

Huge win for Young Star

SPORTS REPORTER

Sanji scored a hat-trick as Young Star Club of Moulvibazar won 4-1 against Young Tiger Nurpur of Habiganj yesterday in the Bashundhara Champions Club Cup at the Habiganj Stadium.

Sanji struck in the 15th, 24th and 31st minutes and Roman widened the margin in the 83rd minute for the victors. Noman netted the only goal for Nurpur in the 51st minute.

In another match, locals Ghagra Sporting Club edged past Uqil Para Sporting Club of Kishoreganj 1-0 at the Sherpur Stadium. Moniruzzaman scored the only goal of the match in the 34th minute.

In today's game, Shoukhin Kira Protibha Onneshon of Netrokona will play Abahani Kira Chakra of Mymensingh at the Sherpur Stadium at 4.00 pm.



Did U Know?

In 1968 synchronised swimming became officially recognised by FINA as the fourth sport next to swimming, platform diving and water polo.



Tom Moody

(Sri Lanka's former cricket coach)
"Everything about him is unique. His very unique action, unique that he bowls at 90 miles an hour. He is different." On Lankan slinger Lasith Malinga.



STAR Sports

French Open
Live from 6:00pm

ESPN

ICC World Twenty20
Warm-up Match
Sri Lanka v Bangladesh
Live at 6:30pm

STAR Cricket

ICC World T20
Warm-up Match
England v Scotland
Live from 10:30pm

BCB picks 24 for Academy

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has selected twenty-four players for the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy squad.

The players have been asked to report to Ruwan Kalpage, the academy's head coach at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on June 5 at 4pm.

The selected players are Mohammad Mithun, Rony Talukder, Habibur Rahman, Naimuddin Mintu, Mayshequr Rahman, Nasir Hossain, Shuvagoto Hom, Nizamuddin Ripon, Marshal Ayub, Forhad Hossain, Tanvir Haider, Muktar Ali, Suvasish Roy, Emon Ahmed, Shafiqul Islam, Kazi Kamrul Islam, Mohammad Azim, Robiul Islam, Ariful Hoque, Syed Golam Kibria, Saqlain Sajib, Mohammad Shaki, Sanjamul Islam, Hamidul Islam.

Meanwhile, the BCB has also selected 67 players for the national pace foundation trials and the players have been asked to report to Sarwar Imran, head coach of the foundation.



Bangladesh all-rounder Mahmudullah Riyad (2nd from R) is surrounded by teammates after he dismissed Australia skipper Ricky Ponting (not in picture) during an ICC World Twenty20 warm-up match at Trent Bridge in Nottingham yesterday.

Tigers lose fighting

STAR SPORT DESK



Shakib Al Hasan hit a sparkling half-century but the left-hander's effort was not good enough for Bangladesh to avoid a 38-run defeat in the first official warm-up match of the ICC World Twenty20 against a full-strength Australia at Trent Bridge yesterday.

The world's number one all-rounder clobbered six fours and two sixes during his blazing 29-ball 54 after a flying start by Tamim Iqbal (21 off 9 balls) and Zunaed Siddiqui (12 off 8 balls), but the Tigers still fell short, reaching 181 for 7 at the end of their share of 20 overs.

They were chasing Australia's mammoth total of 219 for 6.

Mahmudullah Riyad followed up his four-wicket haul with an unbeaten 28 off 26 balls that included three fours while skipper Mohammad Ashraful added 26 off 24 balls that featured five boundaries.

Despite the defeat the Tigers showed spirited display and they now meet Sri Lanka in the second and last warm-up match today at the same venue prior to their first Group A match against India on June 6.

Earlier spurred by a thumping opening

partnership, Australia piled up a daunting total after opting to bat in sunny Nottingham. From the start it was apparent that Australia were going to dominate, what with Bangladesh's new-ball pair leaking runs and Tamim Iqbal reprieving Brad Haddin in the first over. Haddin and Shane Watson - who slammed a 21-ball half-century - made Bangladesh pay and though Mahmudullah's four wickets ensured Australia didn't post a mammoth total, Bangladesh face an intimidating chase.

The ball didn't come on to the bat easily and Mashrafe Mortaza should have had Haddin in the first over, except Tamim put down a simple catch at mid-on. There were plenty of inside-edges and mistimed flicks to the midwicket region, and Watson soon realised he'd need to improvise. His first boundary was a cocked-wrist swipe over midwicket, one not timed with authority, but his next was right off the middle and dead straight.

When the ball was new, the field in and the wicketkeeper up, both Haddin and Watson boldly chose to go over the top, twice lofting Syed Rasel over the onside for sixes in an over. Then, when the field spread out, the pair chipped and nudged it cleverly into the gaps to keep the board ticking over constantly, but also managed to find the fence whenever the bowlers dropped it short and wide.

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BDR clinch handball title once again

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) became the champions in the EXIM Bank 19th national men's handball championship beating Bangladesh Police 32-17 in the last 'super three' match at the Dhaka Handball Stadium yesterday.

It was the riflemen's 14th consecutive title triumph. It was also the 18th national crown for them since its inception in 1984.

In the day's title-deciding match, the Rifles team led the first-half 14-9. Jahangir Hossain of the winners was adjudged the player-of-the-tournament.

