

BKSP, Noakhali fight for wins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathira

Sabbir struck a hattrick as BKSP beat Narsingdi 4-2 in the final round of Western Union National Youth Football Championship at the Sathkira stadium yesterday.

Although Mobarak started the scoring with a third minute strike for Narsingdi, Sabbir equalised after five minutes as the sides went into the lemon break at 1-1.

Sabbir scored twice more in the second half, in the 46th and 65th minute, but in between Faisal equalised for Narsingdi but because of Sabbir's triple strike, BKSP were in lead before Rabiul put the icing on the cake with a strike, a minute before the referee blew the whistle.

In the other match of the day, Noakhali came back from a goal down to win 2-1 against Khulna. Ziaul and Nurul struck one each for Noakhali while Krishna of Khulna scored the opener in the fifth minute.

Ticket fever

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the 2005 Champions League final in Istanbul when Liverpool famously came back from 0-3 down at half-time to defeat the Italians on penalties.

Around 50,000 football fans are expected to travel to Athens for the final, but only about 35,000 of them will have tickets, Greek police say.

Coupled with the fact that the busy tourist season has already started in Athens and local hotels are booked to capacity, this raises the problem of around 15,000 fans milling around the capital without access to the stadium.

The public order ministry on Tuesday said efforts were underway to minimise the movement of English fans, who frequently cause trouble when abroad.

"Efforts are being made with the Hellenic Chamber of Hotels to place television sets in areas where fans will be staying to facilitate them, and to avoid (fan) movement," the public order ministry said in a statement.

The chief of Greek police on Tuesday briefed British ambassador Simon Gass on preparations for the game, the ministry said.

Fans with tickets will be escorted by police directly to the Olympic Stadium, while the remainder will be permitted to circulate freely around Athens but will have their movements shadowed by riot police, a police source said after an emergency meeting in April between the public order ministry and Athens municipal officials.

Around 15,000 police officers will be mobilised for the event, in an operation rarely seen since Athens hosted the 2004 Olympics.

From Pele

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Bekham to the United States.

Zidane retired after the French lost to Italy in a penalty shootout. But Christian Dior's first male model certainly has the name recognition and rock star persona to draw more attention to the game stateside.

"If he comes, he comes this year," Francesc said. "The next year, I think it's impossible. But I know Zinedine. For me, he doesn't want to play anymore."

For his part, Beckham insists he still wants to play. The former England captain seems intent on proving he has not lost a step, while telling anyone who will listen about his desire to grow the game in the United States.

That approach has many recalling another era.

"It's almost the same," Pele said. "There are a lot of similarities."

A new start

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During his absence for the last one year Bangladesh team changed a lot following their one-day success and Enamul admitted that he found a new team from he had left after playing the first Test against Australia in April last year.

"It's a different team because everybody is confident. I know it will be a difficult task to do something in the Test series against India but I got the impression from the team that they have the self-confidence," he added.

The young man was shy in response as to how he personally looks at the tag of a Test bowler.



Did U Know?
Charles Bannerman of Australia faced the first ball bowled in Test cricket history from England's Alfred Shaw.



PHOTO: AFP

England opener Alastair Cook pulls a delivery from West Indies paceman Jerome Taylor's on the opening day of the first Test at Lord's yesterday.

Cook steers England

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while still on nought.

But Shah got off the mark before off-driving Corey Collymore for four to bring up England's hundred.

However, on six, he was squared up by a fine delivery that veered up the Lord's slope and was caught by Smith, now at third slip. Powell had struck again and England, not for the first time, had lost two wickets in quick succession.

Pietersen counter-attacked with a cover-driven four off Powell.

England, sent in by new West Indies captain Ramaresh Sarwan on a pitch freshened by several days of rain, made a cautious start under overcast skies against Powell and Taylor.

Despite the helpful conditions the new ball duo didn't trouble the batsmen too often, the duo not helped by the fact only West Indies batsmen took the field in their lone warm-up match, against Somerset, where two of the three days were washed out. Cook, who had been struggling to time the ball, cashed in when he cut a short ball from

ENGLAND: First innings

Strauss c Smith b Powell	33
Cook not out	82
Shah c Smith b Powell	6
Pietersen not out	26
Extras: (lb, 9, w, 1, nb-1)	11
Total: (For 2 wkts in 43 overs)	158
Fall of wickets: 1-88, 2-103.	

To bat: Collingwood, Bell, Prior, Piinkett, Hoggard, Harmison, Panesar.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Powell	17	4	49	2
Taylor	6	0	35	0
Collymore	14	4	48	0
Bravo	6	3	17	0

WEST INDIES: Chris Gayle, Daren Ganga, Devon Smith, Ramaresh Sarwan (capt), Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Runako Morton, Dwayne Bravo, Denesh Ramdin (wk), Daren Powell, Jerome Taylor, Corey Collymore

Toss: West Indies

Umpires: Rudi Koertzen (RSA) and Asad Rauf (PAK)

TV umpires: Nigel Llong (ENG)

Match referee: Alan Hurst (AUS)

LOCAL SNIPS

SPORTS REPORTER

Reazul Smriti Sangha, Combined Sports Club, Sports World won their respective matches by straight sets in the AB Bank Dhaka Metropolitan Table Tennis League at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday.

Sports World floored Bangladesh Boys 3-0 while Combined Sports crushed Housing and Building Research and Reazul Smriti took Young Pegasus apart.

In the other match, Lalbagh TT Academy beat Molar Club 3-1.

Sports World and Palolic Group lead the two groups with 20 and 22 points respectively.

DIV 2 HOCKEY

Barnak Samaj crushed Tejgaon Agragami 5-0 in the Green Delta Insurance Metropolis Second Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

Lemon Hossain struck twice while Kawser Hossain, Abu Sayeed and Prosenjit Roy scored one goal each for the winners.

In the day's other match, Udyoti defeated East End 2-1.

INTER-DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL

Final round of the twelfth inter-district volleyball competition will begin at the Volleyball stadium today.

Khulna, Gazipur, Kushtia, Jessor are in group A while Dhaka, Dinajpur and Naogaon make up Group B. The event will be sponsored by NCC Bank.

Managing director of NCC Bank Mohammad Nurul Amin will inaugurate the tournament as the chief guest.

Bond best in New Zealand

APP, Wellington

Fast bowler Shane Bond has been named as New Zealand's cricket player of the year after returning to dominating form for the recent World Cup.

Bond bagged 38 one-day international wickets during the 2006-07 season, including a hattrick against Australia. During the World Cup in the Caribbean, he took 16 wickets at an average of 16.38.

The 31-year-old speedster also took 10 wickets in two Tests against Sri Lanka during the season.

He took home two awards -- player of the year and one-day bowler of the year -- at a ceremony in Auckland late Wednesday.

Bond has been plagued by injury since making his international debut in the 2001-02 season but has taken 74 Test wickets at an average of 22.10 and 12 one-day wickets at 19.32.

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He wants his children, who have been living in England, to grow up in Perth, where the family has not lived since 2000.

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