

Narail win women's hockey title

SPORTS REPORTER

Narail District team clinched the UCB First Women's Hockey title as they outclassed Dinajpur Municipal School team by 6-1 goals in a one-sided final at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Kimi Karmaker scored three field goals in the 1st, 12th and 56th minutes respectively, Shampa Biswas struck two field goals in the 27th and 59th minutes while Nahid Akhter netted one goal for Narail in the 58th minute from a penalty corner.

Selina scored a consolation field goal in the 45th minute for Dinajpur Municipal School.

State Minister for Women and Children's Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury was the chief guest in the day's final and distributed the prizes.



Narail District players hold their sticks up in celebration of their triumph in the UCB First Women's Hockey at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Bubka still leads by example

AFP, Quebec

Sergei Bubka, president of the Ukrainian Olympic Committee, said he had suspended the secretary general of his NOC over claims he had sold tickets for the London Olympics on the black market.

Bubka, a pole vault legend who has forged a successful career in sports politics, said that he had no option but to suspend Volodymyr Geraschchenko after the BBC had revealed that he had been exposed in a sting operation trying to sell on 100 tickets for the Games.

"I immediately suspended Volodymyr Geraschchenko," said the 48-year-old.

"We are going to set up an independent commission to investigate Geraschchenko."

"We must be fair and come to a correct decision." Bubka, Olympic champion in 1988 and a six-time world outdoor champion, added he was cutting short his trip here -- where there is an International Olympic Committee meeting at the annual Sport Accord Convention -- to return to Ukraine on Wednesday.

Clijsters to quit after US Open

AFP, Brussels

Former world number one Kim Clijsters announced on Tuesday she is to retire after the US Open in September.

The 28-year-old Belgian told a news conference that she wanted to sign out in New York where she enjoyed the biggest success of her career winning the women's singles title at Flushing Meadows three times in 2005, 2009 and 2010.

BWSA poll

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their nominations on June 19, the last date of withdrawal has been fixed on June 21 and the final candidate list will be published on June 25.

Councillors will elect one senior vice president, five vice presidents, one general secretary, two joint secretaries, one treasurer and 19 members while the president will be nominated by the government.

GYC, BKSP

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with seven fours while Sanjida added 41 off 48 balls with the help of six boundaries. Reshma (26), Tithy (21), Sharmin (29) and Puja (29) were the other notable scorers.

Farzana and Halima took two wickets each. In reply, Dhaka Northern Women's Cricket Club were bundled out for 79 runs in 25.2 overs. Sabina made the team-highest 25 runs. Sharmin and Yamin captured three wickets each.

Broad wants to repeat Trent Bridge triumph

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

Stuart Broad will be back on his home ground when the second Test against the West Indies starts here on Friday, with the seamer keen to follow up last year's Trent Bridge triumph.

In 2011 the 25-year-old paceman took a hat-trick against India at Nottinghamshire's headquarters as England won the second Test by 319 runs.

"That was definitely one of the highlights of my career," Broad said Wednesday. "I love playing at Trent Bridge. It's a fantastic ground. The home support is brilliant and looking back to last summer it was great to get the win."

Broad, recalling his hat-trick, added: "We got the new ball when India were in a very strong position and when the sun is out, Trent Bridge can play very well for the batsmen."

"Rahul Dravid played particularly well for his hundred. I remember Strauss [England captain Andrew Strauss] said, 'Let's go for broke, let's try to hit the stumps. Don't worry too much about the runs because we need to make to make some breakthroughs.' Fortunately that worked me," he said.

With the tourists on 273 for five in reply to England's first innings 221, Broad had India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni caught for five. Next ball Harbhajan Singh was lbw and the ball after Broad bowled Praveen Kumar.

"I don't think it could have been much better," Broad said. "It was a Saturday evening about 5:00 pm [1600 GMT], the crowd was really lively. It went wild. The atmosphere was incredible when I bowled

Kumar."

Now Broad, the son of former Nottinghamshire and England opening batsman Chris, is looking for more Test success at Trent Bridge where England will look to consolidate their position as the world's number one ranked Test team.

He comes into the middle leg of this three-match series having taken 11 for 165, including a Test-best seven for 72 in England's five-wicket first Test win over the West Indies at Lord's concluded Monday.

That performance helped propel Broad to joint-third in the International Cricket Council Test bowling rankings alongside his England new-ball partner James Anderson.

England off-spinner Graeme Swann is fifth in a list headed by South Africa fast bowler Dale Steyn, who is set to tour England later in the season.

"To have Swanny, Jimmy and myself all in the top five is testament to how far we've come as a team," Broad said. "Jimmy and I work together on most aspects of our bowling so for us both to be in the top three or four is brilliant for both of us. It's an honour to be up there."

"In international cricket you always have to be at the top of your game and keep performing," added Broad, who has now taken 158 wickets in 46 Tests at a shade over 30 apiece. "You keep pushing yourself in training to get better."

"Having the strength of competition that we have is important in that. Someone like Steven Finn would be in most Test teams in the world at the moment and he's having to wait patiently for his opportunity."

PCB ponders hosting Australia in India

Cricket

CRICINFO, Karachi

Zaka Ashraf, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman, has hinted at asking India to host a limited-overs series between Pakistan and Australia later this year. PCB is seeking a venue for the series after Sri Lanka's refusal to stage it.

Ashraf, who has been invited by the Board of Control for Cricket in India to watch the Indian Premier League final in Chennai on Sunday, said he will discuss the idea with the Indian board officials, but maintained the main agenda would be to revive bilateral cricketing ties between India and Pakistan.

The other possible venues for the series are Malaysia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The series was scheduled to comprise five one-dayers and three T20s to help the sides prepare for the World Twenty20 in Sri Lanka, which begins on September 18.

"It isn't a bad idea [considering India] but a good choice to maintain the healthy relationship with them [India], but let us see the mood there," Ashraf told ESPNcricinfo. "But our primary purpose is to revive ties with them. However, in the meantime we have three options under consideration to host our series."

Ashraf was optimistic about a healthy dialogue with the Indian board, following India's decision to invite Pakistan's domestic Twenty20 champions, Sialkot Stallions, to participate in the Champions League Twenty20 later this year, in India.

"We are ready to play them and I can see that they [India] are also positive and gradually the ice is melting," Ashraf said.

The UAE, which has hosted most of Pakistan's home series, was doubtful due to the hot weather. However, Ashraf didn't rule out

UAE's chances either, as it's more cost-effective for the PCB.

"We have been ruling out UAE mainly because of the month of Ramadan and the hot weather there," Ashraf said. "But we can counter that by playing day-night matches."

Dilawar Mani, the Emirates Cricket Board chief operating officer, confirmed that they had offered to host another series for Pakistan. "We have offered them but are yet to get a response," Mani told ESPNcricinfo. "We didn't offer them until Sri Lanka backed out. The main concern is the humidity, otherwise the temperature starts to drop after 4pm and the conditions are convenient to play."

Stakes higher

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"As we have done well in the Asia Cup, expectations have increased. Still, it has almost been two months since we played any competitive cricket," said Mushfiqur.

The 23-year-old was realistic about Twenty20 cricket, a format in which Bangladesh haven't exactly set the world alight with their performance. But he said that recent performances have boosted expectations even in the shortest format. "We have not done well in Twenty20 cricket so because we had played well in the Asia Cup, the expectation is that we must try to repeat that and play well consistently. It's not that we will win every match, but we have to perform consistently," he said.

Mushfiqur added that the Bangladesh Premier League T20s, held last February, was a platform for the players to come to grips with the format in which they have won only four games out of 18 outings.

"The BPL has helped us immensely as we played a few Twenty20 matches and we learnt a lot through that as we played very competitive cricket," he said.

Pistorius & Dibaba to run in NY

AFP, New York

South African Oscar Pistorius, trying to become the first double amputee to compete in the Olympics, and reigning 5,000m Olympic women's champion Tirunesh Dibaba of Ethiopia will race in the Diamond League meet next month in New York, organisers announced on Tuesday.

Pistorius, the 25-year-old "Blade Runner" who uses carbon fibre prosthetic running blades, bettered the Olympics qualifying mark of 45.30 seconds this year with a time of 45.20 at a meet in Pretoria.

NZ, Eng

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internationals on December 20 and 22 before leaving for home. The first ODI will be played on January 11 with the last match of the series on January 27.

FIXTURES

NZ IN INDIA
Aug 23-27: 1st Test, Hyderabad
Aug 31-Sept. 4: 2nd Test, Bangalore
Sept 8: 1st T20, Vizag
Sept 11: 2nd T20, Chennai
ENGLAND IN INDIA
Nov 15-19: 1st Test, Ahmedabad
Nov 23-27: 2nd Test, Mumbai
Dec 5-9: 3rd Test, Kolkata
Dec 13-17: 4th Test, Nagpur
Dec 20: 1st T20, Pune
Dec 22: 2nd T20, Mumbai
Jan 11: 1st ODI, Rajkot
Jan 15: 2nd ODI, Kochi
Jan 19: 3rd ODI, Ranchi
Jan 23: 4th ODI, Dharamsala
Jan 27: 5th ODI, Mohali.

Ramdin cheers mates on

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

West Indies wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin has said it would be "amazing" for a youthful side if they were to beat world number ones England during their ongoing Test series.

The tourists showed plenty of heart in taking England into the fifth day of the first Test at Lord's before going down to a five-wicket defeat concluded Monday to fall 1-0 behind in the three-match series.

Now they are in Nottingham, where the second Test at Trent Bridge starts on Friday, looking to improve on a run of just two wins in their last 31 matches at this level and a sequence of 15 Tests without a win on English soil dating back to 2000.

"It would be amazing for the young team we have to go out there and win a Test match against the number one team in the world," said Ramdin, speaking at Trent Bridge, on Wednesday.

"We showed some fight against Australia back in the Caribbean but in English conditions, we are in their backyard where it is very tough to beat them."

"But, having said that, they are beatable

once we bowl the right areas, get wickets and our batters put runs on the board.

"The confidence is still high. Everyone thought we would lose inside four days [at Lord's] but the guys showed character and fight. If we had a batted a bit better in the first innings we could have probably won."

However, Ramdin, a veteran of 43 Tests, said occasional lapses were costing the West Indies dear.

"You could just have one bad session and you lose a Test match," said the 27-year-old Trinidad and Tobago keeper. "We need to be more consistent than that."

When Ramdin made his Test debut in 2005, Australia were still the kings of the five-day game.

Now it's England who are on top and Ramdin believes playing in English conditions is an even harder task than playing Test cricket in India, long regarded as one of the toughest challenges for touring teams.

"When I just started the team that was on top was Australia. I think England have a formula they have put into place and that's why they are number one in the world at the moment."

"They play hard, they use their conditions well, the batters get runs and put their bowlers in a position to win games. I think it's easier to play in India than in England."

Best to make best use of the chance

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

Tino Best is ready to make the most of his unexpected recall to West Indies duty after being summoned to England as a replacement for the injured Shannon Gabriel.

Fast bowler Gabriel took four wickets on his Test debut during the five-wicket series-opening defeat by England at Lord's concluded Monday but was then ruled out of the remaining two Tests with a back injury.

That prompted the West Indies to call-up Best, even though it is three years since the 30-year-old quick last played international cricket.

Best, who had been named in the West Indies A team to face India A next month, was recently a member of the squad for the limited overs internationals against Australia but did not play.

The player, who left the Caribbean on Tuesday ahead of the second Test at Nottingham's Trent Bridge starting Friday, said: "I'm very happy to be recalled for the Test squad for the series in England."

"I've been waiting for my opportunity to represent the West Indies again and this is

another opportunity to wear the 'Baggy Maroon' [cap]," he said in a statement issued by the West Indies Cricket Board.

"I'm fit and feeling quite ready. I've been training and working hard, looking forward to this."

"I was in the team earlier this year when we played against Australia and I gained a lot of knowledge from being in the group. I felt I fitted in quite well and I have a good idea of the work ethic and what will be required of me."

Best is familiar with English conditions, having toured with the West Indies in 2004 and played for county side Yorkshire last year.

"What I have to do, and what I am fully aware of, is how to put that knowledge to work," he added. "I'm a hard worker and I'm really delighted to get this opportunity."

Best, who made his debut nine years ago, has won 14 Tests caps, with a modest bowling average of 48.

He is best remembered in England for a verbal exchange with Andrew Flintoff during the Lord's Test of 2004.

Flintoff, fielding at slip, urged him to "mind the windows Tino" as Best tried to slog spinner Ashley Giles. Best was out next ball.

BCB to decide on

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(of post)

The original BCB request included a four-day game against the Irish, which CI reluctantly turned down on cost grounds, but Holdsworth thinks that Bangladesh may have delayed finalising the tour to lobby for a four-day game to be slotted in at the last minute.

"It is understandable, as they are coming a long way and want as much cricket as they can get. We would love to play them in a four-day game, but it does become cost prohibitive. We don't want to miss this opportunity, but they have to understand our budget. We cannot afford to overspend on these things," he said.

Meanwhile, the board directors will be asked to come up with suggestions to fine-tune the tender that will be floated for the new TV deal after the six-year contract with Nimbus ended on April 30.

According to sources, the issues which will be key in the new contract are going to be bank guarantee, allowable expenditure, material changes, level of production and the Decision Reviews System (DRS).

BJMC, Sk Jamal

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from a spot-kick, with Idris Kasirye sending goalkeeper Aminul Haque the wrong way.

Sheikh Jamal's forward Nigerian Kester Akon restored the three-goal cushion with a solo effort in 85th minute before Nche Francis pulled another goal back with a powerful drive from outside the area in the stoppage time.

Spl Olympics

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the title and Bangladesh lost 1-2 in the shootout, informed national director of Bangladesh Special Olympic Faruqul Islam.

India leave today while Pakistan depart tomorrow.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
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13 Grand home
14 Finally
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16 Potter's oven
17 — Christian Andersen
19 Poker money
20 Corn spikes
22 Gorilla
24 Possesses
27 Capital of Qatar
29 "American —"
32 Beyond the usual
35 Unembellished
36 Goya subject
37 Jeans brand

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7 Tangy condiment
8 "The Greatest!"
9 Accelerator
10 Reverberate
11 Membership
12 Erstwhile acorn
18 Religious retreats
21 Oklahoma city
23 ATM code
24 Height of fashion?
25 Fire
26 Baby carriage
28 Commander's assistant
30 Tramcar
31 Content
32 Caustic solution
33 Dem.'s opponent
34 Cartesian conclusion
39 Nervous
41 Form
42 Get bigger
43 Continental coin
45 Matured
47 Sore
48 " — Funny That Way"
49 Chop
51 Short
53 A piece

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CRYPTOQUIP

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C Q S J , F H M P C C P B C F B Z S F S
B G H M H C B I V P Q C Q M W B V P S W ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I FIGURE YOU WILL EVENTUALLY ORDER A DRINK WHICH YOU DISLIKE, BASED ON THE LAW OF BEVERAGES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals T