

# Faridpur get nasty on BKSP

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka routed Mymensingh 7-0 while a rough and tough Faridpur held BKSP 2-2 in yesterday's super league matches of the 27th National Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

In the day's first match, Jimmy and Dinar struck twice each while Moshiri, Iqbal and Afsar netted one goal apiece as Dhaka handed Mymensingh their second consecutive defeat in the 5-team championship leg.

In a tense match later on the day, a brace by Mamunur Rahman Chayan salvaged a draw for Faridpur, whose players mercilessly tackled the BKSP boys and seriously injured Irfanul Haque.

The BKSP boy had to leave the turf with a bleeding nose and the Faridpur seniors also came close to assault the umpires while they were trailing 2-1.

Chayan put Faridpur ahead after 14 minutes but BKSP's Zahed Bin Taleb cancelled the lead eight minutes before the break. Syed Al Mamun then gave the Savar sport institute lead in the 38th minute before Chayan pulled off the equaliser on the hour.

# Hair back for int'l matches

INTERNET, undated

Controversial Australian umpire Darrell Hair returns to international cricket this week when he officiates in a four-day game between Canada and the Netherlands in Ontario.

Hair was voted off the International Cricket Council's elite panel in November last year for his handling of the ball-tampering incident in a Test match between England and Pakistan last August.

But he remains under contract with the ICC until April 2008.

In an indication of how far Hair has fallen from grace, the 76-Test veteran -- the third most experienced umpire in world cricket -- is listed to stand alongside Roger Dill, a 49-year-old Bermudan firefighter.

The pair will officiate in the four-day Intercontinental Cup game and two one-day internationals between the sides next week.

Hair, 54, last officiated in a match between Kenya and Scotland in Nairobi in February.

He has not stood in a Test since he and West Indian umpire Billy Doctrove ruled that Pakistan had forfeited the match against England at The Oval last August by refusing to take the field after tea on the fourth day.

Pakistan was subsequently cleared of ball-tampering but captain Inzamamul Haq, who has since retired, was suspended for four one-day matches for refusing to lead his team back on to the field, leading to the only forfeit in Test history.

Doctrove remains on the elite umpires panel.

Hair, 54, is taking his case to a London employment tribunal, claiming racial discrimination by the ICC cost him his livelihood.

The ICC has said it will vigorously defend the matter. The hearing, expected to last two weeks, starts in London on October 1.

Hair has returned from England to live in Sydney and is understood to be writing his memoirs.

# Inzamam eyes

FROM PAGE 17

"I am training hard and am fit. I played a one-day match at the weekend and will continue my efforts to get into the Test side," said Inzamam.

Pakistan selectors have said Inzamam, who is not known for his athleticism, will have to prove his fitness to get a place in the home series against South Africa in late September this year.

But there are no domestic matches in Pakistan in between, meaning that Inzamam is looking towards England.

"I have been in touch with people and if there is a place vacant in the county I would definitely like to go and play," said Inzamam, who played 119 Tests and 378 one-day matches in a career spanning more than 16 years.

He needs just 20 runs to beat Javed Miandad's 8,832 in 124 Tests as the leading Test scorer for Pakistan.

The country's chief selector Salahuddin Ahmed has said Inzamam was not included in a list of 30 players among whom 20 will get central contracts from the Pakistan Cricket Board.

"Since Inzamam is not playing in both forms of the game we have not included him in the list for central contracts -- but the doors of Test cricket are open for him," Ahmed said last week.

Inzamam's decision to stand down as captain was prompted by Pakistan's defeat by minnows Ireland, which forced them out of the World Cup held in March and April this year.



PHOTO: STAR

Scene from the National Hockey Championship Super League clash between BKSP and Faridpur at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

# C'wood stays happy



AFP, London

Paul Collingwood was encouraged even though his first game as England captain ended in defeat, claiming his side would learn from the experience.

