

NAT'L SCHOOL FOOTBALL Jessore crush Lalmonirhat

Jessore Municipal Preparatory School registered a massive 9-1 win over Lalmonirhat Govt High School in the finals of the National School Islami Bank Football Tournament at the Bishreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Zahid slotted a hattrick, Abu Zahid and Ashfiqu struck two goals each while Pintoo and Babu joined the goalfest after netting one goal each for Jessore Municipal. Mohammad Shahin struck the consolation goal for Lalmonirhat.

In the day's other matches, Isdair Rabeya Hossain School defeated Baptist Mission Boys High School 3-0 with Rabbi scoring twice and Habib scored one while Rangpur Borobil High School beat Mangal Chandi Nisikant High School 2-0, thanks to a brace from Emran.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Habiganj Richi High School recorded a 3-1 win over Patuakhali Government Jubilee High School. Faisal, Nikkon and Jamal scored one goal apiece for Habiganj while Asadullah pulled one back for Patuakhali.

Ramdin fined

AFP, Birmingham

West Indies wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin has been fined 20 per cent of his match fee for celebrating his hundred in the third Test against England here at Edgbaston with a protest against Caribbean cricket great Vivian Richards.

Upon reaching the landmark on Sunday's fourth day, Ramdin held up a piece of paper with the words: 'YEA VIV, TALK NAH'.

That was in response to comments from West Indies great Richards who, commenting on this series for BBC Radio, said Ramdin had "deteriorated in such a big way" and looked a "totally lost guy" after making just one and six during a nine-wicket defeat in the second Test at Trent Bridge, a result that gave England an unassailable 2-0 lead in this three-match series.

But at Edgbaston on Sunday, Ramdin made 107 not out and shared an extraordinary last-wicket stand of 143 with Tino Best, whose 95 was the highest innings by any No 11 batsman in a Test match.

Ramdin admitted he'd been "emotional" after play on Sunday as he sought to defuse any lingering tension with former West Indies captain Richards, one of cricket's greatest batsmen.

Katich quits cricket in Australia

AFP, Sydney

Australian batsman Simon Katich on Tuesday announced his retirement from first-class cricket in Australia, citing family reasons.

Katich, 36, is currently playing with Hampshire in the English county season and is committed to play for the Perth Scorchers in the Champions League Twenty20 in October.

But he was axed from the Australian team after the 2010-2011 home Ashes series defeat to England and was stripped of the New South Wales captaincy last year in the Sheffield Shield competition.

Katich released a statement through Cricket Australia saying personal factors were the main reason for his retirement.

Czechs stay

Czechs most influential player pressed for a goal.

They were rewarded when there was a rare error by Cech as he collided with Tomas Sivok going for a cross spilled the ball and Fanis Gekas was on hand to gratefully tuck the ball into the net.

The Russians play co-hosts Poland, who have a point after a 1-1 draw with the Greeks, later on Tuesday.



Sheikh Russel winger Mohammad Yusuf (L) shapes up to deliver a cross to a teammate during their Bangladesh Premier League encounter against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Sk Jamal, Sk Russel in dull draw

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club and Sheikh Russel KC shared points after playing out a goalless draw in an insipid game of the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The outcome helped both sides to stay in their previous positions in the 11-team points table with Sheikh Russel in fourth and Sheikh Jamal in fifth position with 26 and 25 points respectively from 18 matches.

Sheikh Russel, the third finishers of the last season, could have topped third-placed Team BJMC in the points table with an outright victory but they hardly showed any urgency to win the game which was a shadow of their performance against Abahani.

Despite the lack of urgency, Sheikh Russel might have won the game had their forwards Alamu Bukola and substitute Sumon availed the chances that they got in both halves.

On the half-hour mark, Bukola capitalised on a through-pass from Moro Mohammad to race past two opposition players to send the ball over advancing

goalkeeper Ashim Kumar Das and over the cross bars as well.

After resumption, Sheikh Jamal, who also appeared playing without purpose, exerted a bit more effort but that was not enough to find the Sheikh Russel net. On the 58th minute, Arup Kumar Baidya provided a nice low-cross from the left but Kester Akon failed to connect despite staying in a good position to score.

Sheikh Russel opened up the Sheikh Jamal backline again in the 75th minute but substitute Sumon, despite getting the better of goalkeeper Ashim, failed to keep his shot on target. Sheikh Russel goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee then blocked a fierce grounder from Kester Akon four minutes from time to keep the scoreline 0-0.

"It was a wasteful match," said Sheikh Russel coach Maruful Haque. "May be the players are have started to relax as the season closes in and looking for new clubs."

"The players showed no urgency to win the game and it almost seemed as if they would be relieved as soon as the game ends. It is a typical mentality of our players," rued Sheikh Jamal coach Abu Yousuf.

Abahani upstage archrivals

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game with Alim Billal striking twice and Mohammad Mudassar netting the other for the men in yellow. Mohammedan's four foreigners were comparatively off colour, leaving them to rely on local penalty corner specialist Mamunur Rahman Chayan for two of their goals and winger Sheikh Mohammad Nannu for the other. Abahani goalkeeper Zahid Hassan was in sparkling form as he thwarted numerous attempts from the Mohammedan strikers to keep his side in the match before making the match-winning save.

Any Mohammedan versus Abahani match, especially in hockey, cannot end without some incidents and there were some in the second half. Mohammedan had cancelled Abahani's early lead late in the first half as tempers started to flare at both ends. Five minutes after the breather, Abahani defender Yeamin Hossain's stick appeared to brush across Russel Mahmud Jimmy's face and the Mohammedan forward fell to the ground and started writhing in agony, as if he had been charged by baton. Supporters showed their solidarity by throwing pieces of plastic chairs on to the ground. Play was halted for several minutes.

Payment in two days

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Certificates (NOC) to several cricketers like VVS Laxman and former captains Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly.

While the BPL is getting its act together internationally, the franchises also confirmed that 70 per cent of the local players' payment has been made while the rest will be completed in seven to ten days. Nonetheless, the BPL officials are themselves yet to identify exactly how much is owed to the locals.

While a few among the Bangladesh cricketers complained, there has been plenty of noise from the foreign cricketers about the non-payments. A source however said that top cricketers have created problems by not communicating properly, with one giving wrong account information to Khulna Royal Bengals. The same franchise also complained of being allegedly abused by another cricketer when they tried to contact him about the payment. There were also issues with injured players who nevertheless turned up for the event in February.

"We are convinced that only a negligible amount remains unpaid and the delay is mostly down to technical issues," BCB chief Kamal told reporters later. "The foreign cricketers' non-payment claim has been grossly exaggerated and in certain cases miscommunication and lack of coordination between players and agents have contributed to the rumours."

But Kamal insisted that as has happened for several decades, foreign cricketers will continue to be gainfully employed in the country.

Another similar incident followed soon; this time the roles were reversed. Mohammedan defender Kamruzzaman Rana's stick had barely touched Abahani midfielder Moshir Rahman's feet before he started rolling all over the turf. The crowd's reaction was similar to the prior incident.

Abahani coach Mahbub Harun believed it was a victory of tactics over his counterpart Gerhard Peter Rach.

"They kept playing all out attack with all their forwards playing at forward positions, while we only used two of the attackers and used the three Pakistanis, who are basically forwards in midfield position, as part of a counter attacking approach. In the end, the strategy was vindicated."

Rach attributed the missed chances for the defeat. "Our strikers missed numerous opportunities and had to pay for that. They had no heart and seemed to have iron in their legs. This defeat will serve us as an evaluation opportunity for the future."

Harun's side will meet Usha KC in the final today, who thrashed Sonali Bank 9-2 in the other semifinal yesterday. The final will start at 3:00pm at the same venue.

ICC questions Bollywood actress

AFP, New Delhi

A little-known Bollywood actress who was linked to cricket match-fixing allegations by Britain's Sunday Times has said she was quizzed for two-and-a-half hours by the sport's governing body.

Nupur Mehta, who has denied any wrongdoing, told Tuesday's Times of India that she met with Alan Peacock, an official from the International Cricket Council's Anti-Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU), at a Mumbai hotel.

The Sunday Times in March said Indian bookmakers had hired an unidentified Bollywood actress to lure cricketers into both match-fixing and spot-fixing, and used Mehta's photograph to illustrate the story.

BCA, PCCA coast to wins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Brothers Cricket Academy (BCA) and Port City Cricket Academy (PCCA) secured comfortable victories in their respective matches in the 'CJKS-Urban American Under-18 T-20 Cricket Tournament' at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Monirul claimed four wickets for 13 runs as Brothers posted a six-wicket victory over SS Cricket Academy in the first match. Fazlur also chipped in with three for 13 as SS Academy were bundled out for 89 runs in 20 overs.

Tawsif scored the team-highest 41 runs.

In reply, Brothers reached the target in 16.1 overs for the loss of four wickets. Fokruddin hit 40 off 30 balls, featuring three boundaries and two sixes. Al Amin added 18. Akram took two wickets for 13 runs for SS Cricket Academy.

Monirul was adjudged man-of-the-match. In the second match, a brilliant all-round performance from Rana Hossain helped Port City Cricket Academy beat Independent Cricket Academy by 54 runs.

Rana Hossain made 56 off 54 balls with three boundaries as Port City Cricket Academy scored 142 runs for nine. Shahrukh added 20 runs.

In reply, Independent Academy were bundled out for 88 in 19.3 overs. Rana captured four wickets for 12 runs while Towsif and Rabbi took two wickets each for 16 and 21 runs respectively.

Rana Hossain was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan will come to the port city tomorrow to inspire the players.

Lanka rest Herath

3rd ODI against Pakistan today



CRICINFO, Colombo

Sri Lanka left-arm spinner Rangana Herath has been rested for the remaining three ODIs against Pakistan following a knee operation after the home series against England in March. The national selectors have picked the uncapped left-arm spinner Sajeewa Weerakoon as his replacement.

Herath played the first two ODIs in Pallekele, bowling six overs in the first and his full quota in the second. He picked up one wicket but kept his economy rate under four an over in both games. However, keeping in mind his expected heavy workload in the Tests as the lead spinner, the team management has decided to let him recuperate till the Test series which begins in Galle on June 22.

"We had decided that he would play only two to three games in this series because it's always tough to return after an operation," Mahela Jayawardene, the Sri Lanka captain, said on the eve of Wednesday's third ODI in Colombo. "He felt it sore in the first two games. If you noticed while fielding he was

struggling a bit. After speaking to the selectors and the medical team we felt it was best he got some rest before the Test series. We needed to make sure we manage him well after his operation."

Herath was earlier rested for the Asia Cup in Bangladesh and was not part of the IPL.

Weerakoon, 34, has been on the fringes of national selection for a few years. He was the third-highest wicket-taker in the first-class 2011-12 Tier A competition with 42 wickets for Colts Cricket Club. In 2005, the consistency Weerakoon showed for the A team pushed the selectors to include him in the senior squad for three Tests against India in place of Herath, but he didn't break into the playing XI.

Jayawardene said Weerakoon's experience in the domestic circuit -- he has 693 first-class wickets -- should serve him well. "Personally I feel he is a deserving candidate and hopefully he will get his opportunity tomorrow," Jayawardene said. "He has been in the shadows of Murali, Malinga Bandara, Herath and Ajantha Mendis for quite some time. He is a fighter. He has a lot of experience in club cricket and the A team."

Strauss asks to wait until Proteas series



AFP, Birmingham

England captain Andrew Strauss has predicted the team will see the benefits of their controversial rotation policy when they put their number one Test ranking on the line against South Africa.

Strike bowlers James Anderson and Stuart Broad were rested from the side that drew a rain-ruined third Test against the West Indies at Edgbaston here on Monday, with Anderson omitted from the squad after England had taken an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

That led to criticisms that England, who have traditionally prized the five-day game above all other formats, were devaluing Test cricket.

And when Tino Best set about stand-in seamers Graham Onions and Steven Finn while making 95, the highest ever score by a No 11 batsman in Test history, there were plenty of pundits saying England had got what they deserved by not playing their strongest team.

However, with a packed schedule ahead of them, England coach Andy Flower has repeatedly insisted it was right to rest Anderson and Broad from this Test ahead of the seemingly sterner challenges set to be posed when South Africa visit for a three-match series starting in July.

"One of the things about missing a couple of your senior players is it makes you realise what role they do play in the side as well as allowing you to see what role the other guys could play in the side," said Strauss, named England's man-of-the-series for a hundred in each of the first two Tests.

"I think the picture is a lot clearer now, having seen that," he added after Onions had taken four for 88 and Finn three for 111 in West Indies' 426.

"In a way, although we didn't play brilliantly, I am very comfortable we made that decision, because it will serve us well come the South Africa series."

"As I've said, Onions and Finn both showed that they are definitely Test quality bowlers and they offer a lot in a number of areas."

England dropped several catches, with Ian Bell dropping two in the third slip position Anderson had made his own when he isn't bowling himself.

"The catching side was disappointing," said Strauss. "But I don't think you could say that was because Jimmy wasn't there because often he is bowling. That's something we need to get better at."

However, Strauss was happy to have wrapped up another series success, following five-wicket and nine-wicket victories at Lord's and Trent Bridge respectively, even if this draw meant the end of seamer Tim Bresnan's previously perfect career record of 13 Test wins.

"The West Indies have got some dangerous players there and we were able to overcome that challenge," Strauss said.

"It wasn't a perfect performance by us...you don't want to be in a situation where No 11 gets 95 all that often!"

England and the West Indies now contest a one-day series before England face Australia in a separate limited overs campaign.

But none of those matches will feature Strauss, who quit white ball international cricket after last year's World Cup.

"I'm going to take a little bit of a break but I'm going to keep batting all the way through," said Strauss, who will be looking to blunt a powerful Proteas pace attack featuring Dale Steyn, Morne Morkel and Vernon Philander.

Aminul asked

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manager Anwarul Karim Helal yesterday.

The management also decided not to field him in the rest of the ongoing league. Aminul was also not in the list for yesterday's match against Sheikh Russel KC.

When Aminul was contacted, the former national goalkeeper said he had already replied to the show-cause notice terming the incident a mistake.

Aminul was substituted by Ashim Kumar Das in that match which Sheikh Jamal lost 3-0.

Tigers off

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who took charge of the Tigers for two years.

Bangladesh will start their campaign in the tri-nation tournament by taking on Zimbabwe Select on June 15. The Tigers will face Zimbabwe on June 17 and June 21, South Africa on June 19 and June 22 at the Harare Sports Club. The final is slated for June 24 at the same venue.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Paddock parents
 - 6 Two-timer
 - 9 Illustrations
 - 12 Tolerate
 - 13 "The — Daba Honey-moon"
 - 14 Fresh
 - 15 Earth tone
 - 16 "Halo" singer
 - 18 Beast
 - 20 TV remote button
 - 21 Have
 - 23 Enthusiast
 - 24 Dud
 - 25 Indian royal
 - 27 Ship of the desert
 - 29 "The God-father" star
 - 31 Christmas carol starter
 - 35 Singer Shore
 - 37 Therefore
 - 38 Eagle's nest
 - 41 Toothpaste type
- DOWN**
- 1 Long March leader
 - 2 Easy as —
 - 3 "Take a Bow" singer
 - 4 First place
 - 5 Letter line
 - 6 Poolside structure
 - 7 Explorer Tasman
 - 8 Desk-calendar
 - 9 Per — (yearly)
 - 10 Right-hand page
 - 11 Seventh-grader, usually
 - 17 Brunch entree
 - 19 Georgia city
 - 21 Sphere
 - 22 Series of skirmishes
 - 24 Started
 - 26 Rainbow component
 - 28 "Real Time With Bill —"
 - 30 Gaming cube
 - 32 "Hips Don't Lie" singer
 - 33 Belly (Sl.)
 - 34 Mind-reader's claim
 - 36 Shocked
 - 38 Madison Avenue employee
 - 39 Lyric poet's Muse
 - 40 Less courteous
 - 42 Cuba — (cocktail)
 - 45 Child's play
 - 46 Yule refrain
 - 48 Cagers' org.
 - 50 Perched
 - 51 Away from

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Q I Z T K E F O E F E A C P A H P B , Z A P
S Z T I B U A A Z T A S P " H O P K P ' F
U A P G F P K E Q E A H Z G A . "

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE I JAMMED MY ELBOW INSIDE THAT DISPLAY CABINET, WOULD PEOPLE SAY I CASED THE JOINT?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals I