

Sport

President Cup kicks off today

Sports Reporter

Football, shorn of its domestic frenzy and pettiness, returns with a tepid promise of high level skill and nationalistic fervour as the 7th President Gold Cup football tournament kicks-off today with Bangladesh Reds taking on the Polish equippe, Polonia Warszawa at 6 pm at the Dhaka Stadium.

Introduced in 1981 for the first time, the 2.25 gold cup, designed by Nitun Kundu, will be up for grabs for the six foreign teams and two local selections— Bangladesh Reds and Greens.

Bangladesh Reds are the defending champions having won the trophy last in 1989. Kankun University of South Korea won the inaugural meet in 1981. Peking Club of China lifted the title the next year. Iraq Police, the then champion club of Iraq, annexed the championship in 1983. The journey then went in for a hibernation and Vevey Sports Club of Switzerland won the trophy after a prolonged gap of three years in 1986. A Syrian Youth team were the champions the following year. Another lull, brought some luck for the hosts when the Bangladesh Reds arrested the elusive golden deer beating a South Korean team in the final. Since then three years have passed and just when the centre—the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) was on the verge of losing count of a meet in a south Asian country, the local organisers braced themselves for a seventh hosting of the tournament.

A touch of novelty— prize money— has been added to this year's meet which will reportedly cost the organisers Taka one crore 49 lakh 13 thousand tournament. The champions will be awarded US 12,000 dollars, the runners-up will get 8,000 dollars and the team finishing third will be richer for 5000.

The participating eight teams have been divided into two groups, with each cluster featuring four.

Group A consists of Bangladesh Reds, Krylia Sovetov (Russia), Polonia Warszawa (Poland) and the national Olympic team of Malaysia.

Group B will fit in the Bangladesh Greens, FC Tatra Presov (Czechoslovakia), FC Ploesti (Romania) and Housing Bank Club (South Korea).

The two top teams from each group will qualify for the semifinals, scheduled to be held on January 13 and 14. The final is billed for January 16.

Three teams— Krylia Sovetov from Russia, the Olympic team from Malaysia and Polonia Warszawa have already arrived in the city while the other three foreign teams

are due today. Talking to the press at local hotel yesterday, Polish team manager Slawomir Pawlowaki



Fakhrudinov, striker of Krylia Sovetov from Russia practising intently yesterday at the Army Stadium. Sovietov take on the Malaysian Olympic team in their first match of the 7th President Gold Cup football tournament which begins today. — Star photo

young Norwegian national side which had humbled an English Youth team two nil earlier. Meanwhile, the spirit of the Bangladesh Reds were a little dampened on the eve of the tournament as two key players— Mamun Joarder and Rumi Rizvi Karim reportedly received injuries in practice sessions. However, coach Kaikobad was far from being daunted, expressing optimism about a place in the semifinal.

Following is the Reds squad: Mohsin (Captain), Ponir,

Table with 4 columns: Date, Team, Opponent, Time. Includes fixtures for Jan 6 to Jan 16.

Taqeb, Alamgir, Pijush, Masud Raha, Kaiser, Munna, Jewel Rana, Peter, Shabbir, Tito, Zakir, Rupu, Riaz, Aslam, Rumi, Mamun, Ranjan and Gasa.

Manager — Golam Rasul Mollah; Assistant Manager — Zahriul Islam Rumi; Coach — Mohammed Kaikobad; Assistant Coach — Mohammed Mala.

RADIO-TV COVERAGE

Radio Bangladesh will broadcast running commentary of all the matches of the tournament while Bangladesh Television will telecast the first eight robin league matches and the final live from the Dhaka Stadium.

Three foreign referees from Russia, Poland and Malaysia also arrived in the city with their teams to conduct the tournament matches along with local referees.

Handball results

Sports Reporter

Christian Youth, Arunayatan and Bhatri Sangha recorded wins in yesterday's Sunball Second Division handball league matches at the Outer Stadium.

Christian Youth beat Nabin Sangha 18-12. Arunayatan outplayed Mansur Sporting 13-5 while in the most exciting encounter of the day Bhatri Sangha edged past West Jatrabari Kishore Sangha, 8-7.

MSC badminton

Sports Reporter

Jahan, Morshed, Mitul and Zakir were the winners in the boys singles event of the Mohammed Peoples Insurance Badminton championships at the wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

In boys' doubles Shimul and Tanveer were the winners against Shawkat and Anisur. In girls' singles Noori and Farzana Khanam were the victors.

Usha KC reap rich

Sports Reporter

Usha Krira Chakra reaped rich on the first day of transfer for players of this year's Green Delta First Division hockey league when three Mohammedan stalwarts — Mitul, Kismat and Jamal Haider joined them along with Irteza Kader Guddu of Ajax and Ehtesham of Bangladesh Sporting Club. Ehtesham's teammate Habibullah parted with his former team to pledge allegiance to Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha, PWD's Islami followed his tracks.

Juvenile soccer

Sports Reporter

A brilliant hat-trick by Mushtaq enabled Dhaka Football Proshikkhkan Kendra drub Nakhlapara Boys Club 5-0 in the 'Jadukar Samad' juvenile football championship at the outer Stadium yesterday.

DFPK led the first half 2-0. The second match of the day between Amligola Kishore Kantha and Progoti Krira Chakra ended in a goalless draw.

Onze Mondial readers pick Stoichkov

Sports Reporter

PARIS, Jan 5: Bulgarians striker Hristo Stoichkov beat Dutchman Marco van Basten, winner of the Ballon D'Or last month, into second place in a vote by French monthly magazine Onze Mondial for the best European footballer, reports AFP.

The Barcelona player finished just behind his AC Milan rival in the France football vote for the Ballon D'Or.

But Stoichkov drew 17 per cent of the latest vote of 18,500 Onze Mondial readers, to push twice winner van Basten into second place (15 per cent), with last year's victor, Jean-Pierre Papin, third (13 per cent).

Wonderful Ws win it for Pakistan



HAMILTON, New Zealand, Jan 5: Pakistani pacemen Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis snatched victory from the jaws of defeat in their Test match against New Zealand on Tuesday, wiping out the home team in their second innings for just 93 to win by 33 runs, reports Reuter.

Set a modest 127 to win the match, New Zealand's batting collapsed in the face of sustained excellence from the Pakistani pair. Akram took five for 45 and Waqar five for 22.

The low-scoring match, which finished a day early, belonged to the bowlers as New Zealand dismissed Pakistan cheaply twice but the home team's nerve cracked in the last innings.

Resuming at 39 for three, Tuesday's target of 88 appeared possible for New Zealand until the 10th over, when Andrew Jones was caught brilliantly by Asif Mujtaba at silly short leg off the bowling of Waqar.

Jones' departure for 19 with the score on 65 heralded a complete collapse as the fast bowlers tore through New Zealand's batting in just over two hours.

The home team was completely unable to cope with the speed and swing achieved by the Pakistani bowlers.

Waqar took a match haul of nine wickets and passed 100 Test wickets when he bowled Chris Harris, and Akram had a match haul of eight wickets.

WASIM AKRAM ... 5 for 41 and 62 to get, the balance swung towards New Zealand. But the 26-year-old Akram and Waqar, 21, became faster as they warmed to their task and Jones departed first. Rod Latham was clean

bowled by Waqar, totally unable to cope with the 140 km per hour (85-mph) speed. Chris Harris fell to a similar delivery. Captain Ken Rutherford, standing in for the injured Martin Crowe, whose presence

ever. They've got stacks of stamina. "They must be eating good breakfasts as they keep coming at you and they don't decrease in energy and vigour," he said after the game.

After Rutherford's departure the result appeared in little doubt. Three wickets fell with the score on 88 and Waqar smashed the wickets of off-spinner Dipak Patel to win the match.

Akram, made man-of-the-match for his eight for 111, said after the game: "It was one of the greatest games of cricket I've ever played."

He added the win was just what Pakistan needed before returning to Australia, where they are struggling to qualify for the final of the triangular World Series cricket competition against Australia and West Indies.

Both Akram and captain Javed Miandad acknowledged Pakistan had problems with their batting. Only big scores from Miandad in the first innings and Inzamamul Haq in the second saved Pakistan from humiliatingly low totals.

But Miandad took a decision on Tuesday morning that probably saved the match.

After 40 minutes of play without success, he had told Waqar he would be rested and leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed was warming up to bowl.

"But I decided, I don't know why, to give Waqar one more over and that's when he made the breakthrough and dismissed Jones," he said.

Pakistan's celebrations were tinged with disappointment when the team was fined 10 per cent of its match fee for failing to keep up with the required over rate of 15 per hour.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the Test match between New Zealand and Pakistan:

Pakistan: First innings 216 (J Miandad 92, M Su'a five for 73)

New Zealand: First Innings 264 (M Greatbatch 133)

Pakistan: Second Innings 174 (Inzamamul Haq 75, D Morrison five for 41)

New Zealand: Second Innings (overnight 39 for three) B Hartland b Akram 9, M Greatbatch c Sohail b Akram 8

A Jones c Mujtaba b Waqar 19, D Morrison lbw b Akram 10, A Parore c Rashid b Akram 13, R Latham b Waqar 0, K Rutherford c Sohail b Akram 9, C Harris b Waqar 9, D Patel b Waqar 4, M Su'a lbw b Waqar 0, M Owens not out 22

Extras: (nb-10, lb-11, b-1) 20 Total: 93

Fall of wickets: 1-19; 2-31; 3-32; 4-65; 5-67; 6-71; 7-88; 8-88; 9-88.

Bowling: O M R W Akram 22 4 45 5, Waqar 13.3 4 22 5, Aaqib 8 2 14 0

Result: Pakistan won the one-off Test by 33 runs.



WASIM AKRAM ... 5 for 41



WAQAR YOUNIS... 5 for 22

World champs go back to Australia



HAMILTON, New Zealand, Jan 5: Pakistan's cricket-weary players fly to Australia on Wednesday heartened by their brief tour of New Zealand but serious problems persist with the world champions' batting form, reports Reuter.

Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis confirmed their status as two of the world's best bowlers on Tuesday when they demolished New Zealand for 93 in a one-off Test match to win the game for Pakistan, sharing the wickets.

However, Pakistan's batsmen, so powerful during last year's World Cup, are suffering from a run drought, with their openers hopelessly out of form and the middle order overly reliant on veteran captain Javed Miandad.

Pakistan are in the middle of hectic cricketing schedules. After touring England in the northern summer, the team played half of the World Series cricket one-day tournament in Australia before spending two weeks in New Zealand.

The team returns to Australia for the rest of the one-day competition against Australia and the West Indies before heading off for a tour of South Africa. A full Test tour of the West Indies follows soon afterwards.

With so much cricket, Pakistan's batsmen are having problems adapting to the different types of wickets they meet, and they have no fired in Australia or New Zealand.

"We are not performing well in the batting. We won it but if you look at our performance it wasn't upto standard. I don't think anyone will be celebrating," Miandad said after Pakistan's 33-run Test victory.

The batsmen failed in each of three one-day internationals in New Zealand, scoring 158, 136 and 139 in 50-over matches where over 200 is a reasonable score.

In the Test match Pakistan were dismissed for 216 and 174, winning the match simply because their bowlers were unplayable.

The opening partnership of Rameez Raja and Aamir Sohail looks shaky. Raja managed a stuttering 50 in Wellington, but Miandad has been the only

player to show consistent form with the bat.

The tall and strong Inzamamul-Haq scored 75 in the second innings of the Test, giving a rare glimpse of what many players say is Pakistan's biggest batting hope of the future.

Salim Malik, generally considered second only to Miandad in Pakistan's team, hit good form in England but has struggled since. His top score in New Zealand was 39.

The lack of batting form has caused frustration and frayed tempers among the Pakistan team. Promising bowler Aaqib Javed became the first player to be suspended when he swore at a New Zealand umpire and was banned for a match.

In the Test match referee Peter Burge was forced to issue a stern warning to both teams to cool their tempers after a series of niggling incidents.

While the batsmen struggled, Waqar Younis was celebrating his 100th Test wicket, when he bowled New Zealand's Chris Harris on Tuesday. He took two more by the end of the innings.

City, Dhanmondi win easily



City Club snuffed their senior Milnars First Division cricket league campaigners Sadharan Bima by a comfortable six-wicket margin at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The start was delayed due to heavy fog and the match was reduced to a 27-overs-a-side contest. Zakir, the City Club captain, won the toss and sent Bima to bat.

Salahuddin, the new ball bowler, gave his skipper an early success when he snapped up Kiran's wicket for nought with the Bima score on two. Towab, the Bima captain who opened with Kiran, instead of concentrating on steadying the innings, instantaneously went after the bowlers. He paid the price when Salahuddin had him caught by Bappi on 28 in 29 balls. Towab hit five fours.

Rizvi was sent back 10 runs later on 47 giving Salahuddin his second wicket for one. Sadharan Bima never really recovered from this shock and at the end of the 27th over they were a modest 112 for eight. Sanchay, who stayed at the crease for 53 balls, hit two fours for his 29. Of the lower order batsmen, only Ismail could come up with some free strokes, cracking three shots to the fence for a 24-ball 22.

Salahuddin, who disturbed the balance of the Bima Innings very early, finished with figures of three for 23 runs. Al-Amin claimed one for 24 while the other Bima batsmen to lose their wickets were run out.

Zakir experienced a jolt similar to that of his counterpart Towab when came out to open the innings with Tinku losing his partner with the score on 21. But Gautam, the number three batsman, offered his captain the steady support he needed and together they took the total to 73 before Litu broke the pair. By then the City Club Innings was well on

course and they lost two more wickets on their journey past the target of 112 and had 17 balls to spare.

Zakir topscored with 42 punctuated by half a dozen shot across the fence. Gautam followed him with a steady 27 off 40 balls. Bappi remained not out on 22.

Litu was the most successful Bima bowler taking two prized scalps of Gautam and Zakir for 22.

DHANMONDI WIN

In the other match of the day, Dhanmondi Club cruised to an easy seven-wicket victory over Agrani Bank, thanks to a superlative bowling display from former national star Samiur Rahman Sami who returned figures of 7-1-15-2.

Winning the toss Dhanmondi Club decided to bowl and Sami, the burly former national new ball operator, struck very early sending back the two openers for 29. From

that moment on the Bankers found themselves at the receiving end in the face of some good bowling.

It was mainly due to Azam who hit five fours for his 28-ball 30 and Kaiser who notched up 18 that Agrani Bank had 111 on the board when their last man was sent back.

Rajkumara, Mithu, Niaz, Dulu, and Sohel took one wicket apiece.

Chasing the modest total of 112, the Dhanmondi boys were given a scare when they lost their openers with only 39 runs on the board. But Dulu, the skipper, designed two valuable partnerships— first with Shri Lankan Raj Kumara and then with Atiya— to see his side home in 29.2 overs.

Jogesh, Pappu and Kaiser shared the three wickets to fall in the Dhanmondi Innings.

The league resumes on January 9 after a three-day break.

Cantonians, B Boys win



Cantonian Sporting Club and Bangladesh Boys' Club registered contrasting victories in their respective Second Division cricket league ties at different venues in the city yesterday.

Cantonians had a narrow 13-run edge over Azad Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (west) while Bangladesh Boys were never really troubled by Eastern Sporting Club in their huge 86-run win at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

After having won the toss the Cantonian skipper Dipu decided to bat and he must have been on the verge of ruling his decision as he watched two early order batsmen coming back to the pavilion with only 39 runs on the board and already 14.1 overs gone. When Zahid, who stayed at the crease for 45 balls to score 18 was run out, things got even worse.

Then walked in Bulbul. He first teamed up with

Milan Indoors to feature big names

MILAN, Italy, Jan 5: The 800,000 Milan Indoor tennis tournament will feature eight of the 12 top ranked players in the world, Italian organizers reported Tuesday, reports AP.

World No 2 Swede Stefan Edberg, No 4 Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia and No 5 Boris Becker of Germany were among the announced starters in the 32-player competition scheduled on Feb 8-14.

Other leading starters included Petr Korda, Ivan Lendl, Wayne Ferreira and Michael Stich.

World Open squash venue changed

KARACHI, Jan 5: The World Open squash championships in November have been switched from Islamabad to Karachi, reports Reuter.

Labib to take the total to 101 from 50 for three before the latter departed for 35 (4x3, 6x1). Then Bulbul shared in a 60-run partnership with his captain Dipu.

Bulbul cracked four boundaries and a couple of over boundaries for his 25-ball 39 to be the highest run-getter for his side.

When Dipu's wickets were rattled by a Shyamal delivery the Cantonian score read 173 for five in 30 overs. Dipu hit 37 off 21 balls including four fours and two sixes.

Shyamol (jr) claimed three wickets for 35.

Azad Sporting were never in the chase, enervated by the fall of three early wickets. It was mainly due to sundries that came aplenty and a determined 31 from Alam that Azad SC managed a respectable 160 for nine. Extras provided 34, the single highest contributor.

Kamrul and Swapan took two wickets each.

In the other match of the day, Bangladesh Boys Club, aided by some fine top-order batting performances, amassed 207 for the loss of only four wickets with Nasim topscoring with 56 inclusive of seven shots across the fence. Shaheen, Palash, Topu and Ranga followed him with 31, 26, 24 and 29 runs respectively.

Chasing an imposing target and having lost the first five wickets for a cheap 83 the Eastern SC batsmen preferred to see their overs through rather than lose all their wickets. Their innings eventually stopped at 121 for six in 33 overs.

Shafat was the highest run-getter among the Eastern batsmen while extras yielded 36.

Azad and Babla claimed two Eastern scalps each.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Rayer Bazar vs Western Club (DCS) Amarjyoti vs Nabin Sangha (DCC)



The Malaysian Olympic football team on their arrival at the Zia International Airport yesterday. — Star photo



Krylia Sovetov hiving in for a quiet session of practice at the faraway Army Stadium yesterday. — Star photo