



Players of Polsha Adarsha Primary School of Mymensingh (boys) and Mirzapur High School of Narail (girls) pose with trophies after their victories in the Standard Chartered National School Kabaddi Championships at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

SCHOOL KABADDI Polsha and Mirzapur win titles

SPORTS REPORTER

Polsha Adarsha Primary School of Mymensingh emerged boys' champions in the Standard Chartered National School Kabaddi Championships yesterday.

The boys from Mymensingh defeated Gourihar Al Arabia Dakhil Madrassah 25-19 in the final at the Outer Stadium, kabaddi court.

Mirzapur High School of Narail lifted the girls' title with a 45-15 win over Gaibandha's Asaduzzaman High School in a one-sided final at the same venue.

Ujjal and Mehdi were adjudged best players in the boys' section while Eeti and Farzana in the girls' section.

Acting CEO of Standard Chartered Bank Imtiaz Ibne Sattar distributed prizes as chief guest.

Like a final

FROM PAGE 17

"We have analysed our problems after the defeat to Zimbabwe. We have seen that a number of the batsmen have been getting out in the same manner repeatedly. Also, there is not enough support for someone who is well set and we would need a batsman or two to go on and play 50 overs," said Mashrafe.

Sri Lanka skipper Mahela Jayawardene however ensured that they are not going to take the match lightly despite Bangladesh's poor record against them.

"We never take any game softly. To us it is important to win every match we play and we always try to do that. We want our players to continue improving and get better all the time. We don't want any let ups," Jayawardene said.

"I am sure they have had a few things to worry about because it was a game they were expected to win. I am also pretty certain that they would want to come out strong because this is a must-win match for them," he added when asked whether he thinks Bangladesh will be demoralised after the loss to Zimbabwe.

TEAMS

BANGLADESH: Tamim Iqbal, Zunaed Siddiqui, Mohammad Ashraf (captain), Rokibul Hassan, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim (wicketkeeper), Nayeem Islam, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Mahbubul Alam, Rubel Hossain.

SRI LANKA (from): Sanath Jayasuriya, Upul Tharanga, Kumar Sangakkara (wicketkeeper), Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Angelo Mathews, Chamara Kapugedera, Jehan Mubarak, Farveez Maharoof, Nuwan Kulasekera, Muttiah Muralidaran, Ajantha Mendis, Thilina Kandamby, Dilhara Fernando, Dharmika Prasad and Thilina Thushara Miranda.

This time, Ariful had possession just inside their own box but the Brothers centre-back's dilly-dally with the ball inspired Robin to snatch it from behind and pick up an unmarked Bukola to tap into an open goal. It was the Nigerian forward's tenth league goal.

National captain Matur Munnua then gifted the third goal to the opposition when Bukola also came from behind to steal the ball near the right bi-line and set Robin to fire a powerful volley into the back of the net from seven yards on stroke of half-time, goal number eight for him.

Mohammedan introduced

Did U Know?

Martin Guptill became the fifth player and first from New Zealand to make a century on debut. He achieved this feat in the fourth ODI against West Indies on Saturday.

Hussey beats Duminy

Cricket

CRICINFO, Brisbane

Michael Hussey's cool head and some force from Cameron White were responsible for driving Australia to back-to-back victories in the Twenty20 warm-ups for the start of the CB Series in Melbourne on Friday. Hussey was badly out of form during the Test campaign, but he showed both mind and muscle during an unbeaten 53 from 32 balls as Australia reached 4 for 161 in reply to South Africa's 5 for 157, a total set up by JP Duminy's unbeaten half-century.

The first ten overs of both innings were sleepy and ugly affairs, but the second half of Australia's was much more entertaining, particularly when Hussey was joined by Cameron White. Hussey, who launched Albie Morkel to midwicket for a six, sparked Australia with three fours in a row off Wayne Parnell, the 19-year-old debutant, and 16 came from the 11th over to revive the hosts.

