

Pakistan due January 22

Sports Reporter
World Cup champions Pakistan will play two one-day matches against Bangladesh national cricket team on January 23 and 24 at the Dhaka Stadium...

Hero Cup semis, final live on Prime Sports

STAR TV will telecast live the semifinals and final of the Hero Cup cricket tournament. The first semifinal between South Africa and India will be shown today (Wednesday) and the second one between the West Indies and Sri Lanka tomorrow (Thursday)...

Brothers still in the lead

Sports Reporter
Brothers Union kept their all-time record intact in the First Division chess league when they beat Genesis Chess Club by a convincing 3.5-0.5 margin...

Div II soccer

Sports Reporter
Saiful struck twice to ensure Police's 3-1 win over Avijatrik Malibagh in the Sonali Bank Second Division football league at the hockey stadium yesterday...

Div III soccer

Sports Reporter
Gandaria Famous and Fire & Service CDSC won their respective matches in the Pragati Insurance Third Division football league while the other match ended in a 0-0 draw...

Chelsea's dubious distinction

LONDON, Nov 23: Chelsea avoided equalling their worst losing run of seven straight defeats — but there was still little to cheer as they scraped 0-0 home draw against Manchester City in their Premier league clash on Monday, reports Reuter...

Gulshan bring Biman down

Bangladesh Biman crashed at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. After three narrow squeaks in this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league, the former champions suffered their first loss to Gulshan Youth who repeated their giant-killing act to beat the airlines team by 23 runs in a pulsating contest.

Sports Reporter
After make-shift opener Ahmed Fayaz Shaheen was run out for six, Biman received the most decisive blow when Indian KP Bhaskar left in an identical fashion with no addition to their score of 13.



FALLEN CREW BESIDE THE DEBRIS: Depressed cricketers of Bangladesh Biman brood over the posthumous 'ifs' and 'buts' after their side suffered first loss of this year's Navana Premier Division league by 23 runs to Gulshan Youth at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Biman, who till yesterday morning enjoyed the distinction of being one of the three unbeaten teams in the fray other than Mohammedans and reigning champions Abahani, left the field as one of the beaten tens.

players, stroked in vain to probe gaps in the field. An ominous future loomed large when Biman lost their third wicket with the score on 42 in the 23rd over. Shanu played 51 balls for 18 before being adjudged leg before to Abu Hamid Piyal.

Enamul Huq Moni gave a customary demonstration of his wicket-taking ability, picking three for 35 among the six Biman bowlers. Azhar, Rafiq also took a wicket apiece but opening bowler Mizanur Rahman Babul clung to his economic disposition giving away 33 runs for one wicket from his quota of nine overs.

It all started from their fifth match. They were tied on the same score with lowly Dhanmondi but won the match for having lost fewer wickets. Then they overcame Brothers by eight runs in an anybody's game and finally they made heavy weather of an inadequate Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) challenge but managed a two-wicket win in a tense match on Sunday last.

Skipper Moni cracked 20 off as many balls including a sixer but swung across the line to be leg before to left arm spinner Asif. Jahangir Talukdar Dulu chipped in with 17 and Indian Anil Wilson became left arm spinner Shamsul's first of the three victims of the afternoon for a duck as pressure mounted on the Biman batsmen.

Effective bowling by Shri Lankan Karman and Sharat brought Wari back on the winning tracks again as the middle-ingers recorded a huge seven-wicket win over hapless Udit Club in the other Navana tie of the day at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Sarat and Karman took four wickets apiece giving away eight and 15 runs respectively as Udit were all out for 94 in 39.3 overs.

Eight move into masters' singles 2nd round

Eight players moved into the second round in the singles of the masters' leg in the Gold Leaf ITF Thailand-Bangladesh Satellite Circuit at the National Tennis Complex in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

They were: Richard Nicholas of Australia, Mark Tija of the United States, Jonathan Rom of South Africa, Tom Spinks of Great Britain, Richard Rubio of Spain, Cedric Meiot of Belgium, Garry Henderson of Great Britain, Glen Wilson of New Zealand. Richard Nicholas of Australia beat Allan Larsen of Denmark 6-1, 7-6 (7-4) to reach the second round.

The South African, Rom, overcame Vinod Ramchandaran of India 7-5, 6-3; Tom Spinks of Great Britain eliminated Almos Toth of Hungary 6-3, 7-5. Richard Rubio of Spain trounced James Davidson of Britain 6-1, 6-2; Belgian Cedric Meiot outplayed Mathias Boelsen of Germany 6-1, 6-1; Garry Henderson defeated Japan's Hiroki Ishii 6-3, 6-2 and Glen Wilson of New Zealand won 6-2, 6-4, against Sebastian.

Calcutta becomes 'city of joy'

CALCUTTA, Nov 23: Sports-crazy residents of this city of 12 million are all excited about Wednesday's clash between South Africa and India that will decide who qualify for the final of the five-nation limited-over cricket championship, reports AP.

The South Africans are no strangers to the 300-year-old city. It was here that they broke their 22-years of cricket isolation at the first one-day official cricket match against India in 1991.

Special 'cricket trains' will run on the days of the matches. The authorities are bringing in more buses from neighbouring areas to ferry spectators to the stadium and back, more tram cars will run on the match days and the hand-pulled rickshaws will be allowed on more roads.

India have two advantages: They won the last of the league matches against South Africa in Chandigarh by 43 runs on Monday, they have the support of the home crowd which often smuggles in firecrackers to create a din.

The city knows how to enjoy a sports event, said Jagmohan Dalmia, the top organiser of the tournament, which is being held to commemorate the diamond jubilee of the founding of the Cricket Association of Bengal.

Hosts India and South Africa play on Wednesday in the first semifinal, also in Calcutta. The final on Saturday also will be played in the metropolis, the capital of West Bengal state.

Managing Director of Bangladesh Tobacco Company Malcolm Fry, vice president and other officials of Bangladesh Tennis Federation were present.

Association of Bengal, which is celebrating its diamond jubilee this year. Zimbabwe, the fifth team in the tournament, was knocked out in the league stages.

ITF plans new Davis Cup format

LONDON, Nov 23: The Davis Cup men's tennis competition could become a round-robin event under changes being considered by its organisers, the International Tennis Federation (ITF), reports Reuter.

ITA irked by Krishnan, Paes

BOMBAY, Nov 23: Top Indian tennis players Ramesh Krishnan and Leander Paes are doubtful starters for the first round Davis Cup tie against the United States to be played either here or in New Delhi in March, reports AFP.

ahead of the Chandigarh semifinal against Australia and eventually wrangle two million rupees each. They want the same amount to play in March.

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"He could hardly stretch or bend," Desai said. "In spite of his physical condition if the captain and the player decided to play, the reasons are for anybody to guess."

morocco, Japan take 'em all

CHIBA, Nov 23: Morocco won the men's race and Japan captured the women's title Tuesday in the fifth International Chiba Ekiden, a relay marathon, reports AP.

Big surplus for Wimbledon

LONDON, Nov 23: The 1993 Wimbledon tennis championships made a profit of 16.4 million pounds (dhs 24.2 million), reports AP.

It was Morocco's first victory in the annual race. Britain came in third with 2:03:19, followed by Japan at 2:03:33 and New Zealand at 2:03:48.

Galatasaray aim to repeat act

LONDON, Nov 23: A humiliating home defeat bodes ill for Spanish giants Barcelona as they prepare for their trip to Turkish giant Galatasaray in Wednesday's opening salvo of the European Champions league, reports Reuter.

Taylor-bashing continues

LONDON, Nov 23: Graham Taylor was criticised on Monday by the English FA's director of coaching for his failure to steer England into next year's World Cup finals, reports Reuter.

Gerasch in big trouble

BONN, Nov 23: German swimmer Sylvia Gerasch, who won a gold medal at this month's European sprint swimming championships, has tested positive for the stimulant caffeine and faces a possible two-year ban from the sport, reports Reuter.



Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman being introduced to the players of the masters' leg of the Gold Leaf ITF Thailand-Bangladesh Satellite Circuit tennis tournament which began at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.