

# Tough draw for Bangladesh

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh will be playing in Group F of the Asian zone qualifying competition for the 1994 World Cup, according to the draw made in New York last Sunday.



Bangladesh finds herself in an extremely difficult group along

The draw made by FIFA, the world governing body of soccer, divides the 29 Asian teams taking part in the competition into six groups who will be playing the first round of the qualifying tournament on a league basis.

Under the draw, Bangladesh finds herself in an extremely difficult group along with the United Arab Emirates who played in the finals in Italy last year, Japan, Thailand and Sri Lanka, and not in Pool 5 along with India, Indonesia, Burma and Pakistan as was erroneously reported in our yesterday's issue.

The confusion was caused mainly due to the incomplete and partially incorrect news item regarding the draft of the Cup draw created by the international wire services (news agencies) Saturday.

The winners of the six groups will move to the second round league which will throw up the two finalists for the 1994 finals in the United States.

India is in Group D, Pakistan in Group A, Burma in Group B and Indonesia in Group C. (for details, see the Cup draw on Page 11).

The inadvertence is regretted.

# Bangladesh eyes 3 SAF golds



Bangladesh expects three golds in athletics events of the 5th South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, to be held in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo December 22-31, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Navy has also a fair chance of winning the gold medal in the 400 metres hurdles, he added.

Islam said the Bangladesh athletics team started training for the SAF Games on April 20 at the Army Stadium with 29 athletes. Later Chinese coach Ying Suigan took over the charge of 19 athletes from October 10. The final selection of 16 athletes, including five women, has been made on December 1.

The Bangladesh athletics squad comprises 20 members including four officials.

Eleven male athletes will take part in 10 events while the five female athletes will contest seven events.

The members of the SAF athletics team are: Managers Farooqul Islam and Alaf Hossain (men and women's section); Coaches Ying Suigan (China) and Arun Kumar

Chakma.

The male athletes are: Golam Ambia (100, 200 metres sprints, 4 X100 metres relay), Shahanuddin Chowdhury (100, 200, 4 X100m), Milzar Hossain (400, 800, 4 X400m), M Giasuddin (400, 4 X400m), Mehdi Hasan (400, 4 X100, 4 X400m), Emdadul Hoque Ranju (long jump, 4 X100m), Wazir Rahman (110, 400m hurdles), Abdur Rahim Naim (400m hurdles, 4 X400m), Solaiman Majumder (110 hurdles, 4 X100m), Bani Ameen (high jump), Afzal Hossain (triple jump).

The female athletes are: Firoza Khatun (100; 200, 4 X100, 4 X400m), Rafiza Begum (100, 200, 4 X100, 4 X400m, long jump), Nilufar Yasmin (4 X100, 4 X400m, long jump), Sumita Goswami (400, 800, 4 X400m) and Jyotsna Afroze (discus).

# Golam Ambia lights up Services meet with nat'l 100 m record



The three-day inter-services athletics competition-91 concluded at the Bangladesh Army Stadium, Dhaka Cantonment yesterday afternoon with the improvement of a national record and eight inter-services records, an ISPR press release said.



G. AMBIA...10.30 secs

The fastest man of the meet Lnk Golam Ambia of Bangladesh Army yesterday set a new national mark in the 100 m sprint taking 10.30 seconds against his won previous record of 10.40 seconds set earlier this year.

Golam Ambia, who earlier set an inter-services record in the 200m sprint, equalling the existing national record, and improved the inter-services record in the 4x100m relay, was adjudged the best athlete of the meet.

Out of eight meet records, two were set yesterday by Hav. BUET TT trials

Sports Reporter

Trials for the selection of badminton and table tennis players of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), in view of the upcoming friendly matches between combined university selections of Bangladesh and different Indian University teams in India, will be held at the BUET gymnasium on December 11 and 12, says a BUET press release.

# Germans clinch seven golds



GELSENKIRCHE, N. Germany, Dec 9: Germany bagged seven of the 14 titles at the weekend's inaugural European sprint swimming championships but their celebrations were overshadowed by controversy over past doping in the former communist East, reports Reuter.

Sandra Voelker broke the world best time in the 50 metres backstroke on Sunday for the second time in 24 hours to guide the home country to a total of 19 of the 42 medals on offer.

But as chief German men's coach Manfred Thiesmann watched his team's success in the pool, there was a letter in his pocket with a sobering reminder of the united country's persistent struggle with its doping past.

In the open letter, seven West German coaches called for the sacking of 20 former East German trainers who last week admitted that doping had helped the former communist state to its phenomenal success in the last two decades. "We do not believe that all those who worked with banned substances for years will stop," the letter read. "We demand... That train-

ers and doctors who have said they were involved in doping abuse should no longer get any contract from the German Swimming Federation."

