

BKSP ride on 6-star Nadir

SPORTS REPORTER

Iqbal Nadir slammed six goals including a hattrick 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 Muktil 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 Jessore 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

FROM PAGE 13

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

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.

Uncapped Glamorgan batsman Michael Powell and Surrey's Rikki 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.

Italy 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 after 53 minutes when he replaced Bernardo Corradi but while Vieri pepped 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 Jessore at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium.

PHOTO: STAR

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 cultural icon.

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 character 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. Its a great cause and I'm up for it," said Andy Roddick, who holds the world record with a 153 miles per hour (246.2 kph) 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."

A Pakistani pioneer



official ban on male coaches training women athletes.

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 some family members 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



RUBAB RAZA

British-era Gymkhana club and a private swimming club.

The Gymkhana pool was the birthplace of her swimming prowess. "I was seven years of age when I

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. Sumera 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.

Pakistan will field a total of 48 to 50 athletes in six events: athletics, boxing, hockey, shooting, swimming and weightlifting.

Khaleda sees new high

FROM PAGE 1

and military officials.

Khaleda praised the rapid transformation of Singaporean economy into an Asian Tiger, which she said has become a role model of discipline and efficiency in the region.

She mentioned the efforts of her government in improving the lot of the people, consolidating multiparty democracy and establishment of the rule of law in Bangladesh.

The prime minister said her government is trying to achieve sustained economic growth, pursuing an investment-friendly economy driven by a vibrant private sector.

Khaleda also mentioned the numerous projects for empowerment of women, poverty alleviation, mass education and basic healthcare.

She said Singapore has been an important partner in development of human resources and capacity building in Bangladesh.

Khaleda referred to the coordinated efforts of both Bangladesh and Singapore in bilateral and global issues, including fight against international terrorism, regional security, environment protection and economic development.

She expressed gratitude for Singapore's support in Bangladesh's effort to be a dialogue partner of Asean and a full member of Asean Regional Forum.

Expressing her belief that Tong's visit would add new dimensions to the bilateral relations, Khaleda said:

"This landmark visit befittingly goes in line with my government's 'Look East' policy initiative.

Speaking at the banquet, Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said the Investment Guarantee Agreement (IGA) that will be signed tomorrow (today) is a significant affirmation of growing economic partnership between Bangladesh and Singapore.

He said Singapore was the first Asian Country to formally recognise Bangladesh in February 1972. "Since then our friendship has grown. I hope my visit will stimulate bilateral cooperation and enhance relations to a higher plane."

Tong said the economies of South Asia are performing well and when Finance Minister Saifur Rahman visited Singapore recently, he had informed the prime minister that a 6-7 percent growth was projected for Bangladesh in 2005.

"With your Look East policy Bangladesh is also well positioned to ride on East Asia's growth. I believe that the potential South Asia region is only waiting to be unleashed."

However, the potential cannot be fully realised unless peace and stability are assured. "The scourge of terrorism is threatening all civilised countries. It threatens our peaceful way of life and our hope for a better future," said the visiting prime minister.

Terrorism does not distinguish religions, nationalities or races, he said.

"All countries must unite to fight common enemy, not just militarily but also ideologically against the deviant interpretation of Islam," he said.

But the ideological battle against the extremists must be for primarily Muslims themselves. "They can't afford Islam to be hijacked by the terrorists for their own political ends."

A moderate Muslim country like Bangladesh must play a leading role in fighting against terrorism, said the prime minister of the prosperous island-state.

"Let us work together for the peace and stability of our regions and the prosperity and future of our two peoples," Tong urged.

Earlier in the afternoon, Goh Chok Tong was accorded a red carpet reception on his arrival at Zia International Airport on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh. His arrival was heralded with 19-gun salute.

Tong is leading a 30-member delegation that includes Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs Lee Yock Swan, Minister for Home Affairs Wong Kan Seng and Minister for Manpower Dr Ng Eng Hen.

A baby girl presented him a bouquet as he alighted from his aircraft. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia received him.

Official talks between the two countries will be held today.

Moudud bins

FROM PAGE 1

"The persons who moved the writ petition on behalf of the judge are members and supporters of a certain political party and they moved the petition with political motives," Moudud told parliament in reply to a point raised by Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid.

"There is no connection of Dhaka-10 by-polls and politics with the transfer of the judge," he stressed.

Moudud said the judge was transferred as per the rule and transfer of judges, like government officials, was a routine work.

"Had the public prosecutors influenced him to set free some criminals, he (Judge) could have try them."

Sheikh Jahangir Husain, recently transferred judge of the Speedy Trial Tribunal Court, Dhaka-2, in the petition filed with the High Court on Tuesday also alleged that he was transferred to Barisal as he refused to comply with government desires pursued by the public prosecutors (PPs).

The law minister said the transfer order was executed only after approval from the Supreme Court and the government had nothing to do with matters like the transfer and promotion in lower judiciary.

Citing the constitution, Moudud said: "Promotion, posting and transfer of the judges of lower

courts are done by the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Law is almost like a post office in this process."

Moudud wondered why the judge moved to the High Court instead of the administrative tribunal. The filing of a writ petition by a district and sessions judge is casting aspersions on the Supreme Court and the chief justice, he added.

