

Holland cruise home

NAIROBI, Feb 12: Holland, led by veteran Stevens Lubbers, comfortably beat Malaysia by nine wickets after scoring 119 for one in 28 overs in the opening match of the ICC cricket mini World Cup here today, reports AFP.

Malaysia, who batted first, finished with 118 for nine in 50 overs.

Two other matches — Israel versus Kenya and Gibraltar versus Papua New Guinea — were rained off, while a fourth between Canada and Singapore could not be played following an overnight downpour on Friday which ruined the wicket at Impala Club.

Israel had won the toss and scored 10 for three in seven overs while Papua New Guinea had reached 180 for five in 44 overs against Gibraltar. All the abandoned matches will continue on Tuesday.

Nirman cricket

Sports Reporter

Bengali Medium High School and Government Laboratory High School recorded wins in their respective matches in the 12th Nirman schools cricket championship at different city grounds yesterday.

On the western strip of the Dhannondi Cricket Stadium, Rajan performed an all round show to earn his team Bengali Medium High School a 62 run win over Adamjee Cantonment School.

Batting first, Bengali medium made 200 for the loss five wickets in the allotted 35 overs.

Rajan contributed 42 runs while Moti and Hasin remained not out on 39 and 24 respectively. The extras came to 38.

Monem, Moyna and Ratan equally shared three wickets among themselves for Adamjee.

Adamjee were all out for 138 in 30.3 overs.

Moyna contributed 64 runs while Dhrubo made 32 for the losers.

Rajan, who played a vital role for his team's batting side, captured four Adamjee wickets for 30.

In the other match, Government Laboratory High School trounced Dhaka Muslim Government High School by four wickets at the DCCG.

Porosh, Saleque, Farhadul and extras contributed 40, 38, 24 and 37 respectively for Muslim.

Government Laboratory reached their target when they made 184 for six in 33.1 overs.

Extras (57) contributed most to the total while Murtaza with 32, Iftekhar 28 not out, and Mahmood 16 not out were the other notable Laboratory scorers.

Shakil Kasem again

Sports Reporter

Former national cricketer Shakil Kasem, now quite indomitably enamoured of the game of golf gave a convincing trial of his devotion to passion by retaining Dhaka Club golf championship at the Club course yesterday.

However, Kasem's road to the title for the second consecutive year was not a very rosy one as Aftab Bhuiyan, his rival in the finale, played some precise golf to be 4 up after only 16 holes.

But the early ebullition of the eventual runner-up evaporated when it mattered most and Kasem delved deep into the reserves of his experience and confidence originating from his innate aggression to make sure there was no new number one.

H'ball final today

Sports Reporter

The final match of the Phoenix Insurance handball competition will be held today at the Outer Stadium court.

Bangladesh Rifles take on Bangladesh Police in the final of the eight team tournament.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman will witness the final as chief guest and give away prizes among the winners.

Prayer for cricketers

Sports Reporter

A mild mahfil wishing Bangladesh's success in the ICC Trophy in Kenya was held at Farashganj Mosque last Friday.

The function was organised by Jinnah, Kabir, Dulu, Badal and Mosh.

3 more countries enter Jr tennis tourney

Three more countries — Indonesia, Greece, and Thailand will take part in the eighth Bangladesh international junior tennis championships beginning at the National Tennis Complex here on February 22, reports BSS.

Bangladesh's quest begins

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh step on the staircase of a hyped up dream of entering the big league cricket as they take

The catch of this year's competition lies in the wistful number of three because the top three teams of this meet will earn the rights of playing the nine full members of the ICC. In other words the Test playing nations in the next world championship of instant cricket.

The only underprivileged cricketing nation among its three Test playing subcontinental neighbours — India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, Bangladesh are one of the hot favourites for the championship let alone mentioning a place among the top three finishers.

FIXTURES

Group-1st Round

A	B	C	D
Holland	Bangladesh	Kenya	Bermuda
Papua NG	USA	Canada	Denmark
Ireland	UAE	Namibia	Fiji
Gibraltar	E&C Africa	Singapore	Hong Kong
Malaysia	Argentina	Israel	West Africa

1. The top two teams from each group will qualify for the second round in which they will be formed into groups of four to qualify for the ICC Trophy.
2. The remaining twelve teams will be divided into three groups of four teams. Two groups of third and fourth place teams will qualify for the ICC plate while the third group will consist at the four fifth place teams from the fifth round.
3. All of the above is subject to all twenty teams taking part.

1st Round

Sat	12	Group C	Kenya VS Israel
Sun	13	Group D	Bermuda VS W Africa
Mon	14	Group A	Holland VS Malaysia
Tues	15	Group C	Canada VS Namibia
Wed	16	Group D	Denmark VS Fiji
Thurs	17	Group A	PNG VS Ireland
Fri	18	Group C	Canada VS Israel
Sat	19	Group D	Denmark VS W Africa
Sun	20	Group B	PNG VS Malaysia
Mon	21	Group A	UAE VS Argentina
		Group B	Kenya VS Namibia

QUARTERFINALS

February	23	Group E and Group F	A1 VS B2
Wed	25	Group F	A2 VS B1
Fri	27	Group E	A1 VS D2
Sun	27	Group F	A2 VS B1
Thurs	24	Group G and Group H	A1 VS C1
Sat	26	Group G	A3 VS B4
Mon	28	Group H	A4 VS B3
February	24	Group G	A3 VS C3
Thurs	26	Group H	A4 VS C4
Sat	28	Group G	A3 VS D4
Mon	28	Group H	A4 VS D3
February	24	Group I	A5 VS D5
Sat	26	Group I	B5 VS C5
Mon	28	Group I	A5 VS B5
Tues	1	First Semifinal	Winner E VS Runner up F
Thurs	3	Plate Final	Runnerup E VS Winner F
Sat	5	Second Semifinal	
Sun	6	Play off for 3rd place between losing semifinalists	
		Final	

3 teams thru' to zonal finals

Sports Reporter

Kushodia, Dinajpur, and Rajshahi moved into the zonal finals of the 14th Beximco national youth cricket championship with wins of various margins in their respective semifinal matches of different venues across the country yesterday.

At Jessor, Kushodia outplayed Jhenidah by three wickets.

After winning the toss in the morning Jhenidah, decided to bat first and made 175 for seven from the stipulated 45 overs.

Robin remained not out on 55 while Libon and Sumon scored 20 each.

Kushodia reached their victory target of 176 losing same number of wickets also, from the last ball of the match.

Riju top scored with 61, while Prince remained unbeaten on 34. Azad with 34 was the other notable scorer for the winners.

Richie and Nuruddin took two wickets each for the losers.

The winners led the first half 55-33.

Asif, who top scored with 32 for Josephites, was followed by Adrian with 30 and Mamun with 22.

Rana built castles in the air when he caged 37 for his losing side while Enam scored 20.

Meanwhile, at Sunamganj, Mymensingh got walk over against Ramgati to reach the zonal semifinals.

Director of Military Lands and Cantonment MS Al-Mamun distributed the prizes as chief guest.

Jackson blazes

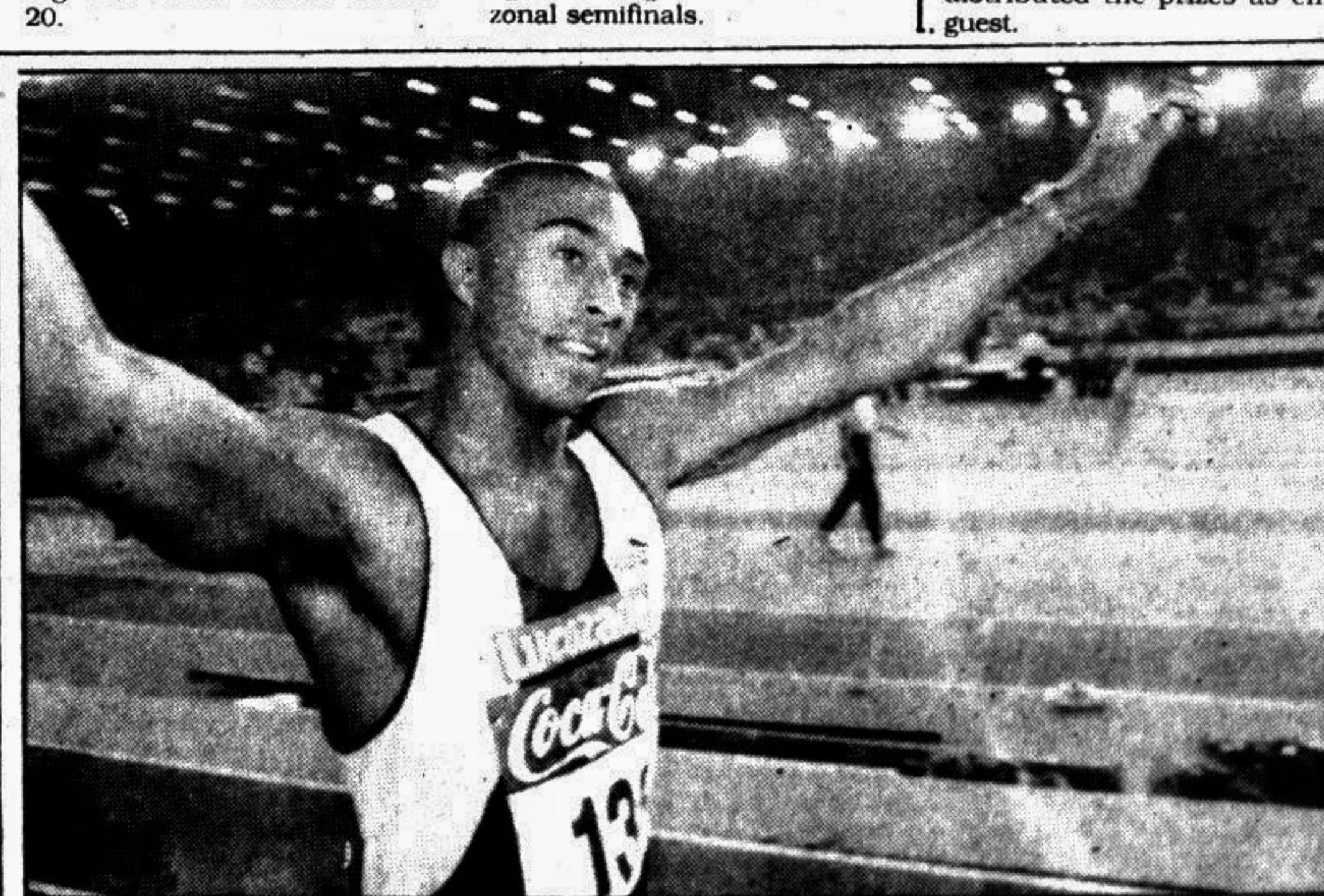
GLASGOW, Scotland, Feb 12: Britain's Colin Jackson set a world indoor record Saturday, clocking 7.35 seconds in the 60-metre hurdles at the Britain-United States meet at Kelvin Hall, reports AP.

Jackson broke the old mark of 7.36 set by American Greg Foster in 1987.

Jackson also holds the world outdoor record in the 110-metre hurdles, set at last year's World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany.

After two false starts, Jackson, who turns 27 next week, stormed out of the blocks and was never challenged.

There had been criticism of the inclusion in the record books of Foster's time, set at the Sunkist Invitational in Los Angeles on Jan 16, 1987, as many spectators on the day believed the American jumped the gun. Jackson's effort, however, was faultless and eradicates the controversial mark.



Britain's Colin Jackson raises his arms after he set a new European record in the 60m hurdles with a time of 7.35 seconds at an indoor meet in Gent, Belgium on Feb 9. — AFP photo

Sport

Nat'l soccer final round begins tomorrow

KHULNA, Feb 12: The port city of Khulna is ready to host the final round of the 18th Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football championship for a record fourth time, reports UNB.

The 12-team knockout basis final round begins Monday at the local stadium, which has been given a face-lift for the tournament.

The participating teams are: Defending champions Dhaka University, runners-up Khulna, Feni, Bagerhat, Lalmonirhat, Narayanganj, Bogra, Kushtia, Netrakona and Sylhet, Bangladesh Ansar and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

Newly elected Khulna City Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman is expected to inaugurate the 13-day tournament in the afternoon.

Bangladesh Ansars will take on Feni in the inaugural match at 3 pm.

The final will take place on February 26.

Rates of daily ticket for the gallery have been fixed at Tk 10 and Tk 20 for the first round matches. The rates will enhance to Tk 15 and Tk 25 for the semifinals.

Daily VIP ticket will be Tk 50 while the VIP season ticket will be Tk 400 each.

Back forces Mushtaq to back out

AUCKLAND, Feb 12: A nagging back injury may rule leg spinner Mushtaq out of the remainder of Pakistan's cricket tour of New Zealand, team captain Salim Malik said Saturday, reports AP.

Malik said there was renewed concern over a lower-back injury that Mushtaq suffered in the opening match of the tour on Jan. 30.

"He is struggling. I don't think he will be fit for the second Test," Malik said. "We'll have to wait and see, but we might have to send him home."

The spinner took three wickets in New Zealand's first innings of the first Test but wasn't required in the second as Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Ataur-Rehman combined to dismiss the home team for 110.

Pakistan went on to complete a five-wicket victory.

Mushtaq's tour of the West Indies early last year was cut short by a back injury and it is believed the current problem is related to that.

"He was quite stiff after the first innings and had to have ice on his back. He was also struggling in the field," Malik said.

The left-handed opener and Inzamamul Haq put Pakistan back on course, however, until Sohail was expertly caught at silly mid-off by Bryan Young with the score on 119.

Inzamam and wicketkeeper Rashid Latif saw the match through, with the latter ending the game with a clean six off the bowling of Shane Thomson.

On a wicket that became two-paced but which exposed poor batting by both sides, New Zealand scored 242 in their first innings. Pakistan replied with just 215 but New Zealand collapsed to 110 all out in their second innings.

Pace bowler Wasim Akram did the damage with a Test career-best of six for 43 and Pakistan, despite losing five wickets, always looked capable of reaching the modest target set by New Zealand.

The game then switched totally to the bowlers, who dominated totally until today's finale. New Zealand were all out an hour before close of the first day for 242, only veteran, Andrew Jones showing resistance with a stubborn 66.

Pakistan lost four wickets in that hour's play, and then tumbled to 215 all out in their first innings, mainly thanks to a career-best spell of five for 66 from Simon Doull, playing just his fourth Test.

The combination of a poor wicket and the sizzling pace of Pakistani pace duo Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis was disastrous for New Zealand.

Their batsmen also played

