

Mobarak carries Narsingdi

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Mobarak struck twice as Narsingdi outplayed Jhenidah 3-1 in the final phase of the Western Union National Youth Football Championship at Sathkira Stadium yesterday.

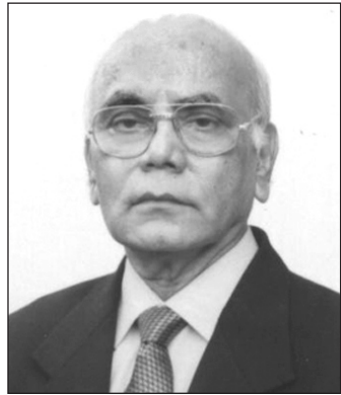
Mobarak scored twice, in the 20th and 67th minutes, while Arif netted the other for the winners in the 25th minute. Mashur Rahman scored the consolation goal for the losers in the 54th minute.

In another match at the same venue, Khulna played out a 1-1 draw with Rajshahi. After a barren first half, Rabiul scored for Khulna in the 46th minute while Raju restored parity for Rajshahi in the 69th minute.

Zafar's death anniversary today

SPORTS REPORTER

The third death anniversary of the former secretary general of Bangladesh Olympic Association



ZAFAR IMAM

Zafar Imam will be observed in a befitting manner today.

Sports organisers and relatives will place floral wreaths at his grave in the Banani graveyard in the morning.

A Milad Mahfil and Quran Khwani will be held at the Mosque next to the Paltan ground after Asr prayer.

The pioneer sport organiser from Rajshahi died of cardiac arrest at the National Heart Institute on May 20, 2004.

Kaka seeks

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others to follow," Kaka said.

"He is a true leader, on and off the pitch, and carries it off with a certain style. It's not something you learn, it's something you are born with."

Kaka identified Steven Gerrard as Liverpool's danger man.

"Gerrard is a leader; he runs, he defends, he shoots and knows how to lift his team," Kaka said.

The compliment was reciprocated by Gerrard.

"You have to look at Kaka as one of their most dangerous players because he scores a lot of goals and has a lot of assists," said the England midfielder.

"You have to show a lot of respect to him, but their whole team is covered with world class players and players who have won the World Cup."

Kaka has played most of the season as a withdrawn striker rather than an out-and-out midfielder, and his speed and eye for goal have propelled Milan into the final.

He scored twice at Old Trafford in the 3-2 semifinal, first leg defeat to Manchester United, and he was on target once more in the 3-0 win at the San Siro.

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson was full of admiration for Kaka after seeing his team's defence brutally exposed by the creative Brazilian.

"Kaka is a wonderful player who floats from side to side behind the strikers," Ferguson said.

"He has wonderful movement, a long stride and is deceptive with his pace."

Kaka is two goals away from equaling Ruud van Nistelrooy's Champions League record of 12 goals.

"It would be incredible if I could score twice in the final and become (joint) all-time top scorer, but the

most important thing is that we lift the trophy," he said.

"It will be wonderful to face Liverpool again. It's a great chance to win a match we should have won two years ago."

"I don't look at it as revenge, more an opportunity to make up for that day."



Did U Know?

England's John Briggs, playing in his 25th Test, became the first bowler to reach the landmark of 100 wickets.



PHOTO: AFP

England debutant Matt Prior (R) celebrates his century with Ian Bell, who also reached his hundred later, during the first Test against West Indies at Lord's on Friday.

Danone Nations Cup start today

UNB, Dhaka

The first phase matches of Grameen Danone Nations Cup Under 10-12 Football Championship begin today in six venues across the country.

Thirty-six district sports associations -- six in each venue, divided into two groups, will compete in the round robin league.

Tournament committee chairman Azfar-uz-Zaman Sohrab disclosed the details at a press conference at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

The six venue champions will qualify for the final phase to be held from May 25 in Dhaka, also on round robin basis.

Later, the final phase champions will represent Bangladesh in the 8th Danone Nations Cup to be held in France from June 29.

Each participating teams in the first phase will receive Tk 12,600 to meet expenses on food, accommodation and conveyance while the six venue hosts will receive Tk 10,000 each. The budget of the local meet has been estimated at Tk 10 lakh, which will be met entirely by the sponsors.

BFF president SA Sultan and general secretary Anwarul Huq Helal, Grameen Danone managing director Emanuel Marchant and industrial director Guy Gavelle were also present at the press conference.

