

DCP, Sapient win again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

DCP and Sapient Club were winners of the day in the Second Division Cricket League matches at the Gaibandha Stadium yesterday. Batting first, DCP scored 108 in 24.4 overs before bowling out GKSP for 88 runs, winning by 20 runs while in the second match at the same venue, Sapient piled 162 in 20 overs and later bowled out Gaibandha Town Club for 139 runs, winning by 23 runs.

India busy after WC

PTI, Vadodara

The Indian cricketers have a hectic schedule after the World Cup in March-April, with a short tour of Bangladesh setting off a gruelling programme right upto the summer of 2008.

The tour to eastern neighbours in May would involve two Tests and three one-dayers and would be followed by a full tour of England, according to cricket board secretary Niranjjan Shah.

In between these two visits, the Indian team would take part in Afro-Asia Cup to be hosted in Chennai and Bangalore from the second week of June.

The tour of England, from July 7 to September 8, would include three Tests and seven one-dayers against the hosts plus a one-off limited overs game against Scotland in August.

"India would go to South Africa straightaway for the World Twenty20 Championship and immediately afterwards would host Australia in a seven-match limited overs series in October," Shah told reporters here.

Then follows the full home series against archrivals Pakistan, comprising three Tests and five ODIs, he said.

"We will go to Australia for a four-Test series and take part in a one-day tri-series with Sri Lanka as the third team. We will return on March 7.

"Then we are hosting a three-Test series against South Africa," Shah said.

Later, the team departs for Pakistan for the Asia Cup.

Ctg Abahani

FROM PAGE 17 arrival in 1980, have a junior team in the first division apart from training two age-level teams in the port city, which would be their pipeline of players in the future.

They have already contracted 16 footballers including Ashrafu Kader Manju, Khokon Das and Nurul Islam -- all known faces in the Dhaka Premiership -- and in connection with India and Nepal for foreign recruits.

PARTIAL SQUAD: Kamal, Khokon, Manash, Dhiman, Sohel, Jitu, Borhan, Towhid, Manju.

JERSEYS: Sky-blue/yellow (home) and yellow/sky-blue (away).

COACHES: Swapan Kumar Das and Mohammed Ali (assistant).

Victoria

FROM PAGE 17

SCORES IN BRIEF

MUHAMMEDAN: 203-8 in 40 overs (Rashedul 59, Zunaed 52, Imtiaz 0, Nadim 27, Faisal 18, Ariful 1, Sahagir 9, Hasibul 3, Sunny 1 not out, Monirul 1 not out, extras 32; Rasel 2-35, Taposh 3-43, Nasir 1-34, Nazrul 1-12).

BROTHERS: 167 all out in 38.2 overs (Shahriar 19, Imran 66, Bashir 6, Hannan 4, Anisur 20, Nasir 2, Nazrul 7, Lablur 1, Taposh 9, Rasel 1, Shahful 3 not out, extras 19; Monjurul 2-22, Ariful 2-42, Sunny 3-26, Imtiaz 2-22).

Result: Mohammedan won by 36 runs.

VICTORIA: 251-7 in 50 overs (Imrul 74, Faruque 43, Mahbub 39, Jaffar 31, Nazmul 0, Riyad 18 not out, Mabud 1, Hasanuzzaman 20, extras 25; Tareq 1-46, Kamrul 3-47, Wasim 1-36, Sajjadul 2-42).

CITY: 159 all out in 35.3 overs (Salahuddin 9, Anwar 53, Wasim 19, Mustazir 8, Sajjadul 8, Mazharul 19, Khadem 25, Sonnet 13, Fariduddin 0, Tareq 1, Kamrul 0 not out, extras 4; Shahnewaz 2-37, Palash 1-43, Sabbir 2-37, Nazmul 2-25, Jaffar 3-17).

Result: Victoria won by 92 runs.

A muted

FROM PAGE 20 known as the "la liga de las estrellas" (the league of the stars).

"Having Ronie in the league was a massive thing given his quality and everything that he has achieved," fellow Brazilian Ronaldinho said at the end of last week when it was clear Ronaldo was going to leave Spain.

"Spanish football is losing a lot with his departure," said another Brazilian Marcos Assuncao. "He is the best in the world and Madrid will miss him."

Ronaldo scored 104 goals for Real in his four and a half years in Madrid and his goals were crucial in firing the club to their last major trophy, the league title in 2003.

This season he made the starting line-up for just three of Real's 20 league games, scoring just once.



Ulsan Hyundai Mipo Dockyard FC head coach Choi Soon-ho (second L) addressing a press briefing at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

Ulsan Hyundai's goodwill visit



SPORTS REPORTER

Ulsan Hyundai Mipo Dockyard FC of South Korea arrived in Dhaka on Tuesday to play an exhibition football match against Bangladesh Olympic squad (Under-23).

The match will be played tomorrow at 5pm at the Bangabandhu National Stadium with free entry for spectators.

There were doubts whether the visitors are the great club from Korean city Ulsan, who played Dhaka Mohammedian in the mid 90s in the Asian Cup Winners Cup home and away matches. But club officials confirmed that they are linked as 'brothers' but belong to the amateur N-League.

Roh Heung-sub, head of delegation, told at a press conference

yesterday that they are one of the three clubs owned by Hyundai.

"We have come here to extend the friendly relationship that Korea has with Bangladesh. We know that the game is popular here and hope to have a successful goodwill tour," said Heung-sub, who was also the general secretary of Korean FA.

The N-League (or National League, K2 League) is an amateur league, below the level of the K-League (Professional Football League) in Korea, consisting of ten clubs. The season is comprised of two sections with the 10 member clubs playing each other once in each section.

The two section winners then play off home and away at the end of the season to decide the league champion. In the event of the same team winning both sections, then that team is pronounced champion without the need for a play off.

The N-League is currently a

closed league, with no promotion to the K-League and no relegation. Plans are afoot however for promotion and relegation to be in place between the N-League and the K-League in near future with a possible promotion/relegation system involving a rumoured K3 division sometime in the future.

"We have won two N-League titles and will play in the K-League in 2008," claimed the visiting team leader.

Coach Choi Soon-ho informed that they are on tour for preparation for the coming season.

"We beat Indonesian Olympic team 1-0 and drew 2-2 with Bandung. We will go to China from here before our new season kicks off in April," Choi said.

"Playing in different countries and meeting new players are very important. We exchange technique and norms," said captain Jung Jaesuk.

Canary Wharf camp Phase 2 from Feb 5

SPORTS REPORTER

The second phase of the juvenile footballers' (12-14 year) four-year training camp under the auspices of the Canary Wharf, UK will begin on February 5 at BKSP.

The selected 35 booters have been requested to report to chief coordinator Fazlur Rahman Babul and head coach of the project Golam Sarwar Tipu on the same date before 5pm at the sports institute in Savar.

The players, who were selected from 153 youngsters who had attended the first-phase camp following countrywide trials, will have to bring their gear, text books, school syllabus and teachers' suggestions for uninterrupted study.

The organisers will take care of their education during the six-week camp.

They will attend two more similar camps with month-long gaps in between.

Canary Wharf officials, an official of the Beckham Academy of UK and British coach Anthony Ferguson who was present during the final selection procedures before the first-phase camp, will tour Dhaka in the last week of February to inspect the progress.

The players: Rabbi, Rahat, Sujoy (Khulna), Nayeeb, Sajedur (Dinajpur), Fahim (Sylhet), Taj (Feni), Aminul, Sajedul (Rajshahi), Loknath, Robin, Apu, Sajib, Jintu, Nadim, Anik, Nazmul (Narayanganj), Pial (Kushtia), Mehdi, Osman (Chapainawabganj), Suron (Srimangal), Farhduzzaman (Satkhira), Sifat (Chandpur), Saikat, Nadim, Milon, Sohel, Saad, Sachit, Samir, Faruk, Shihab and Anik (Dhaka).

Abahani deny Biman clean sweep

SPORTS REPORTER

Hamlet and Saleha emerged champions in the men's and women's singles competitions respectively in the Federation Cup invitational table tennis tournament which concluded yesterday.

Saleha was startled in the first set but bounced back to beat her Abahani teammate Rumi 11-13, 11-17, 11-9, 7-11, 11-6, 13-11 in the final at the NSC Woodenfloor Gymnasium.

In a thrilling all-Biman men's final, Hamlet edged Pappu 6-11, 11-9, 1-11, 11-7, 12-10, 9-11, 11-8.

Biman's Rocky won the boys' singles title while the men's and boys' team events both went to the national airliners.

Abahani, however, denied them a clean sweep by clinching the women's team title.

India win series

FROM PAGE 17 The all-rounder did not get a chance to bat and finished with one for 43 from seven overs with the ball.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fourth and final one-day international between India and the West Indies in Vadodara on Wednesday:

INDIA				
Uthappa c Gayle b Powell	28			
Ganguly st Ramdin b Gayle	68			
Dravid c Simmons b Samuels	78			
Tendulkar not out	100			
Dhoni not out	40			
Extras: (lb-14, nb-4, w-9)	27			
Total: (For three wkts in 50 overs)	341			
Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-148, 3-266.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Powell	8	0	68	1
Dwayne	8	0	49	0
Emrit	9	0	65	0
Samuels	9	0	51	1
Gayle	8	0	34	1
Bradshaw	8	0	60	0

WEST INDIES				
Chanderpaul c Harbhajan b Zaheer	14			
Gayle b Agarkar	6			
Devon c Yuvraj b Pathan	24			
Samuels c Pathan b Kumble	55			
Lara run out	3			
Simmons run out	4			
Ramdin c Kumble b Harbhajan	40			
Dwayne Smith lbw b Kumble	0			
Emrit c Uthappa b Agarkar	13			
Bradshaw not out	14			
Powell c sub (Raina) b Yuvraj	1			
Extras: (lb-3, w-4)	7			
Total: (All out in 41.4 overs)	181			
Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-32, 3-65, 4-72, 5-83, 6-148, 7-153, 8-155, 9-180.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Agarkar	9	0	40	2
Zaheer	6	1	21	1
Pathan	7	0	43	1
Harbhajan	8	1	30	1
Kumble	7	1	27	2
Yuvraj	4.4	0	17	1

Result: India won by 160 runs and clinched the four-match series 3-1.

Man-of-the-match and series: Sachin Tendulkar.

Toss: West Indies

Umpires: Billy Bowden (NZL) and Amish Saheba (IND)

Divided

FROM PAGE 20 with Carlo Ancelotti's team in Rome for Wednesday's Italian Cup semifinal, second leg match against Roma, it is likely to be on Thursday or Friday.

I know my game: Sachin



AFP, Vadodara

Sachin Tendulkar returned to his match-winning ways on Wednesday with a warning that he was desperate to see India lift the World Cup in April.

Tendulkar, the most successful batsman in one-day history, struck his 41st century to steer India to a resounding 160-run win over the West Indies in the fourth and final match here.

"It is always great to contribute to an Indian win," said the 33-year-old after the hosts piled up 341-3 from their 50 overs and then bowled the West Indies out for 181 in 41.4 overs.

Tendulkar was nominated both man of the match and the series, which began with critics gunning for his head after he had managed just 248 runs in his previous 10 matches at 24.80.

"This was much needed," he

said. "I was not converting decent scores into big ones, so to do it in a decisive match like this was very satisfying."

"I have always tried my hardest. I was not worried by what others said because I have been in this game long enough to know what I have to do."

Tendulkar, who is into his 18th year on the international circuit, is the longest-serving contemporary player in the world, having made his Test debut against Pakistan in November 1989.

Besides a world record 14,728 one-day runs and 41 centuries, Tendulkar has also scored 10,668 Test runs, with 35 hundreds.

Tendulkar has set his sights on playing, and doing well, in his fifth World Cup when cricket's show-piece event opens in the Caribbean on March 13.

"Every cricketer dreams of doing well at the World Cup and I am no different," he said. "I hope I can help India win this one."

Tendulkar showed on

Wednesday he was in prime touch for the World Cup.

He reached the landmark off the last ball of the innings to finish with an unbeaten 100 off 76 balls following a thrilling exhibition of power hitting by the hosts in the decisive match.

Indian captain Rahul Dravid and senior pro Sourav Ganguly joined the run feast with half-centuries after West Indian captain Brian Lara elected to field in good batting conditions.

Mahendra Dhoni hit an unbeaten 40 off 20 balls to help Tendulkar put on a blistering 75 runs from the last 40 deliveries.

Tendulkar, who was on 89 at the end of the 48th over, rotated the strike and also helped himself to two boundaries to reach his first one-day century since making 141 against the West Indies in Malaysia in September.

India will play another four-match series against Sri Lanka at home next month before heading to the Caribbean on March 1.



PHOTO: STAR

Abahani players pose with table tennis legend Zobera Rahman Leenu after they clinched the Federation Cup Invitational Table Tennis tournament at the NSC Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday.

NZ see off England



AFP, Perth

New Zealand all but sealed a berth in the triangular series finals with a comfortable 58-run win over England in the one-day international at the WACA Ground here Tuesday.

