

Sport

Nirman schools cricket begins today

Sports Reporter
Gulshan Model High School will take on BCSIR High School at the Dhanmondi Club ground on the inaugural day of 12th Nirman schools cricket championship today.

Four more join Salov

BRUSSELS, Jan 26: Four of the six qualifiers for the World Chess Championship finals have been decided after draws dominated the penultimate round of the Candidates' matches in Wijk Aan Zee, the Netherlands on Tuesday, reports Xinhua.

Vishwanathan Anand of India, Gata Kamsky of the United States and Vladimir Kramnik of Russia all scored easy draws to earn a place among the last six world title candidates with decisive victories in their elimination matches.

The first player to qualify for the finals, Valery Salov, finished an easy 5-1 victory over fellow Russian Alexander Khalifman on Monday.

Twelve of the world's best Grandmasters are competing in the Dutch coastal town in knockout matches.

The Candidates matches are the concluding stages of a two-year competition designed to find a challenger for world champion Anatoly Karpov of Russia in 1995.

India's Vishwanathan Anand, world number three and the fastest Grandmaster in the world, completed an easy two-point victory over Russian emigre Arthur Yusupov who is considered one of the hardest players in the world to beat.

Anand is one of the favourites to qualify to play Karpov. Along with Kramnik and Kamsky, he has also reached the final eight of the unofficial world title series being organised by Garri Kasparov, who was stripped of the world title last year.

Two of the six matches remain in the balance after Tuesday's penultimate round.

Liverpool crash out again

LONDON, Jan 26: Liverpool tumbled out of the FA Cup at the first hurdle for the second successive season at Anfield on Tuesday when they lost 1-0 to First Division Bristol City in a third round replay, reports AFP.

Brain Tinnion was City's hero as the Merseysiders followed last year's shock home defeat by Bolton at the same stage with another stunning reversal.

The defender joined the attack in the 66th minute to fire home from the edge of the area and clinch a fourth-round trip to Second Division Stockport on Saturday.

His goal gave City the win they deserved over the three games. The first match ended in a floodlight failure at 1-1 and in the re-run they squandered a host of chances before scrambling a late equaliser, but this time they would not be denied.

There will now be further doubts about the future of manager Graeme Souness, with Liverpool out of both Cup competitions and of the running for the title.

Anglo-German tie now in Berlin

BONN, Jan 26: An international friendly between England and Germany, cancelled in Hamburg for fear of neo-Nazi violence, will take place in Berlin's Olympic Stadium, reports Reuters.

The German Football Federation (DFB) decided today to hold the match in Berlin but to keep the same date, April 20, the anniversary of Adolf Hitler's birthday.

The DFB originally planned to hold the match in the northern port city of Hamburg.

However, city officials asked that the game be moved to another venue because of fears that neo-Nazis planned to disrupt the event to mark Hitler's birthday.

BSWA meet

Sports Reporter
The biennial general meeting and election of the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) will be held at 9:00 am on January 28 at the conference of the National Sports Council (NSC).

School sports

The annual sports of Viharunissa Noon School and College was held at the college premises here yesterday, reports BSS.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf inaugurated the annual sports meet as the chief guest. State Minister for Textile Abdul Mannan was present as special guest.

5 more teams in final round

Sports Reporter
Five more teams — Netrakona, Bagerhat, Kushtia, Sylhet and Bogra — booked their places in the final round of the 18th Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football championships with wins in their zonal finals at different venues across the country.

At Sherpur, Netrakona defeated Tangail 3-2 in the tie-breaker in zonal final.

The scheduled time ended one all. Shishim and Donn

Partex b' ball

Sports Reporter
Dhaka Winners Club trounced Kurmitola Apollo Club 84-26 in the Partex First Division basketball league at the Outer Stadium wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

Winners led the first half 41-13.

Kabir caged 18 points while Maruf scored 14 for the winners.

Enam and Julian caged 11 and seven points respectively for the losers.

In the other tie, Azad Boys Club recorded a close 86-17 win against Dhaka Wanderers Club. Azad dominated the first half 41-24.

Akass, who top scored with 32, was closely followed by James with 22 for the winners.

Ranjit and Benifaus caged 16 and 14 points respectively for the losers.

Naogaon youth v'ball champs

Sports Reporter
Naogaon DSA won the first ever youth volleyball title yesterday, reports UNB.

They beat Dhaka DSA 11-15, 15-9, 15-9, 15-11 in a keenly contested final of the Rahima Food national youth volleyball championship at the outer Stadium volleyball court.

Rajshahi DSA finished third beating Jessore DSA 13-15, 15-3, 15-6, 15-4 at the same venue in the morning.

Information Secretary Nuruddin Al-Masud witnessed the final match as chief guest and gave away the trophies. Chairman and managing director of sponsors Rahima Food Corporation M A Rof was present as special guest.

Listless Lankan bowlers toil

BANGALORE, India, Jan 26: Navjot Singh, Vinod Kambli and Sachin Tendulkar put a listless Sri Lanka attack to the sword in the second Test today, reports Reuters.

They spurred India to 339-3 at the close of the opening day.

Kambli led the charge after his skipper Mohammad Azharuddin had won the toss and opted to bat on a placid pitch.

He and Sidhu put on 148 for the second wicket, Kambli playing the dominant role with seven fours and two sixes — both of off-spinner Muttiah Muralidharan — in his innings of 82.

Muralidharan, harshly treated by Sidhu in India's innings victory in the first Test, eventually gained his revenge when Kambli attempted a third six and was caught at long-off by Pramodya Wickremasinghe.

Opener Sidhu, who had scored a sedate half century, then took up the role of aggressor.

He hit Muralidharan for 12 runs in one over, including one towering six over long-on.

But when just one run short

of his second successive Test century Sidhu misjudged the flight of a Muralidharan delivery and was trapped leg before.

Tendulkar took up the charge next, racing to an unbeaten 90 at stumps with four



SIDHU 99
successive boundaries off medium pacer Pramodya Wickremasinghe.

Tendulkar, who has scored 60 of his runs in boundaries, put together an unbroken 91-

run fourth-wicket stand with Azharuddin off just 73 deliveries.

The Sri Lankans were forced to make one change to their team from the first Test, bringing in left-handed batsman Sanath Jayasuriya in place of injured left-arm medium pacer Duleep Lyanage.

India were unchanged from the Lucknow Test.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at the close of the first day of the second Test between India and Sri Lanka here today:

INDIA: First Innings
Prabhakar C Dissanayake b Wickremasinghe 14
Sidhu lbw Muralidharan 99
Kambli c Wickremasinghe b Muralidharan 82
Tendulkar not out 90
Azharuddin not out 32
Extras (lb 3, nb 17, b 2) 22
Total: (8 wkts for 90 overs) 339
Fall of wickets: 1-34; 2-182; 3-243.

Bowling: O M R W
Wickremasinghe 14 0 75 1
Jayasuriya 8 2 26 0
Muralidharan 35 3 117 2
Ranatunga 4 0 14 0
Anurasiri 20 1 75 0
Kalpage 9 1 27 0

Sentu sends Azad crashing

Sports Reporter
fine half century but still ended up a loser as Wari Krima Chakra lost to Gandaria Cricketers by six wickets.

The Wari squad batted first and were all out for 144 in 38.3 overs with Apu scoring 56. Yaad and Sajid contributed 16 each.

The total seemed quite inadequate once Bulbul and Yen took over the charge in the middle. Both batsmen were unbeaten by the Gandaria out-

fit reached the winning target in 26 overs.

Bulbul was the topscorer with 51 while Yen cracked 45.

Babu also flashed with the willow to carve an easy eight-wicket win for Mirpur Nabin KC against Young Pegasus B at the Dhaka Stadium.

Nabin KC, aided by Babu's superb 64, made 156 for the loss of two wickets in 30.3 overs

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Juventus and Italian international striker Roberto Baggio poses with the Golden Ball award he received in Paris on Jan 25.

Basten still hopeful

PARIS, Jan 26: Injured Dutch soccer superstar Marco van Basten is still hoping to play a role in Holland's World Cup campaign, reports AFP.

He also bitterly regretted here on Tuesday that Johann Cruyff would not be coaching the Dutch during the tournament — before calling for Ruud Gullit to be brought back.

Van Basten, whose career is still under threat after only playing a handful of games in the last two years following a right ankle injury, hoped to begin his comeback at the end of February after seeing consultant surgeon Marc Martens.

"I'll check up with him and see how it affects my career," he said.

"I still hope to play in the World Cup. I'm keeping in shape by swimming and cycling and if I get the green light to play again, I'll be ready for the United States."

"I won't need long to get back to top fitness."

Van Basten, who has undergone a series of operations, was rushed back to play in AC Milan's European Champions Cup final defeat against France's Olympique Marseille in May last year and has not played since.

He added that it was a huge disappointment that former Dutch international Cruyff, touted to replace coach Dick Advocaat during the World Cup, had backed down after a row over money.

"It's real pity for the players, the national team and football in general. Johann proved with Barcelona that you can enjoy playing the game."

"But I have a positive opinion of Advocaat and will totally cooperate with him if I get back."

Van Basten also argued that Gullit, who switched from AC Milan to Italian rivals Sampdoria in the close season, should be brought back into the Dutch side.

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Juventus management reshuffled

TURIN, Italy, Jan 26: Italian auto tycoon Gianni Agnelli, busy with Fiat's industrial reorganisation, still found the time for reshuffling the management of the family soccer club Juventus of Turin, reports AP.

Agnelli, who's the owner, chairman and the No 1 fan of Italy's most titled and popular team, announced late Tuesday that Roberto Bettiga, a former Juventus player, will replace Giampiero Boniperti as managing director of the Turin club at the end of the current soccer season.

The change was seen by soccer analysts as an attempt to give the club a more modern and aggressive organisation following several years of failures.

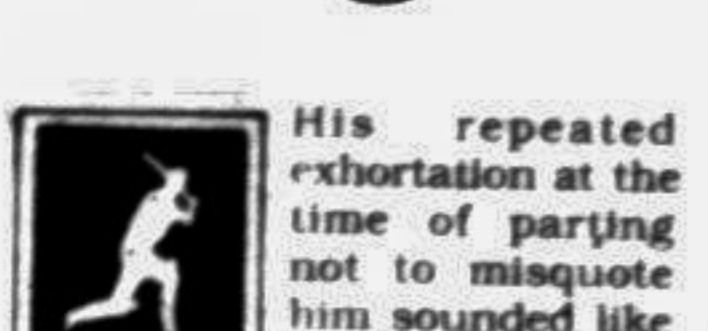
Juventus won a record of 22 Italian league titles but have been shut out since 1986 by rising powerhouses such as AC Milan, Inter and Napoli.

While fielding some of the most expensive Italian stars, such as Roberto Baggio and Gianluca Vielli, La Juve only recent victory was the UEFA Cup last year.

Bettiga, 43, a former national team star who played with Juventus for 13 years, will take over full powers when Boniperti retires in summer.

Boniperti, along time manager of the Turin club, also was a former Juventus player.

Salim Malik — more sinned against than sinning?



By Chandra Shekhar Das

His repeated exhortation at the time of parting not to misquote him sounded like a ventriloquist's gimmick of the blinking portrait of a batsman, who seven years ago, on a slightly murky afternoon in the first one-day international at the Eden Gardens of Calcutta, did such a Coriolanus act with the bat that the nearly hundred thousand patriotic spectators became mute and his teammates went on a wild jubilation spree madly banging the dressing room tables.

Salim Malik, the would-be father captain of the Pakistan cricket team, played such match-winning innings at least on one more occasion, if not many, that made Pakistan look like waking revenants. Few would forget the cultured annihilation of the English bowlers in the semifinal of the Nehru Cup that gave moribund Pakistan a new lease of life, and of course the trophy with the magnificent Caribbeans bowing to the puissance of the Lazarus in the final.

The image of the Pakistan team as a unit of never-say-die cricketers under the coercing leadership of one and only Imran Khan grew brighter and brighter since then, finally culminating in Pakistan's winning of the Benson and Hedges World Cup in 1992 but Malik, envisaged as the mainstay of his side's batting after Javed Miandad, became a dark, silhouetted figure.

Accused of being a feather-dragger by Imran during the World Cup, a success-starved, upset Malik found himself out of the Caribbean tour party last year, to his utter horror. Prior to this exclusion, the brilliant right-hander, who prefers driving to any other shot in the book, was enticed into a hybrid by the stoking press which having observed that Imran was no longer needed in Pakistan cricket.

"I never said that. I was quoted wrongly," rehearsed Malik, during a chat at the dinner hosted by the organisers following the two friendly one-day matches between

Bangladesh and Pakistan with the world champions stopping over as a gesture of good will en route to New Zealand.

"But I did feel very strongly about the dropping. Till that time I thought I had done enough for Pakistan to be spared of such shabby treatment. My statistics speaks for myself. I was the first Pakistani batsman to score about five hundred runs in a Test series in England in 1991," paused



SALIM MALIK

Malik, who like India's Dilip Vengsarkar always found Headingly, Leeds as his happy hunting ground. He played a match winning unbeaten 99 to help skipper Imran engineer Pakistan's first series victory on English soil in 1987. Four years later he played 200 eighty-plus knocks at the same venue.

An avid admirer of the great Indian batsman Sunil Gavaskar and West Indian master blaster Viv Richards, Malik, who never hesitates to cull Sir Richard Hadlee as the most difficult bowler he has ever faced, feels, "..... in Athar Ali Khan, Akram Khan and Enamul Huq Moni Bangladesh have three very useful cricketers. Particularly Moni seemed quite a good spinner. Even as a team Bangladesh has come a long way. When I last played against Bangladesh, the general standard seemed pretty low. It is on its way up and if the players are prepared to work hard under and able coach like Jimmy (Mohinder Amarnath), I think Bangladesh should make it to

the big league within the next two years."

Every Bangladeshi would love to imagine Malik a mantic optimist regarding Bangladesh's cricketing future but the curiosity over human relationship dies hard.

So the inevitable return to the original argument — when and where the touted deterioration of relationship between him and Imran started?

"There was no straining of relationship. I always respected him as a great player and captain although I feel Javed Miandad as the shrewder of the two leaders," quipped Malik.

Then again his homely, unaffected voice asseverated Imran was a lucky captain.

May be, but Malik's luck during Imran's reign helped him to cling to the life-line as far as his place in Pakistan team is concerned. How else would you explain it? He was almost on the verge of being dropped from the team during the long tour of India in 1987.

In Malik's own words, "Calcutta one-day saved me. I knew it was my last match for Pakistan. With Pakistan chasing two hundred-plus total, I was told by the captain (Imran) to pad up to go in as number three. After a good start a slump followed. Wickets kept falling but I was kept waiting. At last I went in after Manzoor Elahi was out as the number seven batsman. I was confused because all our top batsmen were gone and the run rate was soaring. I looked for advice from Imran. "Skip any instruction. Do as you like," answered my captain. I was in a state of daze and threw my bat around and Pakistan won quite comfortably in the end," recalled Malik.

It was the coming of age of a stylish stroke maker, the present captain of the Pakistan team and an affable, low-profile sports star.

Reminded of Imran's criticism of him in the great all-rounder's autobiography, Malik rounded off, "I never said anything to defend myself or never indulged in counter criticism. I was misquoted. He kept on listening to others and never checked it out with me."

No truth behind Tyson deal

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan 26: Authorities on Tuesday denied a television report that a deal was in the works that could free American boxer Mike Tyson from prison, where he is serving time for a rape conviction, reports AP.

"Indeed, we are bewildered as to where these rumours originated. They certainly did not come from the prosecutor's office," Marion County Prosecutor Jeffrey Modisett said.

Tyson, a former heavyweight champion, was convicted of raping beauty pageant contestant Desiree Washington in an Indianapolis hotel room in 1991. He is serving a six-year prison sentence at the Indiana Youth Center.

An Indianapolis television station reported Monday night that Tyson would admit the crime in return for prosecutors recommending his sentence be cut to time served. The station did not disclose its sources for the report.

"If anyone had asked the prosecutor's office directly, they would have been informed that we have not initiated any dis-

cussions with anyone from the Tyson defence team and that we are not currently engaged in any negotiations involving the Tyson defence team," Modisett said.

The TV station earlier said both sides may be agreeable to such a deal to avoid an upcoming hearing ordered by the Indiana Court of Appeals to determine whether the prosecutor's office withheld evidence.

"That's not true. There is no such deal," Rob Smith, a spokesman for Modisett, said. "We're not entertaining any deal similar to that from any party. To my knowledge we have not been approached and if we were approached we would not entertain any such deal."

The TV station reported Tuesday morning that prosecutors were said to be in talks with Tyson's lawyers but would wait for the Tyson camp to file their proposed deal with the courts before a decision is made on it.

Tyson attorney Alan Dershowitz, reached at his home in the Boston area late Monday, said he could not comment on whether any representatives for

Tyson were pursuing negotiations that could lead to an early release.

"I've had no discussions" with the prosecutor's office, Dershowitz said. "I am going ahead and preparing for the hearing."

The Court of Appeals rejected Tyson's first appeal to reverse his 1992 conviction. Dershowitz has taken that appeal to the US Supreme Court, but it has not decided whether to hear the case.

The defence also pursued a second round of appeals on its contention that Tyson should have a new trial because the prosecutor's office withheld from the defence team information that the woman intended to sue Tyson for civil damages. The defence claimed that the information showed she was motivated by a potentially large damage award against the former heavyweight boxing champion.

"We, of course, are not party to any negotiations relating to the pending civil case between Washington and Tyson and therefore cannot speak to that issue," Modisett said.

Limpar's chance to impress

STOCKHOLM, Jan 26: Anders Limpar doesn't often play for Arsenal these days. But he's on Sweden's squad for next month's exhibition soccer games in the United States and that could mean a World Cup place in June, reports AP.

Swedish coach Tommy Svensson named Limpar as one of five foreign-based players on his squad to face Colombia, United States and Mexico.

It would have been four, he said. But then he figured Limpar wasn't needed by his English club.

"It really does not matter how long Anders is away, he won't miss any league matches since (it seems) he is not allowed to play for Arsenal," Svensson said.

A talented but erratic midfielder, Limpar has not been a regular Arsenal player for several months.

The other foreign-based players named by Svensson were Hakan Mild of the Swiss team Servette, strikers Kennet Andersson of Lille, France, Henrik Larsson, Feyenoord, Netherlands and Mats Lilienberg, 1860 Munich, Germany.

Lilienberg scored 18 goals for Trelleborg and was the Swedish League's top scorer.

Larsson will miss a planned tour of Japan with Feyenoord, but the Swedish coach welcomed the Feyenoord manager's decision to drop Larsson who would have suffered from severe jet-lag travelling from Japan to join the Swedish side in Miami, Fla.

Svensson's squad consists of 22 players, including five rookies. Half of the squad are likely to be on the Swedish World Cup roster.

Ace strikers like Tomas Brodin of Parma (Italy) and Martin Dahlin of Borussia Moenchengladbach (Germany) had previous commitments with their clubs so they were not available for Svensson.

Sweden's first exhibition will be Feb 18 against Colombia at Joe Robbie Stadium in Miami, Fla. The third game is against Mexico on Feb 24 in Los Angeles, Calif.

In the World Cup finals, Sweden were drawn in Group B with Brazil, Russia and Cameroon. The Swedish team opens June 19 against Cameroon.

Svensson, who said his final selection will be announced May 16, gave more details Tuesday about World Cup preparations. Sweden play a friendly at Wales on April 20. On May 4 Sweden play Nigeria at the Rasunda Stadium, near

Stockholm.

"I'm glad it worked out with Nigeria. They play very similar to Cameroon," Svensson said.

Sweden play Denmark in Copenhagen May 26 and on June 5 face World Cup finalist Norway at the Rasunda.

The Swedish roster for the US-tour:

Goalkeepers — Thomas Ravelli (IFK Goteborg), Lars Eriksson (IFK Norrkoping).

Unlucky!

LONDON, Jan 26: Three friends were dead unlucky, missing out on a 600,000 pounds sterling (£95,900 US dollars) soccer pools fortune when the coupon collector failed to pick up their entry because he went to a funeral, a British newspaper reported on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Bill Smith, Lenny Lowther and Frank Higgins from Liverpool in northwest England thought they had hit the jackpot after using the same numbers on their coupons for 16 years.

But their joy was quickly shattered when they discovered their collector had not picked up their coupon and his deputy had not turned up either.

"Fancy the collector not coming on the very week we would have won," Smith, a 75-year-old retired watchmaker, told the Daily Star tabloid.