

Rain the spoiler at Durban

DURBAN, Nov 16: Rain prevented any play on the fourth day of the first cricket Test between South Africa and India on Monday, reports Reuter.

Overcast conditions have prevailed over this eastern port city since Sunday night and a thunderstorm was forecast for later in the day.

Zoehrer's feat

PERTH, Australia, Nov 16: New South Wales are in a strong position to defeat Western Australia outright in the Sheffield Shield clash at the WACA ground here, reports AFP.



TIM ZOEHRER... 300 victims

Western Australia on Sunday ended the second day of a match so far dominated by bowlers with a precarious second innings 5-210 for a slender overall lead of 149.

They will be relying heavily on not out pair, Wayne Andrews (27) and Tim Zoehrer (33) to extend their lead considerably when play resumes today.

Zoehrer reached a notable milestone during the day becoming only the third wicket-keeper in the 100-year history of the Shield competition to achieve 300 dismissals.

The others are Western Australia's former Test wicketkeeper Rod Marsh (351) and Queensland John Maclean (313).

Scores: Western Australia: 159 and 5-210 ( Geoff Marsh 47, Tom Moody 34, Tim Zoehrer 33 not out, Wayne Andrews 27 not out, Holdsworth 2-37)

New South Wales: 220 (Trevor Bayliss 52, Mark Waugh 46)

Brazilian spikers lift title

OSAKA, Japan, Nov 16: Barcelona Olympics gold medalists Brazil coasted to a lopsided straight-set victory over Japan here Sunday to take the world Super Four men's volleyball tournament, reports AFP.

The Brazilian spikers, who also outgunned the same opponents in the preliminary Wednesday, needed less effort to score a 3-0 (15-0, 15-6, 15-5) win in the final at the Osaka prefectural gymnasium.

The Japanese, sixth at Barcelona, showed no signs of their power which pulled off an upset win over Olympic silver medalists the Netherlands on Saturday.



Olympic badminton gold medalist Susi Susanti of Indonesia shows her trophy after beating Bang Soo-Hyun of South Korea 11-7, 11-4 in the women's singles final of the Thailand Open badminton championship in Bangkok on November 15.

DU-Khulna final today

Sports Reporter



Last year's runners-up Dhaka University take on twice national soccer champions Khulna DSA

In the final of the 17th national championship for the Sher-e-Bangla Cup today at the Mymensingh Stadium. The match kicks off at 2:00 pm.

Minister for Local Govern-

Star-studded title-aspirants Dhaka University, who boast as many as nine national colours, qualified for their seventh final beating Bangladesh Customs by two goals to nil in the semifinals. The students beat Jessore DSA, also 2-1, in the quarterfinals.

Khulna DSA, who lifted the prestigious trophy in 1977 and 1982, moved into the final

one. They outplayed Bagerhat DSA by four goals to nil in the zonal final last month.

Dhaka University, despite having the services of several national players every year, have managed to lift the coveted trophy just once, in 1989. They finished runners-up five times.

In 1990 they lost to Bangladesh Army in the 16th national final in Chittagong. Today's grand finale will conclude a month-long process which began on October 18. A record number of 72 teams including 63 DSAs took part in the qualifying round held at ten zonal venues across the country.

Bangladesh Army and hosts of the 12-team final round Mymensingh directly played in the finals along with the ten zonal champions. They were Dhaka University, Khulna, Bangladesh Customs, Netrakona, Chandpur, Rajshahi, Narayanagar, Nilphamari, Bandarban, and Jessore.

Following is the list of probable players of both teams for today's final:

Dhaka University: Kanan, Kaiser Hamid, Jewel Rana, Ata, Pappu, Johnny, Rupu, Tito, Rony, Shaabit and Naquib.

Khulna DSA: Totam, Jaghu, Ataur, Partha, Nira, Shah Alam, Tara, Rumi, Jahangir (Sr), Asid and Jahangir (Jr).

