

NATIONAL HOCKEY Faridpur end long drought

UNB, Dhaka

Faridpur clinched the 27th National Hockey Championship title, their second in 21 years, when they edged star-studded Dhaka 2-1 in the final at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

It was the second national title for Faridpur, whose only previous success came in 1976.

Yousuf Ali Biswas put Faridpur ahead after seven minutes after taking a pass from man-of-the-final Prashanta from the left wing but the lead was short lived as Iqbal Nazir Prince restored parity for Dhaka 11 minutes later with a powerful hit.

The match was locked 1-1 at the break but Mamanur Rahman Chayan struck the match winner for Faridpur from a 63rd minute penalty corner.

Faridpur captain Musa Mia, who scored 13 goals to share the top scorer's place with BKSP's Syed Al Masum, said the team played very well in every department. "All the credit goes to the boys for this victory," the national centre-half said.

Dhaka captain Russell Mahmud Jimmy accused the umpires of making some poor decisions. "This caused us to lose concentration and finally we could not get back in the game," the forward said.

Sports Adviser Tapan Chowdhury witnessed the final as chief guest and distributed trophies. Bangladesh Hockey Federation president Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman and other officials were present.

Miandad

FROM PAGE 21

without getting notable results. In their first series after he left, Bangladesh have performed patently. What does that mean that in retrospect he has left no legacy behind on which Bangladesh cricket can improve," he said.

Miandad also accused PCB of ignoring former players.

I know many former players who are living hand to mouth because our Board despite earning off the players has never done enough for them. There is no proper pension or welfare scheme and only a lucky few are economically sound," he said.

"Tell me, what have foreign coaches achieved for us. We had foreign coaches in the last two World Cups and what did we do. In fact tell me what have foreign coaches achieved with other Asian teams. India recently has done well playing under a local coach and manager," he added.

PCB is expected to announce a new coach from amongst Whatmore, Geoff Lawson and Richard Done to fill in the vacant spot left by the untimely death of Bob Woolmer during the World Cup in the West Indies.

Mahela sceptic

FROM PAGE 21

come up with good performances. We hope that the Kandy wicket will be more lively than Colombo and we are looking forward to this game despite the series victory," he issued the warning for the Tigers.

Bangladesh interim coach Shaun Williams, who was sitting beside Mahela during the post-match briefing, said that they have to find an answer in their first innings if they want to be competitive in the next Test.

"First innings was an embarrassment. It was good to see the way Ashraful and Mushfiqur batted in the second innings but we have to be better in the first innings," said the Australian.

"Whether the guys are nervous on Day One I am not sure. It is something we need to look at. The context of the game changes when you bat in the first innings and then there is a big total facing you."

"Our bowlers need to be more consistent and we need to bowl in better areas for longer periods. It's a tough ask when we haven't scored enough runs. We need to bat better and if we do that the bowlers will lift their standards as well," he added.

The Bangladesh think-tank is all set to strengthen their batting as Tushar Imran will join the team before the third match. It was learned that Bangladesh will go into the final game with just three specialist bowlers.

Robinho leads

FROM PAGE 24

effort whistled past the left post 10 minutes later.

However, both sides were happy to settle for a point, meaning Mexico could now face Argentina or Paraguay in the knockout stages.

"We didn't play well but we achieved our target and we're still in the tournament," Chile coach Nelson Acosta said. "Logically we are more cautious against sides like Mexico, who are in good form. I believe that we have grown in the meantime."

Chile now has to brace for another matchup with Brazil, who won the first encounter with three goals from Robinho.

"I'm only thinking about winning the tournament but if I can be the top scorer, that would make it even better," Robinho said.



PHOTO: STAR
Triumphant Faridpur stick-wielders celebrate winning the National Hockey Championship title after two decades at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

C'paul gladdens Gayle

Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

West Indies captain Chris Gayle will be happy for Shivnarine Chanderpaul to bat on one leg in Saturday's decisive one-day international against England after his latest hundred this tour gave the side a shot at winning the series but also saw him injured.

Chanderpaul's ideally-paced 116 not out here at Edgbaston was the centrepiece of West Indies' 278 for five.

In reply, England were bowled out for 217, fast bowler Ravi Rampaul taking four for 41, as West Indies won by 61 runs to level the three-match series at 1-1.

During his innings, 32-year-old Guyanese left-hander Chanderpaul strained a right ankle ligament and didn't field.

A West Indies team spokesman said his fitness would be reassessed on the morning of Saturday's match at Trent Bridge. "I will push him out there, even if on one leg," Gayle jokingly told

reporters after Wednesday's victory, achieved with four overs to spare.

West Indies decided to move Chanderpaul up the order from No 5, where he top scored for his team with 53 not out in their 79-run series-opening defeat at Lord's on Sunday, to No 3.

It was a move he vindicated in style during a 122-ball knock featuring three sixes and 10 fours.

He was also well-supported by Marlon Samuels (77) during a third-wicket stand of 175.

"I thought it paid off, moving him up the order," said Gayle, who lost the toss in overcast, bowler-friendly, conditions. "He was tremendous. That partnership between him and Marlon really put us back in the game."

Chanderpaul has been one of the few successes for West Indies during a generally lacklustre trip and his hundred on Wednesday was fresh proof of his ability to bat in attacking, as well as defensive, fashion.

During the four-Test series, which England won 3-0, he batted for over 24 hours while averaging

148.66. "Shiv can destroy any attack when he wants, he can step it up whenever he needs to," said Gayle.

"He's been very hard to dislodge all the way through this trip," added England one-day captain Paul Collingwood. "He reads the game very well. He knows when to go, when to play himself in."

"He's looking very calm at the crease at the moment but, hopefully come Saturday, we can have that little bit of luck or magic ball that gets him out early. He's been exceptional, he doesn't give his wicket away easily."

There were a couple of on-field flashpoints Wednesday, notably when England quick James Anderson appeared to shoulder-barge Runako Morton as he walked back to his mark.

But Gayle said "there was nothing personal" while Collingwood was equally relaxed. "I don't mind the boys getting stuck in if they need to get stuck in."

Meanwhile, Bangladesh kabaddi team will participate in the seven-nation 2nd Asian Indoor Games to be held in Macao from October 26-November 3.

India, Iran, Japan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Malaysia will also compete in the kabaddi event of the Games.

MEET OPEN

NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL SECRETARY ANMUL ISLAM KHAN WILL DECLARE THE MEET OPEN.

INDOOR KABADDI

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