

Independence Day Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

National-star studded Players Fashion came from behind to draw 3-3 against Bangladesh Air Force in the Walton Independence Day Hockey Tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. Mamun put Bangladesh Air Force ahead in the 12th minute before Sheikh Mohammad Nannu levelled the margin for the Players Fashion. Shamim restored the lead for Air Force and it was again Nannu, who equalised the margin. Mukid then restored the lead for Air Force again but Rubel rescued the Payers Fashion at the late stage.

In the day's other match, Bangladesh Police defeated Bangladesh Navy 5-4, with Irfan, Afsar Ali and Sarwar scoring one goal each and Mimo striking twice. Krishna Kumar struck three goals while Shihab netted one for Navy, but could not save Navy from defeat against Bangladesh Police, who hired some national players for the tournament.

Farashganj held

SPORTS REPORTER

League leaders Farashganj SC were held to a 1-1 draw by bottom-side Wari Club in the Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League, which resumed yesterday at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium after a one-month break due to Independence Cup Football Tournament.

Wari went ahead through a 15-minute strike from Mahbubur Rahman Titu before Shafiqur Rahman Shafiq restored parity in the 75th minute for Farashganj, who still lead the table with 11 points from five matches. Wari, despite earning a valuable point, stayed at bottom the pit with two points from five matches.

Mangongo

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coach position that also includes former Zimbabwe international Andy Waller.

Zimbabwe were in the Test cricket wilderness between 2005 and 2011 after a self-imposed exile as they battled with the poor performance of the team and an overhaul by the government of the Zimbabwe Cricket Board. They returned in August 2011 with a 130-run victory over Bangladesh in Harare, but have since lost five Tests in a row to Pakistan, New Zealand (two) and West Indies (two).

Nasir

FROM PAGE 16
out of the tour of Sri Lanka due to injury issues. Nazmul Hossain, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Naeem Islam, Enamul Haque Jr, Shahriar Nafees, Abul Hasan, Tamim Iqbal and Shakib Al Hasan had to be excluded in the last series due to fitness issues.

Siddikur

FROM PAGE 16
Hossain Sohel and Jamal Hossain Mollah - both of whom will be looking to make an impression there. The Indian contingent will include Anirban Lahiri -- inaugural year's winner and Digvijay Singh -- last year's winner along with Jeev Milkha Singh, Gaganjeet Bhullar among the Indians.



Tevez avoids jail

Football

AFP, Macclesfield

Manchester City striker Carlos Tevez avoided jail but was sentenced to perform 250 hours of community service after pleading guilty Wednesday to two motor-offences.

The Argentine forward was also handed a six-month driving ban and ordered to pay £1,145 (\$1,735, 1,350 euros) in fines and court costs at Macclesfield Magistrates' Court, near Manchester in northwest England.

He must do his community service within the next 12 months and his driving ban starts immediately.

Speaking in Spanish, the 29-year-old pleaded guilty through an interpreter to one count each of driving while disqualified and driving without insurance.

Passing sentence, Elizabeth Depares told the star: "Mr Tevez, you must realise you are a role model to thousands, if not millions, of fans but nobody is above the law. You should not have been driving.

"We have heard that you are sorry and it is now up to you to ensure you will not be brought back to court again."

The Argentinian received a six-month driving ban at Manchester Magistrates' Court in January after admitting failing to reply to police letters about who was driving a vehicle of his that was caught speeding.

He claimed he did not respond as he

did not recognise the word "constabulary".

He was stopped at the wheel as he left a golf club on March 7, following an anonymous tip-off to the police.

The court heard he told the officer who stopped him: "I only live down the road. Two minutes."

After speaking to Tevez in private following his plea, Probation Service officer Mike Boliver told the court Tevez had no previous convictions so rehabilitation was not appropriate and neither was a curfew order due to the travel involved with his job.

"I think the likelihood of this happening again is very, very slim," he added.

"Mr Tevez would welcome a chance to put something back into the community. Clearly, he is fit for unpaid work."

The footballer's lawyer Gwyn Lewis added: "This is, of course, all completely alien to him and very frightening."

