



The Pakistan national team, led by Salim Malik (2nd from right), arrived in the city yesterday to play two exhibition matches against Bangladesh in the Gold Leaf One-Day Series. Intikhab Alam (3rd from left) and Majid Jahangir Khan (centre) are the team and tour managers respectively. — Star photo

Sher-e-Bangla nat'l soccer

Sports Reporter

Chittagong and Nilphamari moved into the zonal finals of the eighteenth Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football championship from their respective zones around the country yesterday.

At Feni, Mashtu scored the lone goal to help Chittagong eliminate Cox's Bazar.

They will now face hosts Feni in the final on Tuesday. Nilphamari advanced to the finals when they beat Kurigram 2-0 at Lalmonirhat.

Selim found the net in the 14th minute while Sanauliah sealed the game two minutes before the final whistle.

Nilphamari will take on the winners of the match between Dinajpur and host Lalmonirhat in the final on Tuesday.

Besides, six teams — Narayanganj, Sherpur, Sunamganj, Bhola, Kustia, and Bogra — made it to the zonal semifinals.

Partex b'ball

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Winners Club and The Greys Club won their respective matches in the Partex First Division basketball league at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Dhaka Winners outplayed Backstroke Boys Club 94-38. The victors led the first half 47-15.

Shahan scored 17 and Maruf 16 points respectively for Winners.

Swapan and Mamun caged 17 and 10 points to reduce the margin for Backstroke.

In day's second match, The Greys Club outclassed Josephites Club 98-55.

Greys led the first half 46-24.

Anup top-scored with 30 and Iqbal caged 20 points for the winners.

Asif caged 24 points and Mamun 18 for the losers.

After 18 months

BARCELONA, Spain, Jan 22: A 44 storey luxury hotel, designed as a prestige project for the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games but not finished in time, finally opened for business on Thursday 18 months late, reports Reuters.

The 455-room hotel Des Arts, built at the heart of what was the Olympic Village and is now an upmarket seaside residential area, had to survive a prolonged receivership crisis before making it to opening day.

Many sceptics believe the concrete and glass structure overlooking seafront and beaches reclaimed specially for the Olympics will still turn out to be a white elephant as it opens for business during a deep economic recession.

But US-based operators Ritz-Carlton believe it can still be a success.

The need for a good product is still strong enough to support a good hotel, company president Horst Schulze told Reuters.

A symbolic opening during the Olympics in July 1992 did little to hide disappointment that the hotel was not ready for the Games.

It was to have housed members of the International Olympic Committee and hundreds of VIPs, attending the sports festival.

Problems with contractors, and agents brought work on the building to a halt and escalating costs forced holding company Hovisa into receivership in October, 1992.

By then the original 15 billion peseta (about 150 million dollars) at 1992 exchange rates) budget had soared to 50 billion and Hovisa's partners, US company Travelstead and Japanese department store Sogo, had to file for protection from their creditors on the project.

Bangladesh face world champs today



A 19-member Pakistan cricket team arrived here yesterday evening to play two one-day matches of the Gold Leaf series against the Bangladesh national team, reports UNB.

For the first time, Saleem Malik, a right-handed middle order batsman and right arm leg-break and slow-medium bowler, is leading the Pakistan team in Bangladesh and on their New Zealand tour.

The world champions will play two one-day matches — today and tomorrow — at the Dhaka National Stadium. The 45-overs-a-side contests begin at 9:15 am.

Farooque Ahmed, a right-hand top order batsman of Abahani KC, will lead the Bangladesh side in the two games and also in the forthcoming ICC Trophy, beginning in Kenya next month.

On arrival at the Zia International Airport, Pakistani skipper Saleem Malik said: "Every captain wants to win and so do I. We will play seriously against Bangladesh."

Intikhab Alam, former Test

all-rounder and manager of the World Cup-winning team, who is manager of the touring side, said: "We have a very good team with three experienced bowlers in Waseem Akram, Waqar Younis and Mustaq Ahmed, and also two young lads — Aataur Rehman and Amir Nazir."

Bangladesh Television will telecast the matches live while Radio Bangladesh will broadcast the running commentary.

Aataur Haq Mallick and Akteruddin Shaheen of Bangladesh will conduct the first match today while Manzoor Milki and Syed Mahbubullah will be the umpires in the second match on Monday.

Two former national skippers — Roquibul Hasan and Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu — will act as adjudicators.

The Bangladesh national team, now preparing for the ICC Trophy championship will be meeting the Pakistan in their last warm-up matches before leaving for Kenya on January 25.

The matches will be very significant for the Bangladesh boys who, in the meantime, have completed preparatory tours of India, Sri Lanka,

Hong Kong and Pakistan under the guidance of former Indian all-rounder Mahinder Amarnath, their coach.

TEAMS

PAKISTAN: Saleem Malik (captain); Asif Murtaza (vice-captain); Shoaib Mohammad, Aamir Sohail, Saeed Anwar, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Basit Ali, Rashid Latif, Waseem Akram, Waqar Younis, Atif Rauf, Mushtaq Ahmed, Aamir Nazir, Aataur Rehman, Shakeel Ahmed. Tour manager — Majid Khan; Team manager — Intikhab Alam and physiotherapist — Abdul Rauf.

BANGLADESH: Farooque Ahmed (Captain); Akram Khan (Vice-Captain); Minhazul Abedin, Nannu, Aminul Islam Bulbul, Enamul Haq Moni, Atahar Ali Khan, Jahangir Alam, GM Nowsher Prince, Saiful Islam, Jahangir Alam Dulu, Nasir Ahmed Nasu, Sarfudduhlah Ibne Shahid Saikat, Salim Shahed, Shahinawaz Shahid Shanu, Mizanur Rahman Babul and ASM Sajid Hasan.

Chief de mission — KZ Islam; Manager — Reza-e-Karim; Associate Manager — Golam Farooque Apu and Coach — Mahinder Amarnath.

Milnars Div I league ends

Sports Reporter



Agrani Bank and Dhaka Wanderers Club rounded off their campaign on winning note as curtain fell on this season's Milnars First Division cricket league yesterday.

With the two promotion slots for next season's Navana Premier Division already filled and two teams relegated to the Second Division, yesterday's matches were played for mere academic interest.

In the last super league match, Dhaka Wanderers, powered on by superlative performances from Pakistani Saeed Abbas and Rana, registered an easy five-wicket win over City Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Rana finished with fantastic figures of five wickets for 15 runs as City Club, sent in to bat first after their skipper lost the toss, folded their innings on 144 with nine balls remaining in their 45-over quota.

City Club's misery began when Wahid, batting on 26, was run out going for a run which was not there. Wahid's wicket, the fourth in the innings, initiated a collapse in the lower-middle order, reducing City from a not-so-bad 68 for three to a precarious 88 for seven in 34.2 overs.

At this stage, Bappi, City's new ball bowler, teamed up with Sajal, the number nine batsman, and together they withstood the pressure for the next 41 balls, adding 37 valuable runs for the ninth wicket.

Bappi, who top-scored with a reedy 46-ball 40, made of a couple of fours and a sixer, was

the last man out when Rana had him caught by Gari. Bappi apart, Palash, one of the openers who scored 33, Wahid and Sajal with 19 were the notable scorers for the eventual losers.

In their turn, Wanderers overcame early hiccups to steer home in 34.2 overs, making 145 for the loss of five of their men.

Saeed Abbas, the younger brother of former Pakistan Test batsman Zaheer Abbas, held the innings together with an unbeaten 57. His 86-ball stay was punctuated with six shots across the fence.

Shafiq and Rana, who earlier, shined with the ball, were also among the runs with scores of 20 and 25 respectively.

For City, Saiful and Sajal claimed two wickets apiece.

In the relegation league affair at the Mirpur Pallabi ground, Agrani Bank had an easy six-wicket triumph over Evergreen Club, thanks to a superb unconquered knock of 65 from Biplob.

Lance Cairns to lead NZ XI

WELLINGTON, Jan 22: Former New Zealand Test cricketer Lance Cairns will captain a New Zealand selection XI in the opening match against Pakistan on January 30, reports AFP.

The team for the first tour match was announced today and Cairns will play with his son Chris, a current New Zealand Test player.

Cairns, 44, played 43 Tests between 1973 and 1986 and his total 130 wickets for New Zealand was exceeded only by world record holder Sir Richard Hadlee's 431.

Pakistan batsman Martin Crowe, now recovering from knee surgery, has also been named in the team.

Pakistan are to play three Tests against New Zealand and five one-day internationals.

The team announced today for the first match in Hamilton is: Lance Cairns (captain), Blair Pocock, Graham Burnett, Martin Crowe, Stephen Fleming, Barry Cooper, Grant Bradburn, Chris Cairns, Jeff Wilson, Adam Parore, Simon Doull.

Azharuddin 'for a change

LUCKNOW, Jan 22: Indian skipper Mohammad Azharuddin has said that a long-term cricket manager will give fillip to the national team, reports PTI.

"It would be great help. For this would give continuity and enable us to plan on a longer time frame. I would suggest that such a step be taken," Azharuddin told newsmen yesterday, replying to a specific query on whether India needed a long-term cricket manager.

Cricketer manager Ajit Wadekar said the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) constitution does not permit such a step, but agreed that a long-term manager would enable better planning.

Wadekar said he is enjoying his job and would continue as long as the board wishes.

Wadekar was appointed cricket manager for the tour to South Africa in the winter of 1992 in which the team lost the Test series.

Thereafter, however, Wadekar's association with Azharuddin brought a remarkable turnaround in the Indian team's prospects as India won three consecutive Test series last year and capped it with the five-nation Hero Cup limited overs tournament in November.

After beating England 2-0 and Zimbabwe 1-0, India registered an overseas Test series win after a hiatus of seven years beating, Sri Lanka 1-0 last July.

The Wadekar-Azharuddin association has brought India four wins, one defeat and six draws in 11 tests.

England A play safe

EAST LONDON, South Africa, Jan 22: Hugh Morris' England A side, fresh from their Free State mauling last week, crawled to 2% for six, against Buffalo here at Buffalo Park on Friday, reports AFP.

What England sparkle there was came from openers John Crawley and skipper Morris in a safety-first performance.

The England captain's decision to bat on what appeared a good batting strip was the right decision as the pair put on 35 runs of just 42 balls.

But Morris was first to go, run out by Peter Strydom for 15, and from then until the close the pace of the game fell sharply.

The worst offenders were Steven Rhodes (58 not out) and Mal Loye (71), who took 379 balls to reach 131 during their fifth-wicket partnership before Loye was bowled by Ian Howell.

The Border pace attack of Alan Badenhorst and Brendon Fourie looked hell-bent on helping get the game moving.

Both were guilty of straying down the leg and offering the batsmen a tempting variety of short-pitched deliveries.

Badenhorst ended the day with the best figures, claiming the wickets of Crawley and Paul Taylor, caught behind for one, while conceding 65 runs off his 21 overs.

But the reluctance of the England batsmen to get on with the task at hand saw Howell send down 18 maidens in his 28 overs, during which he claimed Loye's scalp while conceding only 16 runs.

Eves' cricket

WELLINGTON, Jan 22: New Zealand beat Australia by two runs in the third and final women's one-day cricket international here today. New Zealand won the series 2-1, reports AFP.



Former Pakistan Test captain Intikhab Alam, now serving as the team manager of the world champions, is being received at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday. — Star photo

Kumble keeps SL guessing

Indians draw first blood



LUCKNOW, Jan 22: India's sensational leg-spinner Anil Kumble picked up a career-best seven for 59 to carve out a crushing innings win over Sri Lanka in the first Test here Saturday, reports AFP.

The 23-year-old mechanical engineer from Bangalore returned match figures of 11 for 128, and now has an incredible tally of 77 wickets in just 14 Test matches.

Following on 293 runs behind, the Sri Lankan second innings folded up for 174 to give India a resounding victory by an innings and 119 runs and a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series.

This is India's sixth victory in their last eight matches. Saturday's triumph over Sri Lanka was also the 50th win for India in Test cricket.

The second Test starts in the southern city of Bangalore on January 26. The third will be played in the southern city of Ahmedabad from February 8.

Kumble's remarkable strike power proved too much for the bewildered Sri Lankans who lost 13 wickets in the three sessions of the fourth day's play and gave the Indians a well-deserved rest on Sunday, the scheduled fifth day.

Starting the day at Thursday's score of 197 for seven in reply to India's mammoth 511, the Sri Lankans were bowled out for 218 in their first innings half-an-hour after the start at the wind-swept KD Babu Stadium.

A bellinger 45 by Roshan Mahanama and 47 by Hashan Tillekaratne took Sri Lanka to 100 for one in their second innings half an hour after lunch.

But Sri Lankans lost six wickets for the addition of 23 runs to go to tea at an uncomfortable 123 for six.

Pubudu Dassanayake and Dulip Liyanage saved Sri Lanka the blushes with a 40-run stand for the seventh wicket, but India's victory was never in doubt.

The Sri Lankan batsmen appeared unhappy at some disputed decisions by umpire RC Sharma, standing in his first Test.

Sri Lanka's miseries began with the fourth delivery of the morning, when Don Anurasiri was bowled over by seamer Manoj Prabhakar before a run had been added to Thursday's score of 197 for seven.

Prabhakar also removed the defiant Dulip Liyanage leg be-

fore to terminate the innings. Liyanage batted for almost two hours from Thursday afternoon to make just 12.

In between, Kapil Dev picked up the wicket of Pramodaya Wickramasinghe — also leg before to take his Test tally to 426, six wickets short

Kalpage, however, did not last long, driving Venkatapathy Raju to mid-off where Kumble took an easy catch, to make the score 122 for five.

At the same score, Aravinda de Silva attempted an ambitious sweep off Kumble, missed the line and was bowled out for 11.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day's play of the first cricket Test between India and Sri Lanka here today:

INDIA: First Innings 511 (N S Sidhu 124, S R Tendulkar 142, S V Manjrekar 61, M Muralidharan 5-162)

SRI LANKA: First Innings Mahanama c Mongia b Kumble 73

Samaraweera lbw b Chauhan 42

Tillekaratne c Mongia b Kumble 7

De Silva c Azharuddin b Kumble 13

Ranasingha c Chauhan b Raju 9

Kalpage c Azharuddin b Kumble 2

Dassanayake st Mongia b Raju 36

Liyanage lbw b Prabhakar 12

Anurasiri b Prabhakar 2

Wickramasinghe lbw b Kapil 6

Muralidharan not out 9

Extras: (lb-7) 218

Total: (all out) 218

Fall of wickets: 1-120; 2-120; 3-132; 4-149; 5-149; 6-158; 7-191; 8-197; 9-208; 10-218.

Bowling: O M R W

Prabhakar 16.4 7 36 2

Kapil 10 3 27 1

Raju 20 10 25 2

Kumble 37 10 69 4

Chauhan 23 7 54 1

SRI LANKA: Second Innings Mahanama c Azharuddin b Kumble 45

Samaraweera lbw Kumble 12

Tillekaratne c Prabhakar b Kumble 47

De Silva b Kumble 11

Ranasingha c Mongia b Kumble 0

Kalpage c Kumble b Raju 2

Das Sanayake b Prabhakar 15

Liyanage c Mongia b Chauhan 23

Anurasiri lbw b Kumble 4

Wickramasinghe not out 0

Muralidharan b Kumble 0

Extras: (b-5, lb-6, w-4) 15

Total: (all out) 174

Fall of wickets: 1-29; 2-100; 3-109; 4-109; 5-122; 6-122; 7-162; 8-174; 9-174; 10-174.

Bowling: O M R W

Prabhakar 16 3 38 1

Kapil 3 0 8 0

Raju 14 5 28 1

Kumble 27.3 9 59 7

Chauhan 31 2 30 1

Result: India won by innings and 119 runs.

Another twist in Ma story



athletics on Friday, reports

Reuters.

Ma, whose runners began smashing world records last year, claims Beijing reneged on 152,000 dollars in subsidies, forcing him to cancel winter attitude training, and that unnamed enemies have conspired to undermine his success and reputation.

He reiterated his threat to resign in a pre-dawn telephone interview on Friday with the Beijing Evening News from a training base in the Liaoning Province capital of Shenyang.

In the interview, Ma angrily denied a report in Shanghai's Xinmin Evening News that he had made amends with Liaoning's sports establishment and had withdrawn his resignation.

"This (Xinmin) report does not square with the facts," Ma told the Beijing Evening News, an authoritative official tabloid in the Chinese capital.

By attacking the official Shanghai Daily, Ma now finds himself dangerously at odds with the Communist Party

mouthpiece People's Daily.

"After much thought, Ma Junren has finally withdrawn his resignation," People's Daily said on Friday its overseas editions, adding that his training camp had been unaffected.

The newspaper said it based its report on Shanghai's Xinmin Evening News, suggesting that People's Daily editors had elected to ignore the daily updates on Ma's threats appearing in the Beijing Evening News.

Beijing Evening News described Ma as standing his ground, insisting on redress from Beijing.

"Ma Junren ... said he believed the central government and regional leaders would fully grasp the facts and speedily resolve the problems," it said.

Ma has sparked controversy ever since his women last year began obliterating world records using his marathon-a-day training and elixirs of turtle blood and caterpillar fungus.

National debate erupted after Ma sacked, 1,500 metres world champion Lu Dong for defying his demands to dump her boyfriend and cut her long hair short like her teammates.

Detractors may also question Ma's cries of poverty now that he has sold the formula for one

of his athletic tonics — called "Life's Inner Strength" — to a South China health-drink maker for US 1.15 million dollars.

Ma told the Beijing Evening News that Life's Inner Strength was not his most potent Ma family army elixir but was designed for use by ordinary citizens to improve their strength.

The Beijing tabloid's latest edition carried a typically scathing screed from the mercurial Ma, who gave China's sports establishment until February 6 to redress his grievances.

Ma said unnamed opponents sought to oust him with the pretext that he needed time off for medical reasons and that opportunistic "self-promoters" had disrupted the team by during his runners into movie-making schemes.

Ma said no patriotic Chinese would obstruct his work.

"Anyone who puts national interests above his own would not try to cut off my army's provisions, spoil my reputation or upset this soldier's morale," Ma said.

"Note even our overseas opponents would resort to these measures," he said. "Really, I just can't take it any longer."

Italy to face unknown, unseen



MANCHESTER, Jan 22: Italy face five trips behind the former Iron Curtain if they are to qualify for the

1996 European Championships in England, reports AP.

Saturday's draw put the 1968 titlist with Ukraine, Croatia, Lithuania, Estonia; and Slovenia, none of whom have played in the competition before.

The breakup of the former Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia has swelled the number of teams to a record 47, with an unprecedented 15 nations bidding to join host nation England in the finals.

Italy, despite playing Estonia in qualification for this summer's World Cup tournament, are most affected.

"We have to respect all our opponents and aren't risk losing our place in the finals by underestimating them," Italy's coach Arrigo Sacchi said after the draw.

ample, Malta turned out to be quite a surprise and one of the most difficult teams for us to beat."

"It would be easy for us to pretend that this is an easy group," Sacchi said. "At the same time it will be up to the attitude of the players. They can make it easy or the most difficult group."

Defending champion Denmark, who won in Sweden two years ago, face Spain and Belgium in Group Two, along with comparative soccer minnows, Cyprus, Armenia, and newly-elected Macedonia, which formerly was part of Yugoslavia.

World Cup holders Germany, who will be one of the favourites to win the title in two years time, faces Wales, Bulgaria, Georgia, Albania and Moldova.

The Netherlands, winner in 1988, face Norway, the Czech Republic, Belarus, Malta and Luxembourg and also will be confident of qualifying.

After Saturday's draw, British bookmakers Ladbrokes made Germany the 9-2

favourites to win the trophy with Italy second at 5-1 and England and the Netherlands tied at 6-1.

Denmark, who failed to qualify for the World Cup, are rated a 14-1 shot to hang on to their European title.

Ireland and Northern Ireland, who clashed in qualification for this summer's World Cup, meet again in group six along with Portugal, Austria, Latvia and Liechtenstein.

In group eight are Russia, Greece, Scotland, Finland, the Faeroe Islands and San Marino and five teams will contest Group Three — Sweden, Switzerland, Hungary, Iceland and Turkey.

The advantage of playing in a group that has only five teams is that you play and prepare for fewer games," said Swedish coach Tommy Svensson.

That is important for me because I have so many of my players playing abroad. I think we are in a tough group but we also have a good chance of qualifying."