

Bangalore bag Medinova crown

CALCUTTA, Dec 5: Bangalore Press Club clinched the second Medinova inter-press club cricket championship, beating last year's champions Hyderabad Press Club by 46 runs at the Eden Gardens here today, reports BSS.

Bangladesh National Press Club, who failed to reach the semifinals, however, beat the new champions Bangalore Press Club by six wickets in their first robin league match on November 30.

Bangladesh National Press Club received the fair play trophy. Skipper Tanvir Noved Partha and opening batsman cum-wicket keeper Aizal Khan earlier won man-of-the-match awards.

Indian Sports Minister Subash Ghosh was present today at the Eden Gardens as chief guest.

WI-SL XI match abandoned

GALLE, Sri Lanka, Dec 5: The third and final day's play in the three-day cricket match between the West Indies and a Sri Lanka XI was abandoned as a draw today due to heavy morning showers which left the ground soggy, reports Reuter.

West Indies: 278 for six wickets.

Media Committee briefing held

Sports Reporter The inaugural briefing session of the sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Media, Protocol and Accreditation Committee was held at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, addressing the newsmen, ensured all out government support to make the seven-nation meet a success.

Earlier, State Minister for Youth and Sports and Chairman of the sixth SAF Games Steering Committee Sadeque Hossain read out a written statement.

Media Committee chairman Faizur Razzak, member secretary Jafar Imam, BTV Director General AKM Salamet Ullah, Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) chairman Gias Kamal Chowdhury and BOA Secretary-General Bashir Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.

Bima beaten

Sports Reporter Sadharan Bima inflicted a crushing 93-run defeat to babes Shantinagar 'B' in the lone Mirpur First Division cricket league tie at the Mirpur Pallabi cricket ground yesterday.

Batting first Sadharan Bima garnered 196 for the ten wickets from their quota of 45 overs. Tareq topped in a longish list of middling scores with 39 made off 42 balls with the help of one sixer and a four.

Stumper Sanchay with 34. Dear with 31 were the other main contributors.

Rumel had the best bowling figures among the Shantinagar bowlers with figures of three for 38. Bappi bagged three for 51.

Incisive bowling by the Bima bowlers decimated the Shantinagar innings at 103 in just 40 over with Hira and Saad offering any resistance with 21 and 16 not out respectively.

Niaz was the pick of the Bima bowlers with three wickets for 19 runs. He was well backed by Ratan who finished with two for 20 and Saad who captured two for 15.

TODAY'S MATCH

PWD vs Evergreen (DCS)

BANEX Open results

The fourth day of the BANEX Open squash tournament saw sixteen players advance to the pre-quarter-finals. In yesterday's matches, Ram Jagadish, bidding for a place in the final, blanked Mamun 9-4, 9-0. Malcolm Fry breezed past Zeeshan Khan 9-6, 9-0, national champion and favourite Bhola Lal trounced Hubert 9-0, 9-0. Barun overpowered Rozun 9-0, 9-0 and Rashed struggled to beat Karim 9-7, 9-3, says a press release.

Other seeds who remained on course for places in the last eight were: Former national champion Shahjahan Sikder, second seed Sohail Hamid, Dhaka Club markers Badal and Muthit.

Div II soccer

Sports Reporter Both the matches in the Sonali Bank Second Division football league ended in dull draws at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Mahakhali Eleven split points with Jurain Janata Club when they drew 0-0.

In another game BG Press played out a 1-1 draw with Avijatrik Malibagh. Sikder put BG Press ahead in the 27th minute while Ziaul equalised in the 37th minute for Avijatrik.

Abahani, Biman joint champs

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh Biman duly won their last match against lowly Wari to finish as the joint champions of the 1993-94 Navana Premier Division cricket along with Abahani Krira Chakra.

Yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium, they won their eleventh and final match, quite comfortably beating Wari Club by six wickets. Needing only 115 for victory after Wari, being sent in to bat first, were all out for 114 in 44.5. Biman knocked off the necessary runs in 34.2 overs, for the loss of four wickets only.

Tipped as the most balanced and deserving side in this year's 12-team single league fray, Biman will have to be satisfied with the dual reign as the league committee in a hastily arranged meeting, Saturday decided to scrap the provision of a play-off match in the event of a dead-set in the standing of teams in the points table. Both Biman and Abahani have finished the league with twenty points, having won ten of their eleven matches and a loss apiece. Even before Biman played the last match, the committee amended by-laws for the league in view of the imminent SAF Games as the National Sports Council (NSC), country's highest sports governing body, has reportedly asked the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) to 'free' the Dhaka Stadium by today, December 6.

Returning to the mutton, Wari had their backs against the wall right from the word go as the varied Biman attack reigned supreme on a wicket that was freshened by the sweat caused by the nightly covers.

Half of the side was prised out for 49 and only some resolute batting by Shri Lankan Karman and skipper Halim Shah, later supported by Didar and Zia helped them to limp to 114 all out.

Karman made 21 followed by Zia and Halim who made 18 each. Didar was the other batsman apart from the 24 extras to make it to the double figures.

DU cricket

Sports Reporter

Department of Sociology made a heavy weather of a simple task when they were made to sweat to beat English Department by four wickets in a low-scoring match of the inter-department cricket championship at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Batting first, English were all out for 74 due to some irresponsible batting with Mahub, who made 24, being the only exception.

Sociology cashing in on some wild bowling cruised comfortably for a while before suffering a minicollapse engineered by English skipper Mamunur Rahman who captured four wickets for 20 runs.

Shamim made 32 as Sociology made 79 for six to post a four-wicket win.

A patient, unbeaten 47 by opener Jahangir Alam and a more fluent 43 by Shah Nawaz Shaheed Shantu helped Biman to make light of the early inroads made by the Wari bowlers.

Biman were two down for 18 as Ahmed Fayaz Shaheen and Zakaria were dismissed cheaply but a stand of 81 runs for the third wicket ensured an easy win for the airlines team, which suffered their only defeat to middling Gulshan Youth, without which they could have finished champs singly since they overpowered the other two more popular giants — Mohammedans and Abahani quite comfortably.

The upshot of BCCB's decision to declare joint champions will cause a change in the echelon of teams, for the better though. Like Mohammedans who in the case of a play-off would have had to finish third, would now be runners-up. A similar upliftment awaits other teams also but then they have to wait till the scheduled closure of the Navana Premier league on December 9.

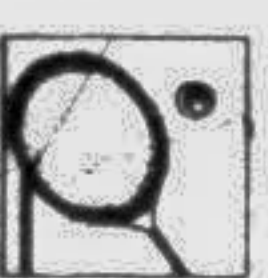
TODAY'S MATCH
Gulshan Youth vs Dhamnondi (Mirpur)



Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda addressing newsmen at a briefing of the sixth SAF Games Protocol and Accreditation Committee at the NSC conference room yesterday. Sitting on his right is State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain. BOA chief Gias Kamal Chowdhury and secretary general Bashir Ahmed are also seen on extreme left.

— Star photo

Jaded Jahangir limps off



ZURICH, Dec 5: Jahangir Khan's squash career looked finally to be over as he limped off court in agony on Saturday during a Super Series final match, against Australian Rodney Eyles, reports Reuter.

On Monday Jahangir appeared to have left the sport in a blaze of glory after leading Pakistan to victory in the World Championship in Karachi.

Only six days later, he made a less than glorious final exit lying flat out in a treatment room with an ice pack strapped to a pulled hamstring muscle, certain he will not play his last scheduled match today.

Jahangir failed to come out for the fourth game as he trailed 15-11, 13-15, 15-5 to world number six Eyles. During that third game he had hardly presented a challenge, scarcely even attempting to return shots.

"It was so painful I could hardly move," he said. "I had no option but to come off."

Jahangir is due to face England's Philip Whitlock in his

final group match today, but added: "I have no chance. I am out of the tournament. I will not be able to even walk properly for days. There is no way I can play tomorrow."

"I consider that I retired from squash in Karachi. It was a surprise when I qualified for the Super Series and I was invited to play. I accepted, but in my own mind I had already retired."

"The hamstring troubled me in Karachi, but it has got much worse here, possibly because of the cold weather. I have taken painkillers before both of my matches to try and get through them, but it was no good."

The previous night Jahangir had beaten Australian world number four Brett Martin in five games lasting 77 minutes.

Eyles was less than pleased at the turn of events. "I could say a lot, but I don't want to bring the sport into disrepute. All I will say is that 99 per cent of players who start a match manage to finish it whatever the circumstances."

Although in the record books as a victory, Eyles was robbed of the satisfaction of a rare double over the Khans, having

beaten Jansher in the Portuguese Open earlier this year.

But he is now certain to go through to the semifinals. Martin also ensured his place from Group Two with a 15-9, 12-15, 15-6, 15-9 victory over English champion Whitlock.

Poor Whitlock can now pack his bags. His only chance of progress was victory over Jahangir today — but now he will not get the chance.

World champion Jansher Khan booked his place in the semifinals with a 15-12, 12-15, 15-10, 15-5 victory over New Zealander Ross Norman.

Jansher did not have things all his own way against veteran Norman, who is 35 next month. The New Zealander showed there is still life in the old champion as he took a game off on court for 50 minutes.

Jansher now plays England's Peter Marshall in his final group match today. But it is little more than an academic exercise with both players already through — Marshall beating Finland's Sami Elopuro 15-6, 15-5, 15-9 to qualify.



Liverpool custodian Bruce Grobbelaar stretches to block Sheffield Wednesday's Ryan Jones during an English league match in Sheffield on Dec 4. Sheffield won 3-1.

— AFP photo

SA put Victoria on back foot

MELBOURNE, Dec 5: A knee injury to allrounder Brian McMillan took the gloss of a South African fightback against Victoria at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Paceman McMillan twisted his left knee as he strived for extra pace on a hat-trick delivery as the state team's batting collapsed in the final session.

Victoria, who lost five wickets for 11 runs at one stage, were 260 for eight in reply to South Africa's first innings of 261 at the close on the second day of the four-day match.

McMillan left the field an hour before the day's play ended, having been desperately close to completing his hat-trick when Damien Fleming edged the delivery only centimetres past the outstretched hand of third slip Craig Matthews.

McMillan, who dispatched allrounder Richard Herman and wicketkeeper Darren Berry with the previous two balls, will not know until Monday morning whether he can bowl again in the match.

The combination of McMillan, who finished the day with three for 26, and off-spinner Dave Rundle broke the back of Victoria's innings after it reached 185 for two.

Victoria were flourishing under the influence of a 106-run stand for the third-wicket between Darrin Kamshaw (71) and Brad Hodge (80) before the former became McMillan's first victim when he was caught at mid-on from a mistimed pull.

Rundle, McMillan and fast bowler Allan Donald then sent the Victorians tumbling from 218 for three to 229 for eight before Fleming (29 not out) led some late defiance.

Victoria captain and Test discard Dean Jones earlier wasted a chance to impress the national selectors, being dismissed for 38.

Jones, hoping to play in Thursday's opening World Series Cup one-day match against South Africa here, looked set for a big score when he gave off-spinner Pat Symcox a return catch off a leading edge.

Waqar blows Zimbabwe off

KARACHI, Dec 5: Pakistan gained a commanding position as their skipper Waqar Younis captured wickets for none on the fourth day of the first Test against Zimbabwe here Sunday, reports AFP.

Zimbabwe, resuming at 179 for four after a rest day, struggled to reach 289 as their tail-end batting order collapsed, conceding Pakistan a first innings lead of 134 runs.

The last five Zimbabwe wickets fell for just 16 runs after the second new ball was taken.

At close of play, Pakistan were 111 for three in their second innings.

Pakistan changed the batting order, opening with Aamir Sohail and bringing in Inzamam-ul-Haq instead of Shoaib Mohammad.

The two batsmen played up to Waqar's expectations by notching up 47 runs in 8.4 overs when Aamir was run out by Grant Flower's direct hit to the stumps.

The Pakistani captain told reporters that his target would be 260 plus, which he expected to reach early Monday.

"We will have a result in this Test. The ball is swinging and should turn and the wicket will remain low," a confident Waqar said.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the first cricket Test between Pakistan and Zimbabwe on Sunday:

PAKISTAN: First innings 423-8 declared (Shoaib Mohammad 81, Javed Miandad 70).

ZIMBABWE: First innings (overnight 179-4)
G Flower b Waqar 24
M Dekker lbw b Waqar 5
Campbell lbw b Mushtaq 53
Houghton lbw b Waqar 46
A Flower lbw b Rehman 63
Whitlall run out 33
Brak - Jackson b Waqar 31
Peall c Aamir b Waqar 0
Steak b Waqar 0
Brandes not out 0
Rennie lbw b Waqar 3
Extras: (b-5, lb-24, nb-1, w-1) 31
Total: 289

Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-71; 3-132; 4-153; 5-230; 6-280; 7-284; 8-284; 9-285.

Bowling: O M R W
Waqar Younis 34.1 891 7
Ata ur Rehman 15 528 1
Mushtaq Ahmed 39 1189 1
Tauseef Ahmed 23 749 1
Shoaib Mohammad 1 0 1 0
Aamir Sohail 1 0 1 0
Asif Mujtaba 3 2 1 0

PAKISTAN: Second innings
Aamir Sohail run out 29
Inzamam ul Haq not out 47
Basit Ali c and b Brandes 13
Javed Miandad run out 12
Asif Mujtaba not out 2
Extras: (b-6; nb-1, w-1) 8
Total: (for three wickets) 111
Fall of wickets: 1-47; 2-76; 3-108

Bowling: O M R W
Brandes 12 0 51 1
Rennie 3 0 24 0
Streak 8 0 30 0



South African fast bowler Allan Donald makes a successful leg before appeal against Victorian batsman Tony Dodemaide on the second day of the three-day match at the MCG yesterday.

— AFP photo

Border, S Waugh hit hundreds as Aussies pile on pressure



BRISBANE, Dec 5: Allan Border scored a faultless century on his 150th Test appearance to put Australia in sight of victory in the third Test against New Zealand today, reports Reuter.

Border's assured 105 set his side on course for a certain declaration early on Monday morning.

At stumps on the third day at the Gabba, Australia were 533 for six against the hapless and dispirited tourists.

Steve Waugh became the second Australian to reach a century just before the close as storm clouds enveloped the ground.

With two days remaining, the New Zealanders are 300 in arrears and facing their second successive Test defeat in the three-Test series.

"We want to get the runs on the board and put them under pressure," Border told reporters. He said Australia will declare early on the fourth day.

"It's important to bat them out of the game and put a little bit more wear and tear on the wicket," Border said.

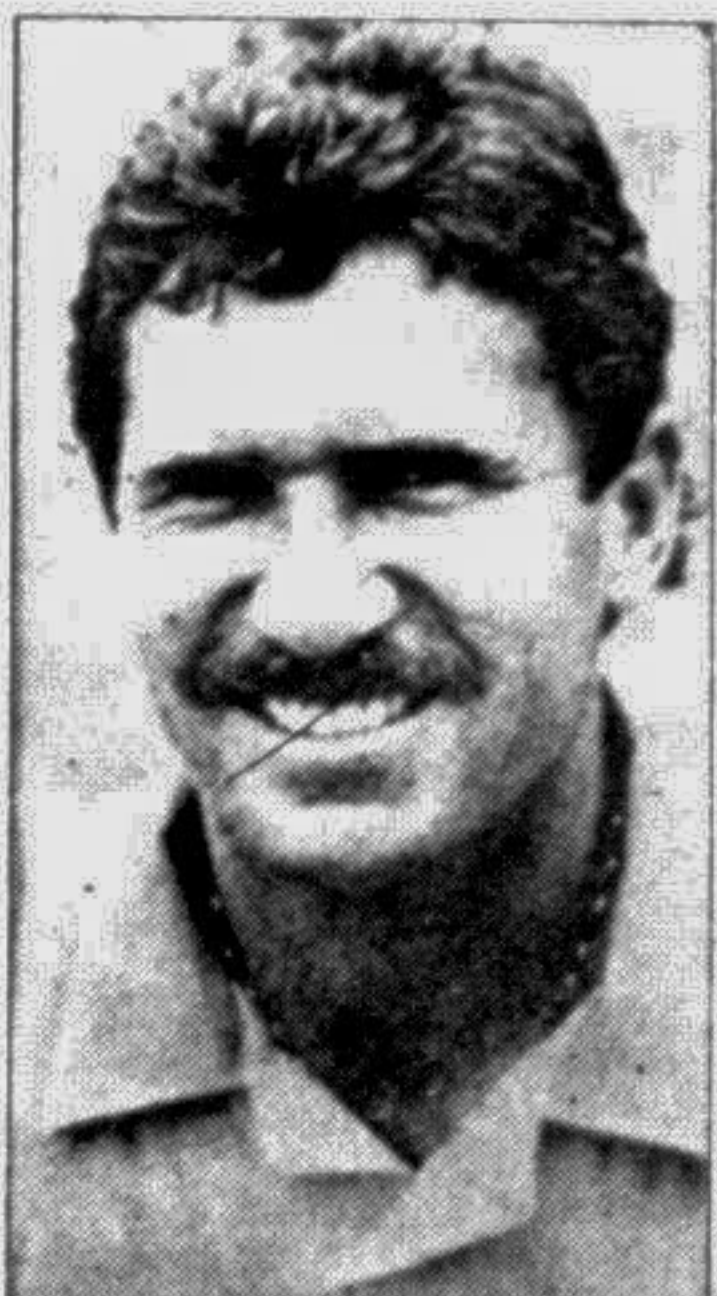
"That should help our spinners Shane Warne and Tim May. I am very happy with our position," Border added.

On Monday, Steve Waugh will resume on 113 not out, with partner Warne on 37.

Border, 38, the world's most capped cricketer, guided Australia to an impregnable position, reaching three figures

without offering a chance. It was the 27th Test century of his career, lifting him to third place in the all-time list behind Sunil Gavaskar and Sir Donald Bradman.

Playing in front of his home crowd, Border sacrificed his wicket after tea in search of



BORDER... 27th Test ton quick runs before Monday's declaration.

Charging down the wicket he lofted pace bowler Richard de Groot but failed to clear the boundary ropes with his drive.

Border, who hit fifteen boundaries during his four-and-a-half hour innings, turned his back and was walking to the

pavilion before Dipak Patel took the catch at long on. Border shared in a fourth-wicket partnership worth 159 runs following an earlier fifty stand with number three David Boon.

Boon fell for 89 mid-way through the morning session, missing out on his second successive Test century.

Late in the day, wicketkeeper Ian Healy became the first batsman on Australian soil to be given out by the third umpire.

After watching a video replay, Darrell Hair pressed the red light indicating Healy's dismissal after Richard de Groot followed up his own bowling to break the stumps.

Border said the century was particularly memorable on what could be his last Test appearance at the Gabba.

"I got such a good reception when I went out to bat that I felt fairly responsible to do something," Border said.

"Through the 90s the crowd was chanting my name and it was a great buzz to reach the hundred."

"My batting has come together over the past 15 months. I'm just happy to know I've still got it in me," he added.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of Australia on the third day of the third cricket Test between Australia and New Zealand played here today.

NEW ZEALAND: 1st innings 233 (A Jones 56, C McDermott 4-39, S Warne 4-66)

AUSTRALIA: 1st innings
Slater c Blain b Patel 28
Taylor c Pocock b Doull 53
Boon c Blain b Doull 89
M Waugh c
Greatbatch b Cairns 68
Border c Patel b De Groot 105
S Waugh not out 113
Healy run out 15
Warne not out 37
Extras: (lb -11, nb-8, b-6) 25
Total: (6 wkts) 533

Fall of wickets: 1-80; 2-102; 3-227; 4-277; 5-436; 6-465.

BOWLING O M R W
Morrison 28 2 79 0
Gairns 33 7 117 1
Doull 33 5 105 2
De Groot 39 14 84 1
Patel 33 4 125 1
Jones 2 0 6 0

Overs: 168.

Top ten tonners

BRISBANE, Dec 5: Australian captain Allan Border, Test cricket's greatest runscore, scored his 27th Test century here today to move into third position on the all-time list, reports AFP.

Following are the top 10 century-makers in international cricket:

- 34 - Sunil Gavaskar (India)
- 29 - Sir Donald Bradman (Australia)
- 27 - Allan Border (Australia)
- 26 - Sir Garfield Sobers (West Indies)
- 24 - Greg Chappell (Australia)
- 24 - Viv Richards (West Indies)
- 23 - Javed Miandad (Pakistan)
- 22 - Wally Hammond (England)
- 22 - Colin Cowdrey (England)
- 22 - Geoff Boycott (England)

Ma ready to share his secret



MANILA, Dec 5: China, which nonchalantly reasserted sporting hegemony once again at the Asian Athletics Championship here, is now ready to share some of its envied secrets with the rest of the world, reports AFP.

A training centre scheduled to be set up next year in North-east Liaoning province will be opened to foreign athletes, starting with other Asians, said Ma Junren, the unorthodox coach of China's superwomen runners.

"Top level runners from all Asia and the world will be welcome," said Ma, who mixes high-altitude training with exotic diets.

After the Asian Championships came to a close in the Philippine capital on Saturday, the Chinese had 23 gold, 11 silver and 4 bronze medals, while distant runner-up South Korea had three, four and three.

The Chinese hardly broke into a sweat, it seemed. They had nothing more to prove after the searching performances of the women runners, led by world 10,000 metres and 3,000 metres queen Wang Junxia, this year in Stuttgart and Beijing.

"The reason I did not break the record is that we have had a lot of competitions this year," said Wang, whose winning time of 34 min 19.32 sec at the 10,000 metres in Manila was four minutes off her world record set at the National Games in Beijing last Septem-

ber. Western suspicions of doping after the Chinese women's explosive arrival at the Athletics centre stage have dissipated, and "Ma's army" — fed on turtle soup and other special fare — is certified to be the genuine article.

World athletics supremo Primo Nebiolo, attending the Manila Games, said tests have disproved the doping charges.

"Some people may be surprised at the good results, but they are not surprising us," he said, adding that "The great surprise in the future of sports will be China," which has close to 1.2 billion people and a sophisticated national sports programme.

Only 16 meet records were broken in Manila, half by Chinese athletes, and a handful of

Devers honoured

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, Dec 5: Gal Davers, a three-time world champion who overcame a rare thyroid condition, won the Jesse Owens award here as the top US athlete, reports AFP.

Devers won the 100-metre title at the 1992 Olympics, completing her comeback from an illness that had doctors considering amputation of her feet.

At this year's World Championships, Devers became the first athlete to win both sprint and hurdle titles since Fanny Blankers-Koen of the Netherlands in 1948. She also anchored the second-place US team in the 400m relay.

Asian Games marks were shattered. The Chinese, who will return home to freezing weather, and other delegations from the north complained about Manila's hot and humid climate. Others cited a lacklustre field.

Athletes, coaches and officials are now convinced that the Asian Championships should be held earlier in the year to erase the fatigue factor and coax better performances.

Timing aside, Asians are looking to China to help improve their showing in regional athletics.

Ma said South Korea, Japan and Hong Kong had asked him to train their male and female athletes.

A press report from Beijing said South Korean male athletes are to be charged 50 dollars each for the privilege.

Despite the Chinese steamroller, central Asian republics which belonged to the former Soviet Union, led by third-placer Kazakhstan, showed great promise in Manila. Uzbekistan pulled off a one-two finish in the decathlon.

Talal Mansoor of Qatar was picked best male athlete after retaining his crown as Asia's fastest man with a new meet record of 10.22 seconds, set in an afternoon drizzle.

His female counterpart Liu Xiaomei of China, however, was upset by compatriot Tian Yumei, although the best female athlete award went to another teammate, Ma Yuqing, who set a new record of 51.23 sec in the 400m.