

Pakistan in Sharjah final

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Oct 23: Pakistan overcame a defiant India by four runs in semi-final here, reports AFP.

Pakistan elected to bat first and ran up the tournament's highest score of 257 for seven in 50 overs, after the match began 35 minutes late due to fog.

India undefeated till then in the three-nation tournament, made a spirited chase before falling five runs short of the victory target.

The two Asian rivals meet once again in Friday's final to decide the winners' purse of 30,000 US Dollars.

Pakistan had assured itself of making the final in the morning itself by securing a better run rate than the West Indies, but the win was a big morale-booster before the big game on Friday.

Left-handed opener Aamer Sohail, one of the three players flown in to reinforce the injury-hit squad, hammered a suppers 91 which included four boundaries and a six.

He put on 86 for the second wicket with another replacement Zahid Fazal and 91 for the third with Salim Malik, to richly reserve the 1,000 dollar man of the match award.

Pakistan's score was boosted by a furious 43 off 24 balls by skipper Imran Khan which helped the side add 40 runs in the last three overs.

Those runs made the difference in the end as India fell through despite being happily placed at one stage when they needed 39 off the last six overs with seven wickets in hand.

The final five overs were played in fading light, which made the sighting of the ball difficult for both batsmen and fielders.

Under the tournament rules which state that a match should be played over 50 overs even if there is a delayed start, the umpires had no option of calling off play despite protests from the Indian batsmen.

Indian vice captain Ravi Shastri led the Indian chase

with a polished 77 while Sachin Tendulkar struck a superb 49 of 38 balls studded with three fours and two sixes.

None of the Pakistani bowlers made an impact on the left-right opening combination of Shastri and Vinod Kambli who took runs almost at will.

The first fifty came up in the 11th over with Shastri on 22 and the more adventurous Kambli on 33.

India were 43 for no loss when Shastri reached his individual fifty in the 22nd over with the help of six boundaries.

The Indian vice captain celebrated the feat by swinging off spinner Akram Raza over long-on for six, a shot which posted the 100-stand from 23 overs.

Shastri had made 77 in a score of 124 when he



AAMER SOHAIL — The man of the match

attempted a big swipe off Younus and found his off-stump uprooted, to give Pakistan a much-needed break.

Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin and manager Ashok Mankad were not available for comment, but another team official U. Prabhakar Rao lashed out at the tournament rules which allowed play to go on under bad light.

"It was just not cricket, we were in the final anyway and did not want our batsmen to get hurt, but the umpires failed to accept to the request to call off play, for bad light."

"It was no joke out there trying to face two of the world's fastest bowlers, Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis in conditions where sighting the ball was difficult. I am happy none of the batsmen were injured."

"If the start was delayed by half an hour, the overs should have been reduced proportionally but the tournament officials insisted on playing the full 50 overs", he said.

SCOREBOARD

Pakistan

Amir Sohail c Tendulkar b Kapil 91

Saeed Anwar run out 1

Zahid Fazal b Raju 39

Malik c Azhar b Srinath 42

Imran b Prabhakar 43

Wasim Akram run out 2

Ejaz Ahmed run out 9

Moin Khan not out 1

Akram Raza not out 0

Extras (5 leg byes, 1 bye, 16 wides, 7 no-balls): 29

Total (50 overs completed): 257 for 7 wickets

Fall of Wickets: 1/4; 2/90; 3/181; 4/202; 5/214; 6/255; 7/257.

BOWLING:

O M R W

Kapil 10 2 31 1

Prabhakar 9 0 62 1

Tendulkar 6 0 20 0

Srinath 8 0 55 2

Kumble 7 0 35 0

Raju 10 0 48 1

India

R Shastri b Waqar Younus 77

V Kambli c Moin Khan b Aaqib Javed 40

S Manjrekar c Ejaz Ahmed b Wasim Akram 49

M Azharuddin b Akram Raza 0

S Tendulkar c (sub) Mushtaq Ahmed b Salim Malik 49

Kapil Dev lbw Akram 0

M Prabhakar not out 19

Kiran More run out 1

Extras: (1 byes, 3 leg byes, 12 wides, 2 no-balls) 18

Total: (in 50 overs complete) 253 for 7

Fall of Wickets: 1/124; 2/133; 3/134; 4/219; 5/219; 6/240; 7/253.

