

Eves' football final today

SPORTS REPORTER

Rangamati will face hosts Dhaka in today's final of the Inter-district women's football tournament.

The final will kick off at 3pm at the Dhamondi Women's Sports Complex.

LGRD Adviser Anwarul Haq will distribute prizes as chief guest.

Rangamati defeated their Hill Tracts neighbours Khagrachari 2-0 in the first semifinal while Dhaka ousted Narayanganj by an identical margin.

Almonirhat win by 49 runs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Almonirhat defeated Rangpur by 49 runs in the national under-14 district youth cricket competition at the local stadium yesterday.

Having won the toss and decided to bat first, Almonirhat scored 140 all out in 36.3 overs. Then they bowled out the visitors for only 91 runs.

Rangpur will take on Almonirhat in today's match.

Victory Day

Sports

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army clinched the Total Victory Day basketball tournament title when they edged Bangladesh Navy 69-63 in a keenly contested final at the Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Mithun and Tojammiel dominated the show with scores of 20 and 17 respectively for Army, who led 36-21 at the break.

The sailors enjoyed a better second half with Rashed caging 20 points and Lutfar 19 but their efforts could not help Navy cover the first half deficit.

Earlier, Army ousted BKSP97-41 in the first semifinal while Navy beat Josephines 72-62 in the second semi.

BKSP's Mithun was adjudged player of the tournament.

VOLLEYBALL

Bangladesh Navy will play Bangladesh Air Force while Bangladesh Army are pitted against Bangladesh Rifles in today's semifinals of the Victory Day Top-Five volleyball tournament.

Both matches will be held at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium, where Bangladesh Air Force blanked Water Development Board 3-0 in the last group match yesterday.

In the women's series, Bangladesh Ansar beat Bangladesh VDP 3-1 at the same venue.

KABADDI

UNB adds: Bangladesh Rifles and Bangladesh Army advanced to today's final of the Victory Day kabaddi competition.

On Friday, Army outplayed Bangladesh Navy 60-20 and Bangladesh Police beat Bangladesh Air Force 51-20.

GYMNASICS

The daylong Victory Day gymnastics competition will be held at the NSC gymnasium on December 18. The competition will be held in senior, junior (men, women, boys and girls) divisions.

KARATE

The Bangladesh Karate Federation will organise the daylong Victory Day karate training camp at the Mirpur Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium today.

On completion of the camp, DMP Commissioner Nayeem Ahmed will distribute prizes among more than 200 participants.

Younis willing

FROM PAGE 17

Younis had been the official vice-captain for two years under Inzamam-ul-Haq and was widely expected to take over once Inzamam resigned. At the time of his refusal, he also stepped down from the vice-captain's role, before surprisingly accepting for the tour to India.

"I only agreed to be vice-captain for the Indian tour because of the importance of the series. If the matches had been against any other team I might not have accepted this responsibility."

"But now if the board feels I can be a good Test captain, I am willing to do it but after talking to them," he said. "If the team can do well under my captaincy I would be very happy but I am not asking anyone for the job. This is the board's prerogative whatever they want to do."

The board has, however, again expressed its full faith in Malik to retain the post until December 2008.

Lankan U-19s

FROM PAGE 17

SCORES IN BRIEF

SL U-19: 165 all out in 48.5 overs (Thirumana 47, Janith 38, Silva 42, Pathirana 14, Rubel 3-21, Nasir 2-37, Shiva 1-28, Mahmudul 4-41).

BD U-19: 151 all out in 48.4 overs (Ashraful 12, Marshall 90, Mahmudul 13, Rubel 20, Fernando 4-20, Peres 1-33, Pathirana 4-25).



Rajshahi paceman Mohammad Shahjada (C) exchanges high-fives with captain Khaled Mashud after they combined to dismiss Chittagong skipper Ehsanul Haque for 66 during the first day's play of their National Cricket League match at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: TIGERCRICKET.COM

Hoggard to be fit

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Swing bowler Matthew Hoggard could be in line for a return to the England team in time for the third Test against Sri Lanka which starts on 18 December.

The 30-year-old missed the second Test draw in Colombo after being plagued by a back injury in the opening match.

"The medical team tell me he is progressing nicely," said England skipper Michael Vaughan.

"Hopefully come Sunday and Monday he is available for selection. Having Hoggard fit will be a real bonus."

Hoggard suffered the injury while bowling on the fourth day of the 88-run first Test defeat and had to ask for a runner when batting on the final day.

The Yorkshire bowler, who claimed six wickets in Kandy, has been dogged by injuries all year.

He missed the last Ashes Test in Sydney, broke down in the first Test of four against the West Indies, and made just one further start for England last summer.

And England coach Peter Moores says Hoggard will not be forced into action in Galle if there is any risk of the injury recurring.

"Matthew has bowled two spells pretty well flat out so we will see the reaction he gets to it," Moores told BBC Radio 5 Live.

"He got a little bit of pain on a couple of balls which shows that it is not quite there but we are still four days off a Test match. He will bowl a couple of spells on Saturday and Sunday and then we will see how it goes."

"We can only play him if there is no risk that anything will happen because the conditions out here mean that if you did lose a bowler, then it would become very difficult to get 20 wickets."

Moores believes his side goes into the third Test full of confidence as they try and square the series.

He says he is particularly pleased with England's batsmen, particularly with the way the dealt with leading Test wicket-taker Muttiah Muralitharan in the second Test.

"But we have moved forward as a nation and a team, we just need to concentrate on the cricket in hand."

"I think it is going to be more of a celebration at Galle rather than anything else. We will remember the people but it is a fresh new start for us in that province."

losing momentum but we are gaining it because we are playing Murali better all the time.

"We also played their seamers well so our batsmen are getting settled and are ready to produce that score we will need to win the Test match."

"We have got another three or four days to get our plans together and I think we will go there quite confident, if we play good cricket we can win the game."

The third Test in Galle will be the first since the Boxing Day 2004 tsunami devastated the southern Sri Lankan coast.

And Sri Lanka skipper Mahela Jayawardene says walking out at the re-built international stadium will be an "emotional thing".

"A lot of our guys come from down south and they have lost quite a few relatives in the tsunami," he said.

"But we have moved forward as a nation and a team, we just need to concentrate on the cricket in hand."

"I think it is going to be more of a celebration at Galle rather than anything else. We will remember the people but it is a fresh new start for us in that province."

Destiny 2000 shock Biman

SPORTS REPORTER

Destiny 2000 pulled off the first upset of the First Division Chess League yesterday when they defeated holders Bangladesh Biman 2.5-1.5 in the third round.

Enamul Hossain Rajib, the Bangladesh International Master who reached the second round of the World Chess Cup in Russia last month, held Grand Master Ziaur Rahman of Biman to a draw in the first board before Destiny's FIDE Masters Minhazuddin Ahmed and Taibur Rahman won their matches against FM Mehdi Hasan Parag and FM Abu Sufian Shakil.

Only GM Abdulla Al Rakib collected full point for Biman, beating FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed.

With 7.5 points, Destiny toppled mid-table Biman who are half a point adrift.

Pritam Prijam took solo lead with 11 points when they blanked i2 Soft Solutions 4-0 while Mohakali Pradip Sangha followed the leaders with 10 points after winning 3-1 against Toyota Motors.

Last year's runners-up Leonine, who are third with 9.5 points, drubbed Faith 4-0 while Chittagong Mohammad edged Dhaka University 2.5-1.5, Sultana Kamal Smriti Pathagar beat Sonali Bank 3-1 and Farashganj drew with Friends in the other matches.

Norman, Evert engaged

AFP, Paarl

Golfer Greg Norman and former tennis star Chris Evert on Friday announced their engagement.

Evert revealed the couple, both aged 52, were engaged Sunday.

The former tennis ace showed off an engagement ring but said no plans had been finalised for a wedding.

Norman, who won two British Open titles among 88 professional golf titles worldwide, is currently playing in the South African Open at Pearl Valley.

Evert, who won 18 Grand Slam titles, was announcing the establishment of a Chris Evert tennis centre at the Pearl Valley estate where Norman is expected to design a second golf course to go along with the Jack Nicklaus-designed championship layout being used for the SA Open.

Norman and his first wife Laura announced in June that they had reached an agreement on dividing an estimated 500-million-dollar fortune amassed by the former world number one during his golf and business career.

