

Sabbir treble inspires Rajshahi

SPORTS REPORTER

Buoyed by Sabbir Rana's hat-trick, Rajshahi thrashed Mymensingh 7-0 in the super league of the Arif Apparels 21st National Youth Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Rajshahi led 1-0 at the break but the floodgate opened after the breather with Rana Kumar and Shuvo scoring two goals each beside Sabbir's three.

Faridpur defeated Munshiganj 3-1 in the other match with goals from Plaban, Saiful and Monir.

Matuail going great guns

SPORTS REPORTER

Matuail Udayan Sangsad maintained their winning run in the Third Division Football super league when they romped to their third consecutive win yesterday.

Bakul slotted the match winner after 28 minutes as Matuail edged Tongi Kira Chakra by a solitary goal to the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

In the day's other super league tie, Russell's brace either side of the break helped Lalbagh SC win 2-1 against Spandan KC, who had equalized through Sadi.

It was Lalbagh's second victory.

'India lucky to have Dhoni'

PTI, Jaipur

Greg Chappell is happy with the way the Indian cricket team, with which he had a tumultuous two-year stint, is shaping up and believes the side had unearthed an able leader in Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

The former India coach, who made an unceremonious exit following India's World Cup debacle in the West Indies, was here in his new role as consultant for the Future Cricket Academy of the Rajasthan Cricket Association.

"I had foreseen a great future for Dhoni. He has proved his potential and as a leader he has been most impressive. The Indians are lucky to have a leader like him," he said of Dhoni who led India to the ICC World Twenty20 Championship triumph in South Africa.

Chappell also took the opportunity to state that as India's coach, he had done his best and it was for others to judge him.

"The Indian team is now doing well. When I was there as the coach, whatever I did stood them in good stead. It is up to others to judge. Indian cricket is lucky that they can choose from," he said.

Chappell was cautious in his remarks and ducked questions on other issues, fearing it may lead to controversy. He also refused to comment on the Indian team currently playing without a permanent coach, a post lying vacant since the Australian left.

FA move

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All players and club officials will be forced to sign a 'memorandum of understanding' noting the standards of behaviour that will be expected.

"These things are done better through discussion rather than a big stick but we want to stop the situation getting out of hand," said Barwick.

"There is a lot of emotion and passion in the game but you only have to look at a sport like rugby to see there seems to be a certain level of respect for the officials.

Barwick's stance has been backed by England coach Steve McClaren, who was once forced to resign as president of a local club because of the behaviour of parents.

L'pool lacking

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from the start, is to prove that I'm good enough to try to do the things I was lucky enough to do on Saturday."

After a somewhat fortunate 1-1 draw in Porto Liverpool need to beat Marseille to avoid putting themselves under too much pressure for the remaining four matches in their group, and history is on their side as far as realising that objective goes.

No French club has ever won at Anfield and Liverpool have won eight out of nine of the Anglo-French meetings in European competition at the famous old stadium.

Liverpool will be without injured duo Daniel Agger and Xabi Alonso but otherwise Benitez will be selecting from a full squad.

Marseille meanwhile will be without Samir Nasri, the 20-year-old touted as the 'new Zidane', and centre-back Jacques Faty as a result, respectively, of illness and injury.



California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger waves to the crowd as he marches with the US team during the opening ceremony of the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai on Tuesday.

Terminator opens Special Olympics

AFP, Shanghai

Arnold Schwarzenegger and Yao Ming helped kick off the Special Olympics World Summer Games here on Tuesday for a record 7,300 mentally disabled athletes.

The Californian governor and the Houston Rockets basketball star were among the stars from the worlds of sport, politics and the arts at the opening ceremony at the Shanghai Stadium presided over by Chinese President Hu Jintao.

Schwarzenegger, whose wife is the daughter of the Special Olympics founder and the sister of his current chairman, spoke of his

"pride" at attending China's first-ever staging of a major sports event for people with mental disabilities.

"I used to play in action movies as the action hero, but that was actually nothing that can be compared with the real action that is taking place in this stadium," said the Terminator star.

Earlier, Hu told the event's chairman Timothy Shriver holding it in China, which has 9.8 million disabled people, would contribute to the development of the international Special Olympics cause.

"China hopes the Games would help the world better understand China, and strengthen the friend-

ship between people of China and the rest of the world," he said, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

Several well-known musicians lent their talents to make the event a success, state media reported.

Tai Dun, the Oscar-winning composer for the kung fu movie *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, had composed a new piece for the opening ceremony, according to the China Daily.

The event's theme song, meanwhile, was composed by American musician Quincy Jones, a multiple Grammy winner.

Khulna vow

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accident earlier this year.

In fact, Rana was the highest scorer and wicket-taker (549 runs and 30 wickets) in the team last year before he met his fatal end. Sajjadul Hasan, who also died in the same accident, was the second highest run-getter for Khulna. But apart from Rana (who scored two hundreds), Imrul Kayes struck the only other ton.

Another big miss was Tushar Imran, away in A team duties during the time, who only turned up for two first-class matches.

But this time, Khulna started their preparation indoors on Monday under former national cricketer Sheikh Salahuddin Ahmed, who is very optimistic to erase last year's bitter memory.

"The national players are yet to join the camp and hopefully the real preparation will start from Friday as Shumon (Habibul Bashar) and Syed Rashed are expected to join the team then," informed Salahuddin, who played six one-day internationals and was regarded as a classy off-spinner.

"You all know what happened in the last few seasons. It is unfortunate the way Khulna played last season. My main objective is to bring the togetherness among the players, which is very important. I also think that the financial package will play a big role this season and now, all we need are good pitches," he said.

Salahuddin however was a little bit concerned about injuries to Mashrafe, Shakib Al Hasan and Abdur Razzak.

"These three has small injuries and are unlikely to join the camp before Eid but I am hopeful that they are able to play the first round," he informed.

Besides the national colours, Khulna has a number of young prospects like openers Imrul Kayes and Nazmus Sadat, wicketkeeper Sahagir Hossain and pacemen Dollar Mahmud and Ziaur Rahman. Khulna will also bank on the portly Nahidul Haque, who struck a hundred in the one-day format.

"Actually we have a balanced side because we have a strong batting line-up along with variety in our bowling attack," said the 38-year-old coach.

Tajik booters

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Regar's neighbours Dordoi-Dynamo of Kyrgyzstan defended their title successfully with a 2-1 win over Mehendra in Monday's final at the Punjab Stadium.

To cut travel expenses and save time, the Regar boys decided to arrive Dhaka early. They will also pay for their accommodation. The rest of the team's expected date of arrival, however, has yet to be confirmed.

Regar, who thrashed Bhutan's Transport Club 13-0 in their group match in the just concluded President's Cup, have in their line-up Khurshed Makhmudov, Tajikistan's Player of the Year in 2006, who was the fulcrum of the national team which had won the inaugural AFC Challenge Cup in Dhaka.

He was also instrumental in Tajikistan's 6-1 humiliation of hosts Bangladesh in the April 2006 tournament.

Khurshed is accompanied by Ibrahimgi Rabimov, who also played vital role in their success in Dhaka last year, and striker Abbas Abdulloev.

Before that, Bangladesh had lost both their internationals against the former Soviet Union state -- by identical margins of 2-0 at home and away -- in the 2006 World Cup pre-qualifiers in November 2003.

Bangladesh are preparing at BKSP under Indian coach Syed Nayeemuddin, who is expected to name the squad for the home match very soon.

The return-leg is scheduled for October 28 in Dushanbe.

Haddin moves up

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Brad Haddin was superfluous in Australia's World Cup domination this year as only 13 men were needed to retain the title. Although he didn't play a game in the Caribbean, his two-month tropical holiday showed him that opportunities to break into a champion side cannot be wasted. His unbeaten 87 in Kochi, on the back of a 69 in Bangalore on Saturday, proved he should not be pigeonholed as the squad's back-up wicketkeeper.

Haddin is used to being thrown the gloves on the rare occasions Adam Gilchrist is injured or rested. Before this tour that had meant a smattering of 21 ODIs in seven seasons. He still considers himself a wicketkeeper who can bat a bit, although that's what most people thought of Gilchrist when he made his international entrance.

Those who have watched Haddin demolish state attacks with New South Wales were familiar with the slogs to cow corner and confident drives in his 69-ball innings at Kochi. His instincts are in sync with Australia's attacking game-plan and when he joined Andrew Symonds in the 32nd over he poked around for two overs before dropping to one knee and smashing Harbhajan Singh over midwicket for six.

When Harbhajan switched ends Haddin repeated the punishment first ball with a near-identical six. He was especially strong on the on-side, sending a Zaheer Khan slower ball into the second tier over midwicket, on-driving a sweetly-timed four off Sreesanth, and brazenly stepping outside off stump to paddle Zaheer for four to fine leg.

He is certainly no Gilchrist clone but there are similarities -- they both like to hit catches into the crowd, they each had a lengthy national apprenticeship and they each made their mark in ODIs in the unfamiliar role of a specialist batsman. When Gilchrist and Ian Healy played in the same side in South Africa in 1996-97 the gloveless Gilchrist spilled catches in the slips and the outfield -- Haddin has so far avoided that indignity.

Haddin turns 30 this month and has the experience and ability to make the wicket-keeping role his own when Gilchrist retires. In the meantime he can make it difficult for the selectors to drop him when Ricky Ponting returns from a hamstring injury and the pressure moves on to Brad Hodge to hold his spot.

Ponting is not the only one missing from this line-up. Michael Hussey, Nathan Bracken and Shaun Tait will walk straight into the team when they are available, as would Shane Watson if his fitness could be guaranteed. The lengthy list of absences has given Haddin, Hodge,

Mitchell Johnson and James Hopes a chance to impress.

Hodge has missed out in India but played some useful cameos at the ICC World Twenty20. Johnson -- another tourist who was not used in the World Cup -- claimed eight Twenty20 wickets in South Africa and earned new-ball honours at Bangalore and Kochi. On each occasion he made an early breakthrough; last time it was Sachin Tendulkar lbw to a quick inswinger, this time Gautam Gambhir misjudged a ball that jagged back and clipped the top of off stump.

When India were gaining momentum, Hopes -- who had belted a useful 37 at Bangalore -- removed Yuvraj Singh in his first over. Haddin's 87 not out was his highest ODI score and was the perfect follow-up after Matthew Hayden and Andrew Symonds built a healthy platform.

Occasionally Australia's fringe players have been found out -- February's Chappell-Hadlee Trophy springs to mind -- but the depth within the national squad is gradually being explored and developed. Next in line are Adam Voges and Ben Hilfenhaus, who watched from the dressing-room as their teammates secured an 84-run win at Kochi. They might be superfluous on this trip but their day will come and like Haddin, they need to prove a point when it does.

75 years of Bodyline

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frantic political negotiations to save the tour and restore frayed diplomatic relations between Britain and Australia.

The British coalition government's Dominion Secretary JH Thomas later described Bodyline as the most troublesome affair of his ministerial career.

England's emphatic 4-1 series victory brought both opprobrium and praise for Jardine.

Bodyline curbed Bradman's batting average to 56.57. He scored just one century in his four Tests with a series aggregate of 396 runs. Without the Bodyline series, Bradman would have finished his career with a Test average of 104.76 instead of 99.94.

Latwood, the former Nottinghamshire coalminer, claimed series-high 33 wickets at 19.51, but even of the series sours him. The 28-year-old paceman never played for England again.

Larwood later migrated to Australia with his wife Lois, and his five daughters and lived in Sydney until his death in 1995, at the age of 90.

It says much for the series that Bodyline remains the only chapter in cricket's history that film-makers have thought worth dramatising with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation producing a documentary in 2002.

Jardine resigned as England captain before Australia's 1934 Ashes tour and retired from first-class cricket aged 33.

That same year the MCC outlawed systematic howling of fast and short-pitched balls at batsmen standing clear of their wicket.

Bradman, once lauded as 'the greatest living Australian', died in Adelaide on February 25, 2001 aged 92, while Jardine died from lung cancer aged 57, in Montreux, Switzerland, in June 1958.

Pak stumble to spin

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Kaneria, playing his 47th Test, is the sixth Pakistani bowler to take 200 or more wickets in the longer version of the game.

When it seemed that South Africa might not reach 400, AB de Villiers hit a rapid 77 with seven boundaries and a six off 101 balls. He was the last man out, bowled by paceman Umar Gul, who finished with 2-60.

Debutant left-arm Rehman mopped up the lower order, taking four wickets in just 35 balls. He removed Boucher (one), Nel (two), Harris (one) and Steyn (nought) before Gul took the final wicket.

Rehman was the pick of the home bowlers with 4-105.

Pakistan, who were hit by the last-minute withdrawal of prolific batsman Mohammad Yousuf on Monday, received another blow on the second day when vice-captain and opener Salman Butt was hospitalised due to gastroenteritis.

Butt was released from the hospital and will bat on the third day.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the first Test between Pakistan and South Africa at the National Stadium in Karachi on Tuesday: SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 294-3)

Gibbs c Hafeez b Gul	54	97.5-120.
Smith lbw b Hafeez	42	
Amla b Asif	71	
Kallis c Akmal b Kaneria	155	
Prince c b Kaneria	36	
De Villiers b Gul	77	
Boucher c Akmal b Rehman	1	
Nel c Misbahul b Rehman	2	
Harris c Akmal b Rehman	1	
Steyn b Rehman	0	
Ntini not out	0	
Extras: (b-1, lb-6, nb-4)	11	
Total: (All out in 136.3 overs)	450	
Fall of wickets: 1-87, 2-109, 3-279, 4-352, 5-373, 6-392, 7-408, 8-412, 9-448		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Asif	26	6	83	1
Gul	21.3	6	60	2
Kaneria	36	3	124	2
Rehman	31	3	105	4
Malik	8	2	31	0
Hafeez	14	0	40	1

PAKISTAN: First innings	
Hafeez c Kallis b Harris	34
Akmal lbw b Harris	42
Younis b Nel	6
Iqbal b Kallis	7
Misbahul c Boucher b Steyn	23
Malik not out	9
Rehman not out	1
Extras: (b-4, nb-1)	5
Total: (For five wickets in 40 overs)	127
To bat: Salman Butt, Umar Gul, Danish Kaneria, Mohammad Asif	
Fall of wickets: 1-71, 2-82, 3-84, 4-	

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39 Swing music	24 Pictorial posar
1 Grand story	42 Prohibit	3 Troubles
5 Tress	44 Emcee	25 Crony
9 Ring maneuver	48 5-Down's org.	26 Judge
12 Pop choice	49 Explosive sound	27 Varnish ingredient
13 Lotion additive	50 Con	29 Inventor
14 "All the Things You..."	51 Poorly lit	30 Hearty brew
15 Actor in	52 Choir member	31 Trailwar gear
16 Building extension	53 PC symbol	32 Preserver, in a way
17 Last latter	54 Kreskin's claim	36 Cant
18 Roughly	55 Congregational call	39 Green stone
19 Thither	56 Agts.	40 Sacred bird of Egypt
20 Despot	DOWN	41 Improvisation, perhaps
21 Banjo's kin	1 Microphone problem	43 First chip
23 Mound stat		45 Erst-while
25 Swipe		46 Put an end to
28 Abaso		47 Super-market stack
32 In any way, shape, or form		49 Quine comment
33 Ball VIP		
34 Spat		
36 Half a romantic duo		
37 P.E. site		
38 Fool		

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CRYPTOQUIP

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CMY VG ULJFMO HKIJR
HVXFKVR, WKVIY ZKV WLII
STCU STC OXFGR KH DXLST?
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF SOME FISH CHOSE
TO LAY EGGS ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT,
WERE THEY ACTING SPAWN-TANEIOUSLY?
Today's Cryptquip Clue: V equals U

Celtic face Milan test

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gins as Kaka's extra-time goal won it 1-0 on aggregate and history suggests another tight encounter on Wednesday.

The teams have fought out goalless draws in their last two meetings in Glasgow.

Playing for their future in the competition should be ample motivation for Strachan's side, but the chance to avenge that exit against Milan will raise the stakes even higher.

The atmosphere on European nights at Celtic is never for the faint-hearted, but Wednesday's encounter promises to be as raw and visceral as any in recent European Champions League history.

Celtic defender Gary Caldwell is convinced that could give his team a crucial edge.

"It would be one of our biggest results if we could win so hopefully it will be another one of those special European nights at Celtic Park," he said.

"There is no fear in us. We ran them very close in the two games last season and they went on to win

the competition, so we've proved we can compete with them."

Celtic will draw hope from Milan's stuttering start to their Serie A campaign. Carlo Ancelotti's men were forced to settle for a fourth draw in six matches on Sunday against Catania.

The Rossoneri are without a league win since the opening day, with their only other success coming against Benfica in the first round of Champions League fixtures.

But Ancelotti, who will give goalkeeper Dida a late fitness test on his shoulder injury, is secure in the knowledge that Europe has brought the best out of Milan in recent years.

Brazil midfielder Kaka holds the key to Milan's attempts to get back on track. The sublimely gifted playmaker looks set to be crowned FIFA World Player of the Year after inspiring Milan's success last season.

But he will have to be at his most ingenious to break free of the defensive shackles Celtic are certain to try to lock him in.

200 up

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Kaneria, who made his debut against England at Faisalabad in 2000, dismissed Marcus Trescothick for his first wicket. His 100th Test victim was Warne in a Test at Sydney in 2004.

Wasim Akram (414) heads the list for Pakistan, followed by Waqar Younis (373), Imran Khan (362), Abdul Qadir (236) and Saqlain Mushtaq (208).

Mask

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troublesome thigh problem.

English explained: "Michael's doing quite well. It was a tear on the outside of a muscle so his recovery will be quicker than Shaun's. Shaun has got a few more days before his fit and ready to go."

He added: "Frank is doing well. He is now four-and-a-half weeks on from injuring the main kicking muscle in the thigh."

"He is back out doing running and jumping, twisting and turning - everything except long kicking - so he's not far off."

"But we have to be cautious because we don't want to cause yet another injury to a muscle that has more or less healed."