

Inter-district cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Cox's Bazar posted an 18-run victory against Dinajpur in the 32nd Inter District Championship at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

Cox's Bazar recovered from an early hiccup to score 205 runs after being sent into bat first. A 74-run fourth wicket partnership between Ashraf Aziz and Kamrul Hossain helped Cox's Bazar to reach a decent total after losing three wickets for 20 runs.

Ashraf hit 79 off 104 balls that featured seven fours and two sixes while captain Kamrul contributed 39 off 52 balls with four boundaries and an over boundary.

Arif Reza was the most successful bowler claiming three wickets for 41 runs.

In reply, Dinajpur were bundled out for 187 runs.

Man-of-the-match Arman Khan caused the damage taking four wickets for 32 runs while Younus took three for 23.

Koushik Kumar top scored with 46 off 78 deliveries with the help of three boundaries.

SCORES IN BRIEF

COX'S BAZAR: 205 all out in 42.3 overs (Ashraf 79, Kamrul 39, Younus 26, extras 29; Arif 3-41, Minhas 2-27)

DINAJPUR: 187 all out in 43.5 overs (Nobin 29, Koushik 46, Arif 25, Reza 32, extras 7; Younus 3-23, Jafar 2-24, Arman 4-32)

Result: Cox's Bazar won by 18 runs.

Bashabo champs in Div II

SPORTS REPORTER

Bashabo Tarun Sangha emerged champions in the Destiny Group 2nd Division Football League after playing out a 1-1 draw against PWD Sporting Club at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Humayun Kabir put PWD SC ahead in the 16th minute while Bosor levelled the margin for Bashabo in the 24th minute.

Meanwhile, Swadhinata Krira Sangha became runners-up while Bangladesh Boys and Friend Social and Welfare Organisation finished third and fourth respectively and all top four clubs earned the right to play the First Division League in the next season.

Shane's piece of history

AFP, Roseau

West Indies off-spinner Shane Shillingford will create history on Monday when he becomes the first Dominican to play a Test match on home soil.

The tall off-spinner bowled well against the Australians on his comeback to international cricket in Trinidad last week and is expected to retain his place in the team for the all-important third and final Test at his home ground.

The picturesque Windsor Park hosted its first one-day international back in 2009 and Test cricket came to the island for the first time last year.

Shillingford, who has undergone remedial work on his bowling action, missed that match, when the West Indies played to a hard-fought draw against India.

"I'm looking forward to the chance of playing at home, being the first one to play a Test from Dominica in the Caribbean. It's a very special feeling," said Shillingford.

"Most of our players have played here a number of times already and seeing for the first time, it's a bit of an edge for us. But we do have to do the basics to come out with a win."

Shillingford toiled hard on the Queen's Park Oval pitch in Trinidad and came away with four wickets as the two teams played to a draw as rain washed away hopes of a result.

Australia won the first Test by three wickets in Barbados.



Royal Challengers Bangalore batsman Tilakaratne Dilshan plays a cut shot during their IPL Twenty20 match against Rajasthan Royals at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur yesterday. Dilshan scored an unbeaten 76 in a total of 189 for 3 wickets. PHOTO: AFP

RCB thrash Royals

INTERNET, Jaipur

Royal Challengers Bangalore thrashed Rajasthan Royals by 46 runs in their IPL match at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur yesterday.

A swashbuckling show by AB de Villiers in slog overs and a gritty unbeaten knock by Tilakaratne Dilshan powered Royal Challengers Bangalore to a daunting 189/3.

Opener Dilshan stayed unbeaten on 76 while de Villiers slammed a fiery 59 off 23 balls to help visitors set a massive target for hosts.

Villiers smashed five dazzling sixes and three boundaries during his knock and shared a solid 122-run stand for the fourth wicket with Dilshan.

Rahul Dravid slammed a fifty to keep Rajasthan afloat in the mammoth chase of 190. Dravid reached to his fifty in 34 balls, smashing eight fours in his 58-run knock.

Rahane was not looking in his touch as he managed to score 13 off 18 balls. KP Appanna struck to give Bangalore much-needed breakthrough.

KP Appanna rocked Rajasthan chase by claiming the first four wickets including the prize scalp of Rahul Dravid. Shah and Goswami also failed to consolidate Royals innings.

BRIEF SCORES

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 189/3 (Dilshan 76 not out, AB de Villiers 59 not out; Hogg 2-39)
RAJASTHAN ROYALS: 143/7 (Dravid 58, Binny 20 not out; Appanna 4-19, Patel 2-32)
Result: Bangalore won by 46 runs.

CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE

Baridhara finish 2nd

SPORTS REPORTER

Uttar Baridhara Club became runners-up in the Primer Bank Bangladesh Championship League after posting a 2-0 win over Victoria SC in their last game at the Cox's Bazar Stadium yesterday.

The third win in 12 matches helped Uttar Baridhara go level with Wari Club at 17 points, behind winners Cox City, but finished as runners-up courtesy of a superior goal difference.

Swapan gave Uttar Baridhara a 56-minute lead while Jibon sealed the victory two minutes later.

Cox City FC have already emerged champions with a match in hand after taking an unassailable lead at 19 points from 11 matches and will play their last match against Beani Bazar SC today at the same venue.

Nadal can dream now

Tennis

AFP, Monte Carlo

Rafael Nadal was dreaming of a seventh French Open title on Sunday after clinching his eighth successive Monte Carlo title by ending a seven final losing streak to Novak Djokovic.

Nadal, who came into Monte Carlo with more question marks over whether or not his suspect knees would bear the stress of another gruelling claycourt campaign, gave the perfect response with a swaggering 6-3, 6-1 defeat of world number one Djokovic.

The Spaniard's next assignment is Barcelona where he has been champion in six of seven editions.

"I am very happy because my knee didn't restrict my movement. I felt it a little bit, but when you can run after every ball, the pain is never a problem."

Djokovic was admittedly under-done in the 78-minute final, playing with the grief he has borne all week after learning Thursday of the death of his grandfather in Serbia.

After fighting through to three victories, he simply ran out of gas in the final.

"Djokovic wasn't the real best Djokovic," admitted Nadal. "But in other finals that I played against him, I wasn't my real best, either."

Nadal had said before the match that he was fully prepared to accept a possible eighth consecutive loss to his Serbian rival, who beat him six times in 2011 -- including for clay Masters 1000 titles in Madrid and Rome -- as well as winning their marathon six-hour Australian Open title match in January.

But with Djokovic suffering, the rout for

the Spaniard meant a huge confidence boost as the clay season gains traction heading towards the French Open in Paris next month.

"Monte Carlo is the most beautiful Masters 1000 tournament for me," said Nadal. "To start the clay court season winning here is an amazing feeling."

"My level of tennis was high during the last four matches -- since the second round, it was very high. Today the first set was the highest moment of all the week. For that reason I must be very happy."

"To beat Novak in a final after losing a few important results for me. It was important to break this series and to do it here, it's perfect."

"To have eight victories, you must be lucky, you have to have no injuries, perfect conditions for eight years in a row. That's the first thing."

"And you have to be playing almost perfect to win eight titles in a row, especially in a Masters. The best in the world always play, you have to win against the best."

Nadal's victory marked his first ATP trophy since winning a sixth Roland Garros last June.

Djokovic admitted: "I just didn't have any emotional energy left in me."

"I was there physically, game-wise I was playing OK throughout the week. But it was a bad day. If I wanted to have any chance of winning against Rafa on clay, I needed that extra gear, which I didn't have."

"Rafa always plays well on clay, it's been like that throughout the years. Today he played just enough to win. I made a lot of unforced errors. I just wasn't there, I didn't play well."

Nadal's win was his 42nd in a row at the Mediterranean venue and marks his 47th career trophy and 20th in a Masters 1000 tournament, the first to achieve that honour.

Tigers disappoint Dav

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan's Australian cricket coach Dav Whatmore Monday voiced disappointment at Bangladesh postponing their tour, saying he had felt no security concerns during his two months in the country.

Last week Bangladesh agreed to visit Pakistan for a one-day match and a Twenty20 international but the tour was delayed on Thursday by a Dhaka high court ruling over security fears.

Pakistan had hoped the short tour would help revive international cricket in the country, suspended in the wake of deadly terror attacks on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore in March 2009.

