



THE LAST ONE IS ALWAYS THE TOUGH ONE: Rehana Yasmeen of Rajshahi University (L) and Rokeya Begum of Bangladesh Customs crossing the last hurdle of the women's 100m hurdles of the fifth Bangladesh Games at the Army Stadium yesterday. Rehana Yasmeen posted an upset victory over favourite Rokeya to win the gold. — Star photo

Customs in Games soccer semis

Sports Reporter

A spirited resurgence triggered off by Salahuddin powered Bangladesh Customs to the semifinals of the fifth Bangladesh Games soccer when they beat Chittagong Division by two goals to one at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh Customs will play Khulna Division in the second semifinal tomorrow.

Dhaka Division clash with Bangladesh Ansars in the first semifinal today at 3 pm.

In yesterday's match, Chittagong Division led 1-0 at the breather.

Sankar put Chittagong in the lead in the 12th minute.

Customs players kept on attacking the opponents' citadel and succeeded in drawing level when Salahuddin scored in the 53rd minute (1-1).

Five minutes later, Salahuddin netted the winner from close (2-1).

The Chittagong players worked hard but failed to get the equaliser.

TODAY'S MATCH

Dhaka Division vs Ansars (3 pm)

Juthi, Elina win doubles crown

Sports Reporter

Nazia Akhter Juthi and Elina Begum of Bangladesh Biman clinched the women's doubles gold medal of the 17th national badminton championships. This year's national championships are being held as part of the fifth Bangladesh Games.

Juthi and Elina, who are to meet each other for this year's women's singles honour, trounced their teammates Sharmim Ahmed Momo and Shammima Sultana Mita 15-0, 15-5 in the final yesterday at the Outer Stadium wooden-floor gymnasium.

Veteran Qamrunnaha Dana and Sharmim Akhter Rupa of Bangladesh Ansars took the bronze easily outplaying Konika Adhikari and Liza 15-3, 15-8 in the third-place deciding match.

In the mixed doubles semifinals, Juthi and Mahub of Biman beat Rupa and Suman of Ansars 15-12, 15-10 while Dana and Rana of Ansars beat Elina and Sarwar of Biman 15-12, 15-10.

The mixed doubles final will be held today at 12 noon while the men's doubles semifinals are scheduled for 7:30 in the evening.

Ansars dominate body-building

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars and VDP clinched two out of the three golds at stake in the Bangladesh Games bodybuilding championships at the Muhammad Ali Boxing Stadium yesterday.

In the light-heavyweight (under-90kg) Biddyt Kumar Roy of Ansars secured the gold.

Biddyt's teammate Md Mushatq Ahmed got the silver and Anisul Islam of Chittagong DSA the bronze.

Abdul Azim of Ansars won the middleweight (under-85 kg) gold. His teammate Abdul Akbar took the silver while Md Zakir Hossain of Dhaka City Corporation finished third.

In the waterweight (under-75kg) event, Abul Kalam of Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) clinched the gold medal. Abul Kalam of Chittagong DSA and Ariful Karim of Dhaka City Corporation finished as second and third respectively.

Ansars rowers bag two golds

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars and VDP rowers claimed two out of the three gold medals up for grabs in the fifth Bangladesh Games boat-race championships yesterday.

Indians reduce the margin



EAST LONDON. South Africa, Dec 20: India, already beaten in the series, restored some prestige by defeating South Africa by five wickets with 16 balls to spare in the seventh and final day night cricket international on Saturday, reports Reuter.

South Africa took the series 5-2 and provided the player-of-the-series in their captain Kepler Wessels, who was the only batsman on either side to top 300 runs.

Ironically, the two Indian players who had most to do with this victory were last-minute replacements for injured Woorkeri Raman and indisposed Ravi Shastri.

Pravcen Amre struck an unbeaten 84 of only 98 balls, winning the man-of-the-match award for his key role in steering India home at 204 for five from 47.2 overs.

Amre shared successive half-century partnerships with Kapil Dev and Vijay Yadav as he compiled his highest innings for India in limited-overs cricket.

The other late replacement, left-arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju, took three for 37 in his regulation 10 overs, including the prize scalps of Wessels and Peter Kirsten.

Wessels scored 57 — his third half-century in his last three innings — in South Africa's total of 203 for eight in 50 overs.

Wessels, who faced 100 balls and hit seven fours, provided the foundation of the

South African innings but once again there was a dip in the middle before Hansie Cronje got things going again with a fine knock of 55 off 56 balls with four fours.

In addition to Raju, the other mainstay of the Indian attack was Manoj Prabhakar who also claimed three wickets.

Test series between the two countries resumes on December 26 with the third

Test in Port Elizabeth. The first two Tests both ended in draws.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the seventh and final one-day cricket international between South Africa and India on Saturday.

SOUTH AFRICA: K Wessels c Tendulkar b Raju 57

A Hudson lbw b Prabhakar 58

P Kirsten c Banerjee b Raju 30

J Rhodes c Kumble b Prabhakar 37

D Calaghan c Yadav b Raju 0

H Cronje c Manjrekar b Kapil Dev 55

INDIA: M Prabhakar b Donald 12

S Manjrekar b W McMillan 6

S Tendulkar c Richardson b Matthews 21

M Azharuddin run out 24

P Amre not out 84

Kapil Dev lbw b Matthews 17

V Yadav not out 34

Extras: (lb-4, w-1, nb-1) 6

Total: (for five wickets, 47.2 overs) 204

Did not bat: C Sharma, S Banerjee, A Kumble, V Raju

Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-39; 3-43; 4-80; 5-130.

B McMillan not out 3

D Richardson b Prabhakar 0

C Matthews run out 1

Extras: (lb-9, w-1, nb-2) 12

Total: (for eight wickets, 50 overs) 203

Fall of wickets: 1-21; 2-86; 3-108; 4-108; 5-199; 6-200; 7-201; 8-203

Did not bat: F de Villiers, A Donald

Bowling: O M R W

Prabhakar 10 1 43 3

Kapil Dev 10 4 27 1

Sharma 8 0 34 0

Banerjee 3 0 20 0

Raju 10 0 37 3

Kumble 9 0 33 0

INDIA: M Prabhakar b Donald 12

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Result: India won by five wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Amre

Man-of-the-series: Wessels

South Africa won the series 5-2

Bangladesh to play in jr WC cricket next yr

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will take part in the junior World Cup cricket championship scheduled to be held from July 8 to 18 next year in Malaysia, said a Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) press release yesterday.

Nine Test playing nations will be represented in this tournament by cricketers under 17 years of age. However, the age stipulation will be relaxed a little for the Associate Members of the ICC.

Players under the age of 19 will be allowed to take part for the Associate Members of which seven, apart from Bangladesh, will participate in the ten-day long tournament.

Meanwhile, the deadline regarding the entry fees for the national (senior and youth) cricket championships has been further extended.

According to a BCCB press release issued yesterday the last date for submitting fees is now January 10.

Interested teams have been advised to send in Taka 300 as affiliation fees and another Taka 100 as entry fee.

Jewel-Mushtaq cricket final tomorrow

Sports Reporter

Incisive bowling by opening bowler Iqbal gave Victoria an easy passage to the final of the first ever Shaheed Jewel-Mushtaq cricket tournament at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday. A modest total of 175 for five wickets from 40 overs after skipper Rogibul Hassan had decided to bat first proved more than enough for Kalabagan Krira Chakra, plagued by a telling spell from Iqbal, were shot out for 109 in 36 overs.

Raja Venkat was the mainstay of Victoria batting with an useful knock of 73. The left-hander from Calcutta played 87 balls and struck six fours and one sixer.

His city-mate Gautam Some was the only other notable scorer with 37 off 64 balls, inclusive of a four and a sixer.

Kalabagan were torpedoes by Iqbal's opening burst and lost half of the side in 8.5 overs with only 14 runs on the board.

Mohammad Ali with pointlessly entertaining 29 off 23 balls emerged as the top scorer among the Kalabagan batsmen. Mamun with 20 was the other principal run getter.

On a day in which nothing could go wrong there were quite a few exponents with the leather. Iqbal outshone them all of course with figures of four for 12 from seven overs.

Gautam and Saikat bowled economically taking one wicket apiece.

Victoria play Biman in the two day long final of the tournament that starts tomorrow, December 22 at the same venue.

PSV march on

AMSTERDAM, Dec 20: PSV Eindhoven stretched their lead in the Dutch soccer league to six points on Saturday with a 1-0 home victory over Vitesse Arnhem, reports Reuter.

Shovon, Akram tons put Abahani in driving seat

Sports Reporter



Twin tons — 128 by Ziauddin Ahmed Shovon and an unbeaten 107 by pury Akram Khan — escorted reigning champions Abahani Krira Chakra in an unassailable position at the end of the first day of the opening two-day encounter of the Victory Day cricket tournament.

Abahani Krira Chakra amassed a huge 395 for five wickets from their allotted quota of 75 overs after being asked to bat first on a benign wicket by the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC)

Shovon dug themselves in for a partnership of 65 for the second wicket.

With Saiful, the kingpin of the GMCC attack unable to deliver the goods in the straightforward manner, that is, by rattling the stumps since the GMCC fielders appeared to have vowed not to take any catch, runs kept on coming off the reel.

Shovon made the most of the butter-finger syndrome of the GMCC fielders, being dropped many times before notching the fourth hundred of this season. His fortuitous 128 off 196 balls with seven hits to the fence eventually came to an end when former Abahani wicketkeeper Pappu stumped him off left-arm spinner Billu.

Having proceeded till the 50th over sensibly with the scoreboard showing a healthy 181 for three, Abahani led by Akram Khan braced themselves for the job at hand — scoring hell for leather.

Akram's 87-ball blitzkrieg spiced with nine fours and a sixer helped Abahani add 214 runs from the last 25 overs.

With Jahangir, Faruque and Shri Lankan all-rounder Ashoka de Silva chipping in with useful scores of 41, 44 and 36 in between, Abahani's grand total of 395 did not look all that myriph in origin.

All the GMCC bowlers took their turn of stick, yet left-arm spinner Billu had some satisfaction in finishing his quota of 15 overs with an analysis of two for 88.

Dulu and Shri Lankan leg-break bowler Sanjeewa Weerasinghe got one wicket apiece with the latter being rewarded

for his no-nonsense stuff with an analysis of one for 39 from 13 overs.

The two-day long seventy-five overs a side match ends today with GMCC batting to get to their target of 396 for a victory.

Earlier in the morning the tournament was inaugurated by State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain.

A short but colourful stint of fanfare led to the start of the match.

TICKET RATES

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board an-

nounced the rates of tickets for this tournament being played rightaway from the semifinal stage with four top teams of the Navana Premier Division Cricket league — Mohammedans, Abahani, Brothers and GMCC taking part.

VIP Gate No 1 — tickets will cost Taka 50, Gate No 3A — Taka 20, Gate 3B — Tk. 10 and the galleries — Taka 5.

GMCC's euphoria at getting the wicket of prolific run-getter Shri Lankan Test cricketer Athula Samarasekera at the very outset with left-arm pacesman Jahangir Talukdar Dulu clean bowling the tall right-hander with the first ball of his first over with the total on five, turned into unredeemable frustration as opener Jahangir Alam and the dim-

skipper Tariquzzaman Muntir.

Brushing aside Test pacesman Craig McDermott and spinners Allan Border and Steve Storey, Pakistan powered their way to 342 for four at stumps in reply to Queensland's first innings total of 260.

Inzamamul Haq treated McDermott's bowling with disdain in his innings of 83, which included eleven fours and a huge six off Border before he was caught at the long-on fence by McDermott off the bowling of left-arm spinner Storey.

After resuming at 37 for no wicket, Pakistan's openers pushed the score to 145 for one at lunch with Aamir Sohail run out for 65, the victim of a sharp return from Peter Goggin.

At the other end, Shahid Saeed cruised to 83 before part-time medium pacer Stuart Law trapped him leg before wicket.

Inzamam gave his partner Asif Mujtaba a 26-run start when he came to the crease but reached his half-century just one ball behind his partner.

Mujtaba was solid and se-

date and at stumps was 84 not out with nine fours.

The diminutive left-hander stood firm against Queensland's three-pronged pace attack of McDermott, Greg Rowell and Mike Kasprovic and pushed his claims for selection in Pakistan's one-off

Test match against New Zealand, starting in Hamilton on Jan 2.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close of play on the second day of the cricket match between Queensland and the touring Pakistan team at the Gabba Ground in Brisbane today:

QUEENSLAND: First innings 260

PAKISTAN: First innings

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