

Sukhi fires a double hattrick

SPORTS REPORTER

Sukhi slammed seven goals to inspire Narayanganj brush aside Sirajganj 15-0 in the most one-sided match of the Inter-district Women's football competition at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Eeti scored a hattrick while Munni, Putul, Tumpa, Bithi and Ananya added one goal each for the winners.

After three days of competition, Dhaka moved into the semifinals with a 4-0 win against Rangpur with Shila netting three goals and Chinaone.

In the other match, a brace by Farzana helped Gaibandha blank Shariatpur 3-0.

New ad-hoc committees for BHF, BVF

UNB, Dhaka

The National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday named ad-hoc committees for Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) and Bangladesh Volleyball Federation (BVF) dissolving the previous committees under section 20 A (B) of the updated NSC Act 1974.

Former national hockey player and hockey secretary of Mohammedan Sporting Club Sajed Adel was named general secretary of a 29-member EC of the BHF, ending the tenure of long-serving general secretary and veteran organiser Shamsul Bari.

Renowned volleyball organiser Anisur Rahman of Power Development Board (PDB) was made general secretary of the 27-member BVF EC, replacing Ashique Rahman Miku of Narail.

The government earlier appointed Air Chief Air Marshall Shah M Ziaur Rahman as president of BHF and Golam Quddus Chowdhury as president of BVF.

Both the ad-hoc committees will take over immediately to arrange elections to their respective federations very soon.

Rs 5,000 fine on stalker

AFP, Colombo

A Sri Lankan court on Monday fined a British stalker 5,000 rupees (45 dollars) for holding up the Test match between the hosts and the visiting English team, a court official said.

The man ran from the stand next to the Press Box and did cartwheels on the field as bemused fans and players looked on Sunday. A fellow fan from among the thousands of English supporters offered him a pair of black boxer shorts.

The second Test between England and Sri Lanka was halted for a few minutes at Colombo's Sinhalese Sports Club as police escorted the man out and detained him at the Cinnamon Gardens Police station overnight.

"He was released with a fine of 5,000 rupees after he apologised to all Sri Lankans for his drunken behaviour," a court official said.

It was the first known instance of a stalker appearing at a cricket match in Sri Lanka.

England are looking for a series-leveilling win after losing the first Test in Kandy.

An ultimatum

FROM PAGE 17 Mohammedan general secretary Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan told that the BFF should give football the top priority, not elections or associations.

"Nobody is trying to save football. The current committee has organised just one league in Dhaka in four years. This is not the way to improve the game," said former footballer and national coach Golam Sarwar Tipu.

Dewan Shafiq Arefin Tutul, a fullback of the past, said that by arranging the B. League (professional football league), the BFF has ignored the other competitions, virtually killing the lesser domestic leagues.

Ex-national striker Sheikh Mohammed Aslam and organisers Mubashir Hossain, Shawkat Ali Jahangir and Nurul Alam Chowdhury also spoke at the roundtable.

Misbah keeps

FROM PAGE 17

Butt c Karthik b Ganguly	68			
Hameed lbw b Kumble	19			
Younis b Harbhajan	80			
Yousuf c Yuvraj b Pathan	24			
Misbahul not out	54			
Iqbal c Gambhir b Sharma	22			
Akmal not out	32			
Extras: (b-31, lb-25, nb-14)	70			
Total: (For five wkts in 117 overs)	369			
Fall of wickets: 1-59, 2-149, 3-221, 4-227, 5-288.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pathan	28	11	61	1
Sharma	23	7	88	1
Kumble	28	8	71	1
Ganguly	10	2	20	1
Harbhajan	23	6	66	1
Yuvraj	5	2	7	0



An action from yesterday's Inter-district women's football match between Narayanganj and Sirajganj at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

PHOTO: STAR

Ganguly wants

FROM PAGE 17

later in December last year.

Ganguly, 35, is so far India's leading Test run-scorer for 2007 with 932 runs following his double-hundred in Bangalore, and he has been growing from strength to strength. He squashed all speculations about his retirement, saying he intends to play next year. "Call it (his age) a driving force or whatever, but I want to continue being successful... The hunger hasn't died... Form permitting, I intend playing through 2008."

Pato will play

FROM PAGE 20

Last year he was a part of the Internacional Squad that won the Club World Cup, beating Barcelona in the final. He scored in their semi-final victory over Egypt's Al-Ahly.

"Pato is the youngest player to have scored in a FIFA competition," said Galliani, referring to that goal against Al-Ahly.

Inzamam, Razzaq Hyderabad stars

CRICINFO, undated

Inzamamul Haq and Abdul Razzaq made light work of a stiff target as the Hyderabad Heroes completed a comprehensive seven-wicket win over the Chennai Superstars in the Indian Cricket League (ICL) on Sunday.

The two former Pakistan players were unbeaten on 44 and 40 as the Heroes hunted down the target of 163 with 13 balls to spare.

For the Chennai Superstars, undefeated in the tournament before this match, Ian Harvey once again anchored the innings, remaining unbeaten on 63 as the

Superstars scored 162. Stuart Law scored 44 while Hemang Badani's 13-ball 31 provided the boost towards the end.

Hyderabad Heroes needed to chase what would equal the highest total of the tournament and their top three -- Anirudh Singh, Shashank Nag, and Ambati Rayudu -- got them off to a solid start. When Rayudu fell for 28 with the score on 86 for 3, they needed 77 off 52 deliveries for the win.

Razzaq joined Inzamam at the crease and the two didn't take much time to get going, blasting 27 runs off the 12th over bowled by R Sathish. That brought the asking-rate down from over nine to around six and a half, making the remainder of the chase a cakewalk for the Heroes.

Div 1 chess league from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The Metropolis First Division Chess League commences tomorrow with 16 teams taking part in the premier domestic competition.

The draw will be held today at the Bangladesh Chess Federation following a meeting of the team representatives and the federation officials.

V-Day hockey from today

UNB, Dhaka

The Victory Day hockey competition will begin today at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium with three matches scheduled on the opening day.

In the day's matches, Bangladesh Army will meet Barnak Samaj (10 am), Sonali Bank face Bangladesh Air Force (1.15 pm) and BKSP vs Bangladesh Navy (3 pm).

The top two sides of the six-team league will play in the December 18 final.

Kirsten finds team fine

CRICINFO, undated

Gary Kirsten, India's new coach, has said seeing the way the team is performing at the moment, there is no reason to change things much. Kirsten came to Bangalore to watch the third Test against Pakistan and to interact with the players before they leave for Australia. He will join the team there in January for the third and fourth Tests.

"The team is playing good cricket and to maintain that consistency would be all about it," Kirsten told NDTV, a news channel. "I met the players and got to know them. That was the intention of coming down for such a short period of time. Everything I set out to do was achieved."

Kirsten refused to let on what discussions he would have with the team on improving their performance. "I think we need to talk about that behind closed doors. You know various strategies and hopefully you see results on the field but they are a special team and have some good performers."

He said that Yuvraj Singh's place in the Test side would be discussed in due time. Yuvraj scored a century in India's first-innings total of 626. Kirsten was also confident that India would have a successful two years ahead. "Having played the game at the highest level, I can add some value and my experience. There are experienced players in the team and together we can bring some very successful couple of years."

Kirsten, who had asked for Paddy Upton, a mental conditioning coach, to be included in his support staff in India, said that mind coaches had become big in sports. "When they are part of the staff, my perception is that these people can add value to the team."

Dropping Sehwaag

FROM PAGE 17

Wednesday.

Chappell said Sehwaag's stupendous show in the last tour in 2003-04 still haunted the Australians and his presence would have given India a psychological edge.

