

Premier kabadi

UNB, Dhaka

Sonali Bank Recreation Club registered a 76-32 victory over Jatrabari Faruq Smriti Sangsad in the 9th Premier Division Kabadi League at the Outer Stadium kabadi court yesterday.

The winners commanded the first half 45-6. The day's other match between Azad SC and Dilkusha SC ended in a 45-45 draw in the regulation period. However, Azad SC led the first half by 24-20 points.

Today's matches: Jatrabari Faruq Smriti Sangsad vs Bangladesh Air Force (4:00pm) and Bangladesh Army vs Sonali Bank Recreation Club (5:00 pm).

Proteas seek Gibbs' cover

REUTERS, Johannesburg

South Africa have called for an extra player to fly out with the rest of the squad to Sri Lanka on Monday as cover for the injured Herschelle Gibbs.

Opening batsman Gibbs twisted his ankle in a training camp at the Pretoria University High Performance Centre this week.

South Africa spokesman Gerald de Kock said on Friday that the United Cricket Board had agreed to add another player to the 14-man squad for the two Tests.

Two players -- debutant middle-order batsman JP Duminy and all-rounder Alan Dawson -- are due to join the squad on August 13 for the five limited-overs internationals. De Kock said the extra player will be named on Saturday.

South Africa coach Eric Simons said: "There is a degree of concern that Herschelle will not have recovered in time for the first Test and we have asked for a replacement, even though Gibbs will accompany us".

Dav's post-mortem

FROM PAGE 13 because we have proved nothing here. People watching Bangladesh in last three or four years have made nice comments but when you are involved on day-to-day basis, you can become impatient. I am sometimes a bit impatient. I need to reassess the situation again.

The Bangladesh team will return to train tomorrow for their last match against Pakistan on July 29.



A scene from yesterday's Nitol-Tata National Football League encounter between Sheikh Russel KC and Mohammadan Jhenidah at the Momenshahi Stadium.

C'paul helps WI avoid follow-on

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Stephen Harmison while on 98. But he kept his nerve and a hard-run two off Hoggard took Chanderpaul, in his 77th match, to his 11th Test hundred and second against England off 192 balls with 14 fours.

For all his limp-like, unflamboyant style at the crease, the diminutive Chanderpaul who celebrated his achievement by dropping to his knees and kissing the pitch.

Meanwhile, the 6ft 5in Banks was hit on the helmet second ball by Hoggard.

But he showed his class and guts by getting off the mark 11 balls into his innings with a classical off-driven four against the same bowler.

He then twice repeated the stroke in confident style against Harmison, whose 23 wickets in the Caribbean were the cornerstone of England's 3-0 Test series victory in April.

Banks's first five scoring strokes all went for four before a quick single off Simon Jones took him to 21.

But he should have been out for that score when Graham Thorpe, at mid-on, dropped a straightforward catch off a miscued drive against Giles. Chanderpaul's single off Jones then saw West Indies avoid follow-on.

Harmison, nearly as tall as Banks, almost pulled off an incredible one-handed catch at long-off off Giles to get rid of the batsman.

But the 22-year-old Banks's confidence was unaffected and two balls later he struck Giles for a superb straight six.

Earlier, debutant Dwayne Bravo, 30 not out overnight, extended his maiden Test innings to an accomplished 44.

West Indies started the day on 208 for four, 360 behind, after Chanderpaul (41 not out) and Bravo had batted calmly following a Giles-induced slump to 139 for four.

And it needed an extraordinary delivery from Jones to break the stand.

