



Abahani midfielder Zahidul Islam Rajon takes the ball past a Bangladesh Sporting Club player during their Club Cup match at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Abahani's second win

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani earned their second consecutive victory in the Walton Club Cup Hockey Tournament when they beat lowly Bangladesh Sporting Club by 5-0 goals at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The Dhanmondi outfit dominated the match from the beginning and opened the account in the ninth minute when Pushkor Khisa Mimmo scored. The lead was doubled in the 25th minute when Asaduzzaman Chandan converted a penalty corner before Iqbal Nadiir Prince scored a field goal in the 32nd minute. Prince and Chandan scored one more each after the break as Abahani ran 5-0 winners.

In the other match of the day, Ajax Sporting Club managed a 1-0 victory over Wari Club at the same venue.

Nurun Nabi Rupom scored the only goal of the match in the 9th minute from a penalty corner.

CCDM XI to test U-19s

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19s will play three one-day matches against a CCDM XI Under-21 side at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna next week.

The team has been chosen from young performers from various Premier League and First Division clubs. The matches will be held on June 10, 12 and 14.

It is part of the Under-19 side's preparation ahead of their World Cup campaign as well as the Under-19s Asia Cup in Malaysia.

TEAMS

CCDM U21 XI: Imran Hossain, Amit Majumder, Saikat Ali, Tasamul Haque, Tanvir Haider, Tapash Ghosh, Tabibur Alam Parvez, Ihsanul Haque, Mohammad Shahid, Mahfuzur Rahman, Sarfaraz Alam, Kamrul Islam Rabbi, Mehdi Maruf, Abhishek Mitra.

BANGLADESH UNDER-19s: Asif Ahmed, Anamul Haque, Soumya Sarkar, Al Amin, Touhid Tareq Khan, Salman Hossain, Mosaddek Hossain, Abu Zayed Rahi, Taskin Ahmed, Dewan Sabbir, Abu Haider, Nasum Ahmed, Nayeem Islam Jr., Noor Hossain, Asif Hossain, Nurul Hasan, Liton Kumar Das and Zakaria Masud.

Eagles win

SPORTS REPORTER

Eagles defeated Mohammadpur Basketball Club by 70-35 points in the Citycell Premier Division Basketball League at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

The winners led the first half by 39-18 points.

Shaheen scored highest 32 nine points for Eagles while Tanvir caged 12 points for Mohammadpur Basketball Club.

Earlier on Saturday evening, Dhukmetu Club beat Eagles by 80-53 points after dominating the first half by 31-24 points.

Tareq caged 21 and Sajid 16 points for the winning side.

Liu's strong showing

Athletics

AFP, Eugene

China's Liu Xiang charged to victory in the 110 metres hurdles at the Diamond League's Prefontaine Classic, holding off a star-studded field to equal the world record with a wind-aided 12.87sec run.

Liu, the 2004 Olympic gold medalist, blasted out of the blocks and led from start to finish with the help of a strong tailwind measured at +2.4 metres per second in front of a standing room crowd at Hayward Field.

Because of the tailwind, the 28-year-old Liu does not get a share of the world record held by Cuba's Dayron Robles.

"Of course I am happy," said Liu, through a translator. "But I can't dwell on it [time]. I need to keep looking forward."

American world indoor champion Aries Merritt finished second in 12.96, while Jason Richardson was third in 13.11 in a field that boasted hurdlers holding five of the top six times in the world this year.

Liu's time was faster than his own world-leading time of 12.97, clocked at the Shanghai Diamond League meet last month and achieved without the aid of the wind.

He said a change in technique, taking seven steps before the first hurdle instead of his usual eight, has helped him get off to a strong start in 2012.

"The most significant thing about my technique is my start where I take seven steps," Liu said. "But today I made a mistake beginning on the third hurdle which lasted until the sixth hurdle because the wind was pushing me so much."

Despite his performance, Liu, when asked if he should now be considered the favourite for London, replied: "No, for me I am already an Olympic champion."

"It is just a race for me. I always treat my races like just a regular race."

Liu was one of seven athletes who ran world-leading times on Saturday.

Reigning world champion Mo Farah of Great Britain triumphed in the 5,000m in a world-leading time of 12min 56.98secs. Isaiah Kiplangat Koech of Kenya was second in

12:57.63 and American Galen Rupp finished third in 12:58.90.

"The crowd got behind me. I was really pleased. It was awesome," Farah said.

Farah maintained that he will wait until he performs in the 10,000m in London before deciding whether to double up with the 5,000m.

"The 10,000 is the first race," Farah said. "I will see how I feel after that."

Reigning Olympic gold medalist and world record holder Kenenisa Bekele of Ethiopia finished fourth in 13:01.48.

On the women's side, Sanya Richards-Ross captured the 400 metres in a world-leading 49.39sec and Mariem Alaoui Selsouli won the 3,000 race in a world-leading 8:34.47.

"I knew I had a good race in me," said Richards-Ross, who is fresh off her world indoor title in the 400. "To come out and run a world-leading time and beat a really good field today is a great feeling."

Russia's Anna Chicherova won the women's high jump with a leap of 2.02 metres, bettering the previous world-leading mark of 2.00 which was held by American Chaunte Lowe.

In other highlights Saturday, reigning Olympic gold medalist LaShawn Merritt used a late burst to overtake Kirani James in the final 20 metres to win the men's 400m in 44.91sec.

The 18-year-old James, of Grenada, ran under protest after the 2011 world champion false started earlier. His protest was denied, allowing Bahama's Chris Brown to move into second in 45.24. American Angelo Taylor finished third in 45.59.

"I executed the home stretch," Merritt said. "In the past I have come down the home stretch and really beat myself but not this time."

American Justin Gatlin, the reigning world indoor champion, continued to impress winning the 100m in 9.90secs to edge out Jamaica's Nickel Ashmeade who finished in 9.93.

"I want to go out and just dominate races," said Gatlin. "Right now I am just worried about winning. It doesn't matter whether it is a 9.7 or 10.7."

Aiming for history

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"rouses every player that sees him" in the words of one teammate - is out of the tournament with a knee problem.

Meanwhile, the national team's all-time leading goal-scorer David Villa -- scorer of seven goals in qualifying and five in the World Cup finals in South Africa -- has not played at all since breaking a leg in December.

With Fernando Torres still grasping for a semblance of form, Roberto Soldado and Fernando Llorente could be key in attack, while Sergio Ramos is likely to assume Puyol's role in the heart of the defence.

Despite everything, Xavi hopes the momentum built up in recent years can work to Spain's advantage as they prepare to do battle in Group C against Italy, the Republic of Ireland and Croatia.

"Having a winners' mentality, having just won the World Cup, and the whole world believing in us, that's the big difference," says the 32-year-old.

Spain's place in the pantheon of great sides is already assured. Lift the Henri Delaunay trophy in Kiev on July 1, and they could consider themselves the greatest ever.

But it remains to be seen if they have the legs.

Zunapio treble lifts

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behind them, with five matches left.

For Rahmatganj, it was eighth defeat in a row that also seemingly steered them towards an inevitable relegation.

Farashganj, the Independence Cup champions, went ahead in the 13th minute with a delightful chip from Zunapio over the advancing goalkeeper Sujan Chowdhury but afterwards, Rahmatganj dominated and created a few chances but all of their efforts went in vain.

Rahmatganj kept their tempo after the restart with Moloy Barman trying from the distance but they conceded the second goal from a counter-attack six minutes into the second half. Akbar Ali Ridon put a through-pass for Peter, who raced past two defenders outside the box and beat onrushing goalkeeper Sujan before placing the ball home to double the margin.

Zunapio made it 3-0 from a spot-kick when Mushfiqur Ahmed Shimul brought down Ridon inside the box on 57 minutes while the Congolese striker completed his hattrick and league's 10th treble in the 65th minute with a tap after Jewel Rana pushed the ball for him from the right-hand area of the danger zone.

Beware

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just for her [to make a] mistake."

Azarenka refused to seek excuses, despite swirling winds and the threat of rain making conditions difficult on the Parisian clay.

"No excuses. It's just a bad performance," she said. "I wasn't bothered by that [the weather]. It wasn't helping, that's for sure, but it's the same conditions for both. Conditions were not a problem."

Pakistan

FROM PAGE 16

reduce Pakistan to 41-4, removing skipper Mohammad Hafeez (24) and Umar Akmal (five) in his four-over spell.

