

## BKSP ride on 6-star Nadir

SPORTS REPORTER

Iqbal Nadir slammed six goals including a hat-trick to help BKSP set a repeat final against Dhaka in the 21st National Youth Hockey Championship.

Nadir, who opened the BKSP account eight minutes after start, completed his treble inside five minutes to give the defending champions a crushing 10-1 win over Rajshahi in the second semifinal at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Masum struck twice while Mostafizur and Mukitul scored one goal each for the winners who led 4-0 at the break.

Shipon pulled one goal back for Rajshahi.

The final between BKSP and last year's runners-up Dhaka, who brushed aside Jessor 7-0 in the first semi, will be held tomorrow at the same venue.

Jewel scored three goals while Rubel, Shantoo, Mustak and Ranjan added the rest for Dhaka.

## Three cagers banned

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Basketball Federation (BBF) suspended three players from a national youth training camp for breaking discipline yesterday.

Imran Khan, Mainul Abedin and Toufiq Elahi have been left out of the camp for playing in various competitions without permission from the authorities concerned.

The players were being trained up in their preparation to take part in the coming qualifying round matches of the FIBA Asia Championship, beginning on July 22 in Dhaka.

Their suspension ranges from one to two years. They will not be able to join any training or the game during the period.

## BNS officially

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"I have plans to build an international standard VIP lounge and galleries for football in particular areas of the BNS," he added.

The minister claimed that he had a discussion with Asian Football Confederation president Mohammad Bin Hammam over phone on Tuesday.

"I have requested Hammam for AFC's cooperation to build a modern football academy in Bangladesh. And he has assured me to help."

## Eng tri-series

FROM PAGE 13

England's preparations have been disrupted by injuries to opening batsman Marcus Trescothick (ankle) and all-rounder Andrew Flintoff (foot) with both players likely to miss Thursday's series opener, a day-night match against New Zealand, at Old Trafford.

Unapped Glamorgan batsman Michael Powell and Surrey's Ricki Clarke, left out of England's 14-man triangular squad, have been called in as cover.

Trescothick is England's leading limited-overs batsman while Flintoff's aggression with the bat and economical pace bowling make him an equally valuable member of Vaughan's limited-overs line-up.

Flintoff, however, has missed large chunks of international cricket because of playing while injured and was sidelined from the entire Ashes series in 2002-03 after being rushed back from hernia surgery.

Vaughan said of Flintoff, England's current player of the year: "We've got to look at the long term and the summer we've got ahead. We definitely don't want to risk him in a game and put him back a few weeks."

Earlier this month England completed a 3-0 Test whitewash of New Zealand having defeated West Indies by the same scoreline during their preceding Test series in the Caribbean.

Fast bowler Stephen Harmison was instrumental in both those victories and England will be wary of overbowling their prize asset.

That should see the likes of James Anderson getting a chance to revive their international careers.

Although overwhelmed in the Tests, West Indies fought back to square the subsequent one-day series at 2-2.

## Azzurri drown

FROM PAGE 13

In the event that is exactly what happened and Italy were eliminated by virtue of scoring fewer goals despite finishing level on five points with Denmark and Sweden.

It took the field without the suspended Francesco Totti, Gennaro Gattuso and Fabio Cannavaro, as well as striker Christian Vieri who was nursing an injured knee on the bench.

Trapattoni decided to risk him for 53 minutes when he replaced Bernardo Corradi but while Vieri popped up the Italian attack, he was guilty of wasting at least three clear scoring chances - failing with two headers and a shot.



Action from yesterday's National Youth Hockey Championship semifinal match between Dhaka and Jessor at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium.

## STRAWBERRIES & CREAM

### WIMBLEDON

REUTERS, London

Andy Roddick is lost in admiration - that Dennis the Menace sure has a killer serve.

After hosting the American comedy show "Saturday Night Live" and appearing on "The Weakest Link" quiz show, the American player has collected another culturicon.

In a bid to popularise tennis among children, the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) approached Roddick and the Beano comic to ask if he could play a match against the British version of the cartoon Dennis the Menace.

"It's our way of trying to get young kids interested in the sport. Andy Roddick was totally up for it and we are very grateful," said LTA spokesman Kris Dent.

In the cartoon strip, Dennis, who sticks with his trademark red and black sweater in defiance of Wimbledon's predominantly white kit rule, takes on the world number two on Centre Court.

The world's fastest server pays the cheeky little scamp the ultimate compliment, telling him: "Nice shot Dennis! You are pretty smart on court buddy!"

#### PROUD SERENA

Wimbledon champion Serena Williams is fiercely proud that she and her sister Venus have inspired inner city kids to better themselves.

"I really appreciate that because it makes me realise, you know, people really look up to me and they really appreciate some stuff that we've done," said Serena, whose father Richard has called the sisters "The Cinderellas of the Ghetto".

"Venus and I have made an incredible impact on the inner city. I mean, seeing we come from Compton in the (Los Angeles) inner city, we come from that type of background."

"We are really blessed because we had parents that really supported us and parents that wanted to see us do better than them."

#### ACES'RE GOOD!

Tennis purists may complain that the finesse of the modern game is being smothered by the power

servers -- but at least it is all in a good cause at Wimbledon.

Credit card company American Express is to donate 25 pounds for every ace served on the Centre Court and hopes by the end of the tournament to have raised 25,000 pounds (\$45,430) for Sport Relief, a charity set up to support the poor and disadvantaged.

"Start the count. It's a great cause and I'm up for it," said Andy Roddick, who holds the world record with a 153 miles per hour (242.6kph) serve.

#### RULES REIGN

Decorum reigns supreme at Wimbledon, a bastion of the British middle classes who stoically sip tea in the inevitable rainbreaks and enjoy strawberries and cream when the sun finally shines.

French, Australian and American crowds may boisterously whoop and holler for their favourites but in Britain, the stiff upper lip is the rule of the day.

The glossy Wimbledon programme sternly warns fans: "Do not make a noise during rallies. Do not applaud a net cord or a double fault."

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## A Pakistani pioneer

### OLYMPICS

AFP, Lahore

Thirteen-year-old Rubab Raza's day runs in multiples of five. She prays five times a day, goes to school five hours a day and swims five hours a day as she prepares to go for gold in the Olympics 50-metre freestyle in Athens in August.

Raza already wears the crown of Pakistan's fastest swimmer; now the dark-eyed teenager is poised to become the conservative Islamic republic's first woman to plunge into the Olympic pool.

"Whenever I go out of home or train at the swimming pool from being a family member or at least my grandmother remains with me," she told AFP at her family's home in Pakistan's historic easternmost city Lahore.

The family contingent is one concession to the strict mores surrounding women in the world's second largest Muslim country.

Hardline Islamists frown on women swimming.

In the western border provinces where life is more conservative, ruling Islamists have slapped an

official ban on male coaches training women athletes.

Luckily for Raza such bans don't exist in vibrant Lahore. Her coach is a veteran male swimmer, Munawar Luqman.

"I train daily for about two to three hours in the morning and two hours in the evening," she said.

She trains at two pools, the elite

started swimming there," she said.

The ninth year student at Lahore's Jesus and Mary Convent School has since gone on to claim 10 national medals: three in the open category and seven in her own age group.

At the last South Asia Federation games in March she picked up a bronze and two silver medals.

Raza, the daughter of retired army major Syed Sibtain Raza and his army doctor wife Lubna, will also compete in the 100 meter freestyle event.

"My daughter is very disciplined and humble and I wish for her all success," said Lubna.

Raza is one of only two women in the Pakistani squad. Sumerah Zahoor will compete in the 200 metre sprint.

The track is where Pakistani women made their Olympic debut. The first woman to ever represent Pakistan in an Olympic event was Shabana Akhtar, who ran the 100 meter and 200 meter sprints at Atlanta in 1996. Another female runner Shazia Hidayat competed at the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

Rubab Raza is the first woman to ever represent Pakistan in an Olympic event.

Manager Sven-Goran Eriksson began the tournament preaching a midfield diamond but the players persuaded him to revert to a flat four, a formation they are all more comfortable with.

Ronaldo started the first two games on the bench but the winger must now be the first name on the team sheet.

England's fullbacks Ashley Cole and Ronaldo's Manchester United team mate Gary Neville will have to be at the absolute top of their game to keep Ronaldo at bay.

Only a suspension has saved the disappointing Pauleta from being dropped and starting in his place up front should be Nuno Gomes, who came on for him at halftime against Portugal and scored the winner.

Similarly, Deco will keep the midfield berth he inherited from Rui Costa.

England should start with the same 11 who began against Switzerland and Croatia, the development in their side being a matter of tactics rather than personnel.

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