

Wait is Bangladesh's fate

Sports Reporter

Bangladeshi bowlers fared fairly well to bundle Argentina over for a paucity of 120 but the reward in the form of an expected and probable win eluded them at the end of the day as rain ruled out Bangladesh's innings at the Simba Sports Club ground on the second day of the ICC Trophy championship in Nairobi, Kenya yesterday.

According to a faxed message received at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) office, Bangladesh the second seeded team in this 20-team world championship of the associate members of ICC was escorted in a very strong position by the bowlers after the match got off to a delayed start because of heavy overnight rain.

Skipper Faruque Ahmed won the toss and opted to field first on a heavy ground. The two left-arm new-ball bowlers at Faruque's disposal — experienced Golam Nowsheer Prince and zealous Jahangir Talukdar Dulu did nothing to make their young captain rue his decision as the latter clean bowled Argentine opener Roberts for a nought with the total on two.



Forrester was the top scorer in the Argentine innings with 39.

Veteran Golam Nowsheer Prince was the pick of the Bangladeshi bowlers taking three for 25 from his full quota of ten overs.

Left-arm spinner Enamul Huq Moni snared another

three batsmen for 23 runs from 8.2 overs.

Minhazul Abedin Nanny, better known for his batting chimed in quite usefully scalping two for 19 from ten overs.

Weather permitting Bangladesh will resume their innings today. However, a rather dark fate of sharing points awaits them if the elemental conspiracy continues.

SCOREBOARD

ARGENTINA

Ferguson c Athar b Nannu	11
Roberts b Dulu	0
Alonso c Nannu b Athar	14
Forrester b Prince	39
Kirchbaum c Bulbul b Nannu	13
Irigoyen c Nasu b Moni	3
Gooding c Faruque b Prince	0
Cortabarría c b Moni	2
Tunon b Moni	4
Juoris b Prince	2
Pereyra not out	7
Extras	28
Total (in 43.2 overs)	120
Fall of wickets: 1-2; 2-24; 3-38; 4-63; 5-75; 6-91; 7-101; 8-103; 9-106; 10-120.	

Bowling:

Prince	10	4	25	3
Dulu	7	3	6	1
Nannu	10	3	19	2
Athar	6	-	25	1
Moni	8.2	2	23	3
Bulbul	2	-	11	-

(Incomplete)

Hosts' trial of strength

NAIROBI, Feb 13: Kenya defeated Israel on Sunday in a one-sided match in the International Cricket Council Trophy tournament, reports AP.

Faced with a meagre total of 99 to beat, Kenya got to 100 for one wicket in 15 overs.

Kenya carried off from an overnight 10 for 3 to have the Israelis pegged back on 23 for 5. Israeli captain Stanley Pullman made 20 and number 8 batsman David Benjamin 25, including a six. Otherwise the Kenyans met no resistance.

In the Kenya innings, Dipak Chudusama got off to a flying start as six runs came off the first over and 17 off the next. Thirty were up after just four overs and 76 after ten.

Chudusama was stumped on 43 and partner Tariq Iqbal nearly run out and then dropped at mid-on.

Elsewhere, Denmark were in good form against Hong Kong, hitting 192 for 9 after a collapse from 153 for 3 during which Hong Kong's Stuart Brew claimed the first hat-trick of the tournament.

Papua New Guinea made Gibraltar struggle to 113 all out in reply to 248 for 5. West Africa were 93 all out to Bermuda, who got 94 for 2.

The match between Canada and Singapore was reduced to 30 overs, Canada making 159 for 8. There was a late start for Argentina and Bangladesh. The United Arab Emirates wanted to get going against East and Central Africa, but the grounds were unfit.

Hong Kong's reply to Canada was 88 for 2 in 22 ones before a downpour began.



England captain Mike Atherton takes evasive action to avoid a nasty lifting delivery from Barbados quickie Vesper Drakes during the third day of the four day match between England and Barbados in Bridge Town on Feb 12. — AFP photo

Reza to replace Mushtaq

WELLINGTON, Feb 13: Pakistan leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed will miss the remainder of his team's cricket tour of New Zealand with a back injury, officials said Sunday, reports AP.

Ahmed, 23, has been plagued by a lower back injury throughout the tour and will be replaced by off-spinner Akram Reza, who has played in three Tests.

Mushtaq took three expensive wickets in the first innings of the first Test but wasn't able to bowl in the second. Pakistan won the Test by five wickets with 2 1/2 days to spare.

Reza, a 29-year-old from Sargodha, near Lahore, plays for the Habib Bank, along with current captain Salim Malik, reserve wicketkeeper Shakeel Ahmed and former star batsman Javed Miandad.

Reza, who hasn't toured New Zealand previously, will join the squad in Wellington in time to be considered for the second Test, which starts at Wellington's Basin Reserve ground on Thursday.

New Zealand have named a squad of 13 for the second Test with the selectors adding fast bowler Danny Morrison to



AKRAM REZA

the squad of 12 that lost the first Test on Saturday.

Morrison had to pull out on the eve of the first Test with a strain in his lower left back.

Morrison, who has taken 106 wickets in 32 Tests, had a solid workout at Eden Park on Sunday to prove he is ready to rejoin the squad.

Glenn Turner, who is among a small handful of batsmen in world cricket to have scored 100 first-class centuries, is likely to be called in to help New Zealand prepare for the second Test.

New Zealand coach Geoff Howarth is looking at ways of improving the batting technique of his players as they attempt to combat brilliant new ball pair Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis.

The two bowlers shared 15 wickets at Eden Park as New Zealand were bowled out twice.

Howarth hopes former New Zealand coach, captain and opening batsman Turner will have a session with the Kiwi batsmen, and captain Ken Rutherford is supportive of the idea.

"That idea has merit," Rutherford said. "I've always regarded his technical theories on the game very highly and I'm sure our batsmen would get a lot out of it."

The New Zealand squad is: Ken Rutherford (captain), Blair Pogeck, Brayan Young, Andrew Jones, Mark Greatbatch, Shane Thomson, Chris Cairns, Tony Blair, Matthew Hart, Simon Doull, Danny Morrison, Richard de Groen, Michael Owens.

England throw away initiative

BRIDGETOWN, Feb 13: England's batsmen collapsed Saturday after a century by captain Mike Atherton helped put them in a strong position on the third day of their four-day cricket match against Barbados, reports AP.

Replying to the home team's first innings 348, England were 246 for four when Atherton was bowled by left-arm spinner Winston Reid for 108.

Robin Smith followed 18 runs later, also dismissed by Reid for 59, and the later batsmen could not cope with lively swing bowling by fast bowlers Otis Gibson and Vesper Drakes as the innings folded for 302.

The last five wickets tumbled for 26, to Gibson, the 25-year-old who has signed with Glamorgan in the English county championship next season, at a personal cost of 10 runs from 6.4 overs. He finished with five for 87 from 32.1 overs in all.

He removed Graeme Hick for 20 to a brilliant second slip catch by Sherwin Campbell and had left hander Jack Russell leg before wicket for 6 offering no stroke. He rounded off the innings with successive balls that accounted for Alan Igglesden and Devon Malcolm.

Drakes, who had left-hander Graham Thorpe caught at Campbell, also at second slip, for 16, gave him good support. England conceded a lead of 46 when they were all out with 19 overs remaining, 50 minutes from the scheduled close. Rain that earlier reduced play by 15 overs returned to bring a premature end to the day without Barbados going in for a second time. In all, 27 overs were cut because of the unseasonal weather.

Atherton, 71 when England resumed at 144 for two, batted solidly without a chance for five and a quarter hours in compiling his 30th first-class century. He hit 14 fours.

After nightwatchman Angus Fraser was out for 6, Smith hit eight fours and lasted two hours 35 minutes. But his weakness against spin was exploited by Reid who had him leg before wicket with a low full toss.

After that, England struggled as Gibson and Drakes swung the ball both ways.

Nat'l cricket from Feb 24

The zonal round matches of the 20th Pepsi Cup national cricket championship will start from February 24, said a Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) press release issued yesterday.

Forty-eight teams divided into seven groups will take part in the zonal round competition to book a berth for the final round.

Besides, last year's four semifinalists—Chittagang, Bangladesh Biman, Sylhet and Dhaka University—will play directly in the final round scheduled to be held in Dhaka.

Following are the names and venues of the participating teams:

Zone-A (Comilla Stadium)—Noakhali, Narayanganj, Shariatpur, Narasingdi, Faridpur, Madaripur and Rajbari.

Zone-B (Sylhet Stadium)—Sherpur, Mymensingh, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Comilla, Jamalpur and Jahangirnagar University.

Zone-C (Jhenidah Stadium)—Barisal, Gopalganj, Magura, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Khulna and Meherpur.

Zone-D (Barisal Stadium)—Pirojpur, Barguna, Jhalakathi, Patuakhali, Chandpur, Jhenidah and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

Zone-E (Dinajpur Stadium)—Nilphamari, Pabna, Thakurgaon, Kurigram, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Naogaon.

Zone-F (Rangpur Stadium)—Jaypurhat, Gaibandha, Natore, Nawabganj, Dinajpur, Bogra and Jessore.

Zone-G (Pabna Stadium)—Manikganj, Sirajganj, Kishitia, Gazipur, Tangail and Dhaka.

Nilphamari lead the way

Sports Reporter



Nilphamari's massive 195-run win over Gaibandha was the highlight of the day as four more teams — Narayanganj, Satkhira, Nawabganj and Nilphamari — qualified for the zonal finals of the 14th BEXIMCO national youth cricket championship after winning their respective zonal semifinals at different venues across the country yesterday.

Solid knocks by Sattar (88), Intiaz (58) and Jamidul 55 helped Nilphamari pile-up 311 for 6 in their 45 overs against Gaibandha at Thakurgaon.

Such a formidable total was beyond Gaibandha who folded at 116 in 33.5 overs. Shaheen and Bidyut were the only batsmen to cross double figures with 28 and 20 respectively.

Nilphamari will play Rajshahi in the zonal final on Tuesday.

Pappu's 60 was the foundation of Narayanganj 147-run victory against Chandpur in a zonal semifinal played at Sunamganj.

Batting first Narayanganj made 219 in 43.4 overs. Pappu was ably assisted by Munna with 43 and Jahangir's 35. Chandpur dramatically collapsed for 72 all out. Mitu and Pitu with 23 and 11 respectively offered token resistance. Ranju's wrecked Chandpur

with figures of 5 for 9.

The winners will next meet either Mymensingh or Sylhet in the zonal final on Wednesday.

At Jessore, Satkhira beat Khulna by three wickets in the semifinals to meet Kushtia in the zonal final on Tuesday.

Khulna DSA—180 for 9 in 45 overs. Mitu 43, Lifton 34, Babul 25, Tapu 2/15, Bidyut 2/32 and Khokon 2/34.

Satkhira DSA—181 for 7 in 44.2 overs. Antu not out 57, Tapu 42 and Khokon 36. Turki 2/42.

Nawabganj defeated Faridpur by six wickets at Pabna in the semifinal to play in the zonal final against Dinajpur DSA on Tuesday.

Faridpur DSA—92 all out in 34.4 overs. Ujjal 29, Sajid 26, Salahuddin 4/25, Alam 3/17, Jewel 1/5 and Nasirul 1/14.

Nawabganj DSA—93 for 4 in 27.4 overs. Shamsul unbeaten 45, Sumon 36, Shamim 2/20 and Akidul 2/26.

Besides, Barisal DSA reached the zonal semifinal beating Munshiganj DSA by 49 runs at Chandpur yesterday Sunday. They will play the winners of Sunamganj and Jhalakati on Friday.

Barisal DSA—173 for five in 40 overs. Moshir 48, Dilip 46, Mizan 2/40.

Munshiganj DSA—124 all out in 37 overs. Himel 27, Bulbul 19, Asom 2/26, Siddique 2/26 and Ibrahim 2/17.

Win for Orient

Sports Reporter

Orient Sporting Club careered to a comfortable 69-run victory against DOHS in a Second Division super league tie on the eastern ground of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Orient batted first and made 172 with Azam hitting an unbeaten 67.

Meher of DOHS bagged three for 42.

Mintu and Sohag of Orient took three wickets apiece to bowl DOHS out for 103.

Among the DOHS batsman Ekku made 30.

The other super league tie of the day between Amarjyoti and Nirman XI at the Jagannath Hall ground ended in a fiasco.

Chasing 183 for a win Nirman were precariously placed at 83 for five when the trouble broke out over a decision and then it was darkness at the noon as far as the fate of the match was concerned.

In a relegation league match Azad Boys chalked up a massive nine-wicket win against hapless United Heroes at the Pallabi ground.

Manju captured five for 34 as Heroes batting first were all out for 75 in 18.5 overs.

Azad knocked out 76 for one wicket in 10.2 overs.

King's Cup soccer

BANGKOK, Feb 13: Thailand 'B' edged defending champions China 2-1 after a goalless draw at half time in the opening Group B match in the 25th King's Cup football tournament here Saturday, reports AP.

Suchin Panprasas scored both goals for the Thai team front twelve and seven yards in the 54th and 62nd minutes respectively.

The only goal for China came in the very last minute from a five-yard shot by Hao Haidong.

In the other match in the same group, Germany's West Falen beat Japan's J-League under-23 selection team 2-1 after leading 2-0 at half time.

The German team's goal scorers were Guido Silberbach and Jorge Silberbach in the second and 14th minutes. Toshihiro Yamaguchi scored for Japan in the 68th minute.

Today Thailand 'A' will play South Korea, and Malaysia will take on Russia.

Magdalena's luck runs out

CHICAGO, Feb 13: Unseeded Chahnda Rubin rallied to capture a first-set tiebreaker, then won the match when fifth seeded Magdalena Maleeva was forced to retire in the second set of their semifinal match in the Virginia Slims of Chicago on Saturday, reports AP.

Maleeva withdrew because of a left thigh strain. The score was 7-6(7-4), 2-0.

Rubin will face No. 6 Natalia Zvereva in Sunday's final. Zvereva defeated No. 7 Lori McNeil 6-3, 7-6 (7-3) in the other semifinal.

Maleeva, a surprise 6-4, 6-3 winner over defending champion Martina Navratilova in the quarterfinals Friday, said she injured her thigh four weeks ago during a practice session.

She had to retire from her doubles match on Friday because of the injury.

"There is no way I could have played anymore, no way," Maleeva said.

"Had I won he first set, and I could have made her miss in the second set, I really don't know how I could have continued," she said. "I couldn't even stand up in bed earlier today. I took treatment all day under a doctor's supervision."

The 17-year-old Rubin ranked 47th in the world, scored six straight points after

breaking McNeil three times — including the ninth and final game.

In that ninth game, Zvereva took advantage of a double fault and three unforced errors.

McNeil broke Zvereva in the first game of the second set. Zvereva broke McNeil back in the sixth game, putting together a string of three winners in the forehand court.

McNeil and Zvereva traded service breaks in the ninth and 10th games, forcing a tiebreaker.

McNeil, trailing 4-3, lost three straight points and the match, driving two serves into the net and a ball over the end line off her serve.

"My serve never was too good today," McNeil said. "I elected to come in a lot. I knew she would be passing mine. That's her style. I didn't know she would get in such a high percentage though."

Zvereva, who lost the 1987 Chicago finale to 12-time winner Navratilova, says she is much more mature now, able to mix it up more.

"If I didn't get in as many first serves, and I told myself, I better get in as many as I can," Zvereva said. "Even putting a top spin on the ball did not help me." She was able to handle it very well.

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Eintracht go back on top

BONN, Feb 13: Eintracht Frankfurt leapt over Bayer Leverkusen and back to the top of the German First Division on Saturday, but both sides looked unconvincing as the league restarted after the winter break, reports Reuters.

Frankfurt even trailed at home to a 33rd minute goal on the break from lowly Nuremberg's midfielder Juergen Kreamer, before Bosnian striker Radmillo Mihailovic levelled just before halftime to secure a 1-1 draw.

Surprise mid-season leaders Bayer Leverkusen suffered a worse fate, going down 1-0 to a goal from prolific Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat at Borussia Dortmund.

Former pacemakers Frankfurt failed to convert territorial dominance into goals, despite the return of their talismanic Ghanaian striker Anthony Yeboah, idle since October with a knee injury and brought on as substitute in the 62nd minute.

But they were able to take comfort from a strong showing by former international midfielder Thomas Doll, who came on loan during the winter break from Italy's Lazio.

Doll had the hosts' best chance of the second half, dribbling around national goalkeeper Andi Koepke but waiting too long and then putting his shot wide of the goal.

"Yeboah isn't quite fit yet, he's about 20 or 30 per cent short," Frankfurt coach Klaus Toppmoller said. "But Doll had a great start after four months without a match."

UEFA Cup quarter-finalists Borussia Dortmund came out determined to make up for a disappointing first half of the season, dominating throughout against Leverkusen.

Leverkusen's Serbian trainer Dragoslav Stepanovic was bitterly disappointed with his side's showing up front after the loss of national striker Ulf Kirsten to a 25th minute foul by Dortmund defender Bodo Schmidt.

Kirsten is likely to be out of action for up to two weeks.

"We're going to have to show more fight against Hamburg next week if we want to stay in the top group," Stepanovic said.

Champions Werder Bremen also showed the winter break had sharpened their previously indifferent form.

To prove that a mid week cup quarterfinal win away to Kaiserslautern was no fluke, they repeated the feat with a 2-0 home win, with first-half goals from Norwegian sweeper Rune Bratseth and striker Marco Bode.

The win left Werder in third place, level on 25 points with second-placed Bayer Leverkusen and one behind Frankfurt.

The season's surprise team, promoted Duisburg moved into fourth, also on 25 points, with

Denmark win HK soccer tourney

HONG KONG, Feb 13: European champions Denmark beat Hong Kong 2-0 with goals by Jesper Kristensen and Heine Fernandez to win a four nation soccer tournament on Sunday, reports Reuters.

But there was greater interest in the third place play off between Romania and the United States, a preview of the opening fixtures of this year's World Cup finals.

A disputed penalty taken by captain Ilie Dumitrescu gave Romania a 2-1 win over the World Cup hosts.



Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman giving away the prizes among the winners after the final of the Phoenix Insurance handball competition which concluded at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday. Rifles annexed the title beating Police 24-16. — Star photo

Rifles Phoenix h'ball champs

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Rifles notched a hat-trick of titles when they won the Phoenix Insurance handball competition beating Bangladesh Police 24-16 in the final at the Outer Stadium court yesterday.

The winners led the first half 12-7.

Rafique top scored with 10 while Jahangir netted five for Rifles.

Nazrul and Nurul Islam scored seven and five goals respectively for the losers.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman witnessed the exciting final and gave away prizes among the winners.

Bangladesh Handball Federation president M A Hamid, general secretary Asaduzzaman Kohinor, managing director of Phoenix Insurance Company ER Khan were also present on the occasion.

Ma's army agree

LONDON, Feb 13: China's world-beating women athletes have agreed to run in the London Marathon on April 17, reports AP.

Multi-world record-holder Wang Junxia will head the team and will be joined by Zhang Linli, Zhang Lirong and Ma Liyan, all of whom are coached by Ma Junren.

Wang, 21, shattered world records at 3,000m and 10,000m on the track last summer and has clocked the fastest-ever marathon debut of two hours 24 minutes seven seconds.

Race coordinator David Bedford has been negotiating with the Chinese Athletic Federation since the World Cup, where their runners filled the top four places.

Bedford said: "I've been involved in promoting races, track meetings and marathons for about 10 years, but securing the Chinese team for London has been the most exciting time of all."

Partex b'ball

Sports Reporter

Eagles Club recorded an exciting 78-66 win against the reigning champions Azad Boys Club in a keenly contested match of the Partex First Division basketball league at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 43-41.

Towfiq top scored with 27 while Imoh and Nadeem eaged 15 points respectively each for the winners.

Ifto, Zillu and Aklas scored 23, 18 and 13 points respectively for the losers.

Eagles have collected 13 points from their eight matches while Azad have earned 11 points from seven games.

Pioneer soccer training on

Sports Reporter

The training programme for the Pioneer football players began in five city zones under the auspices of the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) yesterday.

Five former national football players — Wasim Iqbal, Abdul Gaffar, Badal Roy, M Moinul and Protap Sanker Hajra — inaugurated the coaching programme.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champions	Runners-up
1984	Ansars	Brothers
1985	Brothers	Ansars
1986	Ansars	Baniganagar
1987	Ansars	Brothers
1988	BAF	Brothers
1989	Brothers	Police
1990	Not held	x
1991	BBR	Ansars
1992	BBR	Brothers
1993-94	BBR	Police