The 20 ex-East German trainers released a statement last week admitting that anabolic steroids had been used in East German swimming but saying the abuse was ordered by higher officials.

Doping was the dominant topic at the Gelsenkirchen poolside throughout the weekend. Former East German world record holder Kornelia Ender fuelled the debate on Saturday when an interview was published in the London Times in which she said she might have been doped against her knowledge.

German Swimming Federation (DSV) officials have said the East German coaches can keep their jobs in the united Germany but banned several of the leading doctors and coaches from the sport.

Thiesmann, who believes the whole debate is a burden on Germany's preparations for next year's Barcelona Olympics, refused to comment directly on the letter from the club coaches. But DSV vice-president Klaus Henter said he had some understanding for the feelings

Md Rezaul Hoque (Army) in the discus and Nk Md Mostafa Talukdar (Army) in the hammer throw.

Others who won gold on the concluding day were Faruque Khan, Able Seaman (Navy) in the 110 m hurdles, Lnk Md Mujibur Rahman (Army) in the 3000m steeplechase, Hav Dulal Chandra Sarkar (Army) in the javelin and the Bangladesh Army team in the 4x400m relay. Bangladesh Army retained their title in the annual meet with 18 gold, 12 silver and seven bronze medals. Bangladesh Navy remained runners-up with three gold, five silver and five bronze medals while Bangladesh Air Force trailed with four silver and nine bronze medals.

Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan was present as chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners on the concluding day.

Principal Staff Officers, formation commanders, other senior officers of the three Services and a large number of spectators including members of all ranks of the Army, Navy and Air Force were present on the occasion.

A colourful display of unarmed combat by a group of trainee soldiers from the Army School of Physical Training and Sports (ASPTS) was an added attraction of the day.

# Azad's hat-trick for B'baria in Suhrawardy Cup

Sports Reporter

Brahmanbaria and Laxmipur moved into the zonal finals of the eighth national youth football championship for the Suhrawardy Cup winning their semi-final matches in their respective zones yesterday.

Brahmanbaria swamped Sylhet 5-2 at Brahmanbaria to reach the final where they will meet Comilla, the other finalists, on December 11.

Brahmanbaria striker Azad scored in the very first minute of the match to give his side a flying start.

Azad pumped in two more goals to complete a hat-trick, the second such feat in the three-day old competition.

Shahen netted two other goals for the victors.

Shipar and Zahid scored one apiece to reduce the margin for the losers.

Laxmipur got the better of Noakhali 5-4 in the tie-breaker at Habiganj after the match was deadlocked 1-1 in the scheduled time.

Abdur Rob netted for Laxmipur in the 76th minute while Anwar Hossain equalised for Noakhali in the 51st minute. Laxmipur will vie for the zonal final title either with Chittagong or Habiganj on December 12.

Six other teams qualified for the zonal semifinals yesterday.

Pabna outplayed Chapainawabganj 3-0 at Gaibandha to reach the semifinal where they will meet Natore on December 11.

Helal scored twice and Manzurul got the other for the winners.

Tangail edged past Gopalganj 1-0 at Narasingdi. Shahidul scored the all-important goal in the fifth minute of the match.

Tangail will meet Madaripur in the zonal semis on December 11.

Khulna routed Meherpur 5-0 at Kushtia to reach the zonal semifinal where they will clash with Magura, also on December 11.

Jahangir, Jaghul (twice), Hemayet and Rabul were the scorers for the winners. Nilphamari got a walkover against Dinajpur at Kurigram. They take on hosts Kurigram on December 11.

Dinajpur, according to a reliable source, could not field the side because of the exams of some of its players.

Kishoreganj reached the zonal semifinal beating Manikganj 2-0 at Netrakona.

Quamrul scored twice for the victors.

Jessore were declared the winners against Jhalakathi at Jhenidah after Jhalakathi refused to play following Hannan's equaliser for Jessore. Serajul had given Jhalakathi the lead. The Jhalakathi players refused to carry on, claiming Hannan's was an offside goal.

Jessore will meet Patuakhali on December 11.

# Flo-Jo lauds Chinese track potential

BEIJING, Dec 8: American Jackie Joyner-Kersey, winner of the women's longjump and heptathlon at the 1988 Summer Olympics, said Sunday that China's track and field team could become a major power soon, reports AP.

"I think it could happen within the next four or five years, and it may be sooner," Joyner-Kersey said.

She and her husband, Bob Kersey, coach of the UCLA women's track and field team, discussed training techniques Sunday with about 30 Chinese athletes and coaches as part of a promotional tour for Bausch and Lomb.

