

Lucky win for Nayapaltan

Sports Reporter

Nayapaltan Cricketers were the first team to win by virtue of having lost fewer wickets in the qualifying round competition for next year's Second Division cricket league while four other teams—Pirerbagh, Kirta Chakra, Mugda Cricketers, Magbazar Kishalay and Azam-Waqar CC—won their respective matches at different venues in and around capital.

On the western half of the Dhanmandi Cricket Stadium, Nayapaltan Cricketers won their match against Matuall Cricket Club for having lost fewer wickets. Put into bat, Nayapaltan Cricketers scored 137 for seven from their quota of 35 overs with Sujon top-scoring with 28. Raju, 21, Arif, 22, Tanvir, 18, and Badar, 19, were the other principal run-getters.

Mahin was the most successful Matuall bowler taking two for 22. Shapan one for 18, Qudus one for 18 and Rumel one for 26 were the other successes with the ball.

Matuall CC were all-out for 137 in 34.4 overs. Rafiq with 31 and Mohiuddin with 27 were the main willow wielders.

Yusuf, Intizar and Selim took two wickets each, with the last named having the best figures of two for 14.

At the Mahakhali T&T ground, Pirerbagh Kirta Chakra outplayed YMCC by six wickets in a low-scoring match.

Sent in to bat, YMCC were dismissed for 66 in 23.1 overs with only wicketkeeper Shob managing to reach the double figures with eleven. Extras were a rather staggering 22.

Emburey is Middlesex's hero

LONDON, May 23: Off-spinners John Emburey and Robert Croft conjured up county championship wins for Middlesex and Glamorgan respectively as slow bowlers enjoyed themselves on another hot, sunny May day in England on Friday, reports Reuter.

Former Test choice emburey claimed match figures of eight for 89, in addition to his first century for two years, as Middlesex completed an easy 10-wicket victory over Leicestershire before lunch on the final day.

Croft, 21, regarded as an international player of the near future, did even better as he grabbed career-best figures of eight for 66 to seal a dramatic success over Warwickshire.

Glamorgan had almost given up hope when Croft snatched wickets with the fourth and fifth balls of the final over to leave Warwickshire 172 all out, 93 runs adrift.

Croft took six wickets in the first innings and finished with a match analysis of 14 for 169.

Nottinghamshire stayed top of the table by a single point after a draw with Sussex. Chasing a target of 325, they cruised to 264 for four at one stage but finished 31 runs short on 294 for eight. Sussex leg-spinner Ian Salisbury took his match tally of wickets to nine.

Hampshire moved into second place by completing a 10-wicket victory over Surrey, displacing Lancashire who fell foul of a Derbyshire run-chase at Blackpool.

Set 301 to win in a minimum of 58 overs, Derbyshire raced home by five wickets thanks to an unbeaten 104 from Peter Bowler and 98 from John Morris.

Yorkshire failed by just two runs to beat Kent at Canterbury. Needing three off the last ball, Peter Hartley was run out attempting the second run which would have levelled the scores, thus denying Yorkshire an extra eight bonus points.

Essex's John Stephenson hit an unbeaten 159, his second century of the game, and was on the field for the entire match but still finished on the losing side against Somerset at Taunton.



JOHN EMBUREY ... 102 and 8 for 89

Leonard denies comeback talk

NEW YORK, May 23: Five-time world champion Sugar Ray Leonard, now in his third official retirement from boxing, on Thursday ruled out the possibility of a return to the ring, reports Reuter.

"Terry Norris was my last fight. I used him as a barometer and it proved that my time was up and is up," Leonard said of the 12-round beating he took on February 9, 1991.

Bloodied and bruised in taking only his second loss in 39 professional fights, Leonard immediately called it quits after the Norris bout.

On Thursday, the 36-year-old Leonard was not budging from that decision, despite numerous recent reports that he was considering yet another fight.

"I'm happier now than I've been before, I really am," Leonard told reporters at a New York restaurant. Leonard held the informal news conference before taking up his job as television analyst for a Thursday night fight at Madison Square Garden (MSG) — scene of his loss to Norris.

Team B wins trial match

Sports Reporter

Team 'B' won the 50-overs a side trial match spread over two days against Team 'A' by 29 runs yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium. Needing 259 for victory, the 'A' team were all out for 229.

