

Pakistan, Lanka expected in late March

W Bengal side arrives today

Sports Reporter

The 15-member West Bengal cricket team led by Ashoke Malhotra arrives today to play a number of matches including three one-dayers and a two-day fixture at the Dhaka Stadium against two local clubs and Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) selections.

Disclosing this heart-warming news for the cricket lovers the BCCB president said that Sri Lanka had already confirmed the tour while a verbal agreement had been reached with Zahid Ali Khan, president of the BCCP. The two teams are likely to be here by the end of March on early April, before Eid-ul-Fitr. They may play a day-night game.

The tourists will play the first match of the in week-long tour against Abahani Krira Chakra tomorrow followed by another one-dayer against Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club the next day. The visitors will meet a BCCB selection in a two-day match with each side playing a maximum of 80 overs

While giving details of the tour of the West Bengal cricket team, Mustafizur Rahman said that the choice of the two local clubs to play the visitors has not been made on the consideration of their crowd pulling potential, rather on their current form. Abahani Krira Chakra have won two tournaments

There will be no complimentary tickets and the BCCB president himself bought a ticket for the VIP enclosure costing Taka 300 to implement the announcement.

Mustafizur Rahman also informed the journalists that an under-19 Bangladesh team will visit India, Pakistan and possibly Sri Lanka towards the end of this year. The national cricket team will go to Singapore to play in the South East Asian cricket championship in June. Bangladesh won the two earlier championships. The champions of the Singapore meet will qualify for the Asian Cup cricket tournament to be held some time in October in Pakistan.



BCCB chief Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman addressing a press conference at the BCCB office yesterday in connection with the West Bengal team's tour.

from Feb 13. The will play their last match—a one-dayer against a BCCB selection before leaving Dhaka for home on 16.

This year while Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club who finished runners up behind Abahani in the tournaments, currently tops the table on the completion of the first phase of the Navana Premier Division cricket league.

Addressing a press conference in this connection, Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman who is also the president of the BCCB said that the visit of the West Bengal side will be followed by a joint tour of the Pakistan and Sri Lankan cricket teams, who will play matches here against local selection and among themselves after completing their World Cup engagements Down Under.

The expenditure, towards air passage, boarding, players daily allowances and local hospitality will amount to Taka seven and a half lakh. The national airlines Bangladesh Biman who are taking care of the travelling of the visitors, have given a sizeable discount and will also provide the score board at the ground.

BCCB vice President Raisuddin Ahmed, General Secretary Aminul Huq Moni and Reza-e-Karim were also present at the conference.

Following are the rates of tickets for the matches between the West Bengal cricketers and the local teams.

Daily tickets:	Taka	Only
Western gallery	30	
Eastern gallery	20	
VIP (Gate no 1 upstairs)	300	
VIP (Gate no 2 Below)	200	
VIP (Gate no 3A)	150	
VIP (Gate no 3B)	100	

Apart from this, daily tickets will be sold at Taka 20 for the cricket players.

Good for the goose, but...

VIENNA, Feb 8: Sex has the same effect as a performance-enhancing drug on women athletes — but it slows men down.

That is the scientific conclusion presented to a symposium of German and Austrian gynecologists in the Tyrolean town of Oberurgl, reports AFP. Professor Wilfried Feichtinger of the University of Vienna also told the conference that marriage was beneficial to women in the pursuit of sporting glory, for purely "psychological reasons."

"As far as athletics is concerned, women reported an improvement in their performances when they had made love shortly before competition," Dr Feichtinger said.

"Women also showed an improvement in their sporting performances after marriage," he added.

But men should abstain from sex before a big match. "It reduces their aggressivity," Dr Feichtinger believes.

No cricket Sports Reporter

All matches of the Navana Premier Division cricket league, the Milnars First Division league and the Rank Xerox Second Division league fell through yesterday because of the unplayable ground conditions following Friday afternoon's downpour.

Meanwhile, the BCCB has announced revised fixtures for the Milnars and Second Division leagues.

