

Dhaka regain kabaddi title

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka clinched the title of 13th Meizan National Youth Kabaddi, beating Rajshahi 30-18 with two creditable 'lona' in the final at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

This was the second triumph for Dhaka in national youth kabaddi after their maiden title in 2006.

President of Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation and IGP Hasan Mahmud Khandker distributed prizes as chief guest while marketing manager of sponsors Bangladesh Edible Oil Limited Faria Yasmin was present as special guest at the function.



Dhaka team players celebrate with the champions' trophy along with the guests, organisers and sponsors at the end of the final match of 13th Meizan National Youth Kabaddi at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Murray ready for pressure

AFP, London

Andy Murray insists he can cope with the pressure of being Britain's only hope of ending 75 years of hurt in the men's singles at Wimbledon.

It would be understandable if Murray looked a little burdened when he launches his title campaign at the All England Club as the Scot will be carrying the weight of a nation's expectations on his shoulders.

With the rest of men's tennis in Britain still lagging way behind Murray, the world number four will be out on his own as he tries to become the first British man to win Wimbledon since Fred Perry in 1936.

For the next two weeks the 24-year-old can expect to be front page news in the national media as his every move is analysed and debated.

Tim Henman, the last serious British contender for Wimbledon, took years to get used to that kind of suffocating pressure and was known to feel uncomfortable during his time in the spotlight at the grass-court Grand Slam.

Murray, however, has a more relaxed attitude to the extra stresses that come with leading the challenge for a country that develops a rapacious appetite for tennis success for the two weeks of Wimbledon then ignores the sport for

the rest of the year.

"Dealing with the public's expectations has never been an issue for me," Murray said.

"I grew up watching Tim Henman a lot so I knew that if I was to get to that level, it was something I must expect."

"It wasn't something that came as a great surprise and the more years you are around it, the better you know how to deal with it."

"It's part of the job and part and parcel of being a sportsman in this country."

"It's never an excuse for playing badly, you just have to do your job and get on with it."

At least Murray's confidence going into Wimbledon is sky-high after he won the annual warm-up event at Queen's Club for the second time in three years.

The quality of Murray's play in his Queen's semifinal demolition of Andy Roddick was higher than at any time in his career and he followed that imperious victory with a gutsy fightback to beat Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the final.

It was a remarkable transformation considering Murray turned up at Queen's just seven days earlier nursing serious concerns over an ankle ligament injury suffered at the French Open.

Still troubled by the ankle, he thought about pulling out of the tournament after his second round match. But opted to play through the pain and

the injury is now almost healed.

"Winning Queen's has helped my confidence heading into Wimbledon. I got in four matches on the grass and it's definitely very good preparation," he said.

"I'm not sure if this is the best I've felt heading into Wimbledon, but it's definitely the best I've felt in the last two or three months. Hopefully by the time Wimbledon comes round I'll be in 100 per cent shape."

Although Murray has faith he can win Wimbledon, he has fallen short in his three previous Grand Slam final appearances -- including this year's Australian Open -- and has also been beaten in the semifinals at the All England Club for the last two years.

Murray, who is seeded fourth, knows that to win Wimbledon he is likely to need to beat at least two of world number one Rafael Nadal, six-time champion Roger Federer and 2011's form player Novak Djokovic.

That means endless hours on the practice court before the nation fixes its gaze firmly on him once again.

"Winning Queen's didn't crank up my own expectation levels and that's what's important," he said.

"We knew what the goals were for the grass court season when we went to Queen's and that hasn't changed just because I won there."

"I need to get back on the practice court, work hard and get myself ready for Wimbledon, which is the priority."

Basketball league

SPORTS REPORTER

Wraiths defeated Josephites by 52-36 points in the latest match of the Citycell First Division Basketball League at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday. Troy scored 17 points while John netted 9 for the winners, who led the first half 27-11.

In the matches played on Friday night, Mohammadpur Basketball Club defeated Wraiths Club 63-45 while Rangers outplayed Cantonians by 72-42 points.

School h'ball

FROM PAGE 16

The opening ceremony will be held at 4pm with Sunnydale School and Ispahani Girls' School and College taking part, it was announced at a press conference yesterday.

