

LOCAL SNIPS

SPORTS REPORTER

Jatrabari Jhatika Sangsad outplayed Lalbagh Tarun Sangha 4-0 in the Dhaka City Corporation Pioneer Football League at the Bishreshtha Shaheed Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Mohammad Pavel struck two goals while Arif Hossain and Mithun Sarkar chipped in with one each.

In the day's other match at the same venue, Nawabpur KC got a walkover from Tejgaon Nabaratanga.

SUMMER ATHLETICS

The 10th National Summer Athletics will be held on August 27-28 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

All District Sports Associations and universities affiliated with the federation have already been advised to submit their entry by August 20.

The ninth summer meet was held in 2004.

DHAKA OPEN TENNIS

Five players moved into the quarterfinals of the men's singles event of the Dhaka Open Tennis competition winning their respective second round matches at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

In the day's matches, Amal Roy (NTC) beat Zakir Hossain (Uttara Club) 6-0, 6-1, Laxman Lal (American Club) defeated Nurul Islam (NTC) 6-2, 6-1, Pritul Mondal (ZTC) overpowered Milon Hossain (NTC) 2-6, 6-2, 6-4, Murad Hossain (NTC) beat Dipu Lal (Nordic Club) 5-7, 6-4, 7-5, and Ranjan Ram (NTC) beat Kanchan Ram (Nordic Club) 6-4, 6-3.

In the Boy's under-14 events, Biplob Ram, Tanvir Hasan, Aqib Munir, Jamil, Sajib Passi, Sunny Khan and Rustam Ali reached the quarterfinals.

Zia stays

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Banerjee of India got walkover against Joydeep Dutta of India, FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed drew with Debaraj Chatterjee, FM Rezaul Haque beat Shrestha Bilam.

Lat of Nepal, Keshav Shrestha of Nepal got walkover against Anisuzzaman Jewel, Abdullah Al Saif beat FM Mohammad Javed, FM Abdul Malek drew with Mohammad Ali, Arman Monir beat Monir Hossain, Sohel Chowdhury beat Badri Nepal of Nepal and Md. Hasnain Emaam drew with Mahtabuddin Ahmed Robin.

Grand Smith

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crowd erupted in recognition of the moment, Smith feared that the "hot-headedness" that can characterise South African sporting teams was about to come to the fore once again.

Not that he was afflicted by the same emotions, however. Far from it. "I couldn't control that," he said.

"I was just hoping that the right-handers could start picking up those low full-tosses. For me it was just about a real focus on my own game. But and hope someone could bat with me, because I knew if we could get a decent total on the board we could get close, England might get desperate and try a few things, and give us a few free deliveries."

In the final analysis, that is precisely what happened, as the combative Mark Boucher emerged to exercise his own demons from the 1998 Test series, not to mention the World Cup semi-final on this very ground one year later. But there was nothing free about the runs that Smith accumulated. It was fitting that his final score was 154 not out, because there cannot have been a more brilliant and meaningful match-winning century scored in England since Graham Gooch took down the West Indians at Headingly in 1991.

Like Gooch 17 years ago, Smith batted through a barrage and, until Boucher's late role, found only token support from his colleagues. And symbolically he too batted on into the gloaming when others might have called it quits and returned to complete the job in the morning. Instead, he claimed the extra half-hour on the stroke of seven o'clock, and hurtled to victory in five further overs.

"I knew we had England tired because their seamers had bowled a lot of overs," he said. "The new ball was at the back of my mind -- if we'd lost a wicket we had a bit of a tail -- but eventually I thought: 'Let's go for it. We've got England on the ropes, so let's back ourselves.'"

And to think Smith might not even have taken part in this match. He pulled out of training on the eve of the game after suffering a back complaint while batting against Bangladesh A, and admitted afterwards that the problem had never entirely gone away. "It's been a bit sore, but I'm thankful I got on the field," he said. "I've been on a few painkillers, but at the moment there's a lot of adrenalin so I'm not feeling any pain."

Victory is always the best pain-killer, but in South Africa's case, it extends beyond the fitness of their captain. The capitulations of 1994, 1998 and 2003 can at last be forgotten, and by blotting the date "1965" out of their record-books, the final link with the apartheid era has been severed. South Africa are a team going forward at high speed, and for their captain, the journey has never been so pleasant.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The Beijing Olympic Games-bound Bangladesh athletes pose with National Sports Council chairman Gen Moeen Ahmed (front row, centre) at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

India level thru' Ishant

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Sri Lanka were in deep trouble after losing Kumar Sangakkara (one) and in-form Mahela Jayawardene (five), who were known for playing long innings.

Sharma, who removed Malinda Warnapura with his third ball, got the big wicket when he had Jayawardene caught by Rahul Dravid at gully. Jayawardene scored a century in the opening Test and 86 in the first innings here.

SCOREBOARD

Complete scoreboard on the fourth day of the second Test between India and Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium on Sunday:

INDIA: First innings 329 (Sehwag 201 not out; Mendis 6-117)

INDIA: Second innings (overnight 200-4)

Gambhir b Mendis 74
Sehwag c Dilshan b Vaas 50
Dravid lbw b Muralidaran 44

Tendulkar c M Jayawardene b Vaas 31

Karunaratne c M Jayawardene b Vaas 16

Laxman lbw b Mendis 13

Karthik c Sangakkara b Muralidaran 20

Kumble lbw b Mendis 2

Harbhajan c & b Mendis 11

Sharma run out 0

Sehwag not out 1

Extras: (lb-7) 7

Total: (All out in 76.2 overs) 269

Fall of wickets: 1-90, 2-144, 3-200,

4-200, 5-221, 6-252, 7-255, 8-257, 9-257, 10-269.

Bowler O M R W

Vaas 13 4 32 2

Kulasekara 5 0 31 0

Muralidaran 31 3 107 3

Mendis 27.2 4 92 4

SRI LANKA: Second innings

Vandort lbw b Harbhajan 10

Warnapura c Laxman b Sharma 0

Sangakkara c Laxman b Zaheer 1

M Jayawardene c Dravid b Sharma 5

Samarawera not out 67

Dilshan c Karthik b Sharma 38

P Jayawardene c Ganguly b Harbhajan 4

Vaas lbw b Harbhajan 1

Kulasekara c Sharma b Kumble 1

Mendis c Kumble b Harbhajan 2

Muralidaran c & b Kumble 0

Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-2) 8

Total: (All out in 47.3 overs) 136

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-5, 3-10, 3-37,

5-113, 6-130, 7-131, 8-132, 9-135,

10-136.

Bowler O M R W

Zaheer 8 1 18 1

Sharma 15 8 20 3

Kumble 10.3 3 41 2

Harbhajan 14 1 51 4

Result: India won by 170 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Virender Sehwag.

Extras: (lb-7) 7

best chance to perform for England and enjoy my cricket.

"Whilst I am humbled to have been given the opportunity to captain England's one-day side, I feel the captaincy diminished my ability to perform for England across all forms of the game.

"I feel the England captaincy impacted on my ability to enjoy my cricket and contribute to the team.

"I've always enjoyed representing my country at the highest level and it has always been my ambition to play cricket across all forms of the game, but I've found the extra workload of the captaincy to be very difficult.

"The last thing I want is for the captaincy to impact my performance and that of the team which is why I've arrived at this decision after a huge amount of consideration.

"I will continue to make myself available to England for all forms of cricket and look forward to playing a significant role in England's future success."

Kevin Pietersen is favourite to be appointed both Test and one-day captain, but other candidates include Andrew Strauss, Alastair Cook and Robert Key.

Ramps hits 100th ton

CRICINFO, undated

With a forcing cut off David Wainwright for four, Mark Ramprakash finally became the 25th man in history to score 100 first-class hundreds when he notched three figures for Surrey against Yorkshire.

The last player to achieve the milestone was Graeme Hick, in 1998, and the other 23 names include the grand figures of WG Grace, Don Bradman, Denis Compton and Wally Hammond.

For all Ramprakash's remarkable form since 2006, he has struggled this season: his last hundred, the 99th of his career, came at the start of May against Sussex. Saturday's knock was his 11th century since hovering on a mere 99 hundreds, during which agonising time his top-score was 48.

The wait is now over, however, as Ramprakash reached his third century of the season from 196 balls with nine fours and a six.

Ramprakash starred in a second-wicket stand of 259 with Scott Newman and remained unbeaten on 112 as the match petered out into a dull, but far from insignificant, draw.

Safina is the younger sister of former ATP No. 1 Marat Safin, and the Russian has succeeded in creating her own name and eventually could find herself atop the WTARankings.

Weather the main

FROM PAGE 17

said after watching the men's national basketball squad practice, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

Rogge compared the organisation of the Beijing event favourably with Athens four years ago, which was beset by worries over whether the venues would be completed in time for the Games.

"Today we have absolutely no concern for the organisation," he said.

"I am sure that come the 9th of August, the day after the opening ceremony, the magic of the Games and the flawless organisation will take over," he added.

"The conditions you were working in on Tuesday were not good," Rogge told reporters late Saturday.

However, he stopped short of apologising, saying many of the sites had since been unblocked and a list of others were being examined with Beijing organisers.

"I am not going to make an apology for something that the IOC is not responsible for. We are not

running the Internet in China," said Rogge, who had previously promised unfettered Internet access for foreign reporters.

Meanwhile, Rogge, president of the International Olympic Committee, tried to defuse the row over Internet censorship for foreign reporters and insisted he thought Beijing would host an outstanding Games.

Rogge said no deal had been cut with Chinese authorities to allow censorship of sensitive sites, after journalists arrived this week to find they could not access a wide range of websites.

The Olympic torch relay passed through the earthquake-devastated region of Sichuan on Sunday as part of its global journey to Beijing, which included protest-filled leg in Paris and London.

Sichuan is still recovering from the effects of the 8.0-magnitude quake that ripped through the area on May 12, leaving around 87,000 people dead or missing.

"I am not going to make an apology for something that the IOC is not responsible for. We are not

Hackett leads Aussie swim team

AFP, Beijing

Legend Grant Hackett arrived here Sunday at the head of Australia's 42-strong swimming team and said that he was ready to try and grab an unprecedented third 1500m Olympic title.

"I am confident I can get the best out of myself. I have prepared very well," said Hackett, 28. "I am feeling fit and ready to race."

Australia are expected to bat with the United States for swimming dominance at the August 8-24 Games and include six world record-holders in their squad.

Coach Alan Thompson admitted that the pressure was on now that the team had arrived in Beijing after a secluded week-long training camp in Malaysia.

"We have been a little bit sheltered for the last couple of days but I think this (arrival in Beijing) will certainly bring it home to the kids that the whole of the world is watching, as well as Australia," he said.

Hackett is attempting what no man has ever done before -- three consecutive Olympic titles over the most gruelling event, the 1500m.

"I certainly realise the attention and expectations that go with that but at the same time I probably feel more relaxed for this Olympics than for the last two," he said.

Libby Trickett, who holds the 50m and 100m freestyle world records, and Leisel Jones, the 100m and 200m breaststroke world record holder, are among the best, hopes for Australian gold at the Games along with Hackett.

Also in the squad are world record holders Jess Schipper, who holds the men's 200m butterfly best time, Eamon Sullivan, the 50m freestyle holder, and Stephanie Rice, the fastest woman ever in the 200m individual medley.

Thompson said the squad was in excellent shape and morale was high.

"We had a very good training camp and everyone was very happy with their performances. Everyone is healthy -- touch wood -- and we hope we keep it that way."

Bolt to go for double

AFP, Kingston

Jamaica's 100m world record holder Usain Bolt will attempt the 100m/200m double at the Beijing Olympics, agent Norman Peart said.

Peart, one of the agents of the sprinter, said: "He is going to double up. That's certain. I have just received confirmation from his coach Glen Mills."

Bolt