

Neo, Shatabdi get easy wins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Neo Cricket Academy and Shatabdi Goshti Cricket Academy secured comfortable victories in their respective matches in the CJKS-Urban American Under-18 T-20 cricket tournament at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

In the day's first match, Neo (80-1 in 16.2 overs) easily defeated Chittagong Kings (79 all out in 20 overs) by nine wickets.

For Neo, man-of-the-match Rasif made the most damage taking four wickets for 14 runs. With the bat in hand, Mashrur top scored with 27 for the winning side.

In the second match at the same venue, a brilliant half-century by Pear Mohammad helps Shatabdi Goshti beat Chittagong Cricket Academy by six wickets. Batting first, CCA scored 125-9 in 20 overs with Imran making 43 runs.

In reply, Shatabdi reached the target in 17.5 overs for the loss of four wickets. Man-of-the-match Pear scored 60 in 43 balls which featured six boundaries while Sagar added 33 in 31 balls with four boundaries.

Nat'l school football

SPORTS REPORTER

Isdair Rabeya Hossain High School, Dhaka Residential Model High School, Patuakhali Govt. Jubilee High School and Chittagong Katirhat High School won their respective matches in the National School Islami Bank Football Tournament at different venues yesterday.

Isdair Rabeya Hossain High School of Narayanganj defeated Fasila Ul Ulum Darul Madrasa of Sherpur 2-0 while Dhaka Residential Model High School beat Sylhet Mandol Chandni Nishikani High School 1-0 at the Birsreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

At the same venue, Chittagong Katirhat High School blanked Jessor Municipal Preparatory School 30 while Patuakhali Govt. Jubilee High School outplayed Ghatbali Shaheed Zia High School 5-0 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Early exit for Roddick
AFP, London

Four-time champion Andy Roddick crashed out of the Wimbledon warm-up event at Queen's Club on Wednesday as France's Edouard Roger-Vasselin clinched a shock 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 victory over the seventh seed.

Usha end

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his compatriot's feat just two minutes later.

Riding on momentum, Usha got the decisive penalty corner after Abahani's defender Yeamin pushed Imran in the forbidden zone and Ehsan Ullah stepped up to convert it smartly in the 55th minute.

"The players were a bit nervous at the start. May be they were thinking about my presence in the dugout. But they stuck to the plan in the second half and I'm very happy with their performance," said the former star Pakistani player Tahir Zaman, who took charge of Usha as coach the day before the final.

Tahir also said it was a good game between the two sides but Abahani could not cope with their pace in the last 20 minutes.

Soccer Group

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Kabir said they had a meeting with the BFF officials at the BFF House on Tuesday, and were looking forward to another meeting. He said that the project that they are offering will have to be a private one with the participation of government.



Brothers Union forward Joshua Olalekin runs off in celebration after scoring the only goal in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League match against Farashganj at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Brothers finally back with a win

SPORTS REPORTER



Brothers Union returned to winning ways after four straight defeats in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier Football League with a single-goal win over Farashganj SC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nigerian forward Joshua Olalekin separated both the sides striking his fifth goal in the league on 15 minutes and took Brothers Union to seventh place from ninth with 18 points from 17 matches. Farashganj SC on the other hand, slipped to eighth place from the seventh having 17 points from same number of outings.

Brothers, who have been struggling in the second leg conceding four straight defeats, yesterday looked desperate to end the losing

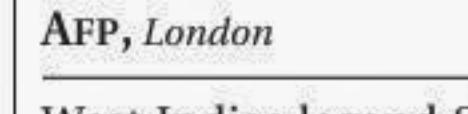
streak and played better against Farashganj SC, who have momentum after beating title contenders Muktijoddha Sangsad and holders Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club before holding Mohammedan.

Brothers went ahead capitalizing on the first opportunity they created on 15 minutes as Joshua shot home inside the box after a Saikat push came his way. Farashganj found the equalizer on the half-hour mark but it was ruled out due to off-side.

Farashganj SC without their regular striker Siyo Zunapio tried hard but they could hardly break the backline of Brothers though they yielded two good chances in the second half.

Substitute Akbar Hossain Ridon shot wide inside the danger zone eight minute into the second half while Teajieu Metenou Alban headed wide in the 67th minute.

Viv foresees Eng reign



APP, London

West Indies legend Sir Vivian Richards said Tuesday he expects Andrew Strauss's England to dominate Test cricket over the next few years.

England took over the top of the Test rankings for the first time last summer, displacing India with a 4-0 series whitewash after an Ashes series win in Australia.

And Richards, 60, who played a starring role in the all-conquering Windies team that did not lose a Test series between 1980 and 1995, feels Strauss's men can enjoy a long stay at the top.

