

Jatiya Press Club win Medinova opener

Sports Reporter
The Bangladesh Jatiya Press Club team recorded a thumping six-wicket victory in their opening round-robin match of the Medinova inter-press club cricket tournament when they comprehensively crushed last year's runners-up Bangalore Press Club yesterday.

Earlier, National Press Club skipper Partha Tanvir Naved won the toss and put the opponents in to bat. Bangalore could only make 134 for nine.

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Faruque to lead nat'l side in Kenya

Sports Reporter
Faruque Ahmed has been made captain of the Bangladesh national cricket team for the forthcoming ICC trophy, which is scheduled to be held in Kenya next year, according to a BCCB press release issued yesterday.

Sadek off to Kuwait

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain left Dhaka yesterday as the head of a three-member Bangladesh delegation to attend a meeting of the Olympic Council of Asia in Kuwait, reports BSS.

The OCA meeting will be held in Kuwait City today.

The other members of the delegation are Bangladesh Olympic Association president Gias Kamal Chowdhury and secretary general Bashir Ahmed. The State Minister will return home on December 2.

Warnapura named Lankan manager

COLOMBO, Nov 30: Former Sri Lanka Test captain Bandula Warnapura has been named as manager of the Sri Lanka cricket team for the West Indies tour which starts here Wednesday, reports AFP.

Warnapura, the first Test captain of Sri Lanka, will replace TB Kehelegamuwa who was manager of the national squad on their disastrous one-day tours of Sharjah and India.

Muted dissent within the ranks of the players was downplayed as the Sri Lanka Cricket Board denied that Kehelegamuwa had been sacked from his post.

"He was unable to continue as manager due to personal and work commitments," said a spokesman for the board.

Warnapura's appointment has come as a surprise. He led Sri Lanka briefly after the country achieved Test status in 1981, before being banned for leading a 'rebel' squad to South Africa in 1982.

A stylish opening batsman, Warnapura was banned for 25 years. This stringent punishment was lifted in 1990, and since then he has made a comeback into the cricketing administration.

Warnapura's appointment means that Sri Lanka have now had three managers within the space of two months.

Duleep Mendis — a teammate of Warnapura — who was cricket manager when Sri Lanka swept to a historic win over England in March this year, was unaccountably removed from his post after the tour of South Africa in September.

"I don't know why we have had so many changes," said Sri Lanka captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, who criticised the board for not keeping the players informed about behind-the-scenes activity.

"We are the last people to hear about anything. When Mendis was removed, I read about that in the newspapers. I think the board should at least have the courtesy to tell us what is happening," said Ranatunga.

"I'm very surprised at what has happened. But my job is to play cricket and not to get involved in petty politics," added Ranatunga.

Ranatunga admitted that the morale of his side was at rock-bottom after humiliating performances in Sharjah and India.

Everything went wrong for us... our batting, our bowling and most disappointingly, our fielding.

"I hope we can pick it up and give the West Indians a competitive tour," he added.

The West Indies will commence their short tour with a one-day international, Wednesday. The tourists will play a total of three one-day matches, a three day game and a one-off Test.

Mohammedans bounce back

Sports Reporter
Mohammedans Sporting Club bounced back after a shocking defeat in their previous match against Bangladesh Premier First Division cricket league, as they beat minnows Dhanmondi Club by 76 runs at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Mohammedans' big win against Dhanmondi Club still showed lack of confidence in their batting line up.

It was another bad day for MSC's Sri Lanka recruit Samarasinghe as he was run out for only 9.

Shipon, the architect of Mohammedan innings, contributed 58 runs.

In a Mohammedans total of 160 runs all out, the other batsmen to score in double figures, were Selim Shahed 22, Atahar Ali 14, and Ashoka de Silva 10.

Billu captured four important Mohammedans wickets giving away only 22 runs while Imdu took 3 for 12.

Chasing a target of 161 runs to win, Dhanmondi found it very tough going all the way and were bundled out for a paltry 84 runs.

Dhanmondi lost their first three wickets when their collection was only three.

For Dhanmondi Bishal (37) and Azam (19) top scored. Five batsmen were shot out for duck.

Ashoka and Prince bagged two wickets each while Morshed and Atahar Ali took one each for GMCC.

Mohammedans stayed two points behind holders Abahani along with Biman.

GMCC WIN
GMCC beat Wari Club by five wickets in the other match of the day at the City Club Ground, Pallabi.

Wari batted first and were all out for 101 in 40.4 overs.

Opener Sarad hit 35 runs from 81 deliveries while tallender Timir made 18 from only 28 balls for Wari.

Zoology reached their target scoring 115 runs in 28.4 overs losing six wickets.

Smaran scored 32 runs. Tareq captured two wickets giving away 23 runs for the Pharmacy Department.

Smaran claimed four wickets for 26 runs while Milon took two for 19.

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Bangladeshi sprinters shine in Manila

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Nayeem finished second in the semi-final with a time of 52.53 seconds in Group "B" Sulaiman Majumder clocked 53.59 seconds to finish fourth in Group "A".

But Majumder qualified for the finals with a better time for the seventh and eighth position in the finals. The top three of each group have qualified directly.

KP Susantha of Sri Lanka was the other competitor from a South Asian country, finishing last in 60.72 seconds in Group "B".

In women's 800 metres Lubna Mahamud also qualified for the finals clocking two mins 18.12 seconds from Group "A".

Sri Lanka's Dhammika Meinke qualified for the finals topping Group "B" with two mins 16.10 seconds. India's Shiny Wilson finished third clocking two mins 16.24 seconds and qualified for the finals.

In men's 800 metres Bangladesh's Milzer Hossain finished last in Group "B" with a time of one min 54.82 seconds and was eliminated from the event.

Sri Lanka's SGR Subasinghe topped Group "B" to qualify clocking one min 52.15 seconds. Pakistan's Zafar Iqbal and India's Jawant Singh also reached the finals in one minute 51.24 seconds and one minute 51.72 seconds respectively.

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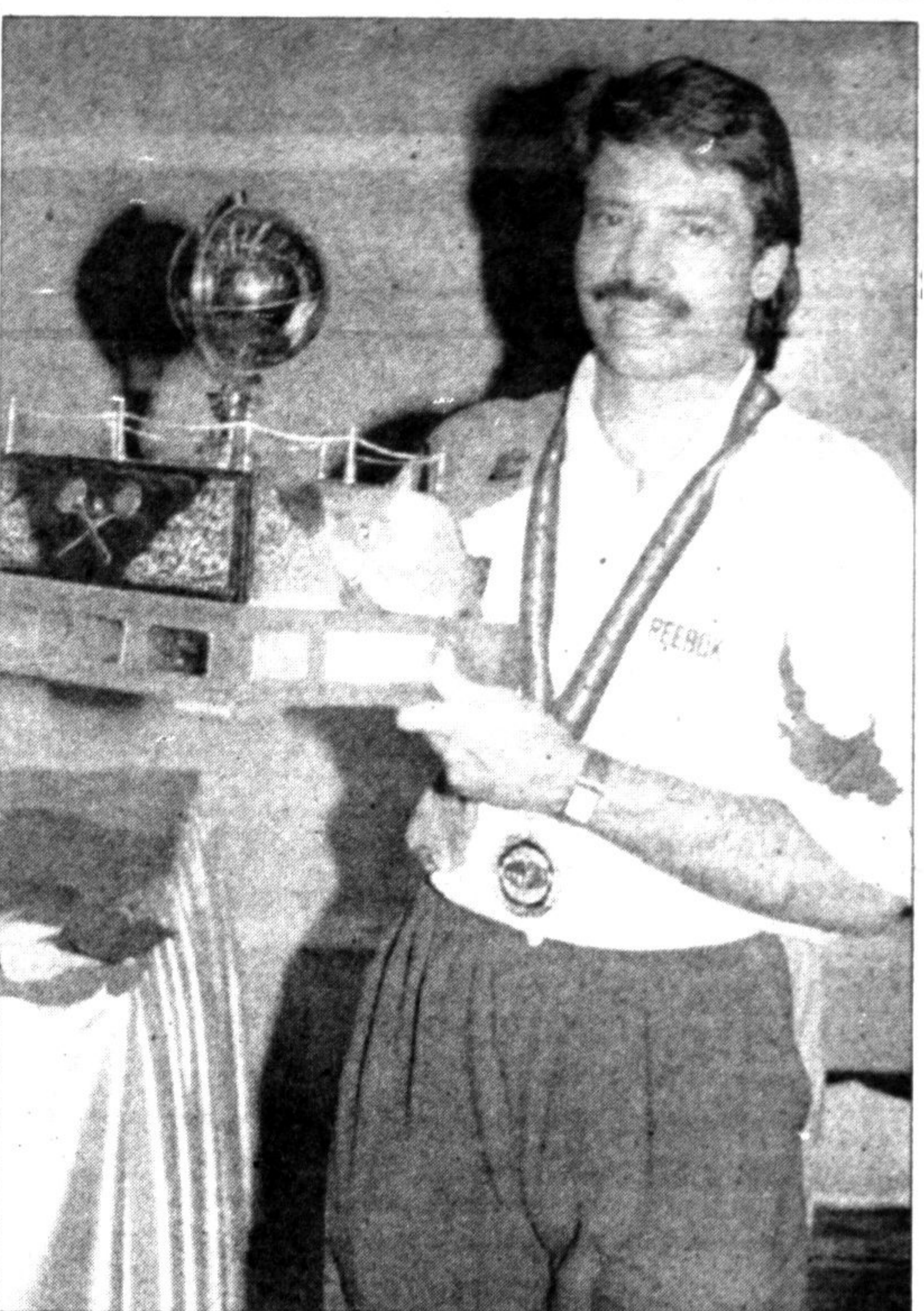
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Jahangir Khan of Pakistan holds the 14th World Team Squash Championship trophy in Karachi on Nov 29. Jahangir defeated Australia's Brett Martin in his match 6-9, 9-1, 9-5, 9-3. — AFP photo

Stich has a point to prove

DUSSELDORF, Germany, Nov 30: Michael Stich, who will be hoping to cap his phenomenally successful season by leading Germany to triumph in the Davis Cup final against Australia next weekend, doesn't smile easily or often, reports AFP.

Nor does he always bother to put on kid gloves when handling officialdom or the world's press.

But there has been a major transformation in the 25-year-old German in recent weeks.

The scowl has disappeared and the 6-ft 4-inch 1991 Wimbledon champion has looked totally relaxed and serene during his strenuous training sessions inside Dusseldorf's Trade Fair Centre where he and his teammates will be bidding for their country's third Davis Cup victory next weekend.

And one of the main reasons for Stich's new-found composure could be that he has finally climbed out from behind the shadow of compatriot Boris Becker.

Becker, three-times Wimbledon champion and the main architect of Germany's first-ever Davis Cup successes in 1988 and 1989, has always overshadowed his compatriot.

Then Stich's 1990 Wimbledon victory was in some ways devalued by Becker who first won the all-England title as a 17-year-old six years earlier.

But ironically this year, Stich, who chose to put his country first, has been the success. He has plundered six titles, won the ATP Championships and ousted Jim Courier

from the number-two spot in the world rankings.

Becker, who decided to make himself unavailable for selection for the Davis Cup in order to concentrate on improving his world ranking, has flopped.

He has slumped out of the world's top-ten players, failed to qualify for the ATP finals and is currently away from the tennis scene altogether and concentrating on becoming a father for the first time in the new year.

When Germany hammered Sweden a shock 5-0 away in the semifinals, there were suggestions that Becker be recalled. But these were quickly and firmly squashed