

Big wins for Angels, Fleet

Sports Reporter

Title aspirants Angels made light work of giant-killers Josephites to maintain a clean slate as they raced to a thumping win in yesterday's one of the two encounters of the Partex First Division basketball league at the wooden-floor gymnasium.

Former champions Angels, who with yesterday's win notched their fifth win in a row, slam-dunked Josephites 103-60. The winners led the first half 58-30.

Josephites, who created a major upset by beating reigning champions Azad Boys in their previous match, were no match to the star-studded Angels, who had three notable scorers on the day in Dulal, Siddiq and Raju.

National player Dulal scored 29 while Raju and Siddiq chipped in with 24 each.

For Josephites Mamun and Fazle were the major contributors with 19 and 11 respectively.

Angels' big win was foreshadowed earlier in the day when table-bottomers Fleet Club recorded first win, dunking Kumtola Apollo Club on a damp, cold day.

Fleet swamped Apollo 136-75 after leading the first half 75-32.

Fazle of Fleet was in phenomenal scoring form collecting 40 of his team's total. His peer Atiq toted up another 28.

For the losers Enam and Tuhin figured in notably with 24 and 23 respectively.

Shady dealings

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb 9: Four soccer directors and five referees have been accused by federal police of fraud for their alleged involvement in Brazilian soccer's match fixing scandal, police said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The directors included Eduardo Viana, president of the Rio de Janeiro Soccer Federation, and Eurico Miranda, a director of leading club Vasco da Gama, a federal police spokesman said. The accusation were brought following a month-long investigation by federal police into the scandal, which erupted in December.

The nine have also been accused of forming a criminal gang, a punishable offence under Brazilian law.

Under the Brazilian judicial system, the police report will decide whether the nine should be formally charged and sent for trial.

The scandal blew up when the three tried to rig the results of matches in the 1994 Rio de Janeiro Championship.

Rio de Janeiro Federation director Wagner Canazaro had told referees they would be responsible for ensuring that the results of certain matches were "in the federation's interests," the referees said.

Referee Claudio Cerdeira later repeated the allegations to a Rio Federation tribunal, which subsequently suspended Canazaro for one year. Canazaro, one of those accused by the police, has denied the allegations all along.

The scandal took a new twist when former referee Reginaldo Mathias told Rio de Janeiro police that match-fixing had been common in the competition since 1985, the year Viana became president.

Mathias added that some referees were corrupt and said that Americano, Viana's preferred club, were the main beneficiaries.

Federal police became involved because some of the matches involved may have featured on a government run lottery. Their investigation has concentrated on the lottery aspect of the scandal.

Rio police are also holding their own investigation.

BGF VP leaves for Hiroshima today

Sports Reporter

Selim Nazrul Chowdhury, the vice-president of the Bangladesh Gymnastics Federation (BGF), leaves Dhaka today for the Japanese city of Hiroshima to take part in the Asian Gymnastics Congress, scheduled to be held from February 14 to 20.

BSJWA reception

Bangladesh Sports Journalists and Writers Association will give prizes to the best footballer and highest scorer of the 1993 Senior Division and First Division football leagues at a function at the National Sports Council today at 6:30 pm, reports BSS.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain will be present as the chief guest.

The recipients are: Sabbir — best footballer, Premier League

Mintu — best footballer, First Division League

Naquib — highest scorer, Premier League

Liton — highest scorer, First Division League.

Comedy of elements, errors

Sports Reporter



Ali Ahmed High School suffered an elemental and instant retribution for immoral practice when they lost their Nirman Schools tie against Ahmed Bawani Academy yesterday.

In a rain-affected truncated match, Bawani, who were chasing 156 in 35 overs for an outright win, were declared winners for having a better run rate at the end of the possible 27 overs.

Steady drizzle made it impossible for the umpires to carry the match to its conclusion. It was rather fortuitous elemental intervention for Bawani, who were quite perfunctory placed at 122 for seven, still 34 runs adrift of the victory target and just three wickets to spare, when the play was called off.

Arif was unbeaten on 13 in the unfinished Bawani innings. The other notable contributors in the Bawani innings were opener Ashfaq, who followed up his two-wicket haul earlier in the day with an aggressive knock of 28.

Friday league

Sports Reporter

Eight teams — Eastern Bank, Holiday Cricket Club, Friends United Cricket Club, Commonwealth Cricket Club, Cricketers, G-Team, Shri Lankans, Renegade Cricket Club — will take part in the first ever Friday league six-a-side cricket tournament to be held under the auspices of Renegades Cricket Club on February 11, Friday at the Gulshan Park.

The one-day meet will begin from 10:00 am and will continue up to 5:00 pm.

BDR maintain clean slate

Sports Reporter

League leaders Bangladesh Rifles Club (BDR) trounced Brothers Union 26-9 to extend their all-win record to six in the ongoing Phoenix Insurance handball championship '94.

In the lone match of the day, played at handball court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium, the winners led the first half 12-4.

Rokon, Rafiqul and Jahangir were BDR's heroes of the day with six, five and four goals to their credit respectively.

Heal with five and Rashedul with two goals figured in Brothers' team score.

Saifur, Suman and skipper Nabi chipped in with 17, 10 and 12 respectively.

For Ali Ahmed School Shahed was the most successful bowler, claiming three of the seven wickets that fell for 34 runs.

Mamun bagged two for 13 and Javed claimed one for 21.

At the end of the day, it seemed to be a fitting punishment for Ali Ahmed School, who, in the morning, were thwarted in their bid to field an unregistered player in the form of Shafig.

Shafig, who was kept at the bottom of the batting order, was not allowed to bat eventually under protests from Bawani School and Ali Ahmed School had to come to a rather ignominious end after 34.4 overs, two balls remaining of the stipulated quota of 35 overs.

They totalled 155 for nine wickets with Javed notching a top score of 42 not out with seven hits to the fence. Skipper Tipu made 26 while wicket-keeper Babu deposited another 21.

Ashfaq, Arif and Ahsan captured two wickets each at

varying costs.

EXTRAS EXCEL

Post Office School careered to an emphatic 90-run win against Mirpur Govt High School at the Dhanmondi Club ground but the match had staked a claim for some sort of statistical notification for the ludicrous number of extras conceded by both teams.

Although Mirpur lost the match, they won the 'competition' of conceding extras, letting some 80 runs during the Post Office innings of 202 piled in the morning.

Post Office, who were all out in 33.5 overs, had two main scorers in Pintu and Mishu, who made 50 and 38 respectively.

For Mirpur Rahat, Shamik and Shaheen took wickets apiece.

Post Office's Bapji had the bowling figures of his life, dismissing six batsmen for three runs only as the hapless Mirpur were all out for 112 in 25.5 overs in their theoretical quest of 203 runs for victory. Things could have been worse had Post Office not let 55 extras.

Nat'l youth final today

Sports Reporter



Faridpur District Sports Association's cup of misery was full to its brim when the defending champions squandered a two-nil lead on their way to losing 2-3 against Dhaka Education Board (DEB) in the third place deciding play-off of the 13th national youth hockey championship at the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) at Jirani, Savar yesterday.

Faridpur, who were outplayed by the hosts BKSP 0-2 in the semifinal on Tuesday, began their last engagement of the meet in style, pumping two goals into the DEB net within 26 minutes of the game.

Firoj gave his side an auspicious start when he sounded the board 20 minutes into the game and Al Imam doubled the margin six minutes later to inject wild jubilation among the Faridpur fans, expecting a face-saving third place for the last year's winners.

But their joy proved short-lived as DEB, who stepped up the pressure after having conceded two goals in the space of six minutes, reduced the margin one minute away from the short whistle through Monwar

(1-2). After the break, the DEB players came out roaring with relentless offensives on the Faridpur citadel for the equaliser but they were kept at bay by desperate defending by their opponents.

However, the Faridpur defence finally gave in to the increasing pressure as Zubair found the gap in the 46th minute to slot home the leveller (2-2).

The equaliser simply shattered Faridpur's confidence and for the remainder of the match DEB tightened their grip on the match, pushing their opponents to the corner with some spirited moves.

Zubair sealed the fate of the match in the 57th minute when he found himself with enough space to drive the ball in (3-2).

Thirteen minutes were not enough, as it turned out to be in the end, for the losers and towards the end it seemed Faridpur cared more not to concede any more goals than to equalise.

BKSP, tipped favourites to win the trophy this year, takes on Dhaka DSA, who beat DEB 2-1 in their semifinal Tuesday, in the final today. The match starts at 3:00 pm.

Rain may get in Hughes' way



JOHANNESBURG, Feb 9: Merv Hughes returns to the Australian side for their first match in South Africa on Thursday — a friendly one-day outing against a Nicky Oppenheimer Invitation XI, reports Reuter.

Hughes has been out of the side since last August, because of knee surgery.

Allan Border will lead Australia, who drew a three-Test series with South Africa earlier this year.

But top spinner Shane Warne will not play on Thursday because of a nagging shoulder injury which is likely to keep him out for the first few matches of the tour.

The team are hoping for their first outdoor nets of Friday since arriving last Sunday to persistent rain.

Weather permitting, they will then travel to Soweto to take part in the United Cricket Board's development programme. The trip has twice

been cancelled because of bad weather.

The tourists will face two players who have come through the development programme in the halfway house match on Thursday.

Jacob Malao is a left-arm spinner from Soweto who is on Transvaal's books. Jeffrey Toyana is an exciting teenage batsman who recently captained an invitation side against the England A touring team.

The Nicky Oppenheimer XI also include West Indian all-rounder Eldine Baptiste who now plays for Eastern Province.

Australia were due to practise at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on Sunday but the facilities have been under water for several days.

A work-out at a local university's indoor facility was hastily inserted into the schedule on Tuesday following the Soweto washout. But the team have yet to bowl or hit a ball outdoors.

The rain has fallen constantly for nearly a week and the long term forecast is for more of the same, placing the one-day opening fixture against a Nicky Oppenheimer XI on Thursday in doubt.

United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) managing director Ali Bacher said three plain clothes policemen had been assigned to the touring party, in line with arrangements made last year for teams from India, Pakistan and West Indies.

A UCBSA spokeswoman said the policemen were intended primarily to deal with over-enthusiastic autograph hunters and crowd control.

"They travel with the team on their bus and spend a lot of time with them, but so far there has been nothing for them to do and, to be honest, they are a bit bored," the spokeswoman said.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA: Michael Slater, Matthew Hayden, Dean Jones, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Allan Border (captain), Ian Healy, Tim May, Merv Hughes, Craig McDermott, Glenn McGrath.

NICKEY OPPOENHEIMER XI: Nicky Oppenheimer (C), Jonathan Oppenheimer, Mandy Yachad, Roy Pienaar, Adrian Kuiper, Herschelle Gibbs, Jeffrey Tyana, Eldine Baptiste, Steve Elworthy, James Teegeer, Jacob Malao.

Bangladeshi trio fares well in MRF academy

Sports Reporter

Three young Bangladeshi pacemen — Raimur Rashid Rahul, Morshed Ali Khan and Sajal Chowdhury — impressed Dennis Lillee, the legendary Aussie fast bowler enough to have their stay in the Indian city of Madras extended up to the end of this month.

The Bangladeshi youngsters, who are now undergoing a coaching stint under scholarships of Madras Rubber Factory (MRF)-sponsored Pace Bowling Foundation, are three of the eleven chosen by Lillee, the chief instructor of the residential academy, established mainly with a view to unearthing fast bowlers for India.

However, scholarships are offered to other countries also and the three Bangladeshi players, who started their lessons there from January 25 this year, were to complete the course by February 5. But their performances, particularly that of Rahul, earned them an extended lease of tenure there.

Asia has to get it

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 9: Asia's top football official has said he may be forced to mediate in the increasing bruising 2002 World Cup battle between Japan and South Korea to ensure that the tournament comes to Asia, reports AFP.

"My fear is that the two countries could split the vote for Asia and allow another continent in the back door," said Peter Velappan, general secretary of the 36-member Asian Football Confederation.

World governing body FIFA has dropped broad hints that its wants the 2002 tournament held in Asia, outside the traditional European or Latin American axis.

"Whatever happens we have to ensure that Asia gets this tournament," said Velappan. "It is not desirable to have two Asian countries bid for the respect of Asian unity alone."

Velappan's comments come on the heels of signs that South Korea is beginning to overhaul the early lead struck by Japan.

While Japan's credentials were boosted by the immensely successful J-League launch, the national team's failure to qualify for the 1994 World Cup means FIFA would have to break precedent to award the tournament to Japan as the first non-qualifying soccer country to host a World Cup.

"I do not know how and when we will mediate or even if it will be necessary but by 1996 (the decision date), I hope there will be only one Asian bid," said Velappan.

Chung has fuelled the fire by dropping references to Japan's still controversial war record in many parts of Asia.

Jabbar Memorial tennis results

Sports Reporter

Saathi Sarkar conceded two games in each set in disposing Taslima Shafi on her way to winning the women's singles title of the MA Jabbar memorial tennis championship at the Engineers Club court yesterday.

Saathi had her Rajshahi opponent at the receiving end from the very beginning and easily wrapped up the best-of-three final 6-2, 6-2.

Meanwhile, Jhilon pulled a sensational semifinal victory over national champion Hira Lal to set up men's final clash with national number four Nawaz Amin.

Jhilon, seeded third, produced a superb serve and volley game mixed with fierce groundstrokes to overwhelm the top seed 6-4, 7-5.

In the other semifinal Nawaz staved off a spirited Tofazzel 6-3, 6-1.



Saathi Sarkar (R) became women's singles champion in the MA Jabbar tennis tournament beating Taslima Shafi (L) 6-2, 6-2 in the final at the Engineers' Club court yesterday.

— Star photo

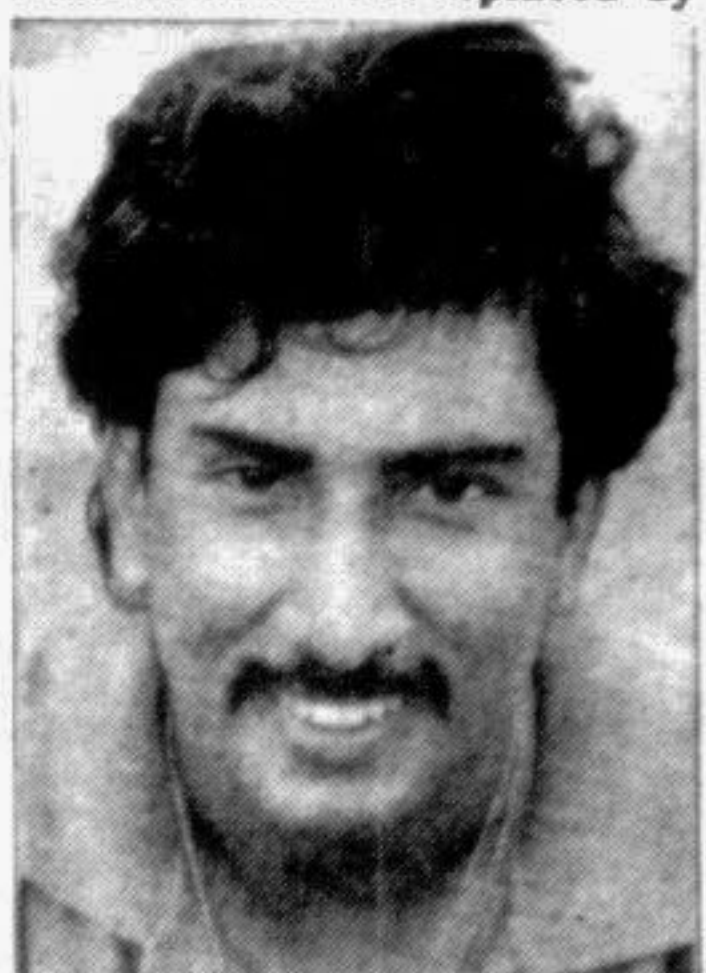
First Pak-NZ Test begins today

Kiwis suffer major body-blow



AUCKLAND, Feb 9: New Zealand have suffered a heavy blow on the eve of their cricket Test against Pakistan, which starts here Thursday, with the sudden loss through injury of their top bowler, Danny Morrison, reports AFP.

Morrison has aggravated a muscular problem in his lower back and will be replaced by



SALIM MALIK

fast bowler Michael Owens, who last played for New Zealand in the second Test against Australia in Wellington last March.

Morrison has had a wretched run with injuries this season. He tore a hamstring in the opening domestic one-day match in late December and had to pull out of the latter half of New Zealand's World Series one-day programme in Australia last month.

Signs of an emerging toughness in the New Zealand team are giving the Kiwis hope of a better than usual chance of beating Pakistan.

But if the speed of Pakistan's fast bowlers is not enough, history also favours the Pakistanis who, in 33 Tests since 1955, have won 14 to New Zealand's three.

New Zealand coach Geoff Howarth goes into the Test worried at his team's very thin first-class buildup. His top players have had a diet of one-day cricket, both in the World Series programme in Australia and domestically, with, in several cases, only one first-class game this year.

"Whether they've had enough first class cricket we'll have to wait and see," Howarth said.

"I don't think it is, but we've got a lot of experience in the team and hopefully they can adjust for the first Test."

Also absent is New Zealand's leading batsman, Martin Crowe, still recovering from a knee operation.

New Zealand will lean heavily on their seasoned campaigners in the opening Test of the domestic international programme. Batsmen Ken Rutherford, Andrew Jones and Mark Greatbatch have notched-up 104 Tests between them.

They know the requirements for Test cricket, although none of the batting trio is in top form.

"There is a mental adjustment from one-dayers, and a practical one for the bowlers," Howarth said.

"They try to bowl a certain length in one-day cricket, then they've got to bowl a different line and length in Tests. There is the skill factor involved."

Howarth believes the efforts of some New Zealand XI batsmen who played earlier this week at Napier, especially Test batsman Shane Thomson and new star Stephen Fleming, should help bolster the mood of the Test players. They made 77 and 109 not out in a 138-run partnership in a fine, determined batting display.

"Thomson and Fleming got a working over as well, but they came through very well and it just goes to show these guys (Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram) are only human."

"They weren't at 100 per cent in Napier, but they weren't far off it."

"But the New Zealand batsmen can take heart from that performance and there should be a lot of confidence flowing through the side."

There is a healthy cover of green grass and the Eden Park pitch, even with a shave before the start, is expected to offer plenty of assistance to the fast and medium pace bowlers.

"The pitch is definitely going to be a green top," groundsman Ray Moffat said. "It's certainly going to aid the seamers."

Pakistan can boost the world's best new ball pair in

Akram and Younis and their performance at Napier last Saturday gave a clear warning of the damage they can inflict.

On a hard, grassy strip, Pakistan dismissed the New Zealand XI for only 93 runs in their first innings. Akram took three for 15 in 18 overs while Younis got two for 22 in 13.

The last time the countries met, at Hamilton 13 months ago, Younis and Akram took nine and eight wickets respectively.



K RUTHERFORD

spectively to bowl Pakistan to an improbable 33-run victory.

Opener Saeed Anwar will take back-to-back centuries in the first-class tour matches into the Test, while Inzamamul Haq, Basit Ali, Asif Mujtaba and captain Salim Malik have all played, convincing innings.

The Test is the first to have a neutral umpire under the new International Cricket Council scheme to help cut down suggestions of home bias.

England's Harold Bird will officiate with Steve Dunne of New Zealand.

TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND: Ken Rutherford (captain), Blair Pocock, Bryan Young, Andrew Jones, Mark Greatbatch, Shane Thomson, Matthew Hart, Chris Cairns, Tony Blair, Simon Doull, Michael Owens, Richard de Groen (one to be omitted).

PAKISTAN: Salim Malik (captain), Saeed Anwar, Aamir Sohail, Shoaib Mohammed, Asif Mujtaba, Inzamamul Haq, Basit Ali, Atif Rauf, Shakeel Ahmed, Rashid Latif, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Ataur Rehman, Ashfaq Ahmed, Aamir Nazir.

Fletcher confident, worried



BRIDGETOWN, Feb 9: Fast bowler Andy Caddick, a key member of England's touring cricket team, has been ordered to rest for a week after a bone scan here Tuesday morning revealed inflammation of his left shin, reports AP.

Team manager Keith Fletcher said he was confident Caddick would be ready for the first Test of the series against the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica, starting February 19.

Caddick, a 25-year-old New Zealand-born right-hander, left the field during the last day of England's match against the Leeward Islands in Antigua Sunday, complaining of shin soreness.

"It's a relief that it's not anything more serious," Fletcher said. "Had the X-ray scan shown a stress fracture, it would have ended Andy's tour and we would have had to look for a replacement."

Caddick will miss England's next match against Barbados starting here Thursday and the first of the five one-day internationals, also here, Feb 16.

He was the most impressive of the touring team's

bowlers in their warm-up matches against Antigua and St Kitts-Nevis and in the first official match against the Leeward Islands and is now regarded as virtually certain to gain a place in the first Test eleven.

Fletcher said the England team against Barbados "would be picked with the Test match in Jamaica in mind," and admitted that he was "a little concerned" about the young batsmen in the team.

"You've got to be scoring 350 and more in the Tests or you'll be struggling," he said. "It'd be a lot happier if our young batsmen get into big runs in this match (against Barbados). They've batted quite well but have got out in some silly ways."

All the contending batsmen — Mark Ramprakash, Graham Thorpe, Matthew Maynard and Graeme Hick — are expected to be included in the England team against Barbados Captain Alec Stewart and Robin Smith are the only certain batting selections for the Test.

Former Indian Test player Srinivasa Venkataraghavan was chosen Tuesday as one of three National Grid International Panel umpires for the cricket

series between England and the West Indies.

The appointment was announced by the International Cricket Council and confirmed by the West Indies Cricket Board of Control headquarters in Barbados. The WICBC will appoint the second umpire for each match from its own panel.

Venkataraghavan, who took 156 wickets in 57 Tests as an off-spinner, toured the West Indies in 1971, 1976 and 1983 as a player and in 1989 as team manager.

He will stand in the second Test in Georgetown, Guyana, March 17-22, and the third in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 25-30.

Ian Robinson of Zimbabwe will officiate in the first Test in Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 19-24, and Daryl Hair of Australia, in the last two in Bridgetown, Barbados, April 8-13, and St. John's, Antigua, April 16-21.

Match referees for the series, previously announced, are former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar, who will be in charge of the first Test and all five one-day internationals, and former New Zealand captain, John Reid, for the remaining four Tests.

Jackson outlasts Fernandez



CHICAGO, Feb 9: Zina Garrison Jackson, capitalizing on her opponent's anger over an officiating call, defeated Gigi Fernandez 6-7 (5-7), 6-2, 6-4 Tuesday night in the opening round of the Virginia Slims of Chicago, reports AP.

This was the ninth time in 11 matches Fernandez has lost to Garrison-Jackson.

In the final set, Fernandez lost her serve in the opening game, double-faulting twice. She later broke to make it 4-4.

Fernandez then lost her cool in the ninth game, serving what she thought was a let serve. Garrison-Jackson played the ball, sending a wicked passing shot down the line.

"That cost me the game and probably the match because I had momentum and I think I would have broken Zina to win the match," Fernandez said.

Said Garrison-Jackson, the No 4 seed: "there was a lot of intensity on the court. We both made some unbelievable shots. But it's always an advantage when your opponent gets angry."

Earlier, No 6 Natalia Zvereva, playing in just her

second singles tournament of the year, used a big serve and steady, ground strokes to defeat Shaun Stafford 6-3, 6-2.

Zvereva said converting her first serve was critical.

"On this surface (supreme) it's so important because if you serve well in the match, you can control the points," she said.

The 22-year-old from Belarus broke Stafford, ranked 73rd in the world, in the fourth game of the opening set, taking a 3-1 lead finished the set with one of her five aces.

In the second set, Zvereva broke Stafford in the third and seventh games, finishing the match with another ace.

As Zvereva left the court she made an obscene gesture at a reporter who had picked her to be upset. In the interview room, she told the reporter: "Stuff it again." She later apologized to the reporter.

When asked if she were upset, Zvereva said: "Look at me, I'm smiling. I'm not angry at people."

Zvereva will face Brenda Schultz on Wednesday in the second round. Schultz, ranked 39th in the world, downed

wild-card entrant Juli Steven 6-4, 6