He said Tevez now intended to become a legitimate driver in Britain.

The striker did not comment as he left court.

Tevez has been in hot form for Manchester City of late, scoring seven goals in his last six appearances for the English Premier League champions.

The former Corinthians, West Ham and Manchester United striker has scored 16 goals in 37 matches for City so far this season, but his club look almost certain to lose their Premier League title to United.

Ryder is home

Cricket

AGENCIES, Christchurch

New Zealand batsman Jesse Ryder has left Christchurch Hospital and returned to his hometown Wellington on Wednesday, a day before his alleged attackers appear in a Christchurch court.

"He was discharged earlier this afternoon and flew back to Wellington this evening," Ryder's manager Aaron Klee told ESPNcricinfo. "He's at home now and resting -- he's really exhausted, but happy to be home."

Ryder was attacked twice in the space of a few minutes outside a Christchurch restaurant on March 27, and suffered heavy blows to the head and chest that left him with a skull fracture and a collapsed lung. He was hospitalised in intensive care and came out of his induced coma on March 30, when he began talking again and breathing without the assistance of the ventilator. He was moved out of the intensive care unit a day later.

Siam wins

SPORTS REPORTER

National junior champion Ikramul Haq Siam returned to winning ways in the Asian Junior Under-20 Chess Championship after beating Abdul Abdulwahab of United Arab Emirates in the fifth round held in Sharjah, UAE on Tuesday.

Siam now has three points from five matches. Indian International Master Narayanan Srinath leads the table with 4.5 points, said a press release yesterday.

Siam had lost in two consecutive rounds after winning the first two rounds of the competition.

Team ethic breeds Russel

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The lad from Chittagong teamed up with Moroccan Tareq El Janabi to turn into the diving force of Sheikh Russel's midfield but he did not want to highlight himself.

"Football is a game of 11 players. I could not perform if others did not help me. But one thing I always try to put up my best in the game," said the captain of the national football team, who fed striker Zahid Hasan Emily to notch the winning goal against Sheikh Jamal in Tuesday's final.

Mamun, however, praised coach Maruful Haque for his understanding of the players and termed him as a great motivator.

"The coach is an important factor to get success and I will say he is a great motivator," said Mamun. "I am a short-tempered person and have been suffering from a family problem recently but he read me well during the practice session and solved the matter to get maximum service from me."

Despite hitting the heights by claiming two successive titles, Sheikh Russel KC kept their foot firmly on the ground by turning up for a training session, just 17 hours after the triumph.

Sheikh Russel celebrated their Independence Cup triumph for a short time on Tuesday night at the club tent situated besides Hosni Dalan in the capital's Chankharpu. The squad then congregated to watch the Champions League match between Barcelona and PSG.

Sheikh Russel is likely to resume their campaign of the Bangladesh Premier League against dark-horse Brothers Union on Saturday. Sheikh Russel are in the second position with 26 points from 12 matches, just two points behind leaders Abahani, with a game in hand. Apart from the tie against Brothers Union, Sheikh Russel have to face title aspirant Sheikh Jamal DC and relegation-threatened Arambagh KS and Feni Soccer Club.

Ex-Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 16

during playing. He was then taken to Narayanganj Heart Foundation Hospital where attending doctors declared him dead.

Mridul was a hard-hitting batsman and played for different Dhaka Premier League clubs. He was married and left behind a one-year-old daughter.

Stars expected

FFROM PAGE 16

their places. "I think the biggest positive for us is that the team is playing well together. Many of them have taken the opportunity and are in form right now. We need to improve our bowling, but at the moment I think we can compete against any team in the world," said Akram.

"Going by the weather and the wicket in Zimbabwe, it's going to be a difficult tour, but I believe that they will play well there," he added.

Mangongo new Zim coach

REUTERS, Cape Town

Stephen Mangongo will coach Zimbabwe in their home series against Bangladesh this month and has promised sweeping changes from the side who lost in West Indies.

Mangongo was assistant coach to Englishman Alan Butcher on the tour of the Caribbean and has now been handed the reins in a caretaker capacity until a permanent appointment is made, Zimbabwe Cricket communications manager Lovemore Banda told Reuters on Tuesday.

"Following interviews for the national coaching post which fell vacant on the first of this month, the Zimbabwe Cricket board is still considering the report from the technical staff appraisal committee, and will make an announcement when it has completed that process," Banda said.

Zimbabwe will play two Tests, three one-day internationals and two Twenty20 matches against the Bangladeshis starting with the first Test in Harare on April 17.

Dutch duo to revisit Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national football team's Dutch coaches Lodewijk De Kruijff and Rene Koster are expected to visit Dhaka on Monday to reassess the facilities the Bangladesh Football Federation will provide them during their two-year stay here.

The Dutch duo is supposed to be accompanied by their wives during their week-long visit when they will witness the facilities. The Dutch duo will stay in Dhaka with their families during their two-year contract with the game's governing body, even though the final contract has not been signed yet. Kruijff, who already guided Bangladesh in AFC Challenge Cup Qualifiers, is supposed to be head coach of the national team while Koster will be his deputy apart from his additional duty of being the head coach of BFF Academy in Sylhet.

CA presses panic button

Cricket

CRICINFO, Sydney

So worried are Australia's selectors by the lack of batting quality available to them for this year's dual Ashes assignments that the seasoned duo of Chris Rogers and Adam Voges are being seriously considered for Test squad duty.

National selector John Inverarity mentioned both Rogers, 35, and Voges, 33, as possible Ashes tourists while speaking at some length about Australia's widespread batting problems as he announced the list of centrally contracted players for 2013-14. Only six specialist batsmen were granted contracts among the 20 players chosen, leaving Inverarity's panel plenty of scope to choose batsmen from outside the list when they name an Ashes squad of 17.

Rogers and Voges both have the advantage of considerable batting experience in England, the former an especially prolific performer during northern summers. Rogers, who played his only Test match in 2008, has compiled 9,230 first-class runs at an average of 53.97 in England with 28 centuries, the vast majority made at the top of the order against the moving ball.

Voges's record is not quite as imposing, but his 2,736 runs at 45.60 with four centuries for Nottinghamshire have added lustre when it is considered that the club's home ground, Trent Bridge, is where the first Test of the Ashes series will be played. Never chosen in a Test XI, Voges made a composed ODI century at the MCG earlier this year.

Inverarity said Rogers "has been and will be in discussions", and mentioned Voges alongside Usman Khawaja, Steve

Smith and Alex Doolan as other batting contenders among the group who did not receive a central contract. Overall, however, Inverarity maintained a disappointed if not quite bewildered tone at the problems of Australian batting, exposed as they were by a series of horrid displays in India.

"We do not have the batting depth in Australian cricket now that we enjoyed 15 years ago. We just don't. That's something that cricket in Australia really needs to address and we need to get more batsmen making runs prolifically," Inverarity said. "We thirst for players who do really well across all formats."

"That's a concern for Australian cricket, as we've said consistently in recent times. We are looking for consistent, prolific run-scorers in all forms of cricket. Those players to whom it doesn't matter whether it's white ball, red ball, Twenty20, whatever it is, they go out and they churn out the runs."

"There has been an absence of that in recent years in club cricket, domestic interstate cricket, and international cricket, and that needs to be a real focus of coaching and development in Australia. It's just got to be done, it needs to be done. That involves technique but mindset as well. That's what we need."

Australia's increasingly jumbled schedule of different formats both at junior and domestic levels has been a major bother for the selectors. Australia's limited-overs captain George Bailey made only one first-class half-century all summer, a famine largely attributable to a season in which he jumped ceaselessly from first-class to one-day to T20 and back again.

Serena sets foot on clay

Tennis

AFP, Charleston

World number one Serena Williams served nine aces Tuesday during her first match this season on clay, beating Italy's Camila Giorgi 6-2, 6-3 at the 795,000-dollar WTA Family Circle Cup.

Williams did not commit a double fault but took full advantage of 12 by her 85th-ranked rival to win after 82 minutes in her first match since capturing the WTA Miami crown last Saturday by beating Maria Sharapova in the final.

