

1st Division basketball

SPORTS REPORTER
The Gregorian Club, Hornets SC and Mohammadpur Basketball Club won their respective matches in the Premier Bank 1st Division Basketball League at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Gregorian handed an emphatic 77-42 defeat to Flame Boys Club with Bikram and Shoaib netting 26 and 22 respectively for the winners. Hornets recorded a massive 78-29 victory over Cantonians with Shahinoor and Altaz scored eight and seven points respectively for Hornets.

Mohammadpur Basketball Club registered a hard-fought 30-27 win over Shaons Club riding on eight points from Adib.

Div II cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Tiger Sporting Club defeated Dergram Palli Unnayan Sangha by 63 runs in the Khan Real Estate Second Division Cricket League at Manikganj Government Boys' High School play ground here yesterday.

Batting first, Tiger Sporting Club made 119 runs losing seven wickets in 20 overs. Rubel top scored with 32 runs from 35 balls while Shiba added 31 runs from 30 balls. Rubel and Babu took two wickets for Dergram Palli Unnayan Sangha.

In reply, Dergram Palli Unnayan Sangha were bundled out for only 56 runs in 14.1 overs. Rubel remained not out on 22 runs. Sabuj picked up three wickets while Rana and Enamul took two wickets for Tiger Sporting Club.

Inter-district cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Nilphamari beat Barisal by 14 in their clash of the 30th Inter-District Cricket Championship at the Jessore venue yesterday. In another match at Mymensingh, Dhaka comfortably won against Comilla by 40 runs.

White ball in Tests!

INTERNET, undated

White balls may be used when day-night test matches are introduced, according to International Cricket Council (ICC) general manager of cricket Dave Richardson.

A pink ball has been trialled in England, Australia and West Indies which would enable test players to wear white clothing under floodlit conditions with white sightcreens. The traditional red ball is difficult to see properly under lights.

White balls are used successfully in day-night one-day matches but the players wear coloured clothing and black sightcreens are employed. Clothes and sightcreens have always been white in test cricket.

"Anecdotal evidence at the moment is probably if we can find a white form that retains its colour or remains clean for longer that will probably be the best option," Richardson said in ICC's Dubai headquarters.

Richardson said he thought a suitable ball, whether coloured or white, would be ready in time for next year's English season.

ICC chief executive Haroon Lorgat said Tuesday a switch to coloured clothing for test cricket would have to be carefully considered.

"It is a debate that we would love to engage in because I am not totally sure of removing the white clothing in test cricket," he said. "There's a part of me that still wants to keep that. We need to apply our minds very carefully if we are going to change some fundamentals."

Mumbai

FROM PAGE 17
Rayudu 40, Pollard 33 not out; Steyn 2-43
BANGALORE ROYAL CHALLENGERS: 149 for 9 in 20 overs (Dravid 23, Pietersen 19, Uthappa 26, Taylor 31 not out; Pollard 3-17, Malinga 2-24, Harbhajan 2-44)
Result: Mumbai Indians won by 35 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Kieron Pollard.



Action from yesterday's Citycell Bangladesh League match between Brothers Union and Farshganj at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Bentil saves Brothers

SPORTS REPORTER

A last-gasp strike from Ghanaian striker Enock Bentil helped struggling Brothers Union hold Farshganj SC to a 2-2 draw in their Bangladesh League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

National striker Touhidul Alam Sabuz gave Farshganj a ninth-minute lead with a solo effort before Maksudul Alam Bulbul levelled the margin with his second attempt after his initial shot was well-blocked by goalkeeper Masud Ahmed Ujjal in the 14th minute.

One minute from the break, Nigerian striker Kalu Johnson put Farshganj ahead again placing an Imtiaz Sultan Jitu low cross home. But the biggest surprise for the 200 odd spectators was that Kalu did not re-emerge at the start of the second half.

Farshganj should have made it 3-1 eight minutes into the second half but Jitu struck the ball straight to the safe hands of Brothers goalkeeper Iran Sheikh.

Bentil, who replaced scorer Bulbul in the 52nd minute, finally levelled the margin five minutes from time to help Brothers raise their point tally to 17 from as many matches. Farshganj, who lost 1-0 in the first leg, now have 14 points from 17 matches.

At the Sylhet Stadium, Chittagong

Mohammedan SC recorded their fourth win in the Bangladesh League when the visitors defeated 10-man Beanibazar SC with Linkon striking the decider in the 39th minute, just seven minutes before Beanibazar's Bappi was sent off.

Chittagong Mohammedan, who were held to a 1-1 draw against Beanibazar in their home match, now have 18 points from 17 outings and Beanibazar remain stuck at 13 points from 16 matches to remain in the relegation zone.

At the Shaheed Salam Stadium, hosts Feni Soccer Club posted their sixth victory in the league with a 2-0 win over bottom side Narayanganj Shuktara Jubo Sangsad.

Hosts Feni Soccer Club, who played out a goalless draw in their away game in Narayanganj, had to wait for the opener over half-an-hour when Sohel put the visitors ahead in the 41st minute.

After the resumption, Asif Yousuf doubled the margin in the 49th minute to maintain their fourth position in the 13-team point table with 24 from 16 matches. With 11 defeats in 16 matches, Shuktara stay bottom with seven points.

It was learnt that after the game the officials of Shuktara JS chased referee Bharat Chandra and he left the stadium with police protection.

Shuktara JS captain Rezaul Karim Liton claimed that they were deprived of at least four clear penalty shots and thus went down against the visitors.

NAT'L WOMEN'S CHESS FROM TOMORROW

Narayanganj chosen as hosts

SPORTS REPORTER

Narayanganj is all set to host the National Women's Chess Championship for the first time as the final phase gets underway at the Narayanganj Club tomorrow.

In quest of spreading chess to the grassroots level, Bangladesh Chess Federation has decided to take women's championship outside the capital for the first time and the Narayanganj DSA has grasped the opportunity with both hands.

"We have taken all necessary preparation to make the championship a success in the city of Narayanganj which has a pride heritage of producing players like GM Abdullah Al Rakib, former national runner-up Wahiduzzaman Riton, former national women's champion Jakia Sultana," said organising committee chairman QA Akbar at a press conference at the Bangladesh Olympic Association conference room yesterday.

He also informed that Narayanganj is holding the national championship for the second time since the National Men's Chess Champions in 1986

and they felt proud of having such an opportunity. Arlin Developer has come forward extending their hands to sponsor 3.5 lacs out of estimated budget of 6.5 lacs and in addition they will also provide Tk 50 lacs for the prize money for the top three players.

Arlin Developer chairman Fahangir Islam said that his company has come forward because of his love for chess as he himself was once a chess player and hoped to be with chess in future.

Holder Sharmin Sultana Shirin, runner-up Shamima Akhter Liza, IWM Rani Hamid, FWM Syeda Sabana Parveen Nipa, FWM Tanima Parveen, all automatic qualifiers, will join qualifiers Masuda Begum, Nazrana Khan Iva, MWM Jakia Sultana, Jahanara Haq Runu, Protiva Talukdar, Sabiha Sharmin Simmi, Mahmuda Haq Chowdhury Moly in the round-robin league bass meet.

Joint secretary of Narayanganj DSA Khaliluddin Ahmed and BCF member Morsalin Babla, managing director of Arlin Developer Alamgir Islam were among others present.

BCCI talks tough on IPL

CRICINFO, undated

The prospects of Lalit Modi remaining IPL chairman and commissioner appeared to recede on Wednesday with the BCCI talking tough on the allegations against him, while the federal intelligence agencies widened their investigations to include the IPL TV rights holders.

In New Delhi, Rajiv Shukla, the board's media and finance committee chairman, issued a statement saying the IPL governing council's decision, to be taken at its April 26 meeting, would be final and binding on those concerned. "The question of people refusing to back down or not, they don't matter," Shukla told PTI. "After the meeting between BCCI president Shashank Manohar and Sharad Pawar yesterday (Tuesday), it has been decided that, at the April 26 governing council meeting, we will sit together and unanimously decide what to do."

Shukla, who was reported to have briefed the Prime Minister on the issue at some point on Wednesday, said the BCCI was ready to take tough decisions if required to uphold its image. "These decisions would be in the interest of cricket and the BCCI. No matter how harsh they might seem, decisions would be taken to protect the BCCI and cricket's image in the country. We have never compromised on our image in the past 60 years and there will be no compromise this time too," he said.

The controversy began with Modi questioning the role of Shashi Tharoor, the former federal minister, in the Kochi franchise, but has widened considerably to include Modi's role in the IPL, the financial affairs of the franchises and several of the other stakeholders in the tournament.

On Wednesday, the Income Tax department raided the offices of Multi Screen Media (MSM) and World Sports Group (WSG), the two firms that hold the TV broadcast rights to the IPL. In 2008, WSG bagged the TV rights for a ten-year period, with a 918 million-dollar bid and a promise to spend 108m dollars on promoting the event. It had simultaneously signed a deal with MSM that Sony would be the official broadcaster. The contract was recast before IPL 2009, with MSM agreeing to pay 1.63 billion dollars for nine years.

That contract is now believed to be the subject of investigation but WSG has denied allegations of impropriety. "Any allegation that World Sports Group has used any funds received in connection with its sub-licence of these rights for inappropriate or unlawful activities is completely unfounded and without substance," read a statement issued by WSG.

BKSP U-19s win again

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP U-19s won their third consecutive match in Pakistan when they beat Customs Cricket Academy of Pakistan by 2 runs at the Vital Five Club DHA Ground, Karachi, yesterday. The Customs Cricket Academy consisted Pakistan's first class players.

Having won the toss, BKSP made 216 for the loss of 8 wickets. Asihul Alam made 50 off 58, Asif Ahmed 61 off 80, Tariqul Islam 30 off 40 and Anamul Haque 22 off 11 balls. In reply, Customs Cricket Academy of Pakistan reached 214 for 9. Asif Ahmed took 3 for 23 while Salehin Rifat took 2 for 39 runs. Asif Ahmed of BKSP was declared man-of-the-match.

BKSP had earlier defeated the National Bank Academy of Pakistan by seven wickets and MH Gymkhana Club by 8 wickets. They will play three more games on the tour.

Sohail slams Butt

CRICINFO, undated

Former Pakistan captain Aamer Sohail has hit out at PCB chairman Ijaz Butt, over the controversy surrounding the selection of replacements for the World Twenty20 tournament. First-choice players Umar Gul and Yasir Arafat were ruled out with injuries at the eleventh hour, following which Butt rejected the selection committee and team management's choice for one of the two replacements.

"I must say that this one-man show will have to be stopped," Sohail was quoted in the News. "It's the chief selector's job to pick players in consultation with the captain and coach. But unfortunately it is the PCB who is calling all the shots. If you have to make all the decisions then why have you appointed these people. There should be distribution of power otherwise we can't have any improvement in our cricket."

Shahid Afridi, Waqar Younis and Mohsin Khan -- the team's captain, coach and chief selector respectively -- held press conferences naming Mohammad Sami and Mohammad Irfan as the replacements, without Butt's approval. The lack of communication is believed to have irked Butt, who later overruled the selection, picking Abdul Rehman ahead of Irfan. Sohail was critical of the manner in which Butt handled the matter.

"If you don't want the chief selector and coach to do their jobs then why are you throwing away money by paying them salaries? It will be better for Pakistan cricket if all these players are fired because it will help the PCB chairman in his drive to cut down costs," Sohail said.

This is not the first time Sohail has gone against Butt -- the former opener had served as the director of Pakistan's National Cricket Academy, before quitting in July 2009, over differences with Butt, who was the PCB chairman then as well.

Samaranch no more

AFP, Barcelona

Former International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch died Wednesday at the age of 89 at a Barcelona hospital from a cardiorespiratory arrest, the hospital said.

Samaranch, who was head of the Olympic movement from 1980-2001, passed away at 1:25 pm (1125 GMT) at the Quiron Hospital where he was admitted on Sunday after experiencing heart trouble, it said in a statement.

An honorary president for life of the IOC, he helped to revolutionise sponsorship and broadcasting deals for major events, seeking global sponsors instead of national federations making their own local arrangements.

Only Pierre de Coubertin, the "father" of the modern Olympics and IOC chief from 1896 to 1925, has held the post longer.

IOC President Jacques Rogge paid handsome tribute to Samaranch.

"I cannot find the words to express the distress of the Olympic Family," he said in a statement.

"I am personally deeply saddened by the death of the man who built up the Olympic Games of the modern era, a man who inspired me, and whose knowledge of sport was truly exceptional.



JUAN ANTONIO SAMARANCH

failed bids to hold the Olympics in 2012, which London eventually won, and 2016, which went to Rio de Janeiro.

"I know that I am very near the end of my time. I am 89 years old," he said in October 2009 before asking the IOC members for the honour of hosting the 2016 Games in Spain during Madrid's bid presentation in Copenhagen.

Spain's secretary of state for sport, Jaime Lissavetzky,

said "we have lost the reference of world sport".

