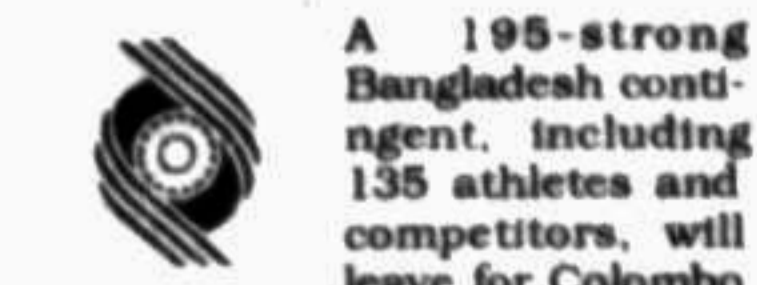


Biggest-ever SAF Games contingent Officials coy about gold hopes

Sports Reporter



A 195-strong Bangladesh contingent, including 135 athletes and competitors, will leave for Colombo either on December 18 or 20 to take part in the fifth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games scheduled for the Sri Lankan capital December 22-31.

This will be the largest ever contingent to represent Bangladesh in any international sporting meet abroad.

Among the 195 are 36 team officials including 19 coaches, 15 team managers and assistants, two doctors and 24 others drawn from different sports organisations, representatives of the Sports Ministry, the National Sports Council (NSC), the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) and a team of eight mediemen travelling at government expense.

The jamboree will cost the national exchequer around one crore taka, which is nearly seven lakh taka more than the cost of Bangladesh's participation in the fourth biennial regional Games held in Islamabad, Pakistan in 1989.

Competitors from all seven SAARC countries — Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives — will be taking part in the Games which will feature competition in ten disciplines. These are athlet-



State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain addressing a press conference in connection with Bangladesh's participation in the forthcoming fifth SAF Games in Colombo at the NSC conference room yesterday. Maj (ret'd) Qamrul Islam, MP, chief-de-mission of the Bangladesh contingent, is at right. —Star photo

ics, football, volleyball, boxing, basketball, shooting, tennis, table tennis, wrestling, swimming and the weight-lifting. Bangladesh will be taking part in all disciplines, unlike Bhutan who will not be represented in the soccer competition.

At a crowded press conference at the NSC conference room yesterday afternoon attended by State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain, and chief-de-mission

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Milnars First Division league begins today

Sports Reporter

Milnars First Division 1991-92 cricket league gets underway from today at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Bangladesh Railway will take on Victoria Sporting Club in the opening match of the forty-five over a side competition organised by the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board.

The match starts at 9.15 a.m.

Ten teams — Udit Club, Agrani Bank, Young Pegasus, Sadharan Bima, Bangladesh Railway, Victoria Sporting Club, City Club, Dhaka Wanderers Club and newly promoted Ajax Sports Club and Eskaton Sabuj Sangha — are taking part in the league.

The champions and runners-up of the Milnars league will play in next year's Navana Premier cricket league.

Teams securing the last three positions will be relegated to the Second Division, says a BCCB press release.

V-Day cricket from today

Sports Reporter

The Victory Day cricket tournament gets underway today at the Dhaka Stadium.

Four teams — Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club, Abahani Krira Chakra, Brothers Union and Bangladesh Biman — are taking part in this year's tournament which will be played from the semifinal phase onward.

In the opening game, last year's Navana League runners-up Biman will take on this year's Damal Summer champions Abahani Krira Chakra in the first semifinal, which will be played over two days.

V-Day hockey from Dec 16

Sports Reporter

The Victory Day hockey tournament will begin on December 16 at the Dhaka Hockey Stadium.

Twenty teams — sixteen First Division teams, the national champions and runners-up and the Second Division champions and runners-up — have already enrolled their names for the competition.

The teams will be split into four groups with the group champions playing in the semi-finals.

The fixture of the tournament will be finalised this (Wednesday) afternoon.

Reliable sources say that in all likelihood Abahani Krira Chakra, the defending champions of the First Division, will be in action on the opening day unless they get a by.

Two matches will be held daily.

Police hockey

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police team lifted the 1991 Bangladesh Police Hockey championship trophy beating Chittagong Range team 5-4 in tie-breaker at the Rajarbagh Police Line ground yesterday afternoon.

The match ended 1-1 in the stipulated time. Don Don Lusal of the Chittagong Range team was adjudged the best player of the tournament.

Inspector General of Police, M Enamul Huq distributed prizes as chief guest, says a DMP press release.

Becker still in doubt

MUNICH, Germany, Dec 10: Boris Becker's participation in the dlr 8 million Grand Slam Cup remained in doubt Tuesday as organizers said they have not heard any news from the three time Wimbledon champion, reports AP.

