

INDEPENDENCE DAY HOCKEY

Bima, Navy win

SPORTS REPORTER

Sadharan Bima and Bangladesh Navy won their respective matches of the Lyric Group Independence Day Hockey Competition at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Sadharan Bima defeated Armanitola Junior by 4-1 goals in the first match. Titu opened the scoring for Bima in the 6th minute before Emon equalised five minutes later. Turjo got Bima ahead again from a penalty corner in the 28th minute. There were no more goals in the first half, but Habul and Rajon scored two field goals in the 54th and 60th minute respectively to ensure a comprehensive win for Sadharan Bima.

In the other match of the day, Bangladesh Navy came back from a goal down to beat Bangladesh Air Force 3-1. Sohag scored two field goals for the winners late in the second half.



Tanjina Akter Tani of Motijheel Govt. Girls' High School ponders her next move during her match against Masuda Begum in the Arlene National Women's Chess Competition at the Chess Federation yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Pak surrender meekly to WI



AFP, Providence

Pakistan's batting was undermined by West Indies' three frontline seamers and their bowling upstaged by another blistering innings from Lendl Simmons in a 10-wicket loss in the fifth one-day international on Thursday.

A fluent 55 off 83 balls from Mohammad Hafeez failed to inspire the Pakistanis, and their batting crumbled for the first time in the series as they were all out for 139 in 41.2 overs after they chose to bat on an unpredictable Guyana National Stadium pitch.

The visitors' bowlers found it difficult to defend such a modest target as Simmons hit a career-best, unbeaten 77 from 73 deliveries, and fellow opener Kirk Edwards supported with 40 from 71 ball to guide the hosts to victory with 159 balls remaining.

Pakistan however, won the five-match series 3-2, with comfortable victories in the first three matches, securing the result.

"It is a disappointing end to the series for us because it was not a pitch on which we should have been dismissed for 139," said Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi.

"Our batting has been struggling for a long time, and I think we need someone to help us with situations like this."

"We all wanted to bat on this pitch and that is why the management and I decided to bat, but we did not play well. The thing that I always keep stressing - building partnerships - we did not build any partnerships and this is what was missing."

Afridi added: "The series victory is important for us. We are not playing any cricket at home, so winning this series is very important and will keep the morale high, and I think for the future it will be good for us."

Hafeez and Umar Akmal were the only Pakistani batsmen to pass 20 as Ravi Rampaul up-ended the visitors batting with four for 45 from his allotted 10 overs.

West Indies captain Darren Sammy grabbed three for 30 from 10 overs, and Dwayne Bravo supported with two for 16.

"It is a good feeling to have won again, but it's been well-played in the last two games for the boys," said Sammy.

"We played as a team, and got the result that we wanted. This was the type of performance for which we have been searching for a very long time. It showed the good work that we have been doing at practices has finally transferred to the game, and it was good to see everybody taking part, and it was a total team effort."

He added: "The way we have chased down totals in the last two games, I

guess it may be fair to say that our guys are more comfortable doing this. But throughout the series, we created several opportunities to win it, but we did not put enough runs on the board."

Hafeez dropped Simmons on 31 at slip off Saeed Ajmal before the West Indies opener knocked a short delivery from Afridi to long-on to bring up his 50 from the same number of balls in the 16th over.

He then carried West Indies over the threshold when he punched a delivery from Ahmed Shehzad to point, and stole a second run from an overthrow.

The two sides now contest two Tests, starting next Thursday at this same ground, and from May 20 to 24 at Warner Park in St. Kitts. Pakistan contest a two-day, practice match on Sunday and Monday at Bourda Oval - the previous international venue here.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 139 all out in 41.2 overs (Hafeez 55, Akmal 24, Salman 19 not out; Rampaul 4-45, Sammy 3-30, Bravo 2-16)
WEST INDIES: 140 no loss in 23.3 overs (Simmons 77 not out, Edwards 40 not out)
Result: West Indies won by 10 wickets and Pakistan won five-match series 3-2.
Man-of-the-match: Lendl Simmons.
Man-of-the-series: Mohammad Hafeez.

NAT'L WOMEN'S CHESS

Eva topples Liza

SPORTS REPORTER

IWM Shamima Akter Liza was toppled off the leaderboard in the Arlene Developer 32nd National Women's Chess Competition when she lost her fourth round match to IWM Rani Hameed at the Chess Federation yesterday. The lead was assumed by Nazrana Khan Eva who defeated Dilara Jahan Nupur to collect 3.5 points from four rounds. Liza, Rani, and Sharmin Sultana are jointly on second position with 3 points each. Sharmin Sultana beat Mahmuda Haque in this round. In the other matches of this round, Arifa Khatun defeated Zakia Sultana, Jahanara Haque beat Roksana Titly, while Masuda Begum drew with Tanjina Akter.

Aus preferred

FROM PAGE 16

was play five Test matches every summer, and modern professional cricketers are used to that.

"The FTP is not quite resolved yet, and long term there is a view that as we get further into the future it might be possible to play less international cricket, for the time being what we've got is what we've got."

