Nat'l cricket final round from today

Sports Reporter

The ten-team final round of the 19th Gold Leaf national cricket championship begins today at two city venues.

Defending champions Chittagong take on the Khulna Zonal champions lessore at the Dhaka Stadium, while last year's runners up Sylhet play the Thakurgaon zonal champions Rajshahi at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

The other teams in the knockout meet are Kushtia, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Narayanganj and Bangladesh Biman and Dhaka University-the last two being the Services zone champions and runners-up respectively.

The two-day semifinals will be held on April 17 and 18 st multaneously at the Dhaka Stadium and Dhanmondi Stadium.

The final, to be plyed over three days, will begin on April 20 at the Dhaka Stadium.

Two matches have been scheduled for tomorrow. At the Dhaka Stadium former champions Dhaka University will face Mymensingh while Bangladesh Biman will meet Faridpur at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

BSWA meet

ends Sports Reporter

Naquib Ahmed Madvi, SB Chowdhury Shishir and Kamrunnahar Dana won double crowns in the indoor sports championships of the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) which concluded yesterday, says a press release.

Following are the results of the indoor sports competition: Carrom (singles): Shishir (champ), Mohiuddin Pintu (runner-up); Carrom (doubles): Manzur Milky and Shishir (champions) and Kazi Alam Babu and Mohiuddin Palash (runners-up); Badminton (singles) Kamrunnahar Dana (champion) and Mohiuddin Pintu (runner-up); Badminton (doubles): Dana and Dulal Mahmud (champs) and Mostafa Kamal and Pintu (runners-up); Table tennis (singles): Madvi (champ) and Utpal Shuvra (runners-up); Table tennis (doubles): Madvi and Utpal Shuvra (champs) and Pintu and Anwarullah (runners-up); Chess: Pintu (champ), Tohabin Hug (runner-up).

The prize giving ceremony will be held on April 16 at 4:00 pm at the National Sports Council conference room.

Schools kabaddi from Apr 16

Sports Reporter

The fourth schools kabaddi championship under the auspices of the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation (BKF) will start from April 16 at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court, says a press release.

Twenty city schools in four groups will participate in the robin league with the group champions and runners-up moving into the quarterfinals.

The teams are Maniknagar Primary School, Gandaria High School, Notre Dame High School, KL Jubilee School and College, Haider Ali High School, Bangladesh Rifles High School, CA Staff Welfare High School, Dholairpar High School, Ramkrishna Mission School, Bangladesh Rifles Public School and College Dipshikha Primary School Kamalapur High School Motijheel Govt High School, Wari High School, Segun Bagicha High School, Maniknagar Junior High School, Motifheel Model High School, Dhaka Residential Model School and Bangladesh Ansars and VDP School.

Secretary in-charge of the Youth and Sports Ministry M Azizul Hug, who is also the BKF president, will inaugurate the tourney as chief guest.

Pioneer soccer Sports Reporter

Mirrar Sports, Physical and Cultural Centre edged past Motifheel T&T Club by a solitary goal in the Janata Bank Pioneer football league at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Md Babul scored the decider in the 26th minute of the first half.

Soon after the match the players and officials of Motijheel T&T Club manhandled referee Ibrahim Nasar and his associates.

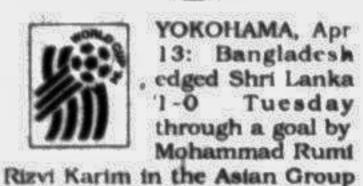
Chess coaching

Sports Reporter

A year-long cricket and chess coaching programme will begin at the end of this month in the city, says a press release.

Interested players have been asked to contact the Mouchak Biponi Bitan on Raja Srinath Street, Lalbagh.

Bangladesh edge Shri Lanka



F first leg qualifying meet for the 1994 soccer World Cup, reports AP. Playing at the Mitsuzawa Stadium in Yokohama, near Tokyo, Mohammad Rumt

scored in the 69th minute from a pass by Mohammad Ataur Rahman Khan, who dribbled close to the goal.

In scoring their first victory against one defeat, Bangladesh outshot Shri Lanka 11-7.

Shri Lanka are winless in their three games so far in the preliminary qualifying round.

"We are happy for the victory," said Bangladesh head coach K M Salahuddin. "We need more training. I am sure Bangladesh will become a strong team in the future."

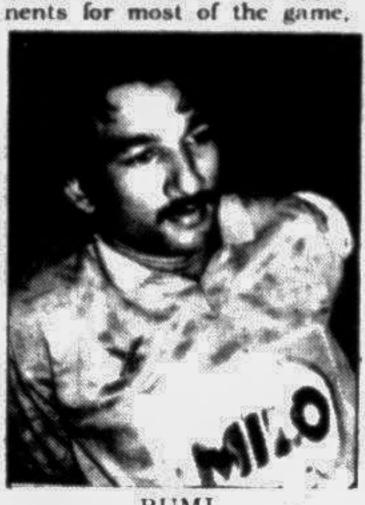
Shri Lankan head coach Jeorge Ferreira said his young team also needed more work.

"We are participating in this tournament partly to gain experience in international games. Bangladesh were better than we were in technique,"

In the other match of the day at Tokyo's National Stadium Abdulrazaq Ibrahim al Balooshi scored the only goal to beat Thailand bringing the

second straight win. The Emirates, winners over Shri Lanka 4-0 on Thursday. overwhelmed their Thai oppo-

United Arab Emirates their



RUMI

at goal. But goalie Vacharapong

Someit kept the Emirates at-

outgunning 16-2 in their shots

tacks at bay saving all the mid-

dle and long shots hit at him. With only four minutes left, the 23-year-old midfielder finally broke through the Thai defence to flick in the decider.

"Japan scored eight goals out of 16 shots against Bangladesh, but our team was inefficient today, we must adjust our passes and shots near the goal," said Emirates' coach Antoni Piechniczek of Poland.

"Now we have two wins, anyway, It'll be exciting to play against Japan on the 18th." After three days of compe-

tition, Japan have a 2-0 winloss record, Thatland 1-2, Shri Lanka 0-3 and Bangladesh 1-1 On Thursday, Japan will

play Shri Lanka at the National Stadium, while the Emirates will take on Bangladesh at the Mitsuzawa Stadium in Yokohama. STANDINGS

Stancings after Tuesday s games in Asian Group F qualify ing matches for the 1994 soc cer World Cup

Team	CP	W	D	L	Œ	GA	Pts
Japan	2	2	0	0	9	0	4
UAE	2	2	0	0	5	0	4
Thatland	3	1	0	2	1	2	2
Bangladesh	2	1	0	1	1	8	2
Shri Lanka		0	0	3	0	6	0

Mohammedans' new year sans joy

Sports Reporter

The only notable feature of

the day as far as the game is

concerned was goal-keeping of

the two custodians with



Usha Krira Chakra earned themsclves a lummy gift for the Bengali new year

when they forced Mohammedan Sporting Club, one of the two most popular clubs of the sporting arena, out of the Independence Day

'Chaitra' did nothing to relax the taut nerves of the players of both sides and good, entertaining hockey was non-exis-

Rabi committed a nasty tackle on Chapal that left the national player unfit for the rest of the match. Rabi, who received a yellow

card from the umpire, was again in the thick of action when he tried another cynical charge on Nixon but last second res raint still left Zahid



Litu of Mohammedans watches anxiously as Kismat of Usha weaves his way through in yesterday's semifinal encounter of the Independence Day hockey tournament at the Hockey Stadium. Usha beat MSC 4-1 in tie-breaker. - Star photo

shock 4-1 defeat in tie-breaker on the eve of the Bengali new year at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Bolstered by the presence of some good players - including a couple who played for Mohammedans last year -Usha held their fancied opponents to a goalless draw in the stipulated time and then with a heady mixture of some superlative saves by their goalkeeper Tushar Kanti Haldar and effective marksmanship won the second semifinal to confirm a final showdown with Abahani Karira Chakra for the

title on April 15, Thursday. Expectations of a fascinating semifinal encounter took a tumble as spectators with the penchant for trouble indulged in brick-batting in a very nondescript match that had very little to offer other than some sporadic incidents of frayed temper and interruption.

