

Bangladesh start favourites

Sports Reporter
The third South East Asian cricket championship begins today in Singapore with Hong Kong playing Malaysia in the inaugural match of the meet comprising the Associate Members of the ICC.

The winners of the week-long tournament that concludes on June 21 will win the right to play in the Asia Cup tournament along with Test teams Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Pakistan next September.

Reigning champions Bangladesh, who won the earlier two tournaments in 1986 and 1989, will start as the firm favourites. Bangladesh won the first meet held in Dhaka in 1986 and then repeated the feat in Hong Kong three years later.

The 16-member Bangladesh team led by Minhazul Abedin Nannu of Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club left Dhaka on June 11. Golam Nawsher Prince of Abahani in the deputy of the star batsman while the fourteen other players are, Rafiqul Alam, Zahid Razzak Masum, Azhar Hossain Shantu, Shahinawaz Shaheed Shanu, Saiful Islam, Athar Ali Khan, Farouque Ahmed, Mahbubur Rahman Selim, Nasir Ahmed Nasu, Akram Khan, Aminul Islam Bulbul, Selim Shahed, Enamul Huq Mont and Jahangir Talukdar Duh.

With Papua New Guinea pulling out, Bangladesh should have little problems in making

a clean sweep against teams comprising basically Sunday cricketers. Bangladesh play their second match against hosts Singapore on June 17 and the third and the last group match against Malaysia on June 19. The final of the four-team meet will be played on June 21.

The nucleus of the Bangladesh batting will certainly be Mohammedan Sporting captain Minhazul Abedin Nannu who will bat at number four. Experienced bespectacled Mohammedan opener Azhar Hossain Shantu will most likely open along with aggressive Zahid Razzak Masum, the gangling Abahani opener, Athar Ali Khan, the Brothers Union captain, will probably come at number three. Nannu will be followed by in-form Abahani batsman Akram Khan who had a great season at home. Aminul Islam Bulbul of Mohammedans and Enamul Huq Mont, the Biman southpaw will be the automatic choices as allrounders.

Mahbubur Rahman Selim, the right-handed Abahani batsman is likely to make it to the first eleven ahead of Rafiqul Alam, Farouque Ahmed, Selim Shahed and Shahinawaz Shanu for his smart fielding and the ability to bowl accurate right arm leg-spinner. His chances have been further enhanced by the absence of a regular right-arm leg-spinner in the team. Farouque Ahmed will certainly make it to the team if one of the openers fail to deliver the goods.

Farouque, who led Abahani Kriya Chakra, is a brilliant fielder also.

Rafiqul Alam, the stylish Mohammedan batsman who had a successful season, will have to vie for the number three position with Athar Ali Khan. Biman players Shanawaz Shaheed Shanu and Selim Shahed will have to wait in the wings initially before getting a chance to prove their mettle. However, the selection will depend more on the team captain and the manager as there will be hardly any pressure from the opponents.

Nasir Ahmed Nasu, the only wicketkeeper in the squad, is assured of featuring in every match unless of course some unforeseen accident should befall him.

Pacemen Prince and Saiful Islam of GMCC should handle the new ball with Jahangir Talukdar Dulu, the left arm Mohammedans seamer completing the pace trio which is likely to run through the batting of the unfancied rivals.

Tall left arm paceman Prince is too seasoned a campaigner to be under any kind of pressure in the role of the spearhead of the Bangladesh attack. Saiful Islam, the nippy right-arm quicker, is, however, a tyro yet but if can do away with the butterflies in his stomach he is likely to trouble the opponents with his pace and his ability to make the ball skid off the wicket might help him reap rich in the brief tournament.

Akram again strikes it rich

NORTHAMPTON, June 14: Pakistan left-arm pacer Wasim Akram, who was ruled out of the first Test by injury, had a five-wicket warning to England's cricketers on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Akram captured five for 43 on the opening day of Pakistan's three-day match against Northamptonshire, underlining his recovery from a stress fracture of the left shin ahead of the second Test starting at Lord's next Thursday.

Northants were dismissed for 193 by Pakistan's four-pronged pace attack, and the touring team replied with 134 for three by the close.

Akram removed openers Nigel Felton (0) and Alan Fordham (2) during his first two overs which were delivered off only seven or eight paces. But he used his full run after lunch and claimed three more victims.

Akram had persuaded Felton to flick a leg-side catch and drawn Fordham to a wild drive.

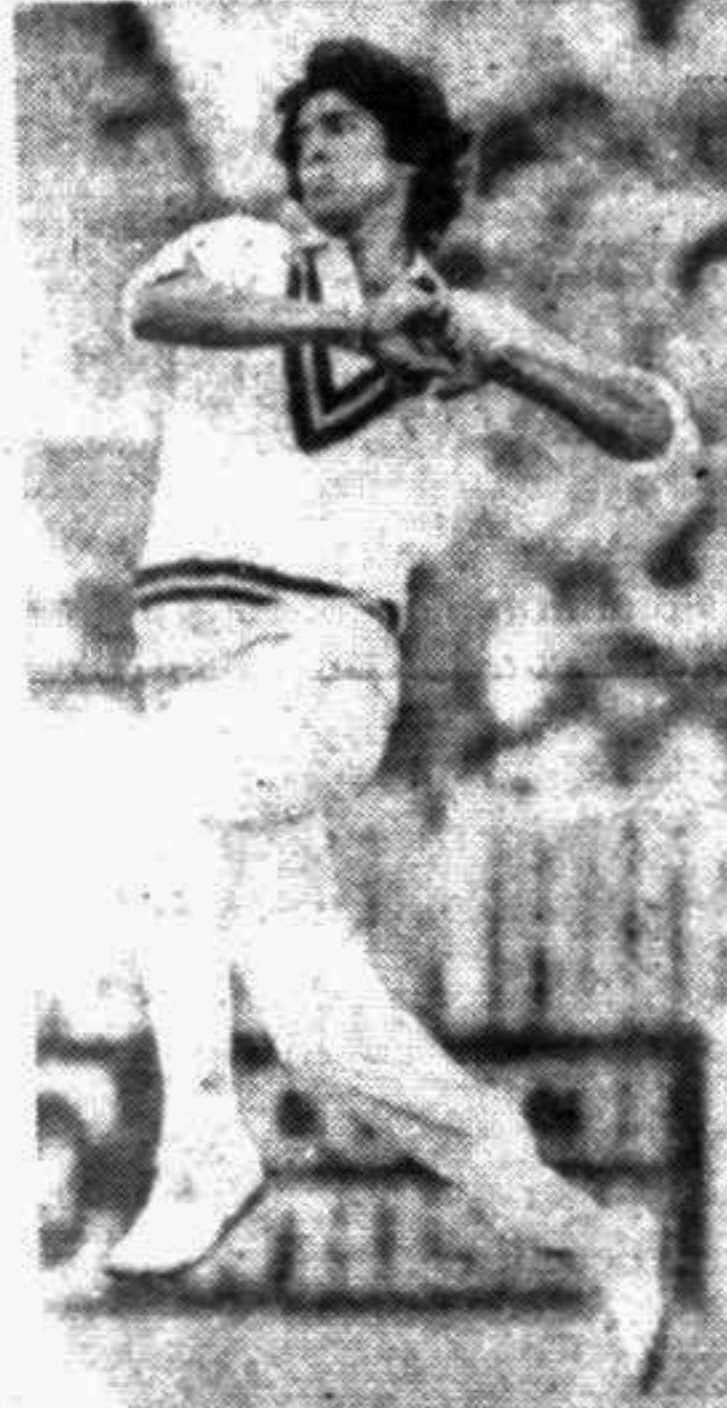
However, when Akram was anxious to level the field at the end of his second spell there was a brief argument, with last man Nick Cook appearing to object.

Umpire Peter Wright took charge of the finger-pointing exchange and Akram had to stay, but not for long as Cook soon edged Aatur Rehman to slip.

With Waqar Younis, who took one wicket, continuing his comeback after a stress fracture of the back and fellow pace bowler Aaqib Javed snapping up three for 45, Pakistan produced an impressive pre-Test performance.

Northants would have been more seriously embarrassed but for a fighting 51 from Rob Bailey, a rapid 38 by England batsman Allan Lamb and wicketkeeper David Ripley's unbeaten 45.

Bailey and Lamb put on 76 for the third wicket in 16 overs before Aaqib halted the revival with a triple strike in 17 deliveries.



WASEEM AKRAM

He bowled Lamb off an inside edge and then had David Capel and Bailey caught as they pushed at outswingers.

Test openers Aamir Sohail (34) and Ramiz Raja (55) launched Pakistan's reply in sparkling style with a stand of 81 and, even though both fell to left-arm spinner Cook the tourists completed a good day's work by finishing on 134 for three.

