

A day for retrospection

By Taufiq Aziz Khan
Friday was a day of rest, a day for retrospection for millions of cricket-lovers all over the world and their favourite teams.

Before the start of the biggest-ever World Cup cricket championship, teams were tagged in a variety of popular epithets—Hot Favourites, Dark Horses, Underdogs, Outsiders and so on and so forth.

Border did not quite like the tag. But three losses from four matches put them within reach of the Zimbabweans who have yet to win a match.

Indeed Friday must have been a day of reckoning for Border & Co. The South Africans, the last of the teams to catch the bus from out of the woods have added unmatched colours to the tourney.

After 18 matches in 15 days, England and New Zealand are still unbeaten from four matches each with England only a point adrift of New Zealand who have played all their matches at home.

Full points for Muktiyoddha

Sports Reporter
Muktiyoddha Sangsad outplayed Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation by two goals to nil in the First Division football league at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

The victory took Muktiyoddha's points tally to eleven from nine games while BRTC have six points also from nine outings.

After a barren first half Rana (Jr) scored both the goals for the winners in the second session of play.

BRTC played a better brand of football than their opponents in the first half but were denied the lead in the 28th minute when Chanchal's powerful shot missed an open net.

Rana (Jr) put the freedom fighters ahead in the 69th minute when his nice placing header got the better of BRTC custodian Nasu (1-0).

Rana consolidated Muktiyoddha's victory five minutes after the first goal with a powerful drive from inside the BRTC box (2-0).

Ratan of BRTC and Riaz of Muktiyoddha were shown the yellow cards.

In the other match of the day, spirited Agrani Bank shared points with Fakirerpool in a goalless draw.

Agrani Bank, still unbeaten, now have eleven points from nine games while Fakirerpool have six from nine encounters.

Agrani dominated the first half proceedings but poor marksmanship by their forwards denied them the lead.

Bhutto of Fakirerpool and Suman of Agrani Bank invited the yellow cards.

Meanwhile, according to the changed timings for Ramadan, the first match of the league will begin at 1.30 pm while the second encounter will start at 3.30 pm from today.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Dhanmondi vs BJMC (1.30)
Abahani vs Bina (3.30 pm).

Nat'l women's chess from today

Sports Reporter
The 13th national women's chess championship under the aegis of the Bangladesh Chess Federation begins today at the National Sports Council's chess room with ten women taking part.

The meet, which will be played on a nine-round Swiss league system, is an international rating one tournament.

Tanima Rahman, the defending champion, won the title last year.

WICKETKEEPERS (Tabulate under catches, stumpings, total):

Table with columns: Name, C, St, Tot. Includes KS More (India), DJ Richardson (S Africa), AJ Stewart (Eng), D Williams (WI), IIP Tilkeratne (Sri), IA Healy (Aust), Moin Khan (Pak), ID Smith (NZ), A Flower (Zimb).

Tests showed the trio's samples were identical. The DLV made the announcement in reaction to a

Holyfield fights Holmes June 19

NEW YORK, Mar 6: Undisputed world heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield reopened his employment agency for the aged on Thursday, officially announcing he will fight 42-year-old ex-champion Larry Holmes on June 19, reports Reuter.

Holyfield's only venture out of the senior's title of boxing in defending his title was against the supposedly inept Bert Cooper last November.

Malaysian Cup golf held

Sports Reporter
The annual Malaysian Cup golf tournament was held at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday with Chief of Army Staff Gen Mohammed Noor Uddin Khan, who is also the president of the club, inaugurating the meet.

Shawkatuzaman and Mrs MY Hwang emerged champions among the men and ladies respectively while Saad Rahim became the junior champion.

RK Chowdhury and Mrs Ikematsu finished runners-up among the men and ladies respectively.

Later General Noor Uddin Khan gave away trophies among the winners at a function held in the evening at the residence of the Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Tunku Dato Nazariah Mohammed Rus.



