

Maldives booters for Asian jr qualifiers arrive today

A 26-member football team from the Maldives arrives in the city today to take part in the fifth Asian youth under-16 football championship. Group Three beginning at Rajshahi on May 3, reports BSS.

The team consists of 20 players and six officials.

The Maldives will play hosts Bangladesh in the opening tie on May 3.

Five teams will take part in the Group Three to get a berth in the final round. The teams are: Pakistan, India, Nepal, The Maldives and hosts Bangladesh.

The Maldives team: Saamir Mohammad, Ahmed Ziyad, Ahmed Marzooq, Ibrahim Luthaife, Mohamed Afif, Abdullah Rouf, Hussain Ziyad, Ahmed Haisham, Ali Hassan, Mohamed Ikiel, Zuhair Ismail, Moosa, Fathy, Ismail Shareef, Hussain Habbad, Mohamed Sacad, Abdullah Rasheed, Adnan Habeeb, Ibrahimismail, Ahmed Ali Did, Ahmed Rasheed, Ahmed Shahrir (Manager), Mohamed Hashim (Assistant manager), Moosa Maniku (Coach), Ahmed Saleem (Assistant coach), Mohammed Nadeem (Assistant coach) and Ahmed Zahir (Doctor).

Brothers edge past PWD

Sports Reporter



Federation Cup champions Brothers Union managed to edge past Bangladesh Public Works Department by a solitary goal in the second match of the First Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Former Bangladesh winger Wasim Iqbal scored the all-important goal for Brothers in the 17th minute.

Brothers, who have already dropped six points and are virtually out of the championship race, appeared more organised yesterday without their three Iraqi recruits. So disappointed are the club officials with the performances of the trio that they even did not include them among the extras.

PWD, who suffered a shock 2-3 defeat against newcomers Police Athletic Club in their previous match, also appeared quite tuned and carried out a number of raids inside the opponents' territory but failed to breach the well-fortified Brothers defence.

Brothers were denied an early lead in the very eighth minute when PWD custodian Lahul fisted away a well-placed Rupu shot from outside the box.

Brothers found their only goal in the 17th minute following a goalmouth melee. Wasim Nandi lurking near by, but the latter failed to place the ball past Lahul. The rebound found

box four minutes after the breather.

PWD desperately tried to come back into the game and in the 75th minute created a good chance of restoring parity. But Sujit failed to send the ball home from inside the box.

PWD had to leave the field empty-handed as Sujit once again shot the ball wide of the post ten minutes from the long whistle.

The victory took Brothers' points tally to 24 from 15 matches while PWD have 17, also from 15 encounters.

Yellow card: Ata of Brothers and Zamrul of PWD.

BROTHERS UNION: Ponir, Pijush, Moon, Rouf Babul, Ataur, Parvez, Manik, Uttam, Rupu, Ripon and Wasim (Ahmed).

PWD SC: Lahul, Shamim Sr, Zamrul, Lokman, Aman, Pakir Ali, Munna, Jewel, Premial (Sujit), Mustaq and Rakib.

Referee: Montrul Islam.



WASIM IQBAL

the eager chest of Wasim and went home beating the goalie all ends up (1-0).

In the 27th minute Jewel of PWD failed to draw level when his powerful side-valley went over the post.

Lady luck deprived Brothers a chance to double the margin when a good placing attempt by Wasim hit the upright.

Lahul came to the rescue of his side when he saved a powerful Ata drive from inside the

Fifth Dan for Awlad

Sports Reporter

Awlad Hossain, Secretary of the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation, has been conferred the fifth Dan by the International Judo Federation, according to a BJKF press release issued yesterday.

The IJF decision was communicated to the BJKF by mail on Monday.

Awlad Hossain, the founder secretary of the national federation from 1972-80, was the first black belt holder in judo and karate in the then Pakistan. Awlad Hossain has been a keen student of the martial arts of self defence since 1960, the press release added.

Nat'l pairs bridge from tomorrow

The 12th 555 national pairs bridge tournament for Fazle Sobhan Trophy 1992 will be held on April 23 and 24 at Hotel Sheraton under the auspices of the Bangladesh Bridge Federation, says a press release.