"Like everyone else in Pakistan, I am also disappointed [with the postponement of the series]," Whatmore said. "We were close to choosing the team but now Bangladesh not coming everything is finished which is a bit disappointing."

Whatmore, 57, played seven Tests for Australia and as coach guided Sri Lanka to their famous victory in the 1996 World Cup.

"From my personal view, having [been] born in Sri Lanka and lived through the civil

war there, and now staying in Lahore I have faced no security problems," he said.

He also coached Bangladesh to the Super Six Stages of the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies.

"I have not seen very many areas in Lahore and if I know some other areas I would like to go there, but I have faced no problems here," he said.

Under Whatmore, Pakistan last month won the Asia Cup, also involving world champions India.

"It is very difficult for a nation so rich of cricket history to keep the game going without being able to host international teams," said Whatmore of Pakistan, who have been forced to play their "home" series on neutral venues, mostly in United Arab Emirates, since the Lahore attack.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) voiced hope on Monday that its Bangladesh equivalent, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) would appeal against the court order.

"PCB is hopeful that BCB will leave no stones unturned to get the stay order vacated," said a statement from the Pakistan board.

PCB said it has asked the BCB to send copies of the court orders and any appeal documents that are lodged.

Candidates' frantic hours

FROM PAGE 16

the consensus panel, might become a factor as they have also started to get organised.

To convince the voters about their activities of the last four years, the combined consensus panel on Sunday held a meeting with representatives from Bangladesh Premier League, Bangladesh Championship League, First, Second, Third, Pioneer Leagues' clubs as well as education boards, universities, coaches' and referees' associations.

Salahuddin repeated his election pledges saying that he would revive football at district level, start the BFF football academy and form a strong national team.

"We are convinced with his speech as he admitted both his failure and success. We can't deny the fact that he kept football rolling round the year though the league at lower levels was not regular. However, this time he has promised to keep football in Dhaka and at district level rolling," said Dhaka Wanderers Club councillor Kamal Hossain.

A panel titled "Save Football" led by Arif Khan Joy also held a meeting yesterday with different club representatives and revealed

candidates' names partly. No presidential candidates, this panel have 16 candidates for 21 posts with incumbent member Golam Rabbani Helal contesting for senior vice president, Arif Khan Joy, Tabith M Awal and Mohiuddin Ahmed Mohi competing for vice president while 12 others candidates will vie for member posts.

BCB ponders

FROM PAGE 16

issue seriously. The time has come to review all the facilities the players are currently getting. We should compare the facilities with other countries. I will place the matter before the board members in the next meeting," assured Siraj.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 16

second half and this time to Chayan converted another penalty corner but Sri Lanka came pulled back a third goal in the 41st minute for an exciting finish.

But Krishna Kumar and skipper Raseel Mahmud Jimmy showed their superior stickwork to score two field goals in the 57th and 69th minutes to seal the final berth.

Rajshahi

FROM PAGE 16

Razzak the ball after he reached the ton, ending a 167-ball innings that had sixteen boundaries.

Mehrab Hossain Jr made 52 off 95 balls with eight fours, but it hardly had an impact; Khulna taking a gigantic 330-run first innings lead.

Dollar Mahmud was the pick of the Khulna bowlers, taking four for 34 while left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak took three for 119.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJSHAH: First innings 387-8 declared and second innings 100-4 in 38 overs (Sabbir 26 not out, Farhad 20; Hasan 2-27)

SYLHET: First innings 277 all out in 106.1 overs (Nadif 61, Rajin 43; Sanjamul 4-84, Khulna 3-63)

KHULNA: First innings 618-8 declared and second innings 166-2 in 38.4 overs (Imrul 101 not out, Soumya 57; Ashraf 1-28)

DHAKA METRO: First innings 288 all out in 88.1 overs (Tasamul 100, Mehrob Jr 52; Dollar 4-34, Razzak 3-119)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 40 Prod 42 Cool — 44 Property claim 46 Tittle 50 Weather map line 52 Rafael Nadal's game 54 Danes or Forlani 55 Really wild parties 56 Bets both ways 57 Fits snugly inside

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BITS OF HEALTHFUL STUFF THAT CROONER ROBERTA SPRINKLES ON TOP OF ALL HER SALADS: FLACK'S SEED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals M