



Action from yesterday's South East Bank 22nd National Youth Hockey Competition match between Dhaka and Natore at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium.

NAT'L YOUTH HOCKEY Three teams in super league

SPORTS REPORTER

Three teams reached the super league of the Southeast Bank 22nd National Youth Hockey Competition eliminating their respective rivals at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In the matches played yesterday, Dinaajpur thrashed Munshiganj 10-0, Rangpur beat Satkhira 4-1 and Narail defeated Narayanganj 3-2 to reach the super league stage.

In the other match of the day, Dhaka crushed Natore by 15-0 goals.

Ilievski wants

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to get any response from the All India Football Federation.

Ilievski believes that Saudi Arabia and Iraq would be tough opponents compared to Oman and Maldives in the group-phase battle of the AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers.

But the Macedonian coach is very much optimistic about qualifying for the 16-team finals as the champions and runners-up will advance to the finals.

Ilievski also praised some players such as midfielder Shahed, striker Sobuj, captain Malek and defender Tapu Barman as he felt these boys would be the key players in the side.

5 spots up

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snatch the play-off spot by beating Slovenia.

In Group E, the Netherlands have a perfect 27 points from nine games and are the tournament's top scorers with 35 goals.

They tackle Sweden, who are already assured of a play-off spot, but a win for the Swedes in Stockholm will ensure automatic qualification as best runners-up.

Sweden suffered a 4-1 defeat in Amsterdam last October, and on Tuesday will be without key striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who picked up a suspension with a yellow card in Friday's win over Finland.

Group G has already been settled with England in top spot and Montenegro taking the play-off spot.

Spain had already made sure of qualifying with a perfect seven wins in seven games in Group I and face Scotland in Alicante.

The Scots are second but the Czech Republic, with a better head-to-head record, can snatch a play-off berth by picking up more points in Lithuania than Scotland in Spain.

Ross loss

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"The incident had nothing to do with the resignation. It is just because he could not adjust with the food and weather in Bangladesh. Ross informed us long ago that he would not continue in the position because of illness," he added.

Onus on seniors: Mahela



CRICINFO, Colombo

Mahela Jayawardene, the former Sri Lanka captain, has said the senior players in the team have the responsibility of ending Sri Lanka's recent struggles in Tests while at the same time nurturing the next generation of cricketers. Sri Lanka's last Test victory came at Galle against India in July 2010 and this year they have lost series away to England and at home to Australia.

"I think it's our responsibility (as senior players) to make sure that it is a smooth transitional period and at the same time try to build another team for the next 10 years," Jayawardene said in a release issued by Dubai Sports City. "We might not be here for that long but while we are we have to make sure that we build a team, make sure that these guys are comfortable and they will take Sri Lanka cricket on for the next 10 to 15 years and try and improve on what everyone else has done."

"I think we've achieved quite a bit in Sri Lanka cricket in the past 20 years, there are a lot of people who are part and parcel of that and we have carried that forward, and hopefully the next generation will do the same."

Sri Lanka will have a chance to break their losing streak when they take on Pakistan in three Tests in the UAE, the first of which

starts on October 18, and Jayawardene said the team remains positive despite its current barren run. "Yes, we haven't won a Test match for a good year-and-a-half, but I think we've played some really good cricket and we have had our opportunities. We just need to push a bit more and create a few more opportunities and grab hold of them."

Jayawardene also admitted the retirement of Muttiah Muralitharan -- the spinner's last Test was also Sri Lanka's last win -- has been difficult to overcome. "Murali has taken 800 Test wickets, the most by any bowler in world cricket, so you know that with him in the side he is going to create something for you, even in tougher situations."

"Most of the time he breezes through line-ups, but even in tough times he is going to create that opportunity for you to change the game, he is a magician, and obviously without him it's a big hole to fill."

Sri Lanka have turned to offspinner Suraj Randiv and left-arm spinner Rangana Herath to fill Murali's shoes, and Jayawardene said the pair need to carry that mantle. "There are a couple of young spinners who have played with Murali and have performed really well and who now have to take the burden and carry the attack."

Sri Lanka will play three Tests, five One-Day Internationals and a Twenty20 International against Pakistan.

Wisden to have Indian edition

AFP, London

Cricket bible Wisden is to launch a separate Indian edition, its publishers revealed on Monday.

Cricket in India is booming and Wisden India will focus on all areas of the Indian game from Test matches through to domestic cricket and has set itself the aim of becoming the independent voice of cricket in the home of the reigning world champions.

"The chance to marry Wisden's age-old strengths with the 21st century home of the game was too good to ignore," added Wisden editor Lawrence Booth.

The first edition will launch in October 2012 with the pool of writers expected to include some of the great Indian players as well as respected journalists.