He contradicted newspaper reports, saying, "Newspapers reported on the basis of sweeping arguments of lawyers..... I read the writ petition and found nothing as reported by the press."

Regretting deputy opposition leader's raising of the issue in the House on the basis of press reports, Moudud expressed doubt over the merit of the petition.

He said the opposition should not move such an issue, which was sub judice and the court was yet to issue any rule on the government.

Earlier, taking floor on a point of order, Hamid said the alliance government frustrated people and the intimidation of the judiciary totally broke their faith.

"It (the government) will not be allowed to intimidate the judiciary," he said.

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar disallowed the point of order, saying: "There is no substance in it, so it is disallowed."

The trusted turns

FROM PAGE 12

Kidnappers picked up Sabbir, 9, and Sajib, 7, when they came out of their school. Baikalik Cadet Academy at Moinartek in Uttara Monday afternoon. They phoned the family later to demand the ransom.

Locals said two youths aged about 22 went there in a white microbus and roamed in front of the school, parking the vehicle near a drugstore.

"From the description of the witnesses, I am sure Moktar was one of the kidnappers," said Babul.

Wonderkids

FROM PAGE 13

real confidence now, their first competitive win over their neighbours convincing them there is nobody in the tournament to fear.

As so often is the case, what seemed the first choice lineup going into the competition bears little resemblance to that which Luiz Felipe Scolari is likely to name for Thursday's match.

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 abay.

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 Spain 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.

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.

Akhter, uncle of the abducted boys.

"He (Moktar) enticed them to go on a microbus ride and the little boys had no reason to suspect him of wrong since they liked him," Babul said.

Moktar phoned Salma on her mobile phone in the evening when she was worried about the kids at her house in Fayedad. Salma lives in the rented house with her children and her husband Daud Ali Biswas has been living in Japan for last six years.

"I recognised Moktar's voice on the phone, but couldn't believe he could abduct them," said Babul. "As I called him by his name, he gave the phone to someone else."

Babul filed a case with Uttara Police Station the same night, but police are yet to track Moktar and his associates down.

The kidnappers phoned Salma last at 10:00am yesterday to tell her how the ransom money should be paid, but did not mention the place, saying they would phone later.

Babul said Moktar stayed at different houses in Uttara, used to frequent Salma's house and stay overnight.

"He used to take drugs and asked us for money. We knew he took a hefty amount from his parents living in our village (Amtoli in Sreepur upazila in Magura) for going to Malaysia, but spent those on drugs. We were aware of his activities, but could not refuse him as he haails from our village."

"But I think he planned the kidnap of Sabbir and Sajib much earlier," he said.

Moktar asked Salma for photographs of Sabbir and Sajib some days ago, saying some of his friends want to see those, but Salma declined him as she grew suspicious of him.

Uttara police went to Moktar's rented house near Azampur Supermarket only to learn that he left the house two months ago.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (Uttara Zone) Meher Ashraf Ali told The Daily Star yesterday, "Although we know that he (Moktar) is calling from a prepaid GrameenPhone mobile phone, we cannot trace him as the phone company does not have the technology to trace prepaid phone subscribers."

Rejoinder and our reply

FROM PAGE 1

the Finance Division."

It said the Water Management Improvement Project (WMIP) did not seek 416 cars, but nine cars, 68 jeeps, five speedboats, five microbuses, two coasters and 300 motorcycles.

"The number of vehicles proposed under the project is very large and this can cause concern unless it is seen in context. The context is that the Bangladesh Water Development Board has about 500 offices throughout the country and has about 10,000 employees including over 1000 class one officers. According to its TOE, it is entitled to 63 cars, 385 jeeps, 90 pickups, 32 microbuses and 824 motorcycles. It has shortfall in every category of vehicle and most of the vehicles are old and in need of replacement."

"The report states that the project proposes to employ 508 personnel. The actual number is 400, including 250 extension overseers, proposed to be employed during the implementation phase of the project. The manpower requirement was examined and approved by the standing committee of the Finance Division, which is the authorised body for examining manpower requirement of all projects."

The rejoined said: "The figures in the report regarding computers, photocopiers, air conditioners and other office equipment are again based on the earlier PCP and not on the recast PCP prepared after the cost rationalisation exercise undertaken by IMED. The number in the recast PCP are substantially lower, as is that cost, than those quoted in the report, but are still very large and can cause concern unless seen in context."

"As mentioned in the report the project proposal does include construction of a building. This will accommodate at least four agencies

AL MPs demonstrate

FROM PAGE 1

left their seats and shouted protests standing in front of the speaker's dais, saying, "You're the speaker of parliament and you cannot be dictated by a treasury bench member on how to run the House." The treasury bench members at that time were encouraging the budget speech of the Jamaat lawmaker by thumbing the desks.

The five-minute hubbub ended when the speaker assured the opposition bench of allowing Suranjit to complete his speech and requested them to take back their seats.

Suranjit was indeed allowed to resume his speech. But as soon as he started to speak on the muchtalked-about issue of the writ petition filed by the judge and on independence of judges in line with the constitution, the speaker interrupted him. Sircar asked him not to talk on the issues, saying the matter is sub-judice and a point of order on it has already been disposed off.

