

A TURBULENT WEEK

Sports Reporter



The fifth Benson and Hedges World Cup, the greatest competition in the genre of limited-overs cricket, has so far been a prophetic enigma.

the whirlpool of a series of upsets that has taken place in the last seven days or so.

Allan Border's Australia, until recently rated as the best one-day team, took a tumble against New Zealand, the colts, in the curtain raiser on February 22.

India was taken somewhat lightly by the bettors after their dismal performance in Australia but with their wealth of batting underlined by the presence of blokes like Sachin Tendulkar, Kapil, Majrekar, Srikanth, Shastri and Azharuddin India looked capable enough of making a match of it.

The West Indies, the undisputed kings of this type of cricket with their explosive batsmen, athletic fielding and redoubtable fast bowling battery only a couple of years ago, suffered for the indifferent form of their star performers.

Pakistan, an immensely talented team handicapped by the absence of Waqar Younis, the kingpin of their attack who had to be flown back home because of a back injury, cut a sorry figure.

Although Ramrez Raja's inability to accelerate the tempo robbed Pakistan of at least 20/25 runs yet the remarkable ease with which Brian Lara and Haynes saw the Caribbeans through puzzled many.

Zimbabwe, who did quite well in the last two World Cup competitions, gave a trial of their batting potential against Sri Lanka in Hamilton.

Wessels, who has the rare distinction of representing two countries in the World Cup (Australia and South Africa) led his side to a huge nine-wicket victory against hosts Australia in Sydney.

Cricket lovers are yet to discover the two successive debacles of the overwhelmingly fancied side of the competition, but South African coach and one of the great all-rounders Mike Procter's fears that he was unsure about his side's ability to live up to the expectations after the foudroyant in Sydney materialised as the New Zealanders thrashed them yesterday by seven wickets.

One of the intriguing factors of the upsets of this competition has been that it has not been a matter of narrow, hair-breadth margins; whichever of the fancied teams in losing, it's been losing by a mile.

India's chances of staging a comeback at the cost of the relatively inexperienced and somewhat inconsistent Sri Lankans suffered a setback on Friday as the match fell through because of heavy rains and both teams had to be content with a point. Sri Lanka, who lost their second match to New Zealand, have now three points while India sit with their fingers crossed with just one point.

England, after their authentic six-wicket victory against the West Indies, appear to be the side to beat although New Zealand have also so far maintained a hundred percent record. The English batting looks solid, the fielding is top class and above all the bowling has been impeccable.

New Zealand are leading the points table with six points while minnows Zimbabwe, despite their brave shows, have not opened their account.

All said and done Australia, with their unquestioned store of talent and home advantage can still make a comeback and if they can they will be the first-ever side to win the championship on home soil.



President Abdur Rahman Biswas is giving away trophies on the conclusion of the 5th Nissan Cup tennis tournament at the Gulshan Club yesterday.

Shibu, Shima win Nissan titles

Sports Reporter

The 5th Nissan Cup tennis championships concluded yesterday at the Gulshan Club court with Shibu Lal and Shima emerging champions in the men's and women's singles respectively.

Ram Kumar of India became the runner-up in the men's singles while Kham Goodyear finished runner-up in the women's singles.

In the men's doubles, Amit and Kumar, the visiting players from across the border, clinched the title beating the local pair of Maroof and Hira Lal.

The prize-giving ceremony in the evening was graced by President Abdur Rahman Biswas.

Full points for PWD

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Public Works Department Sporting Club recorded their fourth victory in the Star First Division football league beating Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society by a solitary goal in the flood-lit tie at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

The victory took PWD's points tally to 11 from eight games while Rahmatganj, who have also played eight games, have as many points.

Jewel scored the all-important goal for PWD in the final minute of the first session following a goal mouth melee.

Despite their repeated attacks inside the opponent's territory in the second half, Rahmatganj failed to come back into the game because of poor marksmanship by their forwards.

In the other match of the day, newcomers Police Athletic Club snatched an invaluable point when they held the more fancied Muktijoddha Sangsad to a 1-1 draw.

After a barren first half both the goals were scored in the second session. Rana put the freedom fighters ahead in the 60th minute by converting a penalty (1-0). Police drew level three minutes from the time when referee Nazir Hossain awarded them a penalty. Shahjahan made no mistake in converting the spot kick (1-1).

Nat'l gymnastics from today

Sports Reporter

The 18th national gymnastics championships-92 organized by the Bangladesh Gymnastics Federation (BGF) begin today at the Bangladesh Krira Shikhyha Protisthan (BKSP), Savar, says a BGF press release.

Secretary of Sports and Youth Nurul Momen Khan will inaugurate the meet at 10 in the morning while State Minister for Sports and Youth Sadek Hossain Khoka will give away prizes among the winners on March 3, the concluding day.

BU's sweet revenge

Sports Reporter

A scintillating 107 not out by opener Nurul Abedin Nobel and a telling burst with the new ball by Sri Lankan Fernando helped Brothers Union avenge the defeat at the hands of babes Public Works Department in the opening encounter of this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league as the reigning champions outplayed the newcomers by 84 runs to get off to a good start in the super league.

Nobel, who had hardly done anything notable with the bat in the first phase apart from a whirlwind eighty-plus knock, yesterday struck three sixes and five fours in his 132-ball knock as no other Brothers batsman, with the exception of Tonal who got 21, crossed the twenties. Calcuttan Arup Bhattacharya and Halim Shah scored 17 each and wicket-keeper Shovon chipped in with an unbeaten 12 as Brothers made 209 for six wickets from the 43 overs set down by the PWD bowlers.

Ehsan was the most successful of the PWD bowlers with figures of two for 36. PWD's veteran skipper Jahangir Shah Badshah, who took one for 60 from eight overs, was the worst sufferer. Shabbir bowled much better to claim one for 25.

When PWD's Sri Lankan opener Ilamin was run out for one no one had any inkling of the impending disaster to follow soon. The man who caused this devastation was Sri Lankan allrounder T L Fernando.

The dark, curly-haired

medium-pacer with the flowing action ripped through the PWD batting line up. He removed four batsmen, including Sri Lankan Romesh Kaluwirathna, the mainstay of the PWD batting, for a nought. Ashfaq, the other pace man, also joined the act, clean bowling Partho and Ehsan.

Rownakul Islam Tutul, the opener who has been in fine form this season, fought a lone battle with a defiant 54 before holding out to Ashfaq off Nadir Shah.

Kamrul was the other notable scorer with 20 as PWD were booked for 125 in 32.5 overs.

Fernando had a match-winning analysis of four for 41 from nine overs. Ashfaq took two for 22. Arup and Nadir picked up one apiece.

GULSHAN'S WIN

Gulshan Youth Club won their second match of the Navana Premier Division relegation league against hapless Wari Club by five wickets.

Wari, suffering their second consecutive defeat, made 121 for nine in 45 overs after being sent in to bat by the Gulshan skipper. Raju was again his side's scorer with 24 as Rupam with two for 14 and Manju with two for 33 turned the screw on them.

Sri Lankan Rajkumar with 43 and Arif with 41 led the victory chase for Gulshan. Gulshan scored 125 for five in 31.2 overs to walk away with a five-wicket win.

Kajal and Kamrul of Wari took one wicket each.

TODAY'S MATCH

Surja Tarun vs Lalmitia Club (Dhaka Stadium)

Double golds for Shahana, Atiq

Sports Reporter

Gazi Shahana Parveen, who won the first gold medal for Bangladesh in the fifth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games held in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo last December, clinched her second gold medal of the current 13th national shooting championships by winning the women's standard rifle prone-60-shots yesterday at the Gulshan Shooting Range. She scored 575 out of a possible 600 points.

In the men's free-pistol-60-shots event, Atiqur Rahman, another double SAF gold winner, became champion scoring 509 points while Haider Ali Babu with 499 and Asif Hossain with 493 points finished second and third respectively.

Earlier, on Thursday the opening day of the meet, Shahana Parveen won the air rifle - 40-shots title, while Atiqur Rahman clinched the men's air-pistol-60-shots and Kamrul Islam Tito the men's English match-60-shots event on Friday.

DU cricket

Department of Pharmacy registered an emphatic ten-wicket victory over Department of Bio-chemistry in the Dhaka University inter-department cricket competition at the Jagannath Hall cricket ground yesterday.

Joyner-Kersee succeeds at last



NEW YORK, Feb 29: Jackie Joyner-Kersee, winner of three world and two Olympic titles in the last five years, finally added a US indoor championship to her credits, reports Reuter.

In fact, she added two in one day on Friday, capturing the women's long jump and the 60 metre hurdles at the USA-Mobil Indoor track and field championships at Madison Square Garden.

Joyner-Kersee has been competing on the national level since 1980, her freshman year at university. Invariably, whenever she came to this meet, she competed against tougher competition such as East Germans Heike Drechsler in the long jump and Cornelia Oschkenat in the hurdles.

"I'm very happy. This (winning a US title) was one of my goals," said Joyner-Kersee, the reigning outdoor queen in the heptathlon and long jump.

Joyner-Kersee, who turns 30 on Wednesday, captured the long jump with a leap of 6.84 metres (22 feet, 5-1/4 inches) and took the hurdles in 8.07 seconds. She broke well in the hurdles and led comfortably until the end, when she had to hold off Kim McKenzie and Jackie Humphrey.

Joyner-Kersee is scheduled to fly to Tokyo for a meet next week, but hasn't decided whether to go.

"Let's see how I feel," she said. "If I don't go to Tokyo, I'll get ready for the outdoor season."

Carl Lewis, competing for the second time this season, won the men's long jump with a lustrous effort of 8.35 metres (27 feet, 4-3/4 inches). He started the competition with four poor jumps, although he never trailed in the competition. His best jump came on his sixth and final attempt.

"Obviously, I've jumped better this week. I'm a little tired this week. I jumped pretty well considering this is the second time I've jumped this year."

"My main objective before I retire is to jump a lot further. I definitely feel I can go further. I won't rest until I reach my potential."

It was Lewis' 21st consecutive indoors long jump victory. His last loss came at this year's meet.

Day of draws

Dhaka Wanderers Club shared points with newcomers Bangladesh Sporting Club in a one-all draw in the Green Delta First Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Wanderers now have seven points while Bangladesh Sporting have five, from ten outings each.

Siam put Wanderers ahead in the 27th minute while Ehtesham equalised for Bangladesh Sporting a couple of minutes after the breather.

Siam of Wanderers was shown the yellow card. Earlier in the afternoon, the match between Police Athletic Club and Azad Sporting Club also ended in a one-all draw.

After a barren first half Sharful Alam sounded the board for Azad in the 65th minute while Jahangir of Police drew level five minutes from the hooter.

Police now have six points from ten engagements while Azad have four, also from ten games.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Wari vs Usha KC (1:45 pm) Mariner Youngs vs Bachelors (3:15 pm)

Germany retain Champions Trophy

KARACHI, Feb 29: Andreas Becker scored all four goals for Germany as they beat Australia 4-0 to retain the Champions Trophy men's hockey title on Friday, reports Reuter.

Becker destroyed the Australian challenge in an explosive seven minutes spell in the first half, scoring three quick goals in succession.

Earlier in the day, Pakistan beat the Netherlands 2-1 to take third place in the six-nation championship.

Germany, who won the trophy in Berlin last year by defeating Pakistan, opened the scoring in the 26th minute when Becker seized on a pass from Christian Blunck and put the ball past Australian keeper Lachlan Dreher from seven metres.

Four minutes later Becker hit the target again, and when Germany were awarded a short corner two minutes from half-time Becker was there to convert.

In the second half, Australia failed to find their rhythm and Germany completed the scoreline in the 69th minute when Becker once again finding the back of the net.

Pakistan skipper Shahbaz Ahmed was declared player-of-the-tournament for the second successive championship. Australia's Stephen Davies was the top goal scorer with eight followed by Germany's Becker on six.

meet in 1981, to Larry Myricks. Lewis' only other loss during that period was to Mike Powell at the world outdoor championships last year in



JOYNER-KERSEE

Finns the women's in an American record-equalling 7.07 Burrell overcame an explosive start by Aaron Thigpen who took second in 6.56. Nouredidine Morelli of Algeria, the reigning world indoor and outdoor champion, captured the men's mile in a slow three minutes, 59.45

World indoor champion Diane Dixon ran 53.16 seconds in the 400 to capture her 10th consecutive US title and 11th overall.

Sacchi swims to world record

PALMA DE MALLORCA, Spain, Feb 29: Italy's Luca Sacchi smashed the men's 400 metres individual medley short course world record in the first-ever finals of the swimming World Cup on Friday, reports Reuter.

Sacchi, winner of the European title last year, touched home in four minutes 8.77 seconds, nearly four seconds ahead of second placed Curties Myden of Canada.

He took nearly one second off the previous world record of 4:09.64 set by Canada's Alex Bauman in 1987.

The Italian kept a comfortable lead through the race but pulled ahead during the butterfly leg to put himself well in contention for the world mark as he changed to freestyle.

Myden offered the best opposition during Sacchi's faultless performance but the Canadian tired visibly in the last leg and Sacchi was left to battle against the clock.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Clues include: ACROSS 1 Ralph Kramden's vehicle, 4 O'Hara plantation, 8 Regrets, 12 Slender finial, 13 Andy's sidekick, 14 Confused, 15 Former chess champ, 16 Rainbow bonus?, 18 Fall flower, 20 Toupee: slang, 21 Old French coins, 24 Cozy places, 28 Head to foot, 32 Pub missile, 33 "...man - mouse?", 34 Jean of "Upstairs, Downstairs", 36 Zodiac lion, 37 Worm's measurement?, 39 Afternoon refresher, 41 Pretend.

Yesterday's answer 8-28

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers. Clue: 8-28 CRYPTOQUIP. Letters: B Q E Q R I Z Q D M Z E H V K Z T M S Q R H V M P Z Y X X K Z T V Q P X Y X ?

"K I Z Q D M S K H."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: VERY ACCOMMODATING CHURCH MINISTER SAID TO US, "I'M AT YOUR SERVICE."

Today's Cryptoquip clue: E equals Y

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Boxer sentenced for manslaughter

ZURICH, Feb 29: A former Swiss boxing champion has been given an 18-month suspended prison sentence after being convicted of killing a Tamil refugee in a drunken fight, reports AFP.

Walter Eberhardt, 42, was convicted of involuntary homicide in the July 1990 death of Sivaruğu Santhakumar, a 23-year-old refugee from Sri Lanka.

Eberhardt, a former Swiss featherweight division titleholder, punched Santhakumar once and the Tamil refugee struck his head sharply on the ground and died shortly afterwards.

The Delsdorf district court found Eberhardt, who was drunk at the time, guilty of involuntary homicide but ruled out a racist motive in the killing, calling it simply "an in-comprehensible act."



German captain Volker Fried and his teammates hold aloft the trophy of the 14th Champions Trophy tournament after the team beat Australia in final 4-0, in Karachi on Feb 28.