

Thais shock ROK Bangladesh third among three

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh went down fighting to Thailand by a solitary goal in the last match of the Group Five qualifying meet for the tenth Asian Cup championship in Bangkok yesterday. According to a telephone message received by the Bangladesh Football Federation last night the Thais, who scored a shock 2-1 win against run-away favourites South Korea on Sunday, emerged as the group champions with a controversial goal two minutes from time. Thailand will now play in the finals of the tenth Asian Cup to be held in Hiroshima, Japan from October 29 to November.

An earlier AFP report from Bangkok said: Thailand defeated South Korea 2-1 after drawing 1-1 half-time in the second match of the 10th Asian Cup football Group 5 qualifying round tournament here Sunday.

Thailand scored first from a penalty taken by Athapal Buspakorn in the third minute, but Rie Sang-Rae equalised in the 24th minute with a shot inside the area.

The home side fought back on the wet and slippery rain-soaked ground, but it was not until the 84th minute that they were able to clinch the match after Prasert Changmoon picked up a pass from Piyapong Piew on the left and fired off a superb curving shot from 12 yards (metres) out.

In the first match Friday, South Korea beat Bangladesh 6-0.

Waqar advised to quit county cricket

LONDON, June 23 Pakistan pace ace Waqar Younis has been ordered by team manager Intikhab Alam to quit English county cricket with Surrey or risk a premature end to his stunning Test career, reports AFP.

Alam, who used to play for Surrey, is concerned that the 20-year-old could suffer a recurrence of his back trouble if he continues playing for them.

"Waqar must choose between a top-class Test career and his commitments with Surrey," Alam told Sunday's People newspaper.

"He suffered a serious stress fracture in his back last winter after bowling nearly 600 overs for Surrey."

"It would be very unwise for him to risk further aggravating that injury by being over-bowled on county cricket."

"My preference would be for him to play in domestic Pakistani cricket and Test matches only."

Surrey coach Geoff Arnold reacted with horror at the possibility of losing Younis, who captured 113 wickets last season. "It would be a devastating blow if he left us," said the former England seamer.

Younis has already taken 79 wickets in 16 tests.

England fined for slow over rate

LONDON, June 23: England's disappointment at narrowly losing the second Test against Pakistan here on Sunday increased on Monday when they were fined 330 pounds per man for their slow over-rate, reports AFP.

The penalty, which amounts to 15 per cent of the England players' match fee, was imposed by referee Bob Cowper, the former Australian Test batsman.

The fining system, set out in the International Cricket Council's new code of conduct, allows the referee to impose a financial penalty of five per cent for every over short.

But he can take into account unusual circumstances and Cowper has calculated that only three overs were down to England's slowness.

The Australian report cites three mitigating factors — the long walk from the dressing-room to the pitch at Lord's, time lost through moving sightcreens and the tense finish.

Pakistanis promise to get better

LONDON, June 23: Pakistan's triumph in a dramatic climax to the second Test at Lord's on Sunday has prompted manager Intikhab Alam to warn England the best is still to come from his players, reports Reuter.

The Pakistanis beat England by two wickets to take a 1-0 lead in the five-Test series after man-of-the-match Wasim Akram and fast bowler Waqar Younis shared a match-winning



AKRAM...responsible knock ninth wicket stand of 46. They secured a victory that seemed to have slipped from their grasp on one of the most pulsating Test match days ever seen at the game's traditional headquarters, leaving Intikhab Alam to say: "My team can get even better."

"Waqar can bowl faster and

Wasim will be better on his home (Lancashire) county pitch at Old Trafford in the third Test.

Waqar, returning to full fitness after a stress fracture of the back, and all-rounder Akram shared 13 of the 20 English wickets to fall during the four days at Lord's on what remained a dry but basically good pitch.

Akram crowned an inspirational performance by scoring a disciplined, unbeaten 45 to steer his side home after they had slumped to 95 for eight in pursuit of a victory target of 138.