BOWLING:

O M R W

Aaqib 10 0 36 1

WAKram 9 0 4 4

Imran 2 0 17 0

A Raza 10 0 43 1

Waqar 10 0 59 1

Sohail 6 0 34 0

Malik 3 0 16 1

Pak WAPDA booters arrive today

A 16-member Pakistan WAPDA team will arrive in Dhaka today (Thursday) afternoon to participate in the first leg match of the 11th Asian Club soccer championship, reports AP.

The first-leg match between Pakistan WAPDA and Dhaka Mohammedan SC will be held on October 26 (Saturday) either at the Dhaka National Stadium or the Mirpur National Stadium.

The return-leg match will be held in Lahore, Pakistan on November 1.

The winners of the first leg will take on the winners of the match between Kerala Police of India and the champion team of the Maldives.

Arman Ali Shah will lead the Pakistani Squad while Mohammed Aslam is the manager-cum-coach.

The 14 players are: Mohammed Zohair, Abid Hossain, Tahir Agha, Imtiaz Butt, Mohammed Arshad, Tahir Pervez, Fayaz Khan, Sharafat Ali, Khalilur Rahman, Mateen Akhtar, Baraz Ali, Asgar Ali, Altaf Hossain and Umer Daraz.

Three Thai Referees and a match commissioner from India will arrive here to conduct the match.

Besides, in the first-leg match of the second Asian Cup-Winners Cup tournament Dhaka Abahani KC will take on Calcutta East Bengal in Dhaka on November 3.

The return leg match will be held in Calcutta on November 8.

Both tournaments will be played on a home-away basis.

Indian sprinters stay on course

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 23: India kept up hopes of collecting more medals as Ashwini Nachappa and the men's relay team moved into the finals of their respective events while China added another gold to their haul of 20 on the final day of the ninth Asian Track and Field Championships here this morning, reports PTI.

The Indian relay team comprising D K Malviya, P V Raju, Vijayakumaran and Arjun Deviah finished third in the 4x100 relay with a timing of 3:13.41. Japan and Thailand took the first and second places respectively.

Ashwini Nachappa qualified for the final of the 200 metres event after coming in third in the semifinals.

China collected one more gold in the shot put event for men with a distance of 18.11 metres.

India's S D Eashen ended up fourth with a throw of 17.46 metres.

All the finals are scheduled for this evening before the five-day meet is declared closed.

The tenth ATF Championship is scheduled to be held in Hiroshima.

ATF medals table

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 23: Here are the medal standings at the end of the 9th Asian Track and Field Championships Wednesday: Countries

Countries	G	S	B
China	24	11	2
Japan	4	7	12
Qatar	4	3	1
South Korea	3	2	3
India	2	4	2
Malaysia	1	1	1
North Korea	1	0	1
Thailand	0	5	3
Taiwan	0	2	5
Burma	0	2	2
Pakistan	0	2	1
Syria	0	1	2
Kuwait	0	0	2
Bahrain	0	0	1
Indonesia	0	0	1
Sri Lanka	0	0	1

Danish shuttlers drub the English

LONDON, Oct 23: England were beaten for the second successive night by European team badminton champions Denmark when they went 5-0 down at the Metropole, Barnsley, reports AFP.

England also lost 5-0 at Bletchley on Monday and are now two down in the series with two to play.

The only delay to the talented visitors, relentless march to victory was supplied by local hero Dave Wright in partnership in the mixed doubles with Sara Sankey, the Dutch Open-women's doubles champions.

They took the first game — only the second captured by England out of 18 played — but were still beaten in the opening contest by world mixed doubles finalist Thomas Lund and the European women's doubles champion Nettie Nielsen.

Canadian Open singles champion Steve Butler lost in straight game for the second night to German Open champion Poulerik Hoyer and England's losing 3-0 deficit came when Nick pointing and Julie Bradbury lost their mixed doubles.

Rajshahi Edn Board set 2 more marks

Sports Reporter



Rajshahi Education Board boys maintained their domination of the national age-group swimming championships for the second successive day at the Dhaka Stadium pool yesterday.

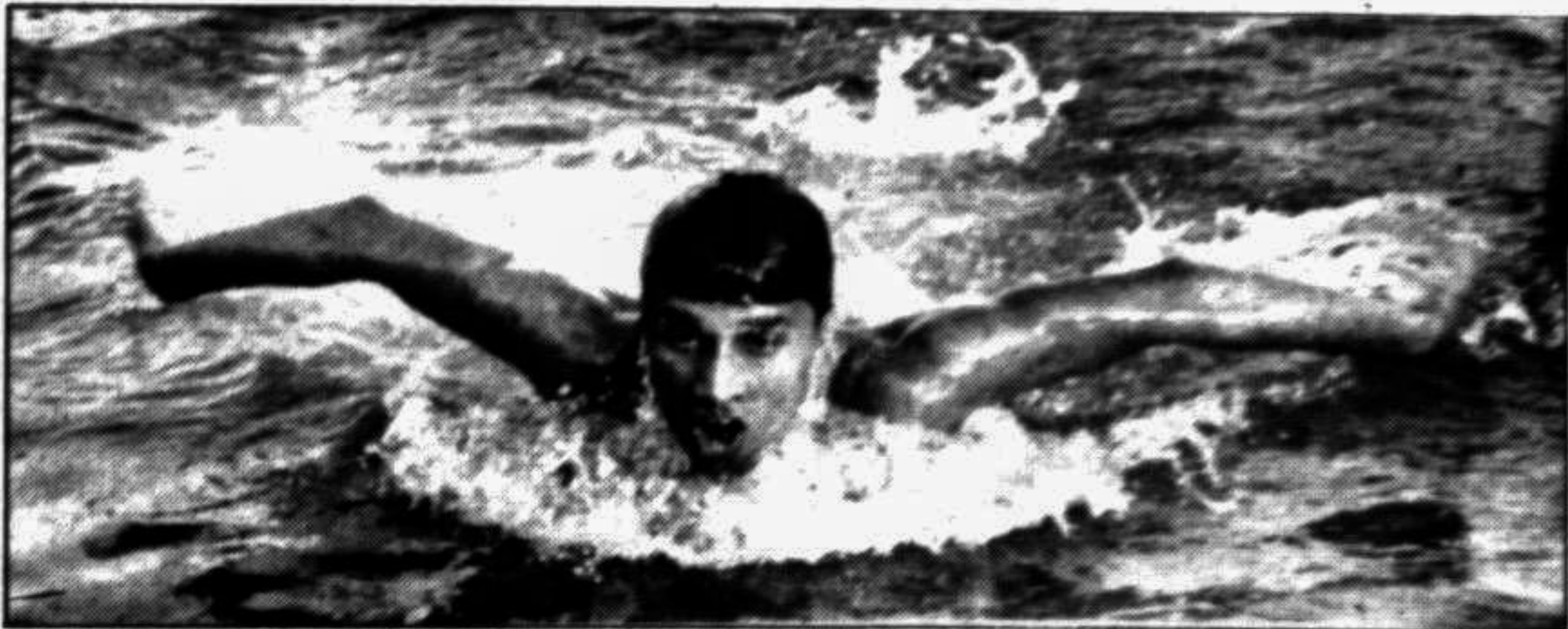
On a day that produced two more new records — five in the meet so far — Rajshahi swimmers featured in both record-breaking feats, in the 200m backstroke for boys between 13-14 years and the 400m freestyle event for 15-17-year-olds.