Earlier, on Friday, the Pakistanis beat Nottinghamshire by eight wickets.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the first day of the three-day cricket match between Northamptonshire and Pakistan on Saturday:

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE:
first innings
A Fordham c Aamir b Akram 2
N Felton c Moin b Akram 0
R Bailey c Rameez b Aaqib 51
A Lamb b Aaqib 38
D Capel c Moin b Aaqib 4
K Curran lbw b Akram 19
T Penberthy c Malik b Akram 8
D Ripley not out 45
A Roberts b Waqar 4
P Taylor b Akram 7
N Cook c Inzamam b Aatur Rehman 4
Extras (w-1, nb-10) 11
Total 193
Fall of wickets: 1-2; 2-5; 3-81; 4-89; 5-106; 6-128; 7-133; 8-138; 9-163.

Bowling:
Wasim Akram 15 4 43 5
Waqar Younis 14 1 54 1
Aatur Rehman 6 3 0 45 1
Aaqib 13 3 45 3
Asif Mujtaba 3 1 6 0

PAKISTAN: First Innings
Aamir Sohail c Capel b Cook 34
Rameez Raja c Ripley b Cook 55
Asif Mujtaba c and b Penberthy 20
Shoaib Mohammad not out 19
Salim Malik not out 6
Extras 0
Total (three wickets) 134
Fall of wickets: 1-81; 2-92; 3-122.
To bat: Inzamam-ul-Haq, Wasim Akram, Moin Khan, Aaqib Javed, Waqar Younis, Aatur Rehman.

Her father Peter Krabbe had watched her train that morning and detected the change immediately.
"Up until then, everything was normal. But when she came into the stadium in the afternoon and saw the media pack, she seized up," he said.
Krabbe and German teammates Silke Moeller and Grit Breuer were originally banned in February by the IAAF for manipulating doping samples but the IAAF's legal commission lifted the ban in April.
An IAAF arbitration panel will meet in London later this month to decide whether to accept the DLV's decision and allow all three to run in the Olympics.

Schultz ends Shriver's hopes
BIRMINGHAM, June 14: Pam Shriver's hopes of a fifth Edgbaston Classic title vanished in the semifinals Saturday when she was beaten 4-6, 6-7 by big-hitting Dutchwoman Brenda Schultz, reports Reuter.
In the final, Schultz, seeded sixth, will play unseeded Australian Jany Byrne, who added another scalp to her list when she thrashed British number one Jo Durie, the 10th seed, 6-3, 6-1 in just 58 minutes.
Schultz, who stands 1.88 metres tall, fought off two set points at 5-6 down in the second set before taking the tiebreak 9-7 to win the match.
American Shriver, who knocked out top-seeded compatriot and former Wimbledon finalist Zina Garrison on Friday, last won here in 1987.
Durie, who played well below the good form she has shown recently, came off the Centre Court in tears after a row with a spectator.
"He was a real prat. He shouted out that was pathetic — I paid good money to see that," said Durie, 31.
"He obviously didn't know or understand anything about tennis. He was a real moron. I was trying my hardest out there."
Though Byrne is only 114th in the world her low ranking is due to the fact that she missed the whole of 1990 and six months of last year with ankle and wrist injuries.
The 25-year-old from Perth has now accounted for four seeds in her five matches on the way to the final — number four Lori McNeil of the US, number eight Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia, Durie, and 11th-seeded South African Marian de Swardt.

Botham celebrates his OBE

LONDON, June 14: Ian Botham, awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in Queen Elizabeth's honours list on Saturday, celebrated with a 61-ball half-century for Durham in the country cricket championship, reports Reuter.

The England all-rounder smashed two sixes and eight fours in his unbeaten 55 before Durham declared at 300 for seven in reply to Essex's 360 all out on the second day of their three-day match at Hartlepool.

Botham was subsequently upstaged by England captain Graham Gooch, who followed his first innings century with a majestic 86 off 79 balls as Essex hammered 245 for four off 40 overs by the close.

Botham's England teammate Philip DeFreitas played an even more whirlwind innings for Lancashire — 72 off 53 balls with six sixes and six fours against Glamorgan at Colwyn Bay.

DeFreitas and Nick Speak, who sustained his consistent form with 71 lifted Lancashire to 295 all out — one run behind the Welsh county on first innings.
Indian Test batsman Sachin Tendulkar scored a patient 89 to help Yorkshire to a first innings lead of 78 over Derbyshire at Harrogate.
Tendulkar batted for 37.

Fellow West Indian pacer Malcolm Marshall had a burst of three for 31 in 32 deliveries as leaders Hampshire checked Warwickshire at Edgbaston.