However, the 61-run stand between Ricky Ponting and Hussey ended when Ponting was run out by Morne Morkel's smart under-arm. Ponting had collected three fours and a six over midwicket before his 38 was curtailed at a crucial time. David Hussey departed in the same over as Ponting when he was the victim of a stunning running take from Duminy at long-off. As the South Africans converged on their teammate, the home side worried at 4 for 92 after 13 overs. They didn't need to.

Duminy misjudged a catch in the same position off Cameron White when he was 9 and the ball went for four. The mistake grew worse when

boundaries also came from Parnell's next three balls to thrust Australia to the verge of victory. White finished the job with a six over long-on to seal the win with seven balls to spare. His 40 came from 18 deliveries during a match-winning partnership of 69 with Hussey.

Unsurprisingly David Warner, Australia's new wonder boy after his 89 from 43 balls in Melbourne, was unable to repeat his heroics and was bowled trying to slog Dale Steyn. When he went for 7 in the fifth over Australia were battling at 1 for 21 and they were 2 for 29 when Shaun Marsh, who had whipped Steyn for six behind square, lobbed a catch off Morne Morkel.

Morkel grabbed 2 for 32 while the offspinner Johan Botha, who opened the bowling, was tight in allowing 19 from his four. However, Parnell's 44 runs from four proved too costly.

South Africa's innings was slow to find the necessary surge, but Duminy added to his 78 in Melbourne with a strong 69 off 41 balls as his teammates struggled against a testing attack. Australia named an unchanged side following their 52-run victory on Sunday while South Africa had four new faces. They missed AB de Villiers, who was still suffering from the under-edge on to his hip from Shaun Tait at the MCG, and Jacques Kallis was unavailable due to illness.

After failing to ignite early, the tourists relied on Duminy, who picked up seven boundaries and two sixes, and a pair of 19s from Mark Boucher and Albie Morkel to inflate the total. Duminy's acceleration started with a glance for four off Tait and in the next over he whipped James Hopes for six behind square leg, giving the

visitors a much needed push. Duminy thrashed Tait, who provided moments of discomfort, through mid-off for four as the bowler ended his four-over stint with 0 for 37. Albie Morkel provided some late blows and Neil McKenzie, the only fit batsman remaining in the squad, was 7 not out.

Hopes led the Australians with 2 for 29 and Nathan Bracken gave up six from his opening two overs before returning at the end to pick up Albie Morkel, who heaved to David Hussey at long-on. However, he was blasted for a six over long-off by Duminy in the last over and ended with 1 for 29.

The opener Hashim Amla had some bright flashes, slicing Tait over third man for six, but a subdued start got to him and he was out for 26 when pulling Ben Hilfenhaus to midwicket. South Africa's situation worsened to 3 for 41 in the next over when Vaughn van Jaarsveld was lbw first ball to David Hussey.

Duminy and Mark Boucher put on 49 before Boucher miscued Hopes and Tait collected the catch at point. Some of the players also found the Gabba surface, which has suffered from a grass fungus, slippery, but the fielding from Australia's young team was sharp, just like their middle-order batting.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: 157 for 5 in 20 overs (Amla 26, Duminy 69 not out, Boucher 19, Morkel 19, Hopes 2-29)

AUSTRALIA: 161 for 4 in 18.5 overs (Marsh 15, Ponting 38, Hussey 53 not out, White 40 not out, Morkel 2-32)

Result: Australia won by 6 wickets and clinched 2-match series 2-0.

Man-of-the-match: Mike Hussey. Toss: South Africa

Mohammedan ruin

FROM PAGE 17

the ball onto the woodwork in the seventh minute while Ripon's header during a corner was kept out by Shakil from the goal line.

The pressure told in the 24th minute when Mishu and Shakil, standing on the edge of their penalty area, unnecessarily hesitated to clear a long through ball by Mohammedan's Egyptian playmaker Hazem. Nasir sped through the Brothers duo to reach the ball and finished the run with a powerful drive into goalkeeper Zia's near post for his fifth league goal.

Bukola drove a close-range chance over the bar while at the other end, fullback Kamal headed out Brothers' Ghanaian forward Henry's effort for a corner before this year's Federation Cup champions doubled the lead in the 33rd minute.

This time, Ariful had possession just inside their own box but the Brothers centre-back's dilly-dally with the ball inspired Robin to snatch it from behind and pick up an unmarked Bukola to tap into an open goal. It was the Nigerian forward's tenth league goal.

National captain Matur Munnua then gifted the third goal to the opposition when Bukola also came from behind to steal the ball near the right bi-line and set Robin to fire a powerful volley into the back of the net from seven yards on stroke of half-time, goal number eight for him.

Korean import Oh Ddogyi in the midfield but the Singapore League marksman, reportedly out of action for over a month, failed to impress on his Dhaka debut.

The three-goal cushion saw Mohammedan relax after resumption but stay cautious as Brothers, despite enjoying superior ball possession, failed to penetrate.

Zahid was the only player to pose threat on an otherwise tight Mohammedan defence with his skill and speed but Kenyan striker Nicodemus and new recruit Steve Ogbuke really frustrated the Oranges management.

Zahid finally got a reward in the dying minute when he was invited to take the spotkick and beat Aminul with a cracker.

Nasir had conceded the penalty after a tackle on Munna from behind inside the area but referee Abdul Hannan, who had booked the Mohammedan player earlier, spared the young fullback turned midfielder a regulation second yellow card hence a marching order.

Yellow cards: Nasir, Rajani (Mohammedan) and Zahid (Brothers)

TEAMS MOHAMMEDAN: Aminul, Kamal, Saikat, Rajani, Ripon, Nasir, Hazem, Arman Aziz, Ddogyi (Rony), Robin (Komol) and Bukola. BROTHERS: Zia, Arup, Shuvra, Ariful, Mishu, Zahid, Munna, Ogbuke (Rikto), Shakil, Nicodemus (Tapu) and Henry.

Nasir takes

FROM PAGE 17

Left-arm spinner Monir Hossain and Saikat Ali took two wickets each.

Earlier, captain Mohammad Mithun struck 64 off just 57 balls as Sylhet made 173 for 9 from 28 overs. He smashed seven fours and a couple of sixes before becoming sixth man out in the 20th over.

Leg-spinner Marshall Ayub and Arafat Sunny took two wickets apiece while Ashraf Haque, Mohammad Azim and Elias Sunny had one each.

BRIEF SCORES

KHULNA: 147-9 in 40 overs (Taibur 54; Arafat 3-12).

BARISAL: 150-3 in 36.5 overs (Nasir 58; Dollar 2-31).

Result: Barisal won by seven wickets.

RAJSHAHI: 140 all out in 38.5 overs (Sabbir 31; Tariq 4-32).

CHITTAGONG: 141-7 in 43 overs (Tariq 39; Shafaq 3-20).

Result: Chittagong won by three wickets.

SYLHET: 173-9 in 28 overs (Mithun 64; Marshall 2-27).

DHAKA: 174-4 in 27.2 overs (Nadif 59; Monir 2-29).

Result: Dhaka won by six wickets.

POINTS TABLE table with columns TEAM, P, W, L, D, PTS

NZ take series

Cricket

AFP, Napier

An opening batting blitz and timely rain gave New Zealand a nine-run victory in the winner-takes-all final one-day international against the West Indies here Tuesday.

The stars of the game were West Indies captain Chris Gayle, who made 135, and Shivnarine Chanderpaul with 94, but the match and the series were decided by the weather and the Duckworth-Lewis system.

New Zealand, chasing a target of 294, were behind on the calculations as the first drops of rain fell.

But they called an immediate Power Play, during which Ross Taylor and Grant Elliott belted 21 runs in two overs before being forced from the field in the 35th over.

New Zealand were then 211 for five, ahead of the required rate by nine runs under the Duckworth-Lewis method.

The win gave New Zealand the ODI series 2-1 and snapped the tour deadlock. Both Tests were drawn and the two Twenty20 games resulted in a win apiece.

Captain Daniel Vettori foresaw that the rain could play a significant role when he won the toss, putting the West Indies into bat so he could keep an eye on the run target

should rain intervene.

Gayle and Chanderpaul, the West Indies' two most reliable batsmen, set about building a formidable target batting in ideal conditions.

They put on 170 in 26 overs for the third wicket, with Gayle blasting his 19th ODI century and the New Zealand bowlers were powerless to stop the onslaught.

But once the breakthrough came, there was little backbone left in the West Indies line-up and New Zealand took satisfaction in keeping the tourists below the psychological 300-run mark.

In reply, the home side started at whirlwind pace with Jesse Ryder and Brendon McCullum cracking 59 for the first wicket in under six overs.

Ryder fell first for 21 off 23 deliveries and McCullum reached 41 from 28 balls before he went in the 11th over, leaving New Zealand 96 for two.

Martin Guptill, who made a century on debut in the fourth ODI in Auckland on Saturday, kept New Zealand ahead of the run rate with 43 from 39 balls.

But when he was caught behind off Kieron Pollard with New Zealand at 138 for three, the tempo began to slow.

At 175 for three in the 29th over, and with the weather closing in, Daniel Flynn went for 21 and Neil Broom was out first ball. Under the Duckworth-Lewis calcula-

tions, New Zealand slumped from a 21-run advantage to a seven-run deficit in two balls.

Ross Taylor, who finished unbeaten on 48, and Grant Elliott, who was not out 14, regained the advantage in a batting power play, taking 15 off one over by Lionel Baker and six off Daren Powell before the game was stopped.

Powell, who was sitting on a hatrick with the wickets of Flynn and Broom, finished with three for 66.

New Zealand's most successful bowler was Mark Gillespie, who took four for 58.

But the chief contributor to the New Zealand bowling effort was Jesse Ryder, who captured the key wicket of man-of-the-match Gayle, caught on the boundary by Taylor.

His dismissal left the West Indies at 243 for three and they lost six further wickets for 60 runs in the final seven overs.

Chanderpaul fell to part-time bowler Jesse Ryder, trying a reverse sweep that lobbed straight to Guptill.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fifth and final one-day international between New Zealand and the West Indies at McLean Park in Napier on Tuesday:

WEST INDIES table with columns Name, Runs, Wickets

Findlay run out (Elliott/Gillespie) 3

Pollard c Pollard b Gillespie 19

Ramdin b Gillespie 9

Powell c McCullum b Mills 4

Nash not out 1

Edwards b Gillespie 1

Extras: (lb-2, w-2) 4

Total: (For 9 wks in 50 overs) 293

Did not bat: Baker

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-73, 3-243, 4-247, 5-272, 6-279, 7-291, 8-291, 9-293.

Bowler O M R W

Mills 10 2 57 3

Gillespie 10 0 58 4

Southee 10 0 63 0

Vettori 10 1 45 0

Ryder 6 0 35 1

Elliott 4 0 33 0

NEW ZEALAND

Ryder c Findlay b Powell 21

McCullum c Findlay b Baker 41

Guptill c Ramdin b Pollard 43

Taylor not out 48

Flynn c & b Powell 21

Broom lbw b Powell 0

Elliott not out 14

Extras: (b-1, lb-6, w-15, nb-3) 23

Total: (For 5 wks in 35 overs) 211

Did not bat: Vettori, Mills, Southee, Gillespie.

Fall of wickets: 1-59, 2-96, 3-138, 4-175, 5-175.

Bowler O M R W

Edwards 5 0 46 0

Powell 10 0 66 3

Baker 6 0 36 1

Pollard 10 0 40 1

Nash 4 0 16 0

Result: New Zealand won by nine runs (D/L method).

Man-of-the-match: Chris Gayle.