After two days of competition in the three-day championships being held under the aegis of the Bangladesh Swimming Federation, Rajshahi Board led the medals table with 11 golds, nine silvers and 11 bronzes.

Pabna DSA were placed a distant second with a haul of six golds, four silvers and three bronzes. Comilla remained in third spot with three golds, one silver and three bronzes.

Shahin Hossain of Rajshahi Board, who won two golds and a silver without creating a new mark on the inaugural day Tuesday, finally wrote his name in the record books by shattering the 400m freestyle record for 15-17 year-old boys yesterday with a timing of 4min 51.09 seconds. This is more than seventeen seconds quicker than the previous record of 5min 8.64 seconds set by Bangladesh Krita Shikhhya Protisthan's Muniruzzaman last year.

On Tuesday Shahin had won the 100m and 200m freestyle



Shahin Hossain of Rajshahi Education Board, who won two golds a silver and a bronze on the inaugural day Tuesday, finally set a new national record in the 400m freestyle for 15-17 year-old boys yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium pool.

golds and the 400m individual medley silver. In addition, Shahin also won the bronze in the 200m backstroke to have a haul of five medals in his age group.

The 400m freestyle silver medal went to Comilla's double gold medalist Tuesday Md. Omar Faruque who clocked 5:12.14 secs. Md. Mahbubur Rahman of Pabna DSA took the bronze.

Masud Rana of Rajshahi Education Board set the other record of the day in the 200m backstroke event 13-14 year olds. His timing was 2 minute 48.63 seconds — two seconds quicker than the previous record set by Mohammed Selim of Comilla Education Board in 1986.

Masud Rana also won two bronze medal — in 50 metre freestyle and 200 metre individual medley — yesterday.

Md Omar Faruque of Comilla DSA, who won a silver

in 400m freestyle for 15-17-year olds, kept up his challenge by grabbing a gold in 200 metre individual medley with a



MASUD RANA — 200m backstroke record for 13-14 year olds.

timing of 2:43:19 secs. Farooq on Tuesday set a new second in 200m backstroke.

Pabna DSAs, ace-swimmer Abdul Hamid, who won two

gold medals — 100m and 200m freestyles — on Tuesday, stole the limelight with another glittering performance. He captured three gold medals yesterday. The events were 100 metre butterfly for 13-14-year olds, 50 metre freestyle and 200 metre individual medley.

A total of 215 swimmers representing 22 teams are competing in this year's championship.

Today is the concluding day of the competition.

MEDALS TABLE

	G	S	B
Rajshahi Edn Board	11	9	11
Pabna DSA	6	4	3
Comilla DSA	3	1	3
Madaripur DSA	1	5	2
BJMC	1	0	0
Kushitia DSA	0	2	2
Nawabganj	0	1	0
IKSP	0	0	2
Tangail DSA	0	0	1
Rajshahi DSA	0	0	1

Becker thinks Berlin should drop out

BERLIN, Oct 23: Tennis star Boris Becker says Berlin should drop its bid to host the Olympic Games in the year 2000 to avoid a dangerous revival of German Nationalism, reports Reuter.

"I think it would be better to give the Games to Berlin in 30 years time," Becker told Tuesday's Berliner Kurier newspaper, delivering another blow to German hopes to stage sport's most prestigious event.

Becker, chosen by the Berlin as one of its Olympic ambassadors, criticised other German sportsmen for arousing nationalism by blindly jumping on the Berlin bandwagon.

"Everyone's shouting 'Deutschland ueber alles' (Germany over everything)," he said.

"I'm not one of those. I see things more sceptically. This behaviour arouses dangerous emotions."

Germany has been plagued for the last two months by the biggest wave of racist violence since Hitler's Third Reich,

with neo-Nazis setting fire to hostels for political asylum-seekers.

