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Ansar clinch handball title

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Ansar became champions of the Exim Bank 19th National Women's Handball title after six years at the Mirpur Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium yesterday.

They outplayed hosts Dhaka 20-9 in this after leading the first-half 15-4. This was the 13th title for the services side in the competition. Shahida, who was later adjudged player-of-the-match, scored the highest number goals with 10 for the champions while Moyna netted four goals. On the other hand, Rozina scored five goals for runners up Dhaka.

Moyna was named the best player of the championship.

Meanwhile, Narail took the third place after a 25-16 victory over Faridpur at the same venue. The match locked at 10-10 in the first-half. Sathi and Kohinor each scored nine goals for Narail DSA while Jharna netted four goals for Faridpur DSA.

Bangladesh Handball Federation president Dr Nurul Amin distributed prizes among the winners. Exim Bank managing director Moshir Rahman, director Nurul Fazal Bulbul and other Federation high officials were present at the prize distribution ceremony.



India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni works the ball on the inside during the Asia Cup Super League match against Pakistan at the National Stadium in Karachi yesterday.

Zimbabwe vote today?

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

A vote on whether Zimbabwe should be suspended from the International Cricket Council (ICC) has been postponed until Thursday.

The two-day ICC meeting got underway in Dubai on Wednesday but the vote will not take place until the final day.

The England and Wales and South African Cricket Boards have already cutties with Zimbabwe.

But support for Zimbabwe is growing in the sub-continent with India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka set to back them.

BBC cricket correspondent Jonathan Agnew is in Dubai for the two-day meeting.

He said: "It's such a divisive issue

this, there is certainly the thought it could mar the whole of the meeting.

"Therefore they will postpone it until tomorrow and get the other items out of the way first."

"The belief is India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will all side with Zimbabwe. That would avoid their suspension but world cricket could grind to a halt and that does leave a real issue for England and the World Twenty20 next summer."

"They are looking for a compromise position and that could mean Zimbabwe suspending themselves on the grounds of not being good enough at the moment."

For Zimbabwe to have their full member status removed, at least seven of the 10 members at the board meeting would need to support the expulsion.

But if the Asia countries side with Zimbabwe, who also have a vote, the

proposal would be defeated.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has already stated it will not host a tour by Zimbabwe next year.

This was after Cricket South Africa broke off relations with their near neighbours because of the political situation in the country.

But Sri Lanka Sports Minister Gamini Lokuge, speaking to the BBC's Sinhala Service, said: "I think we should not get sports involved in political issues."

"There has been a military regime in Pakistan for a long time. But Pakistan was never banned from playing international cricket."

He stressed Sri Lanka's policy did not mean the country condoned the political situation there.

Niranjan Shah, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

INDIA-PAKISTAN SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of India's innings in the Asia Cup Super League match against Pakistan at National Stadium in Karachi on Wednesday:

| INDIA | | | | | |
|--|-----|--|--|--|--|
| Gambhir c Afridi b Iftikhar | 35 | | | | |
| Schwab c Sarfraz b Rauf | 49 | | | | |
| Raina c Butt b Rauf | 1 | | | | |
| Yuvraj c Sarfraz b Iftikhar | 37 | | | | |
| Dhoni c Sarfraz b Tanveer | 76 | | | | |
| R Sharma c Rauf b Iftikhar | 58 | | | | |
| Y Pathan c Jamshed b Ajmal | 0 | | | | |
| Kumar not out | 1 | | | | |
| Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-8) | 13 | | | | |
| Total: (For seven wickets in 50 overs) | 308 | | | | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-88, 2-90, 3-91, 4-129, 5-241, 6-249, 7-290. | | | | | |

| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
|----------|----|---|----|---|
| Tanveer | 10 | 0 | 87 | 1 |
| Rauf | 10 | 0 | 66 | 2 |
| Iftikhar | 10 | 1 | 51 | 3 |
| Afridi | 10 | 0 | 52 | 0 |
| Ajmal | 10 | 0 | 47 | 1 |

PAKISTAN: Misbahul Haq, Salman Butt, Nasir Jamshed, Younis Khan, Mohammad Yousuf, Shahid Afridi, Rao Iftikhar, Sarfraz Ahmed, Sohail Tanveer, Abdur Rauf, Saeed Ajmal.
Toss: India
Umpires: Tony Hill (NZL), Ian Gould (ENG)
TV umpire: Akhtaruddin (BAN)
Match referee: Alan Hurst (AUS)

Schools chess from July 8

SPORTS REPORTER

The 10th Standard Chartered School Chess tournament will start at the federation hall-room on July 8.