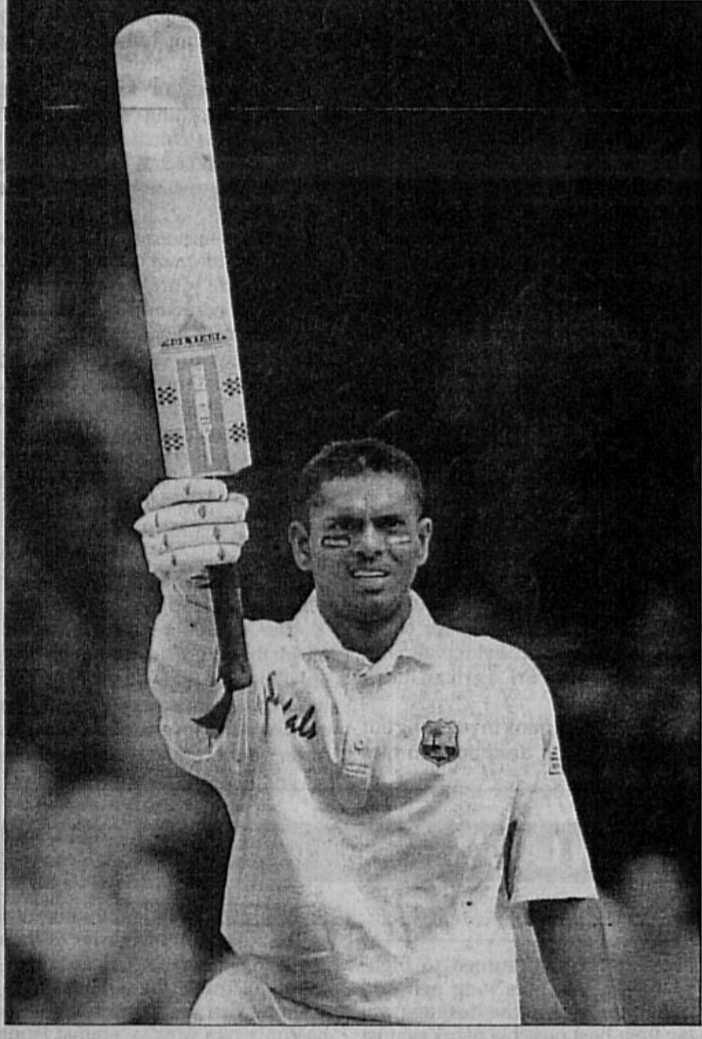
Jones, without warning, made

the ball fly alarmingly off a good length and there was little the 20-year-old Bravo could do other than watch Geraint Jones take a catch high above his head.

Bravo's impressive 44 saw him face 105 balls with four fours, the novice sharing a much-needed stand of 125 with Chanderpaul.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at tea on the third day of the first Test between England and the West Indies at Lord's on Saturday.

ENGLAND: First innings 568 (Key 221, Strauss 137, Vaughan 103; Collins 4-113, Bravo 3-74)
WEST INDIES: First innings (over-night 208-4)
Gyle lbw b Giles 66
Smith b Giles 45
Sarwan lbw b Hoggard 1
Lara c G Jones b Giles 11
Chanderpaul not out 123
Bravo c G Jones b S Jones 44
Jacobs c G Jones b Hoggard 32
Banks not out 45
Extras: (b-12, lb-11, w-5, nb-3) 31
Total: (For 6 wickets in 107 overs) 398
Fall of wickets: 1-118, 2-119, 3-127, 4-139, 5-264.
To bat: Collins, Best, Edwards
Bowler O M R W
Hoggard 28 7 89 2
Harmison 21 6 72 0
Jones 17 3 70 1
Giles 36 3 122 3
Flintoff 5 1 22 0
Toss: West Indies
Umpires: Rudi Koertzen (RSA), Daryl Harper (AUS)
TV umpire: Nigel Llong (ENG)
Match referee: Ranjan Madugalle (SRI)



West Indies batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul raises his bat after scoring his century on the third day of the first Test against England at Lord's stadium.

Collymore in for Rampaul

BBC ONLINE, undated

West Indies have called up Corey Collymore in place of injured fast bowler Ravi Rampaul.

The 19-year-old Rampaul is returning home from the tour to England because of a shin problem.

Collymore will add some much needed experience to their team attack, having toured England in 2000 and played for Warwickshire last summer.

He has taken 31 wickets in 11 Tests, the last four against England in the Caribbean earlier this year.

It proved an unhappy series for the team, who were beaten 3-0, and Collymore personally as he only managed three wickets at a cost of 85 runs each.

But that was not a true reflection of his ability, as shown by figures of 7-57 in a Test against Sri Lanka in July 2003.

Rampaul, meanwhile, must continue to wait for his first opportunity in the Test side.

He has not played since the NatWest Series game against New Zealand in Cardiff on July 3.

Magura handball

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Econo Handball League will start today at the Magura Stadium.

Twenty teams, split into four groups, are expected to take part in the league.

Saminuddin Smriti Sangsad will take on Eagles Club in the opening match.

Russel ride

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mental in setting up the second goal for the Moroccan forward with a defense-slicing pass that Younes drove past the Jhenidah custodian.

Nigerian striker Figo Charles pulled one goal back for Jhenidah Mohammadan when he scored from the spot after referee awarded a penalty at the stroke of the breather.

Younes came close to scoring a hat-trick early in the second half, but his powerful left-footer from outside the box missed the mark by a couple of inches.

It was Jhenidah Mohammadan's successive defeat.

The second-leg starts in Rangpur on July 28 with Abahani Kira Chakra taking on Panchagarh Brothers Union Club.
SHEIKH RUSSEL KC: Apel, Biplab, Narayan, Burdeep, Karmal, Mintoo (Sharif), Asif, Asadur, Jamal (Maroof), Bulbul and Younes.

JHENIDAIDAH MOHAMMEDAN: Al Amin (Momin), Nurul Amin, Obaidur, Arman, Pintoo (Ripon), Amirul, Taju, Akram, Bashir (Ujjal), Figo Charles and Abdullah.
Referee: R Alalm.

Klinsmann wants the job

Football

REUTERS, Frankfurt

Former Germany captain Juergen Klinsmann has said he would want to play the leading role in building up this team, Klinsmann told a news conference in Frankfurt on Saturday.

Klinsmann, who arrived in Germany from the United States

exactly what his role would be.

"I have said in my discussions (with German football officials) that it's important for me to build up a team that has trust in itself and I would want to play the leading role in building up this team," Klinsmann told a news conference in Frankfurt on Saturday.

Klinsmann, who arrived in Germany from the United States

where he has been living since ending his playing career in 1998, believes the team needs new methods and ideas.

The 39-year-old is widely expected to take over from Rudi Voeller, who resigned as national coach after his side failed to survive the group stage of Euro 2004.

The former Bayern Munich and Tottenham Hotspur striker started talking to German Football Association (DFB) officials on Tuesday in the United States.

The talks will now continue in Germany and a final announcement is expected early next week.

Klinsmann, who scored 47 goals in 108 games for Germany and lifted the World Cup in 1990, will probably get help in his bid to steer the team out of crisis and prepare them for the 2006 World Cup on home soil.

"If I were to play this role as team coach then it's clear I would do this in cooperation with a very experienced trainer," Klinsmann said.

DFB officials have also held talks with Holger Osieck, coach Franz Beckenbauer's assistant during Germany's 1990 World Cup-winning campaign, and former Germany striker Oliver Bierhoff.

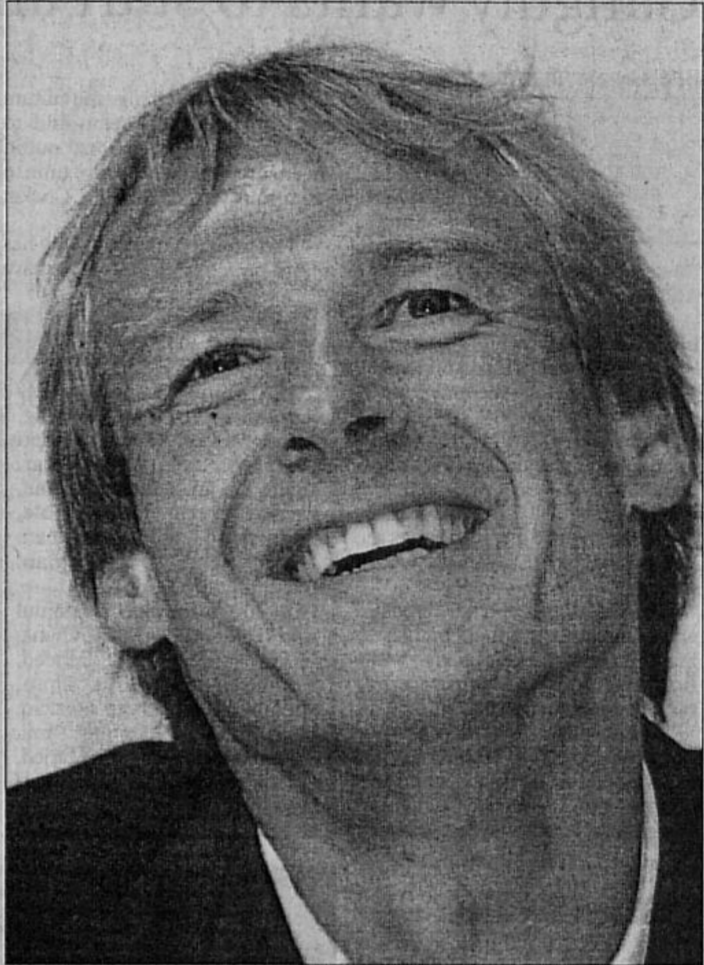
The most likely scenario is Klinsmann being appointed team chief, Osieck assistant coach and Bierhoff manager.

