

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 Shreshtha 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 Bhaban 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 Jirab SC 3-0 in yesterday's Metropolis 3rd Division Football League at the Outer Stadium.

Zaidul had put Euro famous ahead in the first half.

Shantinagar Club drew goalless with Kasitali SKP while Gulistan Club blanked Gazir Chat 2-0 with strikes from Parvez and Sharif in either half at the Bir Shreshtha 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 1-1.

Shakib misses

FROM PAGE 17
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 Ashraf 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

FROM PAGE 17
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

FROM PAGE 17
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-seed Blake had to deal with the unorthodox wizardry of Kyle Edmund, who beat him in straight sets 6-0, 6-4, 6-3, while Lopez staggered past Russia's 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 Cañas 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 and next plays Nicolas Almagro 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.

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 David, caught behind for one, with his sixth ball and finished with typically economical figures of one for 31.

Tendulkar and Yuvraj kept



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, Khagchhari

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 Khagchhari 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 hattrick to lead his team to the semifinals.

Manikchhari will face Khagchhari 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 GN Gopal also won his match against Bangladeshi International master Abdullal Al Rakib as the two Indians tied on nine points.

Ganguly, however, proved better in the tie-breaking 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), FM Reeftab Bin Sattar (5.5), FM Khondokar Aminul Islam (4.5), IM Sunveer Gillani (Pakistan, 4.5), IM Surajit Saha (India, 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 Rahaman 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

Cricket

AFP, Manchester

matches this series had yielded combined figures of none for 132 of 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 them," Dravid said. "The series could 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 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 'jellybean' 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.

"Our fielding is an area that can hurt us, particularly in the low-scoring games," Dravid said. "We hope he'll be all right."

Wariner, Liu hit jackpot

Athletics

AFP, Osaka

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-topping in 1999.

She powered through the last 50m to leave Jamaican 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.

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 30.05 seconds, almost five minutes outside world record pace.

Spain's Maria Vaco took the bronze.

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

Bayern wait on injuries

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 will be looking to impress German coach Joachim Löw 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 BSC v VfL Wolfsburg, Hannover 96 v VfL Bochum, Energie Cottbus v Nuremberg, Hansa Rostock v Borussia Dortmund, MSV Duisburg v Aminia Bielefeld

Sunday

Hamburger v Bayern Munich, Karlsruhe v VfB Stuttgart



Grand Master Surya Shekhar Ganguly of India (L) receives the prize money from Sports Adviser Tapan Chowdhury at the NSC conference room yesterday after conclusion of the Asian Zonal Chess Championship.