

The Gold Leaf national cricket championship got anderway at eight different venues cross the country yesterday.

On the inaugural day, seven matches were decided while two teams received walk-overs. In Dhaka, Dhaka University beat Bangladesh Agriculture University by nine wickets while Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) got a walk-over against Bangladesh Public Works

Department. Electing to bat, Agriculture University were dismissed for a paltry 95 in 36.4 overs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Shahid scored 26 while Bahadur and Koushik made 16 and 13 respectively for Agriculture University.

Suppt and Pappu took two wickets each for Dhaka University.

In reply Dhaka University made 100 for the loss of one of their openers in 19.2 overs.

Richardson retains job

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Mar 27: Richie Richardson, who led the West Indies cricket team in the recent World Cup, has been retained as captain for next month's series against South Africa, the West Indies Cricket Board of Control announced on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The South Africans, led by Kepler Wessels, will play several one-day internationals and one Test match during their first-ever tour of the Caribbean which starts in early April.

Two of the one-day internationals will be played at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad, while Kensington Oval in Barbados is the venue for the lone Test.

West Indies vice-captain Gus Logie of Trinidad announced he was sitill recovering from a broken right arm and would not be available for the series against South Africa.

The South Africans have returned to the international sporting fold after more than 20 years in isolation because of Pretoria's' apartheid policies, now being scrapped.

Sports Reporter

Navana Premier · Division cricket league runners up Abahani Krira Chakra skipper Faruk Ahmed, who captained Dhaka University, scored an unbeaten 37 off 36 balls, a knock that included a six and five fours while Tapan and Shovon scored 29 and 25 respectively.

Tapan took the only wicket for Agriculture University. At Tangail, Strajganj DSA

beat Gopalganj by 33 runs. Batting first, Strajganj were all out for 138 in 37.2 overs with Atiq scoring 44, Ujial 16 and Saad Mahmud 10.

Al-Mahmud and Zubair took two wickets apiece for Gopalgani.

in their turn, Gopalganj were skittled for 103 in 33.3 Zubair top scored with 26

while Manirul made 12 for

Shahadat took three wickets for Siraigani.

At Sylhet, Chandpur recorded an exciting sevenrun victory over Brahmanbaria. Sent into bat, Chandpur were all out for 146 in 43 overs with Minhaz and Suman

making 30 each. Bashir of Brahmanbaria took four wickets for 19 while Artf with three lent him able sup-

Brahmanbaria, in reply, were dismissed for 139 in 41

Badar and Bashir scored 27 and 24 respectively for Brahmanbaria.

Minhaz and Mujib claimed three wickets each for Chandpur. Chapai Nawabganj posted a

14-run victory over Pabna at Thakurgaon. Batting first, Chapai Nawabganj were all out for 182 in 44 overs with Baki getting

44 and skipper Milon 40. Alamgir and Milon of Pabna took three wickets each. In reply, despite a brilliant 49 by Thanda and 30 by

Milon, Pabna were booked for 168 in 43 overs. Azad, Mithu, Suman and Rubel got two wickets apiece

for Chapai Nawabganj. At Barisal, Patuakhali beat

Narail by two wickets. Electing to bat, Narail made a handsome 247 runs for the loss of seven wickets in the 43 overs sent down by the beleagured Bartsal bowlers.

in England's 22-run defeat. He

singled out opening batsman

Aamir Sohail as the one who

'gave me an earful' as he

I'm surprised because I've

always held their captain

Imran Khan in the highest re-

gard," Botham said. "Imran

has always played the game in

the most chivalrous way. He

has been one of the world's

great players who has cher-

ished standards of decency

and sportsmanship on the

'He'll have to pull his players

into line if we're not to have a

nasty atmosphere when

England take them on it next

country to send your mother-

in-law on an all-expenses-paid

holiday. He was fined by the

Test and County Cricket Board

for bringing the game into

walked off.

Lipon top scored with 59 while Litu and Towhid got 37 and 31 respectively.

Mukta of Barisal took three wickets for 28. In their turn, Patuakhali

cruised past Narail's total. scoring 248 in 42.4 overs with two wickets to spare. Liten top scored with 77

while Nannu and Hemayet got

32 each for Patuakhali.

two wickets at Pabna.

Lincoln of Narail took three wickets for 47. Kurigram beat Natore by

Batting first, Natore were all out for 118 in 34.5 overs with Babu making 40. Tito of Kurigram took five

wickets for 26. In their turn, Kurigram made 122 for eight wickets in 34 overs with Dinar making

Mizu of Kurigram took five

wickets for 28. Sherpur DSA got a walkover against Kishoreganj at Faridpur.

Bangladesh Railway will take on Rajshahi in the Dhaka zonal match today at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Imran's men to perform Umra

ISLAMABAD, Mar 27: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Thursday ordered special ar rangements for the country's World Cup winning cricket team to perform a pilgrimage to Mecca, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said, reports AFP.

The team, which is due to return home Sunday to a heroes' welcome, is likely to leave for Saudi Arabia the next day to pray at the Muslim holy shrines in Mecca and Madina, the agency said.

Although the date for applications for Umra (minor pilgrimage) visas has passed, the Pakistani Foreign Office is making special arrangements through the Saudi embassy for the team to travel to the Muslim Eid festival at the end of the current fasting month of Ramadan in the first week of April, the agency said, adding the cricketers were expected to get awards.

A number of private businss establishments have an nounced cash awards for the

Imran stays back



Prabhakar blames Azhar

Australia, should be captain,

named, was quoted by the

Pioneer newspaper as saying

Azharuddin's style divided the

Azhar to ignore the senior

players," he was quoted as

seniors he ended up consult-

ing (18-year-old) Sachin

Tendulkar, who is a great

cricketer but does not have

the sort of experience some of

the senior players on the tour

One player, who was not

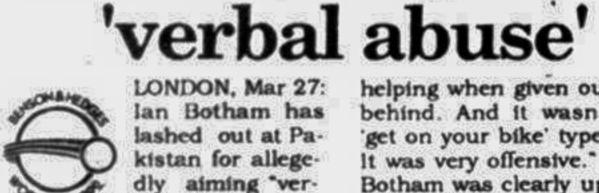
There was a tendency with

"Instead of consulting the

Prabhakar said

have."

Pioneer in Bombay.



bal abuse" at England players during the World Cup cricket final in Australia, reports AP.



IAN BOTHAM

'nasty' atmosphere during Pakistan's summer tour of England. "We were sick of the verbal

abuse dished out to us during our innings," Botham was quoted as saying. "I got a big

Botham alleges Pak as team leaves MELBOURNE, Mar 27

World Cup cricket champions Pakistan left for Singapore today without their captain helping when given out caught Imran Khan, who stayed bebehind. And it wasn't just a hind to complete some busi-'get on your bike' type remark. ness commitments, reports It was very offensive." Botham was clearly upset after Pakistan team manager being caught behind for a duck

Intikhab Alam said Imran would join the rest of the side in Singapore later.

"He still has things to do here but he will be joining us tomorrow evening and he wil be going with us to Pakistan," Intikhab said.

Intikhab said celebrations in Pakistan would be far beyond his wildest dreams and already the players had engagements planned for the next week.

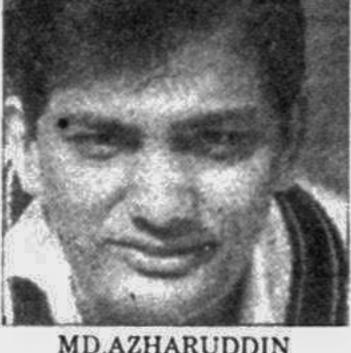
He said festivities were likely to continue right through until May, when the side heads to England for a five-Test tour. "This is something out of

this world. It will be more than red carpet when we get home," Intikhab said. Everything's been planned.

ics and it's something we have dreamt for." *Everyone is excited and

are waiting for the team's ar-"We have a month between

before we go to England and it's going to be a hectic time now, I know that."



NEW DELHI, Mar

27: Two leading

Indian cricketers

have blamed ad-

ministrators and

captain Moham-

med Azhar-uddin for their

team's failure in the World Cup

In interviews published to-

won by arch-rivals Pakistan.

MD.AZHARUDDIN

day, they said the team was controlled by officials in New Delhi and that Azharuddin was too mild-mannered to be a captain. You can see the way Imran

(Khan) is doing his job (as Pakistani captain). He is marvellous. We need that type of captain who can be a good leader," said Manoj Prabhakar, india's most successful bowler in the World Cup. Azharuddin was "not that

strict," Prabhakar told former Indian captain Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi in a videotaped interview whose transcript was issued by the Press Trust of India. Either all-rounder Kapil Dev

ting performance against

Dhaka Stadium.

speculation." or opening batsman Ravi Tendulkar would become Shastri, reviled in his home Yorkshire's first coloured town of Bombay for a slow bat-

Tykes eye Tendulkar

LEEDS, England, Mar 27 Indian Test prodigy Sachin Tendulkar is reported to be Yorkshire's new target for their first overseas player, reports AFP.

Brian Close, the former England skipper who is the county's cricket chairman, refused to confirm that the 18year-old batsman had been approached.

But he did say that the English county were still determined to sign a foreign player following the withdrawal of Australian fast bowler Craig McDermott because of injury

Close said, "We won't be discussing anything until our next meeting on April 3. Any talk in the meantime has to be

player if he signed for the club.

Biman skipper Shahnawaz Shahid Shanu (R) receiving the Independence Day cricket

champions' trophy from BCCB Secretary Aminul Haq Moni after Thursday's final at the

Veteran batsman Dilip Vengsarkar, who did not make the World Cup squad after India's tour of Australia that preceded it, put most of the blame on India's Cricket Board.

The tour was being controlled by the high command from Delht," he told the



MANOJ PRABHAKAR

Vengsarkar appeared particularly angry at the Board over the dropping of Shastri after the Australia game. They said people here are

mad with Ravi so he must not play. Ravi was only obeying orders and many of us feel that he should not have been penalised on that count." · Vengsarkar also criticised

the Board for leaving the squad in Australia for the two weeks between the end of the tour and the World Cup and making it play warm-up matches. "Who was interested in

those matches? No one took them seriously. The players were jaded and tired and what they needed was a break. But the Board obviously did not wish to take the trouble of bringing the players back home," he said.

BU beat Muktis

Sports Reporter



Brothers Union the Federation Cup champions, now lagging behind in the race for the First

Division league title, won again. yesterday against Muktijoddha Sangsad. In a match marked by an unusually long period of power failure, the Gopibagh side wasted a number of sitters yet managed to walk away with a comfortable two-nil victory.

Brothers Union, for whom it was their tenth victory, led the first half one-nil.

The winners, rigged in their traditional orange, took time to settle down but later created menacing openings with Satyajit Das Rupu and Saad Wahed and Skipper Manik working in tandem. The lights went out immediately after the game got underway and it took some 30 minutes for the restoration of power. The black out helped Brothers to sort things out and they were on target 18 minutes into the first half. Saad Wahed, the Iraqi striker nodded a ball home after the Muktijoddha custodian Sohag unsuccessfully came out to foil move (1-0).

Brothers dominated the proceedings but could not increase the margin because of poor finishing by their for-

Brothers missed a fine chance to double the margin midway through the second half when Manik's header off a Wahed cross from the right went out off the woodwork with the goalkeeper beaten all ends up. Brothers, however, made up

for the missed chances when Satyajit Das Rupu made an attempt, more out of anticipation than certainty, and found the ball in the net much to his delight (2-0). Ripon floated the ball from a flag kick from the right and the ball travelled to a free Rupu after his teammate Wahed had failed to connect with his head. Wahed missed an absolute

sitter minutes later when he

raced clear after being freed by a midfield through but the forward, who turned in a vastly improved performance than in his maiden outing, slammed it against the onrushing goalkeeper.

Chapal of Muktijoddha wasted a chance when he outpaced the Brothers defence but his powerpacked grounder was well gathered by a diving

Atiq who replaced regular custodian Ponir.

Brothers hit back with a vengeance but Wahed and his compatriot Saad Rahim failed to give the finishing touches to some fine moves.

Waseem Igbal, the effervescent withdrawn-forward now in the twilight of his career, could not make his presence felt despite his full ninety minute stay in the field.

Ikram Rana of Muktijoddha was shown the yellow card. Referee · Munitul Islam.

TODAY'S MATCH Rahmatganj vs Eskaton

(6:45)Pakistan lead

Bangladesh 2-0 in Davis Cup Pakistan took a 2-0 lead over Bangladesh in the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group Two play-off, winning the two

singles of the opening day at

the Ramna National Tennis

Complex yesterday, reports

Pakistan's number one Rashid Malik took just one hour to crush Bangladesh's number two Shibu Lal 6-2, 6-0, 6-1 in the first singles. In the second singles,

Bangladesh number one Hira Lal, elder brother of Shibu Lal, lost to Pakistan's number two Mohammad Khalid 1-6, 1-6, 4-Hira Lal and Faisal S. Hag

Malik and Mohammad Khalid in the doubles today. Earlier, Works Minister

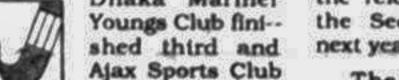
will take on Pakistan's Rashid

Rafiqui Islam Mian inaugurated the three-day tie.

Mariners are third

Sports Reporter





fourth in the Green Delta First Division hockey league, ending their league campaigns with a two-all draw in their 'last fixture at the Hockey Stadium

yesterday. Mariner Youngs have collected 26 points while Ajax 24 points from 15 outings each in the 16-team league.

Mariner Youngs had lost to title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club and held reigning champions Abahani Krira Chakra to draw while former champions Ajax lost to both the giants and dropped another point to unfancied Police Athletic Club. The league championship

issue has boiled down to a two-horse race between Mohammedans and Abahani. Mohammedans, who have won all their 14 matches, are a point ahead of Abahani, who have 27 from their 14 games. The championship issue

will be decided in the last match of this year's league between these two giants. scheduled for Sunday. To retain the championship

Abahani will have to win the tie while a draw will be enough for Mohammedans to clinch the At the other end of the table, Victoria Sporting, with

only six points from 14 matches, stand at the very bottom of the league and in order to avert relegation they will have to win their last engagement against Bachelors Sporting Club, who have eight points from 14 matches. In case Victoria win, there will be a play-off between these wooden-spoonists to decide

the relegation of one side to the Second Division league next year.

The match between Mariner Youngs and Ajax yesterday was, however, a keenlycontested one with the former managing a slight edge over the latter.

Jamil Parvez Lulu, who played brilliantly this year, sounded the board for Mariner Youngs in the very fifth minute of play with a spectacular field goal. It was the veteran Lulu's fourteenth goal in the league

Soon afterwards Mukti doubled the margin in a similar fashion (2-0).

Md Sadek reduced the margin for Ajax in the 15th minute by converting a penalty corner (2-1). Veteran Byazid Haider re-

utes from the hooter, also from a penalty corner (2-2). Earlier in the afternoon, Usha Krira Chakra got the

stored parity a couple of min-

better of Bangladesh Sporting Club 3-0. Usha led 1-0 at the breather.

Faisal Ahsanullah put Usha ahead in the 21st minute (1-

Rafiqui Islam Kamal doubled the margin in the 51st minute. He completed the tally in the 64th minute (3-0). Usha with 20 points from

all their 15 matches thus finish fifth in the league while Bangladesh Sporting have collected nine points, also from 15 encounters.

TODAY'S MATCHES Police AC vs Ansars (1.45

Bachelors vs Victoria (3.15

cially welcome the team home

from New Zealand and

Australia, the World Cup venue.

had waited for hours Thursday

night for the team's plane to

land at Jan Smuts Interna-

tional Airport.

More than 3,000 people

SA welcome heroes ered outside city hall to offi-JOHANNESBURG



- Star photo

Mar 27: Cheering white and black South Africans ined downtown streets Friday to welcome the country's cricket team returning from the World Cup, reports AP. The celebration came after

decades of frustration for South African sports fans caused by the nation's isolation from international competition because of apartheid. "It's much bigger than I ex-

pected but it's wonderful," said wicket keeper Dave Richards. "It's wonderful how the country got behind us. It just

shows what we've been missing." Tens of thousands of people whistled and shouted as a parade featuring an open, double-

decker bus carrying the 14 players weaved through the About 10,000 people gath-

Team manager Alan Jordaan told the city hall gathering : "We have begun to heal our People along the parade route threw flowers and brou-

ght cases of beer and other offerings to the bus carrying the players. One butcher had his workers carry out a slaughtered sheep. The players received gar-

lands and tributes at city hall.

Captain Keplar Wessels thanked the emotional crowd. Your support helped us through the tough times and

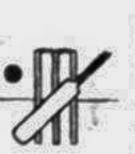
the magnificent times," he

It's not the first time Botham in an interview published in has fallen out with the Friday's Daily Mirror newspa-Pakistanis. After returning per. Botham told Pakistan cap-The people at home are fanatfrom the 1983-84 tour of tain Imran Khan to 'pull his Pakistan Botham said he players into line" or face a thought Pakistan was an ideal

summer's Tests at home."

Biman's sweet consolation Sports Reporter

disrepute.



Bangladesh Biman pocketed their first trophy of this season when they tamed Brothers Union by two wickets in the final of

the Independence Day cricket on March 26. In a day of highscoring match when more than five hundred runs were scored. Biman chased 253 and

crossed the total with just two wickets to spare. Biman skipper Shahnawaz Shaheed Shanu won the toss and asked Brothers to make the first use of the strip. Brothers who had the services of Zahid Razzak Masum of Abahani, national and Mohammedan skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannu and Lalmatia medium pacer Anisur Rahman rattled up a huge 253 for six wickets from their

quota of 45 overs. Masum, the dashing opening batsman topscored with 61 made off 87 balls with the help of five boundaries. Brothers guest performance luck did not end in Masum as Nannu also played a fine innings of 48 off just 51 balls.

The tempo, however, was

provided by Shri Lankan all rounder Fernando who swung his bat like a cutlass to smash a whirlwind 51 off 24 balls. The Afro-haired right hand batsmen hit six fours and a sixer. Skipper Athar Ali remained unbeaten on a well made 36 off just 24 balls.

Veteran Jahangir proved to

be the most effective bowler with his slow, undemanding stuff. He picked up two wickets for 31 runs. Enamul Huq Moni, the left-arm spinner who later played a cameo knock to pave the path of his side's victory, bowled beautifully to emerge with fine figures of one for 29 from

When opener Tariquzzaman

Navratilova wins

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Mar 27: Top seed Martina Navratilova advanced to the quarter-finals of the 225,000 dollar US women's Hardcourt tennnis championships with a 6-1, 6-1 second-round victory over Louiese Allen on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Munir nicked a delivery from left arm paceman Anis behind the stumps, the victory target looked a very, very tall order although not impossible. But veteran Ahmed Iqbal Bachchu batted positively to score a quick 36 and Selim Shahed returned to form with an excellent innings of 61 inclusive of three hits to the

Nadir Shah sent back in form Zakaria to revive the Brothers hopes but Shanu then teamed with Moni to make things hum again for the airlines team. Shanu was in magnificent form making 58 off 59 balls but real assault came from Mont who scored a rousing 49 off 30 balls. His rapidfire knock included four hits to the fence. Piyal, Dalim and Jahangir chipped usefully to give Biman a meritorious victory as Biman made 257 for eight wickets in 44.5 overs.

Brothers to claim two for 41. Lipu, Nannu, Anis, Athar took one apiece. Treasurer of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board Reza-e-

Nadir Shah bowled well for

Karim distributed prizes among the winners.

