

Sport

Biman single-wkt final today

Sports Reporter
Minhazul Abedin Nannu, conjured up a thrilling last-ball win against Shah Nawaz Shaheed Sharu to advance to the quarter-finals of the Biman single-wicket cricket championship at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

However, Rahul, the young allrounder of Udit Club who will be off to Nepal today with the Bangladesh under-19 team to take part in a over-limit championship, was in the first entrant into the semifinals. Rahul hammered 48 in 4.1 overs to outscore U-19 team-mate Durjoy who scored 47 in his turn.

The other quarterfinal qualifiers were Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu and Khaled Mahmud Sujan, both of Abahani. Nannu, who had recorded a 28-run victory against Javed Omar Belim Golla of Surja Tarun earlier in the morning, beat Sharu of Biman in an exciting match.

Shanu made 31 while Nannu posted 35 off the last ball of the three-over quota to enter the quarter-finals. Lipu beat Selim Shahed by 21 runs. The Abahani skipper scored 41 while Shahed made 20.

Earlier, Shahed, the Victoria allrounder, had ousted Aminul Islam Bulbul, the versatile national cricketer of Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club. Khaled Mahmud Sujan recorded twin victories against Saiful of GMCC and Rafiq of Biman Sporting Club to earn a passage to the quarter-finals.

Rafiq of Mohammedans, Faruque and Jahangir Alam of Abahani and Jahangir Talukdar Dulu of GMCC were the other prominent cricketers who suffered elimination yesterday. Thirteen matches were played on the second day yesterday. The three-day tournament ends today with the final scheduled for 3:30 in the afternoon.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka will give away the trophies at the conclusion of the meet organised by the Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association (BSJA).

Beximco nat'l youth cricket from tomorrow

Sports Reporter
The qualifying round of the 13th Beximco national youth cricket championship begins tomorrow simultaneously at five different venues across the country. Thirty-five teams in five groups will participate in the over-limit knockout tournament.

Seven district sports associations will vie for the Group A championship at Comilla. They are Sunamganj, Tangail, Chandpur, Sylhet, Narayanganj, Chittagong and Manikganj. At Tangail, the Group B participants are Netrakona, Sherpur, Kushtia, Kishoreganj, Rajbari, Chuadanga and Dhaka.

At Jhenidah, seven more teams will participate in the Group C fixtures. They are Comilla, the Rajshahi Education Board, Satkhira, Thakurgaon, Nawabganj, Sirajganj and Mymensingh. The Group D participants, who will play at Satkhira, are Jhenidah, Jhalokathi, Bakerganj, Meherpur, Patuakhali, Bhola and Khulna.

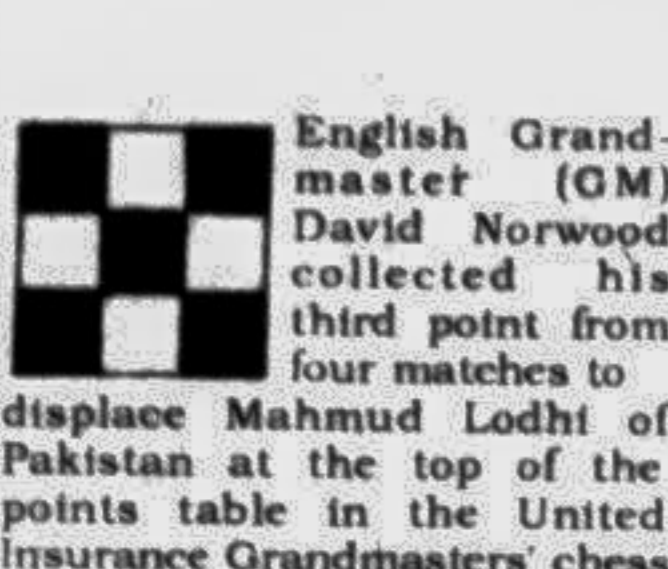
The Group E participants, who will play at the Thakurgaon stadium, are Gaibandha, Kurigram, Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat, Faridpur, Joypurhat and Pabna. All the group championships will be decided on March 3. The final round comprising the five group champions and defending champions Jessore and last year's runners-up Rajshahi and the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan will be held from March 10 to 15 in Dhaka. The two semifinals are scheduled for March 12 and 13 while the final will be held on March 15.

Kambli, Kapil lead batting, bowling averages

NEW DELHI, Feb 23: India's new batting sensation Vinod Kambli and stalwart Kapil Dev head the batting and bowling averages respectively for both sides in the three-Test series against England which ended today with an Indian clean sweep, reports AFP. The Bombay left hander's mastery 224 helped him get an aggregate of 317 for an average of 105.67. Close behind him was his school chum Sachin Tendulkar with a total of 302 for an average of 100.67.

While Kapil had the best bowling average of 19.00 from his seven for 133, it was the man-of-the-series, leg-spinner Anil Kumble who took the maximum number of wickets for either side - 21 which cost him 28.43 each.

Norwood is new leader



English Grandmaster (GM) David Norwood collected his third point from four matches to displace Mahmud Lodhi of Pakistan at the top of the points table in the United Insurance Grandmasters' chess tournament at the Jalsagar of Purbani Hotel yesterday.

Sports Reporter
Yesterday, in the fourth round of the tournament, Norwood beat Indian International Master (IM) Neeraj Mishra. Playing with black pieces the English GM gunned up the works of Mishra, who began with a Queen's pawn opening, in 54 moves.

Bangladeshi GM Niaz Murshed failed to drive home an early advantage to taste his first draw after two successive wins in this meet. Yesterday he drew with Verghese Koshi to tie with him on two and half.

Grandmaster Julian Hodgson, the highest rated player of the tournament, beat national champion Reefat bin-Sattar in a cerebral confrontation of the Queen's gambit. The English GM needed 27 moves. Hodgson now has two and half points from three matches. Reefat has so far garnered two points from his four matches.

Daniel King, one of the trio of English GMs, recorded his first victory of the meet at the cost of the luckless Indian GM Dibeyundu Barua. King, the long-haired Briton, played with white pieces and the poor Barua ran out of time in a game of the English opening and had to concede defeat after 39 moves.

King takes his collection to two from four matches while Barua remained stuck at half a point. FIDE Master Ziaur Rahman beat compatriot IM Zillur Rahman Champak to a moderate pace. Yesterday he played with black pieces and in a Sicilian defence opening match of the Talsanov variation Zia wrought submission from his senior opponent in 33 moves.

Zia has two points from four matches while Champak has half a point from the same number of matches. The match between Pakistani IM Mahmud Ahmed Lodhi and Indian IM Arun Vadya was adjourned and the two chess players from neighbouring countries will fight it out today.



National champion Reefat bin-Sattar contemplating his next move against English Grandmaster Julian Hodgson in the fourth round of the inaugural United Insurance Grandmasters' chess tournament at Hotel Purbani yesterday. Reefat resigned on the 27th move. GM Niaz Murshed awaits Koshi's move on table number six. — Star photo

Dhaka spikers retain title

Sports Reporter
Dhaka DSA retained the Inconrad inter-district men's volleyball title.

Dhaka denied last year's runners-up Tangail DSA by three sets to two in the final of the championship at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday.

The women spikers of Tangail also experienced a similar setback when they lost to the Rangpur girls in straight sets. This was the first time that women's volleyball was introduced in the inter-district competition.

In the men's final, Dhaka won the first set 15-9. But the Tangail spikers were far from being disheartened and won the next two sets 15-10, 15-13.

gave away the prizes. BVF president Maj Gen Mahbubur Rahman and Secretary Golam Quddus Chowdhury and Managing Director of Inconrad, the sponsors, Yusuf A Haroon were present as special guests.

Following are the players' lists of the champions and runners-up: MEN'S Dhaka: Babul (cap), Monju, Jhili, Karim, Nurul Islam, Azhar, Ansar Ali, Abdul Hakim, Athar and Ramzan Ali. Tangail: Majnu (cap), Swapan, Faruk, Altaf, Liton, Farid, Gobinda, Mueyed, Sanwar, Don and Masud.

WOMEN'S Rangpur: Nasima Khan Shirin, Syeda Ajmeri, Syeda Asma Begum, Farzana Yasmeen Lima, Bijli Begum, Tarana Halim, Masuma Akhter, Lata Ghosh, Rosy Hossain, Shahana, Rehana Akhter and Akyra.

Tangail: Nasima Begum, Helena Akhter, Shahana Akhter, Ruma Khan, Rahima Akhter, Mahbuba Akhter, Nurun Nahar, Jharna Khatoun, Tahmina Yasmeen, Sabina Khatoun, Dil Afroza Rosy and Ferdousi Akhter Monju.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Following is the roll-of-honour of the inter-district men's volleyball championship: Champions Runners-up 1990 Rajshahi Rangpur 1991-92 Dhaka Tangail 1992-93 Dhaka Tangail



The spikers and officials of the Dhaka DSA team who retained the men's crown in the Inconrad inter-district volleyball championship. Dhaka defeated Tangail DSA in the final at the Outer Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

The Dhaka players then rose to the occasion and clinched the final two sets 15-12, 15-12 to retain their title. Dinajpur finished third, beating Rajshahi 15-9, 15-5, 17-15 in the third-place deciding play-off, also held yesterday.

In the women's final, Rangpur had very few problems in eliminating Tangail 15-7, 15-7, 15-10. Rajbari finished in third position defeating the Narayanganj girls 15-6, 15-7, 15-6 in the play-off between the losing semifinalists.

Twenty teams including eight women's squads participated in this year's inter-district championships organised by the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation (BVF). Minister for Environment, Forests, Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al-Noman graced the concluding ceremony as chief guest and



The players of the Rangpur DSA give the photographers a moment after winning the women's title of the Inconrad inter-district volleyball championship at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday. The Rangpur girls beat Tangail DSA in the final. — Star photo

Jr cricketers leave today for Nepal

Sports Reporter
The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) under-19 cricket squad, led by Sharifuddinul Islam-Sharif Shaikat, leaves for Nepal today to take part in the Silver Jubilee tournament in Birganj.

Roqibul Hassan, the former national skipper and M Osman Khan will accompany the 16-strong squad as the manager and assistant manager respectively. Shaikat, the left-arm spinner who plays for Victoria Sporting Club in the Navana Premier Division cricket league, will have Sajjad Ahmed Shipon as his deputy.

The other members of the side are: Sajid Hassan, Anup Kumar Biswas, A M Natmur Rahman, Al-Shahriar, Ashiqur Rahman, Khaled Masud Pilot, Sajal Ahmed Chowdhury, Ruhul Niyamur Rashid, Neaz Hassan, Tanveer Ahmed, Shariful Huq and Azim Rahman.

The BCCB u-19 squad, which has been placed directly in the quarterfinals, is to play its first match on February 26.

Azhar, Wadekar very happy

Sports Reporter
BOMBAY, Feb 23: Indian captain Mohd Azharuddin and team manager Ajit Wadekar today said they were "very pleased" with the outcome of the series against England, reports PTI.

"I am happy as we have found our winning ways again. One thing the team has learnt is winning is very important and now we are playing to our full potential and hope to continue to do well," Azharuddin told newsmen.

More booters join camp
Fifteen more players joined the ongoing national football camp at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

The players who reported to coach Kazi Salahuddin yesterday afternoon were Md Sayeed Hassan Kanan, Md Pontir, Md Arif Hossain Moon, Ataur Rahman Khan, Md Jewel Rana, Pijush Nandi, Syed Ruman bin-Wali Shabbir, Md Arman, A K M Saiful Bari Tito, Satyajit Das Rupu, Mahbub Hossain Roxy, Md Rumi Rizvi Karim, Rakib Hossain, Barun Bikash Dewan and Tutul.

Earlier, on Monday, eight other players had joined the camp after offering unconditional apology for their delay. Newly-married Kaiser Hamid, the prized defender of Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club, who had reported to the coach a couple of days ago is expected to join the camp later this month.

The joining of the players followed the successful discussions between State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka and the players' representatives last Monday.

Earlier last week the Football Players' Welfare Association, through a press release, had said that the footballers would not join the camp until the completion of the inter-club players' transfers for the forthcoming leagues.

The much-delayed transfers will now be held from March 15 to 21. Meanwhile, coach Salahuddin has reportedly asked the Bangladesh Football Federation to include four more players in the national team. They are Selim of Abahani Krira Chakra, Babu of Fakirpool Young Men's Club, Debashish of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation and Peter of Agrani Bank.

The coaching and selection committee of the BFF is likely to call up these players within a couple of days.

Pioneer soccer on

Sports Reporter
Lalbagh Tarun Sangha made a good start in the 1993 Janata Bank Pioneer football league when they defeated Amilgola Tarun Sangha by three goals to nil in the inaugural match at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Rahmatullah put Lalbagh Tarun Sangha ahead in the ninth minute while Riazuddin Ripon made it 2-0 in the 31st minute. Rahmatullah completed the tally for the winners in the 52nd minute (3-0).

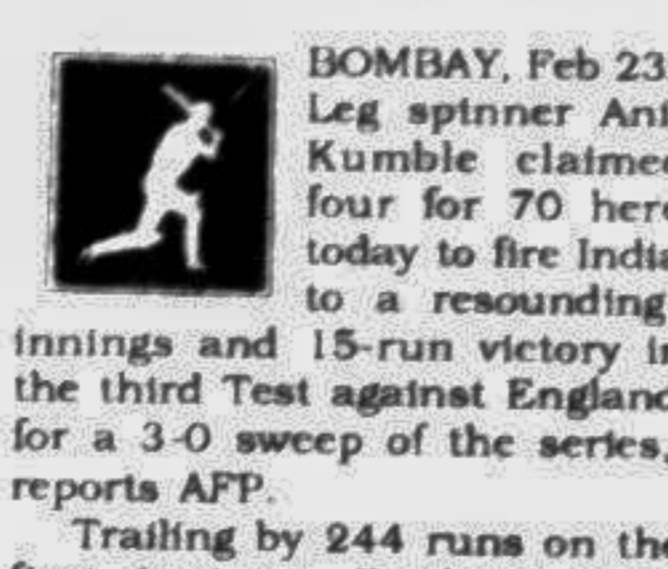
Chairman of the Pioneer league committee M A Azim Badal witnessed the match as chief guest. Eighty-two teams of the city and suburbs in five zones are participating in this year's league. Each zone is further divided into two groups.

The ten group champions will play in a round robin league with the champions and runners-up earning promotion to the Third Division league next year.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Azimpur KS vs Arambagh KC Jrs (Outer Stadium 2:15 pm) Badshah SS vs Rainbow AC (Outer Stadium 3:45 pm)

India brownwash England



A KUMBLE ... man-of-series bowled out for 229 in their second knock 44 minutes after lunch on the fifth and final day at the Wankhede Stadium.

BOMBAY, Feb 23: Leg spinner Anil Kumble claimed four for 70 here today to fire India to a resounding innings and 15-run victory in the third Test against England for a 3-0 sweep of the series, reports AFP. Trailing by 244 runs on the first innings, England were

India's win amidst beating of drums by some 15,000 joyous home fans. The Indian spinners claimed 46 of the 60 England wickets in the series as the flat-footed tourists found the turning ball hard to negotiate on helpful wickets. Memories of the routs in Australia and South Africa in the last two seasons were forgotten as the triumphant Indians, accompanied by security men, did a victory lap around the ground. The beleaguered tourists offered little resistance when they began the final day's play at 108 for three, still needing 136 to make India bat again. India had to wait till 77 minutes after the start to secure a wicket against the defiant overnight pair of Robin Smith and Mike Gatting who added 74 runs Monday after coming together at 34 for three. The fourth wicket pair carried the stand to 121 to make England 155 for three when Gatting was stumped by wicketkeeper Kiran More off Rajesh Chauhan for 61. More fumbled with the ball before breaking the wicket, but television replays confirmed umpire Piloop Reporter's decision as Gatting was a few seconds late in grounding his bat. The 35-year-old Gatting hit half century in his 19th half century in 71 matches. Kumble clean bowled Smith with a well-pitched top spinner for 62 to make England 181 for five 15 minutes before lunch. Next ball, Richard Blakey went the same way, but all-rounder Chris Lewis prevented a hat-trick despite a cluster of seven fielders around the bat. There was no indication of an England collapse when Gatting and Smith added 41 runs in 17 overs bowled by the Indians in the first hour of play. Smith, who began the day on 39, was the first to reach his half century 45 minutes after the start when he flicked Kumble for two. It was Smith's 20th half century in 39 Tests and the fourth against India in six matches. Gatting, on 31 overnight, reached his individual fifty by cutting Kumble for his seventh four and then celebrated the



G HICK ... man-of-match bowled out for 229 in their second knock 44 minutes after lunch on the fifth and final day at the Wankhede Stadium.

landmark by sweeping the next delivery for another boundary.

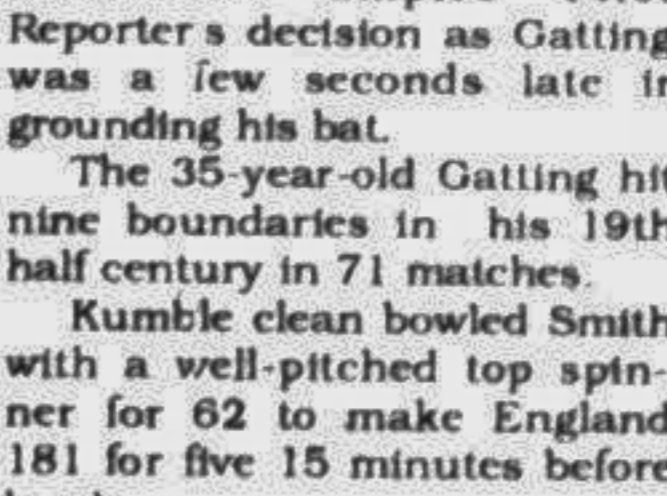
SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the fifth and last day of the third and final cricket Test between India and England today: ENGLAND: First innings: 347 (Hick 178) INDIA: First innings: 591

Table with columns: Bowling, O, M, R, W. Rows include Kapil Dev, Prabhakar, Raju, Kumble, Chauhan.

Result: India won by an innings and 15 runs. First Test (Calcutta): India won by eight wickets. Second Test (Madras): India won by an innings and 22 runs. India win the series 3-0.

Gooch will get it if he wants it

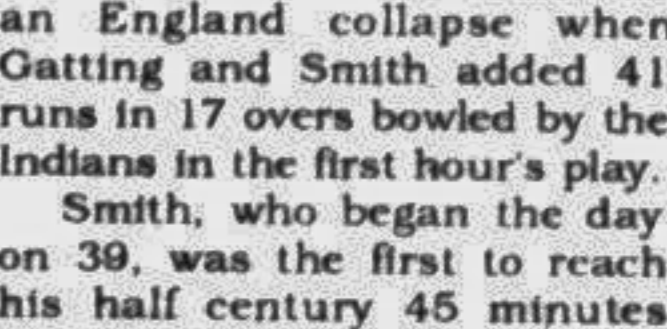
BOMBAY, Feb 23: Despite a crushing 3-0 Test series thrashing by India, England cricket captain Graham Gooch is set to retain his position - if he wants it, reports Reuter. Gooch, whose hard-working regime had appeared to have turned around England's fortunes, was given a vote of confidence after England's second successive innings defeat by India, but he appeared reluctant to accept it. Australia's tour of England starts in May and Keith Fletcher, England's team manager, said: "Graham is the best man for the job of beating Australia." Fletcher, Gooch's mentor at his county Essex, gave short shrift to suggestions that Gooch should pass on the captaincy during the series to give his successor more experience. "I think changing a captain in the middle of a series is bloody stupid," he said. Gooch will not be going with England to Sri Lanka in 11 days time and has said he will not tour with England again. In his depressed mood at losing he would not even confirm that he wanted to continue in the forthcoming victory in the series. But England then lost 3-0 in Australia, a series Gooch said was even worse than the current one. "The attitude of some players was not upto standard in Australia, that has not been the case here." For the first time as captain, Gooch's own form has suffered - he made just 47 runs in four Test innings. Illness, which dogged him all tour, kept him out of the second Test. "I still think I can play. I don't think that constitutes a bad run of form," he said. Alec Stewart, who led England to defeat in Madras, will lead England in Sri Lanka. But he is by no means guaranteed to take over for next winter's tour of West Indies, with former captain Mike Gatting and Mike Atherton - once nicknamed FEC as in Future England Captain - both contenders.



GRAHAM GOOCH English summer. "That is not a decision for me to take, it is upto the selectors," he said when asked if he would stay on. "I have got to think about it." "We've lost and lost badly. The players take the lead from the captain and the captain has to accept responsibility." Gooch took over as captain, for the second time, after

England lost 4-0 at home to Australia in 1989. He led them to a Test win over West Indies in Jamaica before injury and questionable tactics gave the West Indians victory in the series. But England then lost 3-0 in Australia, a series Gooch said was even worse than the current one. "The attitude of some players was not upto standard in Australia, that has not been the case here." For the first time as captain, Gooch's own form has suffered - he made just 47 runs in four Test innings. Illness, which dogged him all tour, kept him out of the second Test. "I still think I can play. I don't think that constitutes a bad run of form," he said. Alec Stewart, who led England to defeat in Madras, will lead England in Sri Lanka. But he is by no means guaranteed to take over for next winter's tour of West Indies, with former captain Mike Gatting and Mike Atherton - once nicknamed FEC as in Future England Captain - both contenders.

SEVILLE, Spain, Feb 23: Argentine stars Diego Maradona and Diego Simeone face disciplinary action for returning late to their club Sevilla after last week's international with Brazil in Buenos Aires, reports Reuter. Jose Maria Del Nido, deputy president of the Spanish club, said the board met on Monday night and named an investigating official to review the case and decide on possible sanctions. These could involve a fine of a million pesetas (dollar 8,600) and suspension of contract ranging from one to three months. The board could independently decide to rescind their contracts. Sevilla president Luis Cuervas said early on Tuesday that Maradona could not expect to subject the club or its fans to ridicule. "We have our way of doing things and no-one can make fun of it. Maradona has let his fans and his coach down, and I don't intend to tolerate indiscipline by anyone," he said. Sevilla's coach, Argentine Carlos Bilardo, said he was in the middle of a controversy he had no control over and that it was all in the hands of the club whether the two players lineup against Athletic Bilbao next weekend in Seville. "One thing is clear, and that is you can't separate Maradona and Simeone, what happens to one has to happen to the other. If they come back on Friday from Argentina in good shape, and the club allows it, of course I'll play them," he said. The club said also it would present a complaint to FIFA on the attitude of the Argentine Football Association for interfering in Sevilla's affairs by organising the trips for Maradona and Simeone. The two Argentine internationals are being taken to task by Sevilla for returning 24 hours later than stipulated



DIEGO MARADONA interfering in Sevilla's affairs by organising the trips for Maradona and Simeone.

Manchester to host world chess title clash
LUCERNE, Switzerland, Feb 23: The British city of Manchester will host the World Chess Championship final between Garry Kasparov, from the former Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, and British challenger Nigel Short, the Swiss-based World Chess Federation FIDE said, reports Reuter. Manchester, Britain's second city, will put up a prize fund of 2.54 million Swiss francs (dollar 1.7 million) to host the event.