TEAMS AND VENUES

Sherpur venue -- Sherpur, Tangail, Netrakona, Mymensingh, Narayanganj and Jamalpur;

Jhenidah venue -- Jhenidah, Magura, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Natore and Joypurhat; Chapainawabganj venue -- Chapainawabganj, Rangpur, Naogaon, Gaibandha, Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat;

Khulna venue -- Barguna, Barisal, Patuakhali, Khulna, Bagerhat and Sathkira; Chittagong venue -- Chittagong, Bandarban, Chandpur, Feni, Laxmipur and Munshiganj;

Manikganj venue -- Manikganj, Dhaka, Faridpur, Rajbari, Shariatpur and Madaripur.

Afridi blows SL away

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tipped the situation back to a delicate balance, but it was the next over from Bandara, the 39th of the innings, that sealed it.

Between the straight boundary and point, Afridi scythed, drove, slapped and miscued two fours and four successive sixes, in the process bringing up his fifty off 22 balls. Remarkably, he has made five quicker ones himself. It constituted the second-most expensive over in ODI history, Pathans around the ground went wild, the game all but over. A couple more Afridi tons and three overs later, it was over.

Until then, little had separated the teams. Pakistan's nerve-ridden batting had mirrored that of Sri Lanka's. After Malik had lost his first toss, he would have looked back at the total he conceded with equal parts pleasure and regret: his bowlers had done well early, but faced with an accomplished 54-ball 69 from Farvez Maharoof, they allowed Sri Lanka to post what appeared a total with a chance.

Malik had felt emboldened enough to spring a surprise of sorts, opening with Mohammad Sami instead of Umar Gul. It was a loaded statement, coming good on his promise of more aggression, while also injecting confidence into an ever-needy soul.

Sami wavered, however, so it was fortunate that Mohammad Asif was present at the other end. As if he'd never been away of course. Out came immediately the probing line and nasty lengths and an exemplary eight-over spell, of 16 runs and the wicket of Jayasuriya was about par for his course.

Malik marshalled away from extra cover, unafraid to tamper the field and possibly realising the folly of his opening gambit, brought on Gul. Having gone for 19 already, Gul bore fruit with two wickets in eight balls.

Pakistan also had their fielding to thank: Salman Butt's smart outfield work saw the back of Upul

Monty gets WI in trouble

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for 33 including a spell of three wickets for 13 runs in 36 balls.

West Indies, in their first major match since the retirement of former captain and star batsman Brian Lara, had now slumped to 187 for five.

Plunkett had taken the first wicket to fall when he bowled Chris Gayle for 30 with a delivery that swung in and clipped the left-hander's off-stump after he'd played down the wrong line.

Strauss, confident England had enough runs on the board, declared before play began Saturday in the opening match of a four-Test series.

That meant Matt Prior, the first England wicketkeeper to score a century on his Test debut, finished on 126 not out off just 128 balls with 19 boundaries.

Ian Bell was 109 not out having shared an unbroken stand of 190 in 212 balls with Prior.

They were two of four England centuries in the innings, with Alastair Cook (105) and Paul Collingwood (111) also reaching three figures.

Prior and Bell's hundreds on Friday meant four England batsmen had scored centuries in the same Test innings for the first time since 1938.

SCOREBOARD

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

ENGLAND: First innings (over-night 553-5): Strauss c Smith b Powell 33 Cook b Bravo b Taylor 105 Shah c Smith b Powell 6 Pietersen c Smith b Collingwood 26 Collingwood b Bravo 111 Bell not out 109 Prior not out 126 Extras: (lb-8, lb-17, w-10, nb-2) 37 Total: (For 5 wks dec in 142 overs) 553 Fall of wickets: 1-88, 2-103, 3-162, 4-219, 5-363.

Did not bat: Plunkett, Hoggard, Harmison, Panesar.

Bowler O M R W

Powell 37 9 113 2 Taylor 24 4 114 1 Collingwood 32 5 110 1 Bravo 32 8 106 1 Gayle 10 0 48 0 Morton 1 0 4 0 Sarwan 6 0 33 0

WEST INDIES: First innings

Gayle b Plunkett 30 Gangula b b Panesar 49 Smith b Panesar 21 Sarwan lbw b Panesar 35 Chanderpaul not out 26 Morton lbw b Panesar 14 Bravo not out 14 Extras: (lb-12, w-14, nb-2) 28 Total: (For 5 wks in 59 overs) 217 Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-83, 3-151, 4-165, 5-187.

