



THE IRON MEN: Flexing their muscles, the winners of different categories of the Bata body-building contest adopt an intimidating pose at the National Coaching Centre yesterday.

Premier kabaddi from Sunday

The first Premier kabaddi league, organised by Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation, begins at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court here on May 24, reports Reuters.

Two teams each from Bangladesh Rifles, Bangladesh Ansars, Bangladesh Police and Fire Service will take part in the league in two groups with the group champions playing in the final for the title.

On the opening day, BDR 'Red' will meet Police 'A' at 4-30 pm while Ansars 'A' will take on Fire Service 'A' at 5-30.

Ansars win show of muscles

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars retained the Bata body-building title when they emerged as champions in the fifth annual competition held at the National Coaching Centre yesterday.

In an event where muscles bulge and twitch to win approving nods of the judges, the greasy dorsal and pectoral muscles of the Ansars strongmen glistened rather too brightly compared to the other competitors, and they went home winners without much fuss.

Seventy-two competitors

from 20 teams took part in the five-category championship. Following is the break up of the top three competitors of each of the five categories:

Bantamweight: Gold Musa Chowdhury (Ansars); Silver Lehaazuddin (Ansars); Bronze Marzurul Huq (Ansars).

Light-weight: Fatik Dutta (Ansars); Rahmatullah (Sher-Bangla PTC); Shamir Kumar Shikdar (Kushtia).

Welter-weight: Abul Kalam Azad (BTMC); Farhad Hossain (Ansars); Sasudev Nandi (Ctg Metro).

Middle-weight: Abdul Ahad (Rajshahi); Abdul Azim (Ansars); Mushtaq Ahmed (Ansars).

Light-heavyweight: Biddut Kumar Roy (Ansars); Rafiqul Islam (Navayug PTC); Shahjahan Siddiqui (Ctg Metro).

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda gave away the prizes as the chief guest. The Managing Director of Bata Shoe, the sponsors, was also present as the chief guest.

Booters back

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh under-19 football team returned home yesterday after participating in the 28th Asian youth football competition held in the Indian city of Kannur in Kerala.

India moved to the final round by becoming champions with seven points from four matches while Bangladesh finished runners-up with six.

Abbasuddin Khan, the manager, told newsmen on arrival that the boys failed to play up to potential and a bad miss by Zakir in the dying moments against India dashed all the hopes of making the final round.

Besides, he said, the Bangladesh players did not take the last match against Nepal seriously enough. Bangladesh had to come from behind to earn a face-saving 1-1 draw against Nepal.

Khan said Masud Rana, the captain, performed well but the indisposition of Brothers Union player Uttam, who remained sick for the entire duration of the meet, seriously handicapped the team.

Forget dents Edberg's morale

DUESSELDORF, May 21: Stefan Edberg's preparations for next week's French Open suffered a further setback on Wednesday when he was beaten 7-5, 6-4 by Guy Forget at the men's World Team Cup, reports Reuters.

The Swedish world number two, who tasted defeat by Spanish clay-court specialist Emilio Sanchez in his opening match on Monday, failed to get his serve-and-volley game into top gear in the opening rubber of Sweden's clash with France.

But Sweden, the defending champions, levelled the round-robin group match to 1-1 when Magnus Gustafsson beat Oliver Delaite 6-3, 7-5 in the second singles, keeping alive the country's hopes of staying in the competition.

Edberg, who refuses to abandon his strong serve-and-volley game on the slow clay, although it is best suited to faster surfaces, won his first tournament on clay for six years at the German Open earlier this month.

But he was not at his best as the Swedes lost the opening tie against Spain. The winners from the two four-nation groups qualify for Sunday's final.

Maleeva exits

LUCERNE, May 21: Unseeded Sabine Hack of Germany upset defending champion Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland 6-4, 6-3 on Wednesday in the second round of the \$150,000 European Open tennis tournament, reports AP.

Maleeva, the ninth-ranked woman player worldwide and the tournament's top seed, lost her service in the opening game and never led in the match, her first in the tournament.

Cricket has a future

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) yesterday arranged a discussion on 'World Cup Cricket and Bangladesh' at the conference room of the National Sports Council (NSC).

Renowned sports commentator and Managing Editor of The Daily Star, Tawfiq Aziz Khan, BCCB Vice-President Raisuddin Ahmed, BCCB General Secretary Aminul Hoque Moni, renowned cricketer and sports organiser Syed Ashraf Hossain, cricketer Roquibul Hassan, cricket umpire Kazi Mishu and BSWA general secretary Mahmood Hossain Khan Dulal addressed the meeting, presided over by Ataul Haque Mullick.

The speakers felt that Bangladesh cricket can reach world standard given proper efforts by all concerned.

Indians keep winning

CARDIFF, May 21: India reached the halfway mark of their highly successful European men's hockey tour with a 4-0 drubbing of Wales here on Wednesday night, reports AFP.

All their goals came in the first half. Jagbir Singh and Shakil Ahmed finding the target before Didar Singh scored twice to give the visitors their eighth consecutive victory.

As on Tuesday, when India struggled to beat Wales 3-2, the home side tried crowding out the Indians, but this time the tactic failed miserably.

Once the visitors broke the deadlock, the floodgates opened and they could have scored more goals in the second half with more clinical finishing.

That deadlock was broken by Jagbir in the 12th minute, when he got the final touch at a short corner after Didar had hammered the ball across from the left side of the circle.

Three minutes later Jagbir

Low scores order of day

Sports Reporter



Antaranga, Krita Chakra, Dhanm-ondi Progoti San- tha and Cuta Star Club won their respective matches at different city venues yesterday in the 73-team qualifying competition for promotion to the Second Division cricket league.

At the Mirpur Pallabi cricket ground, put into bat, Jagrata Sangad could muster only 88 in the face of some accurate bowling by the bowlers of the Antaranga Krita Chakra.

Only three batsmen reached double figures, Jahangir top-scoring with 12 as the side was booked for 88 in 21.1 overs.

Shahidul Alam of Antaranga was the pick of the bowlers with figures of three for 24. Shakil with two for 23 and Tajul with two for 16 gave him good support.

Wicketkeeper Asadullah's steady innings of 26 helped Antaranga to post 92 for five wickets in 23.2 overs, good enough to give them a comfortable five-wicket victory with plenty of overs to spare.

He was aided by 15 from teammate Shahidul, Halim, 13, and Towhid, 12, were the other run-getters.

Rabbani was the best bowler for the losers taking two for 17. Monirul picked two and Sobel one of the five Antaranga wickets to fall.

A similar victory margin was witnessed on the western half of the Dhanm-ondi Cricket Ground where Cuta Star Club defeated Green Fighters by five wickets in another low-scoring match.

Sent in to bat, Green Fighters were bowled out for 121 in 29 overs.

Shuvo with 17 not out was the highest scorer followed by 15 from Bobby and 14 each from Putan and Najib.

Sobel of Cuta destroyed Fighters with figures of three for 30.

A stroke-filled unbeaten 50 from Shakil took Cuta to their goal in 28.5 overs for the loss of five wickets.

Extras were the second highest contributor with a rather embarrassingly generous dose of 33. Wadud made 23.

Dhanm-ondi Progoti Sangha reversed the day's pattern or order of victories by the team batting second when they recorded a 76-run win against Farashganj Sporting Club at the Mahakhali T&T ground.

A fine knock of 50 by Samik

and a string of useful knocks by other batsmen helped Progoti put 193 for eight in their stipulated 35 overs.

Arzu made 30, Apollon and Biplob 25 each and stumper Habib 22.

Sarwar with two for 25, Ishtiaq two for 409 and Rono with two for three runs tried their best to throw spanners in the works of the Progoti batsmen.

Farashganj, in their turn, were all out for 117 in 30 overs.

Debabrata topscored with 17 and followed by 18 from Johnny and 17 from Simon.

Mohsin was the destroyer-in-chief with figures of three for 23. Chapal with two for 22 and Biplob with figures of two for 21 were the other successful Progoti bowlers.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Baishakhi KC vs Dhaniya Sporting Club (DCS)
Rampura Juba Sangha vs Demra Samaj Kalyan (Narayanganj)
Ibrahim Eleven vs Uttara Friends (DCS)
Tejgaon vs Mahakhali CC (Mirpur, Pallabi)
Udity 'B' vs Mill Barracks JBC (Mahakhali T&T)

Smith, Botham lay down ghosts



LONDON, May 21: England gained sweet revenge for their World Cup final defeat by Pakistan when they routed the champions by 79 runs in the first one-day international at Lord's here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

The two men who shared the most bitter memories of Pakistan's night of triumph in Melbourne two months ago were responsible for giving England a flying start to the five-match Texaco Trophy series.

Robin Smith, inconsolable after being left out of the World Cup final line-up, top-scored with 85 out of a total of 278 for six, earning the man-of-the-match award.

Ian Botham, who was dismissed for a duck in Melbourne, bounced back to centre stage with two key wickets as the tourists collapsed to 199 all out.

It all added up to a tame surrender, but England left Lord's happy enough after producing the kind of clinical performance which was the hallmark of their early World Cup campaign.

They had started the day a touch controversially by relegating Botham down the order and promoting Alec Stewart.

However, the England vice-captain who has developed a happy knack of responding to whatever pressure the selectors put on him, made sure a

perfect batting strip was not wasted after Pakistan had put his side in.

He soon lost Graham Gooch, caught behind for nine, but the vice-captain was in positive mood from the start and moved smoothly to 50 from 69 deliveries before slicing medium-pace Naved Anjum to backward point.

That ended a second-wicket stand of 95 with Smith, who looked anything but his usual dominant self to begin with.

However, once into the 40s and joined by old sparring partner Alan Lamb, the Hampshire batsman began firing on all cylinders.

Together the South African-born pair added 98 in 18 overs with Smith cracking seven boundaries and Lamb five in his 60.

The only disappointing phase for England came when Lamb was out — caught superbly at mid wicket by Pakistan skipper Javed Miandad off a well-struck pull — at the start of the 48th over.

It looked an ideal time to promote Botham, but Gooch stuck rigidly to his scorecard order and just 40 runs came from the final eight overs.

Among the victims during that relatively quiet period was Hick, falling again when Wasim Akram fired an inswinger through his defences after he had made just three.

That incident apart, there was little for England to worry

about.

For half an hour or so Pakistan threatened to seriously challenge England's total, with Salim Malik sprinting ominously to 24 after Derek Pringle had caught Ramiz Raja off his own bowling in the second over for a duck.

But then up stepped Botham, hungry for a slice of the action after being limited to a minor batting role at number seven.

His sixth delivery was met with a loose drive outside off stump. Stewart did the rest and Malik's departure effectively ended Pakistan's hopes.

Just to make sure, Botham swooped to remove big-hitter Inzamam-ul-Haq for two when he held a return chance off bat and pad.

That made Pakistan 78 for five, as in the previous 13 balls Pringle had dismissed Miandad for seven through Hick's diving catch at square leg and Philip DeFreitas had run out Amir Sohail for 36 with a magnificent throw to Botham from the boundary.

Akram and Asif Mujtaba brought some respectability to the score by sharing in a sixth-wicket stand of 83, but once Stewart had stumped Akram off Richard Illingworth for 34, the rest of the innings folded quickly.

Pringle and Hick wiped up the tail, Pringle finishing with one-day best international figures of four for 42.

Richards hits his 112th ton



LONDON, May 21: Former West Indies skipper Viv Richards rolled back the years on Wednesday to lead Glamorgan to their best English county championship score of the season, reports AFP.

The evergreen Antiguan batsman scored the 112th century of his career off 113 balls as Glamorgan compiled 346 for five against Warwickshire at Swansea.

Richards, who made 127, shared stands of 111 for the fourth wicket with Matthew Maynard (62) and 108 for the fifth wicket with Tony Cottee.

Warwickshire rattled up 36 for no wicket in seven overs in reply.

Another veteran to hit form on Wednesday was former England spinner John Embury, who starred with bat and ball to put Middlesex in command at Leicester.

He hit his first century for two years, making 102 and sharing an eighth-wicket stand of 160 out of 467 with Dean Headley (91), and then snapped up two wickets as Leicestershire slumped to 130 for five in 59 overs.

Middlesex's giant total was bettered by Hampshire against Surrey and Kent against

Yorkshire. Hampshire amassed 552 for nine declared, with Tony Middleton completing a career-best 221 with a six and 19 fours, before West Indian paceman Malcolm Marshall grabbed four for 46 as Surrey crashed to 163 for six.

Two sixes and 23 fours to transform his side's fortunes against leaders Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge.

His seventh-wicket partnership of 145 in 33 overs with Bradleigh Donelan enabled Sussex to soar from 186 to six to 365 all out.

Austin revived Lancashire with 115 out of 327 for seven declared against Derbyshire at Blackpool, where Derby slipped to 27 for two in reply.

There were two bowlers who produced career-best performances on Wednesday as well — Worcestershire slow left-arm Richard Stemp and Somerset's Dutch paceman, Adrianus van Troost.

Stemp claimed six for 67 as Gloucestershire were dismissed for 206, 64 behind, only for the home side to retaliate by sending Worcestershire sliding to 102 for five in their second innings.

Van Troost took six for 48 against Essex at Taunton, but the champions were saved from disaster by John Stephenson, who scored an unbeaten 113 out of a total of 259.

Somerset replied with 139 for one in 39 overs, 20-year-old Mark Lathwell joining the career-best achievers with an unbeaten 72.

Speight slammed 166 with

Kent owed their total of 480 for seven to sixth-wicket pair Graham Cowdrey and Steve Marsh, who put on 235 in 55 overs; Marsh blasted a career-best 125, while Cowdrey smashed 127.

Sussex's Martin Speight and Lancashire all-rounder Ian Austin also improved their highest scores with hundreds. Speight slammed 166 with

Barcelona rejoices

BARCELONA, May 21: Barcelona exploded into an all-night fiesta on Wednesday after the local club's first European Cup triumph, reports Reuters.

Tens of thousands of ecstatic supporters flooded the city centre within minutes of the final whistle to celebrate the 1-0 win over Sampdoria in a tense final at London's Wembley Stadium.

Dozens of rockets exploded into the night sky as Barcelona's central square filled with supporters converging on the centre just one hour before midnight.

Police battled to keep traffic flowing in the packed streets.

Gallant Goycochea fails to deny the other Barcelona



RIO DE JANEIRO, May 21: Argentine goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea pulled off a repeat of his World Cup penalty-saving heroics on Wednesday, stopping two spot kicks during a Libertadores Cup penalty shoot-out, reports Reuters.

But his performance was not enough to save his Paraguayan club Cerro Porteno from losing their quarter-final

tie against Ecuadorian champions Barcelona.

Colombian goalkeeper Rene Higuita, who made an impression in the World Cup for his eccentric style, was also on the losing side, conceding four goals as Atletico Nacional were beaten 4-2 by fellow Colombians America in a match which saw three sendings-off.

A total of six players were sent off in Wednesday's four quarter-final second leg matches as the competition once again lived up to its reputation for violence. Three players were shown red cards in the four first leg matches last week.

Goycochea, whose penalty saves in shoot-outs against Yugoslavia and Italy helped Argentina to the final of the 1990 World Cup, saw his efforts wiped out by the wayward shooting of Cerro Porteno's other players.

The Paraguayan contrived to miss four penalties as Barcelona won 4-3 in the sudden death shoot-out after the quarter-final tie had ended 2-2 on aggregate.

Cerro Porteno began the second leg in Asuncion as favourites after holding out for a 1-1 draw in Barcelona's feared Monumental Stadium last week.

They looked to have wrapped up the tie when Carlos Gamarra poked the ball home from close range after a grotesque error by Barcelona goalkeeper Jose Cevallos, who dropped an easy cross at Gamarra's feet.

Romanians rout Wales



BUCHAREST, May 21: Romania crushed Wales 5-1 in their opening World Cup qualifying game for the 1994 finals here on Wednesday with two goals apiece from Gheorghe Hagi and Ion Lupescu, reports AFP.

It was the heaviest for Wales defeat since they lost 5-1 to West Germany in the 1979 European Championship qualifiers. To compound the misery, there were also bookings for Mark Aizlewood, Gary Speed and Mark Hughes.

Romania were 2-0 up after seven minutes.

Hagi put the Romanians ahead after only five minutes and at one stage they looked set to repeat their opening Group Four 7-0 win over the Faroe Islands.

Wales tightened up in the second half for Ian Rush to notch a consolation goal.

The Romanians wasted little time piercing the rickety Welsh defence with Mark Brown losing the ball on the left and Marius Lacatus hitting

a superb long ball. Gavriel Balint nodded down for Hagi, who raced through the middle and volleyed past Neville Southall.

Two minutes later, Hagi chipped a free kick over the wall from the edge of the box and Lupescu prodded the ball home from six yards.

The Welsh defence was caught helpless again in the 24th minute, as Lupescu turned and sent a low drive past Southall from 25 yards.

Seven minutes later, Balint picked up a long ball from Gheorghe Popescu and demonstrated superb control before blasting it past the advancing Southall.

Hagi completed the rout by hitting his second in the 35th minute, rifling a shot from 35 yards which Southall parried, but could not keep out.

Wales got their consolation prize six minutes after the break, when rush pounced on a ball by Dean Saunders and went round goalkeeper Bogdan Stelea to score his 20th goal for Wales.



Former national skipper Roquibul Hassan addressing a discussion meeting on the World Cup and Bangladesh cricket, organised by the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association at the NSC yesterday.