

1-run win for Rupali

Rupali Bank made sure the opening day of First Division Cricket League had a tight game when they prevailed in a curtailed-over game against an experienced Cricket Coaching School (CCS) at the Dhaka University ground yesterday.



Acting secretary general of the Bangladesh Olympic Association Kutubuddin Ahmed (2nd from R) addresses a press briefing in connection with the 2nd Indo-Bangladesh Bangla Games at the Conference Room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

2ND INDO-BANGLADESH BANGLA GAMES All set for opening

SPORTS REPORTER



When the second edition of the Indo-Bangladesh Bangla Games kicks off at the Bangabandhu National Stadium this weekend, Bangladeshis will target ten more gold medals than the inaugural event hosted by Kolkata.

Bangabandhu National Stadium as venue for the most exciting discipline of athletics will deprive the fans from watching the competition properly as communication is a big problem for the stadium in Banani.

BOA vice-president Mizanur Rahman Manu, deputy secretaries general SM Intiaz Khan Babul and Ishiaque Ahmed Curran and hosts' general team manager Anisur Rahman Dipu were also present.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

Enamul Hossain Rajib won his fourth round match in Group A2 at the Aerofoil Open International Chess Festival in Moscow on Sunday when the Bangladesh International Master defeated Russian IM Viktor Kuznetsov.

Shamima Akhter Liza maintained solo lead in the 2nd Begum Laila Alam Women's FIDE Rating chess tournament after beating Shamima Sharmin Shimmi at the chess federation hall-room yesterday.

Liza had 4.5 points after five rounds. Shirin, Zakia and Hamida followed the leader with four points each.

The National Pair Bridge Championship for the Khandokar Faez Sobhan trophy will begin on Thursday at the conference room of the Bangladesh Enterprise Institution in Gulshan.

Satkhira Correspondent: Satkhira Government High School defeated Karima High School by 33 runs in the Standard Chartered Young Tigers School Cricket Championship at the local stadium.

Batting first after winning the toss, Satkhira School scored 124 all out in 35.5 overs. Kader top-scored with 35 for the winners. In reply, Karima High School were all out for 91 in 25.1 overs.

Gaibandha Correspondent: Gaibandha Government High School recorded a facile five-wicket win over Shahabullah Sarker High School at the local stadium.

Shahabullah School, who beat Kanchipara School by 84 runs on the previous day, bundled out for 69 in 26 overs. In reply, the Gaibandha boys needed 17.4 overs to reach 72-5.

Pathan shrugs off distraction

Left-arm paceman Irfan Pathan today denied the team was distracted by the imminent bidding for the Indian Premier League and promised that it would come out firing in the crucial tri-series encounter against Sri Lanka.

As players have been in dialogue with two members of the IPL governing body in Australia -- Sunil Gavaskar and Ravi Shastri -- it was deemed to have had an effect on their focus in yesterday's game.

Pathan said the team discussed the areas which required improvement after their 50-run defeat against Australia yesterday.

"It was a useful meeting in the sense everyone discussed the areas where the team needed to improve. It was useful and I'm sure the positives from it would be seen on the field tomorrow," Pathan told reporters.

Fine ton by Zunaed

his innings was mixed with good fortune and some brilliant shots. The right-hander played some excellent shots but could be outed three for some sluggish attempts.

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes names like Nafees c Boucher b Ntini, Zunaed c & b Ntini, Saleh c Boucher b Morkel.

Pompey survive a scare

to Bryan Robson. Sunday's results meant that four clubs from the Premier League (Middlesbrough, Chelsea, Manchester United and Portsmouth), four from the second-tier Championship (West Brom, Barnsley, Cardiff and Sheffield United) and one from third division League One (Bristol Rovers) would feature in Monday's quarterfinal draw.

Barnsley made it through on Saturday courtesy of a dramatic 2-1 victory away to five-times European champions Liverpool, coming from behind at Anfield to score the winner with virtually the last kick of the game.

JFA CUP Rubel slams hat-trick

SPORTS REPORTER

Rubel slotted a hat-trick as Tangail recorded an impressive win on the second day of the 4th JFA Cup Under 15 Football Championships qualifiers yesterday.

At Jamalpur, Rubel scored in the 10, 45 and 62 minutes while Masum added the other as Tangail trounced Mymensingh 4-1. Riyaz reduced the arrears for the vanquished.

No friction, insists

"It can happen that a few words and a gesture can be taken in a certain way, but things were contained and the moment has passed."

Roma are in poor form as they face the Spanish champions after a defeat against Juventus that has seen them fall 11 points behind leaders Inter.

Abahani face

are Pakistan Army, winners of their national competition. All the matches will be played at the Dashrath Stadium at the heart of Nepal's capital.

Delegation off to KL to meet Hammam

SPORTS REPORTER

Four organisers left Dhaka yesterday for Kuala Lumpur to meet Asian Football Confederation (AFC) president Mohammad Bin Hammam to present the case of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), which faces opposition from different quarters in following the guideline of FIFA to form the football associations (FA).

Ronak sweeps boys' events

SPORTS REPORTER

India swept all the honours in the Dhaka Bank 22nd Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championships which concluded yesterday.

After India's Poojashree Venkatesh won the girls' singles and doubles titles on Sunday, it was her fellow countryman Manuja Ronak's turn to conquer double crown in the boys' group at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna.

Paired with Ahuja, Ronak took the match 6-3, 7-5 against Bangladesh's Ranjan Ram and his Taipei partner Lin.

Special assistant to Chief Adviser Brig Gen (ret'd) MA Malek distributed trophies among the winners.

Test squad

As for the third seamer's spot, all-rounder Forhad Reza is ahead of left-armers Syed Rasel and Sajidul Islam because of his batting abilities. The new-ball pairing of vice-captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Shahadat Hossain is likely to be kept intact.

Gilchrist to play on

Cricket

AFF, Adelaide

Australian coach Tim Nielsen said Monday that star wicketkeeper-batsman Adam Gilchrist was not in doubt for the remainder of the tri-series, despite injuring his left thumb against India on Sunday.

come to a premature end. Nielsen, himself a former first-class wicketkeeper, admitted the thumb had suffered a bad blow, but said there was little danger Gilchrist would miss the rest of the series.

series, so until we know more about it, unless it's pretty much chopped off, he'll be right."

'5 Aussies to commit'



AFF, Sydney

Five Australian cricketers were expected to finalise their contracts to play in India's lucrative IPL Twenty20 competition late Monday, an agent said.

players haven't had a lot of time to take it all in," he said. "They've been playing matches, so they need time to digest some of the information."

AAP named the IPL contracted players as Nathan Bracken, Michael Clarke, Adam Gilchrist, Jason Gillespie, Brad Haddin, Matthew Hayden, Mitchell Johnson, Simon Katich, Brett Lee, Glenn McGrath, Justin Langer, Ricky Ponting, Andrew Symonds, Shane Warne and Cameron White.



The winners of the Dhaka Bank Bangladesh 22nd Junior Tennis Championships pose for a photograph with chief guest Brig Gen (ret'd) MA Malek, special assistant to the Chief Adviser, and other dignitaries on the concluding day of the week-long meet at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

India's pressure mounts

FROM PAGE 17

India with Australia all but in the finals. "Now it's like a two horse race to get into the finals," Jayawardene said.

He also felt both Sri Lanka and India had to realise the reason Australia were sitting pretty, despite playing inconsistently, was because they had prospered on the mistakes of their two opponents.

actually good for the players and the team in a way because they will start thinking of what they need to do and learn from it, Pathan explained. "Some guys in the middle order are young. We have to give them time, no one is going to come and show maturity [immediately]."

First win for City

SPORTS REPORTER

City Club registered their maiden victory in the Senior Division Football League when they edged Dipali Juba Sangha 1-0 at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Masud slammed the all important goal in the 51st minute.

City Club pushed their collection to seven points, three ahead of bottom-table Dipali.

Wari defeated Agrani Bank 4-2 in the day's other match to secure the sixth place with 15 points and keep their hopes to reach the super league.

Robin put Agrani ahead after ten minutes but their first half lead was cut by an own goal from Jewel before Wari rode on goals by Afsar, Jamal Sr and Jamal Jr.

Youths off to a flier

FROM PAGE 17

pair of Rilee Rossouw and Roy Adams put on a match-winning stand of 44.

the Sri Lankan spinners who shared seven wickets between them. Left-arm spinner Pathirana finished with 3-31, off-spinner Umesh Karunaratna took 2-40 and another left-armed Navin Kavikara claimed 2-22.

123 all out. SCORES IN BRIEF Scores from the ICC Under-19 World Cup matches in Malaysia on Monday: Group A NEW ZEALAND: 221/8 in 50 overs (Anderson 82, Morgan 27; Masvaure 3-37, Landman 2-42) ZIMBABWE: 123 all out in 42.4 overs (Landman 51, Southee 5-11) Result: New Zealand beat Zimbabwe by 98 runs in Johor.

Group C SRI LANKA: 236-9 in 50 overs (Subasinghe 46, Pathirana 62, Perera 41; Bhattarai 4-42) NEPAL: 175 all out in 48.5 overs (Pathirana 3-31, Karunaratna 2-40, Navin Kavikara 2-22) Result: Sri Lanka beat Nepal by 61 runs in Penang. Group D BANGLADESH: 260-8 in 50 overs (Ashraf 51, Nasir 84, Ashiqul 69 not out; Jones 2-64) BERMUDA: 82 all out in 26.1 overs (Shuvo 3-9, Hasan 3-12) Result: Bangladesh beat Bermuda by 178 runs in Kuala Lumpur. TUESDAY'S MATCHES Group A: Pakistan v New Zealand Group B: India v South Africa Group C: Australia v Nepal Group D: England v Bermuda