Today, April 22 is the last date for entries.

An entry fee of Taka 200 per pair may be deposited with BBF secretary A Y M Kalimullah, chief tournament director Kazi Abdul Halim, convener of tournament committee M Waiful Haque or the BBF office at the Dhaka Club (M A Rouf Miah).

Jessore march into final

Sports Reporter



A new national youth cricket champion will emerge tomorrow when Jessore take on Rajshahi in the final of the 12th version of the Straj memorial competition at the Dhaka Stadium.

The exit of defending champions Bangladesh Krira Shikhyia Protisthan at the quarter-final stage left the way clear for a new team to etch its name on the coveted trophy for cricketers under 19 years of age.

The second semifinal, held yesterday, between Jessore DSA and Rangpur DSA, turned out to be quite an anti-climax with the former romping home to a facile and flattering eight-wicket victory at the Dhaka Stadium.

In another low-scoring affair — the recent weather has done its best to stifle worth while cricketing endeavour — Jessore hit off the 117 runs they needed for a passage into the final with consummate ease, at the cost of only two wickets, after having done themselves credit by restricting their opponents from the north to a modest 116 all out in 38.5 of the stipulated 45 overs.

Jessore skipper Timir won

the toss and his defensive strategy of preferring a chase rather than setting the pace paid off handsomely when his bowlers pegged away on a spot, making ranscoring an unrewarding exercise for the Rangpur batsmen.

Jessore medium-pacer Imran tried to live up to the halo of his more illustrious namesake by excelling himself with the ball to claim three Rangpur wickets for an economical 21 runs off his eight tidy overs. His opening partner Bipul also bowled with purpose to pick up one for 25 off nine overs, as did skipper Timir himself by claiming two for 21 off his eight.

The Jessore fielders lent their bowlers admirable support by effecting as many as four run outs to compound Rangpur's misery.

As for the Rangpur batsmen, they were all at sea for most part of the innings except for a brief flicker when Pallab and Selim made a last ditch stand, adding 37 runs for the tenth wicket, a little too late for any good. Pallab was the highest contributor with 33 until he was the last man out, stranded out of his ground when going for a quick single. Number 11 Selim surprised all, not least himself, by matching his batting order

number, remaining unbeaten on 11.

Rangpur skipper Philip, who also keeps wickets, was the only other batsman to reach double figures, having made 19 before being comprehensively bowled by his counterpart after a painstaking 45-ball knock. He had done a lot, but again not quite enough, to turn his team's fortunes after half the side had returned to the pavilion with only 28 runs on the board.

A patient 30 by opener Rahim and a sensible unbeaten 38 by one down 'Full' left little in the basket of Rangpur's hopes and firmly put Jessore on the road to the final. Kajal remained not out on 18 at the kill, Jessore's 117 coming in 35.5 overs.

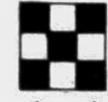
Selim and Imon shared the two Jessore wickets to fall for 20 and 10 runs respectively.

For the record, Rajshahi reached the final beating Mymensingh in the first semifinal played Monday.

Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman, who is also the chief of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, will give away the trophies after the final while Ramzul Straj, a director of the Arab Bangladesh Bank, sponsors of the meet, will attend as a special invitee.

Niru tops prelims

Sports Reporter



Neyamul Haq Niru of Bangladesh Ansars as well as Dhaka Metropolis yesterday emerged champion in the preliminary qualifying competition for the 18th national chess championship.

Syed Ruhul Kabir Shipu of BTMC, who like Niru finished the nine-round Swiss league competition with seven points, was runner-up, the Buscholtz tie-break score reading 48-45 in Niru's favour.

In yesterday's final encounters, Shipu got the better of Omar Khaled of Chittagong while Niru who had been maintaining solitary lead at the top of the points table until yesterday suffered a setback of sorts, managing only a draw with former national champion Jamilur Rahman.

Fifteen players out of a field of 108 finished the qualifying meet with six and a half points, reflecting the keen competition for the 14 berths

in the final round of competition scheduled to begin at the National Sports Council chess room on April 25. Actual play will start on April 26.

