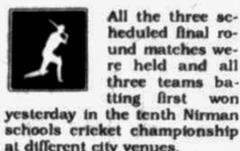


A day without walk-overs

Sports Reporter



All the three scheduled final round matches were held and all three teams battling first won yesterday in the tenth Nirman schools cricket championship at different city venues.

The biggest margin of victory was recorded on the eastern portion of the Dhanmondi cricket ground where Nasirabad High School of Chittagong crushed Jessore Zilla School by a massive 178 runs.

Put into bat Nasirabad, aided by fine a 69 by opener Nazim and a cameo 51 by Mohibur, posted 237 for nine from their quota of 40 overs.

Nazim sent the ball across the fence eight times in his 91-ball knock while Mohibur clobbered five fours and two big sixes in his 35-ball innings.

Opener Babu with 13 and Mithu with 10 were the only batsmen to reach the double figures.

Shams, Akbar and Fakhru picked up two wickets each with Fakhru having the best figures with two for no run.

Nazim, who went on to win the man-of-the-match award, and skipper claimed one each.

A fine all-round performance by Moudud helped Dhanmondi Government Boys High School to register a 105-run win over Dinajpur Zilla School at the Dhaka Stadium.

Sent all out to bat, Dhanmondi were all out for 166 in 39.1 overs with Moudud hitting 59 off 51 balls with ten fours.

Asif was the best Dinajpur bowler with two for 14 following Reeve sidelined.



BIRMINGHAM, England, Apr 25: England all-rounder Dermott Reeve is set to miss the first two of the season's five Texaco Trophy international against Pakistan next month, reports AFP.

Warwickshire's Hong Kong-born star saw a specialist on Tuesday about the injury which has troubled him since the World Cup in Australia and further investigation revealed a stress fracture of the pelvis.

It's likely he carried the injury all the way through the World Cup. Warwickshire's director of coaching, Bob Woolmer, told Friday's Today newspaper.

It was causing him problems before he left for the Test and one-day series in New Zealand, and could well have been caused while bowling in the winter nets at Lilleshall.

But the specialist is confident that he'll be fit to play against after month's complete rest.

The first two trophy games are on May 20 and 22.

lowed by Arman who took two for 23. Iqbal, Badshah and Hiru claimed one wicket each.

Dinajpur were shot out for 61 in 19.4 overs with Shams, Moudud and Babu ripping through their batting.

Shams bagged three for 19, Moudud two for eight and Babu also two for eight.

On a day that saw all three captains of the losing sides asking the other side to bat first, Gazi Memorial of Khulna gleefully accepted the offer to rattle 212 for nine in their 40 overs with skipper Mithu leading the charge with sparkling 60 off 77 balls inclusive of nine fours.

Sumon bowled well for the Mymensingh school taking three for 43. Bappi, Shahidul, Ferdous and Bhabesh claimed one apiece.

Mrittyunjoy School, who were reeling at five for 38 at one stage in their innings, could muster only 118 for all their wickets in just 27 overs.

Sumon, who was Mrittyunjoy's best bowler, turned out to be the highest batsman as well making 16 and bowlers Shahidul and Bappi chipped in with 15 each.

Gazi Memorial's skipper Mithu was declared man-of-the-match for his fine innings.

TODAY'S MATCHES

BCSIR High School vs Comilla Schools XI (Dhaka Stadium)

St. Joseph's vs Chittagong Nasirabad (DCS)



Aaron Krickstein of the US reacts to qualifying for the final of the Monte Carlo Open tennis tournament in Monaco on April 25. Krickstein defeated Croatian Goran Prpic in 6-1, 6-1.

Krickstein in final

MONTE CARLO, Apr 25: American Aaron Krickstein, the only surviving seed in the Monte Carlo Open, swiftly gained the final by routing Croatian Goran Prpic, 6-1, 6-1, Saturday, reports AP.

Krickstein, seeded 16th, will play the winner of Saturday's second semifinal between Thomas Muster of Austria and Arnaud Boetsch of France.

Krickstein continued the confident play that he has shown all week. He eliminated No. 1 seed Boris Becker on Thursday.

Prpic took the opening game, then didn't win another until eight games later, at 2-1 in the second set.

"The first game I came out a little slow and I lost it and I was little worried," Krickstein said. "But I broke back and went up."

From then on Krickstein did not make many errors. He lobbed confidently and passed Prpic easily when the Croatian rushed the net.

Prpic made repeated errors, and ended the match on his fourth double fault.

"He's just playing too good. I think I may have won a few more games but I don't know," Prpic said. "He was just hitting from all the positions. There was nothing to do."

Krickstein, ranked 24th, has been a pro since 1983. He won his first tour title at 16 years, 2 months — the youngest player to do so. He won his eighth singles title in Johannesburg, South Africa, earlier this year.

An earlier AFP report said: There are no more surprises left in the Monte Carlo Open because the remaining favourites were knocked out in

Javer surprises Medvedeva

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 25: Eighth-seeded Monique Javer of Britain created a major upset when she eliminated top seed Natalia Medvedeva of the Ukraine in the 100,000 US dollar Malaysian Women's Open tennis championships here Friday, reports AFP.

Javer came back from a set down to take the match 3-6, 6-3, 6-1.

After a lethargic start, the 24-year-old Briton found her stride in the second set, putting her fancied opponent on the defensive with powerful serves and sharp volleys.

Medvedeva, ranked 34th in the world, went to pieces in the third set, making a series of unforced errors before going down 6-1.

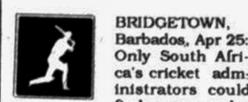
Basuki meets Strnadova in final

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 25: Indonesia's Yayuk Basuki and Czechoslovakian Andrea Strnadova will meet in the final of the 100,000 Malaysian Women's Open tennis championships here Friday, reports AFP.

Basuki, 21, seeded second and ranked 45th in the world, defeated Swedish ace and 1989 Wimbledon semifinalist Catarina Lindqvist 6-4, 6-1.

Strnadova defeated England's Monique Javer 3-6, 1-6 in the other semifinal. Javer upset top-seeded Natalia Medvedeva of Russia in the quarterfinals Friday night.

Caribbean tour should help dismantling of apartheid



BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Apr 25: Only South Africa's cricket administrators could find any crumbs of comfort to take away from their country's African captain Kepler Wessels and his side returned home on Friday still stunned by the way an expected win of their return to Test cricket was turned into a stinging defeat, reports AFP.

"We have learned how tough the game is at the highest level," he said of the dramatic loss of eight wickets on the morning of the final day of the one-off Test and eventual 52-run defeat.

But for the administrators and South African politicians, the three-week tour was a triumph in an anti-apartheid bastion.

Any doubts about the wisdom of the hastily arranged tour were soon proved wrong. The predominantly white touring party were given government reception in all of the islands they visited — Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados.

The Prime Ministers of each government made a point of coming of the games. Jamaica's new Premier, P J Patterson, even joined his Barbados counterpart Erskine Sandford at the first Test match between the two sides at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown.

Special visas had to be given to the touring party and supporters and special permission for South African airways to land their first planes in Jamaica and Barbados. But there were no hitches.

Ali Bacher, executive director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), said the tour had been "an inspiration to all South African."

He added: "It is a signal that the world will welcome our country back with open arms if we get our house in order."

The venture was reportedly underwritten to the sum of 1.75 million dollar by British Petroleum of South Africa. Bacher said it was money well spent.

Arriving almost straight after ending their 22 years out of the cold with an impressive performance in the World Cup, the South Africans found the hot, bare Caribbean pitches little to their liking.

They were swept aside in the three one-day games and the Test turned into a heart-breaking defeat against the re-vamped West Indies.

Ironically, the only protest of the tour was not against the South Africans, but the West Indies Cricket Board and selectors for leaving out Barbadian fast bowler Andy Cummins from the Test side.

Local fans organised such an effective boycott that average daily attendances fell from 12,000 for a normal Test to less than 1,000.

Yet even in defeat, the South Africans proved they have the makings of a formidable side.

Allan Donald is one of the fastest bowlers in the game and medium pacer Richard Snell made an encouraging start with eight Test wickets.

Opener Andrew Hudson showed correct temperament for the long game by batting eight hours and 20 minutes for his 163 — which made him the first South African to score a century on his Test debut.

"There is no doubt we have the talent. Now we need the experience," said South African coach Mike Procter.

He can also be encouraged by an under 19 side of all races that won half of their six matches in the Caribbean.

Several blacks from the township development programme play well enough to show it will not be long before the senior team takes on a multi-racial look.

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Mini-wrestling nationals on

The three-day 11th national mini-cadet wrestling championships got underway at the National Sports Council Gymnasium yesterday.

Sadek Hossain Khoka, State Minister for Youth and Sports, inaugurated the meet as chief guest.

On the opening day, 65 preliminary bouts were held. Some more qualifying bouts will be held today while the finals will be held tomorrow, the concluding day of the championships, organised by the Bangladesh Amateur Wrestling Federation.

Eight DSAs, comprising 112 junior wrestlers, are participating in the meet.

The district teams are Gazipur, Dhaka, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Khulna, Jessore and Rajshahi.

Boxing result

SACRAMENTO, Calif, Apr 25: Tony Lopez of Sacramento made quick work of Narcizo Valenzuela of Mexico Friday night, knocking him out at 2.25 of the second round of a scheduled 10-rounder, reports AP.

Lopez, 135 pounds (61.15 kilogram), finished Valenzuela, 135 (61.15 kilograms), with a right to the jaw.

Chinese swimmers encounter stiff Japanese challenge

HIROSHIMA, Japan, Apr 25: China took home the first four consecutive gold medals while hosts Japan grabbed the next three on the opening day of the Asian swimming championships here Saturday, reports AFP.

Yi Hong, a 14-year-old student from Wuhan, brought the first for China when she scored 447.48 points to win the women's platform, the day's only final for the diving competition.

Then China got off to a good start in the swimming competition with one Two finishes from Lu Bin and Zhuang Yong in the women's and Xie Jun and Wang Dal in the men's 200-metre freestyles.

Lu timed 2 mins 01.06 secs to win the women's final, followed by Zhuang in 2:01.33 and Suzu Chiba of Japan in 2:02.28.

Xie touched in 1:51.73 and Wang at 1:52.83 in the men's final, beating another Japanese, Taihei Maeda, who finished third in 1:53.40.

Then, world individual medley double champion Lin Li added one more, taking the women's 100m backstroke gold.

But the Japanese finally broke through, winning the men's 200m butterfly.

"My teammates stimulated me very much. The time was not so good but I'm very happy to win a gold," said Shito, the silver medalist in the same

event at the World Championships in Perth last year.

"Wang Xiaohog seemed not to have tuned up well yet, and I was also not in my best form. I want to beat her again when we both are in our top form," the 18-year-old Japanese added.

Shito clocked 2:12.63, beating Wang into second spot in 2:12.70.

It was sweet revenge for the Japanese women, who failed to win a single gold at the Beijing Asian Games in 1990.

"I think the fact that we took the last three golds kicks us very much to perform better tomorrow," Japanese head coach Yoji Suzuki said.

A total of 213 swimmers and divers from 22 countries and regions were taking part in the four-day championships at the Hiroshima city indoor pool in Hiroshima.

Soccer result

SINGAPORE, Apr 25: Chinese Taipei defeated Malaysia 2-1 in the 28th Asian Youth Cup qualifying round match at the National Stadium here Friday, reports AFP.

Malaysia led 1-0 at half-time.

Scorers: Malaysia Domi Che Non (8th minute), Taiwan Chen Jeng (46th) and Tsai Seng Hua (59th).

Zola wins, but only just

GERMISTON, South Africa, Apr 25: Zola Budd-Pieterse won her race at the Unity Games here on Friday but failed to lift doubts about her chances of going to the Barcelona Olympics, reports AP.

In front of a disappointingly small 10,000 crowd at Germiston, the former world 5,000 metres record holder led a South African sweep of the top three places at the historic meet.

Beaten by half a lap by Elana Meyer in the 3,000 metres in Dakar last weekend, Budd-Pieterse this time had to fight to hold off her compatriot Gwen Griffiths and won in a mediocre time of 4 min 13.94 sec.

Budd-Pieterse has yet to qualify for the Olympics over her favoured distance of 3,000 metres and risks missing the Barcelona Games.

In another symbolic sign of the changes though, Budd-Pieterse, once a symbol of apartheid for African sports leaders, was presented with her gold medal by a member of the African National Congress.

After returning to international competition in Dakar, the two-day Germiston leg is the first time South Africa has hosted an officially recognised international event since they were thrown out of the International Amateur Athletics Federation in 1976.

The main draw of the first day was Zambia's 400 metres hurdles world champion Samuele Mateate and Namibian sprinter Frankie Fredericks.

Mateate, who won in Dakar, took the Germiston race in 48.68 sec and had an easier time than last week against South African champion Dries Vorster.

Fredericks survived a false start and streaked to victory in the men's 100 metres. It was no contest against South African record holder Johan Rossouw as Fredericks led from the gun.

He clocked a fast 10.09 sec in his first race of 1992. Rossouw clocked 10.33 Sierra Leone's Sanusi Turay was third in 10.38.

Tshakile Nzimande, the winner of the 100m in the first leg of the Unity Games in Senegal last Saturday, said he "fell asleep" in the starting blocks and was a disappointing sixth.

Fredericks was pleased with his performance which was better than his first race last year when he clocked 10.20. "I would have preferred to run at midday because I think I could have gone faster in the heat," he said.

None of the records would be considered potential medal-winning marks at the Olympics. In another impressive showing, Maria Mutola of Mozambique won the 800 in 1 minute, 59.47 seconds, one of the best times this year.

The area's altitude of nearly 6,000 feet (1,830 meters) slowed distance runners like South Africa's Elana Meyer, the country's most likely Olympic medal contender. She won the 3,000 in 8:59.06, 18 seconds slower than last week at the Unity Games' first phase in Dakar, Senegal.

Primo Nebiolo, head of the IAAF, has been in South Africa all week and said the country would be readmitted to the federation at a meeting in Toronto this month.

This will guarantee South Africa the right to send an athletics team to the Olympics in Barcelona. South Africa last competed in the Olympics in 1960 and was suspended by the International Olympic

Amateur Athletics Federation suspended it because of apartheid. It last competed in a world track event in 1975.

Fredericks, who won the 100 in 10.09 Friday night, easily won the 200, finishing 37 off the world record mark of 19.72.

The South Africans were at their best in field events, where they set three African records.

Charmaine Weavers cleared 1.94 metres (6 feet 4 inches) in the high jump, breaking the African record of 1.91 (6-3) set two years ago by Lucienne Nda of Ivory Coast. Nda also cleared 1.94 (6-4) Saturday, but Weavers won on fewer attempts.

In the pole vault, Okkert Britz cleared 5.45 metres (17-10), breaking the Africa record by 11 centimeters (3 3/4 inches).

Nanette van der Walt tossed the discus 57.58 meters (188-11), breaking the continental mark by almost 2 meters (6 feet).

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Association of Athletics Federations suspended it because of apartheid. It last competed in a world track event in 1975.

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