Founded in 1864, Wisden has been published every year since and is recognised around the world as the definitive record of the game. Bloomsbury sells about 40,000 editions of Wisden each year, but the potential in the Indian sub-continent is 50 times that, said director Richard Charkin.

As well as the book, he also sees huge scope in the mobile phone and internet market, where it will provide commentary and opinions online. A new Wisden India Hall of Fame is to be set up to recognise the greats of the game.

Bloomsbury have signed a long-term licensing agreement with sports marketing group FidelisWorld for Wisden India, with the deal also covering Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and North America, which has a large Indian ex-pat market.

£1m can buy a Test?



AFP, London

A British sports agent representing two Pakistani cricketers accused of a betting scam told an undercover reporter that Test matches could be thrown for 1 million pounds, a court in London heard Monday.

The claim emerged as the former investigations editor for Rupert Murdoch's now-defunct News of the World tabloid, Mazher Mahmood, gave evidence at the trial of ex-Pakistan cricket captain Salman Butt and bowler Mohammad Asif.

The jury heard an audio recording of the two cricketers' agent Mazhar Majeed talking to the reporter during a secretly recorded conversation in a car, and outlining the prices for different forms of fixing.

"There is massive, massive money in this," Majeed was heard to say in the recording played to Southwark Crown Court.

Majeed said that for a "bracket" -- where bets are made on incidents during a certain period of play -- the cost could be between 50,000 and 80,000 pounds (78,000 and 125,000 dollars).

Andy survives Lu scare



AFP, Shanghai

A frustrated Andy Roddick dug deep to beat Taiwan's Lu Yen-hsun 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 at the Shanghai Masters Monday and avoid a second ignominious first-round exit in a week in China.

The American 10th seed, who lost to Lu at Wimbledon last year in their most recent meeting, started the match in blistering form, breaking twice and racing into a 4-0 lead, taking the first set 6-2.

But the Taiwanese world number 74 hit back strongly in the second set, striking a stunning two-handed back-

hand down the line to force a break for a 3-1 lead, which proved enough to level the match against an erratic Roddick.

Clearly unsettled, the American voiced his frustration at noise and movement in the sparse crowd and at a ball-boy, but he refocused and crucially broke in the fourth game of the decider.

Roddick, ousted from the first round of the Beijing Open by South Africa's Kevin Anderson last week, kept his grip as the Lu challenge faded, breaking again to seal the match in a little under two hours.

"He plays so high risk. You know, a lot of it's two sets

with two breaks, one set where I had more break opportunities and didn't get it," said Roddick.

"You know, overall I thought it was pretty good, save four games maybe."

The American former world number one said it had been "the toughest year I've had."

"I feel like I've been starting and stopping a lot. You know, I'm going to probably have to adjust how I go about things a little bit more," he added.

"I think the frustrating thing is a lot of times, when I've done the work, I haven't felt terrible about my tennis, but I've been unprepared a lot of the time this year," he said.

Earlier, former world number three David Nalbandian eased into the second round, beating Latvia's Ernests Gulbis 7-5, 6-4.

Nalbandian, a member of the Argentinian team that beat Novak Djokovic's Serbia in last month's Davis Cup semifinals, has slipped to 57th in the world rankings after an injury-plagued season.

But the 29-year-old was too good for his higher-ranked opponent, breaking Gulbis (ranked 51) twice in the first set and then once more in the second set to seal the win.

Wimbledon quarterfinalist Bernard Tomic beat Kevin Anderson 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (4/7), 6-3 in a match dominated by serve, with Australia's Tomic forcing the only break of the contest in the decider.



Andy Roddick of the US pumps his fist in celebration after beating Lu Yen-Hsun of Taiwan in the first round of the Shanghai Masters in Shanghai yesterday. Roddick won 6-2, 3-6, 6-2.

PHOTO: AFP

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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- 1 Tic
- 6 Saxophonist Randolph
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- 12 Conceive
- 14 Ban
- 15 Arrangement
- 16 Youngster
- 17 Barber-shop quartet member
- 19 Blond shade
- 20 — out (supplements)
- 22 PC alternative
- 23 Hodge-podge
- 24 Actress Winona
- 26 Insanity
- 28 Fond du —
- 30 Meadow
- 31 Shower bottle
- 35 Racist
- 39 Prolonged sleep

- 40 Ming of basket-ball
- 42 Unusual
- 43 Lennon's lady
- 44 Susanna of Bangles
- 46 Genetic matter
- 47 Drew a blank
- 49 Compels
- 51 Thick milkshake
- 52 On the beach
- 53 Plum relatives
- 54 Wacko