Toss: New Zealand

That's it for

FROM PAGE 17

"Today [Tuesday] I am announcing my retirement from representative cricket effective immediately," Hayden told the press conference at his home Gabba ground.

"This is a decision that I have not taken lightly and I am here after much thought, consideration and discussion with my family and close friends.

"It is ultimately my decision and I know that now is the time to move on to the next stage of my life and career."

Hayden's decision comes against the backdrop of meagre returns in Australia's back-to-back series losses to India and South Africa.

Since returning from an Achilles injury suffered during last year's Indian Twenty20 Premier League, Hayden scored 383 runs at 23.93 in his last nine Tests, less than half of his career Test average.

Hayden had been desperately trying to cling onto his spot for a final Ashes series in England in mid-year before retiring from the game.

But the signs were there that he had lost the support of selectors, who left him out of the Twenty20 and one-day teams in the wake of the Test series loss to South Africa.

Yet Hayden leaves cricket with 30 Test centuries, which ranks him sixth all-time behind Indian Sachin Tendulkar's 41.

Hayden's 380 scored against Zimbabwe in Perth in October 2003 stands second only to West Indian Brian Lara's world record 400 not out as the highest individual innings in Test cricket.

He formed with Justin Langer one of Australia's more durable opening partnerships in Test cricket.

Langer and Hayden (5,654) ranked second only to legendary West Indian opening pair Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes (6,482) for most combined runs in Test cricket and shared in 14 opening century-plus stands.

Hayden said he had many things he wanted to focus on in life after cricket. "Importantly for me, today I am retiring from cricket, not from life," he said.

"There is still so much that I want to achieve and contribute to the community.

"I want to use the time now to explore my other passions of fishing, boating, cooking and the outdoors."

Hayden also said he wanted to help promote cricket among Australia's indigenous community and to continue his work with the Glenn McGrath Foundation for breast cancer sufferers.

"I have no intentions of turning my back on our great game, a game which has given me great joy. Rather I would like to focus on some key areas," he said.

Hayden also played 161 one-day internationals for his country, amassing 6,133 runs at an average of 43.81 and a strike rate of 78.96.

He played in two World Cups, in South Africa in 2003 and in the West Indies in 2007.

Hayden leaves top level cricket ranking 10th all-time with 128 catches, behind fellow Australian Mark Waugh's record 181.

C'Ron wins FIFA gong

FROM PAGE 17

"I am lucky to be part of the history of a club like Manchester United."

Portugal manager Carlos Queiroz, who was also with Ronaldo at Manchester United when he was assistant coach to Ferguson, said it was a logical decision.

"Quality and justice were behind this decision," said Queiroz.

"This is a great achievement for a player as young (23) as he is and with his career before him.

"I congratulate Cristiano Ronaldo and hope that this award both stimulates and inspires his career."

Ronaldo, scorer of 42 goals in all competitions in the 2007-8 season, was one of United's architects behind the club's English Premiership and Champions League double.

It was not a perfectly scripted year for Ronaldo, however, as Portugal crashed out 3-2 to Germany in the quarterfinal of Euro 2008 in June.

India to fill

FROM PAGE 17

in cricket, among other things, and we will continue to support Sri Lankan cricket in future," said Srinivasan.

"We look forward to an interesting one-day series and a Twenty20 game in Sri Lanka when our team comes here."

Sri Lanka's Sports Minister Gamini Lokuge, meanwhile, said his country's cricketers will be available for the lucrative Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 competition for the next 10 years.

"We have decided to allow our players to play freely in the IPL," Lokuge said, adding that a 10-year agreement on IPL and other Twenty20 tournaments had been signed between the two cricket boards.

Indian media reports said the upcoming tour was likely to take place between February 1-15 and all matches would be played in Colombo.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's team was given a rare break from international cricket after the Indian government declined permission to tour Pakistan in January-February following November's Mumbai terror attacks.



Chittagong Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury (C) inaugurating the Women's National Cricket League at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with a key and a message to be deciphered.