

Bengal get one back

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) U-17 bounced back in the three-match series with a three wicket win over Bangladesh U-17 at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

Batting first, the hosts were bundled out for 215 runs in 46 overs. CAB's Swarnendu Ghosh, who finished with figures of 3 for 33 was the chief destroyer. Adnan Islam top-scored with 51 for the hosts. The hosts looked good at the halfway mark when they were poised at 141 for 2. They however, suffered from a collapse in the second half of the game and lost their last eight wickets for just 74 runs.

The visitors began their reply in the worst possible fashion as they lost quick wickets and were reeling at 10 for 3 at the end of six overs. However, half centuries from Ayush Das (53), Agniv Pan (76) and Irfan Ansri (66), ensured no further hiccups as the visitors raced to their target with four overs to spare.

SCORES IN BRIEF
BD U17: 215 all out in 45.4 overs. (Adnan 51, Saif 48; Ghosh 3-33)
CAB U17: 218 for 7 in 45.4 overs. (Agniv 76, Irfan 66; Ashiquil 2-56).
Result: CAB U17 won by three wickets.

It begins today

FROM PAGE 16 widen the Games but the athletes have not been given enough time to prepare themselves. Besides, there is little chance of finding any raw talent as most of the disciplines have selected teams on the basis of last national championships.

"I think the performance of the athletes will not be bad as I have seen a lot of enthusiasm among them in the last two days," claimed veteran organiser Harunur Rashid adding that the athletes outside Dhaka had started to come in the capital.

Before the official inauguration today, some events of a number of disciplines like tennis, football, hockey, table tennis, handball and squash have already started and the first two gold medals were decided yesterday.

Nadal in Monte Carlo semis

Tennis

AFP, Monte Carlo

Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov flirted with a massive upset before Rafael Nadal managed to restore normal service as the Spaniard earned a tight 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 win in the quarterfinals of the Monte Carlo Masters on Friday.

Nadal, bidding for an unprecedented ninth straight trophy at an event which he has dominated, was given a huge fright by Dimitrov, who fell victim to leg cramp in the closing moments of a thriller lasting just over two hours.

One of the closest calls of Nadal's clay career ended as the Spaniard won his 45th straight Monte Carlo match. He lost a set here for only the third time since 2009.

Dimitrov, feeling his left thigh, managed to save a Nadal match point with a rifling winner down the line which left him doubled over in pain.

Cricketers protest DPL delay

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's domestic cricketers will stage a protest at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium today morning, with an aim to compel the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to host the country's lone 50-over domestic tournament—the Dhaka Premier League—as early as possible.

The rare protest, which is supported by the Cricketers Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB) will also address the BPL's payment problems. "There are two key issues. Firstly, we want them to start the Dhaka Premier League as soon as possible and secondly we want them to clear the remaining players' payment of the BPL," said Deboprotto Paul, member secretary of CWAB.

"It's a peaceful stance. The players are not boycotting anything, they are ready to participate in the Bangladesh Games as well, but these problems need to be addressed," he added.

The Dhaka Premier League, which was initially scheduled to kick-off in March this year, was indefinitely postponed as per the demand of the participating clubs. As most of the cricketers involved in the competition are heavily dependent on it for their livelihood, the players have decided to take to the field in order to voice their concerns.

Ctg Abahani split points with R'ganj

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong Abahani drew 0-0 against Rahamatganj MFS in their Premier bank Bangladesh Championship League match at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. Asif hossain Rimon of Rahmatganj got the marching order for two yellow cards. The win took Abahani's tally to 13 points from seven matches while Rahmatganj collected nine points from same number of matches.

Tamim's

FROM PAGE 16

six days however will be crucial depending on how much the pain reduces over the period. Some movement exercises have already been started, which should contribute to pain reduction.

Tamim injured his right thumb while fielding in the first ODI against Sri Lanka on the Tigers' recent tour of Sri Lanka. When announcing the 15-man squad for the Zimbabwe tour, it was said that Tamim will be fit for the second Test.



GAMES CORNER

HOCKEY

Defending champions Dhaka started their Bangladesh Games' hockey campaign in fashion when they handed a massive 13-1 defeat to Mymensingh at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Golam Mostafa Manik struck four goals while Rubel Hossain, Ajit Kumar and Sheikh Mohammad Nannu scored two goals each. Chandan, Iqbal Nadir and Imtiaz netted one goal each.

In the day's other matches, Rajshahi defeated Patuakhali 7-1, Bangladesh Air Force beat Joypurhat 5-1 and Satkhiria beat Bangladesh Police 2-1.

FOOTBALL

Noakhali defeated Rangpur 2-0 in the opening match of the football final round at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Imtiaz Uddin Sultan put Noakhali ahead in the first half before Omar Sharif wrapped up the victory ten minutes from time.

In the day's other match, Jhenaiah and Noagaon played out a goalless draw at the same venue.

TABLE TENNIS

Bangladesh Ansar and Dhaka moved to the final of women's doubles in table tennis after beating their respective rivals at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Gymnasium yesterday.

Ansar registered a straight 3-0 sets win over Narail while Dhaka also recorded an identical 3-0 win over Rangpur.

In the men's doubles, Ansar, Bagerhat, Chittagong and Biman Bangladesh moved to group semifinals beating Comilla, Narail, Manikganj and Feni respectively.

HANDBALL

Holders BJMC got off to a winning start in women's handball with a 34-1 win over Satkhiria at the Syed Nazrul Islam National Handball Stadium yesterday.

In the day's other matches, Ansar recorded a huge 33-6 win over Bangladesh Police, Rangamati thrashed Rangpur 17-7, Naogaon outplayed Panchagarh 17-6, Rajshahi defeated Satkhiria 23-8 and Kushtia beat Bangladesh Police 10-9.

Third seed Nadal will now have to prepare for a semi-final against confident Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who earlier advanced against Stanislas Wawrinka, winning 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Wawrinka, the 13th seed, saved four match points -- three on his own serve in the penultimate game -- before Tsonga bulldozed to victory in just over two hours on the clay.

Tsonga ended with his sixth ace in a match where he fended off 10 Wawrinka break points from 12 chances for the Swiss.

A few moments later, Nadal fired over his second ace of a dramatic afternoon to take the win.

Nadal, whose only loss here came back in 2003, produced some 36 unforced errors while the 34th-ranked Dimitrov struck 28 winners.

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