

Nat'l squad he ld to a draw in Malaysia

The visiting Bangladesh national football team drew 2-2 with Malaysian state champions Chempaka Laxmi Textiles in their third exhibition match in Malaysia yesterday, according to a message received in Dhaka last night.

The match was locked 1-1 in the first half.

Mamun Joarder scored both goals, one in each half, for the Bangladesh team which is visiting Malaysia as a part of its preparation for the sixth SAF Games.

The Malaysian team scored first in the 26th minute of the match while Mamun Joarder restored parity for Bangladesh in the 40th minute.

Bangladesh went down again in the 13th minute of the second half but Mamun Joarder rescued his team once again with the equaliser 11 minutes later.

Bangladesh team beat Negeri Sembilan state team and Malacca state team, both by three goals to nil in their earlier matches.

Bangladesh will play their fourth and last match on Friday against Malaysian under-23 Olympic team.

SAF Games torch-bearers named

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) yesterday announced the names of six former national sports personalities who will carry the torch of the sixth SAF Games beginning in Dhaka on December 20, reports UNB.

They are: Zakaria Pintoo, Nabi Chowdhury (footballer), Mosharrar Hossain (swimmer), Sufa Khaton, Shamima Sattar Mamo and Nasima Hamid (athletes).

The torch will be brought from the Jatiya Sangsad South Plaza to the Dhaka National Stadium, the venue of the Games opening ceremony.

Meanwhile, 16 journalists from Pakistan are likely to cover the Games.

The mediamen are: Agha Akbar (Daily Nation, Lahore), Imtiaz Ahmad Sipra (News International, Lahore), Sultan A'raf Ali (Nawa-i-Waqt, Lahore), Zahid Masood and Muhammad Yu nosun Khan (Daily Pakistan, Lahore), Muenuddin Hameed (Daily Jang, Lahore), Farhana Ayiz (Pakistan Observer, Rawalpindi), Sarfraz Ali (The Muslim, Rawalpindi), Malik Ashad Aziz (Daily Mashriq, Peshawar), Amjad Aziz Malik (Sun Day Sports, Peshawar), Waheed Khan (News International, Karachi), Zafar Ahmad (Monthly Allrounder, Karachi), S M Naqi (Daily Mashriq, Karachi), and Alauddin Ghauri (Khal-ki-Dunya, Karachi).

Mosazzam Ali Hashmi (APP, Karachi) and S A Bokhari (Daily Nation, Lahore) have also been included as members of the 168 strong Pakistan contingent.

ICC executive arrives Sunday

International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive D L Richard will arrive in Dhaka Sunday from Calcutta on a one-day visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

During his stay in Dhaka, the ICC official will meet BCCB President and Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman and other officials, said a Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) press release yesterday.

Crowe sets his comeback date

WELLINGTON, Nov 24: Injured New Zealand cricket captain Martin Crowe said Wednesday he will make his comeback in Wellington's four-day game with Otago on January 18, reports AFP.

Crowe is recuperating after surgery on Friday which removed tissue from his knee.

There was also a lot of inflammation that was obviously causing me problems when I was running between the wickets.

"The stuff they removed is like little chopped nuts," he said. "It appears I did some damage during my training in preparation for the tour."

Crowe had to quit New Zealand's tour of Australia at the conclusion of the first drawn Test in Perth last week. His captaincy has gone to Ken Rutherford.

Crowe said the need to come home from the tour of Australia was especially frustrating because it was a country he enjoyed touring.

"I was really looking forward to playing the World Series Cup against South Africa."

He cannot even see it on television as the channel carrying it does not have a signal to the Arrowtown district he is staying in.

Mohammedans march on



KAMSAR RASHID

So it seemed when one of the two unbeaten teams left in the fray beat Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) by four wickets in a dull day's cricket of the Navana Premier Division cricket league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

GMCC, who suffered their

second successive defeat following the two-wicket loss to Biman only the other day after an uninterrupted winning spree, since the beginning of the league, set a very anticlimactic pattern in the morning.

For reasons best known to him, GMCC's Indian skipper Raman Lamba decided to try and recapture his batting form against the experienced Mohammedan new-ball attack after winning the toss.

An almost pot-bellied Golam Navshar Prince had Lamba, the highest scorer of the league so far smartly caught by Sri Lankan Athula Samarasekera for six and the fate of a promising match was sealed then and there.

The left-arm paceman, who as a regular member of the national team may have already achieved the distinction of being one of the most capped players of Bangladesh, then removed a rather consistent Javed Omar Belim Golla for a duck.

Morshed, the other left arm in Mohammedans chimed in by accounting for two more batsmen including Indian R P

Singh, who was bowled for a duck and later Athar meant business as usual to take off pressure from the suspect Mohammedan batting line-up.

GMCC's Sanwar, who batted impressively last year, did well to compile an 80-ball 40 as a number six batsman and was largely responsible for the eventual score of 143 for eight from the stipulated 45 overs.

Mahbubur Rahman Selim was the only other GMCC batsman to offer any resistance to the rather relaxed Mohammedan bowlers with a tidy 24.

Mohammedan pace trio of Prince, Morshed and Athar even shared six wickets between themselves.

Mohammedans lost opener Athar and one down Selim Shahed cheaply both going to left-arm seamer Anisur Rahman within the first 13 overs of their innings.

But they rallied round in unspectacular fashion with Sajjad Marisur Shipon and Samarasekera putting on 79 runs in 15.5 overs.

Shipon, the young opener who at last seemed to have grown the habit of getting runs, albeit, slowly, topscored with 40 off 98 balls before becoming the second victim of Sharfuddin Saikat.

The young left-arm spinner had earlier lured Samarasekera out of the crease to have the tall batsman stumped for 26. Looking awfully short of motivation and application, the former Sri Lankan Test cricketer played 51 balls and hit just one four during his sojourn at the wicket.

Skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul departed for 20 to cause a few butterflies flutter in the stomach of the fans but wicket-keeper Khaled Masud Pilot with an unbeaten 14 made light work of an inadequate challenge as Mohammedans were home and dry in 44.2 overs with the score showing 148 for six.

Anis finished with two for 21 followed by Saikat who gave away five runs more for his two wickets from the full quota of nine overs.

KALABAGAN'S FIRST

Former India international Sanjeev Sharma's all round excellence went in vain as Kalabagan, riding high on some powerful batting by Pakistani Kaisar Rashid, recorded their first win in this year's Navana league at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

UN mini Olympics begins tomorrow

A two-day United Nations mini-Olympics, organised by the Federation of UN-State Associations (FUNSA) Bangladesh, begins in Dhaka tomorrow, a UNIC press release said, reports BSS.

The Olympics will start with a five-km walkathon/marathon from Manik Mia Avenue to Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex at 7.30 am.

Information Minister Barrister Najmul Huda will inaugurate the two-day programme.

On Saturday the members of the UN family and their dependents will take part in different sports events at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex. UN resident coordinator will later distribute medals among the winners at the closer ceremony to be held on the same day.

Div II soccer

Sports Reporter Prantik Krita Chakra drew with Badda Jagoroni Sangsad 0-0 in yesterday's only match in the Sonali Bank Second Division football league.

School-Madrassah sports from Jan 11

Sports Reporter The 23rd national school and madrassah sports competition will begin from January 11, 1994, according to a National School and Madrassah Sports Association press release.

Sports Reporter

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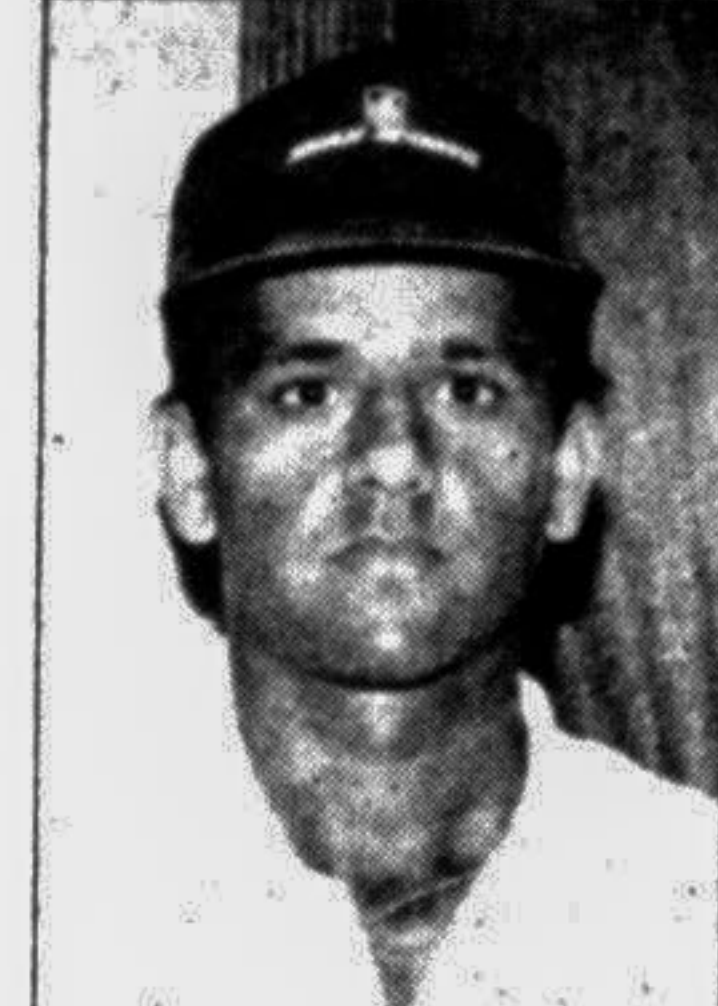
Former India international Sanjeev Sharma's all round excellence went in vain as Kalabagan, riding high on some powerful batting by Pakistani Kaisar Rashid, recorded their first win in this year's Navana league at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Kalabagan beat Tarun by 30 runs to efface Sharma's solo resistance underlined in a superb innings of unbeaten 54 off as many balls that contained three fours and two sixers.

Chasing 186 for a win Tarun were all out for 155 in 40.3 overs with opener Monti, who made a gritty 30 showing any signs of rising to the occasion.

The rest just fell apart as Kalabagan's Dipu, Bobby and Montu took two wickets apiece to drive the nail in Tarun's coffin.

Earlier in the morning,



SANJEEV SHARMA

54 not out. Pakistani Kaisar Rashid, who spent some time in the wilderness trying to find his place in Kalabagan middle order, promoted himself to his regular slot of an opener and made 79 polished runs off 120 balls sending the ball ten times to the fence.

No other Bagan batsman with the lone exception of veteran Hadi who made 27 hung around sufficiently to further add to the total, which showed 185 for nine after 45 overs.

Little Sajal, who has already caught every one's eyes with his ability to generate pace from a small frame like that of his own, claimed three wickets for 40 from nine overs.

Tarun's left-arm spinner Nafees also took three wickets at a cost of 31 runs but from eight overs. It was routine rati on for Sanjeev Sharma who bowled his full quota of nine overs to capture two for 31.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Abahani vs Brothers (Dhaka Stadium)

Victoria vs Dhanmondi (Mirpur Pallabi)

Endless imbroglio

CALCUTTA, Nov 24: The telecasting imbroglio of the five-nation Hero Cup cricket tournament resurfaced on the eve of the semi final between India and South Africa as Doordarshan decided to move to the Calcutta High Court today alleging that they had not been provided prime camera positions at the Eden Gardens, the venue of the match, reports PTI.

In a late night development yesterday, Doordarshan handed out a letter to the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) saying that the camera positions provided to them were not acceptable as they had not been given prime positions as directed by the Calcutta High Court earlier.

The matter would come for hearing before the Division Bench of Justice Bhagwati Prasad Banerjee and Justice Sushanta Chatterjee at 1030 hours today.

A CAB spokesman said that Doordarshan was provided with all facilities they had been utilising at the Eden Gardens since the 1987 Reliance World Cup.

The Doordarshan officials have never expressed any dissatisfaction and have already installed all their cameras and positioned their outdoor broadcasting vans at the stadium. Then how this dispute came up suddenly we do not know, the spokesman added.

Third umpire at Eden Gardens

CALCUTTA, Nov 24: India is to use the third umpire system for the first time when the finals of the five-nations limited overs tournament take place at Eden Gardens, reports Reuter.

The semifinals on Wednesday and Thursday and the final on Saturday of the Cricket Association of Bengal diamond jubilee tournament will see three umpires in use.

The third umpire will be positioned next to the television control room and will have the benefit of replays of run-outs, stumpings and incidents that may require disciplinary action.

A green light will signify that a batsman is out and a red light will mean that he may continue batting.

The third umpire for India's semifinal against South Africa on Wednesday will be Indian SK Bansal.

South Africa's Karl Liebenburg, who has experience in the use of television replays to adjudicate close decisions, will be the third umpire for Thursday's semifinal between West Indies and Sri Lanka.

Zimbabwe failed to reach the semifinals.

Hi-tech umpiring made its Test debut 13 months ago in South Africa's home series against India.

Bracing for bugs

CALCUTTA, Nov 24: To make sure that bugs don't become a bigger menace than bowlers during Calcutta's first night cricket game, the city has exploded smoke bombs all over the stadium, reports AP.

The bug spray campaign began Tuesday night, when the lights were switched on at Eden Gardens as India and South Africa practiced and hordes of mosquitos, gnats, moths and grasshoppers attacked them.

The lighting up of cricket at Eden Gardens has brought, apart from the usual vast crowd, huge flocks of insects... a few billion," said Kishore Bhimani, an Indian cricket commentator.

"The bright lights have their dark side too," said The Statesman, a Calcutta-based national newspaper.

South Africa and India play the first semifinal match of the five-nation Hero Cup limited overs tournament on Wednesday night.

The second semifinal between the West Indies and Sri Lanka is on Thursday, and the final on Saturday also will be played at the 100,000-seat Eden Gardens, India's largest stadium.

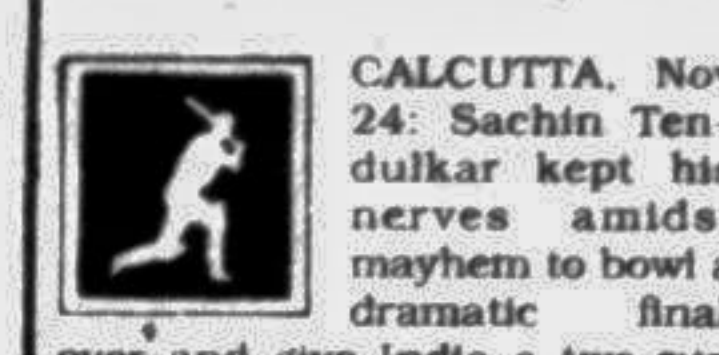
South African team officials refused to comment on the insect menace, but players were seen flapping their hands while practicing under the lights on Tuesday.

Calcutta, India's largest city and home to 12 million people, often has been described as a "black hole" for its vast slums, open drains, stagnating ponds and heaps of uncollected garbage. The dirt becomes a breeding ground for insects, including malaria-carrying mosquitos, which often strike at night.

On Wednesday, scores of workers used smoke-spewing machines and smoke bombs to spray insect repellent around the stadium.

It was at Eden Gardens that South Africa ended a 22-year isolation from international cricket caused by its apartheid policies when it played a one-day international game against India in November 1992. South Africa lost that match.

India squeeze into final



AZHAR

CALCUTTA, Nov 24: Sachin Tendulkar kept his nerves amidst mayhem to bowl a dramatic final over and give India a two-run victory over South Africa in the Hero Cup semifinal here today, reports AFP.

Asked to bowl the final over with South Africa's ninth-wicket pair needing six runs to beat India's 195, he conceded just three runs in a thrilling final to a high-voltage day-night thriller.

More than 85,000 joyous home fans at the floodlit Eden

eight-wicket stand of 44 in 30 balls by McMillan and Dave Richardson after being 145 for seven in the 44th over.

Andrew Hudson survived three chances to top-score with 62 but found little support at the other end before McMillan came on the scene to rescue his team.

India had South Africa down to 65 for three before Hudson and Jonty Rhodes took the score to 106. Then a middle-order collapse saw South Africa lose four wickets for 39 runs to totter at 145 for seven.

South Africa set up an easy

himself fell in the 49th over, caught at the wicket off Snell.

India were 18 for three by the sixth over as Darryl Cullinan ran out Vinod Kambl and Manoj Prabhakar in the space of three balls with direct throws from square leg.

The third umpire system, introduced in India for the first time, came in for early use as Steve Bucknor sought the help of television replays to confirm both close decisions.

Kambl backed up too far from the non-strikers end and failed to regain his crease as Cullinan swooped on the ball and threw down the stumps.

Indian umpire S K Bansal, watching television replays in the pavilion, found the batsman just short of his crease and switched on the green light to sent Kambl packing.

Three balls later, Prabhakar attempted a sharp single and Cullinan once again got Bansal's approval to the great delight of the other South African fielders.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the India v South Africa semifinal in the Cricket Association of Bengal's diamond jubilee tournament today.

INDIA: Prabhakar run out 3, Jadeja lbw b De Villiers 6, Kambl run out 4, Azharuddin c Richardson b Snell 90, Tendulkar c Richardson b Snell 15, Amre run out 48, Kapil Dev run out 7, Yadav c Rhodes b De Villiers 3, Kumble c McMillan b Snell 0, Srinath b De Villiers 4, Ankola not out 2

Extras: (lb-5, w-5, nb-3) 13
Total: (50 overs) 195
Fall of wickets: 1-2; 2-18; 3-18; 4-53; 5-149; 6-173; 7-184; 8-189; 9-192.

Bowling: O M R W
Donald 8 0 44 0
De Villiers 10 1 19 3
Snell 8 0 33 3
McMillan 9 0 41 0
Cronje 9 0 25 0
Symcox 6 0 28 0

SOUTH AFRICA: Wessels lbw b Srinath 5, Hudson b Kumble 62, Cronje run out 10, Cullinan lbw b Kapil 10, Rhodes c Azharuddin b Jadeja 16, McMillan not out 48, Symcox c Amre b Jadeja 6, Snell st Yadav b Kumble 1, Richardson run out 15, De Villiers run out 0, Donald not out 1, Extras: (lb-9, w-4, nb-3) 16
Total: (For nine wickets, 50 overs) 193
Fall of wickets: 1-10; 2-45; 3-65; 4-106; 5-130; 6-141; 7-145; 8-189; 9-191.

Bowling: O M R W
Prabhakar 8 1 30 1
Srinath 8 0 39 1
Kapil 8 0 31 1
Ankola 6 0 21 0
Kumble 10 0 29 2
Jadeja 9 0 31 2
Tendulkar 1 0 3 0

Result: India won by two runs

Man-of-the-match: Mohammad Azharuddin

Sloppy Brazil too good for US



OSAKA

JAPAN, Nov 24: Olympic men's champions Brazil shrugged off a slow start to beat bronze medalists, the United States, in four sets at the 1.5 million dollars World Grand Champions Cup volleyball here Wednesday, reports AFP.

The Brazilian spikers, who also won the world league this year to retain their number one world ranking, steadied themselves after losing the first set to run out eventual winners 3-1 (15-13, 15-13, 15-8) for their second consecutive win in the tournament.

Setter Mauricio Lima showed an exquisite touch, eliciting 22 unstoppable winners for eight points from Gilson Bernardo, who also scored four blocking points and one service winner.

"We couldn't play well at the beginning, making several passing errors as it took us some time to get used to the Americans' slow serve," said Brazilian coach Jose Guimaraes.

"We missed Alexandre Samuel, the nuclear receiver of our team, but we could get into our rhythm in the second and third sets."

Meanwhile, US coach Fred Sturm said: "Brazil is a very strong and difficult team to defeat. We could have played better at certain points in the match, but overall I felt that my players did many things well and I was pleased to see that happen."

"Cuba, the losers to Brazil Tuesday, posted their first win when they quashed the challenge from Asian champions South Korea 3-1 (15-10, 13-15, 15-8, 15-8).

Despite 32 inspiring attacks by the team's best scorer Park Hee-Sang, South Korea were never able to capitalise as the

Cuban men used their height advantage to dominate at the net with Ihesovan Hernandez and Osvaldo Hernandez.

"Although the Cuban team lacks its organisation, their offence was powerful and splendid. We could have a better match if we could have played more consistently," said Korean coach You Suk-Chul.

Both the United States and South Korea stood with two defeats.

Earlier on Tuesday, Barcelona Olympics gold medalists Brazil came from behind to beat Cuba three sets to one.

WWF boss pleads not guilty

UNIONDALE, NY, Nov 24: World Wrestling Federation boss Vincent McMahon Jr. pleaded innocent Tuesday to federal charges accusing him of peddling muscle-building steroids to entertainment wrestlers, reports AP.

McMahon, who promoted Hulk Hogan and many other wrestlers, was ordered released on \$250,000 unsecured bonds at his arraignment before US District Court Judge Jacob Mishler.

"I'd like to say that sometimes life isn't fair," McMahon said outside the courthouse. "I believe this is one of those instances."

McMahon, accompanied by attorney Laura Brevetti, said he would have more to say at his trial, scheduled for May 2.

McMahon, 47, of Greenwich, Conn, is charged in a three-count federal indictment with conspiracy and distribution of anabolic steroids to wrestlers in the WWF from 1985-1991, according to assistant US attorney Sean O'Shea. Some of the drug deals allegedly took place at the Nassau Veterans Coliseum in Uniondale where McMahon booked wrestling matches.

The Brazilian spikers lost the first set 8-15 at the Osaka Castle Hall in Western Japan but came back strongly to take the remaining sets 15-10, 15-8, 15-6.

Attackers Marcelo Teles Negro and Giovane F Gavio contributed to the dramatic Brazilian triumph over the Cuban squad, who finished fourth in the Barcelona Olympics last year.

"We had only a week to practice together and my boys played different positions they usually do," Brazilian coach Jose Guimaraes said afterwards, adding that Cuba had become stronger since the Barcelona Olympics.

In other opening round action Tuesday, European Champions Italy downed their Asian counterparts South Korea in straight sets 15-5, 15-9, 15-9.

"We played well, especially on blocking to stop South Korea's attack," Italian coach Julio Velasco said.

Japanese spikers, sixth in the Barcelona Olympic Games, upset bronze medalists the United States 15-12, 13-15, 15-10, 15-11.

The Grand Champions Cup tournament is being held with the participation of regional championships winners in each continent, excluding Africa, and the host country Japan.

The women's tournament ended here Sunday, with Barcelona Olympics gold medal winners Cuba scoring a sweeping victory for the prize of 400,000 dollars.

A winner of the men's contest will earn the same amount of prize money.

Men's opening round results Tuesday: Brazil b Cuba 8-15, 15-10, 15-8, 15-6. Italy b South Korea 15-5, 15-9, 15-9. Japan b USA 15-12, 13-15, 15-10, 15-11.