

Visitors win opener in Pepsi v'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Kathmandu Metropolitan City team got off to a fine start in the Pepsi Victory Day Volleyball Tournament defeating Bangladesh Police 3-2 yesterday.

In an evenly contested opening match at the Shaheed Suhrawardi National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur, the visitors who boast three national players, won 25-22, 23-25, 21-21, 18-25 and 15-12.

Earlier, Advisor to the Commerce Ministry Barkatullah Bulu declared the six-team meet open. Bangladesh Volleyball Federation president Nasiruddin Pintu and Executive Director of sponsors Transcom Beverages Limited Golam Quddus Chowdhury were also present.

Two more chess meets in shortly

SPORTS REPORTER

Leone Chess Club will organise the Leone International Rating Chess tournament from December 19 at the Chess Federation hall room.

Only rated players can enrol their names by December 17 at the Bangladesh Chess Federation office.

The nine-round Swiss League competition will offer cash awards worth Tk 30,000.

Besides, on the Victory Day, the Chess Players Association of Bangladesh will organise the Blitz Simultaneous Chess Tournament at the same venue.

Zia goes

FROM PAGE 13 with Nguyen, FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed beat Saifuddin Lavlu, Rahul Sangma of India beat Mahabuddin Ahmed Robin, FM Abu Sufian Shakil beat Shamim Akter Liza, Tamony Partanayk of India beat Arman Monir, Sohel Chowdhury beat Monir Hossain, FM Rezaul Haque beat Souvik Charaborty of India, Debaraj Chatterjee beat Rabul Islam and Prasenjit Dutta got walk-over against Aminul Islam Palash.

The nine-round Swiss League meet concludes today.

Indians shop

FROM PAGE 13 visited Elephant Road, Gulshan and the Bashundhara City, the biggest shopping mall of the country, where they had snacks in the afternoon at former Bangladesh cricket captain Naimur Rahman's eatery.

Most of the senior members, however, decided to relax. Sourav spent the day with his wife and daughter who arrived here the previous night, Sachin Tendulkar was hardly seen and Rahul Dravid went to the Zia International Airport to receive his wife, sources said.

The Bangladesh team enjoyed total rest.

Ctg gets set

FROM PAGE 13 referring to ICC code of conduct.

CJCS already fixed the rates of tickets that would be available at the stadium counters in the outer sides of the stadium from.

The daily ticket prices for the Test and ODI match are as follows:

Test	ODI
East Gallery Tk30	Tk100
West Gallery Tk50	Tk150
Pavilion Tk200	Tk500

The six hospitality boxes of the stadium would be offered for Tk 50 thousand each for both the matches.

Saqib ends Agrani run

FROM PAGE 13

But Abahani's four-prong spin attack got on top as the Agrani middle order lost their way. Despite Pakistani batsman Iqbal Sheikh's 54 off 64 balls featuring four fours and two sixes, they were all out for 188 in 46 overs.

Off spinner Naimur was the pick of the Abahani attack with 3-42 while fellow spinners Rajan, Umar and Ahsanullah Hassan shared six wickets evenly.

MSC-AZIZ

Tareq Aziz was on fire as he took six wickets for 26 runs from 7.4 overs as City Club easily defended their 210-9 at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Mohammedan, who lost their previous match to archrivals Abahani, never got a start and were skittled out for 165 in 43.4 overs.

Man-of-the-match Tareq, left out of the national team for the Test series against India, removed openers Mukhtar Siddiki (0) and Shahriar Hossain (1) in his first two overs. One-down Shamsur Rahman was retired hurt but Kenyan star Steve Tikolo tried to halt an impending disaster during a third wicket stand of 51 with Mazharul Haque.

But Tareq came back to destroy the middle order as Mohammedan slumped to 56-3 losing three wickets including that of out of sorts captain Minhajul Abedin for a three-ball duck in the span of two runs.

Shevchenko rules

RONALDINO, to be announced on December 20.

SHEVA FACTS

Factfile on 2004 European Footballer of the Year Andriy Shevchenko:-

Date of birth: 29/09/1976

Place of birth: Dvirkivshchyna (ex-Soviet Union, Ukraine)

Nationality: Ukrainian

Height: 1.83m

Weight: 73kg

Position: striker

Club career: Dynamo Kiev (1994-1999), AC Milan (since 1999)

Caps: 58

Goals for country: 26

Honours:

Champions League: winner (2003), top scorer (1999)

European Super-cup: winner (2003)

Italian League title (2004)

Italian Cup winner (2003)

Italian league top scorer: (2000, 2004)

Ukraine League title: (1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999)

Ukraine Cup winner (1996, 1998, 1999)

Club statistics:

168 matches in Ukraine with

Dynamo Kiev, 60 goals

164 matches in Italy with AC Milan, 102 goals

Result: South Africa A won by 7 wickets.

England's bad warm-up

AFP, Potchefstroom

England went down to a convincing seven-wicket defeat against South Africa A here Monday in their final warm-up match before this week's first Test, losing by seven wickets in a three-day first-class fixture played in hot weather and interrupted by rain and lightning.

South Africa A needed just 30 overs to overhaul England's lead of 134, with the visitors all out earlier in their second innings for a meagre 190.

Chasing a moderate target, the home-team got off to a poor start when Martin van Jaarsveld -- top scorer in the first innings -- was caught behind by Geraint Jones off paceman Mathew Hoggard for a duck.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the third and final day of the tour match between South Africa A and England at Sedgars Park on Monday:

ENGLAND: First innings 225 (Strauss 50; Langeveld 54-48)

SOUTH AFRICA A: First innings 281 (Van Jaarsveld 71; SJones 3-49, Flintoff 3-50)

ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 154-7)

Trescothick lbw b Willoughby 2

Strauss c Duminy b Mbhalati 0

Butcher lbw b Willoughby 0

Vaughan c Boucher b Willoughby 100

Thorp lbw b Willoughby 11

Flintoff lbw Morkel 21

G Jones c Boucher b Mbhalati 26

Giles c Van Jaarsveld b Thomas 2

Hoggard c Prince b Langeveldt 3

S Jones c Prince b Langeveldt 5

Harmison not out 13

Extras: (lb-2, w-1, nb-4) 7

Total: (All out in 53.1 overs) 190

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-3, 3-3, 4-29, 5-64, 6-109, 7-125, 8-164, 9-176

Bowler O M R W

Willoughby 14 2 63 4

Mbhalati 12 3 38 2

Langeveldt 12.1 5 25 2

Morkel 6 0 31 1

Thomas 6 1 15 1

Ontong 3 0 16 0

SA A: Second innings

Puttikc c Jones b SJones 45

Van Jaarsveld c Jones b Hoggard 0

Ontong c Giles b Harmison 23

Prince not out 23

Duminy not out 25

Extras: (lb-12, w-3, nb-4) 19

Total: (For 3 wkt/s in 30 overs) 135

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-72, 3-76

Did not bat: Boucher, Morkel, Thomas, Langeveldt, Mbhalati, Willoughby

Bowler O M R W

Hoggard 4 0 21 1

Harmison 12 1 51 1

Flintoff 5 1 10 0

Giles 1 0 36 1

S Jones 8 0 36 1

Result: South Africa A won by 7 wickets.

GP Nat'l Pair Bridge from Dec 16

PRESS RELEASE

The GrameenPhone National Pair Bridge Championship-2004 for Khondkar Fazle Sobhan Trophy will be held from December 16-17 at Hotel Razmoni Isha Kha in the city.

Registration of teams will start at 9:00am at the venue and the game will start at 10:00am.

Interested pairs are requested to register their names as per schedule.

The two-day meet organised by Bangladesh Bridge Federation and sponsored by GrameenPhone.

Souness given one-match touchline ban

AFP, London

Newcastle manager Graeme Souness has been given a one-match touchline ban and fined 10,000 pounds (14,500 euros) after being sent from the dugout during his side's defeat at Fulham last month.

Souness was dismissed for protesting when Alan Shearer was not awarded a penalty in the first half of Newcastle's 4-1 loss at St James' Park on November 7.

Souness pleaded guilty to a charge of improper conduct by a Football Association disciplinary commission.

The ban means Souness will not be in the dugout for the January 3 fixture at West Brom.

Goals guaranteed

Football

AFP, Rome

Spanish giants Barcelona.

The following season Shevchenko scored eight goals to help the Ukrainians into the semi-finals of the competition and his outstanding performances saw him come third in the poll for 1999 FIFA World Player of the Year award.

He won five championships and two Ukrainian Cups with Dynamo before packing his bags for Italy.

Shevchenko is the talisman of the Ukraine national team, but despite playing in many qualifying matches he is yet to play in a major final tournament for his country.

He married girlfriend Kristen Pazik in July and became a father in October when his son Jordan was born.

On Sunday, Shevchenko scored

twice in AC Milan's 6-0 home win over Fiorentina that left the defending champions in second place, four points behind leaders Juventus.

Shevchenko beat off competition from Brazilian midfielder Deco, a Champions League winner with Porto last season, and Barcelona's Brazilian star Ronaldinho to win the prestigious award.

Known as the Ballon D'Or (Golden Ball), the prize was created by the French football magazine France Football in 1956. Voting is undertaken by a group of European football journalists.

Juventus' Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved won the award last year.

RESULTS

AFP, Paris

European Footballer of the Year results for 2004:

1. Andrei Shevchenko (UKR) AC Milan	175 points
2. Deco (POR) FC Porto then Barcelona	139
3. Ronaldinho (BRA) Barcelona	133
4. Thierry Henry (FRA) Arsenal	80
5. Theodoros Zagorakis (GRE) AEK Athens then Bologna	44
6. Adriano (BRA) Inter Milan	27
7. Pavel Nedved (CZE) Juventus	23
8. Wayne Rooney (ENG) Everton then Manchester United	22
9. Ricardo Carvalho (POR) FC Porto then Chelsea	18
10. Ruud van Nistelrooy (NED) Manchester United	