Klinsmann, who has been involved in sports marketing since he stopped playing, has a training licence but no coaching experience.

Osieck, who not only assisted Beckenbauer but also coached Canada and worked for FIFA, could provide technical expertise while the friendly and approachable Bierhoff would be perfect for public relations.

Former Bayern Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld and Otto Rehhagel, who guided Greece to their Euro 2004 triumph, were offered the Germany job but both turned it down.

With a friendly against Austria next month and no time to waste before the 2006 World Cup, the DFB needs to find a solution quickly.



Former German striker Juergen Klinsmann addresses the media after announcing his decision to take over the national side as coach in Frankfurt yesterday.

Big Phil's Everton claim

Football

SPORTINGLIFE, Lisbon

Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari has revealed he was approached by Everton to take the manager's job during the summer.

Scolari, who led his homeland Brazil to World Cup glory two years ago, did not mention the Merseysiders by name but his remarks to Portuguese paper A Bola left little room for doubt that it was the Goodison Park club that had contacted him.

Scolari, asked about the job offers he had before agreeing to extend his deal with Portugal until the 2006 World Cup, told A Bola: "I had offers from Italy, England and Spain.

"I can even give an example. The team that finished 17th in the Premiership (Everton) contacted me but what can I do when a club invites me and tells me that the transfer budget is 15 million euros (nearly 10 million pounds).

"How can you compete with the big clubs when this will give me no more than two good players?"

Scolari has also revealed how Benfica tried to entice him to the

Estadio da Luz in the days leading up to Euro 2004.

The Lisbon giants wanted Scolari to head their challenge for honours in the coming season, and discreet talks were held between the Brazilian and officials from the Superliga club.

Benfica's approach was revealed by Scolari in an interview with Portuguese sports newspaper 'A Bola'.

He said: "I always said to whoever was interested -- there were other offers too -- that I could only accept any offer after Euro 2004.

"For that reason I was keen not to make public any information on the discussions with Benfica. But that's not what happened."

Just before Euro 2004 got underway it was reported by the Portuguese media that Scolari had reached an agreement to join Benfica.

Angered by the story, Scolari called a snap press conference to deny the speculation and furiously accused the media of trying to create a rift between the north of the country and the south.

Tradition has it that Portugal coaches are accused of favouring either the Lisbon clubs or Porto teams, and Scolari had already faced criticism that he was pro-Lisbon.

But a spokesman for Everton dismissed Scolari's claim. Ian Ross told BBC Sport: "This is absolute nonsense."

Scolari had studied Benfica's



LUIZ FELIPE SCOLARI

More than just

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people liked watching those things. But it did not me. So, before the tournament, I set a target of staying at the wicket for the first 15 overs. I scored 12 against Pakistan but batted for 11 overs. I still try to hold one end. My goal is to charge later in the innings but yesterday, I was dismissed the moment I decided to go for some big shots.

Q: You have opened in 17 innings out of 34. Do you feel comfortable in that position?

MA: Most of the times I have opened or batted at number three in one-dayers. I have batted in the middle for only three or four games. So, opening the innings is no big deal.

Q: Which shot delighted you most?

MA: I paddle-swept Maharroof to bring up my fifty and the next ball, I drove him through the covers. I also

enjoyed the over boundary against him.

Q: You have dropped three catches in three matches. Are you taking it easy on the field?

MA: Not at all, but I'm making no excuses as well. Yesterday, I could try to take it on first bounce if I had run slowly. But I went for that. I just missed it.

Q: You seem to enjoy taking on the Sri Lankans.

MA: When I was entering the field, Jayawardena and Sangakkara were asking me whether Bangladesh could play full 50 overs or not. This sparked my fire.

DS: What are your plans for the last game against Pakistan?

MA: I am not thinking much about cricket after the game. When I will take the bat in hand again, I will concentrate on the next three hours. If I can bat for three and half-hours, I will be a hero.

Pressure on Pakistan

FROM PAGE 13

Something they let India off the hook as Rahul Dravid (76 not out) and Mohammad Kaif (71 not out) steered the tourists to a five-wicket triumph, and three days later went down by 40 runs in the decider.

Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq has insisted revenge is not a factor as far as his players are concerned.

But there is no doubt that short of lifting the trophy, beating India would be a satisfactory consolation prize as far as many of their supporters are concerned.

"It's big game for not only Pakistan but for me as well because any good show against India redeems your past poor showings," said paceman Shoaib Akhtar.