To bat: Ramdin, Powell, Taylor, Collingwood.

Bowler O M R W Hoggard 10.1 3 29 0 Harmison 14 1 52 0 Plunkett 16 2 68 1 Collingwood 1.5 0 4 0 Panesar 17 2 52 4

Empty Abahani

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players are batsman Jahurul Islam, Nazimuddin and Mohammad Shahjada, who is down with high fever.

As a result, seven of their first team players are out of action for these crucial games of the super league, one of which they have already lost to Biman by seven wickets on Saturday.

The Abahani authorities have also alleged, in the letter, that a certain club is being given the liberty of using players who were earlier banned, to field a full-strength side by lifting those bans. They however did not mention the name of the club.

The league continues from May 21.

Dilshan c Gul b Razzaq 14 Jayawardene run out 20 Maharooof not out 69 Bandara b Gul 6 Malinga b Sami 3 Amerasinghe not out 1 Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-3, nb-4) 11 Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs) 235 Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-34, 3-61, 4-72, 5-103, 6-141, 7-177, 8-203, 9-215.

Bowler O M R W Asif 10 1 26 1 Sami 10 0 49 1 Gul 10 0 61 3 Razzaq 10 0 52 1 Afridi not out 73 Afridi 10 0 43 0

PAKISTAN

Butt run out 34 Nazir run out 38 Hameed lbw b Bandara 10 Yousuf b Maharoof 12 Malik run out 11 Akmal not out 51 Afridi not out 73 Extras: (lb-1, w-4, nb-5) 10 Total: (For 5 wickets in 42 overs) 239

Did not bat: Abdul Razzaq, Mohammad Sami, Mohammad Asif, Umar Gul.

Bowler O M R W Maharoof 8 1 47 1 Malinga 9 1 53 0 Amerasinghe 7 2 31 0 Dilshan 3 0 9 0 Bandara 10 1 69 1 Jayasuriya 5 0 29 0

Result: Pakistan won by five wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Shahid Afridi. **Toss:** Sri Lanka. **Umpires:** M. Benson (ENG) and S. Shastri (IND). **TV umpire:** R. Tiffin (ZIM). **Match referee:** J. Srinath (IND).

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Eleven players including International Women Master Rani Hamid earned full points on the opening day of Prime Bank second Women International Rating Chess tournament at the BCF hall room yesterday.

Hamid beat Evana while in the day's other matches, Shamima Akhtar, Nazrana Khan and Sharmin Sultana won as well.

Twenty-one players are taking part in the tournament, which will resume today.

INTER-DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL

Dinajpur and Kushtia moved into the semifinal of the NCC Bank Inter-district Volleyball competition at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

The northern giants dropped a set but still defeated Naogaon 25-21, 25-21, 14-25, 26-24 while Kushtia trounced Jessore 25-22, 25-13, 25-15.

Dhaka are the other semifinalists while the match between Khulna and Gazipur will decide the fourth and final spot.

Both the semifinals will be held today at the same venue.

TABLE TENNIS SUPER LEAGUE

Dhaka South East and Palolic Group crushed their opponents in their respective matches of the AB Bank Dhaka Metropolis Table Tennis First Division Super League at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium.

South East had Bappi, Tirtha and Rabbi win their matches easily against Combined Sporting Club to clinch the game 3-0 while Palolic had Rocky, Parag and Shovon to thank for their easy 3-0 victory over Table Tennis Academy.

In the other match of the day, Sports World defeated Barna Table Tennis Club 3-1 with individual wins from Hasib and Rana. Shawkat won the sole game for Barna.

BOOST U-13 CRICKET

Adnan turned in a stunning all-round show to propel Discovery to a nine-wicket annihilation of Happy Times School in the Boost Power Cup under-13 Cricket tournament at the Kalabagan Cricket Ground.

After Happy Times had won the toss and opted for bat first, Adnan picked up two wickets for just 14 runs to help restrict the school side to 104-8 in 20 overs. Nawajesh struck 26 and Priom cracked 18 off 10 balls in the end of the innings. Apart from Adnan, Masud took three wickets.

Adnan then went about to smash 44 off just 21 balls as Discovery notched up their target in just 8.1 overs, losing just one wicket. Rabbi, the more sedate of the two, cracked 38 off 19 balls.

Tri-series plans

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of BCB and they have discussed the issue in their informal meetings.

