

Narinda clinch school h'ball title

SPORTS REPORTER

Narinda Govt High School clinched the fruitfull School Handball Tournament (U-12) with a tense 9-7 win over Sunnydale in the final at the Handball Stadium yesterday.

The champions led the first half by 6-3 points. Narinda had earlier defeated BAF Shaheen School and College 11-3 while Sunnydale beat Dhanmondi Tutorial 10-8 to book their places in the final.

Sunnydale booked their final seat with a 10-8 win over Dhanmondi Tutorial in the second semifinal.

Asaduzzaman Noor MP distributed prizes among the winners while Bangladesh Handball Federation president AKM Nurul Fazle Bulbul, general secretary Asaduzzaman Kohinoor and sponsor Pran RFL Group band manager Jakaria Julfikar were among others present.

Maria was scared too

AFP, Tokyo

World number two Maria Sharapova Sunday admitted to concerns about playing in the Pan Pacific Open in Japan after the March earthquake-tsunami sparked the worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl.

The 24-year-old German, the defending champion and runaway leader of this year's title race, drove from pole position to the chequered flag in flawless style in his Red Bull car.

He won the floodlit 61-lap night race at the Marina Bay street circuit by a controlled 1.7 seconds.

Briton Jenson Button finished second in his McLaren to keep the title race just about alive with five races remaining. Australian Mark Webber in the second Red Bull finished third.

Vettel now requires just a solitary point to claim his second title in succession and can only be beaten to the title if Button wins all five of the remaining races while the German fails to score a further point.

Two-time world champion Spaniard Fernando Alonso, who needed to finish on the podium to keep his own challenge for the drivers' title alive, came home fourth ahead of Briton Lewis Hamilton in the second McLaren.

The Englishman produced a typically spectacular drive including five pit-stops, a collision and a charge from 16th through the field.

Another Briton, Paul Di Resta, came home sixth for Force India, his best result to date in his rookie season in Formula One, ahead of Germans Nico Rosberg in seventh for Mercedes and Adrian Sutil in the second Force India.

Felipe Massa of Ferrari, who was the victim of a collision with Hamilton in the early stages of an incident-filled contest, came home ninth.

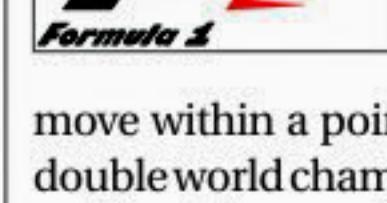
Mexican Sergio Perez, whose collision with



Red Bull-Renault driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany kisses the trophy on the podium after winning the Formula One Singapore Grand Prix in Singapore yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Vettel all but champion

AFP, Singapore



Sebastian Vettel demonstrated his vast supremacy on Sunday when he won the Singapore Grand Prix to move within a point of becoming the youngest double world champion in Formula One history.

Michael Schumacher saw the German eliminated from the race, finished 10th. It was Vettel's ninth win this season and the 19th of his career. His Singapore triumph in sweltering humidity was heralded by an explosion of dazzling fireworks over the brightly lit cityscape.

Vettel won in a victorious time of one hour, 59 minutes and 6.757 seconds, a time that signalled the longest and most arduous race of the year.

He, Button and Webber stood still, drained and dripping with sweat on the podium at the end.

Vettel, from his 11th pole position, pulled clear with apparent ease to take control early on, leaving the rest to scrap for places in a flurry of action into Turn One, Sheares Corner. And he hardly looked back from there.

The brilliant German appeared to revel in his supremacy and opened up a comfortable lead as Hamilton, on successive laps, produced perfect passes to climb to sixth ahead of Rosberg and Schumacher.

By lap 11, Vettel was seemingly in cruise control as the rest battled furiously -- Webber taking third from Alonso, whose rear tyres were worn severely, Rosberg initiating the pit-stops and followed a lap later by Alonso.

Vettel's lead after 18 laps was more than 10 seconds.

He stretched it to 20 seconds by lap 30 when the race was red-flagged for the first time after Schumacher ran into the rear of Perez's Sauber car and made an airborne collision with the barriers.

This brought out the Safety Car and signalled a spate of pit-stops while Schumacher's wrecked Mercedes was lifted clear. The 42-year-old German was unhurt.

Makau sets new mark

Athletics

AFP, Berlin

Kenya's Patrick Makau set a new world record in the marathon here on Sunday winning the Berlin Marathon in an official time of 2hr 03min 38sec.

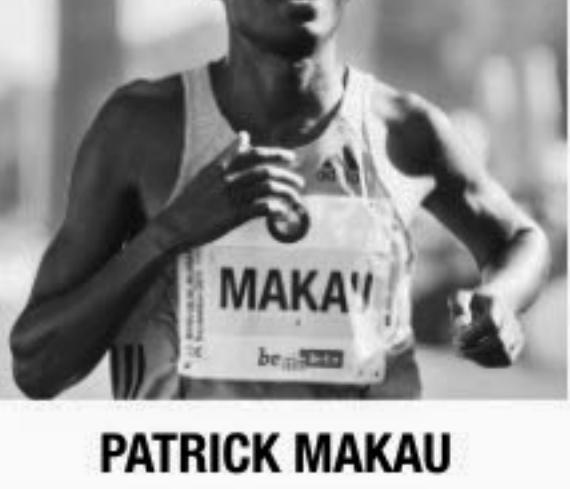
The 26-year-old defending champion smashed the old mark of 2hr 03:59 set by Ethiopian legend Haile Gebrselassie in the same race in 2008.

Gebrselassie had a torrid time failing to finish, just as he did in New York last November, after being prominent up to the 35km mark.

Makau led home a Kenyan 1-2-3 with one of the six designated pacemakers for the event Stephen Kipkemboi Chepkemboi taking second in 2hr 07:55 while Edwin Kimaiyo was third finishing in 2hr 09:50.

Makau -- a two-time half marathon world silver medalist -- said he hadn't expected to set a new world record when he woke up.

"I didn't feel very well when I woke up this



PATRICK MAKAU

morning," said Makau, who showed he was a force in the event last year with two victories, here and in Rotterdam.

"But once the race got underway everything went well."

"At the 25km mark, I felt then I could break the world record."

"It is the most beautiful day of my career and, if God so wishes it, I will be Olympic champion next year."

Makau upped the pace dramatically at the 27km mark which left Gebrselassie trailing.

The Ethiopian, 38, was clearly in trouble and stopped briefly on the side of the route visibly exhausted before resuming but his race was up and just as in New York -- where he was so disappointed he announced he was retiring -- did not have the power to finish.

Gebrselassie had vowed before this race that he wanted to post a really fast time here to obtain his qualifying time for the next year's Olympics in London.

Kenya's Florence Kiplagat later won the women's race in only her second race over the distance.

Code of

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Nizamuddin Chowdhury, acting cricket operations manager; Sabir Khan and directors Jalal Yunus, Sirajuddin Md Alamgir and Enayet Hossain Siraj were also present.

Siddikur

FROM PAGE 16
Among the players from the subcontinent, only Jeev Milkha Singh finished above Siddikur as he finished on 4-under-par (280) while the rest of the Indian contingent failed to make the cut.

Meanwhile, with two consecutive poor performances in Macau and Japan, Siddikur dropped down to 4th in the Asian Order of Merit while the lead was grabbed by the winner of the event Hiratsuka.

Siddikur next plays in the Yeander Tournament in Taipei which starts on October 6.

NCL looks

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development in the regional centres could solve this problem that creeps up every year but BCB has hardly ever addressed it in the proper way.

Meanwhile, the NCL's format is also different this year with eight teams playing in a single-league format. Later in December, the top four will play in the Super League with the best two set to play a five-day final in April next year. The four teams who don't make it to the second phase could also play three-day games against each other.

