

He told me that as long as I spend time at the crease, there's nothing that is going to stop me. The longer I stay in the middle, the more pressure it is going to put on the fielding side. That's something I'll always keep on the back of my mind.

DSS: People have often criticised you for playing one too many shots. What is your answer to that?

DS: You've got to listen to it carefully and take the positives out of the criticism and work on it.

DSS: You give the impression on the field that you are enjoying whatever you are doing whether it's batting, bowling or fielding. What is your life like when you are not playing cricket?

DS: I'm the same person off the field as I am on it. I love to have fun. You've got to enjoy life. When I have my off time, I'll probably go to a party or something like that or go out with a few friends.

I like action movies and my favourite music is reggae and calypso.

DSS: Do you read a lot?

DS: Not really. But I've got to start doing it now because that will help me in my concentration for the longer version of the game.

DSS: What are your immediate goals?

DS: My immediate aspiration is to grow in every game at a time, do better than what I did in the previous match and move from strength to strength.

DSS: From what you have seen of the Bangladesh team, how do you rate them?

DS: Well, they are not as strong as side as we are. But you could see that they are working hard at their game. That showed in the last three games. They didn't give up. They gave us a good fight.

DSS: You have been dropped twice by the same Bangladeshi player Manjaur Islam, in two consecutive matches. What do you say to him now that the series is over?

DS: I'll just say thanks for dropping me (laughs). He has really given me a chance to get some runs.

Centenary

FROM PAGE 13

With Brazil soon to play South American World Cup qualifiers and France involved in the Euro 2004 tournament in Portugal next month, the players looked for the most part careful not to spoil their preparation.

France coach Jacques Santini however would have been pleased to see their ninth consecutive match without conceding a goal though that apart, it is hard to see what else he would have gleaned from this contest.

Shortly after the match, Santini said captain Marcel Desailly had incurred a knee injury without adding details on the severity of the problem.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes clues like '37 Black-and-orange songbird', '1 Start of a Mary Poppins song', '5 Drunkard', '8 Performs', '12 Charlie Brown's tormentor', '13 S.A. nation', '14 Indo-nesian boat', '15 Winglike', '18 Orator', '20 Lessons', '21 Man-churian border river', '23 Lemieux milieu', '24 Crested finch', '28 Love deity', '31 This tastes terrible!', '32 Porch', '34 Dander', '35 Sea lea'.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers. Includes the word 'CRYPTOQUIP' and a list of letters: U P H I J D B M U Z S M V U P I I S A S Y H K X S D U S K I P K R S Q Q S Z Y S X V U Q S Z I H I J R B A S V J Y V Q S Y S D B Q Q ?

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU BLACKMAIL SOMEONE TESTIFYING, I RECKON THAT WOULD BE BLEEDING THE WITNESS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals L. 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.



Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne leaves the hotel after Zimbabwe cricket authorities cancelled the two-Test series yesterday. The first Test was supposed to start today.

Aussie thumbs-up



AFP, Sydney

The Australian cricket community welcomed the scrapping of the two-Test series with Zimbabwe but expressed fears that it could further damage the struggling sport in the African country.

The Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) reportedly took the decision, due to be announced formally later, after it became apparent the International Cricket Council (ICC) would strip the tour of its Test status.

However, the Australian team will stay on in Zimbabwe and play three one-day internationals there. Former Australian vice-captain

Ian Healy praised the decision to call off the Test matches, saying the ICC should be praised for transforming itself from a toothless governing body into one with bite.

"This is the right thing to do," Healy told Australian Associated Press on Friday.

"The ICC was going to vote this way anyway which I think is a strong move from a governing body which is growing in status... They are looking after the good of the game."

Former England captain Tony Greig said the ZCU had made a sensible but belated decision in calling off the Test series but he hoped the Australians did not catch the first flights out of Harare.

South Africa-born Greig, now a television commentator living in

Sydney, said it would be the "worst possible thing" if stars like Shane Warne returned to highly-paid jobs with English county sides when their presence could help Zimbabwe's struggling young players.

"Their threat to come straight home shouldn't be implemented," Greig told AAP.

"Australian cricketers have a responsibility to make sure Zimbabwe cricket doesn't disappear off the face of the earth."

"If they really do care about Zimbabwe cricket, as they say they do, they should take time out to stay there and see what they can do to help these younger cricketers get the idea of what the big time's all about."

The ugly Kiwi



REUTERS, London

New Zealand opener Mark Richardson, who reinvented himself as an international opener after an unsuccessful career as a left-arm spinner, freely confessed on Thursday he was not the world's most exciting batsman.

Asked to assess his painstaking 93, which was largely responsible for New Zealand's imposing 284 for five on the opening day of the first

Test against England at Lord's, Richardson replied: "Pretty dour and miserable. Poking and prodding, really."

His teammates will not mind. While Richardson kept one end secure, Nathan Astle (64) and Jacob Oram (64 not out) were able to play their shots as New Zealand took command in the final hour.

Richardson, 33 next month, lost his way as a bowler 12 years ago when he suffered from an increasingly inability to control the ball.

He took up batting, initially as a stroke-maker in the middle order,

then moved to opener. Before Thursday's innings he had averaged an impressive 46.32 in 31 Tests since making his debut against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo in the 2000-1 season.

He had looked set for a fourth Test century in his first international appearance at Lord's when he was given out lbw after what appeared on television replays to be an inside edge.

"They don't put 90s up on the scoreboard in the changing room," he said.

"I guess it's every cricketer's dream to score a hundred at Lord's," Richardson said his role in the team was to keep the ball out.

"I'm not a gifted player in terms of my ability to play shots. I'm lucky to play in a team that allows me to play my type of game."

He agreed he had justifiably criticised for not converting more 50s into centuries but added: "I put it down to the fact that it takes me so long to score my runs. If you are going to face 300 balls to get a hundred, one of them is likely to get you out." The Auckland left-hander said he accepted his role in the present team.

"I have to be happy with it," he said.

"But at times I wish I was (Adam) Gilchrist."



MARK RICHARDSON

Becks stays in Spain



REUTERS, Madrid

England captain David Beckham says he plans to stay at Real Madrid and his wife and children will move to Spain, quashing speculation about their future.

"I have a long-term commitment to Real and to my life in Spain. I've been here for one season and it feels like the job's not done yet," Beckham said in a statement released by a London public relations company.

Beckham, who moved to Madrid from Manchester United for 35 million euros (23 million pounds) last year, has had a troubled year in the Spanish capital.

The team ended the season without a trophy while the Beckhams faced a media frenzy over allegations -- denied by the player -- that he had an affair with his former personal assistant, 26-year-old Rebecca Loos.

The refusal of Beckham's pop star wife Victoria to move to Spain to be with her husband fuelled media speculation about the England captain's marriage.

The statement released on Thursday seemed aimed at killing any such gossip as well as rumours that Beckham might seek a move after only one season in Madrid.

Speculation has run high that Beckham could move to Chelsea, which has been buoyed by the

wealth of Russian billionaire owner Roman Abramovich.

The statement said however that the Beckhams, Britain's number one celebrity couple, had taken on a new lease on a Spanish property.

It said former Spice Girl Victoria would be moving from the couple's British base to live in Madrid with their sons Brooklyn and Romeo.