"Forget about whose nose might have been put out of joint, the Australians still fear Sehwaag from the last tour. It's rare that you have a chance to put one over on the Baggy Green caps, so when the opportunity arises, you grab it with both hands," he was quoted as saying in the 'Herald Sun' today.

Clarke not carried away

Cricket

AFP, Perth

Michael Clarke said Monday he was not getting carried away with his promotion to the Australian captaincy for the upcoming Twenty20 clash against New Zealand at the WACA Ground.

Clarke, 26, will captain Australia at international level for the first time against the Black Caps and become the youngest player to lead the country since Kim Hughes, then 25, was made skipper in a Test against Pakistan at the same venue in 1979.

Regular captain Ricky Ponting is not playing against the Kiwis on Tuesday and Clarke's elevation has many suggesting he is being groomed as the man to take over from Ponting when the Tasmanian eventually retires.

However, the prodigious talent known by teammates as "Pup" said, he was not viewing the decision that way, the pain of being dropped from the Test team in 2005 still fresh in his mind.

Clarke said he lost his way at Test level by getting ahead of himself and doesn't plan to make the same mistake again.

"I am trying not to look past this game," he said.

"I have been given a chance for

one game and I am going to try to make the most of that. I don't want to look too far ahead, Ricky is our leader and a fantastic one at that and I'll just enjoy the opportunity.

"There has been a lot made of it in the media of late, and I am honoured for people to say the things they have said, but I have seen the other side (of cricket)."

Because of his relative youth compared with most of his teammates, Clarke has been widely regarded as the logical long-term successor to Ponting.

However, both Adam Gilchrist and Steve Waugh have recently cautioned against drawing such assumptions and Clarke said he agreed with them.

"There are a lot of guys in the team who could captain the Australian team and Ricky is only 32," he said.

"Who knows what will happen, it is so far away, and my priority is just to focus on what is in front of me now."

While expecting to be a little nervous, Clarke admitted the chance to lead an Australian team was a dream come true.

"It is going to be a new experience for me," he said.

"It is obviously something I've always wanted to do, I think any young kid dreams of captaining their country in any form of the game."

"It is going to be a challenge, but

it is going to be a great opportunity to find out what I bring to the team as a leader."

Clarke said he had learnt a lot about leadership from senior Test teammates.

"I'm always asking questions, trying to find out what guys are thinking," he said.

"We are lucky in the Australian team to have a lot of experience and hopefully it will hold me in good stead tomorrow night."

Clarke said the Australians wouldn't settle on their final side until the morning of the match.

He admitted Australia was still coming to terms with the nuances of the newest form of international cricket, as compared to one-day internationals, but was already looking towards the 2009 Twenty20 world championships.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA (from): Michael Clarke (captain), Adam Gilchrist, Andrew Symonds, Mike Hussey, Brad Hodge, Adam Voges, Ashley Noffke, Brett Lee, Nathan Bracken, Stuart Clark, Mitchell Johnson, Shaun Tait.

NEW ZEALAND (from): Daniel Vettori (captain), Brendon McCullum, Craig Cumming, Mark Gillespie, Gareth Hopkins, Jamie How, Chris Martin, Michael Mason, Kyle Mills, Jacob Oram, Jeetan Patel, Mathew Sinclair, Scott Styris, Ross Taylor, Lou Vincent.

Taylor looks forward

Windies rue lack of Test practice

Cricket

AFP, undated

West Indies fast bowler Jerome Taylor will head to South Africa for his country's long tour in fine fettle after being the scourge of Zimbabwe.

The West Indies play three Tests, five one-day internationals and one Twenty20 game against the Proteas in a gruelling tour that kicks off with a day-night ODI against a Makhaya Ntini Invitation XI and ends with the fifth ODI on February 3.

And Taylor will be relied upon to reproduce his scintillating bowling form that saw him take 11 wickets in four matches in Zimbabwe, won 3-1 by the West Indies, with the fifth and final ODI rained off.

Manager Clive Lloyd named Taylor man-of-the-series for his haul at an average of 13.71, with a strike rate of 20.6. The bowler also picked up man-of-the-match awards in the third and fourth matches.

"This was a great series for me and I believe I am bowling very well at the moment," admitted Taylor.

"My confidence is high and the team is on a high as we move on to the series in South Africa," said the 23-year-old, who is on his second

tour to the southern African nation.

"I'm happy to play a leading role and perform at my best for the West Indies. I enjoy representing the people of the West Indies and will be striving to go from strength to strength."

In the opening match of the series against Zimbabwe, Taylor took 2-68 in a shock defeat and in the second match he claimed 1-17 from eight overs.

But in the third match at the Harare Sports Club Taylor grabbed 3-18 from 9.5 overs and on Friday nabbed a career-best 5-48.

Meanwhile, the Caribbean believe the lack of Tests on their tour of Zimbabwe will count against them when they move on to South Africa to play three Tests.

"We will just have to rely on our lengthy previous experience," acting coach Henderson Springer told reporters after Sunday's last scheduled match of a one-day series which West Indies won 3-1 was washed out.

"The lack of Test match opportunity in Zimbabwe means we were not able to make proper preparations. So our past experience in this form of the game will just have to suffice," Springer added.

Zimbabwe were excluded from Test cricket by the International Cricket Council three years ago

after being embarrassed by defeats of an innings plus more than 200 runs by both Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

England had also refused to play Test matches against Zimbabwe, as did Australia, who were persuaded after lengthy negotiations to stay in Harare for three token ODIs.

Since then Zimbabwe have been confined to 50-overs matches, at which they occasionally excel, but not sufficient enough to be considered yet for a return to Test cricket, which may be some years away if at all.

The problem was caused by a strike of established players over selection disputes, pay, bonuses and conditions, which resulted in many of them departing the country or quitting the game. Two have since returned -- wicketkeeper Tatenda Taibu and spin bowler Ray Price.

Dwayne Bravo, who took over the West Indies captaincy here after Chris Gayle strained a ligament during the second match and withdrew from the remainder of the tour, said he was happy with his team's overall performance, which gave some benefit to the players.

"We have certainly been helped by Zimbabwe to get ready for South Africa," he said, adding that he also gained useful experience in the art of captaincy.



Ex-national football captain Badal Roy addresses a roundtable meeting at the NSC conference room yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

It's Inter versus the rest

FROM PAGE 20

That saw a whole host of star players leave for pastures new but they have rebuilt quickly and have surprised many people by challenging for the title in their first year back in the top flight.

And coach Claudio Ranieri is confident that his side is capable of lasting the distance and being in the mix when the title is decided in May.

"We know that Inter and Roma are stronger (than us). We will try to keep up with them. Being at Juventus means we have to do that," he said.

Still, while Roma were held by Livorno and Juve scraped past Atalanta, Inter were trouncing Torino.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic, already leading the way to be named Italian player of the season, converted a dubious penalty seven minutes before the break and seven minutes after the restart, the game was over as a contest.

First Romanian defender Christian Chivu crossed for Argentine striker Julio Cruz to head home and then Chile midfielder Luis Jimenez hit a rasping drive into the top corner.

Colombia defender Ivan Cordoba bundled home a late fourth from close range. Roma took the lead in Livorno on just five minutes as De Rossi headed home Brazilian midfielder Rodrigo Taddei's corner.

But less than 60 seconds later former Spain forward Diego Tristan turned Brazil centre-back Juan inside out and fired home low into the far corner.

In Turin, Juventus toiled for 86 minutes before a stunning strike from Nedved sealed a vital three points.

All to do for Real, L'pool

FROM PAGE 20

ship on Saturday.

Gerets believes his team's occasionally fickle fans could be key on Tuesday. "There's been a change in the behaviour of our fans," said the former Belgian international.

