

LOCAL SNIPS

SPORTS REPORTER

The zonal round matches of National Women's Kabaddi will begin on July 22.

Dhaka, Jamalpur, Faridpur, Jhenidah and Jessor will play host to the matches.

Some 22 District Sports Associations have so far confirmed their participation in the meet, Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation (BKF) general secretary Nazrul Islam informed yesterday.

The final round of the competition will begin on July 26 in Dhaka with the participation of seven teams -- top two teams from Dhaka, other four zonal champions and defending champions Bangladesh Ansar.

NATIONAL JUNIOR BOXING

93 bouts were held on the second day of the Southeast Bank 20th National Junior Boxing competition at the Mohammad Ali Boxing Stadium.

The tournament is taking place with seven weight sections -- 25, 29, 35, 42, 48 and 51 kg.

As many as 193 boxers from 40 different organisations are taking part in the meet.

FED CUP BASKETBALL

BKSP beat Hornets Sporting Club 45-43 in one of four matches on the opening day of the Federation Cup basketball tournament at the Dhanmondi Gymnasium.

Sohag and Shoaib scored 10 points each for the winners while Hornets' Aminur smashed 16 points.

Bangladesh Police defeated Flame Boys 59-49, with Munna and Rustam of both sides caging 32 times each.

MUNSHIGANJ FOOTBALL

Our Correspondent adds: Islambagh Lucky Seven lifted the Louhajang Football tournament after their 1-0 win over East Baligaon at the College ground.

Al Amin scored the all-important winner in the 46th minute.

Eight teams took part in the competition, which was part of Louhajang Friends Society's monthlong football festival.

GAIBANDHA CRICKET

Our Correspondent adds: Club Infinity overpowered CYMA by 128 runs in the second division cricket league at the local stadium.

Infinity scored 149 in 20 overs and then bowled out CYMA for just 21 runs. In the other match, Anwar Smriti Sangsad defeated DCP Club by 31 runs.

MANIKGANJ CRICKET

Our Correspondent adds: Sir Shahadat Ali Memorial Club defeated Pouli Bulbul Club by 81 runs in the second division cricket league at the local stadium.

Memorial Club scored 132 in 24.5 overs and then bowled out Bulbul for just 51 runs. Rashed contributed 26 with the bat for Memorial Club and later, Shujon took three wickets.

Bell after

FROM PAGE 17

He gave just one chance, on 133, when Kallis failed to hold a sharp caught and bowled off a powerful drive.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the first Test between England and South Africa at Lord's in London on Friday.

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 309-3)

Strauss lbw b Morkel 44
Cook c De Villiers b Morkel 60
Vaughn b Steyn 2

Pietersen c Boucher b Morkel 152
Bell not out 171

Collingwood c Amla b Harris 7
Ambrose c Smith b Morkel 4
Broad not out 54

Extras: (b-14, lb-5, w-7, nb-15) 41

Total: (For 6 wkts in 138 overs) 535

Fall of wickets: 1-114, 2-117, 3-117,

4-403, 5-413, 6-422

To bat: Anderson, Sidebottom,

Panesar

Bowler O M R W

Steyn 32 6 116 1

Ntini 27 2 125 0

Morkel 30 3 102 4

Kallis 20 3 70 0

Harris 29 7 103 1

SOUTHAFRICA: Smith, McKenzie, Amla, Kallis, Prince, De Villiers, Boucher, Harris, Morkel, Ntini, Steyn

Akram not

FROM PAGE 17

Imzamam, Imran (Khan), (Javed) Miandad, we all did that but we always had our XIs. Maybe in the 14-15 we can have a compromise."

Akram picked out Aamer, the promising Pakistan Under-19 and Rawalpindi bowler, for special mention -- "he is quite talented" -- and said that he would have drafted him into the national set-up right away. He had earmarked Aamer as a future talent during a fast bowlers' camp in May 2007.

While changing focus to the fast bowling scene in world cricket, Akram rated Brett Lee as the best and had some words of advice for Ishant Sharma. "He (Ishant) has to learn quickly. He has been very average in the Asia Cup," he said. "His length has to change in one-day cricket. He is a wicket-taking bowler, and he has to get the new ball. You can't have your third seamer bowling with the new ball."

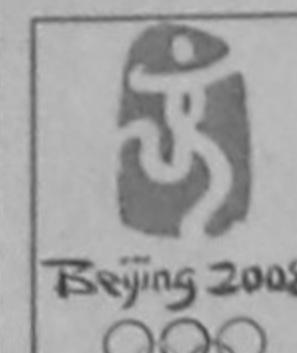


PHOTO: STAR

Mohona (R) from Kolkata makes a move against compatriot Shathi during their fourth round match in the 10th Standard Chartered School Chess tournament at the federation hall room yesterday.

Fosbury's money on Holm

AFP, Rome



It was 40 years ago this summer that Dick Fosbury revolutionised the high jump to win gold at the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City with his 'flop' record of 2.24 metres.

With the Beijing Olympics now less than a month away, the 60-year-old's gold, or least a podium place, could be emulated by one of the three US jumpers in the top 10 - Dusty Jones, Andra Manson and Scott Sellers -- but Fosbury feels that the reigning champion Stefan Holm is still the man to look out for, whilst in the women's competition he believes the field is wide open.

"I think it will be interesting as we have three Americans in the top 10 for height this year, but the guy I have my eye on is Stefan Holm. He is still competitive and we know that he can win. He's the guy I'm really watching," Fosbury said.

"In the ladies competition I know that they are starting to push the Olympic record and I know it will be very interesting to watch."

Mexico City's Olympics were notable for the heightened political situation during their build-up.

In April civil rights leader Martin Luther King had been assassinated, in May Parisian student protesters occupied the Sorbonne, whilst in

June democratic presidential hopeful Robert Kennedy was shot dead in Los Angeles.

Worse was to follow in late August when Warsaw Pact troops invaded Prague to put down the reformist government led by Alexander Dubcek, whilst only weeks before the flame was lit in Mexico City over 100 students were slaughtered in the city during the Tlatelolco massacre.

USA athletes Tommy Smith and John Carlos made the Mexico Olympics famous by their civil rights protest on the podium following their gold and bronze in the 200m and Fosbury feels that any athlete who wishes to make a protest in Beijing should follow Smith and Carlos and concentrate on their events before making their stand.

"As an old Olympian the advice I would give is after your competition you have a lifetime to make a protest. Don't pass up the opportunity in your competition, then you can make your protest."

The 1968 Games were also remarkable for being the first to feature an athlete failing a drugs test.

Swedish pentathlete Hans Gunnar Liljenwall was caught for alcohol, despite claiming he only had a couple of beers" to steady his nerves before the pistol shoot and it resulted in the Swedish team having to hand back their bronze medals.

With the spectre of drug cheating hanging like a cloud over athletes, notably 2004 100m champion

Justin Gatlin, Fosbury sees no excuse in trying to circumnavigate the rules.

"It does not help when athletes are prepared to cheat. It is unfair to themselves and other competitors. They have no honour in winning, and no honour in competing. Sport is only at its best if athletes follow the rules and are fair to other competitors."

"As for the style of jumping that he introduced, Fosbury says he was just trying to improve his performance and had no thought of changing forever the way people made it over the bar, whilst still playing down his part in altering athletics history.

"I wasn't trying to change the high-jump, but to remain competitive, play the game and be the best high jumper that I could be. Fortunately I found out how to change for the best. I changed one of the oldest techniques, the scissors, and I made it more efficient.

"It took a while. It took 20 years for it to become universal."

"I was surprised that other jumpers seemed to catch on and in my observation it wasn't the elite jumpers, rather it was the jumpers at the second level who really had nothing to risk by changing over and trying other techniques and they found that they had success that came fairly rapidly."

Players from the three countries have expressed concern over playing in Pakistan after a deadly suicide blast in Rawalpindi, one of three venues for the tournament to be played between September 11-28.

Pakistan successfully hosted the six-nation Asia Cup, which finished in southern city of Karachi Sunday.

Sohail said Musharraf -- a patron of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) -- must play a "lead" role and speak to his counterparts in the competing countries.

"I feel it is the duty of the president to speak to individual countries and convince them to come over and play in Pakistan where there are no safety problems," Sohail told AFP.

The International Cricket Council earlier this week said it is awaiting a security report on the Asia Cup and is following a process during which they would not compromise the safety of players.

According to ICL officials, they had first written to the BCCI in April 2007 informing them about their plans to hold a city-based Twenty20 league. "But they reacted harshly to the subject," an official said.

The issue of the ICL and its status came into focus on the sidelines of the ICC annual meeting last week when officials from India, England, Australia and South Africa met for a discussion on the proposed Twenty20 Champions League.

While India, Australia and South Africa are clear that players associated with the ICL cannot take part in the league, England will have to take a tough call on the issue as around 25 ICL players are currently playing for 15 English counties. Officially, the ECB does not support any involvement with unofficial cricket but, in this situation, has to operate with the stringent trade laws in England.

The committee was set up after officials were made aware the ICL may explore the possibility of coming under the governing body's umbrella as "a kind of authorised unofficial cricket" under a specific rule that deals with exhibition matches and other

games of a similar nature. It is understood that preliminary discussions took place in Bangalore during a meeting of key ICL board members on April 18, before the inaugural IPL game.

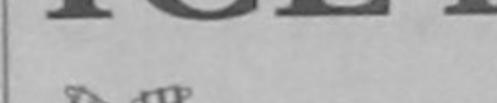
When asked about the committee and its objectives, an ICC spokesperson said, "The purpose of the group is to ensure that what-ever conclusion is reached is in the best interests of the game."

The issue of the ICL and its status came into focus on the sidelines of the ICC annual meeting last week when officials from India, England, Australia and South Africa met for a discussion on the proposed Twenty20 Champions League.

While India, Australia and South Africa are clear that players associated with the ICL cannot take part in the league, England will have to take a tough call on the issue as around 25 ICL players are currently playing for 15 English counties. Officially, the ECB does not support any involvement with unofficial cricket but, in this situation, has to operate with the stringent trade laws in England.

The ICC, meanwhile, has also sent a letter to the ICL seeking details of its correspondence with the BCCI on the issue of their status in the game. An ICL official told Cricinfo the letter was received last

ICL issue on the mend



CRICINFO, undated

The ICL has taken the first significant step towards resolving the contentious issue of unauthorised cricket -- including the status of the Indian Cricket League (ICL) -- by setting up a high-powered committee to study its legal aspects. It has also discussed the issue of global agreements to prevent cricketers from appearing in such games, Cricinfo has learnt.

The committee, which was formed during the ICL's annual meeting in Dubai last week, includes Giles Clarke, the ECB chairman, Norman Arndt, the Cricket South Africa president, Shashank Manohar, the BCCI's president-elect, Lalit Modi, a vice-president of the BCCI (and the IPL's chairman and commissioner) and David Becker, the ICL's senior counsel -- business and commercial.

The committee was set up after officials were made aware the ICL may explore the possibility of coming under the governing body's umbrella as "a kind of authorised unofficial cricket" under a specific rule that deals with exhibition matches and other

week and added the league is yet to send its response. Himanshu Mody, the ICL's business head, confirmed the development to Cricinfo but declined to comment on it. When asked about the letter, the ICC spokesperson said, "Dialogue and correspondence on the subject is ongoing."

According to ICL officials, they had first written to the BCCI in April 2007 informing them about their plans to hold a city-based Twenty20 league.

The BCCI is very clear it would not budge on the ICL. "We had received two or three letters from the ICL, but we made our position very clear early that they cannot be recognised," a BCCI official said. The BCCI has barred all official contact with players associated with ICL and expects all other members of the ICL to align with them on the issue.

The ICL has already organised three Twenty20 tournaments and a 50-over competition but its status was placed on the international cricket stage this April by Malcolm Speed, the former ICC CEO, who said the governing body had received a letter from the league seeking clarity on their existence.

Speed, who was told to go on "paid leave" by the ICL before his successor Haroon Lorgat took charge last week, had also said that the issue was being handled by the ICL's lawyers.

Later, Dave Richardson, who took over from Speed on an interim basis, said the ICL would go by the BCCI's policy towards ICL. "The ICL is a domestic event that takes place in India so our rules prescribe that any decision as to whether an event is to be regarded as official or not must be made by the country that event is played in," Richardson had said.

DSS: You have met the FIFA and AFC bosses and got a lot of promises. What's coming next?

KS: I have spent hours talking with AFC president Mohamed Bin Hammam about our development programmes. We have decided what's good for the nation. It's not going to make me popular or famous immediately but it is going to develop my football. Our emphasis is absolutely on youth development. Once the Dhaka football starts, I will concentrate completely on Under-14 and Under-18 development.

DSS: Can't you start below, at 10-11 years?

KS: We've thought about that. That is possible in Europe but our social structure does not permit it.

Parents are not educated enough to understand football as a profession. So we have to stay between ages 14-18 years.

DSS: You have the SAFF Games and SAFF Football next year but no coach yet. How are you seeing that?

KS: Let football be played for the next ten months. It would be more aggressive and better for the national team.

DSS: What's new thing is Salahuddin's committee offering?

KS: In September and October this year, I'm going to call for trials. It's like the 'American Idol' type trials to pick up talents. There will be ten days trials at five venues and say we will pick up 100 boys, the hidden talents in villages and districts. I will be the main sponsor of it and involve my committee members, especially with playing experience and local coaches as scouts. I am satisying this in advance so the under-18 boys who are interested, get this training-wise.

"My gut feel is that she will not decide in the next couple of weeks about whether to go to Beijing as she needs to give herself as much time as possible."

This concept I've taken over will bring at least 40-50 players for round the year training.

School Chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Five players continued their winning run to share the lead after end of the fourth round of the 10th Standard Chartered School Chess tournament yesterday.

The winners are Rezaul Islam Babu of Rajbari, Mosabbib Khan Shibli of Motijheel Government School and Abhropratim Manna, Asim Roy and Nikesh Duwal of India.

In the Class VI to X group, Babu beat Shubham Das of India, Abhropratim beat Rana, Asim beat Arnob, Shibli beat Zia and Nikesh beat Zoar.

Mohammad Fahim of Titas School, Aditya Chakraborty and Sayan Majumder of India are sharing the lead in the group KG to V.