



BCCB opener Jahangir Alam drives during his knock of 66 against the West Bengal side at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. BCCB lost the one-day by seven wickets. —Star photo

BCCB boys lose to the men from WB

Sports Reporter

Two teams converged on the green; one was more experienced, and that made all the difference yesterday at the Dhaka stadium. Echoes of Robert Frost? Quite right. The two roads diverging in the yellow wood and the poet's decisive choice that made all the difference in the famous poem 'Road not Taken' can serve as a suitable objective correlative for an explanation of the massive seven-wicket victory of the touring West Bengal side in their last match, a one-day against a Bangladesh Cricket Control Board Eleven.

A very critical spectator could not have found any fault with the batting of the local side although its bowling and fielding left a little to be desired. The batsmen did their best in piling up a daunting total of 246 for five from 42 overs but this Himalayan effort was forced into ineffectuality in the face of professionalism and experience. The West Bengal batsmen, toughened, tempered and annealed by numerous exposure in one-day matches, gave one the impression that another 30/40 runs would have not made any difference; so well the visitors from across the border paced their innings.

The morning entirely belonged to the Bangladeshi batsmen who pulverised the pedestrian West Bengal bowling at will and openers Jahangir Alam, Harun-ur-Rashid, Enamul Haque and Aminul Islam Bulbul, in particular, were the local heroes. Both Jahangir and Liton were epitomes of confidence with the former excelling in powerful drives off the front foot to the half-volley deliveries and the latter pulling anything short with the ferocity of Caribbean batsmen. Both of them were, however, lucky as CAB wicketkeeper Mintu Das, who had a thoroughly ill-fated venture, dropped two straight-forward catches and later went on to mull up a stumping chance also. Fielders marshalling the gully and slip area also had their share in giving new lease of life to the openers.

Liton was the first to go in the 19th over with the score on 90 when he sent one down Sharadindu Mukherjee at deep square-leg while trying to pull a short ball from Satyen Bhattacharya which came very

slowly off the wicket. His authoritative 40 included three hits to the fence.

Mahbubur Rahman Selim was the only batsman to leave cheaply as another mistimed pull took rest in the safe hands of Raja Venkat at square-leg. Skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannu, whose withdrawn, aloof attitude puzzled many, did one good thing by pushing in Enamul Haque to fill the bid after Selim's departure and the largest turnout since the beginning of the matches involving the CAB side was allowed the chance of a rare exhibition of flamboyant batsmanship by the local batsmen.

Jahangir left in the 33rd over with the score on 169 as his hit over the straight country for an intended sixer was beautifully caught by Srikanth Kalyani on the long-on fence; Kalyani tore along, judged and held the lofted shot off left-arm spinner Anup Das low down. Jahangir's solid 66 included four superbly driven and two delicately cut fours.

Mont, brimming with confidence after his sparkling knock against the visitors in the two-day match which concluded the day before, showed no intention of resting on the laurels and went after the bowling right from the word go. Using the sweep, which ultimately spelt his doom, and fierce cuts, he raced to a rollicking 45 off 47 balls. His innings, starred with three fours and one swung sixer off his 'favourite' bowler Anup, came to an end when umpire Aziz declared him leg before as the left-handed batsman tried to sweep away a delivery that appeared to have pitched on the leg and middle stump. The batsman, visibly upset, protested the decision, gesturing that he had got his bat on to it. His dismissal created another unseemly but barely tolerable commotion in the galleries and it is about time local players learnt to accept decisions in good grace, thereby thwarting the possibility of unsavoury crowd reaction.

Bulbul scored a quickfire 31 off 27 balls, a knock that was marked with nimble foot-work and fine timing before he slammed one to Malhotra in the covers off Saurav Ganguly. Athar Ali did exactly what was expected of him, pillaging an unbeaten 21 off just ten balls with a mighty pulled sixer off a full toss from Saurav, as the local side amassed 246 for five from the 42 overs bowled by

the West Bengalis within the stipulated time of one o'clock. Sharadindu Mukherjee returned the best figures among the West Bengal bowlers finishing with two for 48 but Satyen Bhattacharya was the pick of the lot, bowling to his field and considerably curbing the flow of runs at a very crucial stage of the game. He finished with one for 33 from nine overs.

Indu Bhushan Roy, who gave his best on the field, batted confidently to make light of an awe-inspiring initial asking rate of 5.85. Although his partner Bhattacharya left early, bowled by young Zakir who bowled well in his first international match, Indu Bhushan found an able and winning partner Srikanth Kalyani and the BCCB total started looking inadequate with both piercing the gaps at will.

Indu Bhushan was bowled by Bulbul for a well-compiled 47 inclusive of three fours and Kalyani went on lay the foundation of victory with a sound, breezy 70 off only 68 balls punctuated with six boundaries.

Saurav Ganguly, dropped at seven by keeper Jahangir, rode his luck to delight the crowd with some powerful hitting. His unbeaten 73 contained three mighty sixes and five beautifully executed boundaries and the left-hander played only 54 balls.

Raja Venkat, the other unbeaten batsman at the kill, acted as a perfect foil for his marauding Ganguly and had scored only 23 when his younger partner wrapped up the match with two disdainful on driven fours off seamer Badshah.

The veteran bowler, now at the twilight of his career, did not bowl too badly, but he was brought rather late for his second spell by skipper Nannu who persisted with off-spinner Effie too long. The skipper himself was an enigma, exuding an air of detachment from other players. He was reportedly not cent percent fit yet his participation when other senior players were around to hand over the mantle of captaincy was mind-boggling.

The BCCB selectors were no less baffling with their myopic view as regards the future of Bangladesh cricket. Instead of giving valuable exposure to younger players like Habibul Bahar Suman and spinner Saikat they persisted with some players who with due re-

spect to their contribution, can be said to have nothing more to offer at this level. Just three seamers were included in the side that played yesterday and with Athar staying in the cool shade of the pavilion that strength came down to two. There was simply no one around to look to in the event of a break down or some hardship to either Badshah or Zakir in the middle of the match.

Returning to the mutton, Srikanth Kalyani was named man-of-the-match by adjudicator Roshidul Hassan. Enamul Haque Mont of Bangladesh and Saurav Ganguly of CAB won the Biman-sponsored men-of-the-series award, return Dhaka-Bangkok and Calcutta-Dhaka-Bangkok tickets, which were handed over by the visiting Executive President of the CAB Jagmohan Dalmiya.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third one-day between Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) and Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) at the Dhaka Stadium Saturday:

BCCB:	
Jahangir c S Kalyani b Anup	66
HR Liton c Saradindu b Satyen	40
MR Selim c Raja Venkat b Saradindu	7
El Mont lbw b Saradindu	45
Al Bulbul c Ashoke b Saurav	31
Athar Ali not out	21
Zakir not out	2
Extras (b6 lb10 nb15 nb2)	33
Total (for five, 42 overs)	246
Fall of wickets: 1/90; 2/112; 3/169; 4/204; 5/231	
Bowling:	
Saurav Ganguly	9 1 46 1
Rajiv Seth	5 0 40 0
Ashoke Malhotra	4 0 32 0
Anup Das	5 0 31 1
Satyen Bhattacharya	9 1 33 1
Saradindu Mukherjee	10 0 48 2

CAB:	
IB Roy b Bulbul	47
S Bhattacharya b Zakir	12
Srikanth Kalyani c Jahangir b Mont	70
Saurav Ganguly not out	73
Raja Venkat not out	23
Extras: (b7 lb8 nb6 nb3)	24
Total: (for three three wickets)	249
Fall of wickets: 1/42; 2/129; 3/181	
Bowling:	
JS Badshah	7 4 0 41 0
Zakir Hossain	6 0 34 1
MA Nannu	4 0 25 0
Al Bulbul	10 0 52 1
SI Effie	7 0 46 0
El Mont	6 0 36 1
Result: CAB won by seven wickets.	

Churchill's dues

BANGALORE, India, Feb 15: Former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill owes membership dues to the state Bengal Club in this south Indian city from 1899, Prince Charles was told on Friday, reports Reuter.

Club chairman V V K Mari showed Prince Charles records that said Churchill, then a Lieutenant in the British colonial army, owed 13 rupees, or about 50 cents at current exchange rates. "I see, I see," a clearly perplexed Charles said.

Many people had offered over the years to pay the dues for Churchill, who died in 1965, but under club rules members must pay up in person, Mari said.

Prince Charles and his wife Princess Diana are on a royal tour of India.

Ajax struggle to beat Azad

Sports Reporter

Title aspirants Ajax Sports Club had to struggle hard to record their seventh victory in the Green Delta First Division hockey league when they beat a threatening Azad Sporting Club 3-2 at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Ajax led 1-0 at the lemon-break. Safuddin, Sadeque and Nasim scored for the winners while Fazeel Noman and Ehsanul Haque reduced the margin for the vanquished.

Ajax now have fifteen points from eight games and Azad just two, also from eight encounters.

Earlier in the afternoon, Bangladesh Sporting Club posted their maiden victory beating Bachelors Sporting Club by three goals to one.

Ehtesham, Habib and Jewel scored for Bangladesh Sporting while Mamun got the consolation for Bachelors.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Sadharan Bima vs Ansars (1:45 pm)
Mariner Youngs vs Railway (3:15 pm)

Rifles spanner in Surjodoy march

Sports Reporter

Surjodoy Boys Club suffered their first defeat in the Cite First Division handball league yesterday when they lost to the reigning champions Bangladesh Rifles 29-8, in a one-sided affair at the Outer Stadium handball court.

The victory took Rifles' points tally to 12 from six outings while Surjodoy have 14 from eight matches.

Maung Shwe, Jahangir and Rafiqul netted eight, six and four goals respectively for Rifles while Apu with three and Babu with two goals were the main scorers for Surjodoy Boys.

Earlier in the afternoon, newcomers West Jatrabari Kira Chakra recorded their fourth victory in the league beating Victoria Sporting Club by seventeen goals to nine.

Jatrabari led 9-3 at the breather. Kader and Munir netted five goals each for the winners while Nahid got three and Shibly and Kamal scored two goals apiece for the vanquished.

Krabbe passes fresh dope test

FRANKFURT, Germany, Feb 15: Germany's controversial sprint queen Katrin Krabbe has passed a dope test carried out this month in Germany, the National Sports Federation (DSB) said on Friday, reports AFP.

Krabbe, who is suspected of having rigged a test taken in January while training in South Africa, was found to be negative after a control carried out in the eastern town of Neubrandenburg on February 5.

The announcement about the latest sample, which has been analysed at a laboratory in Saxony, was made here by Hans Evers, the head of the DSB's anti-dope commission.

Krabbe, the reigning world 100m and 200m champion, has been in the spotlight after she and two other former East German athletes, Silke Möller and Grit Breuer, were all tested at their South African training ground.

The three samples appear to have come from the same person, and a further series of tests are currently underway.

Evers also called on the DSB to make more demanding dope tests on women in future, including a gynaecological examination.

Meanwhile, Krabbe's trainer Thomas Springstein claimed on Friday that there is a West German "plot" and an "anti-Krabbe lobby" at work — a claim hotly denied by the National Athletics Association (DLV).

Springstein also reckoned there were irregularities in the way the South African tests were carried out.

Mizan goal relieves MSC

Sports Reporter



The resumption of the Star First Division football league at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday after an unfortunate interregnum owing to last week's country-wide transport strike saw title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club struggle hard to eke out a solitary goal win over lowly Dhanmondi Club.

The first half, which remained barren, had the two teams enjoying a fair share of the exchanges with Mohammedans looking rather stale and unimaginative despite their marginal advantage.

Dhanmondi succeeded in holding their formidable opponents at bay for another 23 minutes of the second half before Mizan finally helped his teammate and Mohammedans supporters heave a sigh of relief with a well-placed goal past custodian Tayeb.

In hindsight, the ease with which Mohammedans eventually scored the decisive goal betrayed a strong suspicion among the more observant spectators that some behind-the-scenes manipulation might have succeeded in persuading the otherwise determined Dhanmondi players to forego their stubbornness and act like good boys, sparing the more fancied of the two sides any embarrassment.

The sudden deterioration in the quality of Dhanmondi's play, especially just before the goal suggested some sinister forces were at play.

Saiduzzaman Shamim, Mohammedans' right-back, received a ball inside their territory and passed it to Mahbub Hossain Roxy who

went past two Dhanmondi players and laid it on for Mizan inside the Dhanmondi box. Mizan, with a nice right-footer pushed the ball into the empty net (1-0).

The Dhanmondi players just stood and watched like the sizeable crowd, showing no interest in marking the black-and-whites, which they had done exceptionally well in the first session. Even after conceding the goal, surprisingly enough, Dhanmondi showed no urge for the equaliser, which made the crowd doubly suspicious about some, foul contrivance.

Of course, Mohammedans largely dominated the proceedings and at least on two occasions were denied the lead, but the way the all-important goal came about, it smacked of something fishy.

From the outset, the title aspirants appeared as ordinary as the underdogs from Dhanmondi who did not look like a side with any definite mission.

Imtiaz Sultan Johnny, the veteran Mohammedan midfielder, along with Tariqul Islam Pappu, cut a very sorry figure. Even the one and indispensable Syed Rumman bin Wali Shabbir, could not perform upto expectations. The defence comprising Kanan, the custodian, Kaiser Hamid, Jewel Rana and Shamim, remained more or less untested. Even so there was one lapse which, if exploited, could have proved very costly indeed for them.

Dhanmondi, donning golden jerseys, looked a spirited side in the first session. They were guarding their citadel exceptionally well which,

as one believes, is often the sole aim of underdogs in clashes with their mightier opponents. Goalie Tayeb, deep-defender Ata and skipper Saifu's performances were indeed praiseworthy.

In the 23rd minute, Roxy denied his side the lead by shooting over the post from inside the Dhanmondi box following a header by Kaiser Hamid upon a Shabbir corner.

Lady luck once again betrayed Mohammedans five minutes from time when Ata with a brilliant effort saved a Riaz shot just on the goal-line.

In the 62nd minute, Shabbir, Mohammedans' winged pegasus, dodged past two defenders and moved into the opponents' box and, making enough room, took a spectacular shot that hit the side-bar.

Four minutes later Tayeb, diving to his left, gripped a good Nakib header in style.

The much-anticipated goal finally came two minutes later. The win took Mohammedans' points-tally to ten while Dhanmondi have just two from six outings each.

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDANS: Kanan, Kaiser Hamid, Jewel Rana, Shamim, Pappu (Titel), Johnny, Shabbir (Zakir), Roxy, Mizan, Riaz, Nakib.
DHANMONDI: Tayeb, Ata, Saifu, Iqbal, Ali, Pallab, Sohel, Faisal (Habul), Mostafiz, Jafar. Referee: M R Mukul.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Agrani Bank vs Police AC (3 pm)
Brothers Union vs Adamjee SCC (5 pm)

World marks by Cason, Ottey



MADRID, Feb 15: American Andre Cason and Jamaica's Merlene Ottey were crowned sprint king and queen on Friday as they set new world 70m records at an international indoor meeting here, reports



ANDRE CASSON

APP: Cason broke his own record of 6.45 sec, set in Ghent, Belgium on January 29, by hitting the tape in 6.41 sec, after Ottey had produced a 6.96 beat Russia's Irina Privalova by one hundredth of a second.

Both women shattered the 7.00 sec record set by Dutchwoman Nelthe Cooman-Fiere on the same track here on February 23, 1986.

Cason's feat earned him his fifth win this season — after Ghent, Stuttgart, New York and Fairfax — and a cheque for 10,000 dollars from the Spanish organisers for beating a world record.

But the pint-sized sprinter said money was not the important thing. It was just a matter of relaxing, adding that the track is very fast here.

Friday's meeting will be his last indoor race. "As I must prepare for the games. With my trainer John Smith, I hope to run very fast also on 100m, but we'll have to see about the outdoor season."

In fact, Cason now has eyes on a similar feat at the Olympics. "I could maybe beat the world record in Barcelona," he said, before quickly adding that I have good relationship with Carl Lewis, the current 100 m world record holder and his teammate in relay events.

Ottey's race was by far the fastest in 60m history as Privalova, the indoor world champion at Seville last year, managed 6.97 and third-placed American Gwen Torrance matched Cooman-

fiere's seven second dead. Away from the sprint action, Leonid Voloshin and Ludmila Narozhilenko, both from the Commonwealth of Independent States, set the year's best performances in the men's triple jump and the women's 60 m hurdles respectively.



MERLENE OTTEY

English clubs seek Major help



LONDON, Feb 15: England's top football clubs will call on Prime Minister John Major to look again at the need for all-seater stadiums, reports AFP.

Premier League chairman Sir John Quinton plans talks with the government on the controversial safety recommendation made by the Taylor Report two years ago.

Many of the clubs who greeted the report enthusiastically have since changed their minds. Schemes to con-

vert grounds have sparked protests by supporters at a number of top clubs, including Arsenal and Manchester United.

"I will probably head a delegation to discuss with the government the problems arising from proposals in the Taylor Report," said Sir John.

The position could be complicated by an April general election, but Sir John is convinced he would receive a sympathetic hearing from the Prime Minister, who is a Chelsea supporter.

"I'm sure John Major, as a football fan, would be understanding," said Sir John.

Faced with escalating costs of ground development and hostility from fans, some clubs are seeking ways to retain some terracing.

"Ron Noades, chairman of Crystal Palace, has demanded that 20 per cent of current ground capacity be kept for standing fans. But his idea was not voted on when current Division One clubs met here on Friday. They felt it would be better to approach government," said Sir John.

The breakaway clubs reached a number of agreements which improve the prospects of a premier league kick off in August.

Among the most contentious issues was the question of promotion and relegation between the premier league and the football league.

The top clubs agreed on a proposal for three up and three down until the end of the 1994-95 season, when four teams drop and two are pro-

moted. Second, third and fourth division clubs will vote on the promotion relegation issue at a meeting in Walsall on Monday.

The premier league also agreed on its own constitution. Rick Parry, appointed chief executive until August, said: "The approval of a constitution is a big step forward. I'm more confident than ever now that the league will start on time."

The whole premier league package must still be ratified by the FA Council on February 20.

Soccer fans go on a rampage

JAKARTA, Feb 15: Frustrated soccer fans went on a rampage in Malang, east Java, after learning that they would not get a free ride, as promised, to a neighbouring city to watch their team compete, press reports here said Saturday, reports AFP.

Around 3,000 fans of the Malang soccer club went on a rampage Friday, pelting cars with stones and damaging them after local officials failed to honour a promise to provide free transportation to anyone who wanted to watch a competition in nearby Surabaya, the Kompas daily said.

Only five trucks, overloaded with fans, left Malang for Surabaya while thousands of others who were left behind took to the streets, targeting cars bearing Surabaya license plates.

Econo jr TT from today

Sports Reporter

The Econo junior under-18 table tennis league begins at the National Coaching Centre today.

President of the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation Syed Yousuf Hossain addressing a press conference yesterday, said 16 teams will take part in the league, split in two groups, on a round-robin basis.

The top three teams of each group will play in the super league to decide the champions.

The participating teams are: GROUP 'A': Bangladesh Ansars, Azampur Young Star, Armanitola Juniors, Surja Tarun Club, Ajax Sports Club, Armanitola Boys, Swamibab Boys and Dhaka Officer's Club.

GROUP 'B': Bangladesh Biman, Azampur Young Star, Swamibab Table Tennis Sangha, Kaptaratun Club, Victoria Sporting Club, Vintage Club, Armanitola Sabuj and Kishore Sangha.

Sport transcends politics



HO CHI MINH CITY, Feb 15: Americans and Vietnamese who once fought each other in the Vietnam War competed in friendly races Saturday in preparation for the Ho Chi Minh City Marathon, the country's first major international sports event, reports AP.

Young women in flowing ankle-length traditional dresses joined a dragon dance that opened the two-seven-and-10 kilometer races with several thousand runners from two dozen nations. Tens of thousands of spectators lined the route for the races, broadcast nationwide by Vietnamese television.

More than 300 runners from 26 countries are to compete in Sunday's marathon. The favorites include American Bill Rodgers, 44, a conscientious objector during the war, who is a four-time champion of the Boston and New

York City marathons. The Ho Chi Minh City Marathon to be his 56th, is special, much more than just a sporting event, Rodgers said Saturday.

"It is a way for a lot of different people to look at some difficult times in the past, and look to the future and feel better," he said.

The weekend of races was organized by the communist Vietnamese government and is part of its search in recent years for new friends in the international community and funds to develop its impoverished economy.

The main factor isolating Vietnam has been a US-led trade embargo that remained in force after the communist North Vietnamese defeated the US-backed South Vietnam government in April 1975. Washington later reconfirmed the embargo to punish Vietnam for invading Cambodia in late 1978.

The war cost the lives of

58,000 Americans and perhaps 2 million Vietnamese.

A few disabled US veterans are to participate in some fashion in the marathon. They include Bob Farmer, 43, who was 19 when shrapnel blinded him during an ambush while he was patrolling a demilitarized zone between North Vietnam and South Vietnam.

He later regained his sight in his left eye, but two years after he left Vietnam on a stretcher, he was paralyzed in a motorcycle accident.

About 70 Americans are to run in the marathon, said Bruce Atken, an American who lives in Hong Kong and is a technical adviser for the race. He said Vietnam hopes the marathon will help it "to open up in goodwill... to show the opportunities and encourage participation in a country that has a very good future."

The marathon course is both scenic and historic in this bustling, anarchic city most people still call Saigon.