'IPL a can of worms'

AFP, Colombo



Sri Lanka's interim coach Stuart Law on Friday said cricket administrators should schedule a window for Indian Premier League fixtures to stop players choosing club over country.

Law, who has stepped in to fill the job left by outgoing coach Trevor Bayliss, has a tough assignment ahead as Sri Lanka leave for a gruelling tour of England on Tuesday.

The touring squad will be without eight players, including new skipper Tillakaratne Dilshan, who are in India for the money-spinning Twenty20 competition.

"It (IPL) is a can of worms," Law told AFP, when asked if it was right to ask Sri Lankan players to leave the IPL midway through to tune-up for the England tour.

"The way I look at it is this. All our boys are playing competitive cricket right now in IPL. They are playing a high level of competition, working under different coaches. It's better that way than having training."

Sri Lanka Cricket had earlier ordered its IPL players to return home early and train for the tour comprising three Tests, five one-dayers and one Twenty20 internationals.

The board later backed down and asked the players to join the team in England on

May 18 ahead of the second practice game in Derby.

Law, a former Australian batsman, said cricket boards in England and Australia had the financial resources to retain their players and ask them to skip IPL for national duty.

"But in Sri Lanka, we can't afford that," he said. "The IPL won't go away. It's huge. It is shown around the world. The boards will

have to come up with a compromise, a definite window to accommodate it."

Law said it would also be unfair on the franchisees if players skipped the tournament midway.

"From a player's point of view, a definite window will be helpful," said Law who had been assisting Bayliss since 2009.

Law, however, admitted that the IPL has hampered the team's preparations with the selectors being forced to rope in Farveez Maharoof and Kaushal Silva as cover for missing senior players.

Maharoof is currently playing county cricket with Lancashire, making an impressive start to the season with a hundred on his debut against Somerset at Liverpool.

Silva, 24, is uncapped but has an impressive first-class average of 45 and has been picked up as a back-up for Prasanna Jayawardene.

The first Test begins in Cardiff on May 26.



STUART LAW

Third is Gomez's goal

AFP, Berlin



Bundesliga top-scorer Mario Gomez says finishing third in the German league is Bayern Munich's sole goal now as the race continues to settle the Champions

League places for next season.

After Borussia Dortmund were confirmed as champions last weekend and with Bayer Leverkusen set to finish second, the automatic Champions League places are virtually decided with the season set to finish on May 14.

A third-placed finish means a place in the play-offs to earn a place in European football's top competition and Bayern are determined to win their last two games of the season to claim their berth.

Bayern are at Hamburg-based St Pauli on Saturday and Gomez is looking to add to his tally of 24 goals in 30 league games as he has scored five in the last three matches.

This is St Pauli's last home league game of the season and coach Holger Stanislawski's last in charge before he moves to join Hoffenheim next season after 18 years at the club.

St Pauli are virtually guaranteed to be relegated as they are six points from safety with a vastly inferior goal difference with just two games left, but Bayern's scalp would mean they would go down with some glory.

Bayern's main rivals for third are Hanover

and their Ivory Coast striker Didier Ya Konan is backing his side to clinch third place.

Hanover are fourth, just two points behind Bayern and have already secured a Europa League berth.

The 26-year-old says his team wants more as they prepare to face VfB Stuttgart on Saturday. After this weekend, Hanover face mid-table Nuremberg while Bayern host Stuttgart on the last day of the season.

Having only returned to training on Wednesday after securing the league title last Saturday, Dortmund are at Werder Bremen.

Jürgen Klopp and his squad parted into the small hours of last Sunday and trained in front of 1,000 fans when they finally returned to training.

At the bottom of the table, 2009 champions Wolfsburg are just one point away from the bottom three and coach Felix Magath is desperate for another win against Kaiserslautern.

There will be a relegation battle royal at Eintracht Frankfurt against Cologne with both sides needing points.

Frankfurt's 3-0 defeat to Mainz last weekend saw a group of 200 fans stone the team coach and police advised the club to train in secrecy to avoid inciting more anger from their supporters.

Frankfurt are 16th, which could mean a play-off with the side third in the second division, while Cologne are just four points above them.

FIXTURES

Saturday

Schalke 04 v Mainz 05, Werder Bremen v Borussia Dortmund, Bayer Leverkusen v Hamburg, VfB Stuttgart v Hanover 96, VfL Wolfsburg v Kaiserslautern, Eintracht Frankfurt v Cologne, Borussia M'gladbach v Freiburg, Nuremberg v

Muktis salvage a draw

FROM PAGE 16

Packer Ali.

It was totally one-sided traffic in the first half with Sheikh Jamal keeping Muktiyoddha Sangsad defenders busy from both flanks and they should have taken at least a 2-0 lead in the first half but they were unlucky not to open their account despite creating four scoring chances.

After the resumption, Sheikh Jamal stepped up the attack and found the back of the net on the 61st minute after left-back Atiqur Rahman Mishu ran down the flank to release a low cross only to be blocked by defender Rajani and the promising defender found the ball again before putting in a cross for Femi, who latched it in from the edge of the six-yard box past goalkeeper Biplob.

After going down, Muktiyoddha started to play attacking football and levelled the margin from an unexpected attempt as substitute

Zahed availing a ball from the right advanced to the edge of the box to strike a poor shot which got one bounce in front of Sheikh Jamal goalkeeper Aminul Haque to kiss the back of the net. Incidentally, it was also the first shot on target from Muktiyoddha.

Teams

Muktiyoddha Sangsad: Biplob Bhattacharjee, Rajani Kanta Barmon, Motiur Munna, Mithun Chowdhury (Zahed Parvez), Yeamin Ahmed Munna, Rajon Mia (Alamgir Kabir), Maruf Ahmed, Arman Aziz (Boris Kochikin), Luciano Ariel Theiler, Paul Emmanuel Dami and James Moga.

Sheikh Jamal: Aminul Haque, Mintu Sheikh, Rezaul Karim, Ariful Islam, Atiqur Rahman Mishu, Mamunul Islam, Shakil Ahmed (Enamul Haque), Steve Thomas Samnick, Sergio Fils Chico, Stephan Loga Bouga and Femi Orunimi.

Bijoy seals

FROM PAGE 16

Joshua Richards who made just 12.

BRIEF SCORES

SOUTH AFRICA CRICKET ACADEMY: 136-7 in 20 overs (Hendricks 37, Schoemaan 34, Botha 20; Alauddin 2-30, Noor 2-23, Nasir 1-21).

GP-BCB ACADEMY: 139-3 in 19 overs (Bijoy 60, Myshukur 34, Nasir 18 not out; Viljoen 1-15, Botha 1-30).

Result: GP-BCB Academy won by seven wickets and win series 2-0.

Man-of-the-match: Anamul Haque Bijoy.

Goerges storms into semis



AFP, Madrid

Julia Goerges continued her impressive run on clay when she brushed aside Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-4 6-2 on Friday to claim a place in the last four of the Madrid Open.

The rangy, big-serving German climbed to 27th in the rankings following her win against world number one Caroline Wozniacki in the Stuttgart final last month.

She followed that up by knocking the Dane out in the

third round in Madrid on Thursday on her debut at the WTA premier event in the Spanish capital.

A break of the Pavlyuchenkova serve in the first set and two in the second were enough to see Goerges through to the semi-finals, where she will play Victoria Azarenka.

The Belarussian fourth seed dropped her first set of the week against unseeded Czech Lucie Safarova before coming through 6-3 3-6 6-2.

Goerges sealed victory against world number 21

Pavlyuchenkova on her first match point with a forehand winner down the line before shrieking with delight and pumping a fist.

"I think the match was probably closer than the scoreline suggests," she said at a news conference.

Goerges played Azarenka, who won back-to-back titles in Miami and Marbella at the end of March and beginning of April, in the last 16 in Stuttgart and lost the first set 6-4 before the world number five retired with a shoulder injury.

Bangalore

FROM PAGE 16

SCORES IN BRIEF

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

BANGALORE: 205 for 6 in 20 overs (Gayle 107, De Villiers 27 not out, Kohli 27, Tiwary 27 not out; Harris 3-38, Chawla 2-27)

KINGS XI PUNJAB: 120 for 9 in 20 overs (Valthaty 21, Karthik 20, McLaren 28, Harris 17, Kumar 15 not out; Aravind 4-14, Gayle 3-21)

Result: Royal Challengers Bangalore won by 85 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Chris Gayle.

Carl Lewis in political race

AFP, Philadelphia

Olympic athletics great Carl Lewis is back at the starting line for his latest race -- for a state senator's seat in New Jersey.

The nine-time Olympic gold medalist can be on the ballot for a primary election, an appeals court ruled on Thursday.

Lewis said last month that he wanted to give something back to his native southern New Jersey district by challenging for the position as a Democrat.

However, New Jersey's top election official -- a Republican -- had said Lewis wasn't eligible because he didn't meet a state residency requirement.

Warne to quit playing

FROM PAGE 16

developed young players," Warne wrote.

The Australian has been the face of the franchise and it is likely he will continue to be associated with them as a mentor or coach.

"Re next year, who knows what or if I will be involved in IPL re mentor/coaching -- am focused on doing best for RR this year -- see u at ground."

The Rajasthan Royals were quick to acknowledge Warne's contribution in shaping the franchise and said they will continue to look to the player for guidance in future editions.

"Shane Warne has been an integral part of Rajasthan Royals for the last four years," Raghu Iyer, the chief marketing officer, said in a statement.

"He has been instrumental in nurturing young talent in the team and making Rajasthan Royals a formidable force in IPL."

"We are looking forward to him assuming a larger role in the team and continuing adding value to the team's success."

Warne has been prominent in Indian newspapers ever since this edition began, be it for his leaner frame, glowing skin or latest girlfriend -- British actress and model Elizabeth Hurley.

Hurley was spotted in the stands for a number of Rajasthan matches and was photographed kissing the divorced Australian star.



PHOTO: AFP

German Julia Goerges plays a forehand against Russian Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in the Madrid Masters quarterfinals at the Caja Magic Sports Complex in Madrid yesterday. Goerges won 6-4, 6-2.