ROLL OF HONOUR table with columns: Year, Venue, Champions, Runners-up

ment, Rural Development and Cooperatives Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder will give away the trophies as chief.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka and president of the Bangladesh Football Federation Siddiqueur Rahman will be present as special guests.

beating Netrakona DSA 3-2 in the tie-breaker.

They beat the 16th national champions Bangladesh Army by a solitary goal in the quarterfinals.

Khulna, the zonal champions, started this year's campaign with a big bang trouncing Bhola DSA by 13 goals to

NZ again call off SL tour



COLOMBO, Nov 16: The New Zealand cricket team today abandoned their three-Test tour of Sri Lanka after a Tamil guerrilla assassinated the island's navy commander just outside their hotel here, cricket officials said, reports AFP.

"They are going back. The New Zealand team has expressed its wish to return home. The respective cricket boards of New Zealand and Sri Lanka will be making travel plans for the team's departure," a Cricket Board spokesman said.

The decision by the visitors came hours after a suicide-bomber, believed to be from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), rammed an explosive-laden motorcycle into the car carrying navy commander Clancy Fernando.

The blast, which was heard by the New Zealand cricketers who were at the time having breakfast at the plush Taj Samudra, killed Fernando and three others traveling with him.

Team captain Martin Crowe, who went outside soon after the blast, described the scene as horrific. "Hell, it was

like what you would imagine you might see in a war," he told the New Zealand Press Association.

The New Zealand team's decision was conveyed to local cricket officials after several hours of discussions with officials from the Cricket Board and Defence Ministry, and Australian and British diplomats.

The Australian High Commission represents New Zealand interests in Sri Lanka.

Officials from the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) and the Defence Ministry assured the team it would be given top security during lengthy discussions with the New Zealand team shortly after the blast.

"All assurances were made to the New Zealand team by the Board and the Defence Ministry. The government promised to provide adequate security for the tour," Board Secretary Neil Perera said.

A lot of persuasion was made by the Sri Lankan side. Obviously they (the cricketers) are quite concerned. It's been a massive shock," a diplomat associated with one of the meetings said.

"We are alarmed by what happened this morning. We

can hardly play cricket under these circumstances," Leif Dearsley, the New Zealand manager told reporters.

But AP quoted Lankan Board Secretary Neil Perera as saying no decision had been taken yet on canceling the tour even though "the team has expressed their wish to return to New Zealand."

Perera told reporters that he spoke on telephone with Peter McDermott, his counterpart in New Zealand.

"I explained to him that (the bombing) is an isolated incident. McDermott said (the New Zealand board) will consider and let us know tomorrow," Perera said.

New Zealand were supposed to play a three-day match against a Sri Lankan XI Tuesday in Kurunagala, 80 kilometres (50 miles) north-east of Colombo. But until late Monday, the team was still in Colombo.

New Zealand's last tour to Sri Lanka under skipper Jeff Crowe, Martin's brother, was also aborted in April 1987 when a Tamil guerrilla car bomb blew up in Colombo after the two sides had played just one Test.

Australia toured Sri Lanka in August and September to become the first foreign team to tour the island since 1987.

Milnars cricket resumes today

Sports Reporter

The Milnars First Division cricket league resumes today after a day's break with City Club taking on Agrani Bank Cricket Club at the Mirpur Pallabi ground in the only fixture of the day.

Meanwhile, the Navana Premier Division cricket league will begin from tomorrow.

Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club will play newcomers Udit Club in the league opener at the Dhaka Stadium in the only match of the day.

The Dama Summer cricket champions Abahani Krira Chakra will take on Victoria Sporting Club in their first match on November 19 at the same venue.

Brothers Union will start their campaign on November 25 playing against Kalabagan Krira Chakra.

In this connection a meeting of the senior league committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) with the captains and vice-captains of the Navana and Milnars league clubs will be held today at 6 pm at the BCCB office.

All captains and vice-captains of the participating teams have been asked to attend.