A total of 14 schools, split into four groups, will compete in the boys' section while 13 teams, also divided into four groups, will compete in the girls' section, initially on a league basis.

Sk Jamal duo

FROM PAGE 16

"We were shown the video footage of the match and were asked if we knew anything about 'alleged' fixing, which we denied."

Sheikh Jamal won that 'infamous' match 5-2, after falling 2-0 behind in the first half and took a strangle hold on the Bangladesh League title.

Shaping young

FROM PAGE 16

Playing cricket on the field is always exciting for Mominul but he is equally enjoying the experiences in the academy classes. "I think everybody is enjoying this camp because we learnt new things," said Mominul.

T20s to fill vacuum

Cricket

AFP, Southampton

England could find themselves playing two extra Twenty20 internationals against the West Indies at the end of their current season in a bid to fulfil broadcast obligations three years after the collapse of the Stanford Super Series.

According to a report in Saturday's edition of Britain's Daily Telegraph, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) face a problem in honouring a host 260-million-

pound (421 million dollars) broadcast deal with satellite station Sky, signed in 2008.

That was intended to include a Stanford Super Series every November, as well as an Indian Premier League (IPL) type Twenty20 tournament during each English summer.

However, within four months of the inaugural Stanford Super Series in Antigua in November 2008, where a dispirited England lost in the final to what was in effect a West Indian select XI, American businessman Allen Stanford was arrested and accused of being behind a 7-

billion-dollar (4.3 billion pounds) fraud.

He is currently in jail where he has been treated for drug addiction, and is due to stand trial in New York on September 12.

Siddikur

FROM PAGE 16

holes, as well as a double bogey on the ninth. Today is the fourth and final round of the Queen's Cup, but Siddikur, who is six shots behind with a cumulative score of 211, is all but out of the race.

No room for Gayle

FROM PAGE 16

Gibson and replacement captain Darren Sammy.

The board on Friday said that the interview "had a detrimental effect on the relationship" with the team and the board "and was unacceptable for a professional sportsman who would be desirous of playing within that same team environment."

"The comments made by him in the KLAS interview had created much ill-will with team management, and unless there was a settling of differences, it would be difficult to see how the parties could harmoniously function," the board said.

The WICB added it had long-standing communication issues with Gayle, dis-

proved of some of his social media comments, and of him making himself available for West Indies at his discretion.

The squad also sees a return for veteran middle-order batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul and young opener Adrian Barath, who are both back in the fold after recovering from injury.

The first Test gets underway at Sabina Park on Monday.

SQUAD

Darren Sammy (captain), Brendan Nash, Adrian Barath, Carlton Baugh, Devendra Bishoo, Darren Bravo, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Fidel Edwards, Ravi Rampaul, Kevon Roach, Marlon Samuels, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Lendl Simmons.

Andrew seals thrilling win

FROM PAGE 16

and four sixes from 32 deliveries as Worcestershire's lower order successfully chased 51 from the last five overs.

He added 38 for the seventh wicket with Ben Scott before adding another 33 for the eighth with Shoaib Choudhry.

With steady drizzle falling at the start of the innings, Vikram Solanki kept them up with the Duckworth-Lewis rate with a rapid 33.

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan fell to Steffan Piolet after making 16 off 13 balls and the medium-pacer took out two more Royals' batsmen.

However, Piolet's last over then cost 21 runs and Warwickshire fell apart under a withering assault from Andrew in his second Twenty20 half-century of the season.

Umpires Mark Benson and Peter Hartley kept the game going despite steady rain and it was Worcestershire's bowlers who suffered first as they struggled with a wet ball.

The Bears were off to a rapid start through William Porterfield's 54 but the Ireland captain fell to a catch at deep point (Andrew) off Shakib, who had earlier bowled Jim Troughton for five.

Rikki Clarke chipped in with a useful 22 and Ambrose scooted away at the end, scoring 33 runs from the last 12 balls he faced and reaching his highest Twenty20 score in four years.

Worcestershire adopted their regular formula by getting their spinners into play at an early stage but Shakib and Moeen Ali became a shade more expensive than usual.

Tremlett, the new Big Bird

Cricket

AFP, Southampton

England bowling coach David Saker said aspects of Chris Tremlett's game were reminiscent of West Indies great Joel Garner after the giant quick's Test-best return against Sri Lanka.

The 6ft 7in Tremlett added four more wickets on Friday's rain-marred second day of the third and final Test at the Rose Bowl -- making its debut in the five-day format -- to add to his first day double to take six for 42 in a total of 177 for nine.

Some 120 overs have already been lost in this match, taking place on the ground where Tremlett made his name before switching to Surrey last season, but England could yet end the series 2-0 winners after an innings victory in the Cardiff opener and the drawn second Test at Lord's.

Tremlett's steeping bounce evoked comparisons with the performances of Garner, a star of the all-conquering West Indies teams of the late 1970s and 1980s, whose nickname of 'Big Bird' belied his ruthless effectiveness with the ball.

Former Victoria and Tasmania paceman Saker was immediately convinced of Tremlett's ability when he saw him bowling in the nets at The Oval before last year's third Test against Pakistan.

"I just watched two balls and went up to [England coach] Andy Flower and said 'this guy is a Test cricketer. I don't know what's happened in the past, but if we can keep this guy on the park...'.

"I had no hesitation he could play good Test cricket if he could get his body right."

Saker, asked about Tremlett's similarities to Garner, added: "He's got a lot of attributes like Joel Garner, height and good bounce."

"It's a big call to compare him with Joel -- but with that height and the bounce he does get, he complements Jimmy [Anderson] really well."

"When he gets his length right, he's a huge handful," said Saker.

"He's challenging the stumps, the gloves, the splice of the bat."

"Batters really struggle against tall bowlers who keep hitting the splice regardless of length," the Australian explained.

Eng in early trouble

FROM PAGE 16

England fast bowler Chris Tremlett, who until his move to Surrey last season played for Hampshire, took a Test-best six for 48 in 20 overs.

England lead this series 1-0 after an innings and 14-run win in the first Test in Cardiff.

Victory here will see them go joint second in the ICC Test rankings alongside South Africa with only India, their next opponents, above them.

But rain, which wiped out some 120 overs from the first two days' play, is threatening to have the final say.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: First innings 184 (P Jayawardene 43, Fernando 39, Samaraweera 31, Tremlett 6-48, Anderson 2-56)

ENGLAND: First innings 69 for 2 (Cook 32 not out, Pietersen 27 not out; Welegedara 1-17)

Aminul hangs up

FROM PAGE 16

side was against Hong Kong in the Asian Games in Guangzhou last November where Bangladesh lost 4-1.

He was also slotted in for the AFC Challenge Cup Qualifiers in March 2011, but withdrew himself due to injury at the eleventh hour.

Aminul had been part of the national sides that won the gold in the 1999 SA Games, 2010 SA Games and also the 2003 SAFF Championship-winning team. Aminul paid tribute to George Kotan, the former Austrian coach of Bangladesh, for his role in resurrecting his career.

"He gave my football a new life after my career-threatening injury in 1999. I will always be indebted to Kotan."

Aminul said he was looking forward to playing five to six more years in club football, before he hangs up his footballing gloves.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Temper- 2 Rainbow 24 Second 5 Tennis 41 Zero 3 Not so 25 E-mail 42 Ballpoint, 5 Medic 5 Small 6 Attention 26 Discor- 8 Pedestal 45 Billions 7 Neither 27 Beavers' 12 Sandwich 46 Reveal 48 Carry 49 Autumn 8 Drag 9 Met 10 Barbie, 28 Have 14 Press 15 Find 17 Ledge 18 Curvy 19 Jewel 20 — 21 Parched 22 Scratch 23 Singer 24 Gome 26 Unknown 27 — 30 Greets 28 Where- 29 Type 31 Buddhist 32 — 33 Surprised 34 Day 35 Body 36 Firma- 37 Johnny 38 Wagers 39 Chess 40 Opposed 41 Shaving 42 Milne 43 Catch 44 Capone 45 Two, in 46 De- 47 — 48 — 49 — 50 — 51 —

ray gun 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51

Use a 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51

ray gun 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51