The two remaining places in the 16-player final round will be taken by defending champion Rifatbin-Sattar who dethroned Syed Tahmidur Rahman of Biman last year and Ziaul Kader Tuhin, the man Rifat piped to lift the national honours.

Following are the positions from third to 14th in the qualifying meet: Anisur Rahman, Khandaker Kayes Hassan (Ansars), Ziaur Rahman, (Biman), Kalam (Metropolis), Iqbal Rafiq (Metro), Jamilur Rahman (Ansars), M R Hafiz (Metro), Nahid Mizaid (Chittagong), Syed Tahmidur Rahman (Biman), Rani Hamid (Biman), Abdul Khaleq (Metro) and Amir Hossain of metropolis.

Syedul Islam of Patuakhali, Faizur Rahman of Metro and Hossain Arif of Metro lost out in the tie-break.

Roskopf, Saive shut out Swedes



STUTTGART, Germany, Apr 21: Jorg Roskopf of Germany and Jean-Michel Saive of Belgium won through to the men's singles final as Sweden's 10-year-reign on the title came to an end at the European table tennis championships here Monday, reports AFP.

Roskopf came from behind to beat Zoran Primorac of Croatia 21-14, 16-21, 17-21, 21-18, 21-16 after being 14-17 down in the fourth game of a free-hitting semifinal.

Saive hammered Andrzej Grubba of Poland 21-13, 21-9, in the other semifinal after a day of shocks in which the world's top three players, Jorgen Persson and Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden and Jean-Philippe Gatien of France were all beaten in the last eight.

World Champion Persson was out-hit by Grubba, going down 19-21, 21-16, 21-12, 22-20. Waldner lost 18-21, 21-12, 21-19, 14-21, 21-17, to Primorac while Gatien was crushed 21-8, 21-17, 21-18 by Saive.

Roskopf defeated Chen Zinhua, England's former Chinese international, 21-11, 21-13, 24-22 in the other quarter-final.

Medvedeva top seed in KL

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 21: Natalia Medvedeva of Ukraine has been named the top seed in the 100,000 US dollar Malaysian international women's tennis championships began at the National Tennis Centre here Monday, reports AFP.

Sweden had won the title five times running through Mikael Appelgren (1982, 1988 and 1990), Ulf Bengtsson (1984) and Persson (1986).

The women's singles final will be between Lisa Lomas of England, seeded only 15th, and Bettine Riisekoop of Holland.

Lomas beat two Dutch girls, Gerdie Keen 21-16, 21-12, 21-15, in the quarter-final, and then Mirjam Hooman 21-14, 21-7, 21-11, neither being able to hit the English girl's chop consistently.

Riisekoop, the 1982 champion, first beat top seeded Csilla Batorfi of Hungary 13-21, 21-18, 21-13, 21-19, in the last eight and Marie Hrachova of Czechoslovakia 21-17, 21-18, 21-12 in the semifinal.

Nirman finals from today

Sports Reporter



The final round of the tenth Nirman schools cricket tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB), begins today in the city.

K Z Islam, chairman of the sponsors Nirman international, will inaugurate the nine-day competition. Mr Islam is a former president of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board.

On the opening day, Dhanmondi Govt High School will take on Rajbari Govt High School at the Dhaka Stadium.

Twenty-two teams, including three schools from Dhaka metropolis are taking part in the 40-over contest to be played on a knockout basis.

The participating teams, who have come through the 20 Zonal qualifiers, are: Dinajpur Zila School, Netrakona Purbadhaha J L High School,

Thakurgaon Govt Boys School, Dhanmondi Govt High School, Rajbari Govt High School, Jhalakathi Udbodhan High School, Sylhet Aided High School, Tangal Shibrath High School, Khulna Gazi Memorial High School, Faridpur High School, Mymensingh Mrittunjoy High School, St Joseph's High School, Madaripur School, Barisal Zila School, Jessore Zila School, Chittagong Martrabad High School, Narayanganj High School, Syedpur Islamia High School, Patuakhali Jubilee High School, Dhaka BCSIR High School, Satkhira Prannath High School and Comilla School team. Dhaka Zone has provided three teams.

The final round matches will be held in three city grounds — Dhaka Stadium, Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium and the Mirpur Pallab ground.

An approximate budget of

Tk six lakh has been drawn up to run the meet, sponsors Nirman International providing all the expenses.

This and some other details were disclosed yesterday by BCCB General Secretary Aminul Islam Mont at a press conference at the BCCB office. Chairman of the tournament Committee Reaz-e Karim, BCCB joint Secretaries Sajjadul Alam Bobby and Golan Faroque Apu, were also present.

BASM clinic

A sports medicine clinic under the aegis of the Bangladesh Association of Sports Medicine will be arranged on the last Friday of each month at the National Sports Council (NSC), says a press release.

Experts of the association will give medical aid to the sports persons and sports organisers from 9.30 am to 12 pm on the day.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY

NIRMAN SCHOOLS CRICKET TOURNAMENT
THE LARGEST SPORTS SPONSORSHIP IN THE COUNTRY



THE FIGURES SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES:

ZONES	PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS									
	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
DHAKA	22	34	30	30	30	40	35	36	35	45
JESSORE	—	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	10	10
RANGPUR	—	6	8	8	8	8	8	8	10	—
FARIDPUR	—	7	8	8	8	6	6	6	8	12
MYMENSINGH	—	12	12	16	10	12	18	13	16	13
CHITTAGONG	—	10	13	16	16	16	18	10	17	16
RAJSHAHI	—	—	8	12	12	12	13	12	14	—
KHULNA	—	—	9	13	8	12	16	16	16	16
DINAJPUR	—	—	8	8	8	8	8	10	8	8
BARISAL	—	—	—	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
SYLHET	—	—	—	7	5	6	8	8	9	9
NARAYANGONJ	—	—	—	8	5	6	5	10	6	6
TANGAIL	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	7
PABNA	—	—	—	8	6	8	14	14	16	—
COMILLA	—	—	—	—	5	6	6	6	—	8
JHALOKATHI	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	7
NETROKONA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	11
MADARIPUR	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
PATUAKHALI	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
RAJBARI	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	8	6
THAKURGAON	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	6	6
SATKHIRA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	10
JHNAIDHA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
NILPHAMARY	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
TOTAL	22	77	104	158	135	156	171	179	224	218

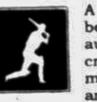
SCHOOLS IN EACH ZONE PLAY A TOURNAMENT TO DETERMINE THE ZONAL CHAMPION. ZONAL CHAMPIONS QUALIFY TO PLAY IN THE FINAL ROUND FOR THE NATIONAL. SCHOOL CHAMPION OF THE YEAR.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS	
1984 - 85	WILLES LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL DHAKA
1985 - 86	WILLES LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL DHAKA
1986 - 87	WILLES LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL DHAKA
1987 - 88	NARAYANGONJ HIGH SCHOOL NARAYANGONJ
1988 - 89	MUKUL NEKETAN MYMENSINGH
1989 - 90	FINAL ROUND NOT COMPLETED
1990 - 91	FINAL ROUND NOT COMPLETED

ORGANISED BY : BANGLADESH CRICKET CONTROL BOARD.
SPONSORED BY : NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LIMITED.

Looking for stars from gutter

Star Special by Ashish Das



A wishful alphabetical hermetic of the word cricket can spume in one's mind among other associations, courage, rigour, initiation, confidence, keenness, exposure and, of course, talent. It might be sheer foolhardiness, to ignore all other aspects and just concentrate on one particular aspect. Even then, initiation comes ahead of the other six conditions simply because one has to start to attain the end, no matter what the field is.

It is a ceaseless process in the game called cricket. The countries that have already attained the highest status and recognition cannot afford to sit back and relax after producing a host of quality cricketers. They have to continuously cultivate to prepare the bed for sprouting new players, and for this, the schools level is the best place.

Sports in Bangladesh have not really made any noteworthy progress in our twenty-one-year-old history mainly because there has hardly been any initiation at all. Occasional evanescent spells of success sent our aspirations shooting high only to crashdown the next moment with a devastating thud. Sports enthusiasts in this country have been repeatedly left drowned in a pool of despair.

The Parisian expatriates in Hemingway's 'The Sun Also Rises' phrased the rewinding of the spool beautifully: 'Nothing leads you anywhere'. Same has been the case with our sports as regards the feeling of the sports lovers.

Our futile and often mindless adventure in the world of sport has perhaps left us with the realisation that chess and cricket are the only two fields to explore. Very little attention was paid earlier to induce and initiate players in the recent past. The result is all too clear to miss notice. Just one Grandmaster came along while another young chess player from a neighbouring country rubs shoulders with the very best in the world.

It is even more depressing in the realm of cricket. Once considered the most prospective among the sides in the orbit of the Associate Members of the ICC, Bangladesh has really back-pedalled to a state of triviality. Amidst all these

Jeremiad, the school-level cricket competition sponsored by Nirman International serves as a gladdening note.

The construction concern has been financing the schools-level competition for the tenth year now. It all began in the 1982-83 cricket season with twenty-two schools from the Dhaka zone taking part in the competition. The tourney that was confined to one zone in its first year has spread into twenty for this season, the final round of which starts from today. The number of schools has shot up to 218 from an initial 20 and the lowest num-



K Z ISLAM

ber of contesting schools is from as remote a place as Nilphamari.

The Nirman competition has really caught the imagination of the juveniles interested in cricket all over the country. The sponsors have entered the field to draw more youngsters into the game so that more quality players are produced in the process. The rationale is simple: unless you give more width or scope you cannot expect quality. The sponsors set an unprecedented example by even providing residential facilities for the best school cricketers.

In a country where many talented players have to shelve their burning ambition for the sake of the more sordid realities of life like growing poverty, Nirman gave the budding cricketers a golden opportunity to hone their skills uninterruptedly.

Talking to The Daily Star,

Nirman chairman K Z Islam said that the idea of providing jobs to the players has always been there but unfortunately the lure of the cash from the big clubs has led to the desertion of some of the promising players. Selim Shahed, Habibul Bashar Suman, Zakaria and Halim Shah are notable among the many who have sworn their allegiance to different clubs playing in the top local leagues by quitting the Nirman Schools XI.

The cult of the clubs is the biggest obstacle in the development of sports in our country," quipped a disappointed KZ.

The patrons and the bosses of these clubs cannot look beyond trophies and ready recognition. They are devoid of any sense of responsibility as far as the future of cricket is concerned.

The former president of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, who is ethically opposed to the idea of spoiling the youngsters with money is, however, undaunted by the sad development of players falling for easy money, a fact that contributed significantly in the demotion of the Nirman Schools Eleven team from the Navana Premier League.

With eyes aglow with a light that had its origin more in missionary zeal than mere passion for the game, KZ informed this correspondent that he is trying in tandem with the organisers BCCB to work out a system which will stop such uncalled-for desertion of players before they are really ready to cope with the pressure of the game.

Apart from providing cricketing years and residential facilities, the sponsors have arranged to bring foreign coaches like Allen from England and Nishant from Sri Lanka who played the dual roles of coach-cum-player during their stay here. The sponsors, who even came up with monetary assistance from time to time for the few players who went abroad under scholarships, have reached an understanding with some county authorities to exchange players, thus opening new vistas for local youngsters to improve their temperament and technique.

Nirman International, who have allocated Taka six lakh for this year's budget, launched a coaching programme in the

past which contributed prominently in the moulding of exciting players like Aminul Islam Bulbul, Enamul Huq Mont and Jahangir Alam, now regarded as the automatic and indispensable members of the national side.

Far from being carried away by this, KZ is fully aware of the serious dearth of playing fields in our country. A successful businessman with a rare penchant for a low-key profile, KZ contemplates expanding the scope for more playing fields which, if realised, will be a real boost not only for cricket but sports in general in the country.

As Oscar Wilde said 'We are all in the gutter but some of us are looking at the stars.' Nirman International, recognised once by the Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association as the only major and effective sponsors in the country, are looking at the stars that have probably not yet emerged in the horizon of our cricketing world. As initiators, they have set an admirable example, and one hopes other sponsors will rise from the gutter of materialism to set their eyes on the telescope for what else — the stars.

WTA's top 20

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Apr 21: The top 20 women's singles players, according to rankings issued by the Women's Tennis Association on Monday:

1. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia)
2. Steffi Graf (Germany)
3. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
-