

MSC keep CJKS chess crown

CU CORRESPONDENT

Mohammed Sporting Club retained the CJKS-Progoti Insurance First Division Chess League title yesterday.

The winners earned 25 points while Brothers Union became runners-up with 21 and Agrabad Nowjwan grabbed the third position with 19 points.

In the final round Mohammed beat Customs Excise and Vat Club 4-0 and Brothers Union defeated Double Mooring Club 4-0 at the CJKS gymnasium.

International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib and Rashedul Hasan were jointly named best players.

Secretary of Youth and Sports Ministry Syed Sjauddin Ahmed distributed prizes among the winners as chief guest.

Implementation

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change. Either early departure of top batsmen creates pressure on the lower-order forcing it to fight for life or the tail gets too adventurous and wastes a fine start.

It proves that what Whatmore says about the team is right. The Tigers are still miles behind in mental strength.

It would take a long time to change their attitude but at least, the coach should consider strengthening his team's batting first. There is only one option; that is to use Faisal Hossain before he runs out of form. But dropping a batsman to include the left-hander will not solve the problem. It would rather be six batsmen and four bowlers and wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud is no mean batsman.

With new kid Abdur Razzak gaining confidence beside established Tapash Baisya and Mohammad Rafique, Whatmore will have to choose between his 'multi-skilled' players Khaled Mahmud and Mushtaqur Rahman.

But before making plans for the second phase, the team management thought the Tigers deserved a break after 15 days hard training and playing on successive days. The players spent half the day at the holiday resort of Reel Ocean View, an hour's drive from the Lankan capital. They will return to training this morning.

Star Whizz Kid Competition 214. Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes. Competition closes at 8 pm July 23, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards.

1. How many Test matches will India play against Bangladesh in December? 2. Who is Pakistan's new cricket coach? 3. Who won the Bating chess title? 4. Who is the youngest scorer at UEFA Euro 2004? 5. Who scored the first goal at Euro 2004?

Big meets not for India?

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, New Delhi

India is unlikely to host big cricket events such as the World Cup or the Champions' Trophy unless the government relaxes its tax laws, the International Cricket Council (ICC) president said on Sunday.

India, the world's largest market for cricket, was scheduled to host the 2004 Champions' Trophy but the event was shifted to England, where it will be held in September, because the Indian government offers no tax exemption for revenue earned from sports events held in the country.

ICC president Ehsan Mani, visiting India with his chief executive Malcolm Speed, said the country might not be allotted the next edition of the Champions' Trophy in 2006 if the taxation policy did not change.

"We'll definitely seek tax exemptions before we host an ICC event in India," Mani told reporters.

"The ICC is not in a position to

give away a big percentage of its income to any government agency. The ICC cannot afford to shell out 40 to 50 per cent tax for major tournaments like the World Cup or the Champions' Trophy," Mani told, referring to the government's entertainment tax on all international matches.

"The ICC is not a profit-making body. Even the Caribbean governments have waived all taxes for the next World Cup in the West Indies in 2007.

"If the Indian government does not resolve its tax position, they might not get the next Champions' Trophy in 2006.

"It will be difficult to bring cricket to India."

The concern over taxes is one of the main items on the agenda when Mani and Speed meet India's national cricket board later on Sunday.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) says it believes it can convince the government to change its policy.

"We're confident the govern-

ment will listen to us," Jagmohan Dalmiya, president of the BCCI, told reporters after a board working committee meeting.

"If they don't listen, we'll go to the public and tell them the reason for our not being able to host big events. We'll ask the people to support us," he said.

However, the Indian board wants an assurance from the ICC that every third World Cup is held in South Asia since four of the 10 Test-playing countries -- Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka -- come from there.

India last hosted the World Cup, jointly with Pakistan and Sri Lanka, in 1996. The country also co-hosted the 1987 World Cup with Pakistan. Mani said some tax issues from the tournament had still not been sorted out.