Rightist thugs have used German soccer victories as an

excuse to beat up immigrant workers, and Berlin's bid for the 2000 Olympics has aroused memories of the 1936 Games, which the Nazis

used to promote the master race.

Berlin, which dismissed its Olympic manager last month for incompetence, adopted Becker and former German soccer captain Franz Beckenbauer as sponsors for its bid. Both have complained they were never asked in advance.

The city faces competition from Sydney, Brasilia, Beijing, the British industrial city of Manchester, Copenhagen, Milan and Istanbul.

Although German politicians firmly support Berlin's bid, there are many who say the money would be better spent on reviving the depressed eastern half of the city, which suffers from high unemployment after 40 years of communist rule.

"Berlin, especially in the east, has got other problems," said Becker.

"It doesn't matter there whether Berlin gets the Olympic games or not — people need jobs and food," he said.

Though 39-year-old Jimmy Connors said two weeks ago he would not play because of family plans, Dennis said he still hopes the American star will

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Cuba's bid to commercialise sport



HAVANA, Cuba Oct 23: Cuba's state sports sector, deprived of support and cooperation from former East European allies, is now seeking to finance itself by selling coaching services, training facilities and publicity rights for hard currency, the official newspaper Granma said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Granma, mouthpiece of Cuba's ruling Communist Party, quoted the country's most senior sports official, Conrado Martinez, as saying a sales group would be set up to devise ways of commercialising Cuban sport.

His remarks indicated that even the country's well-developed sports sector, a source of great national pride, was feeling the effects of the economic crisis caused by increasing disruption to trade and cooperation with the Soviet Union and former Communist allies in Eastern Europe.

The island has become one of the world's sporting powers though its state-funded national sports programme, championed by President Fidel Castro, which maintains strict amateur status but selects, trains and supports individual

athletes and national teams to high international standards.

Martinez, who is president of the National Sports Institute, said the money-making schemes being considered included contracting out specialised sports coaches to other countries and offering training facilities for foreign teams and athletes in Cuba.

Other options were selling publicity rights for sporting

events, sports articles, sports computer information and medical services and organising scientific events focusing on sports.

But Martinez, stressed the measures would not include hiring out Cuban sportsmen and women to foreign teams or charging the Cuban public entry fees to attend sports competitions, which are currently free on the island.

Williams stops Delgado



WILLIAMSON, W. Va. Oct 23: International Boxing Federation light heavyweight champion Charles Williams threw three sharp rights to the head of Fred Delgado to score a second-round technical knockout Saturday, and renewed his call to unify the division, reports AP.

Thomas Hearn holds the World Boxing Association title and Lotie Mwale of Zambia is the World Boxing Council champion.

"I would love to get into a unification with Thomas Hearn, but I know that's out

of the picture right now," Williams said. "He don't want no part of me. I guess I'll just keep fighting everyone in the top 10 for now."

He paused for a second, then added, "And maybe sometime I'll get up enough nerve to go up in weight and challenge (heavyweight champion) Evander Holyfield."

Williams dominated both rounds of the fight after sixth-ranked Delgado threw a sweeping right hand that glanced off Williams at the opening bell.

About a minute into the first round, Williams landed a combination to Delgado's head that

prompted referee Al Rothenberg to give a standing-eight count.

Delgado fought off his grogginess and appeared to be making a comeback late in the first round with a series of body punches and sweeping head shots that circled around Williams' gloves.

But Williams connected to the head again and Delgado was just hanging on at the end of the round.

The second round resumed with Delgado racing across the ring. This time, the fighters butted heads, leaving Williams with a slight cut over his left eye.



K L Jubilee High School defeated Rifles Public High School in the semifinal of the fourth Bata schools handball tournament at Outer Stadium handball court yesterday. — Star photo



Start of the 200m individual medley for 13-14 year-olds in the national age-group swimming championships at the Dhaka Stadium swimming pool yesterday. — Star photo