"I was pleasantly surprised by the support we had throughout the 90 minutes on Saturday. On Tuesday, against Liverpool, we will need even a little more."

Porto, the 2004 champions, need just a draw at home to Besiktas to make the last 16. The Turks, crushed 0-0 by Liverpool on their last Champions League trip and are bottom of Group A, need to win to qualify.

Besiktas coach Ertugrul Saglam said: "Our total focus is on the Porto game which is important

both for us and Turkish football. Our aim is to write a new page in the club's history."

Real are confident Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy will be fit to face Lazio and fire them into the next stage.

Van Nistelrooy limped out of Saturday's 1-0 win over Athletic Bilbao after scoring his seventh league goal of the season.

"I had some problems with my calf muscle towards the end of the game but I'll definitely be ready for Tuesday," said the 31-year-old.

Madrid need just a point to ensure qualification and with four goals in the competition van Nistelrooy has a crucial role.

Olympiakos and Werder Bremen meet in the other Group C

game with the Greeks, who won 3-1 in Germany in the first meeting, favourites to join Real in the next stage.

Chelsea, who reached the semi-finals last season, are already assured of top spot in Group B with three wins and two draws in their five games.

The Londoners will again be missing Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba who has undergone knee surgery with the player battling to be fit for the African Nations Cup in Ghana, which kicks off on January 20.

Schalke 04 of Germany face Rosenborg in the battle for the second qualifying place with the Norwegians needing just a point to go through.

Boro stun Gunners

FROM PAGE 20

"I felt Arsenal having three games in a week was a tall order for them and thought it might be a good day to get them," said former England defender Southgate.

At White Hart Lane, Tottenham took the lead on the stroke of half-time when Pascal Chimbonda scored despite City's protests of offside.

Jermaine Jenas's free-kick from the left was flicked on by Dimitar Berbatov and Chimbonda just did enough to turn the ball into the goal.

However, Spurs have struggled to hold onto a lead all season and just after the hour mark City, who've struggled away from home, were level when Rolando Bianchi headed in a corner from Martin Petrov.

Then came Ireland's reckless challenge on South Korean international Lee Young Pyo and, moments later, Spurs were ahead in the 83rd minute when substitute Jermain Defoe was quickest to react after a cross-shot from Steed Malbranque came back of the post.

"I thought it was one of our better away games. I'm not sure we deserved it," said ex-England coach Eriksson, who added Ireland's red card was the result of over-enthusiasm not malice.

"The tackle was not a nice one but every player has done that in his career. You shouldn't kill them for that."

Spurs boss Juande Ramos said Defoe was still not guaranteed a starting place despite his goal.

"It's true that Defoe helps the team when he comes on. But in the last few games he hasn't had much luck in front of goal."

"We have four centre forwards to choose from so two must sit out."

Bolton, who started on Sunday just two points above Wigan, went ahead through Paul Schärner's own goal when he headed in El Hadji Diouf's left-wing cross.

Denny Landzaat then made the most of a poor clearance by Abdoulaye Meite to draw Wigan level in the 14th minute.

Kevin Nolan made it 2-1 before half-time, after Nicolas Anelka had missed a penalty, before Kevin Davies made the game safe for Bolton when he turned in a Diouf cross. Anelka added a fourth a minute from time.

"You cannot play in this league and make individual errors like that," said Wigan manager Steve Bruce. "You have to give yourself a chance and these mistakes are costing us badly."

Bolton boss Gary Megson praised the contribution of Wanderers captain Nolan.

"He sets the standard on and off the pitch. He is a leader in every sense of the word," said the manager.

At Ewood Park, Dean Ashton came off the bench to score the only goal of the game as West Ham won away in the league for the fourth time this season.

"The goal is a bonus for me and a bonus for the team," said Ashton.

Blackburn manager Mark Hughes added: "It wasn't our day and we didn't play particularly well."