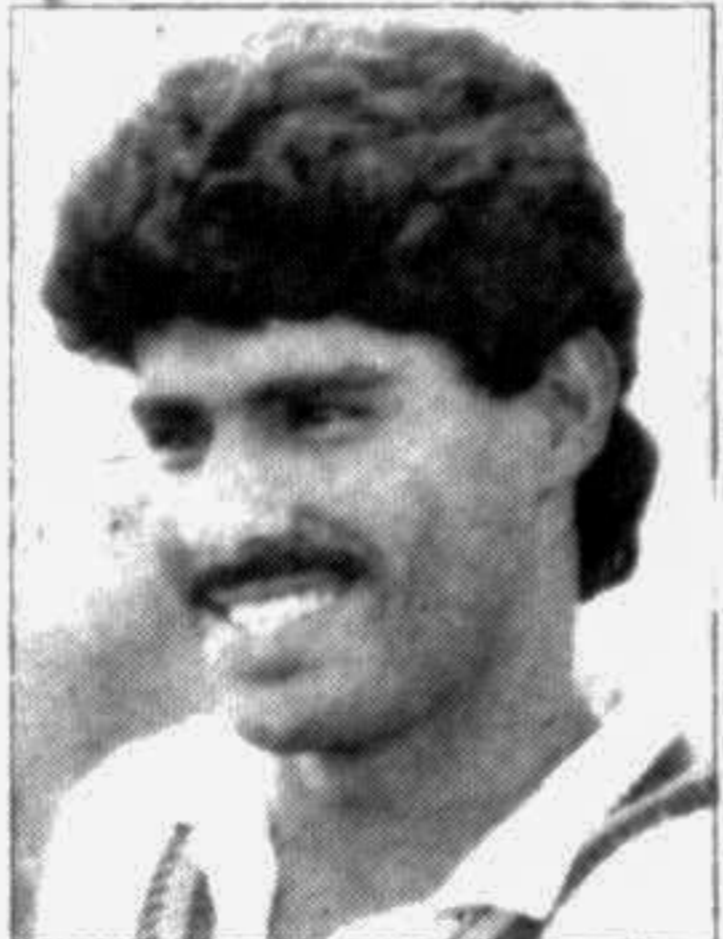
After hitting the winning runs, Akram joyously raced from the crease clutching one of the stumps and was greeted by his teammates who ran out of the pavilion to greet their hero.

Akram said: "It was the best innings of my career for Pakistan because it won a Test at Lord's. It's just as good as winning the World Cup final against England."

Pakistan's victory was only their sixth in 49 Tests against England but their second at Lord's following a win in 1982.

However, Pakistan have won their last three Test series against England who, despite the narrow margin of their defeat in the second Test, may feel the need to assess more critically the composition of their side.

England captain Graham Gooch, who said "In the end we didn't make enough runs", and his fellow selectors must



YOUNIS...top Test score

Lord's, in addition to which he has struggled for fitness in both matches because of a groin strain.

England are not expected to make wholesale changes at this stage but their need to cement the cracks that have appeared in the batting line-up may at least win a recall for Mark Ramprakash.

Botham's career under a cloud

LONDON, June 23: Has the time come for Ian "Beefy" Botham to retire?

That's the question being asked by the English press Tuesday after the 36-year-old all-rounder's performance in the 2nd cricket Test against Pakistan, reports AP.

The answer seems to be yes.

"I find this as hard to write as he will find it to digest," the London Times cricket writer Alan Lee wrote Tuesday. "The fact is however that Anno Domini has taken its toll. Botham may still be 21 at heart but, on the field, he is now showing his 37th year all too plainly."

Indian tour of SA in jeopardy

JOHANNESBURG, June 23: The historic Indian cricket tour of South Africa starting at the end of October is in jeopardy following the latest massacre of black people and a break in negotiations between the African National Congress (ANC) and the Pretoria regime, reports PTI.

ANC sports secretary Steve Tshwete said a final decision on the Indian cricket tour, the Barcelona Games and the all black rugby tour would be taken on Wednesday.

England lost the 2nd Test on Sunday's fourth day by two wickets after having victory square in their sights. A fighting eighth wicket partnership by pace bowlers Waseem Akram and Waqar Younis snatched the win with just five balls remaining of Sunday play.

Botham dropped four catches, including a vital one on Sunday in slips that could have sealed the match for England — a catch commentators Pyrenee for charity — as for his 120 Test catches in his 102 Tests.

"Botham has asked a fair amount of his body in 36 years, and there are increasing signs of protest," Martin Johnson wrote in the Independent. "If the groin strain that almost kept him out the match was not bothering him, he scarcely ran in to bowl what few overs he had with a spring in his stride."

The problem in the second innings was a toe injury sustained while batting, and the once indestructible chassis is spending more and more time at the welder's.

The tabloid Sun newspaper carried dissenting views: former England player Geoff Boycott said "chopping Botham would be unjust as well as a dangerous sign of panic," but Ian Todd said "he is no longer a Test force and could quickly become a figure of fun."