"England are well led by Andrew Strauss and this is a team that has the potential to create a legacy," he told BBC Sport.

"They have done their homework and found a solid wicket-taking bowling unit

which is of vital importance at this level."

Richards, who scored 8,540 runs in 121 Tests, warned though that England's iconic status hinged on their ability to win away.

England were beaten 3-0 by Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates earlier this year and, after drawing 1-1 in Sri Lanka, face a tough trip to India at the end of the year.

"It is up to the individuals, but in order to become legendary and great you must be able to win in all conditions," he said.

"It is not just getting it done at home, it is going to places like India and Pakistan and getting a result."

"You don't necessarily have to win, drawing a series can be a good result. It's like football where away from home, a point is just as vital."

"Not losing, scrapping, this is what great teams do and England have a unit assembled to accomplish that."

Portugal snatch a thriller

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make it five successive games with the Portuguese that he has found the net.

Ronaldo, though, should have restored the two goal advantage soon after the start of the second-half as put clear he was one on one with Danish 'keeper Stephan Andersen, but the latter blocked his shot with his legs.

The Danes still found plenty of fight with Kvist going close with a rasping shot.

Bendtner was in lively form and worked himself some space in the 72nd minute to set himself up nicely but he sent his shot well wide of the goal.

Ronaldo's woes in front of goal contin-

ued as Nani's superb through ball found him in acres of space and from about eight yards out and with just Andersen to beat he put it wide -- provoking jeers and whistles in the stands.

That miss looked to have been extremely costly as Bendtner rose superbly to head home Lars Jacobsen's excellent cross from the right.

However, the drama was not over as Fabio Coentrao hared down the left flank and crossed into the box. Varela swung at the ball with his left foot and miskicked but showing remarkable composure connected with his favoured right foot and lashed home.

U-22s off to Nepal for Asia Cup

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Bangladesh Premier League, being allowed to turn up for their respective clubs a day before a league game.

"We didn't get enough time to be prepared due to the ongoing professional football league but one positive thing is that all of the players were in action in the league," said Jilani.

He also informed that most players of his possible playing eleven have been playing in the starting eleven for their respective clubs in the league and that made him confident that the U-22 side can give a good account of themselves in the AFC tournament.

Jilani believes the creative members of the midfield is his main strength in the team but he is much concerned about his backline and goalkeeper.

"Goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel is the first choice as he was brilliant under the Abahani post in the league but sometime he makes unforgettable mistake that is enough to sink a side. Despite that I bank on him," said Jilani. "Apart from the strikers, the midfielders have the ability to score; I am not worried about scorers."

Jilani plans to field Sohel Rana, Emon Babu, Shahedul Alam-1/Shahedul Alam-2 in the midfield keeping Jamal Hossain/Shariful Islam left-wing and Touhidul Alam/Sohel Rana on the right flank. Wahed Ahmed may pair with Shakawat Hossain Rony/ Sohel Rana up front.

Raihan Hasan, Uttam Kumar Banik, Shawkat Russel/Mamun Mia and Yeamin Munna will defend the backline.

SQUAD

Shahidul Alam Sohel, Shahedul Alam Shahed-1, Shawkhalt Hossain Rony, Touhidul Alam, Yeasin Khan, Sohel Rana-1, Shariful Islam, Wahed Ahmed, Mamun Mia, Saidul Haque, Shawkat Russel, Raihan Hasan, Sohel Rana-2, Sohel Rana-3, Sabuj Das Raghu, Jamal Hossain, Rafi Rahman, Yeamin Ahmed Munna, Uttam Kumar Banik, Emon Mahmud Babu and Shahedul Alam-2.

FIXTURES

June 16 Bangladesh vs Nepal

June 18 Bangladesh vs Uzbekistan

June 22 Bangladesh vs Jordan

June 24 Bangladesh vs Yemen

Di Matteo gets 2-year Chelsea deal

APP, London

Chelsea on Wednesday appointed Roberto Di Matteo as their permanent manager and first-team coach on a two-year contract.

Di Matteo, 42, who took over from Andreas Villas-Boas in March on an interim basis, led Chelsea to the Champions League title last season.

"Roberto's quality was clear for all to see when he galvanised the squad last season and helped the club make history, and the owner and board are very pleased he will be continuing his good work," said Chelsea chief executive Ron Gourlay.

Third ODI abandoned

APP, Colombo

The third one-day international between Sri Lanka and Pakistan was abandoned due to rain in Colombo on Wednesday.

Pakistan were 12-2 off 6.2 overs after electing to bat when play was called off, with Asad Shafiq unbeaten on five and skipper Misbahul Haq yet to open his account.

Paceman Lasith Malinga and Nuwan Kulasekara each bagged one wicket for Sri Lanka.

The five-match series is currently tied 1-1, with Pakistan winning the opening one-dayer by six wickets and Sri Lanka winning the second game by 76 runs in Pallekele.

The fourth one-dayer will be played in Colombo on Saturday.

Rafa's €300k stolen watch recovered

APP, Paris

Paris police have recovered a 300,000-euro watch stolen from Rafael Nadal at the hotel where he stayed during the French Open and arrested a hotel employee, a police source said Wednesday.

The source said police tracked down the presumed thief, a hotel barman, on Tuesday after tracing his hotel access badge, which was used to access the room in which Nadal stayed with his parents during the championship.

He confessed to having entered Nadal's room and taken the luxury watch, and brought police to the spot where he had hidden it along a railway track near his home in the Essonne area south of Paris, the source said.

French media reported that luxury watchmaker Richard Mille had lent Nadal the watch for the French Open, which the Spanish tennis sensation won for a record seventh time Monday, beating Serbia's Novak Djokovic.

"The consequence of that [an IPL window] is what do we do with the Big Bash League?" Lorgat said. "What do we do with other premier leagues -- Sri Lanka is launching one, Bangladesh has one. I know people might say the IPL is the premier league, but once you provide a window for one particular member, you have to be conscious of the fact you may well have to do it for other members. Hence why we have not been supportive of a window specifically for any one of those domestic leagues."

Although an official IPL window is not on the agenda of cricket's administrators, each country's board would bear the tournament in mind when scheduling bilateral tours. That is certainly the case for New Zealand, whose board and players' association have an agreement to avoid scheduling international series that would clash with the IPL.

But such a conflict was inescapable next year, with New Zealand due to visit England for a Test tour in a year that also features an Ashes series in England. As a result, the New Zealand players could miss the warm-up matches ahead of the Test series. James Sutherland, the Cricket Australia chief executive, said national boards were doing what they could to allow their players to take part in the IPL but occasional clashes were unavoidable.

"I think there's a notional window already for the IPL," Sutherland said. "I think it exists. There's an inevitability around some overlap and countries are working around that to the best of their ability. There are challenges ultimately, it's been raised with clashes from time

SA unchanged for Eng



REUTERS, Johannesburg

South Africa have kept faith with a winning formula by naming an unchanged squad for the three-Test series in England starting next month, Cricket South Africa (CSA) announced on Wednesday.

The 15-man squad is identical to the touring side that beat New Zealand 1-0 in a three-Test series in March.

The Proteas are currently ranked number two in the world behind England and convenor of selectors Andrew Hudson believes consistency and depth of squad have been the key ingredients to the team's success.

"The players fully deserve a vote of confidence after the outstanding manner in which they outplayed New Zealand away from home," Hudson said in a statement.

"Consistency has also been one of the key pillars of our selection policy and this is also contributing to our success on the field. We are now building up excellent depth in both

DHAKA THURSDAY

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the batting and bowling departments."

Opening batsman Graeme Smith will again captain the side after recovering from ankle surgery.

"Graeme has been outstanding both as our leading run scorer and as captain during our last two Test tours of England and I have every confidence he will continue that form," Hudson added.

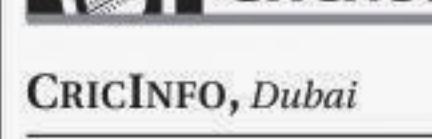
The South Africa squad boasts a formidable pace attack spearheaded by the world's top-ranked Test bowler Dale Steyn, backed up by Vernon Philander, who has taken 51 wickets in just seven Tests, and Morne Morkel.

The Test series begins at the Oval on July 19 before moving to Headingley in Leeds on August 2. The series concludes with the final Test at Lord's starting on August 16.

TEST SQUAD

Graeme Smith (captain), Hashim Amla, Mark Boucher, Marchant de Lange, AB de Villiers, JP Duminy, Imran Tahir, Jacques Kallis, Morne Morkel, Alviro Petersen, Robin Peterson, Vernon Philander, Jacques Rudolph, Dale Steyn, Lonwabo Tsotsobe.

IPL not ICC's cup of tea



CRICINFO, Dubai

to time. But I think there's a notional window that most countries are working with and around, in order to allow their players the opportunity to play in IPL.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for cricketers to play in that competition. It's a huge competition and obviously it's very lucrative. It's hard to really stand in the way of that, particularly for countries that are less fortunate than ourselves, perhaps not generating the same amount of money as we are and perhaps not being able to pay their players as much as we are able to here in Australia."