

Dhaka, BKSP in nat'l youth semis

Sports Reporter

A scintillating century by Rahul powered Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protishtan (BKSP) to the semifinals of the 13th Bencimo national youth cricket championship with a huge 73-run victory against Gaibandha DSA at the Mirpur Dalai Ground yesterday.

The winners will play Dhaka DSA, who were the winners in the two quarter-finals scheduled for the day. Dhaka registered a massive seven-wicket victory against Rajshahi DSA at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

At Mirpur, BKSP batted first to rattle up a mind boggling 291 for seven with Rahul scoring 109 off 83 balls with the help of 17 fours and two sixes.

Mashuk with 31 and Ujjal with 32 were the other notable scorers.

For Gaibandha Partha claimed three for 45. Ronny and Biddyt took one wicket each among the beleaguered bowlers.

Mashuk picked up four wickets for 42 runs as Gaibandha went down fighting for 218 in 43.1 overs.

Lipon was Gaibandha's top-scorer with 58, followed by Partha who made 45 and Biddyt 24.

Ujjal bagged two for 33.

In the other match of the day, Rajshahi were all out for 170 in 44 overs. Toray top-scored with 42. He was trailed by Rahiq 27 and Saeed 20.

Shamsul caused Rajshahi enough problems with his figures of three for 45. Ope, too, was there to add to Rajshahi's misery with three for 36.

Biplab's 49 and a fine 48 by opener Sajid helped Dhaka overhaul the total in 36.1 overs. Dhaka amassed 174 for three wickets to walk away with a seven-wicket win.

Dhaka meet BKSP in one of the semifinals on Saturday.

AKRAM PUTS YOUTH OVER EXPERIENCE

KARACHI, Mar 11: Pakistan selectors have chosen youth over experience for their coming tour of the Caribbean, captain Wasim Akram said Thursday, reports AP.

The skipper of Pakistan's 17-strong cricket squad described the tour as "most difficult and challenging" and said "We will see to it that Tests and one-dayers are not just push overs."

In an interview following the squad selection Akram, the left-arm master of swing, said: "We have picked youngsters because not only the middle order but the whole batting was not clicking."

"Youngsters have been given preference over experience in the hope that they will become future stars and would be ripe when the next World Cup is hosted," Akram said.

PEPSI TO SPONSOR

Meanwhile, another APF message from Karachi says world champions Pakistan will display a Pepsi logo on their playing kits for the next three years in all limited-over internationals and Test matches at home and abroad.

An agreement to this effect was signed by the Board for Control of Cricket in Pakistan and Pepsi Cola International.

Pakistani players first displayed the Pepsi logo during a triangular competition on their South African tour last month.

NIRMAN CRICKET FINAL ROUND FROM TODAY

Sports Reporter

The final round of the eleven-nation schools cricket championship begins today at two city venues.

St Gregory's High School play Rajbari High School at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium and Scholastic International take on Madaripur Islamia United High School at the Dhanmondi Club ground in the two matches of the inaugural day.

Twenty-one schools including 17 outstation teams will participate in the ten-day knockout meet.

The two semifinals will be held on March 19 while the final is billed for March 21.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

A 95-run opening partnership between Phool and Sohail powered Wari Krira Chakra to a five-wicket victory against Amarjyoti Club in the only match of the Second Division cricket super league at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

Electing to bat Amarjyoti were all out for 157 in 33.2 overs with Lipton topscoring with a 43-ball 46, a knock inclusive of four fours and a six.

Wari Club, by virtue of the 95-run stand between Phool and Sohail, cruised past the opponents' total making 161 in 36.2 overs with five wickets in hand.

Gulshan go down to MSC

Sports Reporter

An error of judgment, a momentary swell of death wish nullified the possibility of an absorbing afternoon's clash between the bat and the ball as reigning champions Mohammedan Sporting Club kept up their operation 'restoration hope' for the league title with a convincing 62-run victory against Gulshan Youth in the Navana Premier Division super league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

After scoring two glorious, eventually abortive hundreds in consecutive matches, Ashok Malhotra, the Indian Test discard, regarded by many as the most delightful of the foreign batsmen now playing in Dhaka, dared a cheeky single with Gulshan Youth chasing 234 runs for victory in 45 overs, quite well placed at 96 for three in the 23rd over.

Perhaps deluded into a false sense of security by a false sense of pageant of lousy, nervy fielding by the Mohammedan fielders or perhaps goaded into rashness by an inexorable late working in the shape of the law of averages, Malhotra, the unassuming north Indian, entered a dangerous contest of speed with Aminul Islam Bulbul of all people, by far the best Mohammedan fielder, and a neat pick up followed by a quick throw from place between backward square and short fine leg shattered the stumps at the wicketkeeper's end; off went the ball and off went the current of life from the match with Malhotra running himself out of the ground from the momentum of a desperate bid to make his ground, for 20.

His compatriot Arun Lal, the other Indian Test discard, hung around for a well-earned 58 but Gulshan Youth, heavily reliant on the batting of these two foreign recruits, had quietly slipped out of the contest. Coincidentally, Arun Lal, who had played off-spinner Azhar Hossain Shantu on the one side in that fatal run out case swung at an innocuous

ball from the same bowler and Sanjeev Sharma, stationed to the left of the square-leg umpire, leapt in the air to arrest a hot, stalling catch to show his former city mate the way to the pavilion.

For the sheer weight of individual statistics, the day however belonged to the winners for whom the reinstated captain Minhazul Abedin covers while trying to hit Gulshan's left arm spinner Anif, so far the highest wicket taker in this year's Navana league.

Although Bulbul scored 36 off as many balls, the talented batsman was a mere shadow of his quicksilver self of the past and Malhotra caught him without fuss at the deep midwicket fence to give a fine demonstration of catching to Gulshan's local players who had dropped the Mohammedan player on a couple of occasions.

Sanjeev Sharma was the other major contributor in the Mohammedan innings who missed his 50 by a run when he was fazed by a Malhotra delivery. His 49 came off 98 balls with the help of three fours as Mohammedans rattled 233 for seven wickets in 45 overs.

Joydev was the most successful bowler for Gulshan claiming three for 40. Anif took two for 46 to take his tally to 31. Ehsan and Malhotra bagged one wicket apiece.

The Gulshan openers found the going tough as the Mohammedan bowlers, Gamage in particular, went flat out — a good play adopted by Nannu after continued failure of the line-length policy.

After the departure of Malhotra and Arun Lal, there was only one conclusion the match had to and it did with Mohammedans wrapping it up by 62 runs.

Sanjeev Sharma, who had induced a Gulshan batsman into misbehaving a bouncer to wicketkeeper Robi, returned to polish up the tail with three more wickets. With the pressure off, Sharma concentrated on perfecting his yorkers and all his last three victims were bowled to give him fine figures of four for 23.

Shantu took two for 34. Ganjeev and Zakir one apiece as Gulshan were all out for 171 in 41.3 overs.

Mohammedans have 20 points from 13 matches while Gulshan remain 16 from 13 matches.

TODAY'S MATCH
Biman vs Brothers (Dhaka Stadium)

DMFA ignores giants' plea for delaying transfers

Sports Reporter

The Senior Division league committee of the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) brushed aside an orchestrated campaign for deferment of the inter-club players' transfers for the 1993 Premier Division and First Division football leagues when they announced the re-fixed dates for the same yesterday.

According to the newly announced schedule the transfers will be held from March 15 to April 2 inclusive of a week-long interval for the Eid Festival. Instead of March 15 to 21 as was originally fixed.

Soon after the meeting the representatives of Abahani Krira Chakra and Mohammedan Sporting Club, the two soccer giants of the country who had asked the authorities to defer the transfers until April 20, told some newsmen that they would not participate in the player trading.

Abahani and Mohammedans are likely to announce their own programmes in this connection within a couple of days.

Although there was no official representative of Abahani in yesterday's meeting, Shah Alam Chowdhury, a DMFA joint secretary who is also an Abahani official, explained Abahani's view regarding the matter. Fazlur Rahman Babul, a former member of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) — the Mohammedans' representative — strongly criticised the DMFA decision.

The representative of the Bangladesh Public Works Department was the only one to support the giants' stance while the other seventeen club representatives reportedly welcomed the league committee announcement.

The meeting, presided over by committee chairman Shahidul Islam Chowdhury, was informed that the DMFA would receive 20 lakh taka from the BFF as loan and evenly distribute the money among the 20 participating clubs to equip them better for the transfers.

The DMFA will return the money from gate-receipts or the fund provided by the sponsors.

If Abahani and Mohammedans abstain from the transfers and subsequently stay away from the Premier Division league, necessary disciplinary measures will be taken against them as per the by-laws, the DMFA secretary Kazi Mishu said after the meeting.

In that highly unlikely scenario, according to the by-laws, the top two teams of the country would be relegated to the First Division from the new Premier Division league, to be introduced from this season.

With Abahani and Mohammedans taking a hard line, the inter-club players' transfers look rather uncertain despite yesterday's DMFA decision, observers feared.

Schools handball from today

Sports Reporter

The fifth Bata schools handball tournament for boys begins today with defending champions Narinda Govt High School taking on Kamalapur High School at the Outer Stadium handball court at 3:15 pm.

Twelve schools in two groups are participating in the meet. They are Narinda School, Bangladesh Ansars and VDP High School, Bangladesh Rifles High School, Rahmatullah Model High School, Bhashantek High School and Kamalapur School in Group A and the fourth schools handball runners-up Shahid Nabi High School, K L Jubilee High Schools, Rajarbagh Police Lines High School, St Gregory's High School, Karatitola CMS Memorial High School and Graduates High School in Group B.

The top two teams from each group will play in the semifinals to be held on April 9 while the final is scheduled for April 11.

Managing Director of the Bata Shoe Co (Bangladesh) Ltd will declare the meet open as chief guest.

Aussie-NZ 3rd Test from today

AUCKLAND, Mar 11: Out of form Australian batsman Mark Waugh is likely to be dropped for the third and final cricket Test against New Zealand starting on Friday, reports Reuters.

Border, shaping a squad to retain the Ashes in England later this year, said young West Australian batsman Damien Martyn may be given a chance in place of Waugh.

"I rate Mark Waugh very highly. But he has had a good run and he might have to sit down and contemplate a few things."

"Damien deserves a go. He looks in good nick in the nets and I'd like to give him a chance here," Border said today.

In the two Tests so far in New Zealand, Waugh has made 13 and 2 and questions have been raised about his commitment to batting.

Border also has selection problems with two other top players, Waugh's twin brother Steve and promising leg-spinner Shane Warne.

Neither took any part in practice today. Warne, whose penetrating spin has taken 11 wickets in the two Tests, has had ice applied to an injury to his right foot and spent the morning receiving further treatment on it.

Waugh has had recurring trouble with a finger, but should be ready to play in the Test.

New Zealand will be looking to square the series after a crushing innings and 60-run defeat in Christchurch and a draw in Wellington. The home team is looking for its first home Test victory for three years.

The last two Tests between

the teams at Eden Park have gone New Zealand's way, but the likelihood this time is that the pitch will not give bowlers very much help.

New Zealand have dropped fast bowler Chris Cairns from their squad of 12 and replaced him with all-rounder Chris Harris, who could find himself carrying the drinks.

Wicketkeeper Tony Blair, drafted in from the Wellington Test when Adam Parore was

injured in practice, impressed selectors enough with a solid half century and has been retained.

However, New Zealand's fortunes will probably rest on the form of their captain Martin Crowe, who is having a cracking version of the "Annus Horribilis" described by the Queen of England.

Crowe, on top of the world when he led New Zealand to the semi-final of the World Cup last year, has had to contend with a miserable tour of Sri Lanka, when half his team went home after a bomb explosion.

In January he was injured and forced to sit out a Test match against Pakistan and he

offered to resign the captaincy after the mauling by Australia in Christchurch.

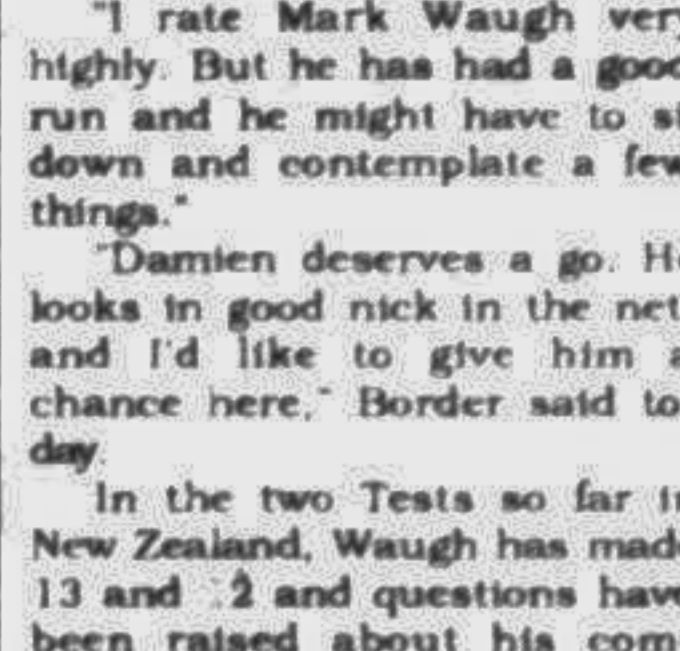
The offer was turned down, but Crowe then had to deal with allegations about his private life that affected his game. In Wellington, he temporarily handed over the captaincy during play the day after launching a scathing attack on the New Zealand media about attacks on his private life.

However Crowe, 30, can still turn a match. His batting form is consistently superlative and he now has vice-captain Ken Rutherford growing in confidence with the bat.

Border today called on New Zealand's umpires to be more positive about giving batsmen out.

During the second Test in Wellington, Border was clearly unhappy about some decisions that went in favour of New Zealand batsmen, especially on the final day as the tourists were pressing for a win.

"We had a lot of what I'd consider very good shots at Wellington. And given the conditions we're playing on — low and slow wickets — I think to get results you need umpires to be really positive about what's out and what's not out," he said.



M WAUGH ... lean patch



M WAUGH ... lean patch

India-Zimbabwe Test in Delhi from tomorrow

Houghton promises a fight

NEW DELHI, Mar 11: India's cricket team, buoyant after the 3-0 "spinwash" of England, are not taking lightweights Zimbabwe for granted in a one-off Test starting at the Feroze Shah Kotla here Saturday, reports AP.

"Every international cricket game is important and this one

are Maninder Singh and More's understudy Vijay Yadav.

The Indian spinners, who grabbed 46 of the 60 wickets against England, may be suited to the slow Kotla wicket, traditionally a batsman's paradise, but Wadekar exuded confidence.

"The boys are in top nick and will go all out for a win in both the test match and the one-dayers," the Indian man

agreed to play in the match. The Zimbabweans were the moral victors in the drawn game.

"We are looking to win or draw," said the 35-year-old Houghton, whom Indian fans remember for a magnificent 141 off 136 balls in the World Cup match against New Zealand at Hyderabad in 1987.

"We watched the Indians thrash England on television, but are not unduly worried at their form," Houghton said. "We will put up a better show than England."

To counter India's formidable spinners, Zimbabwe have veteran John Traicos, the 45-year-old off-spinner who took five for 86 from 50 overs during the Harare Test against the Indians.

The remarkably fit Traicos, who played three Tests for South Africa in the late sixties before settling in his native Zimbabwe, shows no sign of losing his enthusiasm for the game and remains an excellent gully fielder.

"My job is to bowl and I just love it," he said during a break in the team's strenuous three-hour training session under a hot sun Thursday.

Zimbabwe's batting revolves around the stylish Kevin Arnott, who scored 101 against New Zealand last November, left-hander Alistair Campbell and the Flower brothers, Andrew and Grant.

Leading the bowling attack are seamer Eddo Brandes, whose six-wicket haul saw Zimbabwe upset England in the 1992 World Cup, Traicos and all-rounders Gary Crocker and David Brian.

Lifted by a brilliant 121 from skipper Dave Houghton, Zimbabwe piled up 456 in their first innings and then swift strikes reduced the Indians to 105 for five.

after the final Test in Bombay. England's captain in India, Graham Gooch, now back at home considering his future, upset some officials and fans with his designer stubble look.

"There is a modern fashion for designer stubble and some people believe it to be very attractive," said Dexter.

"But it is aggravating and we will be looking at the whole question of people's facial hair. I hope we can come up with something that's agreeable to all parties."

TCCB chief executive Alan Smith said there had been a lengthy constructive debate about England's performance in India.

"There was no acrimony and no demands for resignations," he said.

Dexter said: "The board members were not so concerned about what happened in India — They agreed England have no divine right to win Test matches — and were more interested in proper planning for the coming tour here by Australia."

He told the meeting India had played "to a very high

standard."

Dexter has a year of his contract still to run which will cover the Ashes series against Australia this summer.

MILAN'S 1ST LOSS IN 11 MONTHS

ROME, Mar 11: Mighty AC Milan lost for the first time in serious competition for 11 months on Wednesday when Roma won 2-0 at home in an Italian Cup semifinal first leg, reports Reuters.

The Italian champions' previous defeat was by Juventus in last year's cup semifinals.

Their 57-match unbeaten league run stretches back to May 1991.

Midfielder Roberto Muzzi escaped from his marker to send a diving header past Milan's young goalkeeper Carlo Cudicini in the 12th minute.

In the 89th minute, with Milan pressing for the equaliser, Argentine striker Claudio Cannigga was sent clear and ran half the length of the pitch before chipping the ball home.

World Youth Championships

Contrasting wins for pairs

SYDNEY, Mar 11: Brazil and Ghana sizzled, England and Mexico struggled, but all four won games Thursday night to advance to the quarterfinals of soccer's World Youth Championships, reports AP.

They joined host nation Australia, Russia, Uruguay and the United States in the last eight of the 16-nation tournament.

The two-time champions from Brazil outplayed Norway 2-0, finishing on top of Group D ahead of Mexico, who rallied to defeat Saudi Arabia 2-1.

African champions Ghana crushed defending titlists Portugal 2-0 and finished second in Group B behind Uruguay who beat Germany 2-1.

England scrambled past Turkey 1-0, finishing unbeaten on top of Group D, while the United States' 2-2 draw against South Korea was enough for them to progress.

Russia downed Colombia 3-1 to leapfrog ahead of Australia in Group A after the host nation went down 2-0 to previously winless Cameroon.

The quarterfinals will pit Russia against Ghana in Sydney and Uruguay against Australia in Brisbane on Saturday.

Brazil will face the United States in Adelaide on Sunday, while England play Mexico in Melbourne.

Brazil scored through Gian and Adriano in the space of three minutes to beat Norway 2-0 and created enough chances to have won by a bigger margin.

"It took us a while to up the tempo of the game, but once we did, we took control," said Brazilian coach Julio Leal.

The Brazilians will be favoured against the United States, who lived dangerously against the speedy South Koreans and trailed 1-2 until Keitman Zavagnin scored the equalizer with a fierce shot with only 12 minutes remaining.

Brian Kelly was the other American marksman, while Lee Ki-huyung scored twice for the Koreans, who found American goalkeeper Jeff Cassar in a deffiant mood.

"I have every sympathy with the Koreans," said American coach Bobby Howe, who praised his team's effort and determination.

Russia's rugged 3-1 victory over Colombia left them and

England as the only European survivors.

Russia's goals came for an Alexander Korataev penalty kick, Dmitri Ananko and Alexei Savchenko, but the clever Korataev was sent off in the second half and will miss the quarterfinal.

England scored through striker Jillian Joachim in the 12th minute against European champion Turkey.

Semifinals in the tournament are scheduled for March 17, with the final for the Coca Cola Cup in Sydney on March 20.

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Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Bashar and Sagar slammed hat-tricks when Mugda Samajkalyan and Krira Sangha swept aside Manda Sangsad by nine goals to nil in the Janata Bank Pioneer football league at the Bashabo ground yesterday.

Bashar netted four goals and Sagar three while Rahim and Kamruzzaman scored the other two goals for the winners.

Following are the brief results of the other matches of the day:

Central zone: Painaidi Juba Sangsad defeated Khilgaon Srijoni Sangsad 3-0 and Matuall Udayan Sangsad outplayed Madarick Chhatra Sangsad also by three goals to nil.

East zone: Eastern Football edged past Red Sun Krira Chakra 2-1; Railway Blues beat Muradpur Ekota XI 1-0 and Pardogor Krira and Samajkalyan Sangsad shared points with Nawabpur Sporting Club in a one-all draw.

West zone: Swadesh Samajkalyan Sangha defeated Khwaje Dewan Juba Samaj by two goals to nil.

New Indian hockey captain

NEW DELHI, Mar 11: The Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) today named stocky centre-half Shakeel Ahmad as the captain of a new-look national team for the Indra Gandhi memorial international hockey tournament beginning at Bombay from March 15, reports PTI.

The IHF also announced a 16-member young team which includes only five players who had donned India colours in the last Olympics at Barcelona.



From left: Nabi Chowdhury, Md Shahiduzzaman, Kazi Mishu and Shahidul Islam Chowdhury — all DMFA and league committee officials — seen during yesterday's meeting of the Senior Division league committee at the DMFA office. — Star photo

Independence Day hockey

Sports Reporter

The 1993 Independence Day hockey tournament will be held in the first and second week of next month in Dhaka under the aegis of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF).

BHF secretary Shamsul Bari told The Daily Star yesterday.

Although the tourney is open to all the affiliated clubs, organisations and district sports associations only eight First Division teams of the Dhaka league had enrolled their names till yesterday afternoon.

The 1993 First Division hockey league will begin after the completion of the Independence Day tournament either in the third or last week of April.

Sixteen teams will participate in the league.

Meanwhile, the BHF distributed hockey gear to the 16 participating teams of the First Division league yesterday at its office.