England lost the first Twenty20 international at the Brit Oval by 15 runs, and, aside from a belligerent 80 off 41 balls from Collingwood, offered little resistance after conceding a total of 208-8.

"It was a great experience," the Durham all-rounder said. "They might not think so now, but all the players will think the same. I'm sure we've learnt a lot tonight."

He was dismissive of criticism that England, as they had been in the World Cup, were not aggressive enough, claiming there was no need to pick a specialist Twenty20 squad.

"We shouldn't get carried away," he said. "It's just one game. The 14 guys in that dressing room are the best one-day cricketers in the country at the present time and I'm sure we can adapt our game."

The next highest score after Collingwood's was Matt Prior's 25, but given only three sides in the history of Twenty20 -- at any level -

- had ever chased down 208, the problem on Thursday was more the bowling than the batting.

Given how successful spin has been in domestic Twenty20 -- Surrey's Nayan Doshi is the leading all-time wicket-taker -- it was a major surprise that Monty Panesar was left out of the side, with Michael Yardy offering the only spin option.

"It's difficult," Collingwood said. "I thought Yards did a good job, trying to take the pace off the ball."

"But you have to give West Indies a lot of credit. With (Shivnarine) Chanderpaul flipping the ball over fine leg it's very hard to set fields.

"We've got to look at the lengths we bowled and see where we can improve.

"On the Oval pitch it's very difficult. Even if you get it in the blockhole, it bounces up so the margins for error are very small."

Collingwood accepted responsibility for the gaffe in the fifteenth over of the West Indies innings that conceded a no-ball because England had too few fielders in the circle.

"I hold my hands up," he said. "It was obviously my fault, and these are the things I have to learn from."

The West Indies captain Chris

Gayle was delighted, after a chaotic build-up, his side at last produced a performance worthy of the name.

Having lost the Test series 3-0, West Indies were beaten in a warm-up game by Derbyshire, having been forced to call on university players in a previous warm-up against the England Lions.

"Coming into this game with all the negatives, this was a tremendous effort," Gayle said. "I'm very happy with that."

"The guys are aware of the situation. They will pull together and come out as a unit. Once we get it right we're unbeatable."

Emblematic of the West Indies attitude was Dwayne Bravo, who insisted in bowling the last over despite having an ankle injury that, it had seemed, would prevent him bowling.

"I was going to bowl the second to last over," Gayle said, "but Brav came up and said he wanted to bowl."

Ravi Rampaul ended up taking the penultimate over, with Bravo the last. "The physio came up to me and asked what's happening?" Gayle joked. "Brav's a committed player and a die-hard cricketer. He always wants to participate."

# Durani rues lack of all-rounder

PTI, New Delhi

Former Test cricketer Salim Durani believes Indian team will miss a genuine all-rounder on their next month's series against England.

"The series will be very challenging. The balance appears to be tilted in the favour of England as they have all rounder in their team, who would also be benefited by the home conditions," Durani said at a book release function here yesterday.

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff, recuperating after a surgery on his right ankle, is expected to be fit for the series while Paul Collingwood could also prove effective with his medium pace bowling.

Durani said Indian team desperately needs a genuine allrounder if they are to make their presence felt at international level.

"If India want to dominate in international cricket, an allrounder is a must for them. It was unfortunate that we could not produce a genuine allrounder after Kapil Dev," Durani, who made 1202 runs and took 75 wickets in 29 Test, said the onus would be on batsmen in the series.

"Batsmen will have to shoulder more burden in England. They will have to give their bowlers big scores, only then they can be successful in getting 20 wickets.

# Sports Journalists Day on July 2

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Sports Writers Association (BSWA) will observe the World Sports Journalists Day on July 2.

The BSWA has decided to organise a number of programmes on this occasion including a daylong carom competition yesterday. Arif Sohel of Ajker Kagoj became singles champion while Masud Alam of Prothom Alo finished runner-up. Sarwar Hossain of Khelar Bhubon clinched third place among 16 competitors.

# Respect Murali, urges CA

PTI, Melbourne

Cricket Australia has urged home fans to treat Muttiah Muralidaran with respect when the Sri Lankan off-spinner tours Down Under in his bid to become the highest wicket-taker in the longer version of the game.

Muralidaran, who needs 25 wickets to equal Aussie legend Shane Warne's record of 708, will play two more Tests against Bangladesh before Sri Lanka's tour of Australia.

The ace offie has become a victim of sustained abuse by crowds on previous tours. But, the troubled relationship between Muralidaran and the Aussie crowd was temporarily healed when he visited the country for a tsunami appeal game in 2005.

CA hoped that this time around the Australian fans would appreciate Muralidaran.

"Last year we had Monty Panesar and we were really pleased that he became a cult figure. With Murali coming back, our ambition would be to achieve the same outcome," a CA spokesman was quoted as saying by 'The Age'.

"As Ricky Ponting said, any international cricketer visiting Australia has the right to be treated with respect and in the same manner as Australian players are treated. That is the bottom line," the spokesman said, adding "our message to the public will be 'please treat all visitors with the respect they deserve."

If you don't the consequences go through to the possibility of life bans from venues." CA has toughened the conditions of entry and security adviser Sean Carroll will lead a police team to London this month to help improve venue security around the country.

# Henin, Krajicek

FROM PAGE 17

In another game, Switzerland's 15th seed Patty Schnyder beat Alona Bondarenko of Ukraine 6-4, 3-6, 8-6.

Earlier, Wimbledon police chiefs have altered their security plan for the championships following Friday's defusing of a car bomb in the heart of London's theatre district.

Superintendent Peter Dobson, in charge of the police operation at the All England Club, said that, while there had been no specific threat to Wimbledon, security measures at the Championships had been fine-tuned in the wake of the incident.

"Whilst I have made some adjustments to the security of the perimeter, with some police officers being redeployed from inside, and some enhanced checking of vehicles entering the car parks, the security plan remains commensurate to the threat," Dobson said.

"There is no intelligence that increases the threat to the championships. My message is for all persons attending to remain vigilant and to report anything suspicious to the police.

"This is a timely reminder that we live in dangerous times and our top priority will always remain the safety of the public."

The new plan means more vehicle interiors are being checked and there is a higher police presence around the edge of the club, which is bordered by busy roads, a golf course and suburban housing.

Amid widespread disruption in city, new Prime Minister Gordon Brown warned that the alert was a fresh warning of the threat faced by Britain, which soon marks the second anniversary of the London suicide attacks which killed 52 people.

# Dyson applies

FROM PAGE 17

Oliver, who had also applied for the Sri Lanka job only to lose out to Trevor Bayliss, told the newspaper that though he was comfortable where he was he also had more ambitions. Nosworthy, currently coaching New Zealand A for the Emerging Players tournament in Australia in July, applied for the job through his agent and said that if there was anything more to do with the job, his agent would handle it. "Dave is doing well with Canterbury but he is open to international jobs," his agent, Paul Carrick, was quoted as saying.

The newspaper also lists names of those who have expressed no interest in coaching India. Steve Rixon, the former New Zealand coach who turned down the offer to coach Pakistan, said he was not going to pitch for anything. "I do not want to be in a situation where there are five of us," Rixon said. Martyn Moxon and Mark Greatbatch, the directors of cricket at Yorkshire and Warwickshire respectively, said they were happy where they were coaching.

# Gayle lets cricket talk

CRICINFO, undated

After several days of off-pitch wrangling, it was a relief for Chris Gayle at last to let cricket do the talking. He may have perished for just 5, but his West Indies side battled with belief to post their first win against England this tour.

"Coming into this game with all the negatives, it was a tremendous effort from the guys," said Gayle. And not only does he believe his side played fantastically, but also he was delighted with the energy and synergy of his team.

A warm-up win earlier this week against the PCA at Arundel paved the way for a convincing triumph this evening. "That's what I wanted -- a good start," said Gayle after his side had rattled up an imposing 208 for 8. "It's up to us now to try and capitalise on it. We pulled together and decided we were going to come out as a unit. We guarantee that once we get it right on the day we are unbeatable."

With a beaming smile, Gayle was happy to concentrate on the events of this evening, including Marlon Samuels' whopping six off Ryan Sidebottom. "That's one of the biggest hits I've ever seen. It was good to see him get some runs as well, and hopefully he can carry on tomorrow." Samuels made 51 from

26 balls.

Gayle also disclosed that he was preparing to bowl the penultimate over when Dwayne Bravo -- who wasn't supposed to bowl through injury -- asked could he take it. "I obviously didn't want him to bowl, but because of the situation, he wanted to participate. I have to give credit for Bravo for doing that, even though he is injured. He said he wanted it." The physio was none too impressed with the decision, but Gayle reassured him with a smile. "I promised him he won't bowl tomorrow."

Ahead of his first match as England captain, Paul Collingwood had predicted the Twenty20 experience would be "mayhem", and afterwards it was hard to disagree. But he admitted that at the same time, "it was a massive learning experience. I'm sure we have learned a lot." He made one notable gaffe in the field when he was no-balled for having too few fielders inside the ring, to which he "held his hands up", and he possibly erred in selection as well, leaving Monty Panesar out and opting for just Michael Yardy as a spin option.

"It was difficult, I thought Yards did well," said Collingwood. "Trying to take the pace off the ball with the medium pacers... You have to give a lot of credit to West Indies -- not just hitting down

the ground. There was little margin for error. (Shiv) Chanderpaul was clipping it over fine leg. It was very, very hard to set fields."

But he shrugged off the pressure of captaincy with the bat; his 79 from 41 balls gave England some hope. "It didn't play on my mind. Whether I was captain or not, I could only go out and play one way and that was positive."

And he's still positive, post-match. "It's been an experience in a way I'm glad I've had." Yet with his bowlers going for more than ten an over, Collingwood realises there is work to be done ahead of tomorrow's return fixture at the same venue. "We obviously have to see the areas we did bowl and where we can improve."

One thing he is convinced about, though, is that the 14-man squad, picked as England's best in one-dayers, is right for the Twenty20 mission. "I don't think we can get too carried away (with today's loss). I'm very confident. We will learn from this experience and hopefully come up with a better plan next time." He and England have that chance tomorrow.

It may have been an unseasonably chilly evening, but the victory was enough to warm West Indian hearts and they will be hoping for a repeat performance on Friday.

# Home away from home



CRICINFO, undated

Many years have passed since it was considered fitting that Kensington Oval in Barbados and Kennington Oval in South London were separated only by a letter.

Gone are the days when West Indies' migrant population brought a great atmosphere to their spiritual home in London; their pride in their cricket greats reflected through joyous whistles, steel bands and singing. These days, that pride seems to ebb with every abject defeat but tonight, however fleetingly, West Indies' fight was back.

The scenes at the end were reminiscent of their last visit to The Oval in 2004, when England were again the vanquished opponents in the final of the ICC Champions Trophy.

West Indian fans still flocked in to the last day of the Lord's Test to cheer on their side; the lower prices no doubt helped. The ECB may have missed a trick in not scheduling an Oval Test this year --

although fans may have been priced out of The Oval anyway, echoing the hollow World Cup experience. But at least they have their two Twenty20s.

But where are the West Indian fans today? There were few here to witness Devon, Shiv and Marlon beast the England attack. The £35 price tag may have proven prohibitive for some. The ban on musical instruments -- "because of crowd complaints", apparently -- will not have helped; a shame, because with such good cricket on display there was quite a lot to trumpet.

A steel band was playing by the Hobbs Gate upon entering; this was encouraging, but they were professional and calculatedly corporate. Sadly, their name, Nostalgia, proved only too apt. Once the game got underway, the only musical (if that's what the monotone sole note could be called) accompaniment was a lone contraband horn, fired up as late as the 14th over.

There was still an atmosphere -- as with any Twenty20 -- but it wasn't quite carnival. Close your eyes and you could be at pretty much any

domestic Twenty20 played here by Surrey. Open them and it could be the same -- there were plenty of Caucasian faces. The very fact, though, that Surrey can expect big crowds almost by right is an ongoing testament to the success of Twenty20.

At least tonight's game has happily broken an unfortunate connection between the two Ovals. The last time each ground hosted an international, the match finished in farce. At Kensington in April, the World Cup final ended, sadly somewhat fittingly, in gloom. Here at Kennington last year, England and Pakistan descended into Oval-gate.

So thank goodness, then, for a totally different kind of international cricket to lift the smog. Twenty20s revived not just the crowds (numbers-wise, if not diversity-wise), but the teams as well. It was a chance to blast away the cobwebs, and they certainly seized it.



PHOTO: STAR

Soma of Abahani in action against Ankhi of Lalbagh during the Women's Table Tennis League at the woodenfloor gymnasium yesterday.

# Flying start for Argentina

FROM PAGE 17

and I think we needed to be able to move better off the ball and keep possession a little better."

The United States shocked Argentina 3-0 in the first round of the 1995 Copa America in Uruguay, but the Albiceleste already were assured of advancing and left many regulars out of their starting lineup. This time, Argentina fielded a full-strength lineup filled with stars from the world's top clubs.

Defender Jonathan Bornstein and midfielder Benny Feilhaber were the only holdovers from the US starting lineup Sunday, when the Americans beat Mexico 2-1 in Chicago to win their second straight CONCACAF Gold Cup.

Instead, the 13th-ranked Americans fielded a youthful side that included six starters with 10 international appearances or fewer and debutants Marvell Wynne and Herculez Gomez.

Feilhaber, who had a spectacular winning goal against Mexico, created the play that led to the penalty. He split the defence with a pass half

the length of the field and Johnson ran onto the ball for a breakaway when he was tripped from behind by Gabriel Milito.

Johnson slotted the ball to his right post, with goalkeeper Roberto Abbondanzieri going the other way, for his 11th goal in 27 international appearances.

Argentina did not waste any time in getting the equaliser. Juan Roman Riquelme took a freekick from about 35 yards out. The ball bounced through the defence and Gabriel Heinze got to it ahead of Keller. The ball went to Crespo, who put it in the open net.

Keller leaped in the 43rd minute to prevent a goal, using his right hand to tip Juan Sebastian Veron's blistering right-footed shot from about 30 yards off the crossbar.

Crespo scored his second goal off a pass from Lionel Messi, speeding unmarked into the penalty area and beating Keller from eight yards.

Aimar scored on a header from 12 yards off a cross from Heinze, who bent the ball back from near the corner.

Tevez then collected a through ball from Riquelme on a failed offside trap, touched it ahead to himself and slotted the ball just inside the post to Keller's right.

Next Monday, USA play Paraguay while Colombia face Argentina.

# TEAMS

**ARGENTINA:** Roberto Abbondanzieri, Javier Zanetti, Roberto Ayala, Gabriel Milito, Gabriel Heinze, Juan Veron (Fernando Gago, 86), Javier Mascherano, Esteban Cambiasso (Pablo Aimar, 58), Juan Roman Riquelme, Lionel Messi (Carlos Tevez, 79) and Hernan Crespo. **USA:** Kasey Keller, Jonathan Bornstein, Marvell Wynne, Jay Demerit, Jimmy Conrad, Ben Olsen (Eddie Gammey, 62), Justin Mapp, Benny Feilhaber, Ricardo Clark (Kyle Beckerman, 79), Taylor Twellman (Herculez Gomez, 69) and Eddie Johnson. **Referee:** Carlos Chandia (Chile).