ICC will look for IPL gap

PTI, London

Admitting that the lure of money along with a cramped international calendar may push many players to give up their international career for Twenty20 Leagues, ICC has eventually agreed to "explore" a window for the Indian Premier League.

ICC chief executive Haroor Lorgat, however, did not make any promise and revealed the new Futures Tours Programme post-2012 would be on the similar lines as the old one albeit with a focus in the IPL.

"We will explore that. We will look at all things. We are busy discussing the FTP post-2012, and we will have to look logically at what is right," Lorgat said.

"But it's very difficult for us to create a window for a domestic event, because that's not what the FTP is. The FTP is an international basket of fixtures. That's what it is," he was quoted as saying by the 'Cricinfo'.

Lorgat said the ICC would

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Roger survives a scare Maria, Serena in last eight

AFP, Paris



Roger Federer avoided joining Rafael Nadal on the Roland Garros scrapheap when he battled back to defeat Germany's Tommy Haas 6-7 (4/7), 5-7, 6-4, 6-0, 6-2 to reach the French

Open quarter-finals on Monday.

The second seed, still needing a French Open to become only the sixth man to complete a career Grand Slam, will now face either American sixth seed Andy Roddick or Gael Monfils, the 11th-seeded Frenchman, for a place in the semi-finals.

It was Federer's fifth career recovery from a two-set deficit and he did it for the second Grand Slam in succession, after the Czech Republic's Tomas Berdych had been 2-0 ahead in their Australian Open fourth-round tie.

But having seen four-time champion Nadal, the man who has beaten him in the last three finals, sensationally suffer his first defeat in Paris on Sunday, Federer came dangerously

close to seeing his lifetime dream also evaporate.

At two sets to the good, 31-year-old Haas had a break point in the eighth game of the third set which, had he seized it, would have given him the chance to serve for the match.

But Federer, who hasn't failed to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final since his third-round loss to Gustavo Kuerten here in 2004, saved it with an inside-out forehand and the German began to wilt with the Swiss reeling off 14 of the last 16 games.

Federer admitted his opponent's failure to convert that break point at 4-3 in the third set was crucial.

"I thought that shot I made was probably the first good shot I had had hit the whole match," said Federer, the holder of 13 Grand Slam titles. "I knew the significance of it and I realised that if I came out of it I would look back on that shot as the one that saved me. It was a great feeling because I was in some trouble there."

Haas agreed that the break point chance was crucial.

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Maria Sharapova of Russia is ecstatic after beating China's Na Li in their French Open round of 16 match at Roland Garros in Paris on Sunday.

Thrilling win takes Town to final

SPORTS REPORTER



Town Secondary School of Barisal advanced to the Citycell National School Football Championship final clinching a thriller by scoring the winning goal in injury time breaking the 3-3 deadlock against Shuti VM Pilot High School at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) yesterday.

All of Town Secondary gave his team a 2-0 lead half an hour into the match but

Romnobl of Shuti VM netted one seven minutes later from a penalty and Shakil scored on the 56th minute to tie the match at 2-2.

Both teams scored a goal apiece and the match went into injury time locked at 3-3. It was Mridul from Town Secondary who rose to the occasion scoring the winner to take his team to the final.

In the second semifinal at the same venue Victoria High School of Moulvibazar drubbed Govindaganj Bahumukhi High School 4-0

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Vettori thinks spin-wise

AFP, London

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori said he expected spin to play a major role in the upcoming World Twenty20 in England.

Orthodox slow left-arm Vettori is an integral member of the Black Caps' bowling attack in all forms of the game.

And for all the talk that spin in Twenty20, with its emphasis on boundary hitting, would be a liability, the evidence from tournaments around the world, including the Indian Premier League (IPL), suggests slow bowlers still have an important role in cricket's shortest format.

"In Twenty20, you are not going to second-guess yourself," Vettori told reporters at a captains' press conference at Lord's here on Sunday.

"The batsman is going to attack you, most spin bowlers realise that, and if they attack too much you create chances and you find even part-time spinners in the IPL being highly successful."

And to those who thought Vettori was merely sticking up for his own 'tribe', his words were backed up by India's Mahendra Singh Dhoni, captain of the defending World Twenty20 champions.

"The organisers want really exciting cricket," wicketkeeper/batsman Dhoni said. "I think there will be flat tracks (pitches) and spinners will play an important role."

The amount of cricket being played by the world's best players remains a source of concern for many observers, who fear increasingly congested fixture schedules could devalue the worth of international fixtures.

Players from India, cricket's economic powerhouse, are often said to be most at risk from seeing their performances slip as a result of playing too many matches.

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A DAY OF GOODBYES: A combo picture shows (from L-R) Milan skipper Paolo Maldini, Inter Milan maestro Luis Figo and Juventus midfielder Pavel Nedved waving their final goodbyes to their respective fans at the end of the last matchday of the Serie A season on Sunday. Maldini played his 902nd and last match in a 24-year career for Milan against Fiorentina and was given a rousing send-off. Figo, once the world's most expensive player also bid bye to football by winning the Scudetto with Inter. And while Pavel Nedved has not quite decided to hang up his boots yet, the multi-dimensional midfielder bid bye to the Old Lady after eight hugely successful years in Turin.

PHOTOS: AFP/INTERNET