Moni, Bulbul for double-wicket meet in Lanka

Sports Reporter

Captain of Bangladesh Biman Enamul Huq Moni and Aminul Islam Bulbul of the Navana league champions Mohammedan Sporting Club will represent Bangladesh in the south Asian double-wicket cricket championship to be held at the T Fernando Stadium in Sri Lanka on November 29.

Eight pairs — two teams each from world champions Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka and one each from Bangladesh and the Maldives — will participate in the tournament organised by the Moratuwa Sports Club.

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) is yet to receive the details of the competition.

Sanjeev Sharma signs for MSC

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club yesterday signed up Sanjeev Sharma, a former Indian Test player, to play for them in the 1992-93 Navana Premier Division cricket league beginning from tomorrow, November 18.

Sharma, who has played two Tests and 23 one-day internationals completed his registration formalities with the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB).

Bhaskar Pillay, another Indian cricketer, is expected to arrive in the city today to play for Mohammedans.

Meanwhile, Surja Tarun Club — a Premier Division side — also confirmed the services of two foreigners yesterday.

They are KW Prasad Asanga of Sri Lanka and Rajendra Singh Chawla of India.

The 23-year old Prasad Asanga, who plays for Nomads Club — a First Division side — is a middle-order batsman and occasionally bowls medium-pace.

The right-handed Asanga also played for Gampah district in the national cricket tournament under the captaincy of Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lankan skipper.

Rajendra Singh of Delhi, is an all-rounder who represented Delhi in the Ranji Trophy.

Milon chess on

Sports Reporter

The first Dr Milon memorial active chess tournament under the joint aegis of the Dr Milon Smriti Sangsad and Dhaka Chess Foundation began yesterday at the National Sports Council chess room.

Selma Akhter, mother of late Milon, who died during the anti-Ershad uprising in Nov 1990, declared the competition open as chief guest.

Forty-four players including the ninth Q M Hossain IM chess champion Ziaur Rahman, national champion Reefat bin-Satter, IM Zillur Rahman Champak are participating in the seventh-round Swiss league meet which will conclude tomorrow.

Six thousand taka will be distributed as prize money with the champion receiving Tk 1500, runner-up Tk 1200 while the third-finisher will earn 800 taka.

The prize-giving ceremony will be held on November 27, the second death anniversary of Dr Milon.

Zia, Champak, Reefat, Saifuddin Labu, Ziaul Kader Tuhan, Neamul Huq Niru, Amir Hossain, Shaquik Hossain were some of the better known players who won their respective first round matches yesterday.

To set the golden eagle apart from the Prairie chickens



Somewhere in the lonely plains of Central America a flock of Prairie chickens, a species of flightless birds, were pecking at the ground for food. Down came majestically a golden eagle from its mountainous dwellings to lay an egg. Months later an American driving by that place stopped to take a look at the 'peregrine presence'. He told the eagle that he part with his friends and go to the mountain tops to join other members of his clan. Quite happy with his identity the bird refused to believe the stranger: 'I am a Prairie chicken. I won't go anywhere.'

If you have not dismissed it yet as one of Aesop's registered or unregistered fables then let me tell you this was told by John Verrier, the British swimming coach who left Dhaka yesterday after having conducted a fortnight-long course for the local swimming coaches.

Verrier, who disarmingly presents being called an expert, came to Dhaka for the first time when the world swimming body the Federation of International Natant Associations (FINA), responding to the call of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), sent its technical director on a tour to countries lacking in technical knowledge about swimming, the science besides being an art.

"How did you find your students?"

"Excellent, they were receptive, and they learnt in thirty minutes what took the West 30 years to acquire," quick came the reply from Verrier who celebrated his 66th birthday on November 14 in the conference room of the National Sports Council.

A London University honours graduate in English literature, Verrier taught at a school in Essex for some time before joining Loughborough University as a swimming instructor at the goading of Bert Kinneer, a pioneer in the domain of swimming coaching in Great Britain.

Verrier, who has a loving and happy family comprising wife Shirley and two sons — 29-year-old Jonathan and 27-year-old David — became the manager of the British Olympic swimming team in 1988 in Mexico City. Four years later he was assigned the same job.