Akram Khan of Abahani, who enjoyed a terrific last season, top scored with 54 off 66 balls, inclusive of two hits to the fence. Nurul Abedin Nobel of Brothers Union scored 42. Abahani skipper Farooq, trying hard to be back in reckoning, got 38.

Enamul Huq Moni of Team 'B' was the most successful bowler. The left-arm spinner claimed three for 55.

Throughout his career, Leonard has been one of the ring's most popular figures and his rivalries with Marvin Hagler, Thomas Hearns and Roberto Duran dominated boxing in the 1980s.

"I hope people look back and say I brought something special to the ring," he said.

Karpov's title

MADRID, May 23: Former world champion Anatoly Karpov won the Madrid International chess tournament on Friday when he scored a fifth consecutive victory, reports AFP.

The Russian's latest victim was Peru's Julio Granda who was beaten in 41 moves.

BFF fetes u-16 booters

Sports Reporter

The Dhaka Mayor's Eleven, a Bangladeshi football team comprising under-16 footballers who had earlier won the fifth Asian Group 3 youth qualifying round championship held in Rajshahi, returned home yesterday at the end of their ten-day trip to India on an invitation by the Calcutta City Corporation Mayor to mark the centenary death anniversary of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, the noted Bengali litterateur and reformer.

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mirza Abbas lauded the performance of the juvenile booters at a reception accorded by the Bangladesh Football Federation at its office yesterday evening.

The Mayors Eleven beat the Calcutta Mayor's Eleven 2-0, the South 24 Paraganas District Magistrate team 2-1 and lost to the Bashirhat team 1-2 in their last match.

Hassanuzzaman Bablu, a former national player and coach of the under-16 turned Mayor's Eleven, seemed more aware of the darker sides of a tour, otherwise labelled 'resounding success'.

Describing the standard of refereeing as 'atrocious', Bablu said that the organisers there were not fully informed about the Bangladesh team and in one of the matches at Bashirhat, players aged between 25 and 30 were fielded against them whose boisterous play left some of his players seriously injured. Imadul and Bipal Marmar were among the more serious casualties, he added.

The grounds that were used for the matches were fit for seven-a-side matches. Particularly at Bashirhat where the Bangladesh team had to take on the local selection in an open field instead of a stadium. Most of the Bangladeshi players caught fever during the tour and coach and others concerned had to go through some 'avoidable hassles' because of the early return of the top officials, including Mayor Abbas himself which put the team in a quandary, complained a not-too-happy Bablu.

Nafees captured three for 25 while Swapan snared three Ex-Notredamians for 13 runs only. Magbazar Kishalay raced to victory by putting on 104 in 12.3 overs for the loss of one wicket. Khasru hit 25 not out while Likhon hammered an aggressive as their side cantered past the Ex-Notredamians in style.

Towhid was the lone success among the Ex-Notredamians bowlers.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Magbazar vs Adarsha Shishu Kishore (Osmani Stadium, Narayanganj)

Young Star CC vs Baranagar Juba Sangha (DCS West)

GNCC vs Amateur CC (Mirpur Pallabi)

Pallabi Club vs Raktim Sangha (Mahakhali T & T)

Lalbagh KMCC vs Kalindi KC (DCS, East)

Tough draws for Lendl, Stich

PARIS, May 23: Fate refused to smile on three-time champion Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia and Wimbledon title-holder Michael Stich of Germany when the first round draw for the French Open tennis championships was made on Friday, reports Reuter.

Lendl, who last won the Roland Garros title in 1987, was pitted against Spaniard Sergi Bruguera, a clay court specialist widely regarded as one of the most dangerous of the unseeded players in the draw.

Stich, semifinalist in Paris last year, was matched with veteran American Jimmy Connors, who is certain to have the passionate support of the French crowd in his annual do-or-die efforts on centre court.

Last year at the age of 38, Connors took 1989 champion and fellow-American Michael Chang, a player half his age, to a fifth set in a thrilling third round French Open duel before quitting — while leading — because of fatigue.

The 10th-seeded Lendl, who missed the French Open last year to concentrate on Wimbledon, can be none too pleased at facing a player who caused a major upset by beating top seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden in the first round in 1990.

Edberg, seeded second behind defending champion Jim Courier of the United States this time, has an easier looking passage towards what he hopes will be his first triumph at Roland Garros. In the first round he meets French wild card entry Olivier Soules.

Courier, who beat American Andre Agassi in last year's final, should have a comfortable start against a qualifier, still to be determined.

Courier's compatriot Pete Sampras, the third seed, will not be resting easy either after being drawn against the big-hitting Swiss Davis Cup player Marc Rosset, a difficult proposition for anyone on clay.

John McEnroe, who can depend on the same emotional crowd support as Connors, is unseeded for the first time in a decade as he faces Swede Nicklas Kulti.

The projected quarter-final pairings would see Courier against Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, Sampras versus Guy Forget of France, Chang playing Stich and Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia meeting Edberg.

The women's draw looked far less eventful with top seed and defending champion Monica Seles of Yugoslavia playing the unheralded Frenchwoman Catherine Mothes and German second seed Steffi Graf facing Rene Simpson-Alter of Canada.

The most intriguing duel was the American Fernandez affair between sixth seed Mary-Joe and world number 21 Gigi. The two are not related.

If all goes to form, as it tends to in the women's game, Seles would play American Jennifer Capriati in the last eight, Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina would meet Spain's Conchita Martinez, Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland would face 1989 champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain and Mary-Joe Fernandez would be up against Graf.



Bangladesh Handball Federation officials addressing newsmen at the NSC yesterday in connection with the national championship which begins in the city tomorrow.



Pakistan's players celebrate after Salim Malik ran out England's captain and opener Graham Gooch for 25 runs in the one-day international at the Oval, London on Friday. — AFP photo

Akram may miss the series

LEICESTER, England, May 23: Wasim Akram, the Pakistan all-rounder ruled out of next month's first Test against England on Friday night, may miss the whole series, reports AFP.

The fast left-armed and hard-hitting batsman, who has a stress fracture of his left ankle, will have his leg in plaster for eight days and will then be examined by a specialist.

A decision on his availability for the five-Test series will be taken by the Pakistani management at that stage.

Akram said: "I twisted my leg a couple of weeks ago, but it seemed to be getting better. But now I know that was not the case."

"I always seem to get problems with my left leg. I've had three groin operations and also broken a bone in my foot. It's so disappointing."



WASIM AKRAM

he too would be seeing a specialist again in the next 10 days.

But with Akram definitely out of the first Test and Alam ruling out a call-up for World Cup-winning captain Imran Khan, Younis will be under pressure to play again before he is really ready.

It leaves young paceman Aaqib Javed and leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed to shoulder the burden of their attack in the next few weeks.

An earlier report said Pakistan all-rounder Wasim Akram will miss the first cricket Test against England starting on June 4 after X-rays on Friday revealed a 'stress fracture' in his left shin.

Akram is expected to be out for two weeks leaving Pakistan, who went 2-0 down in the one-day international series on Friday, with serious fast bowling problems.

Their other strike bowler Waqar Younis has a back injury and is also doubtful for the first Test at Edgbaston.

Ironically Pakistan's former captain Imran Khan, absent since the World Cup with shoulder trouble, arrived in London this week but he has insisted he will play no part in the tour.

Pakistan 87/1

Sports Reporter

Pakistan, fresh from their one-day drubbing at the hands of England, had made 87 for one at close of play on the first day of their three-day match against Leicestershire at Leicester yesterday, according to BBC monitored in Dhaka late last night.

Rameez Raja was batting on 43 and Shoaib Mohammad on 19 after Aamir Sohail was dismissed for 22.

Earlier, Leicestershire were bowled out for 256 with leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed picking up three wickets for 49 from 20 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Meanwhile, following is the complete scoreboard of the England-Pakistan second one-day international at the Oval on Friday which England won by 39 runs to go two-nil up in the five-match Texaco Trophy series:

Gooch run out					25
Stewart b Aaqib					
Javed					103
Smith b Mushtaq					
Ahmed					7
Lamb at Moin					
Khan b Sohail					11
Fairbrother b Mehdi					63
Hick not out					71
Botham not out					2
Extras: (lb8, nb3, w9)					20
Total: (5 wkts, 55 overs)					302
Fall of wickets: 1-71;					
2-81; 3-108; 4-202; 5-295.					
Bowling:					
Aaqib Javed	10	0	M	R	W
Naveed Anjum	9	0	37	0	
Tanvir Mehdi	11	0	72	1	
Mushtaq	11	0	47	1	
Amir Sohail	11	0	52	1	
Asif Mujtaba	3	0	16	0	
PAKISTAN:					
Aamir Sohail b Illingworth					32
Rameez Raja c sub					86
b DeFreitas					26
Salim Malik b Pringle					15
Inzamam-ul-Haq lbw					38
b Pringle					29
Javed Miandad lbw					6
b Botham					15
Asif Mujtaba lbw b					
Illingworth					8
Naveed Anjum run out					0
Moin Khan c and b Lewis					15
Mushtaq Ahmed c					
Illingworth b Lewis					8
Tanvir Mehdi b DeFreitas					0
Aaqib Javed not out					0
Extras: (lb-4, w-3, nb-1)					8
Total: (All out — 50.5 overs) 263					
Fall of wickets: 1-81; 2-144;					
3-148; 4-174; 5-220; 6-232;					
7-249; 8-263; 9-263					

Referee Cowper ignores Miandad-Botham tiff

LONDON, May 23: Ian Botham and Javed Miandad escaped punishment after an on-field exchange between the pair during Friday's one-day cricket international at the Oval, reports Reuter.

The incident came when England all-rounder Botham had a formidable 303 for victory.

Botham had words with Miandad as he left the crease and the Pakistani subsequently spoke to umpire Mervyn Kirk on his way back to the pavilion.

England team manager Micky Stewart said after the match: "Botham said to Javed 'that's out', but put two other words first."

"Javed said to Kirk: 'Will he (Botham) desist from saying that to me?' It was a run-of-the-mill sort of thing that happens in first-class games," added Stewart.

Match referee Bob Cowper of Australia, who under the International Cricket Council code of conduct has power to fine or suspend players on disciplinary issues, spoke to both Stewart and Pakistan manager Intikhab Alam after the game.

Intikhab said: "The referee is not taking any action."

Test and County Cricket Board spokesman Ken Laurence said that Cowper had issued a statement saying nobody misbehaved and there had been a misinterpretation by Javed over what was said.

Cowper added the matter was now closed.



JAVED MIANDAD



IAN BOTHAM

Pakistan captain Miandad lbw for 38 as his side chased a formidable 303 for victory.

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S Africa wants a larger Olympics squad

Mandela to meet Samaranch

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, May 23: African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela is to visit the International Olympic Committee on Monday for a meeting with IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch, reports Reuter.

IOC officials said the two men would discuss sporting and political matters.

South Africa, re-admitted to the Olympic fold last July, is due to make its return at the Barcelona Summer Games.

But it has been asked by the IOC to cut the number of officials and athletes it is sending to Barcelona to 68 because of expected overcrowding in the Olympic Village. South Africa had wanted to send 183.

It was not clear if Mandela would be accompanied by Sam

Ramsamy, head of the South African National Olympic Committee. The IOC said earlier this month it would be inviting Ramsamy to its Lausanne headquarters to discuss the size of the team.

An earlier report said:

South African Olympic chief Sam Ramsamy flies to Europe Thursday to plead for more places for the national team's return to Olympic competition in Barcelona.

Ramsamy, chairman of the National Olympic Committee of South Africa (NOCASA), said Wednesday he was confident the International Olympic Committee (IOC) would be sympathetic to his case.

"I am very hopeful the IOC will understand the issues surrounding the South African team," Ramsamy said, indicating he was optimistic the IOC would agree to the proposed 125-member team, not the 50 places allocated to the country.

The NOCASA chairman will meet with IOC officials, including president Juan Antonio Samaranch, in Lausanne on Monday to discuss the size of the team.

Ramsamy believes the team should be full-strength because of the historic nature of South Africa's return to the Olympic fold after an absence of 32 years.

While in Europe, Ramsamy will meet with the British Council and Commonwealth Sports Federation in London to discuss co-operation agreements aimed at boosting sports development in underprivileged areas.