The sultry, energy-sapping afternoon of the last day of

lines and the Bangladesh

organised to mark the Bangla

new year 1400 and the 1993

seven groups — three for men,

two for women and one each

for boys and girls under-14

years of age - will start simul-

taneously at 6:30 am from two

city points and end at the

south plaza of the Jatiya

Sangsad Bhaban in Sher-e-

start from the Zia International

Airport while the other races

will begin from the Army

veterans (above 45 yrs), men

under-45, male athletes and

players, women (open cate-

gory), women athletes and

players, boys under-14 and

five groups will receive Dhaka-

Hongkong-Dhaka air tickets

while the runners-up will go

The champions in the first

The men's marathons will

The seven groups are men's

Independence Day.

Bangla Nagar.

Stadium at Banani.

girls under -14 years.

The marathon will be

Mini-marathon races in

Amateur Athletic Federation.

The Biman mini-

marathon will be

held on April 23

under the joint

Bangladesh Air-

acgis of Biman

hockey tournament with a outpacing his counterpart in with a stain of potential bruise. the last lap with some athletic saves during the tie-break

Usha drew the first blood of a thoroughly scrappy match when Kamal feed former Mohammedan player Kismat down the middle but Mantu. the Mohammedan custodian rushed out in time to block the

Mohammedan players had no answer to the rough tactics of Usha for whom Rabi, a former Mohammedan player became the cynosure of all eyes for his ugly, cynical off-the-ball

'go's at the opponents. After a dreary, first half, Mohammedans tried to make things hum with veteran Barkatullah Chapal unmistakably in the role of the initiator. The wiry left winger accelerated down the left flank in the second minute after the breather and sent in a neat cross but Zahid Biswas failed to beat an advancing Tuesday.

Tension mounted when

The incident led to a walkout by the Mohammedan play ers who left the field at the beckon of their officials, but good sense prevailed and after a lapse of eleven minutes the match resumed again.

With neither side failing to rob the match of its vexatiously virgin character, the match crawled into tie breaker. Sadek gave Usha the lead

when he converted the first penalty stroke and his name sake, in the Mohammedan outfit, national player restored parity.

But while Mitu, Mitul and Jamal of Usha kept on sounding the board Alam and Zahid of Mohammedans were frustrated by a brilliant Tushar Kanti Haldar, the Usha custo-

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka is expected to watch tomorrow's final as chief guest.

Biman mini-marathon on Apr 23 Sports Reporter

home with Dhaka-Bangkok-Dhaka tickets. The third-place winners will get Dhaka-Kathmundu-Delhi tickets.

The champions in the juvenile groups will be awarded prize bonds worth Tk 2500 while the runners-up and third placed finishers will receive bonds worth Tk 2000 and Tk 1250 respectively.

Talking to the press at the National Sports Council yesterday General Manager (Public Relations) of the national airlines Raisuddin Ahmed said that Biman had taken up the programme in the belief that it would boost the preparation of our athletes for the sixth SAF Games due to be held in the city next December.

Apart from the air tickets Biman will spend about one lakh taka for successful holding of the races, Raisuddin, who is also a vice president of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, informed the journal-

Raisuddin hoped the races would create sporting awareness among the people of our country.

President of Biman's sports committee Lt Col Shahriar

Ahmed Chowdhury said that

the races would prove the national airlines' growing interest in the development of the country's sports.

In case the races fell through owing to inclement weather on April 23 the programme would be staged on April 30.

Interested participants including foreigners have been advised to complete the registration formalities by April 20 with the following persons: Raisuddin Ahmed, Farukul Islam, Director, NSC; secretary of the Bangladesh Amateur Athletic Federation (BAAF); officer in-charge (sales), Bangladesh Biman, Hotel Sonargaon and, Zahir Ahmed, Chief Trainer, Biman Training Centre, Zia International Airport.

Zahir Ahmed and the BAAF secretary also spoke on the

Army b'ball ends

RANGPUR, Apr 13 : The Anti-Aircraft Artillery team won the Army basketball championship which concluded at the Rangpur Cantonment yesterday, reports

BCCP welcomes Grenada's decision

KARACHI, Apr 13: Pakistani cricket officials have welcomed the decision by Gren-adan authorities to drop drugs charges against four Pakistani players, reports AFP.

"It has vindicated Pakistan's point of view that our boys had committed no such offence, said Shahid Rafi, secretary of the Board for Control of Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP). here today. "We are naturally very happy

that the charges have been dropped before the players had to appear in the court," he Pakistan team captain Wasim Akram, his deputy Waqar

Younis, Aaqib Javed and spi-

nner Mushtag Ahmed were charged with "constructive possession" of marijuana last Thursday. Officials here said the cricketers had been framed and threatened to call off Pakistan's tour of the West

The incident, had upset cricketing circles and we are looking into modalities to repair the damage done by it," said Raft

"It will require tremendous effort on the part of the team management and players to shrug it off before the commencement of first Test."

Rafi was highly critical of colonel John Stephenson, secretary of the International Cricket Council (ICC), for his "unwarranted and partisan" comments on the affair.

Stephenson reportedly said: If the four were found guilty they should be suspended and sent back."

"If they are guilty, we must persuade Pakistan management to take action and if they don't, we'll stamp our feet and lay it on the line."

Angered by Stephenson's remarks, Rafi said it amounted to taking over the role of the prosecution. "We have not forgotten the

ICC's attitude in the ball doctoring controversy against Pakistani pace bowlers," Rafi said, adding, "This is not cricket."

Pakistani cricket circles here believe that the ICC's atti tude was influenced by Pakistan, India and Shri Lanka's successful bid to stage the next World Cup.

Khoka rewards coach Jhantu

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka yesterday lauded the rare courage of Dhanmandi Club's football coach Ali Yakub Jhantu who risked his life to grab fleeing Fazlur Rahman Tonmoy, the alleged killer of industrialist Humayun Zahir in the city last Thursday, reports BSS.

The State Minister, in a message, said that Ali Yakub Jhantu's bravery would serve as an example to resist terrorism in the society. He said this incident had once again reaffirmed the commitment of people related with sports towards society.

Sadek Hossain Khoka, on behalf of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, announced an award of Taka 25 thousand for Ali Yakub for his bravery.

Ctg PDB sports meet begins

CHITTAGONG, Apr 13: The two-day long 22nd annual sports meet of Chittagong Power Development Board Recreation Club began at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Minister for Energy Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain inaugurated the meet as chief

guest. Dr Mosharraf in his inaugural speech urged the PDB employees and officers to take more interest in sports and games to keep the body and mind healthy. He also called upon them to discharge their responsibilities with sportsman's spirit and help increase PDB's revenue earnings and reduce system loss.

About 250 participants including 50 women are participating in the meet.

Sohail was the main destroyer, finishing with figures of five for 50 in 19 overs as the under-23 side collapsed after a quickfire opening partnership of 67 between Robert Samuels (49) and Philo Wallace (23).

SCOREBOARD

Monday

Muttaba 102). WEST INDIES UNDER-23

Khan 4-211 PAKISTAN: Second innings

Aamir Sohail c Griffith B Cuffy Zahid Fazal run out Rashid Latif lbw b Drakes Wasim Akram lbw b Drakes Shakeel Ahmed c Eugene h Cuffy Wagar Younts b

Extras: (lb-6, B-1, W-1, nb-14) Total: (for 7 wickets, declared) Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-67,

Bowling Drakes Anthony Chanderpaul 15 West Indies Under 23: Second

P. Wallace lbw b Mushtag R. Samuels c Rehman b Mushtag

Scoreboard on the final day of the three-day cricket match between a West Indies under-23 side and Pakistan on

PAKISTAN: First innings 284-2 declared (Shakeel Ahmed 132 not out, Astf

XI: First innings 184 (Nadeem

(overnight 178-6)

Chanderpaul Asif Mujtaba b Rose Nadeem Khan not out Ataur Rahman not out

3-68, 4-118; 5-166; 6-176; 7-

J. Eugene b Mushtaq A. Griffith c Shakeel b Nadeem S. Chanderpaul c Fazal b Sohail H. Waldron b Sohatl C. Browne b Sohatl H. Anthony b Sohati

23

20

MUSHTAQ ... 6-2-7-3

Rose c and b Sohatl C. Cuffy not out Extras: (b4, lb-4) Total:

Case against Pak players dropped



ST GEORGE'S. Apr 13: Grenada has dropped a marijuana-posscssion case against four Pakistani cricketers a day before their

scheduled court appearance, freeing them to continue their Caribbean tour, the team manager said on Monday, reports Reuter. The drug case had been

brought against the four play-

ers, two British women

tourists, and a local Grenadian

who were arrested after about eight suspected marijuana cigarettes were found near them on a beach one night last week They ultimately decided to drop the charges," team manager Khalid Mahmood, elated both by the prosecutor's deci-

told Reuters by telephone from

According to the Caribbean News Agency, state-run Radio Grenada quoted public prosecutor Keith Friday as saying he had reviewed the evidence and decided to discontinue the case against all seven defendants "for the time being." Friday was not available for

saying the case had been dropped permanently. The court appearance had been scheduled for today, placing the Pakistanis' Caribbean tour in doubt.

Pakistan, playing the final

The tour has been regarded

as the ultimate test to find the

further comment. But Manager

Mahmood quoted from a doc-

ument given to him by Friday.

warm-up in Grenada before this week's first Test against side in a three-day match that ended on Monday. sion and by his team's victory,

West Indies in Trinidad, defeated a West Indies Under-23

the West Indies have been long regarded as the most powerful five-day Test team in the world. The drugs were found on beach furniture the players had

top cricket team in the world.

world one-day champions, but

been sitting on at the Grand

Anse beach resort. One of their

The Pakistani team is the

lawyers suggested a possible frame-up. "It was flimsy grounds. They were found on the beach," Mahmood said. "There was no evidence, no witnesses, and it

was pitch darkness." Arrested and charged were team captain Wasim Akrana vice-captain Wagar Younis, the Pakistan's leading strike bowler, Aaqib Javed, a paceman, and leg spinner Mushtaq Ahmed. They had been released on bail.

"Every body is very relieved," said Mahmood.

Controversy dogs 'em always



his hotel.

LONDON, Apr 13: As inevitably as night follows day, controversy stalks the Pakistan cricket team,

writes Reuter. Monday's decision by the Grenada authorities to drop a marijuana possession charge against skipper Wasim Akram and three of his teammates was greeted with a huge sigh of relief throughout the

Caribbean. Pakistan meet West Indies at Port-of-Spain on Thursday in the first of a three-Test series between the world's two strongest sides.

Until Monday the future of the tour was in jeopardy after Akram, vice-captain Wagar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed and Aagib Javed were arrested after police said "they had been in the vicinity of some smoked drugs." Pakistan's last tour of the Caribbean in 1987-88 provided some riveting cricket during a drawn series, but it was marred by an unsavory incident in the third Test in

Bridgetown. At the height of a gripping match, leg-spinner Abdul Qadir became involved with a 21-year-old spectator, Albert

After a verbal exchange,

Qadir threw a punch Auguste, hitting him on the

The Pakistani later received

summons from the police but the matter was decided out of court for a settlement of 1,000 and Auguste did not press charges.

There have also been incidents involving Australia and New Zealand- most notably a confrontation between Australia's Dennis Lillee and Javed Miandad which ended with Lillee kicking the Pakistani - but the real acrimony has been reserved for matches between Pakistan and England.

In 1982 Pakistan captain Imran Khan blamed the umpiring for his side's narrow defeat in a three-Test series and during their successful tour five years later relations between the two sides quickly deteriorated when England manager Micky Stewart queried the number of substitutes used by the tourists.

Imran was quick to respond. "We get slagged of and called chats and I object to that," he said.

Pak:stan manager Haseeb Ahsan added: "We've been labelled as cheats.

A smouldering fuse had been laid which was to result

in an explosion six months later when England visited Pakistan in an ill-conceived tour shortly before the 1987 World Cup.

During the first Test England opener Chris Broad refused to accept a caught behind decision and more than a minute elapsed before his opening partner Graham Gooch could persuade him to

leave the pitch. Then on the second day of the following Test in Faisalabad, England captain Mike Catting had a shouting match with umpire Shakoor Rana in one of the nastiest incidents in international

cricket. Shakoor accused Gatting of moving a fielder without informing the batsman and the England captain responded furiously in a finger-waving row.

A day's play was lost when

Shakoor refused to take the

field unless he received an apology and Gatting declined to apologise unless the umpire reciprocated. Finally Gatting was ordered to apologise by the English

less than gracious note. Pakistan were back in England last year and again the tourists hit the frontpages after allegations of ball tamper-

authorities, which he did in a

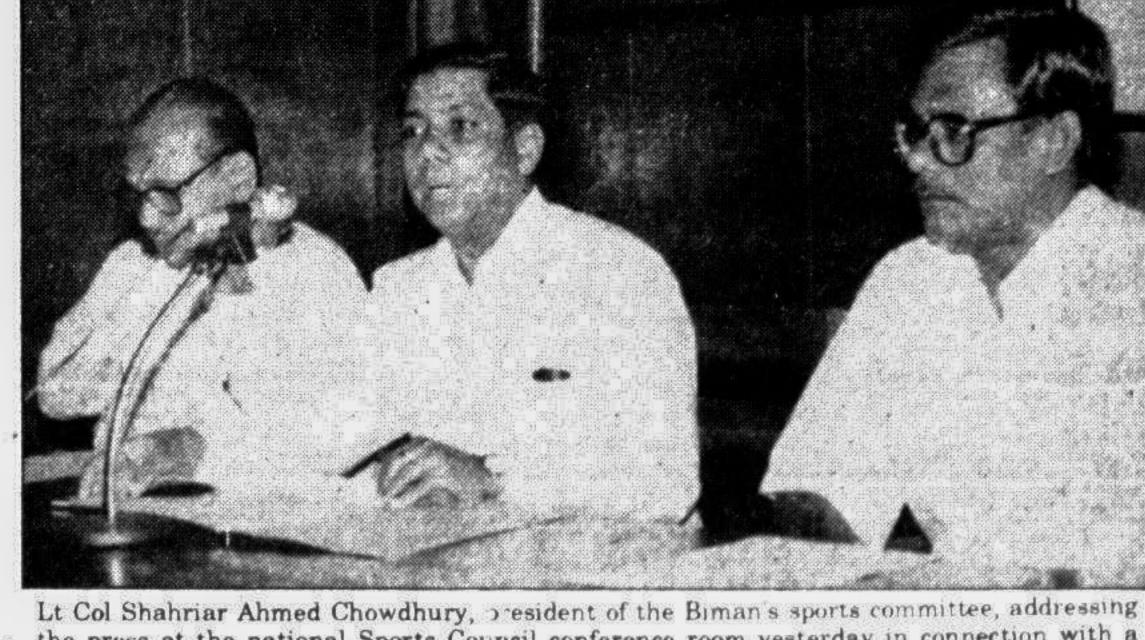
During the fourth one-day international at Lord's, the ball was changed by match referee Derryck Murray, the former West Indies wicket-keeper and vice-captain. Murray refused to say why

the ball had been changed but England batsman Allan Lamb told a tabloid newspaper: "They gouge the damaged ball with their nails, then smear the surface to fool the umptre." Nothing was resolved one way or the other but the bit-

terness remains. The English believe Pakistan are guilty of sharp practices while the Pakistanis are convinced they are the victims of cultural and religious arrogance.

Swimming record SHEFFIELD, England, Apr

13: American Jeff Rouse set a men's 100 metres backstroke short-course world record with a time of 51.43 seconds at an international swimming meeting on Monday, reports Reuter.



the press at the national Sports Council conference room yesterday in connection with a - Star photo Biman mini-marathon to be held in the city on April 23.

A moral booster for Pakistan

ST GEORGE'S. Grenada, Apr 13: Pakistan gained a psychological boost ahead of the

first Test with a 111-run win over a West Indies under-23 side on the final day of their three-day match on Monday, reports Reuter.



AAMIR SOHAIL... 5 for 50 had called on the Pakistan squad to concentrate on the cricket and forget the charges of possessing marijuana levelled at Akram, fellow fast bowlers Wagar Younis and Aaqib Javed and spinner Mushtaq Ahmed.

The Pakistan team responded in convincing style. Declaring their second innings at 221-7 to set the young West Indians 322 to win, they bowled out the home side for 210 with Mushtaq taking the top three wickets for only

seven runs in six overs. Left-arm spinner Aamir

innings

V. Drakes run out

'Fall of wickets: 1-67; 2-72; 3-81; 4-82; 5-86; 6-139; 7-166: 8-169: 9-189

Rehman Mushtag Sohati Nadeem Younis Pakistan won by 111 runs.