China has vowed to become a major sports power by the end of the century, and has a system of specialized schools to help it reach that goal.

Joyner-Kersey said the two gold medals Chinese athletes won last August during the 3rd World Track and Field Championships in Tokyo marked an important breakthrough.

Huang Zhihong won the women's shot put and Xu Demei won the women's javelin in Tokyo, giving China its first world titles in track and field competition.

"Now other Chinese athletes know it can be done. It's just a matter of time before Chinese athletes will be the ones that have to be reckoned with," Joyner-Kersey said. "I think the coaches know what it takes mentally and physically, now the athletes have to be brought up to that point," she said. "A coach can only do so much. It's the athlete who has to go out there alone and perform."

Zhu Yuqing, who competes in the women's heptathlon for China, said she enjoyed meeting Joyner-Kersey because the American has been such a dominant athlete in women's track and field competition.



Indian bowler Jawagal Srinath is delighted as he takes the prize wicket from Australia's captain Allan Border (L) who walks away from the wicket in Perth, Australia on Dec 8 in the World Series Cup cricket championship. Border was caught by wicket keeper Kiran More for 32 runs. India beat Aussies by 101 runs. — AFP photo

# Baig believes his boys can turn the corner



PERTH, Dec 9: India's shock 107-win over a bemused Australian in a World Series one-day match here on Sunday will revive the tourists, says manager Abbas Ali Baig, reports AFP.

"This should be a great morale-booster for the team," he said today as the team flew out of Perth for Hobart, Tasmania, where the two sides clash again in the limited-overs contest on Tuesday.

India skilted Australia, the reigning world one-day champions and favourite to retain the World Cup early next year, for 101 in 37.5 overs after India had made 7-208 at the WACA Ground.

The tourists' heroes were left-arm spin bowler Ravi Shastri, with 5-15 from 6.5 overs, and opening batsman Krish Srikanth, man-of-the-match with a swashbuckling 60 in as many balls.

"I never had any doubt that we had it in us: it was just that we were not clicking before," said Baig.

"We realise that this was only the second match in the World Series competition, and we will not become over-confident because there is a long way to go. But we have certainly had a good beginning," he added.

After figuring in a tie with the West Indies in the opening match of the contest two days earlier and thrashing Australia, India is on top of the ladder with three points.

The West Indies have one point from one game and the host nation is without a point from one match.

Baig was enthusiastic about opening batsman Srikanth's return to form. But some of the top order batsmen still had to improve, he said.

"A couple of batsmen still have to get going — we hope their potential will be realised soon," he said.

Baig said the side's bowling

had been of a very high standard and the fielding had improved considerably.

He lavished praise on young fast bowler Jawagal Srinath for his success in removing Australian captain Allan

game was: "We deserved a good kick in the backside. Maybe we just forgot about working hard."

"We have got into a routine of winning, but I would not say we were over-confident. Right from the word go in this game something was lacking in our cricket," he said.

"We have not played this badly for about three or four years, but we are not going to get into panic stations over one game. If we play like this two or three times, I might not be too happy," Border added.

Australian's total was its fourth lowest in 251 internationals and its lowest in 33 limited-overs clashes with India, falling way below their 139 in a match in Sharjah in 1985.

It was Australia's second lowest total in the 12-year World Series triangular contest.

AP adds: The Australian captain said his team was still disappointed and angry at the loss.

"We have done to other teams what India did to us yesterday. It was our turn to feel the butt of it," Border said, "..... but there's no reason to start panicking yet."

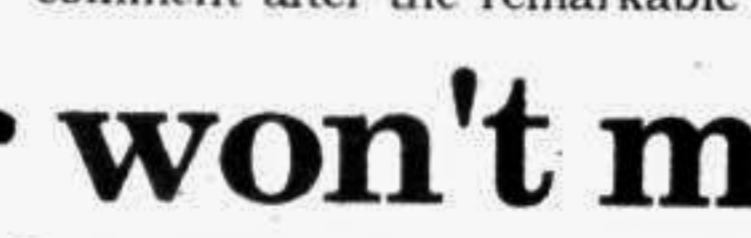
Indian team manager Abbas Ali Baig said he expected his team to produce another disciplined display in Hobart and called on team captain Mohammad Azharuddin to score some runs.

"He has had a long run of bad scores and it's time he broke through," he said.

"Azza has been a bit unlucky with his dismissals, but he's not the type to let things worry him."

Both teams delayed naming their starting lineups until Tuesday morning. The West Indies, meanwhile, plays a limited-overs match against the Victorian Country team at Leongatha on Tuesday before facing Australia in a day-night World Series Cup match in Melbourne on Thursday.

