

N'ganj in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Narayanganj became the last team to confirm a semifinal berth in the Inter-district women's football tournament when they crushed Jessor 4-0 at the Dhammudi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Prolific scorer Sukhi struck a brace while Eetu and Bithi netted one goal apiece for Group D champions Narayanganj, who will face neighbours Dhaka in today's second semi.

The first semifinal will be played between Chittagong Hill Tracts neighbours Rangamati and Khagrachari.

Victory Day sports

SPORTS REPORTER

Eagles Club suffered consecutive defeats in the Total Victory Day basketball tournament when they heavily went down to Bangladesh Police 85-27 at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Police led the first half of the embarrassingly one-sided match 44-17. Harun shot 19 points and Mahmudul 14 for Police while Rahat was the peak of the Eagles attack with 15 points.

In another match, Bangladesh Navy comfortably beat Dhumketu Club 63-42.

Rashed led the sailors' charge with a 24-point haul while Lutfar caged 12. For Dhumketu, who trailed 29-11 at the break, Nahid shined with 15 points.

KABADDI

Favourites Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Rifles comfortably won the opening day's matches in the Victory Day kabaddi tournament at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court.

Army collected three lolas on way to dump Bangladesh Police 43-14 while BDR routed Bangladesh Jails 60-15 with four lolas.

Earlier, Bangladesh Olympic Association deputy secretary-general and former national footballer Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chunnu declared the meet open.

JUDO

UNB adds: Bangladesh Ansar's Mamtaz Pushpa, Dalia Akhter and Mina Akhter clinched gold in the City Bank Ltd 1st Youth (Under-20) and Victory Day senior judo competition on the opening day at the NSC Gymnasium.

In the women's 70kg+ category, Mamtaz grabbed gold in women's 70kg+ category, Dalia won the -63kg, and Mina claimed the -52kg gold.

Some 224 judokas including 79 females are competing in the three-day meet.

Earlier, Bangladesh Olympic Association's COO Col (retd) M Waliullah inaugurated the event.

T20 cricket final today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Munshiganj Press Club had a seven-wicket defeat to Munshiganj Municipality yesterday to set a final clash with DC XI in the Twenty20 cricket.

In reply to Municipality's 84-7, Press Club reached the target in 13.4 overs at the local stadium.

The final will be held today at the same venue.

CA ponders

Tests, which traditionally begin at 11am and finish at 6pm, always span weekends, but suffer from smaller audiences on weekdays when people work. The day games also miss TV's prime ratings periods.

"We are tossing it around and working out the fundamentals," CA chief executive James Sutherland told this newspaper Wednesday night.

"In a realistic sense we don't see any reason why we can't be at least trialling some day-night Test cricket matches -- not necessarily all of them -- before the end of the decade. It could happen sooner, I don't know. We need to explore that and go through a consultative process."

Ronaldo

FROM PAGE 20
Ronaldo had joined training Tuesday for the first time since the European Champions League winners arrived last week.

"I feel fine," he told reporters before working out alone with 30 minutes of light jogging.

Asked about his chances of playing in the final, he said: "I will see. I will be trying."

Rafa relieved

FROM PAGE 20
fortunes in group A.

A 1-0 defeat by Marseille at Anfield in October had left Benitez's side with just one point from their opening three matches.

Since then, however, they have beaten Besiktas 8-0 and FC Porto 4-1 at home and the equally comfortable nature of this win will send them into the last 16 and Sunday's showdown with United - in confidence.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fifth and final



Action from yesterday's inter-district women's football match between Narayanganj and Jessor at the Dhammudi Women's Sports Complex.

Tait ready to launch

Cricket

AFP, Perth

Tearaway Australian fast bowler Shaun Tait only bowled four overs in Tuesday's Twenty20 international victory over New Zealand. But he may have done enough in the first four balls alone to bowl himself into the side for the first Test against India at the MCG later this month.

Tait claimed wickets with his first and fourth deliveries, bowling short and fast on a lively WACA Ground wicket, and the Australian selectors are sure to consider unleashing Tait and fellow speedster Brett Lee in a dual speed assault on the Indians.

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For many years, the Australian team has always featured a spinner, but with Shane Warne retired and Stuart MacGill sidelined by injury, the home side could play Tait and Lee in a four-pronged pace attack against India.

Lee also starred in the Twenty20 match, claiming a wicket with his first ball and generating great pace in taking 17-2 from four overs as Australia went on to thrash New Zealand by 54 runs.

Tait, who has played two Tests, is on the comeback trail after an elbow injury and was coming off a haul of 29-7 in a first-class game for South Australia.

Michael Clarke, who led the Australian team for the first time in the absence of Ricky Ponting on Tuesday, was delighted with the way his quicks bowled against the Black Caps on what he said was a favourable pitch for the fast bowlers.

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