

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 Mamunur 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 Marshall 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 pathetically. 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 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 Test 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 poorly 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 tournament."

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-charge 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."

Ash on an Ash day

FROM PAGE 21

to throw my wicket and I was successful at the end," he explained.

Mushfiqur was also satisfied with his performance although he missed out on his maiden hundred.

"I am satisfied because I could do something as a batsman for the team. It's always good to contribute something for the team in its bad time. It's a great experience to bat against such a good attack," said Mushfiqur, who was picked for the Test ahead of veteran Khaled Mashud for his batting abilities.

"It was a fantastic experience to bat with our most talented batsman. He always supported me during our partnership. I think confidence is the key behind any success and I have the confidence to cope at this level," said a confident Mushfiqur.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the third day of the second Test between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at the P Sara Stadium in Colombo on Thursday:

BANGLADESH: First innings 62 (Rajin 21; Muralidaran 4-14, Malinga 4-25)

SRI LANKA: First innings 451-6 declared (Sangakkara 200 not out, Wamapura 82, Jayawardene 49; Mehrab 2-29, Shahadat 2-81)

BANGLADESH: Second innings (overnight 69-4)

Javed lbw b Vaas 28
Nafees c P Jayawardene b Vaas 20
Rajin c M Jayawardene b Fernando 0
Mehrab b Fernando 8
Bashar b Fernando 12
Ashraful not out 129
Mushfiqur c and b Muralidaran 80
Sharif lbw b Vaas 2

Mashrafe lbw b Vaas 0
Rafique run out 3
Shahadat run out 2
Extras: (b-2, lb-2, nb-9, w-2) 15
Total: (All out in 86.3 overs) 299
Fall of wickets: 1-48, 2-51, 3-55, 4-59, 5-78, 6-269, 7-276, 8-276, 9-286

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	20.3	8	55	4
Malinga	15	1	86	0
Fernando	17	2	60	3
Muralidaran	28	6	84	1
Dilshan	6	1	10	0

Result: Sri Lanka won by an innings and 90 runs and take 2-0 winning lead in the three-Test series.

Man-of-the-match: Kumar Sangakkara.

Toss: Sri Lanka.

Umpires: Asad Rauf and Rudi Koertzen.

Third & final Test: Kandy, July 11-15.

Shiv ton suffices WI

FROM PAGE 21

West Indies, after opener and captain Chris Gayle was out, saw their run-rate slow with the second fifty taking 16 overs.

However, that provided a platform for West Indies, taking advantage of the shortened boundaries, to score 102 in the last 10 overs.

The series concludes at Trent Bridge on Saturday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between England and the West Indies at Edgbaston on Wednesday:

WEST INDIES: 287 for 5 in 50

overs (Chanderpaul 116 not out, Samuels 77, Gayle 36; Broad 2-49, Sidebottom 2-56)

ENGLAND

Cook c Edwards b Powell 19
Prior c DS Smith b Powell 52
Bell lbw b Rampaul 2
Pietersen b Rampaul 9
Shah c Ramdin b Rampaul 45
Collingwood lbw b Edwards 1
Yardy c DR Smith b Bravo 19
Mascarenhas c Powell b Rampaul 3
Broad not out 22
Sidebottom run out 15
Anderson c Ramdin b Edwards 3
Extras: (lb-10, w-13, nb-4) 27
Total: (All out in 46 overs) 217

Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-30, 3-64, 4-113, 5-117, 6-171, 7-172, 8-179, 9-195

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Rampaul	10	0	41	4
Powell	10	0	45	2
Edwards	10	0	43	2
DR Smith	9	0	54	0
Bravo	7	0	24	1

Result: West Indies won by 61 runs and level the 3-ODI series 1-1.

Man-of-the-match: Shivnarine Chanderpaul.

Toss: England.

Umpires: Brian Jerling and Nigel Long.

Third ODI: Trent Bridge, July 7.

Ivanovic sets up Venus clash

FROM PAGE 24

on and she saved four match points before finally bowing to the inevitable by sending a forehand beyond the baseline.

Williams is only seeded 23rd this year because her world ranking has slipped in line with her part-time playing schedule. If she goes on to claim the title she will be the lowest-seeded player to have done it, beating her own record from 2005, when she won as 14th seed.

It would also represent a remarkable turnaround in her form over the course of the two weeks.

The 27-year-old looked far from convincing in her opening two matches here and came close to an early exit when Japan's Akiko Morigami served for the match at 5-3 in the third set of her third round match.

Shrugging off those frights, Williams said: "I'm really a big game player. I get up for these matches."

Ivanovic's victory was also testimony to her ability to raise her game when it really matters.

Out-muscled by her big-serving opponent in the opening set, she managed to maintain her focus to hold out to take the match into a third and then survive the three match points that Vaidisoava earned on Ivanovic's serve at 5-3.

"She was playing unbelievable but I played very well at the end of the match," Ivanovic said. "I'm really excited now. It was my first match on Centre Court and to win like this is amazing."

Vaidisoava, the 14th seed, had claimed an early edge when she

broke Ivanovic in the opening game of the match, which allowed her to claim the first set.

Ivanovic appeared to be in deep trouble when she also dropped the opening game of the second set on her own service. But she responded immediately and claimed two more breaks to send the match into a deciding set.

Vaidisoava once again looked the more likely winner when she claimed a break to go 4-2 up in the final set.

But the Czech girl was not able to take her opportunities at 5-3 and paid the price when she double-faulted to hand Ivanovic victory on her second match point after two hours of enthralling drama on Centre Court.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Five teams will compete in the First Open Rugby tournament which starts tomorrow at the Outer Stadium. The teams are Lutfar Rahman Chairman Academy, Ramjan Football Kishore XI, Khilgaon Progoti Sangsad, Government Titumeer College, Flame Boys Club and Mansoor Sporting Club.

National Sports Council secretary Aminul Islam Khan will declare the meet open.

INDOOR KABADDI

UNB adds: Bangladesh kabaddi team will participate in the seven-annual 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.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation general secretary and Asian Amateur Kabaddi Federation vice president Mohammad Nazrul Islam has been nominated as a kabaddi jury member for the Games.

NAT'L WEIGHTLIFTING

The Grameenphone 30th national senior, 11th national junior and 7th national women weightlifting competitions begin today at the NSC Gymnasium. A total of 160 weightlifters, including 45 women will take part in the four-day meets.

The gold medal winners will get Tk 3,000 each as prize money while the silver and bronze medalists will each receive Tk 2,000 and Tk 1,000 respectively.

Anderson fined

AFP, London

England fast bowler James Anderson has been fined 50 per cent of his match fee after clashing with West Indies batsman Runako Morton.

Anderson, 24, shoulder-barged Morton at the end of an over during the West Indies' victory in the second one-day international at Edgbaston on Wednesday.

Morton reacted angrily to the shove and words were exchanged. There was further tension between the players when Anderson pointedly gestured towards Morton after his dismissal.

Both men were called to see match referee Mike Procter after the match but while Anderson was fined, Morton was found not guilty of breaching the code of conduct.

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India given lone

FROM PAGE 21 In a two-Test series from November 8 to 16 at Gabba and Hobart respectively.

The Lankans will build up for the series with a three-day clash against Queensland at Allan Border field starting November 2.

They will play against the Prime Minister's XI at Manuka Oval, before a second warm-up game against Tasmania at Bellerive Oval on February 2 ahead of the one-day series.

"It was tough for her. I wanted to run out there and hit the ball for her," said Venus.

Meanwhile, Venus says she agrees with her father who believes she can keep playing and winning until her mid-30s.

"I have so much time off in my career especially in the last few years. I've just been MIA (missing in action) a lot of the time," she said.

Reformed NTMC to approach Nayeem



Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will approach Indian coach Syed Nayeemuddin to manage the national team for this year's SAFF Championship to be jointly organised by Sri Lanka and Maldives.

Manzoor Hossain Malu, who was named head of a three-member National Team Management Committee (NTMC) yesterday, confirmed this to reporters.

The other members of the revised NTMC are BFF general secretary Anwarul Hoque Helal and Anwar Hossain Ujjal.

The decision was taken in BFF's executive committee meet-

ing yesterday morning.

The NTMC was officially non-existent after its five-member committee headed by Kazi Salahuddin stepped down last year following a dispute with the football bosses.

The cash-starved BFF hardly has any chance to lure a foreign coach to take over the national team, that have been managed by locals after departure of Argentine coach Diego Cruciani.

The fact that former Indian international Nayeemuddin, who helped his country regain the SAFF title beating archrivals Bangladesh in Pakistan in 2005, is involved with local club Brothers Union perhaps inspired the federation to go for the wily coach.

Nayeemuddin, who also coached Brothers three years back, has a vast knowledge about

regional football and is renowned for getting out the best within limitations.

BFF also gave its vice president Abdur Rahim the responsibility to realise inside seven days the scopes of staging Federation Cup, National League and the Dhaka Senior Division League.

The BFF, meanwhile, has decided to send a second string national side under the banner of A team to the Nehru Cup, which will be held in Delhi from August 16-28 and the Borduloi Trophy in Assam.

Bayezid Zobair Nipu was named under-16 coach while Mahbub Hossain Roxy his assistant.

The 22 third division clubs will receive Tk 25,000 each from the federation which will also bear expenses of the Bhutan women's football team, due to train in Dhaka for two weeks this month.

Akhtar thankful to Dalmiya



Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Shoaib Akhtar has said that he would always be thankful to Jagmohan Dalmiya, the former ICC and Indian board president, for supporting him when doubts were being raised about his bowling action.

"The first time, in 1999-2000, was awful," said Shoaib, in an Asian News International report, of the suspicions raised at the time. "I'm always going to be thankful to

Mr. Jagmohan Dalmiya, the then ICC president, for his support. But, as I said, every controversy has made me a better and stronger person. I may have felt gutted, but the controversies haven't killed my josh (passion) and desire to play for Pakistan."

Shoaib also said that the doping controversy, during the Champions Trophy last year, was one of the toughest periods in his life. "My own countrymen shunned me, with some even refusing to look at me. It was a terrible period. Everybody's body mechanism isn't the same

and certain levels are higher in my body compared to others.

"My hormone level fluctuates. I didn't take drugs to enhance my performance. I don't need to. I don't know why I was treated so badly. The test didn't show I was an evil person. I've always been misunderstood. I've never seen myself bigger than the game."

Shoaib wasn't happy with the way the entire Bob Woolmer episode was handled. "His death left me stunned. What's worse is his body remained in Kingston for weeks and weeks. Such indignity."

\$100m boost for Windies



Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Billionaire Allen Stanford is to invest 100 million dollars in West Indies cricket over the next three years.

The Texas businessman, who lives in Antigua, is determined to bring cricket in the region into the 21st century.

"We are stuck in the 1950s and 60s. We can't allow ourselves to stay stuck forever," he commented.

Part of the investment will fund the second Stanford 20/20 tournament, which will feature Cuba for the first time as one of 21 competing Caribbean nations.

Funding will be provided to each team to enable them to prepare for the tournament, along with Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic,

who are expected to make their debut in 2009.

The Stanford 20/20 will take place from January 25 to February 24 next year, with the winning team collecting 1 million dollars from a total prize fund of 2.9 million.

"I have committed my resources and I believe that within the next three years we will have a world beating West Indies team again.

"The Stanford 20/20 and the professional league we are creating are going to be the instrument that brings about that success, the catalyst that takes us back to the glory days of West Indies cricket," Stanford commented.

He admitted that he hoped to make a profit on his investment in time, but insisted: "As you can tell from these plans, we are in this for the long haul."

Stanford added: "I have said

over and over that this region has the best cricket players in the world. We just need to harness this talent, steer these players in the right direction, reward their efforts and raise the standard of professionalism all around.

"Only then will we see the success that we have been hoping for. Let's partner together and make it happen."

Last year Stanford funded over 28 million dollars, which handed the first 20/20 tournament, won by Guyana.

Plans for a 5-million-dollar winner-takes-all match between a Stanford Super Star XI and South Africa came to nothing because of a scheduling conflict with the West Indies tour to Pakistan.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Cricket Board vice president Shah Nurul Kabir Shaheen (C) sees off the Bangladesh women's cricket team at the ZIA yesterday prior to their departure to take part in the ACC tournament.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Fem. counter-
5 Seek damages
8 Layer of paint
12 List-ending abbr.
13 Mess up
14 Luau dance
15 Zilch
16 Complete
17 Particular
18 Latest news
20 Chastity's nom
22 1980 Jane Fonda movie
26 Collect
29 Morning moisture
30 Martini ingredient
31 Existed
32 Spanish literary hero

33 Oberlin locale
34 Sodom evacuee
35 Nosh
36 Before
37 1884 Goldie Hawn movie
40 Metric syllable
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45 Vivacity
47 Mainlander's memento
49 Disturb
50 Poolroom prop
51 Moray, for one
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53 "Planet of the —"

54 Firmament
55 Portent

DOWN
1 Carte
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6 Swiss canton
7 Put up
8 Leader
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23 Mrs. Archie Bunker Henry —
25 Carbon compound
tools
27 Cat call
28 Ruse
32 Rooks
33 Erie neighbor
35 Swelled head
36 Venusian vessel
38 Crannies
39 With aloofness
42 Leeway
43 Location
44 Verve
45 Support system?
46 Eminem's genre
48 "A mouse!"

Solution time: 25 mins.

PAW FMS
TAXI ARTAS
POLLS DEGREE
SWEET NOTHING
THIS FIRST XIGO
LUKE ANOP
WHALE DOTEN
VIEW DIVE
TRIA SPOKE SAI
GEROITTOLEGRANCE
STRROLL DIANCE
HANKY URGE
LEA ESB