Border's down to earth comment after the remarkable



ABBAS A. BAIG

# Bacher won't manage WC squad



JOHANNESBURG, Dec 9: South African cricket supremo Ali Bacher announced here Sunday he would not manage the side in the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand next February, reports AFP.

Bacher hit a storm of controversy in India last month during the Springboks' first tour in 21 years, when he accused the Indian bowlers of scuffing the ball to make it swing in the air.

But Bacher said he could not afford to be away from his job as managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) for the seven weeks of the World Cup, so UCBSA had appointed Northern Transvaal manager Alan Jordaan to take the side instead, assisted by former Springbok Mike Procter.

Bacher said the team would play a warm-up game in Harare on February 5 and six more in



ALI BACHER

Australia from February 9 to 26.

He would not be drawn on whether or not Pakistan would tour South Africa in January.

In principle UCBSA has promised to let India at the end of next year become the first country to tour South Africa since they were dumped from international cricket in 1970 in protest at apartheid.

KIWIS KEEN TO TOUR

Meanwhile another AFP message from Auckland said: A New Zealand cricket team will probably tour South Africa in 1994, according to a report published here Sunday.

New Zealand officials will lodge a formal application for the tour within the next few days, the Sunday Star newspaper reported.

It would be the first tour of South Africa by a New Zealand team since 1961. The South Africans last visited New

# Navana league resumes today

Sports Reporter

The Navana Premier Division cricket league resumes today after a two-day lay-off because of the hartals on December 8 and 9.

Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club will take on Kalabagan Krira Chakra in the only match of the day, at the Dhaka Stadium.

The Navana cricket league will again be suspended after today's match owing to the commencement of 1991 Victory Day cricket tournament starting from Wednesday, Dec 11 at the Dhaka Stadium.

The league will again resume from December 21, after the completion of the V-Day tournament.

# Second Division cricket transfers Dec 17-24

Sports Reporter

Inter-club transfers of Second Division cricket league players begin from December 17.

The transfers will go on till Dec 21 from 5 pm to 7.30 pm everyday at the BCCB office.

Players seeking transfers will have to bring two copies of a recent photograph for the token and another one for the transfer form.

Fees for the token and the transfer form have been fixed at Taka 20 and 30 respectively, says a BCCB press release.

# Lankans draw with BCCP

KARACHI, Dec 9: A three-day match between Sri Lanka and a Pakistan Cricket Control Board (BCCP) President's XI ended in a draw today, reports Reuter.

Scores: Sri Lanka 222 for seven declared and 195 for four; BCCP President's XI 221 for eight declared.

An earlier report said: Occasional medium-pace Chandiath Hathurusinghe snapped up three wickets for five runs to give Sri Lanka some respite against a Pakistan Cricket Control Board (BCCP) President's XI on Sunday.

Hathurusinghe's spell reduced the President's side from 212 for five to 221 for eight, at which point they declared one run behind on first innings.

Sri Lanka were 45 for one in their second innings at the close, the second day of the three-day match having been marked by injury on both sides.

The touring team's young batsman Sanath Jayasuriya, fielding at short-leg, was hit on the forehead shortly after lunch by a ball struck by Sagheer Abbas.

Jayasuriya was carried off the field and taken to hospital where doctors declared him fit to continue playing.

Five minutes earlier, opener Shahid Saeed suffered a slight cut in the chin when a delivery from pace bowler Promodaya Wickremasinghe popped up and hit him.

Shahid, having made 48, retired to have two stitches in the wound but resumed his innings and was unbeaten of 67, including six fours, at the declaration.

The president's side, 26 for no wicket overnight, batted slowly to reach 94 for three at lunch but the second session belonged to Sagheer (42) and Umar Rashid (31) who batted with confidence to lift the score to 188 for four at tea.

After the break, Hathurusinghe took two of his wickets in two balls during the slump which prompted Ijaz Ahmed to close his team's innings at 221 for eight.

Sri Lanka, who had declared their first innings at 222 for seven on the first day, lost Hathurusinghe bowled for 14 by medium-pace Tanvir Mehdi before the close.

Zealand in 1964.

The report said New Zealand Cricket chairman Peter McDermott had discussed a tour with the chief executive of the South African cricket board, Dr Ali Bacher.

"The players will be very excited and of course the administrators are excited because we haven't had a team there since 1961," McDermott was quoted as saying.

South Africa returned to international Test cricket earlier this year and since then there has been a flurry of activity from cricketing countries wanting to send teams there or host tours by the South Africans.

"Ali Bacher has had so many requests to consider that he is concerned about his players and how much cricket they will be exposed to. But we hope South Africa will consider our request favourably," McDermott said.