India, with millions of cricket-mad viewers, has the largest television audience for the sport in the world. At least five of the six major sponsors for ICC events are India-specific.

Pakistan too hot for HK

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India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh will play each other once in the Super League starting on Wednesday with the top two advancing to the final on August 1.

Pakistan lost two early wickets against Hong Kong, before Younis and Malik set the minnows on a leather hunt.

Younis hit eight fours and three sixes in his maiden one-day century after 103 matches, while Malik's third hundred came with the help of 10 fours and two sixes.

Their partnership was just seven runs short of Pakistan's record stand for the third wicket of 230 by Ijaz Ahmed and Saad Anwar in the Independence Cup tournament in Dhaka in 1998.

The stand was broken after a mix-up which resulted in Malik getting run out by a direct throw from Afzaal Haider.

Younis departed in the penultimate over when he holed out to mid-wicket off Haider. Hong Kong never seriously challenged the imposing target, with only Tabarak Dar and Manoj Cherpuparambil looking comfortable in the middle.

Dar scored 36 off 43 balls with six fours while Cherpuparambil got 30 off 44 with three boundaries and a six.

Malik claimed four wickets to earn the man-of-the-match award. Imran Farhat bagged three wickets. Pakistan made three changes from the side that played against Bangladesh.

They brought in Nazir, Shabbir Ahmed and Naveedul Hassan for Shoaib Akhtar, Danish Kaneria and Yasir Hameed, who was rested after

scoring a century against Bangladesh.

Hong Kong had a young debutant in 16-year-old left-arm spinner Nadeem Ahmed.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Asia Cup Group A match between Pakistan and Hong Kong at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground on Sunday:

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Nazir lbw b Khalid, Farhat c French b Khalid, Malik run out, Younis c Ahmed b Haider, Razaq c Smart b Gul, Moin not out, Sami not out, Extras (lb-3, nb-2, w-8), Total: (For 5 wks in 50 overs) 343, Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-51, 3-274, 4-313, 5-327.

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Sami, Shabbir, Razaq, Naved, Malik, Farhat, Nazir.

Result: Pakistan won by 173 runs. Man-of-the-match: Shoaib Malik. Toss: Pakistan. Umpires: Asoka de Silva (Sri Lanka) and Brian Jerling (South Africa).

Jones back for England

AFP, London

England recalled Glamorgan fast bowler Simon Jones to their 13-man squad Sunday for next week's first Test against the West Indies at Lord's.

The 25-year-old paceman missed the last two Tests of the 3-0 whitewash of New Zealand earlier this season with a foot injury.

But he came through unscathed for MCC in their match against the West Indies earlier this week.

Jones and James Anderson appear to be vying for one spot in the final eleven come the start of Thursday's first Test.

SQUAD

Michael Vaughan (captain), James Anderson, Mark Butcher, Andrew Flintoff, Ashley Giles, Stephen Harmison, Matthew Hoggard, Geraint Jones, Simon Jones, Robert Key, Andrew Strauss, Graham Thorpe, Marcus Trescothick.

ICC concerned

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Azharuddin, 41, was banned for life by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in 2000 after being named in a match-fixing probe by the federal Central Bureau of Investigation.

Azharuddin challenged the decision in a higher court of law after a lower court in his home city of Hyderabad dismissed his appeal to have the life ban lifted.

ACC president Jagmohan Dalmiya, who also heads the BCCI, was expected to react to Mani's comments at a media conference later on Sunday.

Azharuddin, a stylish middle-order batsman, was India's most successful Test captain until Sourav Ganguly overtook him in April this year. He was stranded on 99 Test appearances when he was banned in December 2000.

He scored 6,215 Test runs with 22 centuries, besides 9,378 one-day runs from 334 matches.

Sri Lanka show UAE the door

AFP, Dambulla

Muttiah Muralitharan and Upul Chandana shared seven wickets to bowl Sri Lanka to an emphatic 116-run victory over the United Arab Emirates in the Asia Cup Group B league match here on Saturday.

Leg-spinner Chandana finished with a career-best 4-22 and off-spinner Muralitharan 3-21 as the UAE were bowled out for 123 chasing a 240-run target in the day-night game on a turning pitch at the Rangiri International Stadium.

The UAE bowed out of the tournament after suffering their second successive defeat in the three-team group.

The only consolation for the UAE was an impressive four-wicket effort from left-arm spinner Khuram Khan and a defiant 39 off 124 balls from opener Ravveer Rai.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Asia Cup Group B league match between Sri Lanka and United Arab Emirates at the Rangiri International Stadium on Saturday: SRI LANKA: 239 all out in 50 overs (Gunawardene 73, Jayawardene 26; Khan 4-32, Asad 2-35) UAE:

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Rai b Chandana, Arshad lbw b Zoysa, Usman c S'kara b Zoysa, N'uddin c sub (M'roof) b C'dana, Maqsood c C'dana b M'tharan, Khan b Malinga, Asghar c and b M'tharan, Saeed c C'dana b M'tharan, Tawqir c Dilshan b C'dana, Asad b C'dana, Zia not out, Extras (b-3, lb-4, nb-3, w-14), Total: (All out in 47.5 overs) 123, Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-14, 3-43, 4-71, 5-91, 6-98, 7-98, 8-99, 9-113.

Result: Sri Lanka won by 116 runs. Man-of-the-match: Khuram Khan. Toss: Sri Lanka.

U-17 booters

FROM PAGE 13

Atiqur Rahman, Rubel Ahmed, Mamun Hossain, Arafat Ali, Rony Islam, Abul Kashem, Nasirul Islam, Rajan Miah, Zahid Hossain, SM Rajib, Mithun Chowdhury, Hiraq Juadar, Abid Hossain, Tawfiq Hasan, Mamunul Islam and Al-Amin.

The Russel coach, however, was disappointed with the team's inadequate preparation because of the Chittagong Premier Division which kept many players away.

Sheikh Russel have been pitted in Group A along with Mohammedan Sporting Club, Brothers Union, Jhenidah Mohammedan, Unmochan Club of Bagerhat and Bangladesh Air Force.

SHEIKH RUSSEL KCSQUAD Goalkeepers: Apel, Biplob, Nayan. Defenders: Kamal, Narayan, Burdeep, Nurul Islam. Midfielders: Jalal, Asif, Asad, Maruf, Apu. Forwards: Bulbul, Youness, Milon and Bulbul.

No one off wonder

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However, many feel that Russel will face the music in the competition as the organisers cut the foreign players quota considering the Premier Division League but Gazi is not bothered by the fact.

"We couldn't fielded four foreign players at a time in the Dhaka league. I think our two Moroccan Youness (striker) and Burdeep (defender) will be good enough to shape the squad," he said.

Gazi sounded chirpy about his forwards Milon and Bulbul. "They are talented and score important goals for the team. In fact I have no problem with any department."

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State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman (2nd from L) addresses a press conference organised in connection with the FIBA-Asia Basketball Championship for Young Man, at the NSC Auditorium on Saturday.

Bangladesh Basketball Federation president Maj Gen ZA Khan (2nd from R) and general secretary Selim Chowdhury (R) were present.



State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain inaugurates the final round of the Nitol-Tata National Football League at the Momenshahi Stadium yesterday.

IAAF may strip Johnson's gold

REUTERS, London

Five-time Olympic champion Michael Johnson is likely to lose his final gold medal after the world governing athletics body decided to annul the results of the 4x400 metres relay final at the 2000 Sydney Games.

At a special council meeting in Grosseto, Italy, on Sunday the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) agreed that the United States should lose their title because current world 400 metres champion Jerome Young was not entitled to compete after failing a drugs test in the previous year.

Young ran in two early rounds in Sydney after a USA Track & Field Doping Appeal Panel cleared him to compete despite a positive test for the anabolic steroid nandrolone in 1999. The Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled last month that Young should have been banned for two years.

IAAF spokesman Nick Davies said the council, which was meeting on the final day of the World Junior Championships, had decided that any ban should also have included relays.

"The result of the relay will be annulled," he said.

"We will now inform the IOC (International Olympic Committee)."

The IOC executive board, which is scheduled to meet before the Athens Olympics opening on August 13, must now decide whether the medals should be returned. The US squad, which was anchored by Johnson in the final, also included

Young, the Harrison twins Alvin and Calvin, Antonio Pettigrew and Angelo Taylor.

Nigeria are now the new Olympic champions with Jamaica moving up to second and the Bahamas taking third place.

This year the IAAF also annulled the British team's second place in the 4x100 metres relay at last August's Paris world championship after European champion Dwain Chambers tested positive for the steroid THG (tetrahydrogestrinone).

Johnson, the only man to win the Olympic 200-400 double, has already said he should not lose his medal.

"The bottom line is that when Jerome Young made the Olympic team, he had been cleared to run by USAITF," he told the Dallas Morning News.

USA Track & Field spokesman said Jones would hold a news conference later in the day.

Jones, who also won gold in the 4x400 relay in Sydney, has been under scrutiny by the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) for most of the year although she has never failed a doping test.

Venus, Lindsay in semis

AFP, Stanford

Second seed American Lindsay Davenport outlasted compatriot and lucky loser Mashona Washington 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, to reach the semifinals of the \$85,000 dollar WTA Stanford event.

On Thursday night, Davenport crushed Russian Lioudmila Skavronskaja 6-1, 6-1.

Davenport got the key break in the third set in just the second game, which went to deuce four times before Washington double-faulted on breakpoint.

Azharuddin speaks

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status. MA: There has been a long controversy over Muttiah Muralitharan's action. What do you think about it?

MA: Actually I don't know what to say. Once they cleared him in 1994/5, I really don't know what went wrong. And I think it's really hard to find out whether he is bowling the 'doosra' or his normal off-spin. I really don't want to say anything on that because the ICC has been very contradictory at times about the issue.

DS: What about your match-fixing case? MA: It's still going on and the final hearing is still going on.

DS: Are you still hopeful of making an international comeback? MA: I'll decide it on that day. I will follow what my mind says, I can't say it now.

DS: Who stands the chance to win the Asia Cup? MA: I'll go for India because they are a good side.

MA: I think they will. They have a good set of players. A lot of experienced players are backed by young players who are very talented. And the pipeline is rich back home. The A team and Under-19, 17 teams have been feeding quality cricketers.

DS: How do you compare your team with the current one? MA: I don't believe in comparison. Both sides have different characteristics. There is no way you can draw any lines between them.

DS: The West Indies will host the 2007 World Cup. What are their chances? MA: Except for one or two players, they really have no one to rely on. Their bowling is struggling and they have some good but too many young cricketers in the side. They can be a strong team under Brian Lara but I think every team like the West Indies and Bangladesh are in a building process and it will take time to flourish.

DS: Do you follow Bangladesh cricket? MA: Not very often. I have not seen them play recently but can remember when we met last in the Asia Cup. I hope to see them in Colombo. I know they have improved a lot after getting Test status.

DS: Australia is the best team in the world. Do you think they can go on to win three consecutive World Cups? MA: I think they will. They have a good set of players. A lot of experienced players are backed by young players who are very talented. And the pipeline is rich back home. The A team and Under-19, 17 teams have been feeding quality cricketers.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 36 Halo-rop, 55 Texas flag, 10 American symbol, 11 Memorandum, 20 Adept one, 22 Fred's early partner, 24 Cap flap, 25 One of the gang, 26 Sapporo sash, 27 A welcome sight, 29 'Simpsons' bartender, 30 Pismire, 31 Undeniably, 35 Firstborn, 36 It's under a lot of pressure, 39 Anjou, for one, 40 Division word, 41 Paradise, 43 Bruins' home, 45 'Arsenic and Old', 46 Ostentation, 47 Salfato, 49 Part of H.M.S.

Cryptogram puzzle grid with letters: E A M K B K W V J V J Z Z R M N B K V J Z B M Z X D W A P S R D K K S M T R O D S E T D R R P N B S D R R B O I A V X R B O D E R D K B K.

CRYPTOQUIP Yesterday's Cryptogram: IF THE BEATLES HAD GOTTEN VERY PLUMP, MIGHT THEY HAVE BEEN RENAMED THE FLAB FOUR? Today's Cryptogram Clue: R equals L. The Cryptogram 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.

Lankans pile up

FROM PAGE 13

impressive 49. He added 63 for the opening wicket with Saman Jayantha (34) and 65 for the second with skipper Marvan Atapattu (50).

Gunawardene, who scored 73 against the United Arab Emirates in the previous game on Saturday, missed his second successive half-century as he was run out following a mix-up with his captain.

Atapattu also fell in the similar fashion, but not before putting his team in a strong position with a half-century.

Sangakkara and Jayawardene then helped their team set a stiff target for the Indians with their hard and clean hitting on a slow turning pitch.

Jayawardene was more aggressive, once stepping out to hoist off-spinner Virender Sehwag for a huge six over long-on. He raced his half-century off just 49 balls with the help of one six and three fours.

Sangakkara hit one six and three fours in his 54-ball knock. Fast bowlers Laxmipathy Balaji and Irfan Pathan were the only wicket-takers in a mediocre Indian bowling performance.

India and Sri Lanka have already qualified for the super league after defeating the UAE in the three-team group. The winners of this match will play the group.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Sri Lankan innings against India in the Asia Cup Group-B league match at the Rangiri International Stadium here on Sunday:

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Jayantha c Patel b Balaji, Gunawardene run out, Atapattu run out, Sangakkara c Ganguly b Pathan, Jayawardene not out, Dilshan not out, Extras (b-2, lb-9, nb-4, w-12), Total: (For four wks in 50 overs) 282, Fall of wickets: 1-63, 2-128, 3-156, 4-272.

Jones not in 200 final

REUTERS, Sacramento

Olympic champion Marion Jones has pulled out of the 200 metres final at the US Trials.

A person close to Jones said the triple gold medalist from the 2000 Olympics wanted to concentrate on the long jump at next month's Athens Games after already booking her place in that event.

"There is no injury," the source told Reuters on Saturday.

"She decided to pull out of the 200 because she wants to focus on the long jump in Athens and be a member of the US 4x100 relay team."

The source also said Jones would be available to run the 100 metres, which she won in Sydney, if a spot became available.

She failed to qualify for the event after finishing fifth in the Olympic trials last week.

USA Track & Field spokesman said Jones would hold a news conference later in the day.

Jones, who also won gold in the 4x400 relay in Sydney, has been under scrutiny by the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) for most of the year although she has never failed a doping test.

All-German Mercedes Cup final

REUTERS/AFP, Los Angeles

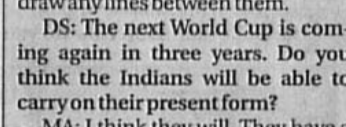
The Mercedes-Benz Cup final will be an all-German affair after Tommy Haas and Nicolas Pietrangeli won through their semifinals in Los Angeles on Saturday.

Former world number two Haas, chasing his second title of the season after winning on clay in Houston in April, overcame Frenchman Cyril Saulnier 7-5, 7-5.

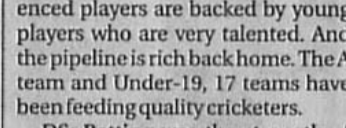
Kiefer, who has not won a singles title for four years, defeated American wildcard Jeff Morrison 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Managing director of Rapport Bangladesh Limited M Mosharraf Hossain delivering the special guest's speech during the prize giving ceremony of the AccessTel and AP Open squash tournament at the Dhaka Club recently.

Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Hasan Mashud Chowdhury (sitting 3rd from R) attended the function as the chief guest.



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