

President Cup org body meets

Sports Reporter

The first meeting of the organising committee for the seventh President Cup football tournament was held yesterday at the conference room of the Ministry of Finance at the Bangladesh Secretariat with the Committee Chief and Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair.

The meeting discussed various aspects relating to the tournament scheduled for January 6 to 18 in the city.

Three European and as many Asian teams along with two Bangladesh selections — Reds and Greens — will participate in two groups.

The top two teams from each group will play in the semifinals.

Finance Minister who termed the tournament as a "matter of national pride" called upon all concerned quarters to come up with generous support to make it a total success, according to sources.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman, State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka, vice president of the Asian Football Confederation Hafizuddin Ahmed MP, President of the Bangladesh Football Federation Md Siddiqur Rahman, the BFF tournament committee chairman and additional Finance Secretary AHM Moazzam Karim, president of the Bangladesh Olympic Association Gias Kamal Chowdhury, the BFF secretary Shaikh Akmal Hossain and other members of the organising committee and representatives from different public and private banks, insurance companies, corporations and government bodies attended the meeting.

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Ayodhya aftermath mars cricket

Sports Reporter



The first ever SAARC cricket tournament came to an abrupt halt as the scheduled match between favourites India and hosts Bangladesh fell through soon after the start yesterday morning when some activists suddenly exploded several ho-



memade crackers on the northern stands and chanted anti-Indian slogans as a sequel to Sunday's demolition of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya.

The game was only 8.1 overs old when a group of people, fragment of a large agitated assembly outside the stadium, forced their way into the galleries and created panic by exploding the crackers.

The Indian batsmen im-

mediately dashed off to the dressing room along with the Bangladeshi players.

Earlier Bangladesh captain Minhazul Abedin Nannu won the toss and put India in to bat. Openers Navjot Singh Sidhu and Surendra Bhawe were going merrily at 30 in 8.1 when the trouble broke out.

Officials tried to pacify the enraged section of the spectators over the public address system and after a short spell of confusion the match was called off. Players were escorted to Hotel Purbani from the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) office at around 12-45 pm.

Later, in the evening, players and officials of the four participating teams took part in a reception hosted by the BCCB at Hotel Sonargaon. The dinner was attended by BCCB chief Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman.

Meanwhile, it was rumoured that the Indian team would leave Dhaka by the next available flight for security reasons. Raisuddin Ahmed, BCCB vice president, however, de-

nied having any such information.

Talking to The Daily Star the bespectacled Board official said that the tournament has just been deferred, not cancelled. The meet will go on as per schedule, with the postponed match between India and Bangladesh rescheduled for a fresh start next Thursday, December 10 originally a rest day before the final on December 11.

According to the BCCB official, the tickets used for the postponed match will be valid on Thursday.

Raisuddin Ahmed was highly eulogistic of the spectators who exercised patience in the face of extreme provocation to uphold the spirit of this noble game.

Meanwhile, JN Dixit, the Indian Foreign Secretary who is now in town in connection with the ministerial-level talks of the forthcoming SAARC summit, told The Daily Star that he is unaware of the rumoured decision of the Indian team to leave Bangladesh immediately.

Good news for city grapplers

Sports Reporter

A week-long basic coaching programme on wrestling under the aegis of the Dhaka Metropolitan Bodybuilding and Wrestling Welfare Association (DMBWVA) is scheduled to begin today at the Moulavibazar Youth Physical Training Centre in the city.

Twenty-five trainees including two school students will participate in the programme. The course has been under taken to bring back the glory of traditional wrestling in this city.

Talking to the press at the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association office last evening president of the DMBWVA Md Nazrul Islam said that Dhaka city had produced renowned wrestlers like Abdul Hamid, Abdur Rahman Shamsu, Sonu Mian, Abdul Jabber Mollah and Mongal Ghosh in years which he dubbed the golden past.

"The presence of Dhaka grapplers in the wrestling arena of the country is no longer felt simply because of lack of co-ordination and initiative," the DMBWVA president regretted.

The association has undertaken the programme just to

inject new life into wrestling as a sport in the capital he said.

Lack of recognition and financial support to the wrestlers was one of the major problems underlined by Nazrul Islam for the gradual deterioration of the standard of wrestling in the country.

"Of we don't support wrestling, youngsters will not be attracted to it," said the DMBWVA president.

Although the initial programme is of only seven days' duration the association hopes to introduce fortnight-long and year-long courses in the coming days.

In that case they will appeal to the government and non-government organisations for sponsorship.

The DMBWVA president will finance the present course which will cost twelve thousand taka.

A panel of coaches comprising well-known wrestlers of the country has already been formed to conduct the training programme.

The DMBWVA will also arrange a competition for the veteran city wrestlers above 40 years of age sometime next

year, Nazrul Islam assured.

When asked whether they were considering their association as a parallel body to the Bangladesh Amateur Wrestling Federation (BAWF) — governing body of the country's wrestling — the DMBWVA chief said that they were only concerned about city wrestlers and would help the national federation spot new talents.

However, Nazrul was a bit critical of the BAWF.

"We wanted the federation secretary to inaugurate our programme tomorrow but he did not accept our proposal," said the president.

Members of five city clubs will participate in the programme. They are the hosts Moulavibazar Youth Physical Training Centre, Bangsal Meilat Club, Dhaka Physical Training Centre, Nazirbazar Club and Azad Muslim Club.

Sqdn Ldr Mohiuddin Ahmed, a director of the National Sports Council is to inaugurate the programmes today at 4 pm.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka will distribute the certificates among the participants on December 15.

Move to revive American athletics



LOUISVILLE, Ky, Dec 7: Athletics has positioned itself for a return to prominence in the United States

in time for the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, those involved with the sport said Saturday, reports AP.

"Track and field didn't completely seize the opportunities presented to it in Los Angeles (at the 1984 Summer Games)," said David Morey, a political consultant who helped formulate a plan designed to move the sport forward.

Morey, an ex-decathlete at the University of Pennsylvania, said the sport cannot afford to make the same mistake twice.

Morey presented his plan this week at the annual meeting of Athletics' US governing body, The Athletics Congress (TAC).

"I think we've learned from the LA experience," he said, "but we've got to go beyond the natural bounce the sport's going to feel because the (1996) Games are in the US."

The US governing body for the sport took the first step Saturday by changing its name from The Athletics Congress to USA Track and Field. The name change, as well as a new logo, were approved in a vote of delegates attending the group's annual convention.

"The change to USA Track and Field is a catalyst for the move in a new direction," said Larry Ellis, the former Princeton coach who was elected the group's president

on Saturday.

"Instant identification will come from the use of the logo consistently, as people will know that the event or item is connected with a single organisational concept," Ellis said.

Ollan Cassell, executive director of USA Track and Field, said progress has to be made "a step at a time."

"We aren't going to solve all our problems overnight with a name change and a new look, but it is a solid start in the process," Cassell said.

Michael Johnson, a member of the 400-meter relay team that won the gold medal at the Barcelona Olympics, said many of the ideas presented at the convention were not new, but had never been acted upon before.

"A lot of good ideas stopped at the convention before," Johnson said. "People are finally seeing the light. I think the sport is definitely headed in the right direction."

Calvin Smith, a former world record-holder at 100 meters, agreed.

"The sport is really dying (in the United States)," said Smith, "and this plan puts it back in the right direction. We need to build interest at a young age so we'll not only have an audience but the athletes to compete in the future as well."

"I think the changes are good because we're trying to better the sport," Smith said. "We're also bringing the whole sport together."

Smith said the plan presented by Morey is a good starting point.

Morey said the plan received a "very favourable reaction" from convention delegates.

"This sport is committed to reaching its potential. The key is that we show the outside world and ourselves that we're making progress," Morey said. "It's a tough challenge... but I think the people here are up for it."

Martyn replaces Border

SYDNEY, Dec 7: Dashing young batsman Damien Martyn was Monday called into the Australian cricket squad for the triangular World Series tournament against the West Indies and Pakistan, reports AP.

Martyn will replace injured captain Allan Border in Tuesday's day/night match against the West Indies at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The 21-year-old warmed-up in impressive style, scoring 116 not out off 122 balls for Western Australia in a Sheffield Shield match against Victoria in Melbourne, including 15 fours.

"It's good after the Test match to get in and have a good hit," said Martyn, who made his Test debut against the West Indies last week.

West Australian skipper Geoff Marsh said he hoped the Australian selectors would slot Martyn into the middle order and not make him 12th man.

"It would be nice if he got the chance to play and he could easily fill Allan's place," Marsh said.

Border, meanwhile, plans to return to the field for Sunday's match against Pakistan in Adelaide.

Border aggravated a hamstring injury in the nine-wicket loss to the West Indies in Perth on Sunday and pulled out of Australia's next two games. He also will miss the game against Pakistan in Hobart on Thursday.

"I have to make sure I get it right this time," Border said. "I didn't bother doing any sprint work before the game in Perth and as soon as I took off for a single I knew I'd done it again."

"This time I'll have to do some sprint work so I know I'm right, but for the moment it will be a matter of having intensive physiotherapy."

Hockey coach says Johore Sultan assaulted him

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 7: A field hockey coach has told police that the ruler of Malaysia's Johore state assaulted him at the palace last week, a police official said Monday, reports AP.

Coach Douglas Gomez said he suffered injuries to the face in the alleged assault by Sultan Iskandar Ismail on Nov 30. Abdul Rahim Mohamad Noor, deputy inspector general of police, told a news conference.

Abdul Rahim said police would consult the Attorney-General and see what action they could take.

But lawyers, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that under Malaysia's constitution, the Sultans who reign in nine of Malaysia's states are above the law and cannot be prosecuted.

On Nov 25, the College Sultan Abu Bakar College hockey team, leading at the time, withdrew from a Malaysian national meet on orders of the Johore Education Department. The department refused to say who asked it to order the withdrawal.

Gomez criticised the Johore Hockey Association and those who ordered his team's withdrawal. When he returned to Johore, he was summoned to the palace, where he claimed he was assaulted in the presence of several people.

In 1977, before he ascended the throne, Sultan Iskandar was sentenced to six months in prison after being convicted of culpable homicide. He did not go to prison, however, as his father, who then was the Sultan, pardoned him.

In July, Sultan Iskandar's second son, Tunku Abdul Majid, allegedly assaulted a hockey goalkeeper in the dressing room after the prince's team lost.

The Malaysian Hockey Federation investigated and suspended Tunku Majid from playing hockey for five years.

Attorney-General Abu Talib told reporters Monday that if police found evidence the prince had assaulted the goalkeeper, he would be prosecuted.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed told reporters any more incidents involving members of the royal families might affect the image of the rulers in the eyes of the people.

Bianchi ahead
VAL D'ISERE, France, Dec 7: Hometown favourite Patrice Bianchi of France took the lead after the first run of a men's World Cup slalom race here Sunday, reports AP.



Sanjay Manjrekar of India attempting a square-cut off Brian McMillan during the first of seven one-dayers against South Africa at the New lands ground, Cape Town yesterday.

Kiwis face a follow-on



COLOMBO, Dec 7: Sri Lanka bowed themselves to a comfortable position Monday as New Zealand face the ignominy of a follow-on after being reduced to 100 for 7 wickets at stumps on the second day of the second Test, reports AP.

This was in reply to Sri Lanka's first innings total of 394.

New Zealand collapsed in the face of a 195-run follow on mark as the middle order left scorchingly against two bowlers — Jayananda Warnawera's off-cutters and Muthiah Muralidharan's off-spinners.

New Zealand lost four wickets for just seven runs in the space of 24 deliveries as skipper Martin Crowe and in-form Ken Rutherford soon joined the two openers in the pavilion after a 57-run opening stand.

The Kiwi openers — left-hander John Wright and Blair Hartland — having confidently negotiated the Sri Lanka new ball attack and taking tea at 42 for no loss, began to struggle the moment spin was introduced in the 20th over.

Wright (29) was caught behind in Warnawera's second over and a couple of overs later Hartland (21) was brilliantly caught at silly point by Asanka Gurusinha in the third attempt.

The 21-year-old Muralidharan struck the most crucial blow, bowling Crowe for nought.

Rutherford gloved the ball that jumped and turned only to be caught by Hashan Tillakaratne at short leg, diving full length to his right. Just when it looked like New Zealand would see the day see the through without further loss Chris Harris was needlessly run out going for a second run which was never on.

Jones' stubborn resistance ended when he was brilliantly caught by Tillakaratne and Adam Parore was adjudged leg before wicket to a vicious ball by Muralidharan.

Warnawera finished with the excellent figures of four for 24 from 14 overs while

Muralidharan had two for 21 in 11 overs.

Left-hander Tillakaratne's vision of his maiden Test hundred soon disappeared after lunch when he bottom-edged off-spinner Grant Bradburn to give wicket-keeper Adam Parore his fifth victim in the innings.

Tillakaratne shared a record eighth-wicket partnership with Don Anurasiri worth

394.

Fall of wickets: 1-102, 2-160, 3-167, 4-182, 5-274, 6-187, 7-316, 8-385, 9-385.

Bowling: O M R W
Su'a 26 7 50 2
Owens 30 7 101 4
Pringle 32 7 85 1
Bradburn 37.4 4 134 3
Harris 3 0 17 0

NEW ZEALAND: First innings
BR Hartland c Gurusinha b Warnawera 21
JG Wright c Wickramasinghe b Warnawera 29
AH Jones c Tillakaratne b Warnawera 20
MD Crowe b Muralidharan 0
KR Rutherford c Tillakaratne b Warnawera 9
CZ Harris run out 0
AC Parore lbw Muralidharan 5
GE Bradburn not out 1
ML Su'a not out 1
Extras: (lb, nb, w) 14
Total: (7 wkts) 100

Fall of wickets: 1-57, 2-60; 3-63; 4-64; 5-88; 6-97; 7-99.

Bowling: O M R W
Lyanage 7 1 9 0
Gurusinha 4 1 15 0
Anurasiri 6 1 13 0
Hathurusinghe 7 3 15 0
Warnawera 14 3 24 4
Muralidharan 11 3 21 2
To bat: MB Owens, C Pringle
Umpires: TM Samarasinghe and I Anandappa

Rafi claims jt bid is better



KARACHI, Dec 7: Pakistan cricket officials said here Sunday that the joint bid of Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka to host the next World Cup was a bigger bid in money terms than Britain's, reports AP.

"We have a clear edge and the bid should have been accepted the day it was opened," said Shahid Rafi, secretary of the Board for Control of Cricket in Pakistan.

He said even if the trio's bid was not taken into consideration then the principle of rotation applied.

Aussie duo wins
WELLINGTON, Dec 7: Australians Tony Longhurst and Paul Morris drove their BMW M3 to victory in Sunday's Nissan-Mobil 500 touring car auto race on the Wellington waterfront road course, reports AP.

After winning the previous tournament, Australia hosted the 1992 World Cup which was won by Pakistan, Rafi said.

Sources said when bidding opened on December 2, Pakistan offered five million pounds whereas England's stake was 4.89 million pounds less and not "marginally better" than that of the trio.

Rafi claimed that subcontinent's joint bid was "attractive to the minnows of world cricket as it offered greater financial support to associate members."

The Next International Cricket Council (ICC) meeting, which will be held on February 2, will vote on the venue of the next World Cup.

cricket authorities have said the meeting could take place in New Delhi located conveniently for Oceania and African members, sources said.

Sylhet hosts Ctg Divisional meet

Our Correspondent
SYLHET, Dec 7: The two-day Chittagong Divisional athletics championships began at the Sylhet Stadium Sunday under the aegis of the Sylhet District Sports Association.

A large number of competitions representing 15 districts of the Chittagong Division are taking part in the meet.

Eight girls and six boys' events were held on the opening day. The Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, who is also the president of the Sylhet DSA, inaugurated the annual competition as chief guest.