Grounds in Rajshahi, Bogra, BKB, Sylhet and Jhossa have been earmarked as the NCL venues.

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At the Bernabeu earlier, Real got the morale-boosting win they were looking for after a shock 1-0 defeat at Levante and a 0-0 draw against Racing Santander in their previous two games.

The home support were given an early fright as Valleceno, whose annual budget is a fraction of their illustrious city neighbours, scored a goal timed at 12 seconds when Michu followed up a blocked Raul Tamudo effort.

The visitors had a couple of chances to extend their lead, prompting frustrated whistling from the home fans before Ronaldo equalised in the 39th minute and Gonzalo Higuain put Real ahead in first-half stoppage time.

Ronaldo, who scored three against Real Zaragoza last month, made it 3-1 from the penalty spot in the 51st after Kaka was felled but Michu scored a second goal four minutes later.

Home forward Angel Di Maria then picked up a second yellow card and was sent off after 56 minutes.

Real restored their two-goal lead when teenage defender Raphael Varane diverted a corner into the roof of the net.

"We didn't play very well in the opening 20 minutes but we did after that," Real playmaker Kaka said in a television interview. "It's tough to concede a goal at the start of a game but we showed character."

"This result has helped us recover our confidence. I personally felt great and I am trying to make good use of the chances the coach gives me."

Valencia squandered a chance to go top when Ever Banega fluffed a penalty and they lost a bad-tempered clash at the Sanchez Pizjuan.

Visiting Valencia finished with 10 men after Aritz Aduriz was sent off for stamping on the foot of Emir Spahic with 20 minutes left.

Sevilla midfielder Piotr Trochowski and defender Julian Escudero were also dismissed in the 57th and 68th minutes respectively.

Striker Frederic Kanoute, 34, put Sevilla ahead in the 18th minute before Banega struck his 69th-minute spot kick against the post.

Grounds in Rajshahi, Bogra, BKB, Sylhet and Jhossa have been earmarked as the NCL venues.

JFA CUP U-15 FOOTBALL Tangail, Dhaka School XI in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Tangail and Dhaka Metropolis School XI moved into the final of the JFA Cup U-15 Football Tournament, winning their respective semifinals at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Dhaka Metropolis School XI beat BKSP 3-2 in the first semifinal while Tangail defeated Chapai Nawabganj 1-0 in the second semifinal.

Abid of Dhaka Metropolis School XI put his side in front with a first minute strike but Akash Sheikh of BKSP restored the parity in the sixth minute. Zion Sarker of BKSP put his team ahead in the 39th minute but BKSP's Jahid levelled the margin in the 41st minute.

BKSP were reduced to ten men in the 48th minute with Sourav Sen seeing a red card for a reckless foul resulting in a penalty. Parvez converted the penalty in the 49th minute for the Dhaka Metropolis School XI, earning them all three points and a place in the final.

In the other semi, Elias scored the 58th minute winner to steer Tangail into the final. This was Elias's eighth goal of the tournament.

The final will be held at 3:30pm tomorrow at the same venue.

Tigers gear

FROM PAGE 16

four-day game is important for me because I want to play Test cricket," said Nasir after training yesterday.

TEAMS

BCB RED: Tamim Iqbal, Imrul Kayes, Mohammad Ashraful, Mushfiqur Rahim (captain & wicketkeeper), Shuvogoto Hom Chowdhury, Mahmudullah Riyad, Nasir Hossain, Abdur Razzak, Sohravard Shuvo, Rubel Hossain, Shafiqul Islam, Nazmul Hossain, Nazmul Hossain Apu.

BCB GREEN: Shahriar Nafees (captain), Junaid Siddiqui, Sahaigir Hossain (wicketkeeper), Rokibul Hasan, Alok Kapali, Naeem Islam, Elias Sunny, Shahadat Hossain, Robiul Islam, Syed Rasel, Nur Hossain Munna, Alauddin Babu, Sohag Gazi.

