

### Karachi cricketers face u-25 side in Khulna today

**Sports Reporter**  
The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board under-25 team meets visiting Karachi Airport Gymkhana, a club side from Pakistan, in an exhibition match at the Khulna Stadium today.

Mohammedan Sporting all-rounder Aminul Islam Bulbul will lead the local boys while former Pakistani pacesman Rashid Khan will lead the visitors.

Airport Gymkhana have won all their three exhibition matches against local sides over the past few days. First they outplayed Mohammedan Sporting Club by seven wickets at the Dhaka Stadium on March 30 and then beat a BCCB President's XI by 24 runs in Sylhet on April 1.

They registered an exciting one-run victory over the 1992-93 Navana league champions Abahani Krira Chakra on April 2 at the Dhaka Stadium.

Akram Khan of Abahani Krira Chakra is Bulbul's deputy for today's match.

Following is the full BCCB under-25 squad: Aminul Islam Bulbul (captain), Jahangir Alam, Sajjad Ahmed Shipon, Akram Khan (vice-captain), Khaled Mohd Sujan, Sheikh Salahuddin Md Al-Shahrar Rokon, Md Khaled Masud Pilot, Sharfuddinul Ibne Shahid Saikat, Md Saiful Islam, Zakir Hassan, Ratimur Rashid Rahul, Md Mizanur Rahman Babul and Sajid Hassan.

The visitors will play their fifth and last exhibition match against Navana XI — a team comprising the leading players of the just-concluded league — on April 6 at the Dhaka Stadium.

### Booters leave for Japan today

**Sports Reporter**

With the team leader and manager staying back for the time being, assistant manager Md Abu Yusuf, a BFF member, will lead the Bangladesh soccer team which leaves today for Japan to participate in their 1994 World Cup Asian Zone F first leg qualifying matches to be held from April 8 to 18.

Chief de mission A H Mofazzal Karim, Additional Secretary in-charge of the Ministry of Textiles, who is also a senior vice-president of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), will leave tomorrow while the manager Sheikh Akmal Hossain, the BFF secretary, will join the team on April 9.

Bangladesh, grouped along with hosts Japan, the United Arab Emirates — who will host the return leg-matches from April 28 to May 7, — Thailand and Sri Lanka, will start their campaign by playing against favourites Japan on April 11.

They will play Sri Lanka on April 13 and then meet the UAE on April 15 while their final match is against Thailand on April 18.

Kazi Salahuddin, the star striker of yesteryears, is the coach of the squad while Abdus Salam is his deputy. Zakaria Pintu, former national defender and Dr Omar Faruk will accompany the team as observer and physio respectively.

Kaiser Hamid, the lanky defender of Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club, has been elected the skipper of the team.

Following is the full national squad: Md Sayeed Hossain Kanon, Md Ponir, Md Mohsin, Kaiser Hamid (capt), Md Arif Hossain Moon, Md Ataur Rahman Khan, Md Jewel Rana, Masud Rana, Pijush Nandy, Rezaul Karim Rehan; Syed Rumman bin-Wali Shabbir, Md Arman, Md Zakir Hossain, A K M Saiful Bari Tito, Satyajit Das Rupu; Md Rumi Rizvi Karim, Md Golam Ghaus, Mamun Hossain Joarder, Intiaz Ahmed Naquib; Rakib Hossain, Md Alamgir and Barun Bikash Dewan.

Golam Rabbani Hicla, a BFF member and Abahani Krira Chakra official, will be touring with the national squad on his own expenses.

Other persons, who will join the team at a later date at their own expenses are the BFF joint secretary Khairul Anwar Pearu, Md Ferdous and Eaqaytur Rahman — the last being two BFF members.

Japan will bear the entire expenditure of the national squad including their travel expenses.

### Obituary

**Sports Reporter**

Rahima Begum, mother of Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club official and a member of the Dhaka Metropolis Clubs' Association (DMCA) Fazlur Rahman Babul, died last Thursday at a city clinic.

She was suffering from cancer and kidney diseases.

President and Secretary of the DMCA — S A Sultan and Khairul Anwar Pearu respectively — in a press release expressed their deep shock at her sudden death and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.



Hanif Mohammad, the Pakistani cricket legend who scored the highest individual score in a first-class game, unveils a plaque in memory of his unbroken record of 499 runs in 1959 in Karachi on April 2. The plaque was installed at the Karachi Parsi Institute ground where he set the record. — AFP photo

## BSWA announces 1992 awards

**Sports Reporter**

Fastest man of the country Golam Ambia of Bangladesh Army has been elected the best sportsman for the year 1992 by the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) yesterday.

He will receive the S A Mohsin memorial trophy for his brilliant contribution in the field of athletics.

Ambia, the fleet-footed sprinter, also received the Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association's award last year for his performances in 1991.

Twelve other players and sports personalities of the country will also receive the BSWA awards.

Rizvi Karim Rumi, the national striker of league champions Abahani Krira Chakra, has been adjudged the best footballer of the year while national batsman burly Akram Khan, also of Abahani, has been a joint secretary of Mohammedan Sporting Club.

Referee, umpire and judges: Md Latifur Rahman Khan (boxing) and Md Asghar (cricket); Bata Shoe Co (Bangladesh) Ltd will receive the award for sponsoring sports in the country.

The prize-giving ceremony will be held later this year, possibly in September.

## Independence Day hockey tourney begins today

**Sports Reporter**

Wari Club take on Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha in the inaugural match of the 1993 Independence Day hockey tournament today at 3:30 pm at the Dhaka Hockey Stadium.

Fakrul Islam, a veteran player of the country, will inaugurate the meet as chief guest.

Sixteen teams including 15 First Division league sides split into two groups will participate in the knockout tourney. They are re-igning First Division league champions Mohammedan Sporting Club, Usha Krira Chakra, Dhaka Ansars, Dhaka Wanderers Club, Bachelors Sporting Club, Sonali Bank and Bangladesh Navy in Group A and last year's league runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra, Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club, Wari Club, Sadharan Bima, Bangladesh Sporting Club, Police Sporting Club, Azad Sporting Club and Bangladesh Railway in Group B.

Mohammedan Sporting Club will play their first match against Sonali Bank tomorrow while Abahani will start their campaign by taking on Bangladesh Railway on April 6.

The two semifinals will be held on April 12 and 13 while the final is scheduled for April 15.

Hanif, who made his unbroken record of 499 runs on January 11, 1959 in a domestic season match against Bahawalpur at the KPI ground, unveiled a plaque in memory of his innings.

The ceremony was part of centenary celebrations by the KPI which is one of the oldest cricket grounds in the sub-continent.

Hanif, 59, also holds the record for longest innings of 16 hours and 10 minutes when he scored 337 runs against the West Indies in the first Test at the Kensington Oval in 1958, the highest score any Pakistani has made in a Test match.

Having qualified for every World Cup from 1950-1970 Mexico seem like the best bet. But Canadian coach Bob Lenarduzzi likes his team's chances too, believing it can repeat its 1986 moment of glory when it qualified for Mexico.

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But the first one goes to the United States as host and the possible third requires the second-place team from the final round of qualifying to play two additional series — against the Oceania region winner and, if successful, a team from South America. Only if it wins both series does it go to the dance.

As the traditional power in the region, Mexico begin the final league-play round, which ends May 9, as the favourite. Let by aging superstar Hugo Sanchez, Mexico face El Salvador at noon (1800 GMT) in San Salvador.

Canada travels to Tegucigalpa to play Honduras in Sunday's other match. Coming from the relatively

small region of CONCACAF, the qualifier that joins the United States will get a small bit of the honour that goes with being host and probably a little more attention than normal.

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In the other semifinal in Johannesburg, Eastern Province beat Transvaal by eight wickets with one ball to spare to leave the sides facing a play-off today for the other place in the final.

Winners of the title for the past two years, Eastern Province turned the tables on Transvaal after losing to them by eight wickets in their first semifinal on Wednesday.

South African captain Kepler Wessels top-scored with 56 to guide Eastern Province to victory after Transvaal had made 173 for eight.

## Pakistan 244/6 at Georgetown

**Sports Reporter**

The West Indies, needing 245 for victory, were 49 for one after 17 overs in the fifth and final one day limited-over international against Pakistan at Georgetown, Guyana, according to live Star TV telecast monitored in Dhaka late last night.

Earlier, the world champions had made 244 for the loss of six wickets in 50 overs after their skipper Wasim Akram, having won the toss for the first time in the series elected to bat.

Pakistan were given a flying start when their opening pair of Rameez Raja and Amir Sohail rattled off 50 runs in only seven overs. The two were especially harsh on Phil Simmons, who had a wonderful time Down Under with the ball early this year, taking 20 runs off the two overs that he bowled.

The pair was broken when left-handed Sohail, going for a wild shot at a Curtly Ambrose lifter which might have gone over his shoulders, only skied the ball and the gangling West Indian pacesman had no difficulty in taking the easy catch. Sohail made 33.

Rameez followed him ten runs later with the score on 76 when he mistimed a slower Carl Hooper delivery to give the bowler a return catch. Rameez made 26.

Javed Miandad made only two when Anderson Cummins fooled him with a slower delivery to trap him leg before.

With Pakistan somewhat precariously placed at 85 for three Inzamamul Iluq and Basit Ali joined forces and the two youngsters pulled their team back on track with a 103-run partnership off 128 balls. Inzamam went first for 53, victim of a dubious leg before decision off Walsh. Basit Ali followed him almost immediately after miscuing a Courtney Walsh bouncer only to give Junior Murray, the wicketkeeper, an easy catch.

Wasim Akram and Rashid Latif stepped up the run rate with some fine slogging and when Rashid went to the last ball of the innings the Pakistan score read 244 for six. The Pak skipper remained not out on 39. There were 18 extras.

Walsh was the most successful West Indian bowler claiming two wickets for 48 runs while Ambrose, Cummins and Bishop, the most expensive of the bowlers conceding 62 off his ten overs, took one wicket apiece.

Hanif honoured

KARACHI, Apr 3: Pakistani cricket great Hanif Mohammad, the holder of the highest individual score in a first class cricket game and Pakistan's top Test score, was honoured by the Karachi Parsi Institute (KPI) here Friday, reports AFP.

Hanif, who made his unbroken record of 499 runs on January 11, 1959 in a domestic season match against Bahawalpur at the KPI ground, unveiled a plaque in memory of his innings.

The ceremony was part of centenary celebrations by the KPI which is one of the oldest cricket grounds in the sub-continent.

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## Fresh drugs scandal hits Italian soccer Canniggia fails dope test



CLAUDIO CANNIGGIA

ROME, Apr 3: Italian football was bracing itself for a new drugs scandal on Friday following reports that an AS Roma player had failed a test, reports AFP.

The Rome club have admitted that one of its players tested positive following the March 21 match against Napoli which ended in a 1-1 draw.

Argentinian striker Claudio Canniggia and German Thomas Hassler were the two Roma players asked to give samples. Press reports named Canniggia, 25, as having failed, but Roma refused to comment.

"AS Roma was informed by the Italian Football Federation that one of its players had failed drugs test," said a Roma spokesman. "We are now waiting for the results of secondary testing taking place over the next few days."

The result of the B test are expected next Monday.

Italian press reports said traces of cocaine were found in Canniggia's urine sample.

In 1991, Canniggia's international teammate Diego Maradona was also suspended for cocaine abuse while playing for Napoli.

In 1990, striker Andrea Carnevale and goalkeeper Roberto Peruzzi, who has since joined Juventus, were both banned for one year after failing drug tests while playing for Roma.

Following a positive result, Canniggia would be required to appear before a disciplinary commission, and would be

banned immediately from international competition. Maradona was banned for 15 months.

The drugs charge adds to the growing crisis at Roma. Club president Giuseppe Ciarrapico was arrested last month in connection with the

corruption scandal sweeping Italian political and business life.

The AS Roma president suffered a heart attack after his arrest.

VAN BASTEN DELAYED

Meanwhile, another message from Milan says: Dutch international striker Marco van Basten has again put back his return to Italian league duty with AC Milan because of his troublesome ankle.

Club doctors said Friday that Van Basten, who has postponed two other dates for playing again, will now resume against AS Roma on May 16.

After an operation on his right ankle on December 21, the 28-year-old goalscorer had been hoping to face Gothenburg in the European Champions Cup on April 7.

That was changed to a league game against Juventus on April 18 and there were fears that Van Basten might not play again this season after he went to Antwerp for a check up this week.

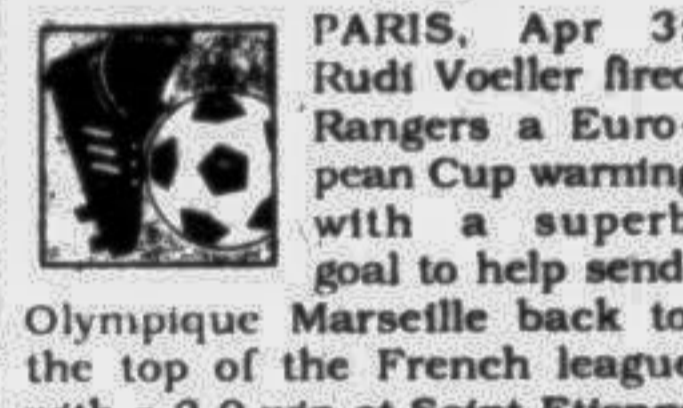
Sports injury specialist Professor Marc Martens said Van Basten could aggravate the injury if he rushes the return and ordered an extra month's rest.

"My colleague has done some good, worked hard and he does not need another operation. Van Basten must simply slow his rehabilitation programme. He must be careful after such a long lay-off," said the Antwerp specialist.

Van Basten returned to Milan on Thursday night in a private jet belonging to club president Silvio Berlusconi who has already said that the Dutchman's absence has been felt in the first team.

AC Milan had a 58 game unbeaten streak ended two weeks ago and went out of the Italian Cup this week. French striker Jean-Pierre Papin has refused to take any more penalties after missing a spot kick in the Cup game against Roma.

## Rangers, beware of Voeller



RUDI VOELLER

PARIS, Apr 3: Rudi Voeller fired Rangers a European Cup warning with a superb goal to help send Olympique Marseille back to the top of the French league with a 2-0 win at Saint Etienne on Friday, reports AFP.

The veteran German striker's 22-yard half volley, struck with the outside of the foot, broke the deadlock against the tight "Greens" defence 18 minutes from the end.

Marcel Desailly thundered in a first time shot from 15 yards in the 80th minute to round off an efficient performance by the French champions as they prepare for Wednesday's crunch with Rangers. The match will decide which of the two teams go forward to the Champions Cup final.

Saint Etienne hadn't lost for 14 matches before Friday. "Some of the players clearly had the match on Wednesday in mind and didn't play as well as they could have," said coach Raymond Goethals.

"But we've won our two difficult away matches, here and at Nantes and it is a huge step towards the title.

The win put Marseille two points clear as rivals Monaco crashed to a 3-0 defeat at Strasbourg.

A double from Algerian Ali Bouafia after Jacky Paillard had put Strasbourg ahead on the hour mark ensured an unhappy return for coach Arsene

Wenger to his native Alsace and the club he graced as a player.

"Just because you know people doesn't mean you know how to beat them," he remarked.

Bordeaux kept up their campaign for a championship triumph in their first year back in the top flight with a 1-0 win over Sochaux that kept them in third, a point behind Monaco.

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## Mexicans start as favourites

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, Apr 3: What started as the most convoluted procedure in World Cup qualifying gets down to its final stage and four teams Sunday to find out which one nation will "share" the honour of host at next year's championship, reports AP.

Mexico, Canada, Honduras and El Salvador are still in the

running for CONCACAF's lone berth for the 24-team World Cup finals in 1994. They were whittled down from a field of 22 hopefuls after a year of qualifying already that included preliminary rounds, byes and series of other seeding procedures to protect the big countries.

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