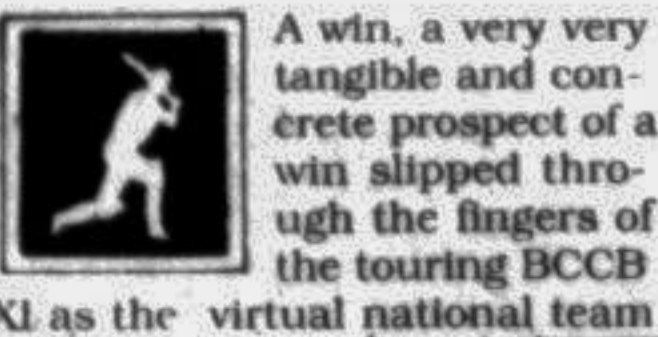


BCCB XI's thunder stolen

Sports Reporter



BULBUL... 53

A win, a very very tangible and concrete prospect of a win slipped through the fingers of the touring BCCB XI as the virtual national team

of Bangladesh suffered their third loss in the ten-match package tour of Pakistan to Inter-Globe City of Karachi by the narrowest of the margin, divulging a belated faxed message received at the BCCB office last night.

The Karachi outfit, not particularly revived up by the presence of the big names of Pakistan cricket, managed to ward off the combined efforts of the Bangladeshi bowlers at the final stage of the BCCB XI's fifth friendly over limit encounter in the 15-day trip to the land of the current world champions of cricket.

Inter-Globe, who were chasing 182 for an outright win off 45 overs, discovered two unexpected saviours tail-enders Ghulam Hossain and Salim Sayeed. Combining at a time when the itinerants' most expe-

rienced paceman left arm Golam Nawsher Prince was threatening to gobble them up in his second spell with the scoreboard announcing a rather hopeless condition for the local side with 125 for eight, the pair added 50 runs to steal visitors' thunder.

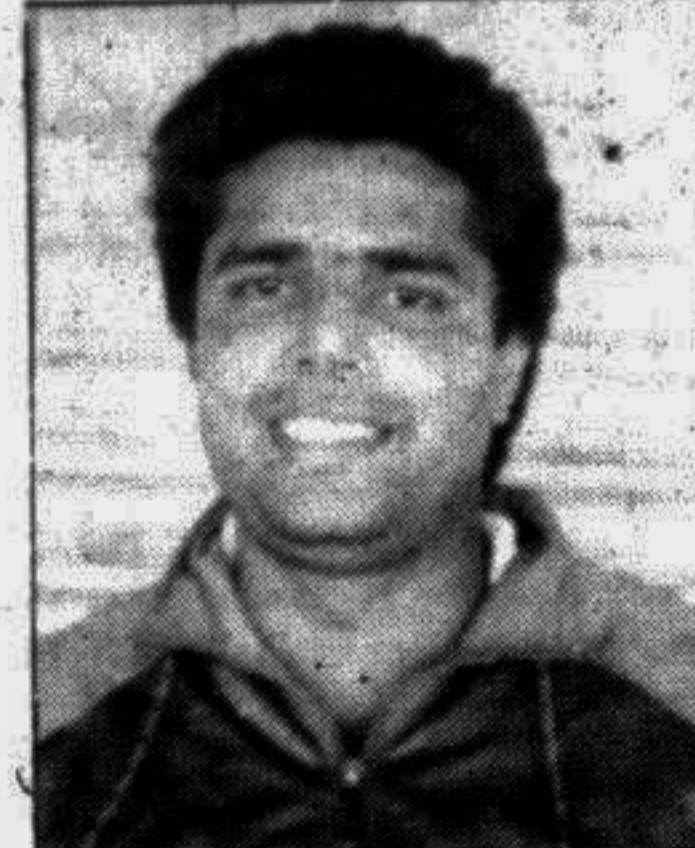
It was a galling experience which the Pakistan national team — if one can allude with an apology for the mind's incorrigible inclination of random associations — had to put up with during a semifinal of the first Prudential World Cup in 1975 when Roberts and Holder smashed some sixty odd runs and Pakistan's hopes of a place in the final.

The gravity of yesterday's situation at the UBL complex, observed by some member of the touring party as the best cricket ground in Pakistan, was far less and lighter in comparison. But the message is quite alarming and with still some time to go before our cricketers get on board of the Kenya-bound aircraft the instance should be quite educating too.

Ironically Golam Nawsher Prince, the most successful bowler for BCCB XI yesterday, had the dubious distinction of being the bowler at whose cost the winning runs were taken of the penultimate delivery of the match.

Prince, who finished his ninth and the last stipulated over but for one ball, returned the figures of four for 31 including two maidens as Inter-Globe scrambled home to a one-wicket win. All the bowlers employed by BCCB captain Faruque had a wicket to their names with new-ball bowler Mizanur Rahman Babul having particularly impressive analysis of one

for 20 from nine overs. Apart from the two tail-enders who made all the difference Inter-Globe had useful contributors in Amir Ishaq and Nadim Musa, who got 31 and 32 respectively.



PRINCE... 4 for 31

Earlier sent in to bat, BCCB XI, travelling Pakistan as part of Bangladesh's preparation for the ICC trophy to be held in Kenya from next month onwards, made 181 for seven wickets.

Aminul Islam Bulbul regained his long lost touch with a well compiled half century. He scored 53 with the help of three fours followed by lefthanded Enamul Huq Moni, who made 26.

Skipper Faruque apart almost everyone got among the runs. Shanu who scored a half century in the third match made 20 with openers — young Sajid and Jahangir — chronologically completing the line-up with 19 and 16 respectively.

Mohtarin Rashid was the home team's best bowler, bagging two for 27.

All for who's who

CALCUTTA, Jan 7: In a unique experiment a one-day meet would be organised at the Eden Gardens here on December 27 to decide the best batsman and best bowler of the world, reports PTI.

The tournament dubbed as 'power — the world's best' would be organised by the Professional Management Group and sponsored by the Bata India Ltd to mark their centenary year, former Indian skipper, Sunil Gavaskar, said here today.

Gavaskar told newsmen that at the least top batsmen and bowlers from the world over would be pitted against each other in a day-night affair to decide the best batsman and bowler in the world.

"Though the format of the event is yet to be finalised," Gavaskar said, "It would be made in such a way that each batsman would play ten overs and each bowler would send down ten overs and we will see to it that each batsman plays each bowler for one over."

PK Dutta, the managing director of the Bata India Ltd, said that since 1994 marks the 100th year of Bata worldwide, "We thought that the event would be best to mark the occasion." Bata India would be spending at least Rupees 70 lakh for the meet, which would be first of its kind in cricketing history," Dutta said.

Manjrekar recalled

NEW DELHI, Jan 7: India recalled Sanjay Manjrekar on Thursday for their side for the three-test series against Sri Lanka, reports Reuters.

Manjrekar, 28, was dropped from the Indian team after failing on the 1992 tour of South Africa.

The only new face in the squad is 24-year-old wicket-keeper Nayan Mongia who replaces Vijay Yadav.

Team: Mohammed Azharuddin (captain), Navjot Singh, Manoj Prabhakar, Ajay Jadeja, Vinod Kambli, Sachin Tendulkar, Pravin Amre, Sanjay Manjrekar, Kapil Dev, Javagal Srinath, Anil Kumble, Venkatesh Raju, Rajesh Chauhan, Nayan Mongia.

BSWA reception

Bangladesh Sports Writers Association (BSWA) will accord a reception to sixteen athletes who won the gold medals in eleven events of the Sixth SAF Games at 4 pm today in the conference room of the National Sports Council, reports BSS.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain will attend the reception as chief guest and Gias Kamal Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh Olympic Association will be the special guest.

The athletes are Bimal Chandra Tarafdar (athletics), Mokhesur Rahman (swimming), Mizanur Rahman Qarar (swimming), Mozammel Hoq (Boxing), Atiqur Rahman, Saiful Alam Chowdhury Rinku, GM Haidar, Asif Hossain, Fazle Rabbi Elahi, Nasiruddin, Abdus Satter Nini, Kamrul Islam, Syed AA Faiz, Kazi Shahana Parveen, Farzana Hossain Shoma and Subrina Sultana in shooting.

Iraqi with a mission

SEOUL, Jan 7: The Iraqi footballer who scored the game-winning goal that boosted South Korea into the World Cup finals arrived here Thursday saying he would like to play for a South Korean team, reports AFP.

Jaffar Omran, whose last minute goal in the qualifier last October knocked Japan out of the running, opening the way for South Korea, told journalists he would like to play for a South Korean professional team — if one was ready to sign him up.

Omran is here at the invitation of the Asia Art and Culture Association.



Participants on the fifth day of the national subjunior chess competition at the chess room of the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday.

Timely switch for Australians

BRISBANE, Jan 7: Australian opener Mark Taylor said Friday he hopes a return to the one-day World Series Cup will help his side overcome its painful five-run Test cricket loss to South Africa, reports AP.

Australia take on the South Africans on Sunday as the triangular series resumes. On Saturday, South Africa play New Zealand, also at the Gabba in Brisbane.

Taylor says Australia can rekindle the positive attitude they so desperately need after crumbling under pressure to lose the second Test that ended Thursday at the Sydney Cricket Ground. The loss left Australia down 1-0 in the three-Test series.

"We have to make sure we keep believing in ourselves," Taylor said on arrival in Brisbane on Friday. "I think this will give us a chance to put the Test behind us and get out there and play positive cricket."

Taylor compared the situation to Australia's 2-1 series loss to the West Indies last

year after leading 1-0 into the fourth Test in Adelaide.

In the narrowest margin in Test history, Australia went down by one run in Adelaide and then were hammered by an innings and 25 runs in Perth in the back-to-back Tests.

"Last year we lost a close one and then went straight in to the next Test in Perth," said Taylor. "We didn't have a chance to put it behind us."

"This time I think these one-dayers will give us that opportunity to put the test at the back of our minds and concentrate on regaining a positive attitude." "We haven't played badly this (southern hemisphere) summer. It has all been undone by half a day's bad play."

Taylor has come under fire from some circles for his put into the one-day side, with pressure on the New South Wales state lefthander to put in a strong performance on Sunday.

Criticized as too slow for the 50-over game and with run-producing Michael Slater and Matthew Hayden both dropped for this game, the pressure will be on Taylor to

lift the tempo.

It is expected that stroke-maker Mark Waugh will open the innings with Taylor with David Boon likely to stay at No. 3 and recalled Victorian state captain Dean Jones to come in at fourth.

Jones returns to the ground which hosted his most memorable one-day innings, 145 against England in December 1991, after being recalled to the Australian side following a two-year absence.

The 32-year-old boasts 5,599 one-day runs at an average of 45.89 with seven centuries from 150 games.

His one-day average makes him the world's third-best limited overs batsman of alltime behind Pakistani great Zaheer Abbas (47.62) and former West Indies captain Viv Richards (47.00).

Australia are on top of the World Series table after four games and play New Zealand in Sydney next Tuesday.

The Australian team: Allan Border (captain), Mark Taylor, David Boon, Ian Healy, Dean Jones, Craig McDermott, Glenn McGrath, Tim May, Damien Martyn, Paul Reiffel, Shane Warne, Mark Waugh.

Rakib still leads

Sports Reporter

Abdullah-al-Rakib of Narayanjan stayed in the top of the points table of the national chess competition securing five points at the end of the fifth round at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

Rakib beat Tipu Sultan. Mahfuzur Rahman of Magura moved into second position with 4.5 points.

Arif, Tipu, Shakil, Sefat Sabir, Motiur and Waliullah with four points each were occupying the third position.

Biman Cup football results

Sports Reporter

Chittagong advanced to the zonal semifinal with a crushing 6-0 victory over Lakshmipur in the inaugural day of the Biman Cup national under-14 football tournament which started simultaneously in eight venues across the country yesterday.

Other teams, won yesterday, are Mouli Bazar, Gazipur, Rajshahi, Gaibandha, Dhaka, Pirojpur and Khulna.

Chittagong who trounced Lakshmipur at Gaibandha will take on the winners of Rangamati and Feni on January 11.

Mouli Bazar beat Brahmanbaria 1-0 at Sunamganj to reach the semifinal. Redwan scored the match winner. Mouli Bazar will play the winner of today's encounter between Comilla and Sunamganj on January 11.

At Gazipur, hosts Gazipur moved into the zonal semifinal outplaying Jamalpur 4-1. Altaf, Rajanikanta, Masud and Moyn scored once each for Gazipur while the lone Jamalpur goal came from Latif.

Rajshahi blanked Sirajganj 3-0 to reach the semifinal at Pabna. Tanvir, Zafar and Parvez netted once each for the winners.

At Gaibandha, Nilphamari also overwhelmed Panchagarh 3-0.

At Patuakhali, Pirojpur beat Bagerhat 7-6 in a tie-breaker to move into the zonal semifinal. Salaudinn's solitary goal against Shariatpur earned Dhaka a spot in the zonal semifinal in the Gopalganj zone.

At Satkhira, Khulna got a walkover against Narail.

Div III soccer

Sports Reporter

Maghbazar K C and Basabo Tarun Sangha recorded wins in their respective Pragati Insurance Third Division football league matches at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Maghbazar beat Fire Service 2-1.

Basabo Tarun Sangha, in another game defeated Sunrise Sporting Club 2-0. Mahmood and Arif scored once each for Basabo.

Women's handball

Sports Reporter

Hatkola Sporting women's club cup handball championship '94 will begin on January 10 in Dhaka under the aegis of the Bangladesh Handball Federation (BHF), according to a press release issued yesterday.

Six teams, two from the capital and four from other parts of the country, will take part in the tournament.

The teams are: Mohammedan Sporting Club of Barisal, Friends Society Club of Rangpur, Youth Sporting Club of Rangamati, Bagmara Sporting Club of Jessore, and Brothers Union and Old ideals of Dhaka.

Rajshahi soccer

Sports Reporter

Diganta Proshari Sangha emerged champions in the Rajshahi Coca-Cola First Division football league for having better goal difference.

Sheroll Sporting Club became runners-up.

Quickies suit Smith fine

LONDON, Jan 7: After being put in a tailspin by Australia, Robin Smith is relieved that his next task is just taking on the world's most fearsome pace attack, reports AFP.

Following his sorry summer against Australia's spin king Shane Warne, the Hampshire opener will again be a key member of the England squad that leaves next Saturday for a tour of the West Indies.

Smith is first to admitting that he prefers to face 100

mile (160 kilometre) an hour fast bowlers to the type of bowling that has made Warne one of the most feared Test bowlers.

During the Ashes Series, Smith was in such a pickle that he had to be dropped. And as he finished England's pre-tour training at Lilleshall, said: "It's no secret that I fell more comfortable against quicker bowling."

"I just hope they don't shake a coconut tree in the Caribbean and a black Shane Warne drops out."

The South African-born batsman gave his tip per survival against West Indies bowlers — be brave and be positive.

When England last visited the Caribbean four years ago, Smith then on his first visit,



ROBIN SMITH

took a severe battering from the West Indies pace attack. But he emerged with a reputation for unflinching courage and experience that will be put to good use on the next tour led by Mike Atherton.

"I'll aim to pass on what knowledge and experience I can," said the Hampshire player who at 30, is second oldest to England's fast bowler Devon Malcolm.

"You know you are going to face a continual battery of fast bowling in the West Indies and you must stay positive and meet aggression with aggression."

"If you are a little tentative, there is no way you can survive. Their bowlers seem to be able

to smell you out if you look tentative and then bowl even quicker."

"Whether you are defending or attacking, you have to stand tall."

Smith has always courageously taken on the likes of Australia's Merv Hughes and West Indies' Curtly Ambrose.

He returned from the Caribbean four years ago with a broken finger after being hit by a Courtney Walsh delivery during the fifth Test in Antigua.

But Smith cannot wait for hostilities to start flying again. "I would prefer them to bowl at my head because there's less chance of getting out when the ball is up there."

"You might only get 10 deliveries an hour which you can score off but you have to keep your concentration and make the most of those loose balls."

England have yet to decide exactly where in the order Smith will bat, though Atherton has hinted at number four.

"It's all pretty fluid at the moment but we certainly feel Robin is a key batter who is likely to occupy a central role," said the new England captain.

England bookmakers are offering as much as 14-1 against England winning the five-Test series. But the party are as confident as they can be after their mauling by Australia.

Manager Keith Fletcher sees the tour as a "fresh start" after 12 months of humiliation at the hands of India, Sri Lanka and Australia.

"There had to be changes and now we've got to fight our way back to the top," said Fletcher. "It's going to be a hard job but that's our ambition and I'd like it to start as soon as possible."

Former captain Graham Gooch will be among those watching from close quarters having lined up journalistic work in the West Indies.

Fletcher insisted that Gooch's experience will not be called upon if injuries hit England's party. "If replacements are needed they will come from the A tour squad currently in South Africa," he said.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Orient Sporting Club, aided by a superb 73 from Shahriar, posted a huge 93-run victory over Wari Krira Chakra in one of the three Second Division cricket league matches at the Pallabi ground, Mirpur yesterday.

Batting first, Orient Sporting amassed 223 for the loss of six wickets in the stipulated 40 overs.

Shahriar, who sent seven shots across the fence, got able support from Tuhin (31) and Azam, who made the second highest individual score of 32. Mintu and Ritu contributed 24 and 21 respectively.

In reply, despite a valiant 47 from Yead the Wari innings crumbled in 34.3 overs with 130 runs on the board.

Zeeshen was the other batsman to have made any impression with 23 while extras provided 22.

Shahriar followed up his fine work with the willow with useful bowling that earned him two wickets for seven. Mintu bagged two wickets as well for 15 runs.

On the western strip of the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium, Shamik sparked with a half century but still wound up on the losing side as Kakral Boys Club emphatically defeated United Boys.

Making the first use of the wicket, the United Boys batsmen could manage 126 in 34 overs with Shamik sparking an unbeaten 55. Extras provided a handsome 36 to the modest total.

Needing 127 for victory, Kakral Boys reached 130 in 23.3 overs losing four of their men.

Tapan top-scored with 30 followed by Moni and Khokon, who contributed 25 runs each while Arif made 11.

Pavel dismissed three for 45. On the eastern portion of the stadium, Western Cricket Club squeezed out a 24-run win against Rainbow.

Western batted first and scored 166 for eight wickets in their quota of 40 overs. Chunnun and Rummon made 31 and 36 respectively while extras provided the highest score of 38.

In their turn, Rainbow were all out for 142 in 31.5 overs with Lintu top-scoring with 24.

Rashed took three for 20 for the winners.

Div II soccer

Sports Reporter

The only match of the Sonali Bank Second Division football super league between Jurain Janata Club and Avijatrik Malibagh ended in a goalless draw at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.



Dai Guohong of China in her favourite event, the breaststroke to win the 400 metres individual medley at the 1994 World Cup short course swimming series in Beijing on Jan 6. — AFP photo

Morrison's misery goes on

BRISBANE, Jan 7: Danny Morrison's heat-breaking cricket season continued Friday when the New Zealand pace bowler aggravated a groin muscle injury and was ruled out of further World Series one-day play, reports AP.

Morrison strained the muscle playing for Auckland in a Shell Cup one-day in Auckland and eight days ago and re-injured it in training in Brisbane on Friday. New Zealand play South Africa in a World Series match on Saturday at the Gabba.

He will be sidelined for at least two weeks.

In Wellington, New Zealand Cricket chairman Peter McDermott said that Willie Watson will replace Morrison, but that he would not arrive in Australia until Sunday. Richard de Groen will replace Morrison in Saturday's match.

Morrison has been both the best and unluckiest of the New Zealand attack with his three Tests against Australia returning just three wickets at 140.66 and 0-80 in 23 overs in his three one-day appearances.

There were a countless number of catches that his fieldsmen put down from his bowling during the first half of the series, typical of Morrison's bad luck.

Morrison's latest plight will again put the responsibility on Chris Pringle, who has been New Zealand's economical

bowler in the one-day arena this season with five wickets at 14.40.

"He's one guy we seem to be able to rely on to bowl his overs reasonably economically," said New Zealand captain Ken Rutherford.



D MORRISON

Rutherford hopes the injection of his most effective one-day batsman Andrew Jones will give the New Zealanders an invaluable edge, particularly with the top order struggling for runs before Christmas.

Jones will make his first appearance for New Zealand in the one-day series after missing the first four games. He was at home with his wife, who gave birth to their second child shortly before Christmas.

With a one-day average of 39.92 from 75 games, Jones is by far New Zealand's leading 50-over batsman and has experienced opening the innings

for his country on numerous occasions.

Stand-in South African captain Hansie Cronje said his side was in no way over-confident despite their five-run Test win over Australia in Sydney on Thursday.

"There's still a lot of cricket to be played on this tour and as we said when we won our first one-dayer, one win doesn't make a summer," Cronje said.

"It certainly was a fantastic victory for us having had to fight from ball one. It's a confidence booster but we are certainly not over-confident."

New Zealand named Rod Latham as Bryan Young's partner at the top of the innings with Mark Greatbatch staying down the order at No. 5.

South Africa brought veteran Peter Kirsten straight into its lineup and left out first choice wicketkeeper Brian Richardson to play Errol Stewart.

TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND: Bryan Young, Rod Latham, Andrew Jones, Ken Rutherford (captain), Mark Greatbatch, Chris Cairns, Tony Blair, Shane Thompson, Gavin Larsen, Chris Pringle, Richard de Groen, Chris Harris (12th man).

SOUTH AFRICA: Andrew Hudson, Peter Kirsten, Hansie Cronje, Daryll Cullinan, Jonty Rhodes, Errol Stewart, Brian McMillan, Pat Symcox, Craig Matthews, Fanie de Villiers, Allan Donald, Richard Snell (12th man).

Zhong sets pool afire again

BEIJING, Jan 7: China's Zhong Weiyue set her second world short-course mark in two days with a world best in the 50 metres butterfly on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Zhong, who broke the 100 metres butterfly short-course world record on Wednesday, clocked 26.44 seconds for the 50 to carve 0.49 of a second from the world best set by Australian Angela Kennedy in Canberra last July.

Kennedy finished second on Thursday in 27.29.

They were competing in the last event of a two-day meeting, the second leg of the seven-venue World Cup series which started in Hong Kong last Saturday. The five other meetings are in Europe in March.

Thursday's time is a world best rather than an official world record because 50 metres butterfly is an event not swum at major international championships.

Nonetheless, Zhong's performances in Beijing were of the highest class, with her 58.71 in the 100 butterfly surpassing the 12-year-old world record of American Mary Meagher by two-tenths of a second.

Compatriot Dai Guohong, who won three individual titles at the inaugural World Short-Course Championships in Palma de Mallorca in December, won three events to take her tally in the meeting to five.

She beat Elli Overton into second place in the 400 metres individual medley to complete a double over the Australian following her victory in Wednesday's 200 individual medley.

Dai clocked 4:37.3, well outside the short-course world record of 4:29.00 she set in Palma.

Russian Olympic champion Alexander Popov, who lowered the 100 metres freestyle world short-course record in both Hong Kong and Beijing, suffered his second successive

reverse against Lithuania's Raimundas Majulis in the 50 freestyle.

Britain's Mark Foster, whose world short-course record stands at 21.0, finished third in 22.02.

Dai, who set four individual world records in Palma, said she had had no real intention of trying to break records in Beijing. She said her goal was the Long-Course World Championships in Rome in September.

MEDALS TABLE

Final medals tally at end of two-day short-course swimming World Cup meet in Beijing (gold, silver, bronze, total).

	G	S	B	Total
China	17	14	17	48
Russia	8	3	5	16
Germany	4	3	3	10
Britain	2	1	6	9
Australia	1	7	0	8
Lithuania	1	1	0	2
Netherlands	1	1	0	2
Italy	0	4	0	4
Sweden	0	0	3	3