Becker, the top seed of the tournament, withdrew from the finals of the European Community championship on Sunday with a stomach virus and fever. His opponent, Aaron Krickstein, won the tournament without hitting a single shot.

Krickstein is also Becker's first-round adversary in the last of the opening round matches scheduled late Wednesday evening.

"We don't have any message from Boris Becker until now," Dr Axel Meyer-Woelden, the head of the organisation said early Tuesday afternoon. "Not having a message gives me hope that Boris will try to play."

Meyer-Woelden said they have been in contact with Becker's agent, Ion Tiriac, who confirmed that Becker would do as much as possible to play in the event which gathers the top finishers from the four Grand Slam tournaments.

The tournament, which offers dlr 2 million to the winner, begins Tuesday with Patrick McEnroe of the United States facing Frenchman Thierry Champion.

Corrigendum:

In our yesterday's issue an item was headlined "Jo-Jo" instead of Jackie Joyner-Kersey. The mistake is regretted. —Sp.Ed.

Boon's ton powers Aussies



HOBART, Australia, Dec 10: David Boon, cheered on by 10,000 fellow Tasmanians, led Australia to a revenge victory by eight wickets against India in a World Series one-day match at the Bellerive Oval here today, reports AFP.

Boon, Captain of the Tasmanian State side, made his third one-day international century and his second off India in his 106th match, as Australia won with nine balls in hand.

His unbeaten 102 included eight fours off 163 deliveries and, after an opening partnership of 45 with Geoff Marsh, he put on 131 with Dean Jones, once again at his best after a run of poor form.

"It has been my long-term ambition to score an international hundred on my own ground and I have had terrific support during this innings," Boon said.

Australian skipper Allan Border added: "We got off-side against the Indians in Perth this weekend but we are right back on track again now."

India's performance was one of their most disappointing in one-day internationals.

Their batsmen failed to score sufficient runs — skipper Mohammad Azharuddin admitted afterwards they were at least 40 short of their target — and although their bowlers put up a gallant performance they were unable to stem the flow of easy runs.

They faced Boon, who was determined to show his watching family that he is still Australia's finest opening batsman, and Jones, who needed a good score to boost his confidence.

Australia had little trouble in wiping out the memory of India's easy victory in Perth after the tourists chose to bat on a pitch that helped both quick bowlers Bruce Reid and Craig McDermott in the early stages.

Only 26 runs came in the first 15 overs and McDermott finished his initial spell with the astonishing figures of 7-3-8-2, after capturing the wickets of opening batsmen Ravi Shastri and Kris Srikkanth.

At that point the two young Indian batsmen, Sanjay Manjrekar and Sachin Tendulkar, built a century partnership that gave the later batsmen a chance to produce a match-winning score.

They both made 57 and their stand of 102 for the third wicket came in 99 minutes.

Although Captain Azharuddin promoted Kapil Dev in the hope of quick runs, the tail could not maintain the rate.

Australia were once again the disciplined unit that has won the title of best one-day side in the world.

McDermott completed his 10 overs by conceding only 19

runs and only five boundaries were hit on a slow outfield.

In contrast, Australia scored their runs at will, even though Kapil Dev restricted Boon and Marsh to eight runs off his first six overs.

India's outstanding bowler, however, was Ravi Shastri whose slow left-arm spin brought record five for 15 at Perth.

He bowled his 10 overs for only 29 runs and made several deliveries turn and lift awkwardly.

match.

Australia faces the West Indies in the next match of the tournament at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Thursday.

"I was very happy with everyone's performance today," said Australian captain Allan Border. "We upped the tempo a bit. The guys were pretty determined and we are back on track."

India's total was restricted by some disciplined bowling by the Australians — and some indecisive running between the

for 43.

After the early loss of Geoff Marsh, Boon and Dean Jones combined brilliantly for the Australians.

Jones was dismissed in the penultimate over for 48 after selfishly allowing Boon to reach his century.

He was caught at backward point by Tendulkar off the bowling of part-time bowler Manjrekar after taking a lusty swing with Australia just two runs short of victory.

"It is great to get some runs in Hobart," said Boon, who plays his Sheffield Shield cricket for Tasmania.

Azharuddin said his team did not get enough runs to have a realistic chance of victory.

"We didn't get a very good start," he said. "We struggled a bit and didn't get enough runs on the board."

India next faces the West Indies in Adelaide on Saturday.

SCORE BOARD

Scoreboard at the end of the one-day World Series Cup match against Australia at Bellerive Oval here today.

INDIA			
Shastri	b McDermott	0	
Srikkanth	c Healy b McDermott	7	
Manjrekar	c Healy b Reid	57	
Tendulkar	c Waugh b Taylor	57	
Kapil Dev	c and b Taylor	3	
Praveen Amre	b O'Donnell	8	
Azharuddin	not out	21	
Subroto Banerjee	c		
Jones	b McDermott	5	
Manoj Prabhakar	run out	1	
Jawagal Srinath	not out	2	
Extras (b1, lb 7, w 4, nb 2)		14	
Total (for 8 wickets)		175	
Fall: 1-2, 2-18, 3-120, 4-134, 5-137, 6-151, 7-163, 8-168.			

BOWLING		O	M	R	W
B Reid		10	1	24	1
C McDermott		10	3	19	3
S O'Donnell		10	1	35	1
S Waugh		7	0	31	0
P Taylor		10	0	43	2
T Moody		3	0	15	0

AUSTRALIA			
D Boon	not out	102	
G Marsh	b Srinath	8	
D Jones	c		
Tendulkar	b Manjrekar	48	
A Border	not out	0	
Extras (3b 4 lb, 7 w, 4 nb)		18	
Total (For two wickets)		176	
Fall 1-45, 2-174.			

BOWLING		O	M	R	W
Kapil Dev		10	3	21	0
Prabhakar		10	0	32	0
Srinath		10	0	37	1
Banerjee		6	0	41	0
Shastri		10	0	29	0
Srikkanth		2	0	7	0
Manjrekar		0.3	0	2	1

Australia won by eight wickets.

POINTS TABLE

Standings in the World Series Cup 50-overs triangular cricket tournament today (Tabulate under - played, won, tied, lost, points, run rate):

	G	W	T	L	Pts	R.Rate
India	3	1	1	3	3.39	
Australia	2	1	0	2	2.82	
West Indies	1	0	1	2	1.252	

MSC overcome Kalabagan

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club won their second successive match of this year's Navana Premier Cricket league, beating Kalabagan Krira Chakra by five wickets at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The victory was no cake-walk though for the injury-plagued title-aspirants and their sweating to overcome the challenge of an unfancied Kalabagan gave their officials as well as spectators. Some moot points to ponder.

Waheedul Ghoni, deputising for injured Minhazul Abedin Nannu, won the toss and sent Kalabagan to bat.

Kalabagan openers found the pace of Jahangir Talukder Dulu and Gamagee too hot to handle.

Soon the score board read three for eight to lend credence the assumption.

Kalabagan's jaineant Pakistani recruit Ejaz tried to find his bearings at the cost of his side's interest and finally pushed and prodded his way to 13 before becoming paceman Mithu's first of three victims.

Skipper Ishtiaque offered brief resistance before making way for Gajanan Reddy, Kalabagan's Indian recruit.

The left-handed allrounder batted sensibly with a judicious mixture of caution and aggression to add 37 runs — the highest partnership in the Kalabagan innings — with veteran Omar Khaled Rumi for the sixth wicket.

Reddy's 33, made off 72 balls, contained four well-struck boundaries.

A dubious leg-before decision forced a disconsolate Reddy to trudge all the way back to the pavilion.

Omar Khaled Rumi, only a shadow of his former self, supported Reddy with 16 before aiding a drive to Suru at mid-on off Mithu.

Tanveer with an unbeaten 14 helped Kalabagan to reach a meagre total of 128 from

44.4 overs.

Mithu, the right-arm pacer, kept the ball well up to capture three for 29 from his eight overs.

Left-arm paceman Dulu, too, bowled tidily to pick up two for 17 from his quota of nine overs.

Life was not any the easier for the Mohammedan openers when they stroled out to collect the 129 runs for the victory.

Reddy, now fighting for Kalabagan with the cherry, gave another fine display.

Moving the ball both ways at a lively pace he gave the Mohammedan batsmen, particularly opener Jahangir Alam, a torrid time.

Didar was first to go, having played a Reddy delivery on to his stumps, with the total on nine.

Jahangir, after being bagged down in one difficult over from Reddy, attempted an impossible single and was beaten by the throw from cover-point.

Jahangir was dropped by Ejaz at slip off the previous ball.

Reddy then swung one in to trap wicket-keeper Ratan lbw for two. The arrival of Bulbul and Rafique at the wicket, coupled with Ishtiaque's decision to withdraw Reddy from the firing line eased Mohammedans' task.

Bulbul, the diminutive national all-rounder, scored a polished 38. The best of his four hits to the fence was an exquisite drive off the back foot.

Rafique Alam scored a well-made 25, studded with two fours.

Both these batsmen were run out following bad mix ups in the middle of the pitch.

Golam Faroque Suru, fully aware of the dearth of competent willow-wielders after him, batted cautiously, although never hesitating to punish a loose ball.

He sent the ball five times to the ropes in his undefeated 36.

Reddy, who could have made further inroads if not unwisely taken off by Ishtiaque, was clearly the pick of the bowlers with two for 24 from eight overs.

SCORE BOARD