Ignoring the speaker's obstruction, Suranjit continued his speech, and said it is an unprecedented matter that any judge files a petition asking for independence in his judicial office. The speaker echoed Suranjit's views and said he, too, has never come across any such event.

When Suranjit was countering the law minister's views, the speaker once again barred the AL deputy from talking and said the matter has been disposed off and there is no scope to speak on it. Speaker Sircar asked the AL lawmaker to formulate his point of order.

Suranjit then began to speak on Monday's bomb blast at a rally in Sunamganj where he was the chief guest, and said no democratic government can dodge its responsibility for such incidents. He blamed the government for its failure to unearth motives and criminals behind the series of such sensational crimes under its regime.

The speaker again prevented Suranjit from going on and said, "You're giving speech instead of formulating any point of order."

Suranjit told Speaker Sircar that he wants to give a statement seeking his personal security. But when the latter restrained him from speaking, the AL lawmaker said, "In protest of the speaker's interference, I'll not speak further about my security." Turning to Sircar, he said, "But, I do condemn your role."

"The speaker switched off Suranjit's microphone under the instruction of Salauddin Quader Chowdhury," opposition deputy leader Abdul Hamid said after the demonstration.

Later, talking to The Daily Star, Suranjit refuted the law minister's statement, saying Moudud made an incomplete explanation to the House of the transfer of judges. "As

per the constitution, the president is the person who conducts transfer and promotion of judges with consultation of the Supreme Court," he said, adding, "And, on behalf of the president, the law ministry carries out the task."

Earlier in the session, AL lawmaker AKM Jahangir took floor on a point of order and accused the government of using police to foil AL's rallies. Another AL lawmaker, Shahjahan Khan, alluding to a recent police killing at Motijheel, alleged that cadres of BNP's student wing were doing such murders.

11 JCD men

FROM PAGE 12

critically injured in head hit by a concrete slab thrown from inside the college, has been operated on at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical College Hospital. Physicians said his condition could be known for sure after 72 hours.

The 11 JCD cadres named in the first information report (FIR) filed by Sub-Inspector Ranzan Hossain of Kotwali Police Station are Babu, Kala Masud, Masud, Mamun, Selim, Tareq, Sharif, Robin, Tanveer, Roby and Sabir.

Police sources said all the FIR-named accused are known to have perpetrated in different criminal activities in the area, but no one dared to file any case against them, as they are backed by Jubo Dal high-up.

The Jubo Dal leader was once a top leader of the college unit of JCD and is a close friend of Kajal, the mastermind of the gruesome killing of businessman Shamsul Haq and his son Russel Sheikh.

A few hundred businessmen of Patuatiul meanwhile staged demonstration in the area protesting the attack on them, and demanding arrest and trial of those who extort money regularly and have snatched cash and other valuables from different local shops. The clothes merchants also kept shutters of their shops down in support of their demands.

Locals said more than 300 clothes traders brought out the procession on Patuatiul Road at about 1pm and paraded the area for about two hours. The processionists tried to march towards the Victoria Park, but police barricaded them in front of Jagannath College's second gate on Patuatiul Road to avert further trouble.

Besides, Mohammad Rafiq, owner of Pakjia Saree at Patuatiul, filed a case with Kotwali Police Station early yesterday accusing 20 to 25 unknown people of demanding tolls from his shop and attacking the show room on refusal to pay that.

A number of clothes and clock traders yesterday alleged the BNP-backed criminals used to exact tolls from them in the name of party or college activities. "We always pay them tolls as we know if we refuse they may kill us," said a clothes trader of Patuatiul seeking anonymity.

Rivers run over danger

FROM PAGE 1

while nine other points saw currents flowing above danger mark.

The river Surma at Kanaighat and Sunamganj, Manu at Manu Railway Bridge, Khowai at Ballah and Habiganj, Kangsha at Zariajanjal, Gumti at Campaniganj and Kushiyara at Amalshid, Sheola and Sherpur points are flowing over the expected mark, the FFWC added.

However, the rivers in Brahmaputra, Ganges and South-eastern hill basin are still ran below the red mark, but more rivers might cross the danger level if recent heavy downpour continues for some more days.

The bulletin said the Brahmaputra-Jamuna and Ganges-Padma swelled further at all points while most rivers in the Meghna basin recorded rise. However, the rivers of Southeastern hill basin fluctuated in their water level.

The water level of the Brahmaputra-Jamuna registered rise at Noonkhawa, Chilmari, Bahadurabad, Sarajanj and Aricha, the Dharla marked rise at Kurigram, the Teesta at Dalia and the Old Brahmaputra swelled at Jamalpur and Mymensingh points.

In the Ganges basin, the Ganges-Padma recorded further rise at Pankha, Rajshahi, Harding Bridge, Goalando and Bhagyakul observation centres. The Punarbhaba at Dinajpur, Little Jamuna at Naogaon, Atrai at

Mohadevpur, Gorai at Gorai Railway Bridge and Kumar at Faridpur registered more waters.