According to the changed Milnars schedule, there will be two matches on February 11.

Young Pegasus will take on Ajax Club at the Mirpur Pallabi ground while Agrani Bank will face City Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Gandaria Cricketers will clash with Shantinagar Club A on February 11 at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (West) in the Second Division league.

The date for the vital Navana tie between defending champions Brothers Union and last year's runners-up Bangladesh Biman, the only remaining fixture of the first phase of the 12-team league, is yet to be fixed and in all likelihood will have to wait until the end of the tour by the West Bengal cricketers.

Jakarta win Asian cities' chess Sports Reporter

The Dhaka City Club securing 19.5 points and the Jahangirnagar Club with 18 points finished 11th and 16th respectively in the "Asian city chess tournament" held in Dubai recently, says a press release.

The Jakarta City Club of Indonesia, who finished runners-up behind Dhaka in the last meet, clinched the championship trophy collecting 25.5 points while Melbourne City Club and the Manila City Club, both having the same points, placed second and third respectively following the tie-break.

Grand Master Niaz Morshed, International Master Zillur Rahman Champak, Fide Master Ziaur Rahman, Fide Master Yunus Hassan and Fide Master Syed Tahmidur Rahman — all former national champions — took part for the Dhaka City Club while Ziaul Kader Tuhi, Khandaker Kayes Hassan, Shahabuddin Ahmed Qureshi, Anisur Rahman, Fide Master Jamilur Rahman and International Woman Master Rani Hamid represented the Jahangirnagar City Club.

Thirty-seven city clubs took part in the meet.

Samaranch says S Africans will compete in Olympics athletics

LA LECHERE, France, Feb 8: South Africa will compete in athletics, the biggest Olympic sport, at the Barcelona Games, International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch announced here Thursday, reports AFP.

"I can assure you South Africa will be present in Barcelona in the athletics," Samaranch told a press conference.

Asked why he could be so confident in spite of the International Amateur Athletics Federation's refusal two weeks ago to recognise the newly-formed South African track and field body, he said it was simple.

"I'm a very optimistic man," he added.

However, most observers believe the real reason for his confidence is that he is expected to name IAAF president Primo Nebiolo as an IOC member either during or shortly after these Winter Games.

Judge Keba Mbaye will lead an IOC team to South Africa in March to sort out the outstanding problems. Many white South Africans are fiercely opposed to the famous Springbok Symbol being dropped.

The ambitious Nebiolo, usually seen as Samaranch's biggest rival in world sport, has been trying for years to join the IOC but has been blocked by his own National Olympic Committee in Italy.

Two days ago the IOC session authorised Samaranch to name two new members. Albertville Games organising committee co-chairman Jean-Claude Killy is expected to be the other member.

Samaranch, 72, has always preferred to bring his rivals into the IOC where they have usually found common ground for agreeing on issues which had previously separated them.

One of the biggest problems facing the modern games is uncontrolled growth and Samaranch said Quotas would

Smokeless Olympics

ALBERTVILLE, Feb 8: The 16th Olympic Winter Games have been made smokeless ones as all venues are non-smoker areas, reports Xinhua.

Albertville organizers, with the help of the World Health Organization, French Ministry for Social Affairs and Health Education French Committee, undertook a programme entitled "Smokeless Games" aiming at protecting athletes and spectators from passive exposure to smoke.

To make people aware of the programme, a motto "Smoking is not my nature" has been printed on 1,000 notice boards in the Olympic area, on the back of 800,000 tickets for all Olympic competitions, on the back cover of 100,000 copies of "The Viewers' guide" and on half a page of "The Games Daily" newspaper.

King Club chess Sports Reporter

Md Shamim Hossain became the unbeaten champion securing full seven points when he defeated Zakir Hossain in the seventh round of the King Chess Club open tournament organized by King Chess Club yesterday, says a press release.

Seles ready for Connors

ESSEN, Germany, Feb 8: Monica Seles is ready to pick up the gauntlet thrown down by Jimmy Connors to play in a "battle of the granters" for two million dollars, reports AFP.

Connors suggested in San Francisco on Wednesday that if he were to take on the 18-year-old world number one, they should each put down a million dollars and the winner would take it all.

However, Seles said here on Friday: "In theory, I'm ready to meet Jimmy but there are things to take into account."

"I would have prepared myself seriously and you can't organise a match like this at just any old time. I don't want to let circuit tournaments pass and put by ranking in danger just for the pleasure of playing against Jimmy."

the moment, you only have to look at what is happening in Yugoslavia.

Since Seles spoke of her desire for a match with the 39-year-old former men's number one, such an encounter has been billed as a "battle of the granters" because of the noise both stars make when hitting the ball on court.

Connors, who is playing at a men's circuit tournament in San Francisco, said: "I know she wants to play me without changing the rules of the game."

"So I propose that we each put one million dollars on the table and the winner takes all. I will play on that condition."

Sheraton tennis

The fourth Dhaka Sheraton tennis classic, began at the Sheraton tennis court yesterday with 48 players participating in four disciplines, reports BSS.

General Manager of the hotel John L Eaton inaugurated the tournament in the afternoon.

The participants — 16 in men's singles, four in ladies' singles, 12 in mixed doubles and 16 in the men's doubles — are all full club members, both local and members of the diplomatic missions in Dhaka.

The finals will be played on February 23.

T & T sports on

The annual sports and athletic competition of the Bangladesh T and T Board began at Mohakhali yesterday.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Muhammad Keramat Ali formally inaugurated the two-day meet.

Abahani march on

Defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra maintained their winning spree in the Green Delta First Division hockey league beating Azad Sporting Club 3-0 yesterday at the Hockey Stadium.

The victory takes Abahani's points tally to 12 from six encounters while Azad have just two points from an identical number of engagements.

All the three goals came in the second session.

Abahani dominated most of the proceedings.

Veteran Abdullah Piru put Abahani ahead from a penalty stroke a couple of minutes after the breather (1-0).

Salahuddin Chowdhury Tisa doubled the margin in the 51st minute by converting a penalty corner (2-0).

Tisa completed the tally for the winners five minutes from the buzzer with a spectacular field goal (3-0).

Abahani earned eight penalty corners, a clear sign of their dominance, while Azad managed to force just a solitary penalty corner.

Fazal Mahmood of Abahani and Shamim Ahmed and Khwaja Kasef of Azad were cautioned with the green card.

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Wright, Jones hit tons

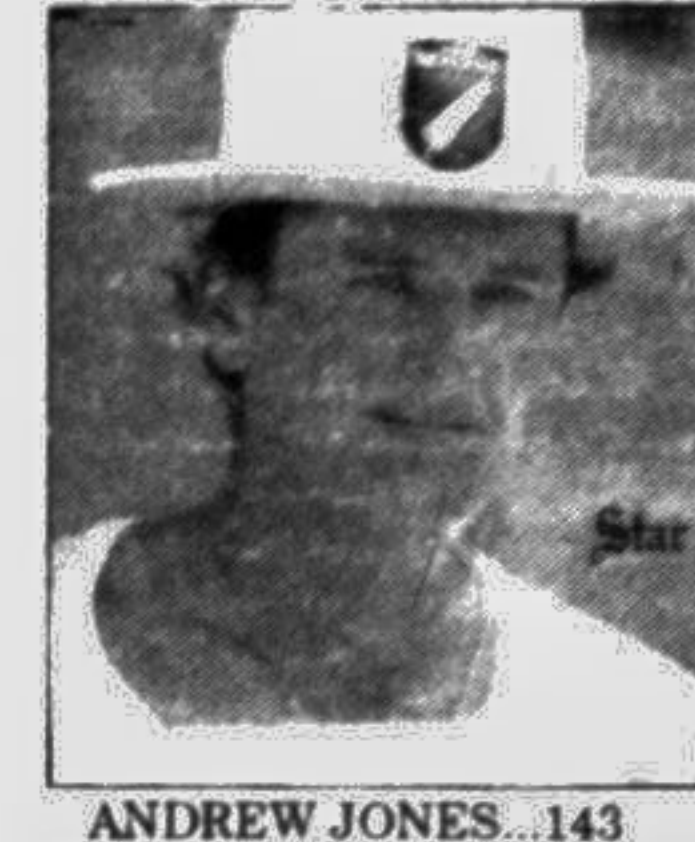
WELLINGTON, Feb 8: John Wright and Andrew Jones set an all-time second-wicket record of 241 for New Zealand on the third day of the third cricket Test with England on Saturday, reports AP.

The pair helped carry New Zealand into a competitive position by stumps, when the home team was 340-6 despite a last-session collapse. It gave New Zealand, which lost the first two Tests, an overall lead of 35 after England scored 305 in its first innings.

England were hampered by the loss of bowler Phillip DeFreitas, who did further damage to a groin strain sustained early in the tour when he warmed up Saturday morning. He may miss the rest of the match.

Wright (44) and Jones (51) began the day with New Zealand at 104-1. By lunch they had taken the score to 181, and in the process eclipsed New Zealand's previous best stand for the second wicket of 131 against England.

That mark was set in 1950-51 by Bert Sutcliffe and John Reid at Lancaster Park in New Zealand.



ANDREW JONES...143

In the fifth over after lunch, Wright had advanced his score from 89 to 101 for his 12th Test century. It stood for the century he missed out on in the first Test in Christchurch when he was out for 99.

The pair then brought up the New Zealand 200, and when they took a single to advance the score to 214, they had beaten the previous best mark of 210 for the second wicket against all countries.

Jeff Crowe and Geoff Howarth set the old mark against the West Indies at Kingston, Jamaica in 1985.

Wright had taken his core to 112 when Jones, with a punishing pull to the boundary



JOHN WRIGHT...116

took the catch. At tea New Zealand were 273-2 with Jones on 121 and Martin Crowe on 16. When Crowe scored two in his innings he had brought up 1,000 runs against England in Test matches.

England struck back in the last session when off spinner Graeme Hick bowled Jones on 143 for the third New Zealand wicket with the score at 308. Crowe, attempting to push the score along, went with the

tal on 312, playing on to his stumps on a Tufnell delivery.

Ken Rutherford was run out at the non-striker's end for eight and New Zealand had lost their fifth wicket at 327, a lead of 22 runs. At 340, Dipak Patel fell lbw on a Hick delivery for the sixth New Zealand wicket.

Playing for pride in a series already won 2-0 by England, the 37-year-old Wright and Jones mastered an English bowling attack.

Jones joined Wright when opener Blair Hartland was dismissed with just three runs on the board on Friday, and the two batted slowly on Friday evening.

On Saturday, however, on a dusty Basin Reserve wicket ideally suited for big scores, the two men matched each other run for run.

Boon celebrates at Pak cost

LAUNCESTON, Australia, Feb 8: Pakistan's preparations for the World Cup ran into difficulties here today when the visitors lost to Tasmania by 42 runs in a one-day match, reports AFP.

The host side scored 251 for 3, and Pakistan could manage only 209 before they were all out with eight balls remaining.

The Tasmanian innings was built around a superb 73 off only 78 deliveries by Australian Test batsman David Boon.

The tourists' top-scorer, Moïn Khan, batting at number nine, made less than half Boon's score, reaching 36.

Captain Imran Khan made 31, but opener Imtiazul Haq was the only batsman to look comfortable. He made 27 off 24 deliveries before Aamir Sohail ran him out in a terrible mix-up in the 13th over.

Pakistan, who narrowly avoided defeat by Victoria this week, start a three-day game against Tasmania in Devonport tomorrow.

Their first Warm-up international is against South African Canberra on February 15, a week before the start of the nine-nation tournament.

Boon, who made three centuries in the just-ended Test series against India, took the field after the members' stand was named in his honour.

He is believed to be the first Australian cricketer to have a stand named after him before he retired.

In contrast to former West Indian skipper Viv Richards, who scored nought and two when the main grandstand in Antigua was named after him for the fifth Test against Australia last year, Boon rose to the occasion.

Boon was also dropped on 61 and 62 before flinging the bat at Shahid and Sohail held the catch running in from third man.

An earlier report from Bendigo said on Friday talkers Moïn Khan and Aaqib Javed saved Pakistan from an embarrassing defeat in the opening match of their World Cup build-up against Victoria.

The pair had to survive the last five overs to hold off the Sheffield Shield champions as they finished on 149 for nine on the final day of the three-day match having been set 204 to win in 54 overs.

Pakistan's front-line batsmen, who failed in the first innings, again struggled with only Zahid Fazal topping 30 but skipper Imran Khan said he was reasonably happy with his side's overall performance.

"The wicket was quite dif-

ferent to anything we have played on in the last three months," Imran said.

"It was a bit of a re-adjustment and it wasn't that easy. I'm glad in a way that everyone had a knock."



DAVID BOON

slip for four to finish the over. Boon was also dropped on 61 and 62 before flinging the bat at Shahid and Sohail held the catch running in from third man.

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Soccer league postponed

Sports Reporter

All the remaining matches of the Star First Division football league have been suspended in the wake of the indefinite countryside transport strike that began yesterday.

A press release issued by the DAMFA says that the new schedule will be announced in due time.

Pioneer soccer

Three more matches of the Janata Bank Pioneer football league were held yesterday at two different city venues.

Roy Shaheb Bazar Tarun Sangha trounced Kendrio Kishore Kafela 5-0 at the Khilgaon School ground.

Jewel scored twice while Babu, Belayet and Subhash got one goal apiece for the winners.

At the Outer Stadium, WISC beat Sonali Krira Sangha by two goals to one.

Saifur Rahman and Hanif netted for the winners while Faruk reduced the margin for the vanquished.

The other match at the venue, between Nabodyo Sangha and Mirpur XI, ended goal-less.

Meanwhile, the first round of the Pioneer league will be completed today.

Two matches will be played at the Outer Stadium, with Mottheel Pragati Sangha taking on Rising Star at 1:45 pm and Mirpur MSPCC facing Surjashikha Sangad at 3:15 pm.

The ten-team super league, with the top two teams of each of the five zones, will begin soon.

Surjodoy Boys beat Victoria Sports Reporter

Surjodoy Boys Club recorded their fifth consecutive victory in the Cute First Division handball league when they outplayed Victoria Sporting Club 38-16 at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.

Surjodoy Boys led the first half 16-7.

Kamal, Apu and Babu netted 11, eight and seven goals respectively for Surjodoy Boys while Kamal with five and Priyotosh with four were the main goal-getters for Victoria.

Surjodoy, still unbeaten, now have ten points while Victoria have two points from five outings each.

The other fixture of the day, between West Jatrabari Krira Chakra and Bangladesh Ansars, could not be held following the countryside transport strike.

TODAY'S MATCHES

BDR vs Dhaka Wanderers Club (2:15 pm)
Brothers Union vs Police (3:30 pm)

MSC may field Pak hockey stars today Sports Reporter

Momtaz Hyder and Zahid Makbul, the two Pakistani hockey players who arrived in Dhaka last week to play for Mohammedan Sporting Club, may take part in today's match against Bangladesh Railway, says a source close to Mohammedan Club.

Hyder and Makbul, who play for Pakistan International Airlines and Habib Bank Ltd respectively, are reportedly players of high class who can play in any position.

Registration formalities of these two players with the Bangladesh Hockey Federation have been completed.

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Azad Sporting goalkeeper Shamim and a fellow defender take a tumble during yesterday's Green Delta league match against champions Abahani KC at the Hockey Stadium. — Star photo