

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, said a Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) press release issued yesterday.

The Pakistan national cricket team will arrive in Dhaka on January 22 on their way to New Zealand. After a two-day stay here during which they will take on the local selections as a part of Bangladesh's preparation for the forthcoming ICC Trophy to be held in Kenya February, next year, the visitors will leave Dhaka on January 25.

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). The final takes place on Saturday. All matches begin at 3 pm (local time), says a press release.

Brothers still in the lead

Sports Reporter
Brothers Union kept their all-won record intact in the First Division chess league when they beat Genius Chess Club by a convincing 3.5-0.5 margin at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

Brothers' Indian International Master (IM) Shekhar Chandra Sahu, Hanif and Anwar won in their respective games while their Pakistani teammate IM Mahmud Lodhi drew with Genius Aminul.

Yesterday's results take Brothers' collection to 17.5 points from five rounds.

Bangladesh Biman, meanwhile, stayed two points behind Brothers after scoring a similar margin victory over PONY Electronic's with IM Zia, FIDE Master Tahmid and Reza outmaneuvering their opponents. Tanima drew with Arif.

Konika won 3-1 against Golden Chess Club to stay in the race with 13.5 points.

In the other matches, Bangladesh Ansars defeated Potuakhali District Chess Club 4-0, Narayanganj Chess Club beat Farashgonj SC 4-0, Mohakhali Pradip Sangha outplayed Parijat Chess Club 4-0 and BTMC drew with Chalanika Kira Chakra 2-2.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka University chess team led 2-1 against Nour-e-Alam Khan Chess Club when the report was filed.

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.

Emdadul scored the other goal for winner.

Zia reduced the margin.

In the other match, held at the same venue, Jurain Janata Club played to a goalless draw with BJMC.

Div III soccer

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

A 62nd minute goal from Farhad in helped Gandaria Famous beat Purbachal Sangsad 1-0.

Fire service and CDSC had a similar margin victory over East Bengal with Rafiqul scoring the match-winner.

Dhaka Sporting Club and Chalanika split points in their goalless encounter.

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.

They rescued a point only because City were hardly any better in a lacklustre game in front of 10,128 Stamford Bridge fans, the lowest home attendance for nearly two years.

City were indebted to goalkeeper Tony Coton for denying Chelsea the few goalscoring chances they manufactured.

But the Manchester Club, desperately striving to emerge from the shadow of league leaders and City neighbours United, missed the best opportunity of the night.

In the end, neither side deserved to win. Probably both deserved to lose.

Gulshan bring Biman down

Sports Reporter
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.



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.

The strong bidders of the most adored domestic competition's title had only themselves to blame for the debacle that finally overwhelmed them after an alarmingly long spell of cat and mouse game between win and defeat.

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.

Yesterday Biman were all out for 153 in 42.5 overs after having been set a winning target of 177 in 45 overs.

Three of their top order batsmen were run out to make the eventual list of running casualty four. On a tricky wicket that demanded sensible batting, Biman middle order batsmen swung across the line to hit their way out of trouble and three fell leg before to the Gulshan bowlers who bowled impeccable line to augment Biman's miseries.

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.

How much Biman depended or started leaning on this powerful Indian batsman began to dawn on as soon as opener Jahangir and Shah Nawaz Shaheed Shanu, both national

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.

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 batsman.

Jahangir Alam did more harm to his side than any good with 54 made over an extravagantly long time, killing 113 balls in the process and the writing was on the wall when he finally departed with Biman precariously placed at 136 for seven in the 38th over.

Left handed Rafiq hit a sixer which had the smack of desperation, something like Roger Binny's swept sixer off Tauseef in the sensational Bangalore Test in 1987 which Pakistan won by 16 runs to take home first series win on Indian soil.

Piyal duly caught Biman's last man Azhar off Shamsul to usher in the inevitable in 42.5 overs — Biman's first loss this season, by 23 runs.

Earlier in the morning, Gul-

shan made a capital of 176 for six wickets from their quota of 45 overs after Biman skipper asked them to make the first use of the wicket on winning the toss.

Young opener Sajid Hassan's patient 50 off 111 balls was the cornerstone of their innings.

Former Indian Test player Arun Lal made 39 but his compatriot Ashok Malhotra came

up with the most vital contribution making a quick, timely 27 off 30 balls including a sixer.

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.

WARI WIN

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.

Chapal defied the odds with a brave 42 followed by skipper Munir who made 15.

Young Opi led Wari's victory charge with an unbeaten 38 off 43 balls. Mukul chipped in with 21 as the other notable scorer as Wari posted 97 for three wickets in 24.4 overs.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Mohammedans vs GMCC (Dhaka Stadium)
Surja Tarun vs Kalabagan (Mirpur, Pallabi)

Eight move into masters' singles 2nd round

Eight players moved into the second round in the singles of the masters' leg of 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, Yonathan Rom of South Africa, Tom Spinks of Great Britain, Richard Rubio of Spain, Cedric Melot 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. In the second round he will play top-seeded Frank Ofori of Ghana.

Tija of the United States was declared the winner against Thomas Anderson of Denmark as the latter retired in the second set. Anderson was trailing 1-6, 0-1 at the time. Tija will next play Adam Skrypczak of Poland.

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 Melot 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.

All the eight second round matches will be held today.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman formally inaugurated the masters' tournament.

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

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.

A round-robin competition would give participating countries more notice of fixtures and guarantee everyone at least one hope tie a year, the ITF said on Monday.

The federation is canvassing World Group countries to see if there is support for the proposal, which will be discussed at a seminar during this year's Duesseldorf final between Germany and Australia from December 3-5.

"Round-robin formats certainly have tremendous benefits," said ITF general manager Mike Davies. They reduce the number of dead Sunday ties and make planning and promotion better for players, organisers, sponsors and television.

Under the present knockout format, he choice of venue when two countries meet is awarded to whichever side played away in the previous encounter between the two. If the two nations have never played each other, the venue is decided by lot.

"You often don't know, when you play your first-round match, if you are going to be home or away for your second-round match because it depends on the result of another tie," ITF spokesman Ian Barnes said.

An ITF Planning Committee had suggested the round-robin format to give participating countries more notice of ties and more chance to market them, he said.

Each country would play at least three ties a year with the dates and opponents known at the beginning of the year.

After December's seminar, the proposal will go to the ITF's annual meeting in Hong Kong next September. No changes were likely to be introduced before 1996, Barnes said.

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.

Charles Hughes, who defended his own much criticised role in the national game, said: "Positive thinking and single-mindedness of purpose is the hallmark of international management. International managers have to make their minds up."

"If we want to improve our performance at senior international level, apart from technique—which hopefully we're going to do something about. There are two things which could improve our chances."

"The first is to narrow our selection down drastically. An international manager will choose 60 players or so over about 30 games, where at a club they will use 18 to 20 or even less for the same number of games."

"That gives one a certain continuity in the team. The more they play together the slicker they'll be."

Taylor, has used 59 players in his 38 games in charge of the England team, experimenting where Hughes believes he should have chosen fewer players and stuck by them.

Hughes also took Taylor to task for changing his tactics too often.

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.

Galatasaray, conquerors of Manchester United in the European Cup second round, are aiming for another major scalp when Barcelona visit their Ali Sami Yen Stadium where the Turks have been beaten just once in 10 years of European competition.

Barcelona were shaken by Saturday's 1-0 defeat by bottom side Lerida at the Nou Camp, their first home loss for more than two years.

The performance angered coach Johan Cruyff so much that he fined his entire team.

"There attitude was a disaster for professionals like them. All this means that some players will not be here at the end of the season," he said.

The 1992 European champions have been firing hot and cold this season. They just managed to squeeze past Dinamo Kiev in the first round, winning 4-1 at home in the second leg to progress 5-4 on aggregate.

Galatasaray, European Cup semifinalists in 1988-89, are in confident mood after their elimination of the English Champions on away goals in the last round. The players have been offered a string of incentives, including cars, to reach the final.

They were also boosted by victory in the league at the weekend, 2-0 over Altay who beat them twice last season. Galatasaray remain joint top.

German technical director Rainer Hollmann said: "We have respect for Barcelona. But we need not fear anyone—they just play football, after all."

Hollmann also has a score to

settle with the Catalans.

He was assistant to Karl Heinz Feldkamp when Barcelona knocked Germany's Kaiserslautern out of the European Cup on away goals in 1991-92.

"We are a team that is good on the offensive. We are going to win by displaying this against Barcelona," Hollmann said.

"If we are careful we will beat Barcelona and pour the Turkish people on to the streets once more."

In the other Group a match Spartak Moscow visit Monaco, who were one of Galatasaray's scalps in their 1988-89 European campaign.

Spartak, Cup Winners' Cup semifinalists last season, could prove powerful contenders for a place in this season's European Cup semifinals, although their campaign may be derailed — like CSKA Moscow's last season — by the severe Russian winter.

CSKA were forced to play all three home ties in Germany.

In Group B last season's beaten finalists AC Milan, yet to concede a goal in four games, visit Belgian champions Anderlecht who won all four of their earlier games.

Anderlecht will still be without Belgium striker Marc Degryse. Sidelined with a torn calf muscle since mid-September, he has had to delay his return because of a foot problem.

The final game features Porto, who reached the league stages last season, at home to Germany's Werder Bremen, Cup Winners' Cup champions in 1992.

Italian clubs, who have won the UEFA Cup four times in the past five seasons, continue the quest to maintain the country's hold on the trophy.

Holders Juventus, who also won in 1990, are at home to Tenerife, while Internazionale travel to Norwich, second round conquerors of Bayern, and Cagliari go to Belgium's Mechelen.

Germany also have three representatives in the third round, including last season's beaten finalists Borussia Dortmund and Austria from Brondby.

Today, Eintracht Frankfurt are at home to Deportivo Coruna and Karlsruhe travel to Bordeaux.

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.

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.

In the past, authorities had restricted them to the city's inner lanes because some people consider them an eyesore and inhuman practice.

A 5 dollars ticket is selling for 20 dollars in the black market.

"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.

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.

On Monday, South African Foreign Minister R F Botha and his Indian counterpart, Dinesh Singh, signed an agreement establishing diplomatic relations.

But with the cricket honeymoon with the South Africans over and a prize money of 25,000 dollar before them, the Indians are expected to go all out to outplay Kepler Wessels' men.

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.

"We hope to do much better," said Wessels, the 36-year-old all-rounder of the Eastern Province.

The South Africans appear to

have won a lot of admirers in Calcutta. Women in colourful saris garlanded them with marigold and smeared vermilion powder on their foreheads — a good luck send-off to warriors heading for a battle.

"Chandigarh victory is now history, the semifinal is a new chapter, make no mistake there," said Indian captain Mohammed Azharuddin.

"Champagne? Why not? But not now, wait until the final," said Indian manager and former captain Ajit Wadekar as he psyched the Indian team for the city's first day-and-night cricket match.

West Indies and Sri Lanka are the other teams that will battle in the second semifinal Thursday for Saturday's final at the 80,000-seat Eden Garden cricket stadium, named after the sisters of Lord Auckland, a British governor general.

It was at the Eden Garden on the banks of Hooghly River that the British, who ruled India for over 200 years, taught the Indians to play cricket. It has now become the national game of 880 million Indians.

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.

The tournament came under a cloud after the Indian government prevented a London-based television company from airing or recording the matches even though the Cricket Association of Bengal had given it the broadcasting contract.

Relying on a little-used 19th century law, the government denied a satellite linkup to Trans World International, apparently to force the organisers to hire the state-run television, which had lost the contract with a smaller bid.

The dispute was resolved by the Supreme Court, which allowed both companies to broadcast the event. Meanwhile, three matches were played without television coverage.

Earlier, a match scheduled to be held in New Delhi was cancelled following a row between the Cricket Association of Bengal and officials of the stadium. Instead, it was held on Monday at a hurriedly-built stadium in Mohali, 250 kilometers (144 miles) north of New Delhi.

Unheroic account of Hero Cup

NEW DELHI, Nov 23: Shri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga accused India Tuesday of treating his team shabbily at a five-nation cricket tournament, and said he would hesitate to return here on tour, reports AP.

The Cricket Association of Bengal, the tournament hosts, denied the allegations.

Ranatunga's outburst was the latest dent to the Hero Cup tournament, which has been dogged by controversies even before it started on Nov. 7.

The first blow came last month when Pakistan, winners of the 1992 World Cup, withdrew from the limited-overs championship after Hindu fundamentalists in India threatened to disrupt their matches.

Islamic Pakistan and predominantly Hindu India are bitter enemies who have fought three wars in 45 years. Being defeated in cricket or hockey is seen as national disgrace.

India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are scheduled to jointly host the 1996 World Cup.

Although discontent and complaints about local conditions among visiting teams are fairly common during cricket

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.

The duo have so far not accepted the payment terms set by the All India Tennis Association, which has told them to forget about getting any more than has been offered. AITA chief RK Khanna said.

"The terms offered to them were final," Khanna told reporters here Monday. "If both do not show their willingness by February-end, the AITA will go ahead and replace them."

The association has offered the 32-year-old Krishnan 520,000 rupees (17,333 dollars) and the 20-year-old Paes 416,000 rupees (13,866 dollars) to play the tie.

In addition, each can expect to make 150,000 rupees (5,000 dollars) in sponsorship fees.

Khanna said the payment was not negotiable, claiming only France and the United States paid more to their Davis Cup players than India did.

Krishnan and Paes took India to the Cup semifinal this year where they were stopped by Australia. They helped put India back in the elite World Group and scored upset wins over Switzerland and France en route to the last four.

The duo also were involved in a payment row with the AITA

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.

In the men's race, Morocco's five runners covered the 42 kilometers (26 miles) through the streets of Chiba in two hours, one minute, 13 seconds, beating defending champion Ethiopia by 20 seconds.

Ethiopia led from the first leg until the last, when Salah Hissou of Morocco caught Ethiopian runner T C Kelle and surged ahead with about 900 meters before the goal.

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.

The United States was sixth with 2:04.21. The runners included Daniel Green, TI Garguilo, Paul Pilkington, Marc Davis and Micheal Bilyeu.

A total of 18 teams competed in strong winds.

Of the five runners on each team, two runners each run five kilometers and 10 kilometers and one does 12 kilometers on the last leg.

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.

German Swimming Federation (DSV) president Klaus Hentzer said on Monday that high levels of the stimulant had been found in the first doping sample of the former world champion during a test at the November 11-13 championships in Gatershead, England.



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.