DOWN

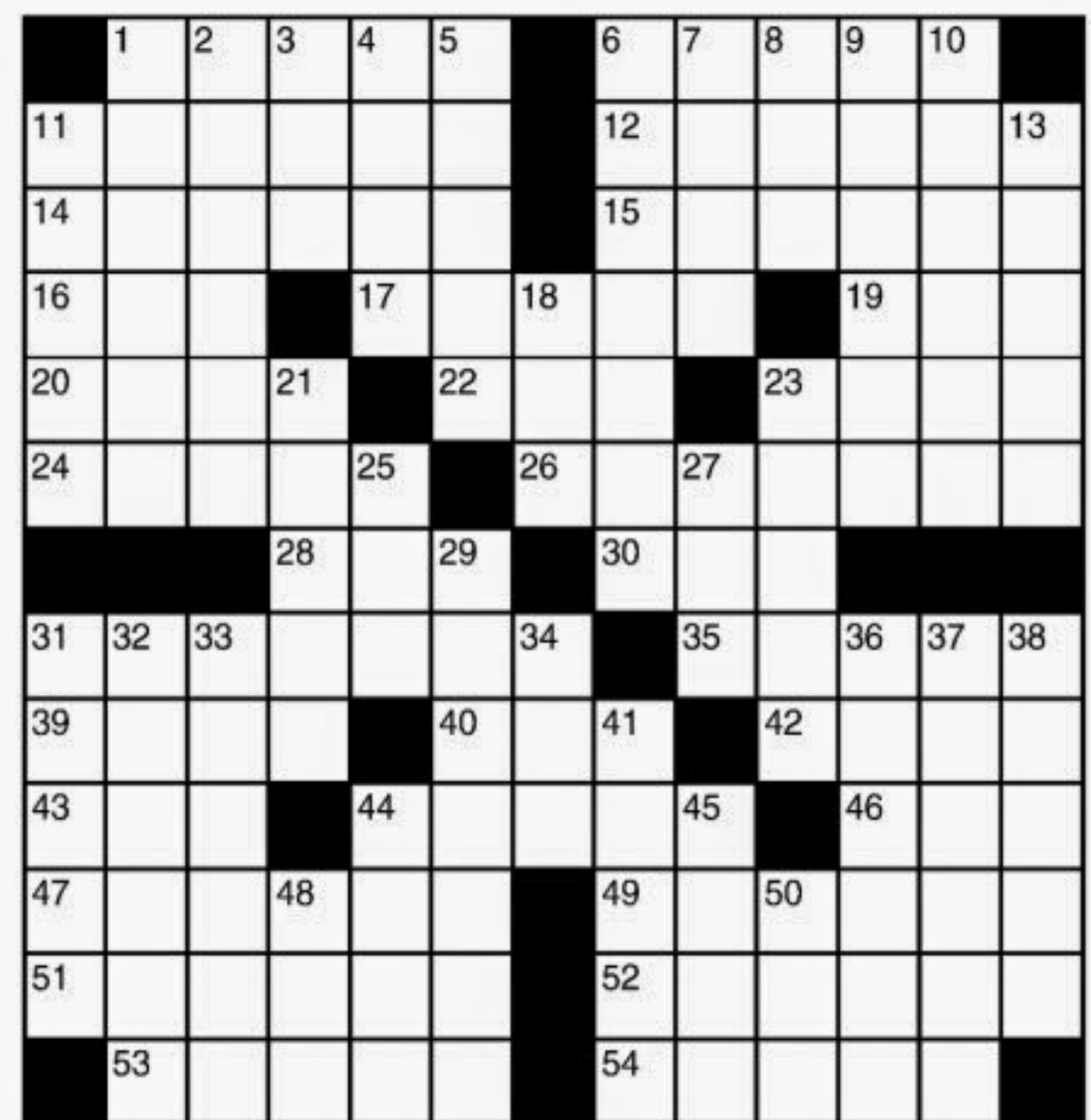
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18 1970s

- war zone, for short
- 21 Alabama city
- 23 Where the elated walk
- 25 Knock
- 27 Society new-comer
- 29 Wolves' kin
- 31 Mock
- 32 Academic distinctions
- 33 Not knowing right from wrong
- 34 LummoX
- 36 Waiter in a French restaurant
- 37 Cantankerous
- 38 Rib
- 41 Butcher's discard
- 44 Crosby's pal
- 45 Mediocre
- 48 Mail HQ
- 50 Pi follower



CRYPTOQUIP

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D G Y S G Y F, D G T C L X G T F I X
W M ' F L K N R C K Y Z L T N R C K Y Z F?
Yesterday's Cryptiquip: THAT SPELL-CASTING
WOMAN IS A CHAMPION CRICKET PLAYER.
ONE MIGHT SAY SHE'S A WICKET WITCH.
Today's Cryptiquip Clue: W equals H