Niranjan Shah also told the visiting Indian reporters at the team hotel that they are supposed to play a triangular series involving Pakistan and Bangladesh but the time was yet to be finalised.

When contacted, BCB general secretary Mahbub Anam also admitted that there was a talk about the rescheduling of the triangular tournament which was included in the ICC's Future Tours Programme (FTP).

But the bearded organizer however did not elaborate on the issue.

It was learnt that the triangular tournament will be held in May after the Asia Cup but BCB wants assurance from their Indian counterparts that it should involve Pakistan also.

India should for rescheduling as they have a tour to Australia when South Africa are in Bangladesh.

Stuttgart

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not enough to threaten Stuttgart as Bielefeld grabbed a late consolation goal.

They may be out of the Champions League next season, but fourth-placed Bayern Munich hammered relegated Mainz 05 5-2 at the Allianz Arena.

Werder Bremen finished third after their 2-0 win at VfL Wolfsburg, who finished just one point off the relegation zone.

Bayer Leverkusen claimed the final UEFA Cup place thanks to their 2-1 win over Borussia Dortmund which leaves them fifth in the table.

Nuremberg enjoyed a 3-0 win over Hanover, but still finished sixth, outside the European places for next season.

At the other end of the table, Mainz 05 were relegated following their Bayern Munich defeat and they were joined by Alemannia Aachen who went down 4-0 at Hamburg after two first-half goals from Croatian striker Ivica Olic, while Argentinian Juan Pablo Sorin netted twice after the break.

And the Bundesliga's bottom-side Borussia Moenchengladach, who have been resigned to relegation for several weeks, finished their life in German's top-tier with a 2-0 defeat at home to VfL Bochum.

In the day's other results, Eintracht Frankfurt were beaten 2-1 at home to Hertha Berlin.

Prior credits Stewart



AFP, London

Matt Prior paid tribute to Alec Stewart after scoring a century on his Test debut to put England in a commanding position in their series opener against West Indies at Lord's here Friday.

Prior became the first England wicketkeeper to score a century in his debut Test with a blistering 126 not out as the hosts reached 553 for five when bad light forced an early close on the second day of the four-Test campaign.

The Sussex gloveman's century was the fourth of the innings after opener Alastair Cook (105), Paul Collingwood (111) and Ian Bell (109 not out) also reached three innings.

It was the first time four England batsmen had all scored centuries in the same Test innings for 69 years.

England have struggled to find a keeper who can contribute with both bat and gloves at Test since former captain Stewart retired four

years ago.

Prior, 25, has since been mentored by Stewart and said his input had been invaluable. "Alec Stewart has been fantastic. He was the third person I called (following his England call-up) after my mum and dad.

"It's great to have someone like Alec Stewart at the end of a phone to explain things and calm me down," Prior added.

He was only the third wicketkeeper in Test history to score a century on Test debut, joining Sri Lanka's Brendon Kuruppu (201 not out against New Zealand at Colombo in 1986-87 and Romesh Kaluwitharana (132 not out against Australia) at Colombo in 1992-93 in an exclusive club.

Prior, born in Johannesburg to an English father and South African mother but who came to England as an 11-year-old, said: "It doesn't get any better than this for an Englishman on debut at Lord's. It's a fantastic feeling."

He drove confidently through the covers and pulled aggressively,

reaching three figures in just 105 balls and beating Bell to three figures despite giving his team-mates a 56-run head start.

At stumps Prior, who played under new England coach Peter Moores at Sussex, had maintained his rapid tempo, having faced just 128 balls in all. Together with Bell, he'd shared an unbroken stand of 190 in 212 balls.

It all emphasised how far West Indies, once Test cricket's most feared side but now ranked eighth in the five-day game, had fallen from their 1980s and 90s heyday when fast bowlers such as the late Malcolm Marshall, Michael Holding and Curtly Ambrose used to terrorise the world's best batsmen.

And they didn't help themselves by twice dropping Collingwood in the 30s.

England's total was achieved without the injured duo of first-choice captain Michael Vaughan and all-rounder Andrew Flintoff, who could both return for the second Test at Headingley starting a week Friday.

Federer storms into final



AFP, Hamburg

Roger Federer showed signs that he may be emerging from his slump with a patchy but fighting display against Carlos Moya which carried him to only his second final appearance in two and a half months.

The world number one from Switzerland beat the former world number one from Spain 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 in the semifinal of the Masters Series, after almost going a break of serve down in both the second and third sets.

