

Moni makes defeat digestible

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) selection did well to narrow the margin of a defeat to a single wicket.

Defeat was a foregone conclusion when four wickets fell in a heap as the BCCB batsmen, laden with the unenviable burden of getting 385 runs for victory in this two-day exhibition match with the visiting West Bengal side, multiplied their problems with uncalculated adventurism and carelessness.

Making 385 in 80 overs against an experienced if not overwhelmingly powerful side like the CAB was not easy to say the least, but the all-familiar recrudescence to crumbling against spin and when under pressure was particularly galling. In the end, the southpaw who plays for Bangladesh Biman in the local league, illuminated the dark patches created first by the poor show with the bat and later a crowd trouble that followed after the controversial dismissal of Bulbul. The fact that the CAB bowlers, Anup Das in particular, was trying to buy the wickets could take nothing away from Moni's credit; he took the challenge and set the standards with daring strokeplay that earned him five sixes (two in a row) off slow left-arm Anup Das, who showed a Bedesque generosity in inviting batsmen to loft him in the air.

BCCB progressed well till the serene silence of the morning was broken by the tick of opener Nurul Abedin's bat with the score showing a healthy looking 60 from 18 overs. He failed to get to the pitch while stretching forward

to a flighted delivery from Anup that turned fractionally more than the batsman had expected and Snapped Gandhi at silly point snapping him up without any fuss.

Rafiqul Alam, looking unusually sedate, played one from the same bowler down the wrong line, perhaps, to be bowled for eight. Azhar Hossain Shantoo had left earlier, run out for a well-made 33 spangled with three fours.



MONI...fine 131

There was nothing new in the nature of the dismissal as the eternally callous batsman started, halted and then started, to be left hopelessly stranded. One of the main drawbacks of our batsmen is they never bother about adapting themselves to the circumstances.

Akram Khan, another in-form batsman like Rafiq, had the courage and the wisdom to try a cut against the spin of Sharadindu Mukherjee and made the score card look a sickly 77 for four.

Aminul Islam Bulbul and Enamul Huq Moni started playing strokes all around the wicket although West Bengal skipper Ashok Malhotra had people hemmed around the bat. Both of them cut savagely at anything short outside the offstump and Bulbul in particular offered the batsmen back in the pavilion a lesson by using his feet to the spinners, prying on the nerves in harness with the close-in fielders. Moni was lucky when his sweep soared high and Indu Bhushan Roy at deep backward square leg grassed the catch, a lapse which ensured a toll for them under the sun.

Bulbul's dismissal with the total on 181 sparked off a most unsavoury sight in the galleries as angry spectators held up play by invading the ground protesting the dismissal, given caught behind by umpire Manzur Milky off bowler Malhotra. The gesture of disgust and dissatisfaction by a normally phlegmatic Bulbul created a commotion unexpected and unseemly of an exhibition match like this. The incident forcing an early tea, also triggered off a collapse in the BCCB batting as skipper Nannu, Shovon and Dulu left in no time to bring the defeat nearer. But Saiful Islam, the medium-pacer, hung around as Moni blazed away to a scintillating 131, studded with four fours and five sixes, before holing out to Defonik Sengupta while trying his sixth sixer.

His was the last wicket to fall in the 78th over with the score on 302, to signal the end of a match that will remain etched in the memory for the phenomenal success of the

left-handed batsmen, for whom it was his maiden century.

Sharadindu and Anup were the most successful of the West Bengal bowlers with figures of three for 109 and three for 104 respectively.

Raja Venkat, who scored 154 for CAB, and Moni were declared the joint men of the match.

Jagmohan Dalmya, executive president of the CAB, gave away the prizes.

TODAY'S MATCH

The visiting West Bengal cricket team plays the last match of its tour today against a BCCB selection led by Minhazul Abedin Nannu.

The 50-overs one-day begins at 9.15 am. The rates of the tickets have been fixed at Taka 20 for the western gallery and Taka ten for the eastern. Tickets will be available at the stadium counter.

SCOREBOARD

CAB XI: 384 for five wickets (overnight)

BCCB XI	
Shantoo run out	33
N A Novel c D Gandhi b Anup Das	16
Rafiq b Anup Das	8
Akram Khan	8
A I Bulbul c M Das b Malhotra	55
E Huq Moni c D Sengupta b Anup Das	131
M A Nannu c S Kalyani b S Mukherjee	15
M Z Shovan run out	3
J A T Dulu run out	2
Saiful Islam c M Das b S Mukherjee	12
W Gani not out	1
Extras	18
Total: (all out in 77.4 overs)	302
Bowling: O M R W	
Rafiq Seth	6 1 21 0
D Sengupta	2 0 18 0
A Malhotra	14 0 44 1
S Mukherjee	33 2 109 3
Anup Das	22.4 1 103 3

Srinath as quick as McDermott : Saurav Ganguly

Star Special

"I tell you Jawagal Srinath is as quick as Craig McDermott; may be he cannot bowl at the sustained speed of the big Queenslander, he is capable of generating the speed of the big Queenslander," was the unhesitant reply of Bengal's teenage prodigy Saurav Ganguly when asked about his Indian team mate and new pace discovery during the two-day CAB-BCCB match at the Dhaka Stadium.

Rather tight-lipped for obvious reasons, Saurav blamed the Indian batting for the debacle Down Under. Saurav, who has played the likes of McDermott, Rackemann, Taylor and the Waugh twins, picked Owen Holsworth of New South Wales as the most difficult bowler he had faced on the tour.

Son of Chandi Ganguly, the president of the CAB, Saurav was born on July 8, 1973. He and elder brother Snehashish, who is also a member of the Bengal cricket team, had their basic cricket education at their south Calcutta residence, accoutured with nets.



Saurav Ganguly (L) with elder brother Snehashish

Snehashish, who is six years older, denied any hint of sibling rivalry among the two left-handed because of the younger Ganguly's emergence under the limelight.

Saurav made his first class debut in the 89-90 season with a score of 22 against Delhi in the Ranji final.

Saurav, who bowls right-arm medium-pace, also has six fifties and thirty wickets from his six Ranji matches. Playing for the Rajshahi Club in the Calcutta league, Saurav mentioned his unbeaten 130 and a haul of four wickets in the Duleep Trophy match for East Zone against West Zone as his most satisfactory performance to date.

An admirer of Vito Richards for his carefree batting style, the younger Ganguly loves most to straight drive bowlers.

Praising Waheedul Ghami, the local leg-spinner for the bounce and spin that he extracted from the wicket on Thursday, Saurav said "I made a point to hit him out of the attack because he seemed to me the only guy among the local bowlers to pose any difficulty." Saying that Bangladesh has a long way to go before making its presence felt in international cricket, Saurav felt that it is an altogether different thing to play cricket at the highest level; something which cannot be fathomed from the junior levels.

The nineteen-year-old talented and stylish player was obviously hinting at the under-nineteen Beximco Asia Youth Cup cricket he played in Dhaka in 1989, which India had won.

Brothers-Biman tie Feb 17

Sports Reporter

The only remaining match of the Navana Premier Division cricket first league between reigning champions Brothers Union and last year's runners-up Bangladesh Biman will be held on Monday, February 17 at the Dhaka Stadium, said a BCCB press release.

Brothers Union, who have collected 12 points from ten matches, have already confirmed their six-team super league berth while Biman, who have ten points, also from ten matches, will have to win this crucial tie to reach the super league.

But if Biman lose, they will have to take part in a play-off with Surja Tarun Club and Gulshan Youth who, too, have completed their eleven matches with ten points each, to decide the sixth qualifier for the super league.

The bottom-six teams will fight in the relegation league at the conclusion of which three teams will be relegated to the Milners First Division league next season.

The super league and relegation leagues will begin very soon.

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Maniknagar Unnayan Samity gave themselves a good start in the round robin league of the Janata Bank, Pioneer football competition beating Sunrise Sporting Club yesterday at the Outer Stadium by a solitary goal.

After a barren first half, Shahadat scored the all-important goal for the winners in the 18th minute of the second half.

Shahjahan and Mohsin of Maniknagar and Arman, Aminur and Towhidur of Sunrise were cautioned with the yellow card by the referee for rough play.

Earlier, DMFA president M Azizul Huq inaugurated the ten-team meet.

TODAY'S MATCH
Nawab Katra JS vs Govt Press S&RC (3 pm)

Cup fever grips Britain



LONDON, Feb 14: It is Cup week-end again in Britain — a time when the Goliaths of soccer can easily be downed by the lowly Davids, reports AP.

The bigger they are the harder they fall, as the saying goes, and the biggest left in the English Football Association Cup competition is Liverpool.

Although placed third in division one it has already been dispatched from the League Cup by Peterborough, a team midway down division three. Earlier this week it had another scare in an FA Cup fourth-round replay against Bristol Rovers.

The division two side led 1-

0 before Liverpool's players pulled themselves together to score two goals and ensure their side's place in Sunday's fifth-round game at Ipswich.

And it is in that eastern English town that more difficulties could lie in wait.

Ipswich is currently going strong at second place in division two, hoping for promotion to the top division which it left in 1986 after 18 years of the big time.

Its main glories came when it finished runner-up in division one in 1981 and 1982 and, perhaps more significantly, in 1978 when it won the FA Cup.

In those heady days Ipswich was one of the most attractive teams to watch. It played open, attacking soccer

— which probably explains why it finished second twice in the league competition but never won.

Liverpool, by contrast, was a very efficient side. Year after year it figured in the championship race and in the late stages of all cup competitions.

If the score in one of its games was 0-0 with 10 minutes to go, the odds were strongly in favour of a 1-0 Liverpool win.

The statistics for 1991-92 reveal a similar picture. Ipswich, in 30 league games, has scored 48 goals and conceded 35. Liverpool has scored 35 and conceded 24 in 28 games.

Liverpool must start favorite.

ANC support for Wessel's boys

SYDNEY, Feb 14: The African National Congress (ANC) on Friday reaffirmed its support for the South African cricket team's participation in this month's World Cup and said it opposed any protests which would disrupt the even reports Reuter.

The South African cricket team is the first team truly representative of all South Africa. Ndumiso Ntshinga, the ANC's representative in Australia, said in a news release.

The 14-man South African squad, which includes three black players, arrived here a week ago and will play their first international match against the World Cup champions Australia in Sydney on February 26.

The ANC supports and welcomes the new South African cricket team: it does not support any demonstrations which interrupt or interfere with the playing of cricket in Australia this summer," Ntshinga said.

Cricket was the first South African sport re-admitted into international competition after two decades in the sporting wilderness following government reforms of its apartheid racial discrimination policies.

The International Cricket Council agreed to readmit South Africa last July.

The ANC's chief sporting representative, Steve Tshwete, is scheduled to arrive in Australia on February 23 to watch South Africa's opening match against the Australians.

Tshwete chaired the talks which led to the unification of South African cricket under the South African United Cricket Board.

He is due to meet Foreign Minister Gareth Evans and leading Australian rugby officials during this trip which will be followed by a visit to New Zealand where he will watch the South African cricketers play New Zealand on February 29.

Pak selectors in a quandary

CANBERRA, Feb 14: Pakistan, one of the top favourites for cricket's fifth World Cup, are struggling to finalise their squad because of fitness problems to two key players, reports AFP.

Fiery fast bowler Waqar Younis and star batsman Javed Miandad are nursing back injuries and there are fears they may not recover by the time the nine-nation tournament begins in Australia and New Zealand on February 22.

Younis, 20, rated among the fastest bowlers in the world and Pakistan's trump-card in the limited-overs competition, remains unfit despite intensive physiotherapy treatment since his arrival in Australia a fortnight ago.

Miandad, 34, who omitted from the original team after breaking down during a practice session in Lahore last month, flew in Thursday to join his teammates although he is still plagued by back trouble.

Both players will sit out of Saturday's warm-up match against South Africa at the Manuka Oval here, and their participation in the tournament remains uncertain.

Team manager Intikhab Alam said Friday both could be left out if they did not recover by February 18 when Pakistan name their final squad of 14.

"We do not want to take chances, lest they break down midway through month-long tournament," Intikhab told AFP during the team's training session here.

Intikhab said the practice match against Sri Lanka in Sydney on Monday, a day before the team is to be picked, will be the final chance for Younis and Miandad to prove their fitness.

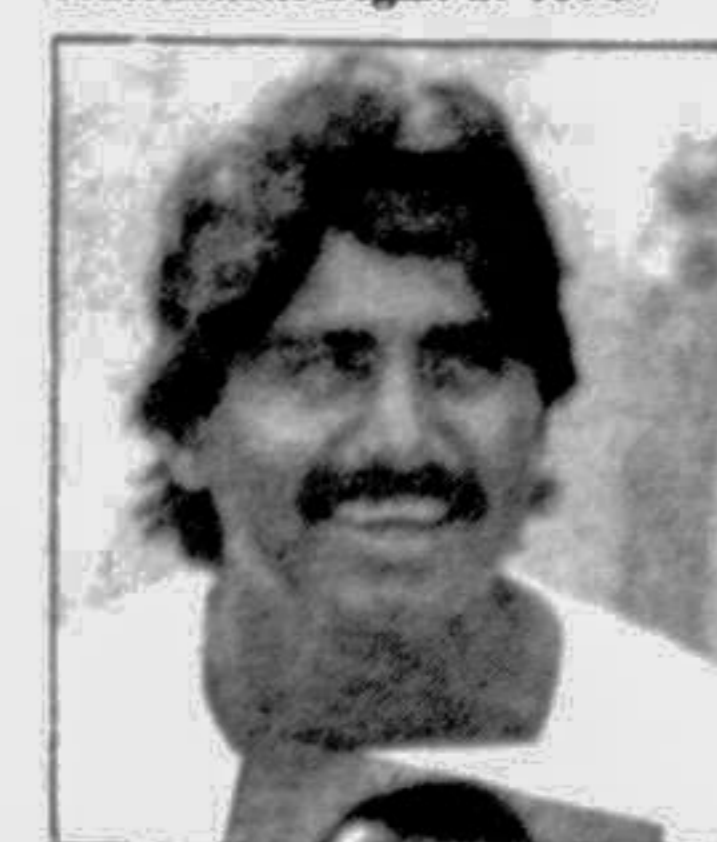
Pakistan, who came to Australia with 15 players, now have two more to choose from with the last-minute induction of Miandad and leg spinner Iqbal Sikander.

Three players will return home since tournament rules permit only a 14-man squad, and Intikhab is hoping Younis

and Miandad will not be among them.

"They are two of our best players and I am keeping my fingers crossed because we could be in big trouble without them," he said.

If Miandad makes the team, he and skipper Imran Khan will be the world's only players to take part in all the World Cups since the four-yearly tournament began in 1975.



JAVED MIANDAD



WAQAR YOUNIS

Imran, one of the game's leading all-rounders, was skeptical about the critics' prediction that Pakistan would be the team to beat in the tournament.

"We are definitely the most talented team in the world but very inexperienced in playing on the faster Australian wickets," the 39-year-old Pakistani legend said.

"Besides the injuries, I am also worried by the inability of the younger players to adjust well to the extra bounce of the wickets here."

"If this tournament was being played back home where the wickets are slower, I would put my money on Pakistan. But I am not so certain here."

"Australia and England would be my favourites to contest the final."

Imran, who says winning the World Cup is one of his cherished ambitions, has devised a novel way to enable his batsmen to tackle the lifting delivery — throwing wet tennis balls at them in the hotel's car park.

The move did not produce immediate results as the Pakistanis were limited to 170 for nine in 50 overs by unfancied bowlers of the Australian capital territory in a one-day match here Thursday.

Having seen Pakistan lose in the semifinals of the last three World Cups, Imran and Intikhab are also stressing the value of consistency over the month-long tournament.

The brilliant, but temperamental, Pakistanis played exciting cricket in the four previous tournaments, but surrendered the advantage at critical moments.

In the inaugural event in England in 1975, Pakistan lost eventual champions West Indies off the hook in a vital league game by allowing the last-wicket pair of Derek Murray and Andy Roberts add 64 match-winning runs.

Imran has also not forgotten the humiliating 18-run defeat by Australia in the semifinal of the 1987 tournament in his home town of Lahore, which left an entire cricket-mad nation stunned.

"That was a bad dream," Imran recalled, adding the defeat only added to his resolve of seeing Pakistan win the Cup some day.

The upcoming tournament gives Pakistan a chance to take revenge in Australia's backyard, but they will have to fight fitness problems first.

W Cup '92 — A dazzling new dimension



LONDON, Feb 14: World Cup cricket 1990s style — a heady concoction of great players, floodlit matches, coloured clothes and white balls offers a dazzling new dimension to the ultimate one-day showpiece, reports Reuter.

Such is the scope of the Cup, co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand and starting on February 22, that it seems certain to transcend all other limited overs tournaments in that part of the cricket world where the shortened game thrives.

Day-night contest, coloured clothing and white balls are being featured for the first time in the 33-day competition which has more matches (39) and more teams (nine) than the other four World Cups.

The previous tournament on the Indian sub-continent in

1987 comprised 27 fixtures but South Africa's return to the world arena last year, following the gradual dismantling of apartheid increased both the original entry of eight teams and the match schedule.

South Africa have already had their first taste of top level competition since being readmitted to the International Cricket Council (ICC), making a short tour of India in November, but the World Cup remains a significant landmark in their re-emergence from 21 years of isolation.

The South Africans led by former Australian opener Kepler Wessels will get the chance to test their strength against all comers under a change in the tournament's format.

Instead of teams being split into the traditional two groups of four each side will play the other eight once with the top four in the table going through to the semifinals.

South Africa, who have put their faith in youth rather than the experience of such players as Clive Rice and Jimmy Cook, make their Cup debut again holders Australia under lights at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

In a tournament full of potentially compelling clashes, the South African's first-ever official match against West Indies, to be played in Christchurch on March 5, is a particularly fascinating prospect.

West Indies: kings of the Cup after winning the first two competitions in England in 1975 and 1979, go into the fifth edition seeking to restore their reputation.

Beaten by India in the 1983 final West Indies failed to qualify for the 1987 semifinals and have lost the consistent winning habit in the one-day game in which they once reigned supreme.

The shift in the balance of power in limited overs cricket has made Australia, having

taken a relatively long time to come to terms with the one day game, the team to beat.

Allan Border's side lifted the Cup in the Calcutta final in 1987 and are favourites to make a successful defence. If they do so, they would become the first country to win the tournament on home soil.

Border, 36, has played in more one day international (233) than any other cricketer, which is as much a testimony to his stamina and durability as a reflection of the increasing volume of over-limit games.

Yet this is likely to be the last time that Border and such vivid personalities of the last decade as Ian Botham, Imran Khan and Kapil Dev compete on the same stage.

Imran and Pakistan teammate Javed Miandad are set to become the only players to appear in all five competitions, providing a further element of nostalgia amid the glitz and glamour of World Cup 1992.

Fans await biggest one-day extravaganza



BRISBANE, Feb 14: The World Cup is cricket's international showpiece. For the players and organisers, it also poses a five-week logistical puzzle.

Nine nations, including South Africa, will contest the limited-overs tournament from Feb 22 through March 25, reports AP.

Matches will be played across five time zones and at venues up to 3,400 miles (5,440 kilometers) apart — almost as far New York to London.

The opening-day match between Australia and New Zealand at Auckland will probably be finished before the England-India day-night match even begins in Perth, which is five hours behind Auckland.

Each team will play eight matches in the round-robin first round before the top four teams qualify for the semifinals.

The final, the 39th match of the Cup, will be played on Wednesday, March 25, in front of an anticipated sellout crowd.

Fayyaz's title

Fayyaz clinched the boys' under-18 singles title in the M A Jabbar memorial tennis championships beating Asif 4-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-2 in the three-hour final at the Engineers' Club court yesterday, reports BSS.

Earlier, in the women's singles Saathi became the champion beating Rina while Tafazzel won the boys' under-14 singles defeating Johnny in the final Wednesday.

Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mirza Abbas, MP, witnessed the yesterday's final as the chief guest and gave away the prizes.

of 108,000 at the historic Melbourne Cricket Ground, where a new 40,000-seat grandstand is being completed.

"With more than 100,000 cheering fans, the atmosphere will be fantastic," said Australian captain Allan Border.

The Melbourne Cricket Ground was the venue for the first-ever Test match between Australia and England back in 1877.

Sri Lanka has the toughest draw with matches on both of New Zealand's main islands and in four Australian states — Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia.

The Sri Lankans play their first two games in New Zealand, the third in Australia, the fourth back in New Zealand and the last four in Australia.

"Just thinking about it makes us a bit tired," said Sri Lankan captain Aravinda de Silva. "I think we are doing about 25,000 kilometers (15,500 miles), which is a fair bit."

New Zealand has the easiest programme. It will play all eight of its first-round matches on home soil, including its opener with co-host Australia.

Two computer experts spend a month drawing up the ideal playing schedule.

The programme then had to be completely redrawn three months ago after South Africa was readmitted to international cricket after an absence of 22 years.

A total of 135 officials have worked on the four-year preparations for the Cup.

The number of man-hours is incredible, said Australian Cricket Board chairman David Richards.

The organizers believe the 39-match programme will pay

financial dividends — particularly if Australia makes the final. The Australian Cricket Board and New Zealand Cricket have estimated profits could be as high as \$15 million, based on ticket sales, broadcasts rights and memorabilia sales.

The organisational budget is \$15 million — plus a major input from sponsors Benson and Hedges — said ACB chairman David Richards.

The prize money for the players is not high, but profits will be ploughed back into the international development of the sport.

Total prize money is \$15 million. The winners of the final will share \$15,000, with the losers collecting half.

The Australian Cricket Board estimates cumulative attendances will approach the 700,000 mark for the tournament.

The final will be televised in 29 countries, including such unlikely nations as the United States, Canada, Argentina, Italy, Japan, and the Netherlands.

Up to 20,000 overseas tourists are expected to fly Down Under to match the spectacle. More than 500 journalists have been accredited.

"This is one of the most significant sporting events ever held in this country," Richards said. "Through the World Cup's media coverage, Australia and New Zealand will have the chance to put themselves on the world stage."

The Australians defeated England by seven runs in Calcutta to win the Cup in 1987 and are favorites to retain the trophy.

Australia is aiming to become the first team to win the trophy on home soil. It never

has previously been held in the Southern Hemisphere. Past winners include the West Indies (1975 and 1979) and India (1983).

A total of 25 matches will be played in Australia and 14 in New Zealand. The start of the competition coincides with the conclusion of the Winter Olympics in order to meet international television demands.

Organizers say a highlights package of the final could be seen by up to 1.65 billion television viewers — more than any other sporting event held in Australia.

At home, there will be 140 hours of television coverage of the tournament.

BUET sports

Sports Reporter

The annual sports meet of the University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) concluded yesterday at the university play ground.

The competition, with 20 events for men and four for the women, was participated by all nine students' halls of the university.

Prof Muhammad Shahjahan, Vice Chancellor, inaugurated the meet at nine in the morning.

Dr M A Hall with 108 points and Titumir Hall with 83 points became champions and runners-up respectively while the individual championship of the tournament was not decided.

Econo jr TT

Sports Reporter

The 1992 Econo junior table tennis league will begin from tomorrow, Sunday, at the National Coaching Centre, says a press release.