

School Football League from today

UNB, Dhaka

The Dhaka School Football League (Under-11 and U-13) will begin today at six venues in the city.

Information secretary Didarul Anwar will inaugurate the meet at 4:30 pm through a match between Khilgaon Model High School and Motijheel Government Boys' High School (U-13) at the Kamalapur Bir Shrestha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium.

Twenty-four teams -- 12 teams in each age-group -- from 14 schools will play in the round robin league on home and away basis.

The matches will be played only on Thursdays and Fridays.

Organisers Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will provide all the participating teams with jerseys, boots and practice balls. The champions, runner-up and the third-placed teams in both groups will receive cash prizes.

The BFF will bear the entire Tk 9,40,000 budget of the meet while Akij Food and Beverage Company will provide soft drinks for the players during the match.

Tournament committee secretary MA Azim Badal disclosed the details at a press conference at the BFF Bhawan yesterday.

BFF president SA Sultan and acting general secretary Manzoor Hossain Malu were present.

Div 3 soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

Afsar slotted two second-half goals to inspire Euro Famous down Jirabo SC 3-0 in yesterday's Metropolitan 3rd Division Football League at the Outer Stadium.

Zaidul had put Euro famous ahead in the first half.

Shantinagar Club drew goalless with Kasaituly SKP while Gullistan Club blanked GSK Chat 2-0 with strikes from Parvez and Sharif in either half at the Bir Shrestha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

In the day's other match, City United Club gave up a first-half lead to draw 1-1 with Tongi KC-1.

Shakib misses

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The conditions here are pretty similar to South Africa and we have good sides to play against. Kenya will be especially tough at home while Pakistan are a world-class team," said Tigers skipper Mohammad Ashraful at the pre-tournament media briefing.

The weather here has been on the cooler side, typical English conditions, and the sun has not been seen throughout the day. The rain however has stayed away.

BCB runs rule

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talked about the weaknesses in international level and ways to recover from them.

"The pride of coaching an international side is always a huge motivation for a coach and it is a dream for anybody to coach a national side," he added.

For the first time, BCB has been conducted such an interview process but what surprised everybody was the absence of chief executive officer Mahmudur Rahman during the presentation yesterday.

"We don't feel his presence is necessary right at the moment but we will definitely involve him if needed," was Lipu's explanation.

Seeds safely

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Also going through in Federer's quarter of the draw were two other Americans - James Blake and Donald Young - but the way they did so against French opponents could not have been more different.

Fifth-seeded Blake had to deal with the unorthodox wizardry of wily veteran Fabrice Santoro but triumphed in the end 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 in the last match of the night session feature games to set up a third round tie with Stefan Koubek of Austria.

It was the first time the New Yorker had won a five-set match in his career.

In contrast, 18-year-old Donald Young did not even have to hit a ball as Richard Gasquet withdrew before the start with an illness.

Verdasco dispatched Frenchman Gilles Simon in straight sets 6-0, 6-4, 6-3, while Lopez staggered past Russian Igor Andreev in a 6-7 (3/7), 7-5, 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) marathon.

In the second quarter of the draw, Britain's Andy Murray blew hot and cold before reaching the third round with a strength-sapping 5-7, 6-3, 6-1, 4-6, 6-1 win over Swedish veteran Jonas Bjorkman.

He next takes on 31-year-old Korean Hyung-Taik Lee, who upset 14th seed Guillermo Canas 7-5, 7-5, 6-3.

Fourth seed Nikolay Davydenko, beset by questions about illegal gambling patterns in tennis, put his troubles aside to breeze past Germany's Nicolas Kiefer 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 and next plays Nicolas Pietrangeli of Spain.

Martina Hingis, who won her only US Open title as a 16-year-old 10 years ago, also moved on with a 6-2, 7-5 win over France's Pauline Parmentier.



England youngster Stuart Broad is ecstatic after hitting the winning runs against India in the fourth one-day international at Old Trafford in Manchester on Thursday.

'Bopara, Broad special'

AFP, Manchester

England captain Paul Collingwood praised the calmness under pressure of youngsters Ravi Bopara and Stuart Broad after they saw his side to a three-wicket win in the fourth one-day international against India here at Old Trafford.

The victory, which gave England a 3-1 lead in the seven-match series, looked anything but assured as chasing a modest 213 for victory, they collapsed to 114 for seven in the 24th over.

But 21-year-old fast bowler Broad, who'd earlier in the match taken career-best figures of four for 51, showed no nerves as he made 45 not out, his highest score at this level.

Equally calm was the 22-year-old Bopara, one of England's few successes at the World Cup where he so nearly saw the side home to an unlikely victory against Sri Lanka in Antigua, making 52 before he was bowled off the last ball.

However, there were no heart-aches on this occasion as Bopara put any distress he may have felt at being involved in the dismissal of Collingwood, run out for 47 and the last wicket to fall, to one side on his way to an unbeaten 43 as he kept his cool under the Old Trafford floodlights.

Thursday's match was only Bopara and Broad's 13th at this

level but the pair batted with the composure of veterans as they set a new England record eighth wicket stand of 99, beating the 76 shared by Paul Nixon and Liam Plunkett against New Zealand at Perth in January.

"The performances by both of them were exceptionally special," Collingwood told reporters. "I'm not saying at half-time we thought we'd won it, but you'd expect to knock those runs off -- seven down after 25 overs, you think you've blown it."

"But to turn it around like that and have the kind of maturity to go out there and play innings like those, you'd thought they'd have played 100 games each," all-rounder Collingwood added.

Broad, some of whose shots gave a clue that he was the son of former England opening batsman Chris, said Bopara's ice-cool approach had helped him settle in at the crease.

"It was great to go out there with Ravi," said Broad, who like his father bats left-handed but bowls with his right. "He was always talking to me and we're egging each other on."

"We won the game and that's what we were aiming for."

"We had plenty of time to bat so there wasn't any scoreboard pressure," added Broad, who recently announced he would move from Leicestershire to Midlands rivals Nottinghamshire next season in a

bid to help bolster his chances of a Test debut.

Collingwood, who having taken over as one-day captain from Michael Vaughan lost his first series in charge when the West Indies completed a 2-1 win in July, said a hard-fought win such as this would be a huge boost to his youthful team's confidence. "You have to go through these kind of situations and experience along the way to learn. You see the character of people when you get yourself in these situations and we've seen two characters who've done exceptionally well."

Broad and Bopara's efforts also won praise from India captain Rahul Dravid.

He said: "Broad coming in at No 9 is a huge player for them. He plays sensibly, he's not just a lower order slogger."

And of Essex all-rounder Bopara, the star batsman -- dismissed by Broad for one on Thursday -- added: "I've seen a few knocks of his during the World Cup and it shows he's got a good temperament and a good head on his shoulders which really helps."

Collingwood though warned England couldn't rest on their laurels ahead of Sunday's match at Headingley where another win would see them claim an unbeatable series lead.

"We've got to be really ruthless and hopefully play our best cricket from now on."

Broad stands tall

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against the West Indies at Lord's in July.

India were indebted to Yuvraj Singh (71) and Sachin Tendulkar (55), who shared a fourth-wicket stand of 71.

England, who'd seen India collapse to 32 for three, slumped in reply. They hadn't scored a run when Alastair Cook was bowled middle stump for a fifth-ball no-bout by Khan.

Matt Prior exited for four when his uppercut off Agarkar, recalled in place of the dropped Munaf Patel, went straight to Ramesh Powar at third man.

Ian Bell had been a thorn in India's side this series with a hundred and two fifties. But England's top-scorer in the previous three games could only manage 24 before he was bowled, shouldering arms, by an Agarkar delivery that held its line to clip off-stump.

Agarkar had his third wicket when Kevin Pietersen, on 18, skied to Chawla at square leg.

Andrew Flintoff, returning after missing England's 42-run win at Edgbaston on Monday with a knee injury, fell for five on his Lancashire home ground when he became another Agarkar victim with the all-rounder's loose square-drive going straight to Yuvraj at backward point.

The last thing England needed, after Owais Shah went cheaply, was a run out but that was what they got.

Bopara pushed off-spinner Powar behind square and hesitated. But it was Collingwood who was run out by Rudra Pratap Singh's throw to wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Flintoff had earlier removed Dravid, caught behind for one, with his sixth ball and finished with typically economical figures of one for 31.

Tendulkar and Yuvraj kept

England at bay until the 'Little Master' fell to off-spinner Kevin Pietersen's third ball, when a top-edged pull was well caught by Flintoff, running round on the deep square leg boundary.

Yuvraj though pulled Broad for a huge six to complete a 90-ball fifty.

But Broad bowled Yuvraj round his legs with a full length delivery.

The series continues at Headingley on Sunday.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the fourth one-day international between England and India at Old Trafford on Thursday:

INDIA
Ganguly c Bell b Anderson 9
Tendulkar c Flintoff b Pietersen 55
Karthik c Prior b Broad 4
Dravid c Prior b Flintoff 1
Yuvraj Singh b Broad 71
Dhoni b Panesar 13
Agarkar c Prior b Broad 7
Powar c Bell b Broad 6
Chawla not out 13
Zaheer Khan c Collingwood b Anderson 20
RP Singh c Bopara b Anderson 0
Extras: (lb-4, w-8, nb-1) 13
Total: (All out in 49.4 overs) 212
Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-31, 3-32, 4-103, 5-140, 6-147, 7-178, 8-179, 9-210, 10-212.

Bowler
Broad 10 1 51 4
Anderson 9.4 2 38 3
Flintoff 10 1 31 1
Panesar 10 0 39 1
Collingwood 9 0 43 0
Pietersen 1 0 6 1

ENGLAND
Cook b Zaheer Khan 0
Prior c Powar b Agarkar 4
Bell b Agarkar 24
Pietersen c Chawla b Agarkar 18
Collingwood run out 47
Flintoff c Yuvraj Singh b Agarkar 5
Shah c Karthik b Powar 8
Bopara not out 43
Broad not out 45
Extras: (lb-5, w-13, nb-1) 19
Total: (For 7 wickets in 48 overs) 213

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-14, 3-35, 4-81, 5-95, 6-110, 7-114.
Did not bat: [Anderson, M Panesar, Bowler O M R W]

Zaheer Khan 9 1 45 1
Agarkar 10 0 60 4
RP Singh 6 0 22 0
Chawla 10 0 43 0
Powar 10 0 26 1
Yuvraj 2 0 8 0
Tendulkar 1 0 4 0

Result: England won by 3 wickets and lead seven-match series 3-1. Man-of-the-match: Stuart Broad. Toss: India

Rafiq for stronger
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second to none but he expects to be put to test once he gets down to business. He is also aware of the general pitfalls but at the same time relishes the challenges that lie ahead in the coming months.

The chief selector is traditionally the bane of any cricket-crazed nation and Bangladesh is no exception. But this is what selecting a national side is all about. One must understand that it is as thankless as an umpire's job when the good decisions are never mentioned but a bad call is remembered for far too long.

NCA back
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Australian Capital Territory were bundled out for 106 in 36 overs with May scoring team highest 34 off 84 balls.

Nazmul Hossain picked up two wickets for 11 runs, Enamul Haque claimed two for 20 and captain Mehrah captured two wickets as well.

National Cricket Academy side will play their first match of the Crocodile Cup against Tasmania with a three-day game which will start on September 4 at the University Ground.

Sylhet Div 1 football

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet.

After being suspended for nine days, the Sylhet First Division Football League resumed at the local stadium on Thursday.

In Thursday's match, Sylhet Town club outplayed Azad Sporting club 2-0.

Rafique Ahmed netted the first goal in the 15th minute followed by Ripon, who scored the second goal in the 32nd minute.

The match was an evenly contested one, although the Azad men failed to score from the chances that they got.

Town Club's Jewel and Azad Sporting's Sumon, Azmal and Nanu were shown yellow cards.

Warne faces suspension

PTI, London

Shane Warne could be banned if found guilty for alleged verbal abuse of a fan during a Pro40 game against Sussex.

The 37-year-old Hampshire skipper, facing an England and Wales Cricket Board disciplinary hearing for the second time this season, would become the first county cricketer banned under ECB rules if found guilty.

The former Test cricketer had earlier incurred six disciplinary points for his reaction after being given out during a County Championship match against Kent in May.

DC Cup football

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Manikchhari Upazila defeated Mohalchhari Upazila by a 5-2 score line in the second match of Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup Football Tournament held at the Khagrachhari Stadium yesterday.

Mohalchhari initially took a two-goal lead as they scored in the 4th and the 17th minutes of the first half. Manikchhari levelled by firing in goals in the 21st and the 35th minutes of the first half.

Manikchhari striker Mohammad Amin then proceeded to score a second half hat-trick to lead his team to the semifinals.

Manikchhari will face Khagrachhari in the first semifinal at same venue.

The tournament was suspended for five days from August 26 to August 30 due to heavy rain.

Memorial TT

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The 2nd Shaheed Shongku Memorial Table Tennis tournament began on Thursday in Rangpur.

The Daily Star Readers' Club and Eleven Star jointly organized the tournament at the Rangpur Table Tennis Federation complex.

Legendary table tennis player Dr. Gopal inaugurated the four-day long tournament.

A total of 68 players from 8 different clubs of Rangpur are participating in the tournament.

The tournament was organized with a view to restoring the lost glory of table tennis in the district.

Ganguly claims WC Chess spot

SPORTS REPORTER

Surya Shekhar Ganguly booked a spot in the World Cup Chess when the Indian Grandmaster lifted the title of the Asian Zonal Chess Championship yesterday.

Ganguly defeated Nepal's Shreshtha Keshav in the 11th and final round at the NSC conference room but contender GM Gopal also won his match against Bangladesh International master Abdullah Al Rakib as the two Indians tied on nine points.

Ganguly, however, proved better in the tiebreaking play-off, beating Gopal -- who has earned his third and final GM norm from this event -- 2-0 in rapid chess rounds.

Their fellow Indian G Rohit finished third in the men's competition, followed by GM Deepan Chakravarty (India, 7 points), IM Enamul Hossain Rajib (6), IM Abdullah Al Rakib (5.5), GM Reekar Bin Sattar (5.5), FM Khondokar Aminul Islam (4.5), Tunveer Gillani (Pakistan, 4.5), IM Suvrajit Saha (Lanka, 3.5), Athula Russell (Sri Lanka, 2) and Shreshtha Keshav (Nepal, 1.5).

Ganguly will travel to Siberia in November this year for the first round of the World Cup.

Although the Bangladeshi players cut sorry figures in the zonal championship, GM Ziaur Rahman has already been nominated by the FIDE president to play in the grand event.

Women's champion D Harika, the WGM from India, also qualified for the World Cup.

On conclusion of the US 5,000 dollars competition yesterday, Sports Adviser Tapan Chowdhury distributed prizes among the winners.

Twelve players from India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh including three grandmasters took part in the men's competition while five players vied in the women's section.

A bitter loss

AFP, Manchester

India captain Rahul Dravid said the bitterness of losing a match they could so easily have won would fuel his side's bid to narrow the gap in their one-day series with England at Headingley on Sunday.

Dravid's men, defending a modest total of 212 under the Old Trafford floodlights, were on course to level the seven-match series at 2-2 after reducing England to 114 for seven in the 24th over.

But instead India ended up losing by three wickets to go 3-1 down.

They were rendered powerless by an unbroken record England eighth wicket stand of 99 between the 22-year-old Ravi Bopara, 43 not out, and the 21-year-old Stuart Broad, 45 not out, both of whom were appearing in only their 13th one-day international.

In the end England won with two overs to spare, with man-of-the-match Broad posting his highest score at this level after taking career-best figures of four for 51.

Defeat was particularly hard on Ajit Agarkar. Recalled in place of fast bowler Munaf Patel after England's 42-run win at Edgbaston on Monday, the experienced seamer dismissed four of the top six on his way to figures of four for 60.

By contrast, his previous two matches this series had yielded combined figures of none for 132 off 19 overs.

"It's tough, but I think when we reach Headingley we'll be pretty keen," Dravid told reporters after Thursday's match.

"We'll know in the back of our minds that we could have won that game. The series could so easily have been different," added Dravid, whose team must avoid defeat at Headingley to keep the series alive.

Despite Agarkar's efforts, England scored quickly and, even when seven down, were well ahead of the required rate.

"I knew that if they batted 50 overs they would probably get there," said Dravid. "We knew we only needed that one wicket, but credit to them because they played really well."

What Dravid didn't say was India might well have got the breakthrough they were looking for had not teenage leg-spinner Piyush Chawla seen what looked like a convincing lbw appeal against Broad, then on 25, rejected by English umpire Ian Gould.

Once more India's fielding let them down, even Dravid diving over the ball at mid-off, and their relative sloth between the wickets was highlighted when Bopara and Broad completed an all-run four.

"Our fielding is an area that can hurt us, particularly in these tight, low-scoring games," Dravid admitted.

"If you've got six or seven guys in the ring trying to save singles but the opposition is still able to take them, it's tough."

India's leading batsmen again found runs hard to come by against England's seamers with James Anderson (three for 38) and the fit-again Andrew Flintoff (one for 31) especially economical on their Lancashire home ground.

It needed a fourth-wicket stand of 71 between Sachin Tendulkar (55) and Yuvraj Singh, who himself scored 71, to revive India's innings from the depths of 32 for three.

"I think we were about 25 runs light," Dravid, caught behind off Flintoff for one, said.

During England's reply the fixture became the most fractious contest between the two sides since India's victory in last month's 'jelly-bean' Test match at Trent Bridge.

Gould had a word with Dravid as tempers started to flare but the India captain said it had all been part of the normal flow of the game.

"It was nothing serious. We have communication between the umpires and the captain all the time and there was nothing more to it than that."

Dravid added that India were waiting on the fitness of left-arm pace bowler Zaheer Khan, who took one for 45 in nine overs despite twisting an ankle.

"We've got a couple of days but hopefully he'll be all right."

Another American David Payne third in 13.02.

It was a step forward for Liu who took silver in 2005 and bronze in 2003. Felix flew over the finish line in 21.81 seconds to become the first woman under 22 seconds in the 200m since fellow American Inger Miller's 21.77 powered through the last 50m to leave Jamaica's Veronica Campbell, the 100m champion, in her wake.

Campbell finished in 22.34 with Sri Lanka's Susanthika Jayasinghe, Asia's most female decorated sprinter who won the 1997 world silver and the 2000 Olympic bronze, third in 22.63.

Her victory deprived Campbell of joining Silke Gladisch (1987) and Katrin Krabbe (1991) as the only women to achieve the double.

Cuba's Yargelis Savigne won the women's triple jump with a leap of 15.28 metres, ending any hope Russia's Tatyana Lebedeva had of an unprecedented long jump and triple jump double.

Lebedeva, who won gold in 2001 and 2003, came second with 15.07

while Hrysopyli Devetzi of Greece was third.

The Czech Republic's Barbora Spotakova spearheaded gold in the javelin, heaving 67.07 metres to beat Germany's European record holder Christina Oberegfol who threw 66.46. Another German, Steffi Nerius, took bronze in 64.42.

Earlier, Russia added another gold to its glittering collection when Olga Kaniskina announced herself as a new force to be reckoned with by winning the women's 200m walk.

The 22-year-old beat teammate and training partner Tatyana Shemyakina by 33 seconds, battling through heat, wind and rain to cross the line in 1 hour 30.09 seconds, almost five minutes outside world record pace.

Spain's Maria Vaco took the bronze.

Bahrain's defending 800m champion Rashid Ramzi crashed out of the event at the semi-final stage, fading badly to finish his heat last.

AFP, Bayern Munich

I'm delighted. It's been a long time," said the 22-year-old who played 90 minutes in midweek and is hoping for some game time.

"Maybe the boss will give me 10, 20 or 30 minutes."

"I don't think I'll play much in the next few weeks, I need to recover my rhythm first."

"I'm definitely some way behind, especially in terms of stamina."

Champions VfB Stuttgart are also in action on Sunday against promoted Karlsruhe who are down near the relegation zone after three games.

Stuttgart have Germany's player of the year Mario Gomez back from injury and he will be looking to impress German coach Joachim Loew ahead of Germany's Euro 2008 qualifier against Wales in Cardiff next weekend.

After two draws away and their impressive 4-1 home win over Borussia Dortmund, Schalke 04 are looking for three points in Friday

FIXTURES
Saturday
Werder Bremen v Eintracht Frankfurt, Hertha