Perhaps Federer was assisted by pleasant memories because Moya was the first top ten player he ever beat - eight years ago at the age of 17.

He may also have been strengthened mentally - in what was his worst run since he became number one more than three years ago - by his survival in two earlier three-set tussles, against Juan Monaco and David Ferrer.

Whatever the reason Federer emerged from error-prone phases with great shots when he needed them, especially at 30-40 in the third game of the second set, when a great backhand counter-hit got him out of trouble and helped him back to deuce.

Then again in the third game of the final set Federer found himself at 15-40 down, and came up first with a heavy topspin forehand - the shot least likely to let him down - and then a potent net attack.

Federer often gambled to get to the net, and sometimes appeared to pursue risky strategies, perhaps with half an eye to preparation and practice for the French Open in eight days time.

These were cool and heavy conditions in which the slightest mistiming of the ball could lead to a mistake, and Federer's unforced error statistics were high, as they had been all week.

But Moya played with great intelligence, considerable resilience and a threatening forehand, and, after disposing of three seeds, Blake, Berdych and Djokovic, clearly thought he could win.

"I was a bit disappointed with the result because I thought this was a day when I could have beaten Roger," Moya said.

The last four games however saw Federer accelerate and produce the kind of form he will need if he is to have a chance of relieving Rafael Nadal of his French Open title.

He hit two hurtling aces in the penultimate game and finished the match with a wonderful forehand pass taken deceptively from the

backhand side. Federer then held his arms aloft and threw them down again violently, as though the victory had been a relief rather than a triumph.

SLC begins coach hunt

AFP, Colombo

World Cup runners-up Sri Lanka have formally started looking for a replacement for outgoing cricket coach Tom Moody, officials said here on Saturday.

"We have started today advertising for a replacement for Tom Moody," Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) spokesman Samantha Algama told AFP. He said notices would appear on international cricket websites.

"The short-listing of candidates will happen by the end of this month."

Moody, named coach in 2005, announced earlier this month that the ongoing three-match one-day series against Pakistan in Abu Dhabi would be his last assignment.

Sri Lanka Cricket chief Jayantha Dhamadasa and captain Mahela Jayawardene had wanted the former Australian all-rounder, who will take over at Western Australia next season, to continue.

Sachin ton for dad

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does not happen its tough to overcome disappointment," he added.

"There was no great planning. The idea was to keep things simple and the simpler you keep, the easier it is. The more complicated you think, the more complicated it becomes. The idea was to keep the mind calm and keep things simple," he continued.

"I have no idea...we didn't have

a meeting with the BCCI but we hope that our inputs would be considered," he said in reply to the coach issue.

The great batsman branded his opponents -- Bangladesh -- as a confident side.

"They are a good side and they have shown that in the World Cup. A very confident side," he said while praising the Tigers.

BANGLADESH-INDIA FIRST TEST SCOREBOARD

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To bat: Zaheer Khan, VRV Singh, Rudra Pratap Singh. Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-124, 3-132, 4-321, 5-366, 6-381.

Bowler O M R W NB/W Mashrafe Bin Mortaza 24 5 95 3 nb-4, w-1 Shahadat Hossain 17 1 75 2 nb-2, w-1 Mohammad Rafique 24 3 99 1 - Enamul Haque 15 0 59 0 nb-4 Shakib Al Hasan 13 2 29 0 - Mohammad Ashraful 1 0 5 0 - Rajin Saleh 3 1 12 0 -

Toss: India

Umpires: BR Doctrove (West Indies) and DJ Harper (Australia)

TV umpire: Nadir Shah

Match referee: RS Mahanama (Sri Lanka)

CROSSWORD BY Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Faraway saucer 4 Flightless bird 7 Macramé, e.g. 12 "Smoking or --" 13 Once around the track 14 Two under par 15 Sport 16 Scouring product 18 Dead heat 19 German surrealist 20 It has its ups and downs 22 Recognizes in a lineup 23 Church section 27 Remiss 29 Serious attempt 31 Bonfire remnants 34 Storage story 35 Pick 37 Go blue? 38 Spuds' buds 39 Dundee denial

DOWN 2 Oneless Page number 3 Singing properly 4 Differently 5 Grid of dots 6 Overtune 7 Highlander 8 Uncivilized 9 Past 10 Showman 11 Comm. device 17 Being, to 18 Brutus 21 Dactyl section wares 23 Pursuing abbr. 24 Cauldron

Solution time: 25 mins.