Warriors keep winning

IANS, Hyderabad

NOKIA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TWENTY20

Opener Jon-Jon Smuts scored a fluent 88 as Warriors romped to a 50-run victory over South Australia in the Champions League Twenty20 match at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium here Sunday.

Electing to bat, Warriors backed by Smuts's brisk 65-ball knock, rustled up 175 for 5 in their 20 overs before stopping South Australia at 121 for 6.

Warriors' Lonwabo Tsotsobe (2-30) gave his side an early breakthrough with the wicket of opener Daniel Harris in his fifth ball of the match and then bowled a short ball to Tom Cooper, who played straight into his hands.

Wickets fell at the regular intervals for the Redbacks with none of their batsmen able to dig in their heels on a slow pitch.

Smuts found success with ball as well and got Cameron Borgas, who in an attempt to clear the ropes, was caught by Tsotsobe at long-on.

Smuts gave Warriors a flying start, smack-

ing 10 fours and two sixes in his innings. He batted right through the innings, barring the last seven balls. He was caught by Shaun Tait at short fine leg when he tried to scoop Harris.

Ashwell Prince (3) failed to impress and was outpaced by Tait (1-53), who knocked his stumps, in the second over.

However, Smuts and Colin Ingram (30) kept the scoreboard ticking and made full use of the Powerplay. The two raced to 59 from six over in their 73-run partnership before Harris took Ingram, who could not get enough bat on a short ball.

The runs came slow with Smuts and experienced Mark Boucher (34) taking his time to settle. Smuts, however, continued uninhibited.

The Warriors also benefited from Tait's inconsistency. The bowler, though fast, never looked in rhythm, spraying three wides and a no ball down and the Warriors completed a comfortable win, their second in as many matches.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WARRIORS: 171 for 5 (Smuts 88, Harris 2-23)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: 121 for 6 (Klinger 34, Tsotsobe 2-30)

Result: Warriors won by 50 runs.

Malinga lifts Mumbai

IANS, Chennai



Lasith Malinga emerged an unlikely hero as a truncated Mumbai Indians snatched a thrilling three-wicket win over title holders Chennai Super Kings in the Nokia Champions League T20 tournament, here on Saturday.

A few lusty blows in the death overs by Malinga, who scored an 18-ball 37 not out, swept Mumbai Indians to a memorable victory that ended the Super Kings' unbeaten run at Chepauk.

Relying to Super Kings' challenging total of 158 for four, courtesy a classic 81 by opener Michael Hussey, the Mumbai Indians, without eight regulars and struggling at 106 for seven in the 16th over, came through in the 20th with Malinga and skipper Harbhajan Singh (19 not out) adding 53 runs in 4.4 overs.

Mumbai needed 25 of the last two overs and Malinga ensured they got those runs to script a believe-it-or-not win. Going into the final over, Mumbai needed 12 and a boundary off the fourth delivery by skipper Harbhajan Singh off Doug Bollinger tied the scores and then he scampered for a single off the fifth delivery to take his team over the line.

Until the Malinga-Harbajan partnership, Mumbai were never really in the hunt after they allowed Super Kings to race away in the second half of their innings. The hosts, who were 67 for two after 10 overs, got out of the jail with a late blitz, including 12 off the 18th over bowled by Malinga.

Mumbai Indians began their chase promisingly with Aiden Blizzard and Davy

Jacobs scoring at a good clip but when Ravichandran Ashwin broke the partnership, it triggered a dramatic collapse as Mumbai lost wickets in a hurry.

Ashwin lured Jacobs out of the crease and had him stumped by skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni; Suresh Raina, replacing Ashwin, bowled Blizzard and in the next over, Dwayne Bravo had Ambati Rayudu caught behind as Mumbai slid to 57 for three. Raina struck again by foxing Tirumalasetti Suman who fell to another stumping by Dhoni.