After the Black Caps made the third highest limited-overs score at the WACA and their best total against England with 318 for seven, England made 260 for eight in reply.

The result means New Zealand are five points ahead of England on the tri-series table, with four points available for a win, and both sides having two games left.

The English, with only one win all tour and just eight in their last 33 one-day internationals, need to win their last two games against Australia and New Zealand to have any realistic hope of reaching the finals.

But England captain Andrew Flintoff, who hasn't tasted victory as skipper in five Tests and four one-day internationals on tour, said they had not given up on their finals chances.

"We have to concentrate on winning two," he said.

"We have a game against Australia on Friday, we've not beaten them yet and it would be nice to start this Friday."

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming said his side was disappointed not to secure a bonus point against England, but confident of reaching the tri-series finals.

"They've been enhanced pretty well today (Tuesday)," he said of New Zealand's finals prospects.

"It would have been nice to win the game emphatically and get a bonus point from it ... we should be good enough to get to the finals."

England started well enough in their long chase, with Ed Joyce

promoted to open the batting and making an impressive 66.

However, spinner Daniel Vettori (2-40) broke the English resistance.

Andrew Strauss's horror tour continued when the left-hander, dropped to number four, charged down the pitch at Vettori, miscued an attempt to kick the ball away and was stumped by Brendon McCullum for 12.

The departure of Flintoff, bowled around the legs by Vettori, ended their hopes as they slumped to 162 for six.

The final winning margin flattered the English greatly, with Paul Nixon (49) and Liam Plunkett (25 not out) scoring cheap runs as New Zealand dropped their intensity.

Earlier, both Lou Vincent and Ross Taylor made half-centuries in the New Zealand innings, while Jacob Oram again weighed in with some more late fireworks.

But it was another calamitous display in the field from the embattled English.

They conceded a staggering 37 sundries, including 22 wides and three no-balls, which also gave the Black Caps plenty of extra deliveries to face.

England's fielding was substandard, with two dropped catches and several boundaries coming as a result of fielding blunders, the main culprit being Liam Plunkett.

As well as his poor fielding, the pace bowler also went for 72 runs from his 10 overs, including three no-balls and five wides, to complete a temble day at the office.

After Vincent made 76 and Taylor 71, Oram continued his incredible form since returning from a hamstring in making an unbeaten 54.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the triangular one-day series match between New Zealand and England at the WACA Ground in

Perth on Tuesday:				
NEW ZEALAND				
Vincent c Dalrymple b Plunkett	76			
Fleming lbw b Plunkett	15			
Fulton c Nixon b Plunkett	15			
Taylor c Panesar b Collingwood	71			
McMillan st Nixon b Panesar	11			
Oram not out	54			
McCullum c Strauss b Panesar	19			
Franklin c Plunkett b Tremlett	9			
Vettori not out	11			
Extras: (lb-12, w-22, nb-3)	37			
Total: (For seven wkts in 50 overs)	318			
Fall of wickets: 1-32, 2-53, 3-190, 4-213, 5-219, 6-246, 7-268.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Tremlett	9	0	54	3
Plunkett	10	0	72	1
Flintoff	10	0	66	0
Panesar	10	2	35	2
Dalrymple	5	0	43	0
Collingwood	6	0	36	1

ENGLAND				
Joyce run out (Vincent)	66			
Loyce c Fleming b Franklin	15			
Bell c Fleming b Patel	31			
Strauss st McCullum b Vettori	12			
Collingwood c Fleming b McMillan	18			
Flintoff b Vettori	13			
Dalrymple c Franklin b McMillan	14			
Nixon c Oram b Bond	49			
Plunkett not out	25			
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, w-8, nb-6)	17			
Total: (For eight wkts in 50 overs)	260			
Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-99, 3-123, 4-136, 5-156, 6-162, 7-184, 8-260.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Franklin	8	1	45	1
Bond	10	0	58	1
Oram	5	0	23	0
Patel	10	0	53	1
Vettori	10	0	40	2
McMillan	7	1	38	2

Result: New Zealand won by 58 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Lou Vincent.

Toss: New Zealand

Umpires: Steve Davis (AUS), Asad Rauf (PAK)



PHOTO: COURTESY

Chittagong Area Commander of Bangladesh Army and senior vice-president of Bhatary Golf and Country Club Major General Sina Ibne Zamali and managing director of National Credit and Commerce Bank Nurul Amin are seen with the winners of the First NCC Bank Golf Tournament at Bhatary recently.