Warwickshire, propped up by 95 from opener Andy Moles, declared 74 behind at 216 for nine.

England squad contains five bowlers.
The squad is: Graham Gooch, captain, age 38, Tests 95; Ian Botham, 36, 101; Philip DeFreitas, 28, 30; Graeme Hick, 26, 8; Allan Lamb, 38, 78; Chris Lewis, 24, 10; Devon Malcolm, 29, 18; Tim Munton, 26, 0; Derek Pringle, 33, 28; Jack Russell, 28, 29; Ian Salisbury, 22, 0; Robin Smith, 28, 32; Alec Stewart, 29, 18.

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Festival football match today

Sports Reporter
An exhibition football match between the National Sports Council (NSC) Chairman's Eleven and the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) President's Eleven on the occasion of the Eid-ul-Azha will be held today at 7.30 pm at the Dhaka Stadium.

There will be no tickets for the match.

Soccer camp resumes

Sports Reporter
The twenty-five member Bangladesh football contingent will leave Dhaka for Bangkok on June 17 to take part in the Group Five qualifying competition for the tenth Asian Championship to be held in the Thai capital from June 19 to 23.

Razvi Karim Rumi of the First Division league champions Abahani Kriya Chakra and Rumman-bin-Wali Shabbir of runners-up Mohammedan Sporting Club are captain and vice-captain respectively while Dr Musa Gadri is the manager of the squad.

Meanwhile, the training camp of the team resumed on Saturday last at the Mirpur Stadium.

The camp remained suspended on Eid day last Friday.

Krabbe comes a cropper

NEUBRANDENBURG, Germany, June 14: Double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe was beaten on Saturday in her first race since the German Athletics Federation (DLV) lifted a four-year ban for alleged doping, reports Reuter.

Krabbe, who is waiting for the international Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to decide whether she can compete in the Barcelona Olympics, finished behind fellow-German Andrea Philip in a 100 metres heat at a regional meeting.
Phillip clocked 11.46 seconds, Krabbe 11.70.

Krabbe decided not to run in the final.

"I have reached a psychological low point and I don't know if I am capable in Munich of a performance ready for the Olympics," Krabbe said afterwards, referring to the German Championships next weekend.
"I think the spectators for their interest but the psychological pressure from the media hurry-burly is too great for me here," she said.

Her father Peter Krabbe had watched her train that morning and detected the change immediately.

"Up until then, everything was normal. But when she came into the stadium in the afternoon and saw the media pack, she seized up," he said.

Krabbe and German teammates Silke Moeller and Grit Breuer were originally banned in February by the DLV for manipulating doping samples but the DLV's legal commission lifted the ban in April.

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Bangladesh's International Woman Master Rani Hamid awaits the next move of her male opponent Stefan Camilleri during the 5th round of the World Chess Olympiad in Manila Saturday.

Russia, Ukraine lead men, women

MANILA, June 14: Ukraine grabbed the women's lead while the US men moved into second place behind Russia after the completion of adjourned games on Sunday in the 30th World Chess Olympiad in Manila, reports Reuter.

Ukraine's Irina Chelushkina drew her game with American Esther Epstein after 73 moves of an English opening to give her side a half-point lead over Georgia.

Ukraine has 12 points while the Americans are a full point behind in third place with 11 in a tie with Hungary.

Noel Benjamin won in 75 moves over Pablo Zarnicki to complete the Americans' 3.5-0.5 victory over Argentina and to push the United States to within 1.5 points of the Russians, who lead the competition with 16 points.

"It was a very clear win when it was adjourned," a jubilant Benjamin told reporters. "It was just a matter of winning it."

The United States is in a three-way tie to second spot with Uzbekistan and the Netherlands.

Russia's power house team led by world champion Gari Kasparov was due to battle the Uzbeks when play resumes in the sixth round on Sunday. The United States will meet Iceland while a faltering England tries to recover lost ground playing Hungary.

In women's action, the United States will meet Georgia, which is led by two former women's world champions, while Ukraine and Hungary battle in another match.

The 18-day tournament ends on June 25.

An earlier report said: The Russian team led by world champion Gari Kasparov beat Latvia (3-1) Saturday to hold the lead after five rounds while favourite England lost to Uzbekistan (2.5-1.5).

With Kasparov winning over top-ranked Latvian Grandmaster Alexei Shirov on top board, Russia managed to increase by 1.5 point at 16 points its advantage in the general standings over Uzbekistan and the Netherlands, tied in second position with 14.5 points.

The English team was again surprised by former Soviet republic Uzbekistan. Nigel Short,

Michael Adams and Julian Hodgson drew their respective games against Valery Loginov, Gregori Serper, and Sergei Zagrebelsky while John Nunn was defeated on the third board by Alexander Nenashch.

Since the beginning, the 30th Olympiad in Manila is bringing a unique opportunity to many unknown masters to demonstrate their strength under their own republic's flags.

Another important result was the Netherlands' clear victory over Bosnia-Herzegovina with Dutchmen Jan Timman and John Van der Wiel defeating Bosnian Predrag Nikolic and Boran Kurajica.

FIFTH ROUND RESULTS
MEN'S COMPETITION:
Latvia-Russia 1-3
Uzbekistan-England 2.5-1.5
Ukraine-Armenia 2.5-1.5
Netherlands-Bosnia 3-1
Portugal-Philippines A 1.5-2.5
Argentina-USA 0.5-2.5 + one adjourned game

Hungary-Bulgaria 2-2
Croatia-Georgia 0.5-2.5 + one adjourned game
Iceland-Switzerland 3-1
Israel-Peru 2-1 +

one adjourned game
Czechoslovakia-Poland 2-2
Sweden-Turkmenistan 3-1
Kyrgyzstan-Greece 3.5-0.5
Estonia-Scotland 2.5-1.5
Philippines C-France 0-2 + two adjourned games
India-Indonesia 3-1
Australia-Italy 1-3

STANDINGS
1. Russia 16 points
2-3. Uzbekistan, Netherlands 14.5
4-5. Ukraine, Kirgizstan 14
6-7. USA, Georgia 13.5 + one adjourned game
7-8. England 13.5
9-12. Hungary, Bulgaria, Armenia, Latvia 13

WOMEN'S COMPETITION:
Ukraine-USA 1.5-0.5 + one adjourned game
Georgia-China 2-1
Hungary-Rumania 2-1
Kazakhstan-England 1.5-1.5
Poland-Netherlands 1.5-1.5
Scotland-France 2-1

STANDINGS
1. Ukraine 11.5 + one adjourned game
2. Georgia 11.5
3. Hungary 11
4. USA 10.5 + one adjourned game
5. Kazakhstan 10.5

Stark can't deny Stich his title

ROSMALLEN, Netherlands, June 14: Defending Wimbledon champion Michael Stich put down a challenge by American rookie Jonathan Stark to win the Continental Grass Court Championships Sunday, reports AP.

Stich, the tournament's top seed, served four love games in a row in the second set to take the match 6-4, 7-5. The match lasted 1 hour 19 minutes.

The victory boosted the tall German into fourth place in the ATP rankings, past his compatriot Boris Becker, who was knocked out of the Queen's Club event in London in the second round.

Stich, 23, also passed the \$2 million mark in career prize money with Sunday's \$183,800 win.

It was Stark's first ATP tournament final after turning pro last fall.

Despite his complaints about his serve, the 21-year-old from Medford, Oregon, served a tournament-best 37 aces to stage a string of upsets.

Officially known as the Rosmalen Grass Court Trophy, the \$183,800 tournament was held in this southern Dutch town on the rear lawn of the Autotron antique car museum.

McENROE OUTCLASSED
An earlier report said: An eagerly awaited semifinal clash between Michael Stich and John McEnroe, Wimbledon champions present and past, evaporated into an easy win for the top-seeded German on Saturday.

Though former world number one McEnroe fought hard in the heat, he was outclassed by Stich, hits doubles partner here and 10 years his junior, who won 6-3, 7-6 to advance to the final of the 235,000 dollar event.

The fifth-seeded McEnroe, who won the last of his three Wimbledon titles in 1984, was broken in the eighth game of the first set.

The American, who was fined 7,500 dollar for swearing at a court-side photographer during his first-round defeat in the French Open two weeks ago, threw his racket angrily to the ground several times here.

McEnroe, 33, had to work hard to keep his service in the second set and survived four breakpoints in the first game.

Stich, who saved three breakpoints against him in the second game to hold serve, went on to win the tiebreak which decided the set 7-3.

McEnroe said the was disappointed to have lost.

"I had many chances but I did not take my opportunities," McEnroe said. "But I gave 100 per cent."
Stich, who begins the defence of his Wimbledon title in just over a week, was happy with his performance here.

"I played really well the last two matches. It's a level that I would like to keep going into Wimbledon. I'm serving well, returning well and feeling fit," he said.

Stich did not have to wait long to discover which of the pair he would play in the final.

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