Samaranch's remains will lie in wait at the headquarters of the regional government of Catalonia in Barcelona on Thursday, the Catalan regional government said.

He had been plagued by health problems in recent years and the hospital chief of internal medicine Rafael Esteban told a news conference late on Tuesday that "given his age, we can't be optimistic".

He was taken to hospital in Lausanne, Switzerland for "extreme fatigue" on July 17, 2001, his 81st birthday, shortly after he stepped down as IOC head and in Barcelona in 2007 for high blood pressure.

His most recent hospitalisation came in 2009 in Monaco after he fainted.

Born on July 17, 1920, into a rich Catalan family which made its fortune from the textile industry, he was awarded the title of marquis by Spanish king Juan Carlos in 1991 for his work in the Olympic movement.

Samaranch's wife Maria Teresa Salisachs-Rowe, another scion of a Catalan textiles dynasty, predeceased him on September 16, 2000.

He is survived by two children, Maria Teresa and Juan Antonio Jr, who in July 2001 was elected an IOC member.

Rajshahi thrive

FROM PAGE 17
Mukhtar who has the target of getting back to one of the national setups after missing out this season.

National opener Imrul Kayes won a sedan car after being voted the Most Valuable Player of the Tournament. But he informed that ironically, he had just purchased a bigger car only a few days back.

The left-hander was happier that he had managed to reply to his critics. "I wasn't scoring the runs and a few comments really hurt me. So I thought the best way to answer them would be by scoring runs," said Kayes.

He also said that he was looking forward to forging a partnership with Tamim Iqbal in the World T20s in West Indies early next month.

"If Tamim (Iqbal) plays, I

would bat with him like I do in one-day cricket and put up good starts," added Kayes.

Sultans of Sylhet captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza won the Man-of-the-Tournament award for his all-round match-winning performances throughout the series while Tamim Iqbal won the award for most sixes.

Veteran spinner Mohammad Rafique was given an award for the most economical bowling in the tournament.

Shakib's

FROM PAGE 17
BCB vice-president Asaduzzaman Khasru as the head of delegation for the T20 World Cup and BCB director Jalal Yunus as head of delegation for the England tour.

Rangers ambush Kings

FROM PAGE 17
Mohammad Mithun for 15 runs.

Left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak then dismissed Juaed who was caught at mid-off for a 11-ball 18 and the Rajshahi crisis was deepened when the experienced Razzak trapped Hannan Sarker in front for four runs as Rajshahi were reduced to 46 for 3.

It was then the story of Hom and Abbas who defied any further damage and took the team to the safety. Abbas was not out on 61 off 44 balls that contained nine sweetly timed boundaries and a six.

On papers the final was contested between two underdogs but there was no shortage of excitement for the fans from the word go as there was some big hitting display in the first

innings and particularly a stunning catch from Shafiqul Islam will be long remembered.

Shafiqul's effort to remove South Africa's Ryan Bailey was later adjudged the best catch in the tournament.

Khulna's innings didn't see any big knocks from any batsman but there were some notable contributions which enabled them to put up a decent total of 161 for six in their share of 20 overs.

South Africa international Alviro Petersen top scored with 34 while his opening partner Imrul Kayes added 24. But it was Mohammad Mithun who ignited the crowd first by hitting a big six over long on against the left-arm spinner Sanjamul Haque.

Captain Shakib Al Hasan, who made 27, played an eye-

ICC omits plans to airlift T20 teams to WI

PTI, Dubai

The ICC has scrapped its contingency plans to airlift teams to the West Indies for the Twenty20 World Cup following the relaxation of air travel restrictions across Europe.

The ICC had put in place a contingency plan to airlift seven teams direct from Dubai to the Caribbean if the travel disruption in Europe did not ease.

However, after the air travel restrictions eased in the United Kingdom and other parts of Europe following the considerable reduction of ash clouds of Icelandic Volcano, the competing teams will now revert to their original travel schedules for the competition.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

CRYPTOQUIP
OWUXG W'L N JWK YNU EY
MNIWUK JI XHGBWD XNHB, W
CWQG DE DSWUQ EY LIOGCY
NO N DNQG-XSNHKG DIMG
Saturday's Cryptoquip: MIGHT A BUNCH OF SCUBA DIVERS GIVING AN UNDERSEA VOCAL PERFORMANCE PRODUCE A CHORAL REEF?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals I