Hosts face Lanka in meet opener

Sports Reporter

Hosts Bangladesh take on Shri Lanka in the opening match of the first-ever South Asian Association

for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium today. The 45-overs-a-side one-day match begins at 9:30 am with Minhazul Abedin Nannu leading the home side and Uvaisul Karnain the visitors.

The four-nation tournament is expected to be concluded on December 11 with the top two finishers of the league playing the final of the nine-day long tournament. The quartet of the participants was complete yesterday with the arrival of the Indian team. Test cricketer Maninder Singh is leading the 14-member Indian team which includes other Test cricketers like Ajay Sharma, Navjot Singh Sidhu and Salil Ankola.

Bangladesh will be looking for their first major victory against a youthful Shri Lanka side that recently beat the touring New Zealand team in two one-day matches.

The Shri Lankan team con tains three players from a pool of 25 probables for the Test matches. The three players are Pubudu Dissanayeke, Nishant Ranatunga and Chaminda Mendis. Dissanayeke is a very promising wicketkeeper who, according to the Shri Lankan manager Lawrence Amarasena, will make it to the national side within a year or two. Nishant Ranatunga, younger brother of Arjuna Ranatunga, the captain of the Shri Lankan Test team, is an allrounder who bowls right-arm mediumpace and is known for his ability to swing the ball. Nishant is a competent middle-order bat. Chaminda Mendis, who is not related in any way to former Test cricketer Dulecp Mendis is a talented opening batsman and is likely to be one of the mainstays of Shri Lankan batting in this tournament.

Afith Ekanayeke is another in-form Shri Lankan who finished as the highest wickettaker in the provincial competition. A left-arm spinner, Ekanayeke will be assisted by Saith Fernando who bowls right-arm off-spin.

Russel Arnold is likely to open the Shri Lankan innings along with Chaminda Mendis. Duminda Pereira a familiar face to local cricket fans, will bat in the middle order. The tall left-hander, who played for the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) last sca-

and from the point of view of

the spectators and cricket

scheduled to play eight

matches each in the prelimi-

nary round or, in other words,

each team shall face the other

two four times each. Eight of

the preliminary round matches

are going to be held between

4th December, when the West

Indies take on the world

champions at Perth in the

opening match, and 17th

December. The remaining four

preliminary matches will be

held between January 9 and

14. In between the second and

the third Test between West

Indies and Australia will be

played and Pakistan will be in

New Zealand for three one-

dayers and 3 Tests. The best-

of-three final matches be-

tween the two top teams are

scheduled for January 15, 18

Last year the West Indies

were in Australia as the third

party along with the Indians. They will definitely want to

forget the memories of their

last tour, when they won only

two games (one each against

Australia and India), lost four

(two each against both the opponents), tied one with India

and split points with Australia

in the only rain-affected match

and could not make it to the

finals. In the 5th World Cup

competition their performance

was no better; they only fin-

ished ahead of India, Shri

Lanka and Zimbabwe. But in

one year since then the West

Indies team under Richie

Richardson seems to have

blended into shape and in the

home series against the visit-

ing South Africans, the World

Cup semi-finalists, they in-

flicted a 3-0 defeat on the visi-

Hedges World Series Cup

However, past Benson &

and 20.

The three teams are

lovers it should be exciting.

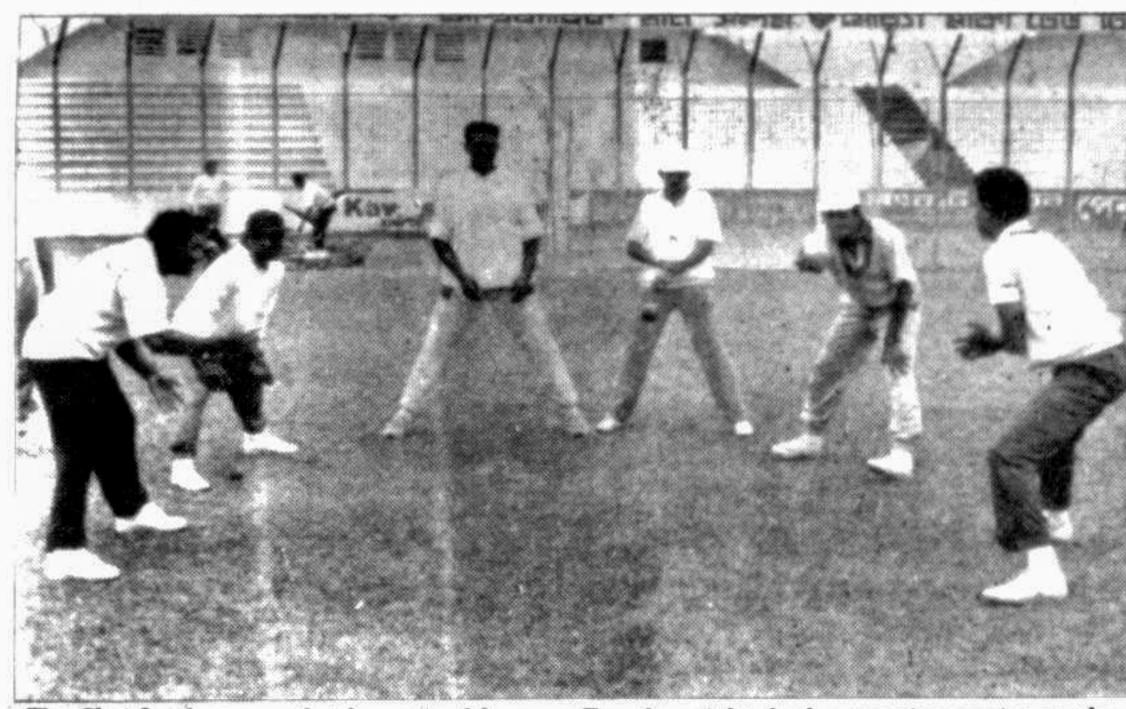
son, is also in fine nick. Wendall Labrooy, younger brother of Graeme Labrooy, the Test pacemen, will spearhead the pace attack of the Shri Lankan 'B' team. He will be assisted by Manjula Moonasinghe and Ranatunga.

Talking to The Daily Star Shri Lankan manager

Although the manager and the captain of the Bangladesh team declined to give any information about the first eleven it looks as if rookie cricketers like Saikat and Debashts will have to wait a little longer for their debut in international cricket. Young allrounder Selim Shahed may

day's match. Bansal, 51, stood in two one-day international matches. The 49-year-old Rabbani, from Lahore, has more experience at international level having supervised a Test match between Pakistan and Shri Lanka and eight onday internationals.

Radio Bangladesh and



The Shri Lankan squad, who arrived here on Tuesday night, had a practice session at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Amarasena culled Wendall as the quickest of the trio.

Lalith Kalluperuma who had been to Bangladesh as a player in 1978-79 seconded manager Amarasena's claim that fielding will be the forte of his youthful

Shri Lankan captain Uvaisul Karnain, himself an all-rounder who bowls tidy medium pace, said that the pitch will help the seamers in the first hour. Obviously the Shri Lankan captain would love to field

Minhazul Abedin Nannu appeared quite confident about the chances of his team at the press conference held on the eve of the tournament at Hotel Purbani. Both he and manager Ahmed Iqbal Bachehu hinted at a three-pronged pace attack if the weather continues to be overcast. The experienced Golam Nowsher Prince, Jahangir Talukdar Dulu - both left-arm pacers - will have Satful Islam the right-arm medium-pacer in the trio. Saiful, with his nip off the wicket, might be quite a handful for the Shri Lankans if Bangladesh get the chance to bowl first.

also find himself just out of the final eleven if the successful Brothers Union opening pair of Zahid Razzak Masum and Nurul Abedin Nobel is picked to open the innings.

Jahangir Alam, the wicketkeeper-cum-opening batsman



from Abahani Krira Chakra. may bat at number three. Minhazul Abedin Nannu wil bat at number four.

In-form batsman Aminul Islam Bulbul, Akram Khan, Athar Ali and Enamul Hug Mont will be the allrounders in the line-up.

Shyam Kumar Bansal from India and Ikram Rabbani from Pakistan will be the two neutral umpires to officiate in to-

According to the tournament committee bye-laws, the team batting first will be allowed to bat upto 12.50 and the side chasing will have to do the needful within the same number of overs used by the for-Meanwhile, Moin Khan, the

Bangladesh Television will give

live coverage of the match.

skipper of the Pakistan B team expressed guarded optimism about the prospects of his relatively inexperienced side. Apprising that paceman Kabir Khan will join the team today, Moin said that although most of the members of his team are young they have great poten-

Apart from Zahid Fazal, the only other Test cap in the team, Moin appeared to be banking a lot on Basit Ali Tanveer Mehdi and Aamir

Manager Mian Waseem Ahmed Nasir Bhatti sounded more philosophical, hammer ing more on the spirit of cooperation among the SAARC countries than competition.

World Series Cup: A preview

By A M Chowdhury

record is fairly encouraging for Soon after escaping defeat very the Caribbeans. In their previnarrowly at the ous seven attempts they won Woolloongabba, the cup five times in 1979-80. Brisbane, the 1981-82, 1983-84, 1984-85 West Indies criand 1988-89; in other two in eketers are going to be 1986-87 and 1991-92 they engaged in the World Series failed to qualify for the finals. Cup triangular for the Benson The West Indians are on the & Hedges trophy, and the verge of re-establishing their third party being the world supremacy in one-day cricket, which was their monopoly for champions, Pakistan, the contest is going to be tough from quite some time in the last the contenders' point of view

The Australians, at the same time, will also be too eager to prove that they are not yet a spent-up force. Having won the World Series Cup last year, the Aussies were favourites for the World Cup on their home grounds. But how they struggled and ultimately failed to reach the last four is too well known to be recapitulated again. Border and his men are still struggling in one-dayers; recently in Shri Lanka they lost 1-2. So their days of despair are not yet over and the challenge they are going to face should be tough enough to bring the best out of them.

The world champions are out to Down Under to enact a repeat performance at the MCG and the memory of their triumph there on March 25,1992 will be fresh in the minds of the Pakistani cricketers, who, of course, will be bowling appears to be fairly and fast Australian wickets.

fourth participation in the B&H triangulars and they are yet to win the Cup. On two previous occasions they were in the tournament along with the West Indies and on both they failed to qualify for the finals. But this time it is different; the Pakistan team, beaming with confidence with a lot of talented players, are unquestionably the favourites. But one should remember in oneday instant cricket the performance on the given day is most vital; past glories can only inspire and boost the morale; but can hardly dictate the results. There is no reason for the Pakistanis to be complacent, they should also remember that in England last summer they lost in the Texaco Trophy matches 1-4 to England, though in the Tests they won 2-1. All eyes will be on Inzamamul Huq, the magic performer in the last World



ALLAN BORDER

missing their charismatic leader Imran Khan. Eight of the World Cup squad have survived and seven new faces have brought in welcome freshness in the team. For the Pakistanis the most welcome new face will be that of Wagar Younis, who had to return home last year due to injury. With Wagar's inclusion the Pakistani

JAVED MIANDAD

strong; Ataur Rehman and Naveed Anjum will be there to step in to fill up any gap. The inclusion of Asif Mujtaba adds to both departments of the game. Pakistan would only hope that their batsmen are able to adjust to the bouncy

This is possibly Pakistan's



The host team, Australia, would like to retrieve their supremacy in one-day matches, which they held for quite some time between the 1987 World Cup victory and the 1992 World Cup. Last year the Indians were no match for them. David Boon, who led their batting (432 in 9 innings at 61.72) is in fine nick this

year as well. But how would the others fare against the fast bowling of both the opponents is a big question.

In bowling, Craig McDermott seems not to have lost his last year's venom: he took 21 wickets at 13.43. But the rest of the bowling will not have the same striking power.

Compared to Australians, the West Indians have a more incisive attack: Curtley Ambrose, lan Bishop, Courtney Walsh, and Anderson Cummins or Kenneth Benjamin form a formidable line-up. Javed Miandad also has under his command a strong bowling: Wasim Akram, Wagar Younis, Aquib Javed and of course, Mushtaque Ahmed, the best foil for the fast attack. Mushtaque is likely to be Pakistan's trump card.

It would not be surprising, judging from the comparative strengths and weaknesses of the three competing teams, i the home team fails to qualify for the finals. But such a possibility will largely depend on two factors: whether the Calypso boys would be able to cut down their natural instinct of adventurous stroke-making and whether their bowlers would be able to adjust to the role of containment. Pakistan



RICHIE RICHARDSON

would possibly ride on their World Cup achievements and can be fancied to be in the finals. Who will be their opponents? The hosts or the visitors? Let us watch the proceedings of the initial rounds with this question in mind. In cricket it is adventurous to predict, and in one-day cricket it is a contraband item!

Gower fans won't back out

LONDON, Dec 2: Rebel MCC members refused to back down on Tuesday and will propose a vote of no-confidence in the England selectors over their exclusion of David Gower from the winter tour of India, reports Reuter.

The rebels refused to accept a plea from president Dennis Silk and voted almost unanimously to hold a special meeting of the 17,500 members of cricket's most famous club.

But there is no chance of former captain Gower being added to the squad since the MCC's meeting will not take place until several weeks after England have left on December

The rebels rejected the option of sending the selectors a strongly-worded letter of complaint and the chance of a 'clear the air" meeting.

The MCC are now committed to arranging a costly special meeting, probably in late January

Oliver became the central figure in the affair when he launched his petition demanding a vote of no-confidence in the selectors.

London businessman Dennis

He easily gathered the 180 signatures necessary to force a special general meeting and 111 of his supporters attended the meeting at Lord's.

It now seems probable the vote of no confidence will be passed — an embarrassing if not shattering blow to the selectors' credibility.

"It is not going to get David Gower on the boat, that was never a realistic aspiration, said Oliver. "But we are seeking the maximum amount of publicity for our campaign of dissatisfaction with the selec-

"I would like them to resign but I am not too sure that will happen, they seem to have hides like rhinoceroses. But I think the next time they sit down they will not be prepared to disregard public

Gower made a successful return to the England team this year for the final three Tests against Pakistan. He overtook Geoff Boycott

as his country's leading Test run scorer in the Old Trafford Test then produced a vital unbeaten 31 at Headingley to carn England a narrow victory.

Despite scoring 8,231 runs at an average of 44 in his 117 Tests, Gower could not make the squad ahead of Greme Hick (Test average 18) or Beuk Faurvritger (8).

Gower will be going on the tour as a TV commentator and has indicated he would be ready to play if asked.

Biman still ahead Sports Reporter

Defending champions Bangladesh Biman maintained their lead in the table of the First Division chess league with 35.5 points.

Biman beat Dhaka University by 3-1 yesterday at the National Sports Council chess Fancied Brothers Union

with 34 points followed Biman. Brothers outplayed Farashganj Sporting Club 4-0 in yesterday's encounter. Last year's runners-up Ban

gladesh Ansars, who did not have any match vesterday, here 32 points.

Dhaka University, Pony Electronics and Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) have 29.5 points each.

BTMC trounced Tilak Chess Club 4-0 while Pony Electronics beat Parijat Chess Club 2.5-1.5 yesterday. Konica Cultural Organisation

beat Chalantika Krira Chakra 2.5-1.5, Noor-e-Alam Khan Chess Club defeated Protibha Chess Organisation 3-1 while Mahakhali Pradip Sangha drew with Genius Chess Club 2-2 in the other matches of the day.

BAF soccer

CHITTAGONG, Dec 2: BAF Base Bashar clinched the title of Bangladesh Air Force interbase football championship, when they defeated Air Headquarters Unit by 2-1 goals in the final yesterday, reports

Solidarity course gets underway

Sports Reporter A fortnight-long level one

course for athletics coaches began today at the National Sports Council conference room.

Two German trainers -Harold Muller and Jorg Ramlow — are conducting the programme jointly organised by the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) and International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Twenty-eight local coaches are participating in the programme.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka inaugurated the course as chief guest. The BOA president and secretary general - Gias Kamal Chowdhury and Bashir Ahmed respectively - and the two foreign athletics experts were also present.

Rain, Rutherford bail Kiwis out



forced a draw in their first

Test with Shri Lanka here

fighting 105 in the first in-

MAHANAMA . man- of-match

nings, flexed his bat only in

the last session as New

Zealand ended the fifth day on

195 for five before bad light

stopped play 30 minutes be-

Shri Lanka's opening bats-

man Roshan Mahanama carried

away the man-of-the-match

award for his career-best 153

which helped his side make

327 for six declared in the

out 115 minutes of play,

Rutherford took Shri Lanka's

bowling by the scruff of its

neck with a late splurge that

included two sixes, one off

Shri Lanka skipper Arjuna

injected some life into an

otherwise drab fifth day after

New Zealand's top-order trou-

bled by a nagging bowling at-

tack but helped by sloppy

fielding chose to play safe and

extract valuable batting

Rutherford 53 off 62 balls

Ranatunga, and nine fours.

On a day when rain wiped

fore the scheduled close.

first innings.

Rutherford, who secred a

today, reports AFP.

New Zealand's slow scoring rate is evident by the fact that they added only 91 runs in 54 overs to their overnight score of 104 for no wickets.

Rutherford had made only Il including two boundaries when rain stopped play midway in the post-lunch session with New Zealand on 151 for three. He set the ground alight in the last session scoring seven more fours and two

The Kiwis had a scare when three wickets fell for 26 runs including that of skipper Martin Crowe (11) who fell to a brilliant diving catch by Hashan Tillekeratne off leftarm spinner Don Anurasiri.

However, vice-captain Andrew Jones (14) and Rutherford stemmed a collapse with a stubborn display against the tight bowling of Anurasiri and right-arm offcutter Jayananda Warnaweera until rain disrupted the second session.

Jones was dismissed 15 minutes after play eventually resumed following the tea interval when he edged a catch to wicket-keeper Camini Wickramasinghe off seamer Champaka Ramanayake.

With the game only being of academic interest. Rutherford took charge thereafter indulging in some lusty hitting with 16 off one over from medium-pacer Ranatunga.

The 27-year-old right-hander reached his eighth Test 50 with another six off Waranweera but the bowler had his revenge by trapping the batsman leg-before on the very next ball. The weather is bound to

have caused concern to both teams as 117 overs, which constitutes more than a day's play, was lost in the entire Test match due to rain and bad New Zealand play a

day/night one-day international in Colombo Friday before the second and final Test on Sunday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the first cricket Test between Shri Lanka and

New Zealand today NEW ZEALAND: First innings 288 (K. Rutherford



K RUTHERFORD ... 53

327 for six declared (R. Mahanama 153, A. De Silva 62) NEW ZEALAND : Second innings (overnight 104 for no wicket) Hartland Ibw b

Ramanayake Wright at Wickremasinghe b Anurastri Jones c Wickremasinghe b Ramanayake Crowe c Tillekeratne b Anurasiri Rutherford Ibw b Warnaweera Vaughan not out Harris not out Extras:[lb-8, nb-14, w-1] Total: (for five wickets)

Fall of wickets: 1-110; 2-122; 3-136; 4-160; 5-194. Bowling: Ramanayake Livanage 22 Hathurusinghe 10 Ranatunga 11 32 Anurasiri 25 15 31 Warnaweera 1 0 1 0 Tillekeratne Result: Match drawn

Cowdrey hails TV umpire



practice.

JOHANNESBURG Dec 2: Sir Colin Cowdrey, chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday hailed the new "Video Umpire' system as a 'very

ports Reuter. Cowdrey saw the system in action during the second, drawn Test between South

important step forward," re-

Africa and India. "It has given us a marvellous glimpse of the future to think about," he said.

On the first day Cowdrey watched as umpire Steve Bucknor was pilloried when television evidence showed he was wrong not to call for the third umpire's help when he mistakenly gave Jonty Rhodes not out after Sachin Tendulkar hit the stumps.

A few days later Bucknor used the system to give Kepler Wessels run out by Chetan Sharma.

The replay system, which met with the approval of referee Clive Lloyd, could soon be in use everywhere. Cowdrey added: "The

scheme will be given full consideration at the next ICC meeting in July." The ICC chairman was

worried about the decline in interest around the world for Test cricket as the one-day game proliferates and said floodlit cricket was only one of several ideas to raise its pro-

"Floodlit Tests won't come in yet out we must leave no stone unturned to preserve Test cricket." Ironically his next task con-

cerns the one-day showpiece, the World Cup, which is looking causing a damaging showdown for the right to stage it.

England and the Asian triumvirate of India, Pakistan and Shri Lanka are the rival bidders with the decision to be

made in January at a date and venue still to be fixed.

Cowdrey hoped it would not come to a vote but added: "It might be an impasse. We never had bids before.



COLIN COWDREY

The ICC chairman left Johannesburg for London on Monday - thereby missing the tame finish to the Test - and said it was "very rewarding to see South Africa back in Test cricket."

"They need to settle down, have a few more series now."

JU cricket

Geography Department beat Anthropology by 9 wickets in the Jahangirnagar University inter-department cricket tournament at the university central playground yesterday reports UNB.

Batting first, Anthropology Department was bundled out for a paltry 37 runs in 14.1 overs out of the stipulated 30

Geography reached their target losing only one wicket in 9.2 overs.

Al-Amin of Geography Department was adjudged "manof-the-match". He scored 10 runs and took four wickets for

Border, Hughes fined MELBOURNE, Dec 2:

Australian captain Allan Border and pace bowler Merv Hughes both were fined Wednesday after being found guilty of dissent during the first cricket Test against the West Indics for Brisbane, reports AP. Border was fined dlrs 1,400

by International Cricket Council match referee Raman Subba Row — the highest fine imposed on any cricketer any where in the world since the ICC introduced its new code of conduct 12 months ago

Border was fined half of his match fee, while Hughes was fined dirs 280, 10 per cent of his match fee. Border and Hughes were

charged by umpires Steve Randell and Terry Prue with disputing a decision on Tuesday afternoon as Australia chased victory. The match ended in a draw. The charges were referred

which Border did not attend. was held Tuesday night. Subba Row said he expected all players to adhere to the proper standards of behaviour

to Subba Row and a hearing,

in Test ericket. I very much expect all players to adhere to the proper standards of behaviour which should prevail in Test and international cricket," Subba Row said in a statement issued by the Australian

Cricket Board. The fines must be paid within one month and the players are forbidden to com-

Hughes said before the fines were announced that he regretted his outburst and hoped umpire Randell would have no hard feelings the next time their paths crossed.

"It was a spur of the moment thing and I can't remember what was said at the time," Hughes said.

"Players get frustrated and things are said but the umpires have a job to do.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka inaugurated a fortnight-long Olympic Solidarity course for athletics coaches yesterday at the NSC conference room. The -Star photo two German trainers, sitting on right, are also seen in the picture.