You don't need or, to be candid, Bangladesh cannot afford to have sophisticated swimming pools but some indigenous pools can certainly be made for a beginning. Of course, everything depends on the blokes who would swim. A champion must have the will, the belief in self and last but not the least perseverance," paused the articulate Englishman with noticeable silver streaks over his ears.

Having visited Egypt, Nigeria, Nambia, Lebanon, Sudan and Iran before coming to Bangladesh, Verrier believes in George Orwell's concept of progress sans its pejorative connotation.

"If we can put our efforts together we can make the tomorrow better than today," quipped Verrier. As a coach who still fondly remembers Leslie Aldryce, the girl who won attention in the Commonwealth Games at the age of 13, Verrier asserted once again "The initiative has to come from within. Buy some paint and a brush and wait outside your house just how long it takes for someone to come forward with the offer to paint your house. Even in England or the US, it does not rain dollars or pounds."

A gymnast of considerable worth in his youth, Verrier did some flying during World War II and quite frequently quotes from a book by American football coach Vince Lombardi: "Winning is not everything but the only thing." "I do not quite admit the alout drive for winning, but I really appreciate the implied message in it — the will to go up the ladder," peached the man from Devonshire who had his hip replaced by a ceramic implant because of attrition.

A man at the twilight of his career, John Verrier has no regrets whatsoever for switching from teaching in the literary sense to coaching. He said that the will to win must be tempered with the intelligence to know the difference; the difference between a golden eagle and the Prairie chicken, as in the aforesaid allegory.

A Star Special by Chandrasekhar Das



JOHN VERRIER

at the age of 46. A man with a special liking for A E Housman's poetry and the novels of John Fowles, Verrier insists on what he puts as 'widening the base of the pyramid'

"An Olympic champion emerges from thousands, perhaps more than that. So you have to have lot of people participating at the preliminary stage, only then you can hope to discover the champion.

"For this scope must be provided to the young learners.

Hughes jees Bishop's gingers



HOBART, Nov 16: As a hint of what should prove to be a long, hot summer for batsmen, Merv Hughes gained the ascendancy in the battle of intimidation against the West Indies today, reports Reuter.

Hughes, who is almost certain to line up in the first Test in Brisbane in 11 days' time, peppered West Indian strike bowler Ian Bishop with short balls to the body in the third day of the Australian XI's encounter with the visitors at the Bellerive Oval here.

In a six-over spell after lunch, Hughes sought to ruffle Bishop by delivering several stinging blows on the fingers and one wicked short ball that cannoned into the right shoulder of the tourist, trump card.

Hughes eventually claimed his man, bowled for 35, and also succeeded in forcing Bishop out of the West Indies attack after four overs in the Australian XI's second innings because of the bruising to his shoulder.

Bishop had given Hughes his share of short balls on Sunday.

In the absence of the Trinidad speedster, the Australian XI reached 142 for three at stumps, an overall lead of 101 runs with one day to play.

Steve Waugh was still in on 27 while Damien Martyn had moved to 26 with a minimum of fuss.

Fellow West Indian pacesman Kenneth Benjamin was also missing from the attack with a sore left heel, but coach Rohan Kanhai said both would quickly return to the fray.

"Ian has a sore shoulder but it's not worth shouting about," Kanhai said.

Opener Matthew Hayden again outscored Wayne Phillips but the absence of Bishop and Benjamin made it impossible to judge the worth of Hayden's performance.

Phillips made just one before he cut a shortball from Anderson Cummins to Phil Simmons in the gully while Hayden contributed a solid 53 — albeit against an attack comprising one fast bowler (Cummins), a spinner (Carl Hooper) and two part-timers (Jimmy Adams and Simmons).

Hayden struck six boundaries in all and was eventually trapped in front of his stumps by Cummins as he played across the line.

David Boon held out to Gus Logie at cover for 30, giving Cummins all three wickets to fall.