"You are keyed up because you are playing against the best in the world -- it's one more chance for me to do my best against the best."

Pakistan's only injury concern is opener Imran Farhat who is struggling with a left ankle injury and is rated only "50-50" according to Woolmer.

India have a selection dilemma concerning the make-up of their bowling attack.

Left-arm seamer Zaheer Khan has declared himself fit and could return to action in place of Ashish Nehra.

"Zaheer Khan is definitely part of the selection, but we have to see how he is bowling because Nehra bowled very well in the last game," said captain Sourav Ganguly.

They also face a choice between spinners Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh.

Kumble played in the first round matches against the United Arab Emirates and Sri Lanka but Harbhajan marked his first international match for seven months with figures of 1-20 from 10 overs against Bangladesh on Wednesday.

Batsman VVS Laxman, meanwhile, is expected to play despite missing practice on Saturday because of a knee problem.

"He got hit in the net by a ball before the Sri Lanka game and he has been hit in the same place again -- it is a bruise not an injury," Ganguly said.

"We did not want to risk him in the nets today so gave him a break so that he will be fit for tomorrow."

A small crowd is expected for tomorrow's match but Ganguly insists the pressure will be just as intense.

"India-Pakistan is India-Pakistan wherever you play. The results are watched by millions," he said. "The intensity and pressure of the game will be the same."

The Indian skipper expects Pakistan to prove hard to beat.

"The past does not matter in any tournament in sport. It will be a new day and whoever plays well will win the game."

"Whoever wins this game will probably go to the final. It is an important game for both sides," he said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CROSSWORD Grid (1-11, 12-17, 18-22, 23-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-47, 48-50, 51-53, 54-56)

CRYPTOQUIP
U C W L B ' S R K H L M R S T U C I U P F D
R V H R S I . U R V H R A I W L B S
L H U F U L F I L A K S S W K
T L I L C M R U D Z I
Yesterday's Cryptiquip: I BRIEFLY ATTEMPTED OPENING A SCISSOR-MANUFACTURING FACTORY, BUT IT DIDN'T CUT IT.
Today's Cryptiquip Clue: S equals R
The Cryptiquip 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.

Shearer relishes pairing

Football

AFP, Newcastle

Newcastle skipper Alan Shearer believes his final season in football will be enriched by the arrival of Dutch striker Patrick Kluivert at St James' Park.

The 33-year-old former England striker will hang up his boots at the end of the season and is delighted at the prospect of being able to form an intimidating twin strike force with Kluivert.

"Patrick Kluivert is really a big-name signing for us and he has a fantastic record as far as scoring

goals is concerned," Shearer said.

"Not only that, but he will come here next week with a lot of big club experience behind him with Ajax, AC Milan and Barcelona, as well as all his caps for Holland.

"All in all, this should be a very good signing for us."

There had been speculation that Kluivert's arrival could lead to dressing room tensions given Shearer's famous reluctance to sit on the bench.

It is also reported that Celtic manager Martin O'Neill is lining up a sensational swoop for Newcastle legend.

O'Neill wants the Toon idol, 33, to fill Henrik Larsson's boots after his departure to Barcelona.

Talks have begun as Shearer frets

over his future after Newcastle landed Kluivert.

Craig Bellamy, Shola Ameobi and youngster Michael Chopra are also in the competition for first team forward spots.

But it seems inevitable that manager Sir Bobby Robson will first give Shearer and Kluivert the opportunity to prove they are not too similar to be an effective pairing.

"It's sometimes difficult when you have two main frontline strikers who are both firing from the same pistons and looking for goals," Shearer admitted.

"But having said that, I feel that myself and Patrick should be able to form a good partnership if we are given the chance to play together."

"I have played alongside a lot of great players in my time and Patrick Kluivert is up there with the greats when you look at his goal-scoring record."

"Certainly, without any shadow of doubt, the potential is there but I don't want to be disrespectful to the other strikers that we have at St James' Park by going on too much about what myself and Patrick Kluivert may or may not achieve together."

"We now have four very good experienced strikers in Patrick, Craig Bellamy, Shola Ameobi and myself, plus young Michael Chopra, and that's what is needed these days."

Kluivert is expected back on Tyneside next week, although he is unlikely to play any part in Wednesday's friendly at Ipswich.

However, he could well make his bow at the weekend when United lock horns with Rangers, Feyenoord and Sporting Lisbon in the Newcastle-Gateshead Cup tournament.



Action from yesterday's ANAS Group 25th National Hockey Championship encounter between Mymensingh and Bangladesh Army at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.