

SAF Games begin today

COLOMBO, Dec 21: All is set for the 5th SAF Games, the first international sporting meet in Sri Lankan history, here tomorrow (Sunday) at the Sugathadasa Stadium, reports UNIS/ISS.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa will open the 10-day meet at the 25,000 capacity stadium at 9 am Bangladesh time.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister D B Wijetunge and heads of state and governments of the SAARC countries, now in Colombo, for the SAARC summit, are also expected to be at the opening ceremony.

A total of 944 participants, including 258 women, will compete in 132 events of ten disciplines.

Meanwhile, a 225-member team from India, a 205-member from Pakistan, a 190-member squad from Bangladesh, an 85-member team from the Maldives and a 12-member Bhutanese team are already in the Sri Lankan capital. The Nepalese team had not arrived till this evening, but is expected any time tonight.

Hosts Sri Lanka have the largest contingent of 254, including 97 women.

Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will participate in all the ten disciplines — athletics, swimming, shooting, football, volleyball, basketball, boxing, weightlifting, tennis and table tennis while Bhutan will only take part in the table tennis competitions.

Bangladesh is taking part

in the women's sections of swimming, volleyball, tennis



and shooting — a new event in the Games — for the first time.

The Sri Lankan contingent's captain and ace swimmer Julian Bolling and president of the Sri Lankan Amateur Boxing Federation Dharmasiri Weerakoon will take oaths on behalf of the competitors and officials respectively.

Wimaladasa and K G Badra will light the Games flame.

The 196-member Bangladesh contingent led by Major (ret'd) Gamrul Islam, MP, arrived here yesterday evening to take part in the Games, the brain-child of Sharad Chandra Shaha, the former president of the national Olympic committee of Nepal.

Air Commodore D B Sriwardane, chairman of the protocol and liaison committee of the fifth SAF Games organising committee, and other officials received the Bangladesh team at the Katunayake International airport.

The first SAF Games were held in Kathmandu, Nepal in 1984, the second Games in Dhaka in 1985, the third in Calcutta in 1987, while the last

Games took place in Pakistan capital Islamabad in 1989.

SOCCER

Meanwhile, Bangladesh will play the defending champions Pakistan in their opening match of the football competition at the Sugathadasa Stadium on December 24.

Bangladesh have been placed in Group 'A' along with Pakistan and India while hosts Sri Lanka, Nepal and Maldives are in Group 'B'.

The group champions will fight for the gold and the group runners-up teams will vie for the bronze.

On the opening day of the competition tomorrow, hosts Sri Lanka will take on Nepal at 5 pm (Bangladesh time) while India will meet Pakistan at 7 pm.

VOLLEYBALL

Bangladesh volleyballers will play their first matches of both the men's and women's sections at the 7,000-capacity Sugathadasa indoor stadium on Monday.

The men will face the Maldives and the women play the hosts Sri Lanka in the morning of December 23.

On the opening day of the competition tomorrow, two matches of the men's section will take place. Sri Lanka will play the Maldives and India will meet Nepal.

In the men's group six countries — Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, the Maldives and Sri Lanka — are taking part while only three countries — Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka are competing in the women's section.

Suhrawardy Cup finals from Dec 28

Sports Reporter

The final round of the under-19 national youth football championships for the eighth Suhrawardy Cup begins on December 28 at the Naogaon Stadium.

On the opening day Khulna DSA will take on Nilphamari DSA.

The other qualifiers for the final round include the seventh Suhrawardy Cup champions Feni DSA, hosts Naogaon and the zonal champions Chittagong, Tangail, Netrakona, Comilla, Pabna and Jhenaidah DSA's.

Sadque Hossain, State Minister for Youth and Sports, will inaugurate the final round proceedings.

The final match of the Suhrawardy Cup tournament is scheduled to be held on January 6, 1992.

Wimbledon puts fans first

LONDON, Dec 21: Wimbledon are slashing corporate hospitality and overseas packages by 70 per cent to provide more tickets for the public at their 1992 tennis Championships, reports Reuters.

Organisers said on Friday they were cutting the allocation to corporate hospitality agents and overseas packages by more than 1,000 tickets per day.

Chris Goringe, chief executive of the All England Club, said: "This decision is in keeping with the committee's policy of ensuring corporate hospitality at Wimbledon has only a small proportion of tickets and that ordinary tennis fans have access to their favourite event."

Manikganj soccer

MANIKGANJ, Dec 21: Bangladesh Air Force today defeated Dhaka side Kalabagan 4-0 in the second round of the Kulia Gold Cup football tournament played at the local stadium today, reports UNIS.

Huda scored the first goal in the 10th minute of the first half while Akher netted the second in the 33 minute.

The two other goals were scored by Arif and Ilaib in the 12th and 38th minutes of the second half.

The next match will be played between Dhaka Dhanmandi Club and Wanderers Club at the same venue on Monday.

Mirzapur Cadet College sports

TANGAIL, Dec 21: The annual sports competition of the Mirzapur Cadet College concluded at the college sports ground here this afternoon, says an ISIR release.

Fazlul Haq House with a haul of 247 points emerged champions while Nazrul House with 240 points became the runners-up.

Cadet Ariful and Cadet Naimur were jointly declared the best athletes in the junior group while Cadet Jamal and Cadet Sohrab shared the honours in the senior group.

The Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Muhammad Mohaiminul Islam saw the concluding day's events as chief guest and gave away the prizes.

Major General Muhammed Azizur Rahman, Adjutant General of the Bangladesh Army, was also present on the occasion.

Indonesians crowd Asian badminton semifinals

JAKARTA, Dec 21: Indonesia will dominate the Asian badminton men's singles semifinals, following the end of the round robin stage of the championships here Friday, reports AFP.

Indonesia's new star, Bambang Suprianto, had already made sure of his berth by beating China's Wu Wen Kai and Malaysia's Foo Kok Keong in Group-B.

He was joined Friday by compatriot Joko Suprianto, silver medalist at last month's South East Asian Games, who needed three sets to beat China's Liu Jun 15-2, 15-17, 15-6 in Group-D.

Indonesia's third semi-finalist, Fung Permadi, went through to the last four after a straight sets win over South Korean Lee Kwan-Jin, which left him top of Group-A.

Rashid Sidek of Malaysia will be the only player left to prevent a clean sweep of the medals by the host nation.

Sidek overcame China's Wan Zhangwen 15-2, 6-15, 15-3 to reach the semifinals from Group-C.

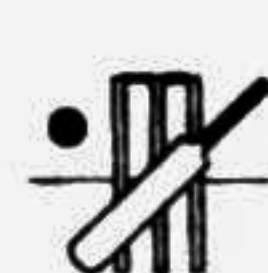
In the women's singles, Thailand's Somharath Jareontri beat China's Ye Zhaoying in two sets. She goes through to the semifinals as runner-up in Group-B and will meet China's world champion, Tan Jiu Hong, the winner of Group-A.



Mohammedan Sporting all-rounder Aminul Islam Bulbul jubilates after bowling Abahani skipper Farooque through the gate on the second day of their two-day Victory Day cricket final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Abahani won by six wickets to clinch the trophy.

Lamba lambasts Mohammedans

Sports Reporter



Finally it happened, exactly the way cricket enthusiasts had predicted at the end of the first day of the final of the Victory Day cricket tournament Friday at the Dhaka Stadium.

Raman Lamba, the former Indian Test batsman now playing for Abahani Krira Chakra, would be the deciding factor, the pundits had said, and he was as the Damal Summer champions added another feather to their cap by beating arch-rivals Dhaka Mohammedans Sporting Club by a staggering margin of six wickets to lift the Victory Day trophy yesterday.

Lamba's unhurried, chanceless hundred smothered all the possibilities of the nerve-racking melodrama that is associated with a Mohammedan-Abahani clash.

Lamba, the macho right-hander, made his intentions clear pretty early.

The other opener, Zahid Razzak Masoom, had a few anxious moments, particularly against Gamage.

But both the openers got their eyes in to play some delightful strokes.

Masoom, with his keen eyesight and powerful fore-arm, punched, pulled and flicked to score 47 before becoming the first casualty of the morning.

Earlier, Masoom enjoyed a slice of luck with the team total at 56. While trying to flick Suru off his pads he gave Didar at cover a dully catch from the leading edge but the young player, perhaps a little overawed by the occasion, floored

it. Masoom, however, made amends for this blemish by belting Suru around with authority. Two of the more spectacular strokes of his six fours were a magnificent punch past mid-on and a flick off a delivery picked on the half-volley. He pushed tentatively at an off-break from Aminul Islam

Together with Akram Khan Lamba started to play the Mohammedan bowlers with gay abandon.

The Mohammedan fielding was pathetic and the lack of the razor sharpness made the task easier for the Abahani batsmen in full cry.

Akram played as a true foil to Lamba to score a sedate 43

and Khaled Mahmud Sujon gave the finishing touch, leaving no room for hiccup. Both remained unbeaten at the kill with 33 and 11 runs respectively.

Bulbul, who played a starring knock of 82 for his side the previous day, proved his worth with the leather to finish with figures of two for 44.

Bulbul, along with Raman Lamba, was declared the joint men-of-the-match of the final.

L G R D Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar gave away the trophies and prizes as the chief guest.

Earlier, the match was held up for about 50 minutes in the post-lunch session following crowd trouble that was triggered by a minor incident in the field when batsman Lamba complained to the umpire against alleged sledging by some Mohammedan fielders, especially Didar at gully.

SCOREBOARD

Mohammedans: 263 all out in 72.4 overs on Friday

Abahani:					
Masoom b Bulbul	47				
Raman Lamba b Gamage	111				
Farooque b Bulbul	4				
Akram run out	47				
Selam not out	33				
Sujon not out	11				
Extras	11				
Total (for 4 in 64.3 overs)	264				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W	
Gamage	15	3	35	1	
Bulbul	11	1	39	0	
Suru	8	1	38	0	
Rafiq	10.2	0	41	0	
Wahed	9	0	45	0	
Bulbul	15	1	44	2	
Ilyas	4	0	15	0	



Lamba and Bulbul (R) and ... men-of-the-match

Bulbul and was bowled through the gate.

Lamba was the more subdued of the two although he showed enough resourcefulness to keep the score-board moving.

After being bogged down in one particular over from Gamage, Lamba deliberately edged the bowler for two successive fours to give ample proof of his experience.

Skipper Farooque Ahmed joined Lamba but departed at the stroke of lunch for four. Shaping to on-drive one from Bulbul, Farooque yanked himself with the score reading 99.

with the help of three fours.

Lamba, meanwhile, reached a well-deserved hundred off 169 balls with a single off Wahed. He was finally out for 111 when he tried to play Gamage across the line.

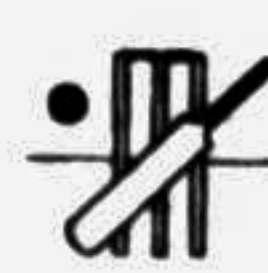
The batsmen, who looked unhappy over the leg before decision, hit seven fours and one six.

Lamba entertained the crowd with the only six of the match when he leaned back to despatch stand-in skipper Wahed between long on and midwicket with a cross-batted swat.

Mahbubur Rahman Selim

Young Pegasus win cliff-hanger

Sports Reporter



Young Pegasus recorded a dramatic victory against Dhaka Wanderers Club in yesterday's Milnars First Division cricket league match when they were declared winners by virtue of having lost fewer wickets in a cliff-hanger that saw both teams being tied on 150.

Batting first at the Dhanmandi Cricket Stadium, Young Pegasus scored an unconvincing 150 for seven wickets in their stipulated overs.

Nantu top scored with 38. Mahmud followed him next with 37. Shahinur made as useful 27.

Zahidul was Wanderers' most successful bowler with two for 23. Chunnur supported him well with two for 24.

Wanderers, in reply, made a heavy weather of a fairly easy looking target with five of their batsmen running themselves out.

Opener Bablu batted well for his 40.

All rounder Halim Babu with 28 kept the hopes of a Wanderers victory alive but a

series of run outs quashed the possibility of an outright win and when the tenth Wanderers batsman was out the score read exactly 150.

Pegasus had also made 150, but for the loss of seven wickets, and that gave them a lucky win under the by-laws of the competition.

Pappu with two for 20 and Mahmud with two for 22 were the principal wicket takers for Pegasus.

From tomorrow, December 23 onwards, the Milnars First Division cricket league matches will be played at the

Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Victoria will play Sudharan Bina Krira Sangstha on December 23.

There will be no match today in the Milnars First Division league.

NAVANA FIXTURE

The Navana Premier Division league resumes today after being held in abeyance for the Victory Day cricket tournament.

GMCC take on Lalmata Club at the Dhaka Stadium.

Kapil, Pandit in record stand



BRISBANE, Dec 21: Chandrakant Pandit cracked a splendid century, today to lead an Indian batting revival against Queensland at the Gabba here, reports AFP.

The 30-year-old reserve wicket-keeper made a stroke-full 127 studded with 21 boundaries to stake his claim for a Test 127 studded with 21 boundaries to stake his claim for a Test berth.

Starting the second day of the four day game at 255 for six India went on to score 454 for nine before skipper Mohammad Azharuddin declared an hour after lunch.

Opener Trevor Barty made 66 not out as Queensland replied with 118 for one before rain halted play 54 minutes before the scheduled close.

The overnight pair of Pandit and Kapil Dev boosted India's total with a valuable 200 run stand for the seventh wicket.

The pair remained unseparated till 35 minutes after lunch to give India its best day at the crease on the tour so far.

Ignored for the first Test and the World Series one-day games Pandit seized the opportunity to remind the tour selectors of his batting potential with a dazzling strokeplay around the wicket.

Starting the day on eight, Pandit reached his fifty within 35 minutes after taking four boundaries in one over from Scott Prestwidge.

His century came soon after lunch in great style, as he smacked Queensland skipper

Carl Rackemann for three boundaries to move from 88 to 100.

He was eventually run out when Kapil refused a third run after Pandit had out off spinner Peter Taylor to third man.

Pandit joined Sanjay Manjrekar as the only other player to notch up a century in an otherwise low-key batting display by India on the current tour.

Pandit's three Test matches so far have all been in the role of a batsman and he must now be a strong contender to play in the second Test against Australia, starting in Melbourne, December 26.

The unusually subdued Kapil was content to play second fiddle as Pandit dominated the tiring Queensland attack that had ripped through the Indian top order on Friday.

Kapil batted for nearly three and a half hours to score 80 with the help of 10 boundaries before being bowled by Scott Williams.

Venkatapathy Raju was the only batsman to fall today, making only four before being caught and bowled by Rackemann.

India earned an early success in the field when left-handed Matthew Hayden was caught at gully off Kapil for eight with the score on 25.

Barty and Greg Ritchie denied India further success, putting on 93 for the unbroken second wicket before bad weather ended play early for the second successive day.

Barty hit 10 boundaries and a six over long on against left-arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju in an attractive 66 off 92 balls.

The portly Ritchie looked set for a big score in his 100th match for Queensland making an unbeaten 36 with five boundaries.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the four-day match between India and Queensland here Saturday:

INDIA:					
Shastri c Anderson b Prestwidge	35				
Srikkanth c Taylor b Prestwidge	7				
Manjrekar st Anderson b Oxfenford	110				
Vengsarkar c Anderson b Williams	27				
Azharuddin run out	18				
Ganguly run out	29				
K Dev b Williams	80				
Pandit run out	127				
Raju c and b Rackemann	4				
Banerjee not out	0				
Extras: (b2, lb1, nb9, w5)	17				
Total (for nine wkts declared)	454				

Fall of wickets: 1-7: 2-62; 3-136; 4-161; 5-233; 6-238; 7-438; 8-443; 9-454.

Bowling:	O	M	R	W	
Williams	29.3	4	114	2	
Prestwidge	25	3	113	2	
Rackemann	29	6	95	1	
Taylor	21	1	97	0	
Oxfenford	12	2	32	1	
QUEENSLAND:					
T J Barty not out	66				
M L Hayden c Azharuddin b Kapil	8				
O M Ritchie not out	36				
Extras (lb1, nb7)	8				
Total: (one wklt)	118				

Fall of wickets: 1-25; 2-56; 3-111; 4-141; 5-141; 6-141; 7-141; 8-141; 9-141.

Bowling:	O	M	R	W	
Banerjee	11	1	56	0	
Kapil	6	0	14	1	
Ganguly	4	0	22	0	
Raju	5	1	19	0	
Hirani	6	0	6	0	

Windies restricted to 235



HOHART, Australia, Dec 21: An Australian XI captained by Test wicket-keeper Ian Healy were in a strong position after dismissing the West Indies for 235 in a four-day match here today, reports AFP.

Play started a day late after Friday's rain at Bellerive Oval, and the teams agreed to play for an extra hour on each remaining day.

The match has been dubbed the sixth Test of the summer. India are currently on a Test tour of Australia, and the three countries are taking part in the World Series of one-day internationals.

Only Brian Lara, the West Indies top scorer, looked really comfortable, and he was dropped four times before being dismissed by spinner Shane Warne for 83 shortly before tea.

Earlier, Lara was struck in the groin by a delivery from Paul Reiffel but this did not seem to seriously affect him and he struck 10 boundaries.

The West Indies won the toss and captain Desmond Haynes decided to bat.

The tourists got off to a promising start, Carlisle Best butting runs on the board with a superb cut to the boundary off Bruce Reid's second delivery.

In the eight over, Reiffel's bowling cost 10 runs including a huge six over square leg from Phil Wallace.

But with the score at 43, Wallace struck a Reiffel delivery to Healy, his total of 21 in-

cluded a six and three fours. With Wallace gone, and Best caught by Wayne Phillips off Greg Matthews with the score at 79, the West Indies' innings began to crumble.

The Australians picked up four wickets in the second session of play, which — like the final session — was extended by half an hour.

Bruce Reid took the wickets of Keith Arthurton and Carl Hooper most economically and finished with figures of 3 for 73.

Haynes became the Australians' fifth scalp when he felled at a Steve Waugh ball outside off stump and was caught behind by Healy for 10.

With the score at 5-155, West Indies wicket-keeper

Jones cuts loose

PERTH, Dec 21: Australian batsman Dean Jones returned to his most punishing form with an unbeaten 170 for Victoria in a Sheffield Shield match against Western Australia at the WACA Ground here Friday, reports AFP.