

Sport

Partex B'ball

Sports Reporter

Gregs Club crossed a major hurdle in their championship quest when they inflicted a 108-72 win against last year's champions Azad Boys Club in the Partex First Division basketball league at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Gregs, who are still unbeaten in their seven outings, led the first half 49-34.

Anup top scored with 28 while Faisal caged 26 for the winners.

Gregs earned 16 points for eight matches while Azad's collection was 10 from six.

In another tie, Winners defeated Dhumketu 66-45.

They led the first half 24-23.

Michael top scored with 42 while Tanu caged 14 for Winners.

Winners gathered 15 points from their eight league matches while Dhumketu 12 from an identical number of games.

Jabbar Memorial tennis results

Sports Reporter

Shamsul Islam and Tutul reached the engineers' doubles final of the MA Jabbar Memorial tennis tournament at the Engineers' club ground yesterday.

They beat Sanaul Hoque and Azizul Hoque 5-7, 6-2, 6-2, in yesterday's semifinal.

In another match, Sabir and Sarker beat Masudur Rahman and Golam Mowla 7-6, 6-3.

In engineers' singles Sabir advanced to the final.

In today's men's singles final Rumon faces Jilan. The final matches of other events will also be held today.

Nat'l youth cricket

The 14th BEXIMCO national youth cricket championship began yesterday at the zonal venues with Sylhet, Kushtia and Dinajpur winning their opening matches to reach the zonal semifinals, reports UNB.

At Sunamganj, Sylhet DSA eliminated Kishoreganj by six wickets to qualify for zone B semifinal scheduled for Monday.

Kishoreganj DSA: 99 runs for nine in 20 overs. Maksud 21, Rana 20, Sohag 13, extras 13. Nahid 3/17 and Rupu 2/16.

Sylhet DSA: 100 for 4 in 18.3 overs. Emdad 32, Nahid 21, Arman 1/12 and Rana 1/14.

At Jessor, Kushtia DSA defeated Magura by six wickets and will take on Jhendia DSA in the zone D semifinal on Saturday.

Magura DSA: 142 all out in 44 overs. Uttam 41, Alamgir 25, Firoz 13, Sajjad 3/23 and Rawan 3/26.

Kushtia DSA: 143 for 4 in 32 overs. Raju 41, Novel 30, Tito 20, Rawhak not out 27, Selim 1/11 and Pappu 1/39.

At Pabna, Dinajpur DSA got walkover against Natore DSA and moved into the semifinal of zone E. Dinajpur will face Thakurgaon in zonal semifinals on Saturday.

Office cricket on

Sports Reporter

Former national skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu gave the first ever office cricket league a sensational start when he notched a hattrick as his side Acme Laboratories recorded a ludicrously thumping 198-run win against Banque Indosuez at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Star-studded Acme batted first and with unbeaten centuries from national discards Nurul Abedin Nobel and Zahid Razzak Masum piled up 243 without loss from 20 possible overs. Masum was unbeaten exactly on 100 while Nobel kept him company on the way to the pavilion with 103.

Indosuez were all out for 45 with Lipu taking three wickets for six runs.

In day's other match Tech Valley beat ANZ Grindlays Bank by the narrow margin of eight runs in a exciting and competitive match at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium (DCS).

Saidul Anam Eeef, another national reject mesmerised Grindlays with magical figures of six for 20 churned by the help of his off-spinners.

Chasing a victory target of 197 Grindlays were all out for 186.

Earlier Tech Valley batted first and made 196.

Nirman cricket

Sports Reporter

Shahid's unbeaten 100 helped Prothibhi Bidyaniketan trounce Dr Md Shahidullah Adarsha school by 93 runs in the 12th Nirman schools cricket championship yesterday.

Prothibhi scored 213 for five in the stipulated 35 overs.

Shahid hit 12 boundaries and one sixer in his century.

Shahidullah were all out on 120 in 30.2 overs.

BKSP win 13th nat'l youth meet

Sports Reporter

 After a lapse of exactly two years Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protishtan (BKSP) have once again become the national youth hockey champions.

They beat Dhaka DSA 3-1 yesterday in the final of the 13th national youth hockey championship at the BKSP ground at Jirani, Savar.

Tipped as the overwhelming favourites for reasons ranging from advantages of familiar conditions to form, the hosts of this year's low-key meet led the first half 1-0 against four-time champions Dhaka.

Sheikh Ramiz Ahmed struck twice in each half for the winners to emerge as the man of the nine-day championship's finale.

Cheered on by partisan crowd, most of whom were the trainees of the national academy for sports, the BKSP boys stepped on the gas right from the word go.

Their opponents who had won four titles before finishing runners-up to champions Faridpur last year, were hardly allowed any leeway in the first

half as BKSP, despite the heavy ground conditions, combined well to launch menacing offensives.

The inevitable breakthrough came by Ramiz's hockey when in the 29th minute of the match, exactly six minutes from the short whistle, he scored his first of the two goals on the day from a neat build-up. 1-0.

The match promised a desired following of the ideal course befitting a final when Mahmud Ahmed of Dhaka notched a field goal to restore parity in the very first minute after the break. 1-1.

But it turned out to be a very hollow hint of some absorbing ding-dong. Hockey as BKSP stung by the reversal started pouring on their opponents from all corners.

Ramiz again put BKSP in the lead with a field goal in the 38th minute and from then onwards there was no looking back for the winners.

Shariful Alam, who registered tournament's one of the two hattricks on the inaugural day of the competition completed the tally with a field goal six minutes before the final.

Curly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh spearhead the new ball attack, with Anderson Cummins, Winston Benjamin and Kenneth Benjamin competing for the other two pace bowling places.

There are a total of five one-day internationals, with the remaining three to be played in early March ahead of the second Test.

Former Test batsman Rohan Kanhai is the West Indian manager for the series.

Familiar WI squad

BRIDGETOWN, Feb 10: West Indies have kept faith with the players who toured Sharjah, India and Sri Lanka late last year for the opening one day matches and the first Test against England, reports Reuter.

West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) named a squad of 13 on Wednesday for the first two limited overs internationals, in Bridgetown on February 16 and Kingston, Jamaica, on February 26.

Richie Richardson captains the squad that will show one change for the first best of the five match series in Kingston from February 19-24.

Specialist wicketkeeper Junior Murray will replace off-spinner Roger Harper in the Test 13.

This continues West Indies' recently-introduced practice of using batsman-wicketkeeper Jimmy Adams behind the stumps for one-day internationals and recalling a specialist wicketkeeper for the Tests.

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SQUAD

WEST INDIES: Richie Richardson (captain), Desmond Haynes (vice captain), Phil Simmons, Brian Lara, Keith Arthurton, Carl Hooper, Jimmy Adams, Roger Harper (replaced by junior Murray for Test squad), Curly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Anderson Cummins, Winston Benjamin, Kenneth Benjamin.

US go down

HONG KONG, Feb 10: World Cup hosts the United States suffered their first defeat of 1994 when they went down on penalties to a young Denmark team at a lunar new year football tournament here Thursday, reports AFP.

The United States did not look the side who beat England 2-0 last year and have beaten Norway and drawn with Switzerland and Russia so far this year in the build up to the World Cup finals in the summer.

The two teams fought to a 0-0 draw after 90 minutes on a bumpy, sodden pitch. Without extra time it took penalties to decide who went into Sunday's final against hosts Hong Kong, with the Danes clinching the shootout 4-2.

The Americans are relegated to the third place play-off against another World Cup qualifier Romania, who also missed, losing to Hong Kong on penalties in Thursday's other game.

Most of the buildings in the Olympic athletes' and media villages will be dismantled after the Games and used as permanent accommodation elsewhere in Norway.

Security will be tight, given Norway's mediator role in last year's Israeli-Palestinian peace accord, but low-key.

The 3,000 police will be unarmed as usual in Norway, a peaceful country of just four million people which has already staged a Winter Games before - in Oslo in 1952.

Norway, where Nordic sport is a religion and many people are expected to camp out to watch the cross-country skiing, topped the medals table above the United States and Canada.

Three top finishers of the ICC meet will win the rights of playing in the next world championship of instant cricket alongwith nine full members of the ICC.

A set back for Bangladesh

Sports Reporter

Faruque following Sajid almost immediately, Jahangir paired with Minhal Abedin Nannu, the most experienced campaigner in the team as far as Bangladesh's ICC experience is concerned and did some sort of tinkering before Nannu left for 43.

His club-mate and fellow Chittagonian Akram on whose broad and beefy shoulders Bangladesh's batting has relies rather too heavily left for three only, to set the alarm on the ring again.

Aminul Islam Bulbul, the effervescent allrounder made 13 and allrounder Selim Shahed made 12 each but Enamul Huq Moni and wicket-keeper Nasir Ahmed Nasir left for noughts to make the contribution look trifling.

Although Jahangir Talukdar Dulu and fellow paceman Golam Nowshir Prince, caused a bit of tail-wagging with 12 and 11 respectively Bangladesh, struggling under the reportedly biased umpiring of Canadian umpires were all out for 167 in 48.3 overs.

Although Moni and Nannu bowled well when Canada

started their quest for those 168 runs for an outright victory cricketers from the North American continent cantered home quite comfortably in 42.2 overs losing seven wickets in the process.

Moni, the left-arm spinner took three wickets for 36 from his quota of ten overs while Nannu bagged another two for 29 from nine overs of slow-medium, nondescript stuff.

However off-spinner Shahed was the pick of the bowlers from the statistical viewpoint of one day cricket taking one wicket for 24 runs from nine overs.

Bangladesh start their ICC Trophy campaign on Saturday against Argentina with a warm-up statistics of three wins as against two defeats. They beat Uganda, Bermuda and Fiji but lost to second team of hosts Kenya and Canada.

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All set for a snowy revelry

LILLEHAMMER, Feb 10: Tiny Lillehammer promises a giant extravaganza when the biggest Winter Olympics open on Saturday for 16 days of world-class competition in snow-clad, sports-mad Norway, reports Reuter.

Some 2,000 athletes from a record 66 nations, including Israel and post-Apartheid South Africa for the first time, have descended on the 10 new arenas in Lillehammer and nearby venues along a scenic lake and valley a couple of hours north of Oslo.

"I am confident that we are ready to meet this enormous challenge," said Lillehammer Olympic Organising Committee (LOOC) operations chief Petter Roenninge.

"We are prepared for just about everything and conditions should be optimal for the competitors, the media and visitors."

Norway's King Harald V opens the 17th Winter Games at a ceremony starting at 1500 GMT on Saturday, but all eyes will be on ski jumper Ole Gunnar Fidjestoel as he hurtles into the arena bearing the Olympic torch in one hand.

It will be 70 years since the first Winter Games in Chamonix, France when just 16 nations and 294 athletes attended.

Meteorologists forecast temperatures around -9 Celsius (16 Fahrenheit) in Lillehammer on the first day, and more importantly for Fidjestoel, just a light north-easterly breeze.

Thirteen elk were killed in January alone compared with six throughout 1993 on the line.

Lillehammer's concern for elk underscores its image as the environmentally-friendly Games.

Caterers are using plates and cutlery made from potato

starch, and builders who constructed the region but road-clearing is under control meaning the weather does not look likely to be a problem, as it was at Albertville two years ago.

The major challenges for the organisers, who have spent 7.3 billion Norwegian Crowns (970 million dollars) on the Games since they were awarded them in 1988, are transport and elk.

Most of the buildings in the Olympic athletes' and media villages will be dismantled after the Games and used as permanent accommodation elsewhere in Norway.

Security will be tight, given Norway's mediator role in last year's Israeli-Palestinian peace accord, but low-key.

The 3,000 police will be unarmed as usual in Norway, a peaceful country of just four million people which has already staged a Winter Games before - in Oslo in 1952.

Most private vehicles are being barred for the February 12-27 Games. Normally, just 23,700 people live in Lillehammer.

Trains using the Oslo-Lillehammer line have been fitted with Wild West-style cow-catches to protect them from collisions with elk, and a helicopter will spot the moose-like animals using infra-red rays to avoid delays in the peak travel periods.

Amid the celebrations at the world's premier winter sports festival, competitors and organisers will have a thought for Sarajevo, which staged the Games 10 years ago but is now besieged and bloodied after a 22-month civil war.

The recipients were —

Best player of the Premier football league — Sayed Rumman-bin-Wali Sabir and top scorer Imtiaz Ahmed Nasir; Zulfiqar Mahmud Mintu and Mahmudul Hoque Liton respectively the best player and the top scorer of the First Division football league.

SL schuss slowly, surely

Maharana played Anil Kumble to backward point and took off for a sharp single, but Samaraweera was unable to beat Vinod Kambli's accurate throw to the wicketkeeper and was run out.

Maharana himself fell at the score of 98 when he made the mistake of playing back to a shooter from left-arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju and was leg before wicket.

The tall, elegant batsman walked away even as umpire V Ramaswamy raised his finger.

Hashan Tillekaratne and Aravinda de Silva added 51 for the third wicket before falling in successive overs to brilliant catches by slyly point by Indian captain Mohamad Azharuddin.

Azhar, who made a monumental 152 in India's first innings, dived to his right to pick up a one-handed catch from Tillekaratne's pad and bat off Raju, the batsman made 40.

In the next over, Azhar removed Tillekaratne in the match by having him caught behind by wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia to make Shri Lanka 153 for five.

Atapattu, who replaced Sanath Jayasuriya for this match, had also bagged a pair during his only other appearance against India at Chandigarh in