Without any entry fees, the interested school students from KG to class ten can enroll their names by July 6 at the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) office.

The nine round Swiss-League system event will be held in three groups -- Class KG to V, Class VI to X and girls.

BFF seeks expert help

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is looking forward to have an expert technical director in a bid to modernise its operations.

BFF president Kazi Salahuddin, who returned to Dhaka yesterday after attending the introductory meeting of Asian Football Confederation's internal audit committee, informed that he has sought technical support from Asia's football governing body to enhance the federation's office management.

"The meeting was short as it was just an introductory one. But when I met AFC general secretary Dato Paul Mony, I asked for two favours. I wanted him to find us a foreign technical director for our office management. I have also requested him to arrange a training programme for our staff," told Salahuddin.

"The AFC general secretary has ensured us that he will train five of our staff in August at the AFC House. He has not guaranteed about the technical director but

said he has one Richard Benz in mind from England and if the man is available, he will soon contact me."

Salahuddin added that his quest for foreign coaches will continue and Paul Mony has suggested that if the BFF appoints the technical director, he would be the right person to guide the BFF in this regard.

"I had also assured AFC president Mohamed Bin Hammam during my last visit to Kuala Lumpur that I would provide my plans to the AFC soon. I have kept my promise and submitted our programmes for 2008 and 2009 to the AFC chief," the former Bangladesh striker added.

Salahuddin has always believed in modernisation of the federation, which needs full professional approach, and he will soon start appointing new staff in management.

In reply to a question, the BFF president said that he has yet to get the report of the probe committee for failure of the national team in the fifth SAFF Championship but hoped it would soon land in his table.

However, the three-member

committee, which could not sit in the last few days due to the absence of its head and BFF member Harunur Rashid, the former federation general secretary who just returned from abroad, may take further one week to complete its findings.

"We have already asked for time till July 15 but the BFF has requested us to prepare it by July 10. We will try to meet the federation's demand," told Anwarul Hoque Helal one of three members of the committee.

The committee will interview national team manager Sheikh Mohammed Aslam and other members of the team management and captain Aminul Haque today.

"We wanted to start with the team management but the team leader and coach are now not in Dhaka. So we will talk with the persons available now," BFF member and ex-general secretary Helal added.

BFF member Sirajul Islam Bachchu, who was previously a vice-president, is the other member of the committee, which has already received reports from team leader Shafiquzzaman, coach Abu Yusuf and the manager.

Oval Test a draw: PCB

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

An agreement in principle is believed to have been reached to change the result of the controversial Oval Test between England and Pakistan in 2006 from an English victory to a draw, following pressure from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) during the annual International Cricket Council (ICC) meeting in Dubai.

The topic took up a considerable chunk of the morning's proceedings. An official close to the proceedings confirmed to Cricinfo that the decision had been overturned and that a draw was the

likely result. An ICC spokesman, however, could not confirm that this was the case. The Test was originally awarded to England by umpire Darrell Hair after Pakistan did not come out to field after tea on the fourth day, following accusations of ball-tampering.

Pakistan had, at the time, been in a strong position in the match, having secured a first-innings lead of 331 and removed four England batsmen second-time around.

There was nothing at stake in the series, with England already leading 2-0 after wins at Headingley and Old Trafford, but the eventual forfeiture was the first in the history of Test cricket. The removal of England's win could affect their standing in the ICC Test Championship -- they are currently third on 110 points, one ahead of their next opponents, South Africa, on 109.

The result had huge off-field ramifications as well. Hair went on to be suspended from the ICC elite panel, and though that decision was overturned last year when he took his employers to the High Court in London, the initial decision formed the basis of Pakistan's appeal for a rethink of the result.

A PCB source told PTI: "Members of other boards supported us in our stand that the result should be officially changed to a draw as an ICC adjudicator later found Hair guilty of transgressing his authority and not behaving properly during the entire episode. The board agreed the result should be a draw not a forfeited win for England."



Did U Know?

Todd Woodbridge of Australia is the most nine -- in 1993-1997, 2000, 2002-2004 men's doubles title winner at the Wimbledon Championships.



Lothar Matthaeus

(German football legend)
"Spain are deserved European champions. They didn't only convince us by scoring goals, but they played great football as well."



What to WATCH

STAR Cricket

Asia Cup Cricket

India v Sri Lanka

Live from 4:00pm

STAR Sports

Wimbledon Championships

Women's Singles Semifinals

Live from 4:30pm

N'ganj soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohsin Club blanked Prakash Club 3-0 in the Narayanganj First Division Football League at the Osmani Stadium yesterday.

Shoaib scored in a goalmouth melee to put the winners ahead in the 16th minute and Riaz doubled the margin after four minutes.

Wali netted the third goal from a free kick in the 42nd minute in a slippery ground.

Kabaddi League

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Sundarganj lifted the Upazila Kabaddi League after their 35 win over hosts Gaibandha at the Swadhinata Prangan here yesterday.

The champions won 38-35 in a tightly-fought contest.

Enamul of the winning side was adjudged player-of-the-tournament and he received his award from Abu Mohammad Yousuf, DC of Gaibandha.

Zheng, Elena target to derail Williams express

AFP, London



Chinese history-maker Zheng Jie and Elena Dementieva will attempt to derail the Williams sisters' Wimbledon express in the semifinals on Thursday.

The American siblings have become the dominant forces at the All England Club with Venus winning the title in 2000, 2001, 2005 and 2007 and Serena taking the trophy in 2002 and 2003.

They are again the overwhelming favourites to meet in what would be a third all-Williams final.

But Zheng, who celebrates her 25th birthday on Saturday, the day of the final, and Dementieva, twice

a Grand Slam runner-up, have other ideas leaving the Americans to insist that they are not even thinking about the title match even if all the top four seeds failed to make it through.

"It doesn't matter who's in the tournament or not. It doesn't play a factor in how we feel about ourselves," said Venus who tackles Dementieva in her semifinal.

"It's nice to be favourite, that's for sure. But I'm going to go out there and work just as hard as if I was or if I wasn't the favourite."

Venus has beaten Dementieva in five of the pair's seven meetings although they have never played on grass.

Serena boasts a winning record against Zheng, the first Chinese player to get this far in a Grand Slam, having won their only previous meeting here in 2006.

Serena says she's been

impressed by what she has seen of her Chinese opponent who has enjoyed a fairytale run at the All England Club where she defeated world number one Ana Ivanovic in the third round.

"It's a remarkable achievement for a player whose ranking was so low at the start of the tournament that she needed a wildcard to get into the main draw."

"I've been watching her play. I think she's doing a fabulous job, and I don't think it's luck," said Serena. "I'm definitely not going to underestimate her."

Zheng is no stranger to Wimbledon success having won the doubles with Yan Zi in 2006 but the achievement passed under the radar with most people in China distracted by the football World Cup instead.

"It was very exciting to win in

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4



Swiss world number one Roger Federer stretches to return the ball against Croatia's Mario Ancic during their Wimbledon quarterfinal clash in London yesterday. Federer was leading 6-1, 6-5.



BEAUTY SESSION BEFORE NET SESSION! Bangladesh left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak puts on some sun cream ahead of a practice session in Karachi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Congratulations and best wishes to all the participants and winners of the

AB Bank 29th National Table Tennis Championship 2008

Men's singles winner Gautam of Bagerhat

Women's singles winner Saleha of Ansar

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