

3RD JFA CUP Hattricks for Rajus

SPORTS REPORTER

The 3rd JFA Cup Under-15 football championship is getting better by the day after a timid start as the third day of the qualifying round saw a flurry of hattricks and goal feast at four venues.

Mohammed Raju slammed four goals in Dhaka's 6-0 thrashing of Munshiganj in the second round match at Sharifpur while the Dhaka midfielder's namesake, Parag Moni Raju, also slotted four to inspire Bagerhat maul Patuakhali by an identical margin at Khulna also in the second round.

The other treble came in Sirajganj where three-goal Arif spearheaded the hosts into the second round with a 6-0 win over Jaipurhat with Hafizul netting twice.

A second-half strike by Mamanur Rashid took BKSP into the zonal semifinals with a solitary goal win over Faridpur at Manikganj while Chuadanga and Jamalpur also advanced to the last four in their respective zones winning in ties.

At Mymensingh, ten-man Jamalpur blanked Brahmanbaria 4-0 in the penalty shootout after a goalless draw in regulation time while Chuadanga edged Jhenaidah 5-4 after a 1-1 draw at Narail.

In first round games, a brace by Sohel Rana helped hosts Natore see off Thakurgaon with a 3-0 win while a goal in each half by Mostafiz and Murad gave Chittagong a 2-0 victory against Rangamati at Comilla.

Rain ruins third ODI

AFF, Port Elizabeth

Mohammad Yousuf scored a stylish 79 and Pakistan's tail gave their team a late boost before rain washed out the third one-day international against South Africa at St George's Park Friday.

Pakistan made 245 for eight in a rain-interrupted innings which finished with one ball remaining.

South Africa were unable to start their reply because of rain.

The teams will go to the fourth match in Cape Town Sunday with the five-match series tied at one match each.

The tourists were 217 for eight when rain stopped play after 47 overs. Azhar Mahmood and Navedul Hasan added another 28 when play resumed.

The innings ended bizarrely.

With rain falling, the umpires kept the players on the field with Charl Langeveldt bowling what should have been the last delivery of the innings.

Slipped from his hand, Navedul swung at it and sliced over the slips for six as no ball was signalled because the ball was too high.

With the rain having become heavy and ground staff running on with covers, the umpires took the players off.

M'ganj hockey begins

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Five teams won on the opening day of the Munshiganj six-a-side hockey league which began yesterday.

Green Welfare, Shamabesh Club, Bandhan Community Club, Friends Club and Paisa High School won their respective matches.

Zila Sports Officer Hamidul Islam inaugurated the tournament with Bangladesh Hockey Federation treasurer Abdul Rashid Shikder who was also present.

Rifles, Police start fine

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Rifles and Police got off to bright beginnings in the Premier Division Kabaddi league which got underway at the Kabaddi court yesterday.

Police trounced Jurain Janata Club 53-25 with three Jonas while Rifles crushed Air Force 66-25 with six goals.

Earlier, eminent sports journalist Mohammad Kamruzzaman and tournament committee chairman Abdul Haq inaugurated the league in front of a large crowd.

EUGS sports held

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Rokeya House were crowned champions of the annual sports competition of the Engineers University Girls School (EUGS) at the BUET ground on February 8.

The winners claimed 26 points while Rabeya and Teresa House were declared joint runners-up with 19 points each.

Vice-Chancellor of BUET Dr. AMM Shafullah and dean of civil engineering Dr. Mohammad Hossain Ali were present in the prize giving ceremony.



Sri Lankan players, led by captain Mahela Jayawardane (second from left), jog during a practice session at the Madhavrao Scindia Stadium in Rajkot on Saturday.

Can England keep it up?

Second CB Series final today

Cricket

AFF, Melbourne

Friday's upset win over Australia in the first Commonwealth Bank tri-series final has a resurgent England firmly believing they are poised to salvage something from the wreck of their Australian tour.

Against all odds, the English continued their remarkable late tour form reversal when they secured a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three finals on the back of Paul Collingwood's brilliant batting and fielding.

The second game is in Sydney on Sunday and an English victory at the Sydney Cricket Ground would be an upbeat end to a disastrous tour previously marked by poor form, injury woes and shattering defeats.

Having been pilloried for their performance for most of their time in Australia and told they might as well give up and go home a fortnight ago, England soared in confidence thanks to Friday's win, their second over the home side in a row.

The English were 14-1 outsiders at the start of the tri-series and probably drifted even further after scoring 120 and 110 in successive losses in Adelaide, but more than three months after arriving on Australian soil, they finally have the home side under pressure and a trophy within reach.

Collingwood said the English could almost taste a memorable success.

"We need two more good performances, or hopefully one more," he said.

"That would be a great way to end a disappointing tour."

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