Evert has been married twice, to tennis player John Lloyd and skier Andy Mill.

Sultan's claims

FROM PAGE 17

"The federation officials met me at different times. I always try to attend people when they want to meet me. I also inaugurated the professional football league. So it is not right that I have not given them time."

"His (Sultan) remarks about the media are tasteless. The duty of the media is to report and make sports more popular. This type of comments is unacceptable."

Meanwhile, the rumours around the resignation of Sultan strengthened last night.

The BFF's adjourned meeting on Wednesday will resume today and the BFF president is expected to tender his resignation in this meeting to put an end to the rumour of the last few days.

It can be noted that Anwarul Hoque Helal, the general secretary of the executive committee, resigned a few months earlier. Last year, vice-president Kazi Ehsanul Haque also stepped down.

Ricky, Adam blaze NZ

FROM PAGE 17

home last February, started well but tailed off late in the innings to set the Australians just over five runs for victory at the Adelaide Oval on Friday.

Number five batsman Ross Taylor (50) also made his presence felt off 52 balls with three sixes before he found a leading edge off Brett Lee and was well caught by Tait at deep mid-off.

Clean hitter Jacob Oram (32 not out) rounded off proceedings with his customary power off 38 balls clubbing three boundaries.

Tait (3-59) was the best of the Australian bowlers, while Lee (2-48) and all-rounder James Hopes (1-40) bowled steadily.

McCurry's knock was the highlight of New Zealand's innings, cracking boundaries to all parts in an innings reminiscent of his efforts against the Australians at home in February.

He took a particularly heavy toll on Tait, exploiting the young paceman's broad variation in line and length.

Lee also suffered punishment from McCullum, one extraordinary back foot swish at a full pitched ball sailing well over the point boundary.

Chastened by a first spell that cost 28 in three overs, Tait proved a greater threat in his second, claiming the outside edges of Hopes (20 from 59 balls) and then Scott Styris (25).

"I only agreed to be vice-captain for the Indian tour because of the importance of the series. If the matches had been against any other team I might not have accepted this responsibility."

"But now if the board feels I can be a good Test captain, I am willing to do it but after talking to them," he said. "If the team can do well under my captaincy I would be very happy but I am not asking anyone for the job. This is the board's prerogative whatever they want to do."

The board has, however, again expressed its full faith in Malik to retain the post until December 2008.

Capello divides opinion

FROM PAGE 17

we've got to have a ready-made replacement for him and it's got to be English."

Capello is set to become the richest coach in international football when he signs a reported 6.5 million pounds (13 million dollars) a year contract, which will see him earn four million annually after tax.

The size of the salary, compared to the 2.5 million pounds a year deal that McClaren was handed last year, is an indication of the FA's determination to sign a 'world-class' coach after the failure of Capello's CV. I'm a massive admirer of his but I still wouldn't have had him as England manager because I just wanted an Englishman to take this country forward."

ing the bits that you like.

"You do not hand a man the keys to his new Ferrari then tie one hand behind his back."

Another former England player, Tony Adams, said he was a huge admirer of Capello's, having visited the Italian at Juventus to get a sneak view at some of his coaching methods.

But Adams, now working under Harry Redknapp at Portsmouth, reiterated Ince's view.

"I've got no argument with Capello's CV, it's a fantastic CV. I'm a massive admirer of his but I still wouldn't have had him as England manager because I just wanted an Englishman to take this country forward."

"You are buying into his winning formula, and you are doing it wholesale, not picking and choosing."

Shoaib regrets Eden act

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Stung by criticism over his form and fitness on the India tour, Pakistan speedster Shoaib Akhtar on Friday vowed to regain his reputation as one of the most fearsome bowlers in the world.

An inconsistent Pakistan lost the one-dayers 3-2 to their archrivals before a 1-0 drubbing in the three-match Test series, their first defeat in India in the longer version of the game in more than two decades.

Akhtar, 32, failed to live up to his tag of match-winner, struggling with his fitness in the last two Tests, which saw him frequently limp off the ground.

While he picked seven wickets from four one-dayers, a half-fit Akhtar could only manage nine from three Tests, prompting legendary Pakistani cricketer Imran Khan to question his place in the side.

Akhtar, dubbed 'Rawalpindi Express