Mahfuza Shirin of BTMC (extreme right) won the girls' under-16 100m sprint on the concluding day of the 10th national junior athletics meet at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

LEADING PERFORMERS

SYDNEY, Mar 6: Following are the leading individual performances in the World Cricket Cup after Thursday's matches:

Table with columns: Name, M, I, NO, HS, R, Ave. Includes M D Crowe (NZ), A Ranatunga (Sri), KR Rutherford (NZ), PN Kirsten (S Africa), DL Haynes (WI), BNM McMillan (S Africa), RS Mahanama (Sri), RA Smith (Eng), Javed Miandad (Pak), BC Lara (WI).

BOWLING (tabulate under bowler, country, overs, maidens, runs, wickets, avg):

Table with columns: Name, O, M, R, W, Ave. Includes DA Reeve (Eng), IT Botham (Eng), M Prabhakar (India), Kapil Dev (India), CZ Harris (NZ), MW Pringle (S Africa), AA Donald (S Africa), PA DeFretas (Eng), GR Larsen (NZ), W Watson (NZ).

CATCHES: DA Reeve (Eng) 4, KC Weesels (S Africa) 4, CI Cairns (NZ) 3, NI Fairbrother (Eng) 3, PA DeFretas (Eng) 3, GA Hick (Eng) 3, DL Houghton (Zimb) 3, ST Jayasuriya (Sri) 3, K Srikanth (India) 3.

Wicketkeepers (tabulate under catches, stumpings, total):

Table with columns: Name, C, St, Tot. Includes KS More (India), DJ Richardson (S Africa), AJ Stewart (Eng), D Williams (WI), IIP Tilkeratne (Sri), IA Healy (Aust), Moin Khan (Pak), ID Smith (NZ), A Flower (Zimb).

New light on Krabbe's plight

BONN, Mar 6: Germany's Athletics Federation (DLV) said on Thursday it planned to probe alleged new evidence from the dope test that led to the ban on double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe and two of her teammates, reports Reuter.

The DLV said it would study reported statements from a doctor who helped with the tests in South Africa after which Krabbe, Ort Lbreuer and Silke Moeller were banned for manipulating urine samples.

Tests showed the trio's samples were identical. The DLV made the announcement in reaction to a

front-page story in Germany's largest newspaper Bild on Thursday in which South African doctor Annalene Bindeman was quoted as saying one of the three urine samples looked a different colour.

But Bindeman, in an interview with Reuters from the Canadian city of Saskatoon, cast serious doubt on the accuracy of the report.

Asked if her findings proved Krabbe's innocence as the newspaper claimed, Bindeman said, "No, definitely not. I didn't say anything like that."

"We tested four athletes. We didn't actually just test three," she said.

"As far as I can remember, one sample was different but I can't remember which one it was. It could have been from the first athlete or it might have been from the other three. One of them was definitely a lighter colour."

The DLV, who will hear an appeal from the three athletes later this month, said the Federation would be contacting Bindeman to check out her story.

The information is new to us and contradicts the information of the DLV and the South African Federation who carried out the tests," spokesman Lutz Nebenthal said.

But Bindeman, who was present in the toilet when the three athletes provided the samples, could not rule out that there might have been some manipulation.



Afrin Nahar Beauty of Rangpur DSA won the girls' under-12 long jump gold in the national junior athletics meet Thursday.

PWD win a thriller

Sports reporter

While Enamul Haq Moni's super all round show in vain, Shaheen inspired Bangladesh Public

Works Department to carve out an exciting two-run victory over Bangladesh Biman in the Navana Premier Division super league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, PWD picked up 205 for seven wickets from their quota of 45 overs with Shri Lankan opener Ihamin top scoring with 49. He along with Abir who made 38, put on 97 runs for the first wicket. Later Shaheen with 41 and left-handed Partha with a cracking 36 with the help of two sixes helped PWD to amass 209 for seven. Spinner Enamul Haq Moni was the best Biman bowler with figures of four for 36. Ahmed Iqbal Bachechu took two for 34.

The Biman openers made a rather heavy weather of a not-too-daunting task with both Tariquezaman Munir and Saiful nicking Ehsan to Romesh behind the stumps. Young Zakaria, tipped as a most exciting prospect, batted solidly to halt a possible collapse.

Moni, the left-handed all-rounder, then entered the stage to bring Biman back in the game. Batting with natural flair of a left-handed Moni made 71 before being run out with the team score at 174. He hit one sixer and four fours and played just 93 balls.

The other left-hander, paceman Rafiq, perhaps inspired by Moni's example, made 41 with the help of five fours to take the game towards

an exciting finish. PWD offspinner Shaheen bowled extremely well to pick up three wickets at the final stage of the match to tilt the balance.

Medium-pacer Ehsan bowled well with the new ball take three for 27 while Shaheen returned fine figures of three for 36.

TODAY'S MATCH
Gulshan vs Kalabagan (Relegation league, Dhaka Stadium)

Div II cricket
Sports Reporter
Evergreen registered an impressive five-wicket victory over Shantinagar Club-B in the Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket super league at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Shantinagar B were all out for 144 in 36.5 overs, thanks to Manna of Evergreen, who claimed five wickets for 39 runs.

Raja of Shantinagar made 49 off 37 balls, a knock that included a couple of over boundaries and half a dozen boundaries.

In reply, Evergreen needed 37.2 overs to score 145 with five wickets to spare.

Pappu remained not out with 40 while Asif got 33. Probul, Sujon, Sadek and Raja took a wicket apiece for Shantinagar B.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Orient SC vs Rayer Bazar AC (T&T ground)
Dhanmondi Club vs Nirman Schools XI (DCS).

Kishoreganj top nat'l jr athletics

Sports Reporter

Kishoreganj DSA emerged champions with a haul of eight golds, four silvers and five bronzes in the two-day 10th national junior athletics championships that ended at the Dhaka Hockey Stadium yesterday.

BKSP followed in second position taking six golds, three silvers and a bronze while Rangpur, finished third with four golds, eight silvers and six bronzes.

Of the 30 teams that took part, only 13 could make it to the final medals table.

Twelve events were decided yesterday—the concluding day of the meet which was organized by the Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation (BAAF).

Kishoreganj, who dominated the first day yesterday failed to maintain their winning spree and could add only three more golds and a bronze to their Thursday's tally of five golds, four silvers and as many bronzes.

However, the junior athletes from the BKSP bettered their opening day performances by giving their team four more golds and two silvers yesterday.

Mahfuza Shirin of BTMC and Shathi Akter of Kishoreganj clinched golds in the girls' under-16 and under-14 100m sprints, clocking 13.4 and 14.3 secs respectively.

M Akbar Ali and Sushil Chandra Das, both from the BKSP, finished first in the boys' under-16 and under-14 100 m sprint, taking 11.9 seconds and 12.8 seconds respectively.

Acting president of the BAAF KK Altaf Hossain distributed medals among the winners after the competition.

Meanwhile, a BSS report says that the BAAF decided yesterday to organize a first-ever national summer athletics championships from August 15 to September 15 in Dhaka.

Udity beat City

Sports Reporter
Udity Club defeated City Club in the super league of the Mirnars First Division cricket yesterday at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Sent in to bat Udity, aided by a string of handy knocks from Durjoy, Tipu, Anup and Rahul, made 215 for nine from their 45 overs. Durjoy with three sixes and six fours topped scored with 52. Tipu, Anup and Rahul scored 45, 41 and 27 respectively. Nahid of City Club claimed five wickets for 51 runs.

Udity spinners led by left-armner Nafces, put the spoke in the City wheel, booking them for 171 in 44.4 overs despite a fairly good start.

Opener Zakir topscored with 45 while Moni, Salauddin and Shipon trailed him with 32, 28 and 21 respectively.

Nafces claimed three City wickets for 22. Leg spinner Durjoy took two for 33 and Imran, who switches over to offspin once the shine off the new ball is off, picked up two for 17.

TODAY'S MATCH
S Bima vs Wanderers (Mirpur)

Nirman cricket

Sports Reporter
BCSIR High School and Baganbari Ideal High School won their respective matches of the Dhaka zonal championship of the ninth Nirman schools cricket competition at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

BCSIR School recorded a two-wicket victory over Badda Alauddin High School.

Baganbari School registered a seven-run victory over Govt Laboratory High School in the other match of the day.

Electing to bat, Baganbari School made a modest 116 for nine wickets in their 30 overs with Bakul getting 32.

In their turn Laboratory School could muster only 109 in 30 overs despite Jewel making an unbeaten 80.

WORLD CUP NOTEBOOK

SYDNEY, Mar 6: The daily notebook on the cricket World Cup by AFP:

SYDNEY: Australia's cricket institution Allan Border has admitted what his desolated countrymen have suspected all along as the one-time favourites' World Cup becomes blacker by the day, reports AFP.

As Australia come to grips with yet another cricket humiliation—Thursday night's eight wicket rebuke by an Ian Botham-inspired England—Border confessed today, "I think it's just been a long summer and we didn't prepare properly for the tournament."

"I think we took it a little bit lightly." Scrutiny of Australia's batting reveals a sorry tale: Geoff Marsh, 52 runs at an average of 17.33, Tom Moody 93 at 23.25, Steve Waugh 118 at 29.5, Mark Taylor 13 at 6.5 and Dean Jones 157 at 39.25.

David Boon has the only respectable average with 47. The bowlers are no better. Strike-paceman Craig McDermott and Bruce Reid have taken just four wickets between them in almost 66 overs, leaving part-time bowler Moody the leading wicket-taker with four.... Unthinkable just 14 days ago.

FALSE ALARM

SYDNEY: Fleet Street's predicted crowd violence at Thursday's "battle royal" Australia-England match never happened—unless two mischievous English supporters who were bundled into a police paddy wagon outside the Sydney Cricket Ground are counted.

But it wasn't your obvious missile. Stephen Scougall, a 24-year-old computer programmer who holds dual British and Australian citizenship, and Tim Beale, a 22-year-old sales engineer from Nottingham, England, could be said to have been surprised by their arrests.

They were charged with "throwing a missile, to wit, a silver coloured party streamer."

They were fingerprinted, photographed and will appear in a local court here later this month.

FIREWORKS PROMISED

BRISBANE: South Africa's bowlers, spearheaded by the fearsome Allan Donald, will be more dangerous on the livelier Australian pitches than they were in New Zealand, according to former speed Demon Garth Le Roux.

Le Roux, who once routed Australia's batsmen for 60 playing for a world XI in the 1978-79 World Series cricket circus and is here heading a South African supporters' party to the World Cup, anticipates fireworks in Sunday's game against Pakistan here.

"You watch how well they bowl on Sunday," warned Le Roux. Now they are in Brisbane it will be a quicker wicket and it will suit them."

"They bowled a lot fuller against the West Indies in [Christchurch] and it paid off," he said, Victory against Pakistan this weekend would consolidate a semi-final place following the demise of Cup holders Australia and the West Indies' inconsistent form.

HAYNES EXPECTED TO BE BRAVE

AUCKLAND: Veteran West Indian opening batsman Desmond Haynes may have to play in pain against New Zealand after severely bruising a finger against South Africa in Christchurch on Thursday.

The knock forced him to retire while batting, although he returned to make 30.

However, West Indies manager Deryck Murray expects 36-year-old Haynes to withstand the pain and play on Sunday.

"He got hit on it three times, but I don't see why he can't play," Murray said today.

AUSSIE COLTS OFF TO S AFRICA

ADELAIDE: Thirteen young Australian cricketers Saturday head for South Africa—the first cricket team to make an official visit to the Republic since Bill Lawry's Australians in 1970.