

Sport

From Bangkok with nothing

Sports Reporter
The Commonwealth Cricket Club (CCC) of Bangladesh lost to Volvo of Pakistan by 20 runs in the quarterfinals of the Cup finals of the ninth Royal Bangkok Club six-a-side cricket tournament which concluded on April 4 in the Thai capital, returning local players who participated in the tourney told reporters in Dhaka yesterday.

Mercantile Cricket Association of Sri Lanka, finished as the champions beating Pakistani Volvo in the final.

Three teams from Bangladesh — CCC, Bangladesh Biman and Dhaka Club — competed in the four-day tourney which began on April 1.

Thirty-two teams from six countries of the world in eight groups participated in the competition with the top two clubs from each group playing in the Cup championship.

Apart from CCC, Bangladesh Biman, the national airlines team also qualified for the Cup finals but lost in their first match.

The third-fininishers from each of the eight groups played in the Plate finals while the eight bottom-fininishers found themselves in the bowl finals where Dhaka Club — all losers in the meet — played.

The Mercantile Cricket Association of Sri Lanka was led by the Lankan Test captain Arjuna Ranatunga. Other Test cricketers in the squad were Aravinda de Silva, Sanath Jayasuriya and Muralidharan.

Two former Pakistani Test cricketers — Mansur Akhter and Tauseef Ahmed — played for Volvo, the runners-up.

Sachin Tendulkar, Vinod Kambl, Sandeep Patil, Salil Ankola, Kirti Azad and Chetan Sharma were some of the stars who played for Indian clubs.

According to Roquibul Hassan, the former national skipper and now a national selector who played for Dhaka Club, among the local players the Biman skipper all-rounder Enamul Haq Mont gave a good account of himself.

All the three local teams returned home Monday.

Pioneer super league from today

Sports Reporter
The 1993 Janata Bank Pioneer soccer super league begins today with K R Boys playing against Shatalad Sangha at the Outer Stadium.

Ten teams, split into two groups, are taking part in the round robin league. The group champions will earn promotion to next year's Third Division league.

Chinese coaches for spikers

Sports Reporter
Two Chinese coaches will arrive in the city next Friday to conduct the ongoing volleyball training camp for the sixth SAF Games to be held in the city next December, a senior official of the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation told The Daily Star yesterday.

They will take over from the local coaches soon after their arrival.

The male coach He Chenquan and female coach Li Jinying will train the primarily selected men and women spikers respectively.

The first phase coaching camp with 31 men and as many women got underway on April 3 at the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan in Savar and Bangladesh Women Sports Complex in Dhanmondi.

The National Sports Council, the governing body of the country's sports, will bear all expenses of the Chinese coaches.

Pyjama perks up passions

Sports Reporter

Scintillating hitting by Sharfuddinul Haque and Shahed Saikat perked up passions in last night's pyjama exhibition between the touring Karachi Airport Gymkhana Club and the Navana Eleven, but Saidul Anam Efeef's feeble hit off the last ball of the match caused a rather galling implosion of euphoric feelings among the local supporters as the two teams were dead-set at the same score and the authori-

ties of some indispensable senior cricketers rather than forcing the selectors by virtue of astonishing statistical achievement in the recently concluded domestic season, was yesterday instrumental in restricting the visitors' total to 249. Without his three wickets that helped arrest the climbing run rate, the Pakistani club would have taken their total in the vicinity of three hundred.

A 173-run partnership between Kaiser Rashid and Test veteran Rizwanuzzaman laid



KAISER RASHID ... m-o-m-ties, after some unnecessary deliberations, called it a tie.

Poor consolation for the large crowd, the biggest at the Dhaka Stadium since the start of the five-match exhibition one-day series, three of which were played at the venue.

The tourists, who had earlier won their four previous matches — all closely contested — thus completed their ten-day tour to Bangladesh with an exciting tie in the last match, a day-night encounter.

A brilliant hundred by opener Kaiser Rashid, adjudged man-of-the-match later by adjudicator Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, the former Bangladesh captain, powered Gymkhana Airport to an impressive total of 249 for six wickets from the stipulated quota of 45 overs as stand-in skipper Zafar Ahmed decided to bat first on a lifeless wicket after winning the toss.

Kaiser scored exactly hundred off 110 balls with the help of eight powerful boundaries before a brilliant catch at long on by Al-Shahriar Rokon off Efeef.

Rokon, the lanky, young BKP product who impressed all with his positive batting against the tourists throughout the one-day series, yesterday displayed his potential as a useful leg break bowler.

The Uddy player who made it to the national level more because of the non-availability



SAIKAT ... lusty hitting the foundation for a mind boggling total. Rizwan was stumped off Rokon for 76.

Said Riaz accelerated the tempo plundering 16 runs of Rokon's seventh and last over with a pulled sixer over mid wicket and with skipper Zafar chipping in with a useful 25 not out, alongside Riaz's 27, the tourists finished on 249 for six.

Rokon was the most successful of the local bowlers with a haul of three for 47. Efeef was the only other bowler to meet any success, taking one for 49.

On a wicket that for want of better words could be dubbed as a sleeping beauty, a target of 250 never looked unreachable for the local lads provided they kept their cool.

After Jahangir Alam and Harun-Ur Rashid Liton had given a fairly good start by putting on 64 runs for the first wicket in 14.2 overs, the middle-order caved in for lack of proper planning and the most important factor in any kind of contest — the killer instinct — the desire to dominate.

Liton played a cowshot to be bowled for 25 and a stupid stuper on Jahangir's part led to a sad dismissal of Navana skipper Faruque Ahmed who was just beginning to open up his shoulders when the run out took place.

Rokon's cheap dismissal

was followed by Jahangir's fall for 26 and at 87 for four the Bangladesh selection looked to have handed over the initiative to the struggling Pak club.

But splendid batting by Aminul Islam Bulbul and the tall Athar Ali returned a gem of hope for the local fans. After a long spell of drought with the bat Athar shaped well, making good use of his long reach and feet against the spinners.

His dismissal for 18 was a big blow for the local team but Bulbul, in tandem with young Naimur Rahman Durjoy, carried on gamely before a brilliant catch by substitute Zulfiqar at deep backward square ended his 52-ball innings of 51 runs, including four hits to the fence. Zulfiqar ran some 18 yards to his left from long leg to take a tumbling catch.

Just when the sizeable crowd was dispersing having given up all hopes of a victory celebration in a hot summer night under the floodlights, Jahangir Talukdar Dulu and Saikat set the stands ablaze with some unorthodox but highly effective hitting.

Dulu, who once lost his bat while attempting on almighty heave at Aamer Hanif, was bowled by the same bowler for a perky 24 off 27 balls, leaving the onus on the young spaulders of Saikat, if any ultra-patriot bothered till then to think of some last moment magic.

But the young left-arm spinner, who has never been fancied for his batting abilities, started a terrific assault on the outwitted Pakistani bowlers. His astonishing hitting left the local team with eleven runs to go from the last over with just one wicket in hand, A disastrous straight-hit past the bowler left Efeef with just two runs to go off the last ball for a dramatic win. But Efeef's desperate hit brought just one run off the last ball and the crescendo was turned into a death-like silence all around.

Navana Eleven managed 249 for nine wickets, leaving the Pakistani club as the technical winners, but later the result was deemed a tie.

Rizwan, Shahabuddin and Nisar took two wickets each for Gymkhana.

A BCCB announcer relied on his own gumption to announce the visitors as winners but the authorities declared it a tie, much to the delight of the crestfallen crowd.

Kaiser Rashid received a cash of Taka 2000 with the man-of-the-match award.

Abahani off to winning start

Sports Reporter

The 1992 First Division hockey league runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra made an impressive start when they outplayed Bangladesh Railway by three goals to nil in the Independence Day Cup hockey tournament at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Favourites Abahani led 1-0 at half time.

Veteran defender Jumman Lusal sounded the board for Abahani in the ninth minute by converting a penalty corner (1-0).

Alamgir Alam doubled the margin in the 62nd minute with a field goal (2-0).

Soon after this goal Aminul Islam concluded the tally for the winners in a similar fashion (3-0).

Abahani forced half a dozen penalty corners against a solitary one managed by Bangladesh Railway.

Abahani will play Bangladesh Police in the Group B semifinals on April 10.

Bangladesh Navy rallied well to edge past Dhaka Ansars by two goals to one in the other match of the day.

The winners trailed 0-1 at the breather.

Masud Rana took Ansars ahead in the 19th minute with a field goal.

Manik drew level for Navy in the 48th minute while Farhad scored the decider in the 51st minute (2-1).

Navy will play the winners of tomorrow's match between the reigning First Division league champions Mohammedan Sporting Club and Sonali Bank in a Group A semifinal on April 11.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Ajax SC vs Wanderers Club (2:30 pm)

Mariner Youngs vs Azad SC (4:00 pm)

Rameez regains form in time



GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Apr 6: Pakistan opener Rameez Raja hit from ahead of the forthcoming Test series against West Indies with his first half-century of the tour on Monday, reports Reuter.

Rameez made a solid 75 while Inzamam-ul-Haq hammered 84 to lead the touring team to 255 for eight declared on the first day of the three-day match against West Indies President's XI.

The President's side lost openers Dawnley Joseph and Stuart Williams Cheaply in the final 30 minutes and were struggling on 23 for two at the close.

Joseph was bowled by Aaqib Javed for four in the third over of the innings and Williams was caught by Aatur-Rehman off left-arm spinner Nadeem Khan for 11.

Rameez, leading the Pakistanis while captain Wasim Akram and vice-captain Waqar Younis were both rested, put on 65 for the second-wicket with Asif Mujtaba before both fell to occasional leg-spinner Shivanarine Chanderpaul.

Mujtaba (23) drove straight to Jimmy Adams in the covers while Rameez, whose previous tour best was 46 in the opening game against Jamaica, was caught at point. He batted for 186 minutes, faced 117 balls and hit 12 fours and a six.

Inzamam carried the attack to the President's bowlers in a fifth-wicket stand of 113 with

Basit Ali (32) before he was stumped by Ridley Jacobs off



RAMEEZ RAJA ... 75 Chanderpaul who ended with four for 68.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the three-day cricket match between West Indies President's XI and Pakistan on Monday.

PAKISTAN: First innings Rameez Raja c Barry

b Chanderpaul	75
Shakeel Ahmad c Jacobs	4
b Cummins	4
Asif Mujtaba c Adams	23
b Chanderpaul	23
Zahid Fazal c Jacobs	8
b Cummins	8
Basit Ali c Jacobs	32
b Chanderpaul	84
Inzamam-ul-Haq st Jacobs	84
b Chanderpaul	8
Moin Khan lbw b Benjamin	8
Nadeem Khan b Benjamin	0
Ataur Rehman not out	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-2, nb-14)	21
Total: (8 wks declared)	255
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-83, 3-126, 4-126, 5-239, 6-252, 7-252, 8-255.	
Did not bat: Amir Nazir, Aaqib Javed	
Bowling: O M R W	
Benjamin	15 1 41 2
Cummins	15 2 48 2
Browne	6 2 28 0
Ofsson	10 0 47 0
Chanderpaul	18.5 4 68 4
Adams	5 1 18 0

PRESIDENT'S XI: First innings

D Joseph b Aaqib	4
S Williams c Rehman	11
Nadeem	11
R Holder not out	6
K Arthurton not out	0
Extras: (b-1, nb-1)	2
Total: (2 wickets)	25
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-23	
To bat: J Adams, S Chanderpaul, R Jacobs, B Browne, K Benjamin, A Cummins, O Ofsson	
Bowling: O M R W	
Aaqib Javed	3 0 12 1
Amir Nazir	2 0 10 0
Nadeem Khan	1 1 0 1
Asif Mujtaba	1 1 0 0

Shabbir's ton for Manikganj

Sports Reporter

A breezy century from Shabbir powered Manikganj to a convincing 140-run victory over Gopalganj in the Group B zone tie of the ongoing 19th Gold Leaf national cricket championship at the Mymensingh Stadium yesterday.

Shabbir remained unbeaten on exactly 100 made from 105 deliveries as Manikganj, batting first, amassed a massive 238 for the loss of eight wickets from their stipulated 45 overs.

Tapan with 30 and Swapan with 23 were the other notable scorers for Manikganj.

Rakib claimed three Manikganj wickets for 37 while Utpal took two for 52.

In reply, Gopalganj were bundled out for a poor 98 in 34.5 overs with Biplab, Liton and Rakib scoring 17, 11 and 10 respectively.

Shudev, Dipak, and Babu even shared six wickets among them for Manikganj.

Six other teams qualified for their respective zonal semifinals yesterday. They were former champions Dhaka University, Kushtia, Madaripur, Bagerhat, Dinajpur and Narsingdi.

At the Jessore Stadium,

Kushtia trounced Strajganj by 157 runs in a Group C match.

Batting first, Kushtia were all out for 228 in 43.1 overs with Ripon making 51, Cornel 43, Jewel 23 and Babu 21.

Nannu with four wickets for 23 was the most successful of the Strajganj bowlers while Kafi chipped in with three for 45.

Strajganj were shot out for a paltry 71 in 23.5 overs.

Mamun made 13 and Ujjal and Kafi 11 each for Strajganj.

Marshall bagged three wickets for 27 while Kallol and Jewel took two apiece for Kushtia.

Madaripur registered an emphatic eight-wicket victory against Thakurgaon at the Jhenidah Stadium in a Group D encounter.

Thakurgaon, batting first, were dismissed for 130 in 40 overs with Mamun scoring 26, Kulu 24 and Biplab 21.

Mujib claimed three scalps for 34 and Talha and Asad took two wickets each for Madaripur.

Madaripur were home and dry making 132 for the loss of two wickets with Mujib and Azam remaining unconquered on 52 and 41 respectively.

Kamal and Partha took a wicket apiece for Thakurgaon. At the Khulna Stadium,

Bagerhat recorded another eight-wicket victory over Patuakhali in their Group E quarter-final.

Patuakhali, making first use of the pitch, were all out for a meagre 101 in 32.5 overs.

Momtaz topscored with 27 and Liton made 22.

Rupu claimed four wickets for 14, Rakhi took three for 20 while Mahfuz got two conceding 16 runs.

Bagerhat cruised past their opponents' total making 102 in 22 overs with eight wickets in hand.

Manik and Rupu remained unbeaten on 32 and 20 respectively while Sujon got 19.

Kabir and Momtaz took a wicket apiece.

At Sylhet, Narsingdi beat Comilla by 20 runs in a Group A game.

The details of the match were not available in Dhaka last night.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium former champions Dhaka University received a walkover against the Islamic University in the Services zone while Dinajpur got another walkover against Sherpur at the Thakurgaon stadium in the other two matches of the day.

Prize giving ceremony held

Sports Reporter
The prize giving ceremony of the recently concluded Suncrest Second Division handball league was held at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.

Old Ideals received the championship trophy while the runners-up award went to Progoti Boys Club.

State Minister for Textiles Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan, who is also the chief advisor of the Bangladesh Handball Federation, gave away the prizes as chief guest.

An exhibition match was held after the ceremony. Old Ideal won the match by beating Progoti Boys 8-7.

Kambli, Kumble — so alike, so unlike



NEW DELHI, Apr 6: A streetfighter and a bespectacled mechanical engineer with the air of a bookworm have been the architects of India's sensational success in Test cricket this year, reports Reuter.

Vinod Kambli and Anil Kumble saw India to some crushing victories over England and Zimbabwe in recent Tests. But they have little in common besides rhyming surnames.

The 21-year-old Kambli still lives in the Bombay ghetto where he fought in the streets and grew up in a cramped two-room tenement with his parents and three younger brothers.

The bespectacled Kumble, a year older and hailing from an upper middle class family in Bangalore, became a mechanical engineer last year. He resembles a scholar who drifted out to a cricket field by mistake.

Yet Kambli and Kumble reigned supreme in the spectacular home victories over England and Zimbabwe.

Kambli, a flamboyant left-hander, emerged from the shadow of his illustrious childhood friend Sachin Tendulkar to join the immortal Don Bradman and Wally Hammond as the only batsmen to score double centuries in successive Test innings.

His 224 in the Bombay Test against England and 227 versus Zimbabwe in New Delhi last month came during a golden streak that fetched the attractive strokeplayer a remarkable 544 runs from his first five Test innings.

Leg-spinner Kumble, who struggled to capture 14 wickets in his first six Tests, grabbed 29 in his next four on home wickets tailor-made for spin to lead India's remarkable cricketing revival.

The pair's stirring display helped captain Mohammad Azharuddin enforce the follow on in all three Tests against England and the one-off Test against Zimbabwe.

The dream season did not come easily, however, to Kumble and Kambli who struggled early in their careers to come to grips with the grind of international cricket.

Kumble was dumped after an unsuccessful tour of England in 1990 and was confined to the backwaters till a 12-wicket haul in a trial match in Delhi last September. That earned a place on the tour of Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Kambli paid for showing more interest in off-field activities, including visits to night clubs during the last World Cup, and was ignored for the African safari.

But a string of high scores in domestic cricket and Sanjay

"That century in Jaipur was a major leap forward," said the curly haired Kambli, nicknamed Desi by teammates after his idol, West Indian opener Desmond Haynes.

"I now look at Test innings in terms of 50s, taking a new guard after each milestone. But I was myself surprised at batting for 10 hours in Bombay for my first three-figure knock in Tests."

There are natural comparisons with his best friend Tendulkar, who hit world headlines four years before Kambli did, despite coach Ramakant Achrekar's assertion that the left-hander was the more talented of the two.

"I was willing to use the staircase while Sachin took the elevator up," said Kambli. "I hope now I will be known as Vinod Kambli and not just as Sachin Tendulkar's batting partner."

But Kumble dismisses any comparisons with the redoubtable Bhagwat Chandrasekar, star of the famed Indian spin quartet of the 70s, who hails from his home town Bangalore.

"It's not a fair comparison, Chandra had nearly 250 Test wickets while I've just begun. Besides, our bowling styles are a lot different."

Chandra's polio-stricken right arm whipped up vicious leg breaks and googlies at an astonishing pace. Kumble, on the other hand, is essentially a top spinner.

"I don't turn the ball much," says Kumble, who switched from a medium-pace chucker to leg-spin on his brother's advice. "The key lies in maintaining a good length and line. Never give the batsmen room to hit."

Vinod, it's your life and only you can take control of it," recalls Kambli. "Those words woke me up."

"I now realise my responsibility towards my family and friends. That's why everyone is seeing a new me, a change hopefully for the better."

The softspoken Kumble, on the other hand, hides his emotions well, but beneath the cool exterior lies a fierce will to succeed.

"I want to be known as a match winner, because nothing gives me greater pleasure than making a substantial contribution to the team's success," said Kumble, voted the man-of-the-series against England for a 21-wicket haul.

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Action from yesterday's Independence Day hockey tournament match between Bangladesh Navy and Dhaka Ansars at the Hockey Stadium. Navy won 2-1.

— Star photo