The tourists resumed at 254 for four but were restricted to 382 thanks to the diverse talents of Victorian

SCOREBOARD

Scorecard on the third day of the four-day cricket match between an Australian XI and the West Indies here Monday:

Australian XI: 1st Innings 341 (S R Waugh 95, CL Hooper 5-72)

West Indies: 1st Innings D L Haynes c Martyn b Waugh 36 P V Simmons c Boon b Waune 106

R B Richardson c Freedman b Hughes 43

K L Arthurton lbw b Matthews 76

C L Hooper c Matthews b Waune 22

A L Logie c sub (Hills) b Waune 15

J C Adams lbw b Waune 4

I R Bishop b Hughes 35

J R Murray c Waune b Freedman 25

A Cummins c Waugh b Hughes 4

K C Benjamin not out 4

Extras (b1, lb9, nb2) Total 382

Fall of wickets: 1-89; 2-188; 3-191; 4-226; 5-261; 6-269; 7-316; 8-358; 9-371.

Bowling: O M R W Hughes 27 4 76 3

Matthews 24 3 86 1

Waugh 8 3 31 1

Freedman 19 3 75 1

Warne 33 8 104 4

Australian XI: 2nd Innings

M L Hayden lbw b Cummins 53

W N Phillips c Simmons b Cummins 1

D C Boon c Logie b Cummins 30

S R Waugh not out 27

D R Martyn not out 5

Extras (b1, lb3, nb1) 26

Total (3 wkts) 142

Fall of wickets: 1-5; 2-84; 3-93.

Wrestling camp

Sports Reporter

A week-long wrestling coaching programme under the aegis of the Dhaka Metropolitan Bodybuilding and Wrestling Welfare Organisation will be held from December 8 to 14 at the Moulvibazar Youth Physical Institute in the city, says a press release.

Interested persons have been asked to contact the Physical Institute with a passport-size photograph by November 30.

Combing for the Don's cap

ADELAIDE, Nov 16: Sir Donald Bradman, Australia's greatest cricketer, was more cautious at the wicket than he was looking after his baggy green Australian caps, reports AP.

Organisers of an exhibition of Bradman memorabilia, opening next week, have been unable to find any of the 62 Australian caps Sir Donald was awarded during his historic 20-year Test career.

The Mortlock Library of South Australia, which holds the world's most extensive collection of Bradman cricket memorabilia and is host for the exhibition, has launched a worldwide search for at least one cap.

Library assistant director Elizabeth Ho said there were no caps in the collection when Sir Donald handed over his memorabilia six years ago.

"It was a tradition that the great cricketers gave their caps away," Ho said. "I think some of them used to get thrown to the crowd.

"What became of them after that is not known.

"Perhaps people didn't see them as being valuable at the time."

Ho said Sir Donald, now 84, had given his consent for a cap appeal.

"He was delighted for us to do that," she said.

"We're hoping someone may have kept an important

Queen's Cup result

BANGKOK, Nov 16: Thai Police beat Japan's Panasonic Gamba 2-1 after a 0-1 deficit at half-time in a Group A first round match in the 21st Queen's Cup football tournament here Sunday, reports AFP.

Police scored from Boonpleck Nuno and Dusit Chalomsaen in the 58th and 62nd minutes. Panasonic scored from Kazuaki Kozuka in the 17th minute.

In the other match, in the same group, Ruyal Thai Air Force beat Rajpracha (Thailand team) 2-0 with both goals scored in the first-half.

Novice Nigerians drubbed

HONG KONG, Nov 16: Gabriel Valarin scored a record five goals as Argentina whipped Nigeria 6-2 Sunday in the opening round of the FIFA Five-a-Side Indoor Soccer World Championship, reports AP.

In another Group A match, Poland came from behind to beat Hong Kong 4-2.

The Argentinians led 4-0 at half-time, entirely on goals by Valarin.

Argentina conceded two own goals.

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Liz McColgan of Britain crosses the finish line to win the 14th Tokyo International women's marathon on November 15 in Tokyo. McColgan clocked 2 hrs 27 mins 38 secs.

—Photo AFP