England selectors will decide next week on the squad for the third Test at Old Trafford starting July 2.

Olympic Day run held

About the thousand sportsmen, sports lovers and organisers participated in the Olympic Day Run-92 in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

The 10 km long run from the Banani Army Stadium to the Dhaka National Stadium was arranged as part of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)'s global observance of the day.

Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control M. Majidul-Haq formally inaugurated the run.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain and President of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) Gias Kamal Chowdhury addressed the runners before the state.

State Minister for Textile Major (ret'd) M.A. Mannan, Bangladesh Football Federation President M. Siddiqur Rahman, BOA secretary general Bashir Ahmed and other high officials also participated in the run.

Later, M. Majidul-Haq distributed certificates among the participants on completion of their run.

Shooters leave for Colombo on June 27

A seven-member Bangladesh shooting team will leave Dhaka for the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, on June 27 to participate in the South Asian Shooting Championship, reports UNB.

The five-day competition will commence at the Colombo Panagoda shooting range on July 1.

Five SAARC nations — India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and host Sri Lanka are expected to participate in the contest.

Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare M. Sirajul-Huq will lead the Bangladesh side which will take part in only three events — air pistol, free pistol and rapid fire pistol.

General Secretary of the Bangladesh Shooting Federation Kazi Selim will accompany the team as coach.

The shooters are — Atiqur Rahman, Asif Hossain, Haider Ali, Fariduddin and Ayub Hossain Mintu.

Cricketers return

Sports Reporter
The victorious Bangladesh cricket team returned from Singapore on Monday, June 22 after having won the South East Asian cricket tournament for the third time in a row.

Holders Bangladesh, who won the first two tournaments held in 1986 and 1989 in Dhaka and Hong Kong respectively, retained the title by outclassing Hong Kong by six wickets in the final of the four-nation meet held from June 15 to 21 in Singapore.

Bangladesh began their campaign by beating Hong Kong by seven wickets. Bangladesh beat Malaysia by seven wickets and entered the final with another facile five-wicket victory over hosts Singapore.

In an anticlimactic and totally one-sided final Bangladesh humbled Hong Kong by six wickets to retain the title. Bangladesh, however, could not be given the official trophy as the memento was not taken to Singapore from Bangladesh by the defending champions.

Aminul Islam Bulbul, Saiful Islam, Jahangir Talukdar Dulu, Farouque Ahmed, Enamul Huq Moni and to some extent, Akram Khan delivered the goods while Athar Ali Khan, skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannu and vice captain Goolam Nawsher Prince did not meet with much success in the week-long tournament.

In-form batsman, Mahbubur Rahman Selim who scored a sparkling 70 in a warm-up match was one of the few unlucky players who could not play a single match of the tournament.

Saiful Islam, the young GMCC paceman, worked up lively pace and had most of the batsmen groping in the tournament comprising Associate Members of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The triumph of the success starved Bangladesh cricket team, however, bears no real significance, apart from an official right to participate in the Asia Cup in Pakistan next October. But the future of that journey is in doubt following India's refusal to take part.

Tykes to extend Tendulkar's stay

LEEDS, England, June 23: Indian Test prodigy Sachin Tendulkar is set to be offered a long-term contract by Yorkshire shortly, despite failing to score a century for the English county so far this season, reports AFP.

The teenager is currently on a one-season deal, but the country's committee are to discuss extending the stay of their first overseas and coloured player because of his success off the field, where he has attracted 1,500 new members.

"Signing Sachin has been all for the good," Yorkshire Secretary Chris Hassell told Sunday's People newspaper.

"I've had just half a dozen letters from members angry enough to quit because we've broken the old rule that said only Yorkshire lads could play for the county."

Tendulkar has been so much the right man that the committee will shortly debate a long-term contract to replace his present deal for this summer.

"Even the Yobs who gave the club a bad name by jeering at Viv Richards, Sylvester Clarke and Syd Lawrence have been silenced. We've not had a word of racial abuse."

Nat'l wrestling gets underway

Sports Reporter
The three-day seventeenth national senior wrestling championships got under way yesterday at the National Sports Council gymnasium.

Some semifinal encounters were in progress at the time of filing this report.

Organised by the Bangladesh Amateur Wrestling Federation (BAWF), 50 participants from six teams — Ansars, police, rifles, BTMC, Dhaka and Gazipur DSAs — are taking part in the meet.

The BAWF president Captain (BN) Siddique Ahmed inaugurated the competition as chief guest.