Paceman Kulasekera was the most impressive bowler, finishing with 2-13 off four tight overs.

Sri Lanka, who lead the series 1-0 following their 37-run victory in the opening match on Friday, rested skipper Mahela Jayawardene and paceman Lasith Malinga and brought in Isuru Udana and Chamara Kapugedera.

All-rounder Mathews led the hosts.

Pakistan made one change, replacing Umar Gul with Yasir Arafat.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 122 for 6 (Afriidi 52 not out, Malik 27, Hafeez 24; Kulasekara 2-13, Lokuarachchi 2-31)

SRI LANKA: 99 all out in 19.2 overs (Kapugedera 19, Dilshan 18, Thirimanne 18; Sami 3-16, Arafat 3-18, Afridi 2-17)

Omitted, not rested

Anderson insists he is fit to play

Cricket

AFP, London

England left James Anderson out of their 12-man squad announced Sunday for the third and final Test against the West Indies at Edgbaston starting on Thursday.

The England selectors insisted the 29-year-old Lancashire star was being omitted to "overcome several minor injury niggles" rather than being rested on grounds of squad rotation.

However, in a move that could cause a rift between the England hierarchy and their leading bowler, Anderson himself insisted he was fit to play in his Sunday newspaper column.

Seamers Steven Finn and Graham Onions, yet to feature in the series but included in 13-man squads ahead of five-wicket and nine-wicket wins at Lord's and Trent Bridge respectively that have given England an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the series, will compete to fill the place left vacant by Anderson's absence.

However, England could play both bowlers were they to rest Anderson's regular new-ball partner and Twenty20 captain Stuart Broad.

An England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) statement said Anderson had received treatment during the second Test at Trent Bridge for a minor quad problem. It added that missing the final Test

would give Anderson, whose tally of 267 wickets in 70 matches leaves him fifth in the list of England's most successful Test bowlers, time to overcome "several minor injuries".

Anderson has missed just one of England's past 25 Tests, since he was rested from the 2010 tour of Bangladesh, and national selector Geoff Miller said his omission had been in the "best interests" of the bowler.

"James Anderson will miss this Investec Test as we look to manage his workload ahead of a busy period of cricket this summer and beyond, a decision which is in the best interests of the team and James himself," Miller said.

But Anderson, in his column for the Mail on Sunday, published before the squad was made public, said: "It would be extremely disappointing for me to miss out.

"It would be different if I felt fatigued or was struggling with an injury. But I believe I am fit to play -- and while I am fit to play I want to play in every England game I can.

"Resting players is going to happen more and more often as the schedule gets busier and the ECB has been excellent at monitoring players to keep them fit and ready.

"Sure, this series has been hard work - back-to-back Tests always are; that's what we are used to and have to deal with

Gavaskar slams ICC over VJD system snub

AFP, New Delhi

Batting legend Sunil Gavaskar has hit out at the International Cricket Council (ICC) for retaining the Duckworth-Lewis rule for rain-affected games despite an alternative suggested by an Indian engineer.

The game's world governing body on Friday said it would stick with the rule devised by Englishmen Frank Duckworth and Tony Lewis, as it did not feel that any improvements could be offered in the method put forward by V Jayadevan.

Gavaskar, writing in his column for the Times of India newspaper on Sunday, said the ICC should have at least given a trial to Jayadevan's system of calculating revised targets in limited-over matches.

Niaz to coach

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Asian Youth Chess Championship, said BCF's joint-secretary elect Morsalin Ahmed.

Bangladesh will also take part in Chess Olympiad (which will be held in Turkey in August) even though the players for that tournament has not been decided yet.

Morsalin also informed that they are going to hold the finals of the national women's chess championship and the qualifiers of the national men's championship immediately.

BCB stands

FROM PAGE 16

Award winner. Altaf was a pace bowler who was a regular with Agrani Bank Cricket Club for whom he played before and after the Liberation War.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Greet the villain
4 Amusement park attraction
8 Sail holder
12 Grecian vessel
13 Jealousy
14 Malaria symptom
15 Long-cropper
16 Too rare
18 Swell
20 "CSI" evidence
21 Complaint
24 2012 TV series about a Broadway show
28 Cous-teau's bailiwick
32 Reverb-erate
33 Witness
34 Ganges garments
36 Charged bit
37 One of the brass
39 Likely loser
41 Razor sharpener
43 Long tale

44 Upper limit, for short
46 Gift of the Magi
50 Sap
55 Debtor's letters
56 Santa's laundry problem
57 Similar (to)
58 Play-ground game
59 St. Louis landmark
60 Calendar abbr.
61 Commotion

3 Aware of
4 AP competitor
5 Hostel
6 Netflix offering
7 Keep tabs on
8 Butterfly or Bovary
9 Past
10 Early riser?
11 Golf gadget
17 Hosp. staffers
19 Honest politician
22 Birthright barterer
23 Flower-less plants
25 Alkali neutral-izer

26 "Get lost!"
27 — Kong
28 Works with
29 Barber-shop call
30 Antelope's playmate
31 Verdi opera
35 Part
38 "The Iceman —"
40 Shaft of light
42 Standard
45 Opening day?
47 Hayworth or Moreno
48 Thor-oughfare
49 "Les Miserables" author
50 N.A. nation
51 Neither mate
52 Happy companion?
53 White House nickname
54 Pinch

Solution time: 21 mins.

W	A	R	D	B	O	O	B	C	B	S			
A	G	U	E	O	R	E	O	A	L	P			
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Cricket

AFP, London

Rain denied the West Indies of valuable time in the middle ahead of next week's third and final Test against England after the second day of their two-day match against Leicestershire was abandoned without a ball bowled on Sunday.

The washout at Grace Road followed a curtailed first day where the tourists managed 150 for three.

There was still time for the tourists to suffer another of the top order collapses that have contributed to them losing the Test series, with England an unbeatable 2-0 up ahead of the finale at Edgbaston starting Thursday.

Kieran Powell and Kirk Edwards both fell in the same over Saturday from Leicestershire seamer Nadeem Malik to leave West Indies 25 for two.

the world over. But five days of rest is more than enough to be ready to play again."

England have a packed home international programme, with South Africa set to challenge them for the world number one Test ranking. They also face one-day series against the West Indies and Australia before taking on the Proteas.

Meanwhile Yorkshire middle-order batsman Jonathan Bairstow, two matches into his Test career, retained his place for Edgbaston despite struggling against the shortball at Trent Bridge.

But West Indies fast bowler Kemar Roach, his main tormentor at Nottingham, was ruled out of the rest of the tour with a shin injury earlier this week.

Former England off-spinner Miller said the series had been tougher than the scores suggested.

"We have been made to work hard for our two victories so far and are delighted to have secured the series, however we know that we will need to continue to play some good cricket if we want a third win against the West Indies this week."

SQUAD

Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Jonathan Trott, Kevin Pietersen, Ian Bell, Jonathan Bairstow, Matt Prior, Tim Bresnan, Stuart Broad, Graeme Swann,

More rain misery for WI

AFP

AFP, London

However, a third-wicket stand of 111 between opener Adrian Barath (53 not out) and Darren Bravo (66) saw the tourists to 150 for three at stumps.

Opening batsman Powell's top score in his four Test innings this series is 33, while Edwards has failed to reach double figures in any of his eight innings on the tour so far and was out for his fourth duck against Leicestershire.

Powell made nine at Grace Road.

As well as their batting problems leading into the third Test, West Indies have also been denied the services of Kemar Roach after the fast bowler was ruled out of the remainder of the tour with a shin injury earlier this week.

"Mystery" spinner Sunil Narine, absent from the first two Tests because of his Indian Premier League commitments, has been called up in his place.

Narine was due to arrive in England on Sunday and could yet play at Edgbaston.



Spain's world No 2 Rafael Nadal poses with a cake as he celebrates his 26th birthday at the Roland Garros in Paris yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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56					57					58		
59					60					61		

CRYPTOQUIP

W U J P T Y I P I T M U F Y Z O E K F
U O H Y P O E V F Z X K F B O P V O W P F
S K F X Z E S X M D F Z O E K H
M P R B Y P W S U Z F: R T F M D Y Z J P O.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I BLEW SOME CONTINUOUS COOL AIR TOWARD THE BORDERED PHOTOS, SO I SUPPOSE I FANNED THE FRAMES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals F