

SPORT

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CYCLING

Hiếu leads Cup as Ân wins 7th leg

HÀ NỘI — Cyclist Mai Công Hiếu of Damscos-King Hoai triumphed in the seventh leg of the HCM City Cycling Cup yesterday, while Binh Dzung Environment and Water Supply's Trần Văn Ngự: Ân brought home the yellow jersey.

Hiếu, who clocked the fastest Southeast Asian time at the Asian Cycling Championships in Thailand last September in the men's time trial individual

event, here clocked a top speed of 44.407km/h during the 52.5km long seventh leg, which covered 25 circles around the Phú Xuân Trường Tiền bridge. He completed the event in one hour, 10 minutes and 56 seconds.

Muhammad Zamani and Cao Thị's Đương Trung Hiếu finished second and third, respectively.

Although Ân was the runner

up, he took home the yellow jersey with a combined time of 18:23:42.

The Military Zone 7 team was leading the race after seven stages with a combined time of 55:16:52, followed by Dofilm and Damscos Đồng Tháp.

Today, more than 80 top cyclists from 12 local teams, along with athletes from Laos, Malaysia and China's Guangxi Prov-

ince, will continue to compete in the 110km long eighth stage, from Huế to Đà Nẵng.

The 20th annual race, the country's biggest of the year, is divided into 18 stages, covering a total distance of 2,237km.

The final leg of the race will take place in HCM City on April 30, coinciding with the Liberation Day of South Viet Nam. VNS

VOLLEYBALL

Top club Khánh Hòa succumb to Long An

HÀ NỘI — Group B's defending top champion, Saest Khánh Hòa, fell to second place against group A's Hoàng Long Long An 3-0 at the first stage of the National Top Volleyball Clubs Championship at Ninh Bình Gymnasium on Thursday.

Although Khánh Hoà had attacker Ngô Văn Kiên, who will likely go to play for Indonesia's premier club after an authorized transfer by local authorities, and a Thai player, they were still defeated 19-25, 21-25, 22-25.

On the women's side, Military Signal Corps Command-Trust Bank defeated Binh Điền

19-25.

During their last set, Long An lost their composure and again suffered a defeat, 22-25.

Thursday also saw Thanh Hoà beat Lâm Sơn Hải Dương 3-0.

The championship features two dozen men's and women's teams competing in a round robin, with two men's and women's groups.

The three top teams from both categories will progress to a second group stage, with the four top teams colliding in the semi-finals.

The first stage final is scheduled in Phú Thọ Province for

BASKETBALL

Milwaukee coach gets fired after first season

MILWAUKEE — The Milwaukee Bucks have fired Larry Krystkowiak after his first full season as an NBA head coach.

"Larry and I met this morning, and came to the decision that he would not return," new Bucks general manager John Hammond said on Thursday.

The move has been expected since Larry Harris was dismissed as general manager last month. Bucks owner and US Senator Herb Kohl hired Hammond to replace Harris, and Hammond had promised to quickly deal with the coaching situation and make it a top priority.

for the job.

Touted as a potential play off contender going into the season, the Bucks finished a dismal 26-56 and were one of the league's worst defensive teams.

Krystkowiak worked out at the Bucks' practice facility on Thursday morning, but had left the building by the time players gathered for a final team meeting.

"It's just a situation that didn't work out," guard Michael Redd said. "I'm sure he tried his best, no doubt about it. We tried our best. It just didn't work out."

NATIONAL FOCUS

Manulife sponsors VN Olympic team

Manulife Viet Nam, the official Worldwide Life Insurance Partner of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, is to sponsor the Viet Nam Olympic team to the tune of the US\$40,000.

"We hope that our sponsorship and the support of the Viet Nam Olympic Committee and the Vietnamese people will help those elite athletes scale even greater heights to fulfil their lifelong dreams and aspirations during the competition," said David Wong, CEO & general director of Manulife Viet Nam.

The CEO also pledged to award large bonuses to those who win medals at the games in August.

Futsal tourney kicks off in Hà Nội

The first Hà Nội Futsal (indoor football) Tournament will take place this weekend at the Hà Nội Trưng District's Hoàng Mai Stadium.

Some 24 amateur teams from Hà Nội and HCM City have entered the competition.

Teams will play in a round robin format, with the top teams going through to the knock-out stages. There will be three prizes up for grabs: the Bowl, Plate and Cup.

The tournament, organised by the Business Development Services Joint Stock Company and the Viet Nam Sport Promotion Company, will begin at 8pm. Entry is free.

More information is available at www.hanofutsal.com.

Hà Nội win Pencak Silat nationals

Hà Nội took three golds, two silvers and three bronzes to pocket the team title at the National Pencak Silat Championship, which concluded on Thursday in Hà Nội Dương City.

A young team from HCM City made a great impression at the event, which they were entering for the first time, by grabbing two gold medals to finish fourth.

Second place went to a team from Vinh Phúc, who won two golds, two silvers and two bronze medals. The Army team finished third with two gold and two silver medals.

VN ousted from Asian champs