Tyson sued for compensation

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, June 23: The beauty queen Mike Tyson was convicted of raping sued the former boxing champion on Monday, demanding an unspecified amount of money for what she said were serious and lasting physical and emotional problems, reports Reuter.

Desire Washington, 19, of Coventry, Rhode Island, filed suit against Tyson in US District Court asking both reimbursement for medical and other expenses as well as punitive monetary damages for assault, battery, false imprisonment and emotional distress.

Russians clinch gold medal

MANILA, June 23: Russia clinched the men's chess championship Monday by drawing with Israel at the 30th Chess Olympiad, reports AP.

The draw gave the top-seeded Russians 37 points, 4.5 more than second place Armenia. The Russians can lose all of their games in Wednesday's 14th and final round and still win by a half point.

The United States and Israel were tied for fourth with 31.5 points.

Eighteen-year-old Gata Kamsky, the United States top board player, won against Valeri Logunov of Uzbekistan. Joel Benjamin won another point for the Americans by beating Uzbekistan's Said Yuldashev.

Boris Guiko of the United States drew with Uzbekistan's Sergei Zagrebely while teammate Alexander Yermolinsky lost to Gregori Serper.

Tuesday before the final round on Wednesday. The tournament formally ends on Thursday.

STANDINGS

Standings on Monday in the 30th World Chess Olympiad in Manila:

MEN	
35	Russia
30.5	Uzbekistan
29.5	Armenia, Georgia, Germany, Israel, Latvia
29	United States
28.5	India, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia
28	Ukraine (one adjourned)
28	Bosnia-Herzegovina, Hungary, Iceland, Romania, Australia
27.5	Estonia, Netherlands, England
27	Croatia, Bulgaria, Colombia (one adjourned)

WOMEN

25.5	China, Georgia
25	Ukraine
23	Azerbaijan, Russia
22.5	US
21.5	Kazakhstan, Romania
21	Hungary, Indonesia, Czechoslovakia

India complete English rout

MANILA, June 23: India inflicted the final humiliation on off-form England when they downed the erstwhile favourites for the silver medal, 2.5-1.5, on the 12th round of the 30th Chess Olympiad here, reports AFP.

Pravin Thipsay, his country's top player before the meteoric rise of young Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand, stole the thunder from the world's fifth-ranked compatriot by conquering English Grandmaster Michael Adams later Sunday.

Anand drew with World Championship challenger Nigel Short and two other boards halted the point to increase their tally to 28.5 points, good for a six-way tie for sixth place but 6.5 points adrift of virtual champion Russia.

"I actually had little time to prepare, so I played something of my own and it worked," said Thipsay, a 32-year-old bank manager.

The defeat consigned England, one of the top three chess powers before the breakup of the Soviet Union, further down the standings with 27.5 points.

Schools TT

Sports Reporter

Dhaka District Sports Association (DSA), Govt Laboratory High School, Narail DSA and Saint Gregory's High School have moved into the boys' team event group finals of the Green Delta schools table tennis competition that began at the National Sports Council gymnasium on Monday last.

State Minister for Textiles Major (ret'd) Abdul Mannan had inaugurated the four-day meet as chief guest.

Organised by the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation 138 instead of the originally registered 146 participants representing 31 teams (two out-stationed teams did not turn up) are taking part in the tournament.



World champion Garri Kasparov of Russia makes a move against Predrag Nikolic of Bosnia-Herzegovina during the round 12 action in the 30th Chess Olympiad in Manila on June 21. Kasparov won in 37 moves. — AFP photo

Victory came when Sergei Dolmatov beat Ilya Smirnin of Israel in the last of four games Monday.

World champion Garry Kasparov, an Azerbaijani who plays for Russia, went on stage and shook Dolmatov's hand.

"They've won," said world No. 5 player Viswanathan Anand of India. "There's not even a mathematical chance for anybody to catch up."

Earlier, Kasparov drew with Lev Psakhis of Israel in 18 moves of a Sicilian defence. Russian Alexey Vyzmanavin drew with Yehuda Gruenfeld in 37 moves of a Queens Indian defence.

Israeli Boris Alterman won against Alexei Dreev of Russia in 44 moves.

Armenia beat Georgia 3-1 in Round 13, boosting their score to 32.5 points.

Uzbekistan dropped from second place to third with 32 points after being edged by the United States 2.5-1.5.

Iceland, Czechoslovakia, England and Bosnia-Herzegovina were tied for sixth with 31 points.

In the women's division, Georgia regained the lead by blanking Azerbaijan 3-0. The Georgians now have 28.5 points, one point more than previous round leader China.

Former world champion Maya Chiburdanidze beat Ainuz Sofieva of Azerbaijan on board one, Marta Litinskaya defeated Fizuza Velikhanli on board two and Irina Chelushkina turned back Iliha Kadimova on board three.

World champion Xie Jun of China lost to Russia's Julia Demina but her teammates won on the two other boards.

Ukraine beat Kazakhstan 2-1 and was in third place.

Russia and Azerbaijan were tied for fourth with 24 points each.

The biannual Olympiad decides the world's best men's and women's chess teams. The players take a rest

No surprises at Wimbledon

LONDON, June 23: Considering their recent poor form, ex-champions Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg had a magnificent start to the Wimbledon tennis championships on Monday, reports Reuter.

Neither man had to work very hard in beating Italian Omar Camporese and American qualifier Steve Bryan respectively in the first round.

The biggest surprise of the opening day of the 106th championships was that there were no surprises.

No seeds shaking their heads over a nearly loss, no rain to spoil the day for the fans. Everything went perfectly — unlike last year when the entire first day's play was washed out by the English weather.

The 16 seeds in action — 11 men and five women — rushed through their opening encounters and men's number 14 and 15 Wayne Ferreira of South Africa and Russian Alexander Volkov were the only ones to drop a set.

Even world number one Jim Courier, invincible on every other surface but the first to admit he has far more trouble on grass, sailed through against towering German Markus Zoccke 6-2, 6-2, 6-3.

The match was great and so everything is going pretty well right now," said Becker, who applauded the Centre Court crowd for their support.

"I felt very calm going out on Centre Court," added Becker. "I know that I can play well on it."

Edberg also forgot his disappointment at Queen's, where he lost in the semifinals, by speeding past Wimbledon

debutante Bryan 6-1, 6-3, 6-0. The Swede, champion here in 1988 and 1990 and the bookmakers' favourite this time, played a calm, unhurried game on court two, traditionally known as the graveyard of the seeds.

Like Becker, defending champion Stich served superbly in his 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 defeat of Stefano Pescosolido of Italy which opened the Centre Court programme.

Stich, helped along the way by a run of double faults from Pescosolido, conceded only three points on his own serve in the closing set and hit three aces in the final game.

Former US Open champion Pete Sampras, ranked third in the world but seeded fifth because of his lack of pedigree on grass, also had a good day.

The American, who has not gone beyond the second round at Wimbledon before, beat Russian Andrei Cherkasov 6-1, 6-3, 6-3.

CONNORS EXITS

But while the seeds all survived, the Court One fans said a probable goodbye to veteran Jimmy Connors, twice champion, four times runner-up and still one of the biggest draws at the tournament.

Connors, who is approaching his 40th birthday, saved four match points before his age began to tell and he lost 6-2, 1-6, 7-5, 6-3 to Mexico's Luis Herrera, man 19 years his junior.

"The pain's not worth it any more," said Connors, who is likely to make this, his 20th Wimbledon, his last.

Women's number one Monica Seles, disregarding her own lack of form on grass, swept past Australian Jenny Byrne 6-2, 6-2 to set up a second-round match against

Belgian Sabine Appelmans. Far more tricky than her opponent were the British tabloid press who swamped Seles with questions about her mysterious, last-minute withdrawal from Wimbledon last year.

The Yugoslav fielded every question, preferring to concentrate on her attempt to go for the third leg of the Grand Slam.

"I really personally never expected that me not playing Wimbledon would create such a controversy," said Seles, who was fined 6,000 dollar for the unexplained pull-out.

Tk 17 lac spent on hiring coaches, Khoka tells JS

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that Taka 17.10 lakh was spent for employing eight foreign trainers to impart training to local players during 1991-92, reports BSS.

Replying to a written question from Dr. Mozammel Hossain (AL-Bagherhat), the State Minister said besides there were seven Japanese trainers whose expenditures were borne by the Japanese authorities.

To a question from Mizanur Rahman Manu (AL-Dinajpur), the State Minister for Sports said sports goods worth Taka 63.58 lakh had been procured during the same period.

The goods included footballs, handballs, volleyballs, badminton sets, cricket sets, hockey sets, table tennis sets and carrom boards.



The Bangladesh cricket team which retained the South East Asian championship was received by BCCB officials on their return from Singapore Monday. —Star photo