"It wasn't great for me -- I played well, but I wasn't great, footing-wise," Williams said of the switch from the hard courts of Miami to the clay courts of Charleston.

Next in the path of Williams, who was

among eight top seeds to receive a first-round bye, is a third-round match against either Germany's 15th-seeded Sabine Lisicki or US qualifier Mallory Burdette.

Others reaching the third round included Swiss Stefanie Voegelé, who ousted Spanish seventh seed Carla Suarez Navarro 6-2, 6-4, and Romanian 11th seed Sorana Cirstea, who defeated Spain's Anabel Medina Garrigues in a walkover.

US wildcard Bethanie Mattek-Sands rebounded from a marathon first-round victory on Monday to topple fourth-seeded compatriot Sloane Stephens 6-2, 6-0 and reach the third round.

Among first-round winners were Britain's Laura Robson, who dismissed Spain's Estrella Cabeza Candela 6-2, 6-2, and New Zealand's Marina Erakovic, who eliminated Slovakian Daniela Hantuchova 7-6 (7/2), 6-4.

'Younis not over yet'

Cricket

ANI, Karachi

Pakistan's chief selector Iqbal Qasim has said that veteran Younis Khan's career is not yet over, even though he has been omitted from the country's 30-man initial squad for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy to be played in England.

Younis, who has not managed to score a

century since November 2008, was left out after his lacklustre performance during the recent one-day international series in South Africa, which Pakistan lost 3-2.

Younis managed to score only 116 runs in the series, the Dawn reports.

Qasim said that Younis was not picked for the Champions Trophy squad in view of his current form, adding that that does not mean that he has been sidelined from the team forever.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lather
 - 5 Diner order, for short
 - 8 Unwanted email
 - 12 On
 - 13 Always, in verse
 - 14 Patriot Nathan
 - 15 Irrational suspicion
 - 17 Artillery
 - 18 Follow
 - 19 1984 Tom Hanks movie
 - 21 Flightless bird
 - 22 Knoll
 - 23 Energy
 - 26 North Pole staffer
 - 28 Surveys
 - 31 Leading man?
 - 33 A mere handful
 - 35 Cry
 - 36 Sweat outlets
 - 38 Sweet potato
 - 40 Meadow
 - 41 Commotions
 - 43 Actor Diesel
 - 45 Walk like a duck
 - 47 Bursts forth
 - 51 Satanic
 - 52 Pet bird, often
 - 54 Got up
 - 55 --dele
 - 56 Sea flier
 - 57 Basin accessory
 - 58 Help
 - 59 White-glove detection
 - 11 Netting
 - 16 City in Alaska
 - 20 4-Down, e.g.
 - 23 Tase
 - 24 Altar
 - 2 Western state
 - 3 Nickelodeon's "Explorer"
 - 4 Card symbol
 - 5 Grendel's slayer
 - 6 Island souvenir
 - 7 Garbage
 - 8 Not deep
 - 9 Like some lines
 - 10 Charitable donations
 - 11 Netting
 - 16 City in Alaska
 - 20 4-Down, e.g.
 - 23 Tase
 - 24 Altar
 - 2 affirmative
 - 25 Eden
 - 27 "30 Rock" cast member
 - 29 Shelter
 - 30 Hot tub
 - 32 Busy-body
 - 34 Fluctuated
 - 37 Scale member
 - 39 Actress Sorvino
 - 42 Old photo tint
 - 44 Micro-waved, slangly
 - 45 Existed
 - 46 Acknowledge
 - 48 Lima's land
 - 49 Saw-bucks
 - 50 Undo a dele
 - 53 -- Baba
- Solution time: 21 mins.**
- Yesterday's answer 2-27**

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54				55				56			
57					58				59		

CRYPTOQUIP

Q ' M U Q J V L B X Z B M N W V C
E F I Z Q M Q P V M W E Q T V Y V H Z N Q L
K Q L E H N P P F Y J Q T . Q L
K B N U M I V C X V C W E F U Q L W E Q .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I DID QUITE WELL WHEN I TOOK THE MARQUEE LETTER ARRANGEMENT TESTS. I KNOW I MADE STRAIGHT A'S.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals I