

Rain is Bangladesh's pain

Sports Reporter

It's a tale twice told in two days. The same bowling combination at work to put Bangladesh on a winning position but elemental enmity erupted to put off victory celebrations.

A faxed message from the Kenyan capital Nairobi revealed the galling news for the expectant home fans here last night: Bangladesh, one of the favourites of the ongoing ICC Trophy championship, had lost to Argentina in their bid for a second successive win not by opponents but sky.

Gulam Nowsheer Prince, Minhazul Abedin Nannu and Enamul Huq Moni, the trio which laid the foundation for an emphatic but procrastinated win against Argentina in Bangladesh's opener conjured up the deadly combination yesterday, to decimate East and Central Africa for 98 only.

Chasing a total less than hundred for a win Bangladesh could proceed to 30 for one wicket when rain which cooled and staled Bangladesh's victory taste against Argentina could no longer hang in the air and came down to down Bangladesh's spirits. The story of working out a result of a one day game in two days was well and truly set *à la* Bangladesh-Argentina match.

The analogy of yesterday's match at Nairobi's Impala Sports Club ground with Bangladesh's first match at Simba SC ground was so close that the possible proceedings could have hardly followed a different path than the one trodden originally.

Skinner Faruque again won the toss and with the memories of a seven-wicket win barely 24 hours old, opted to field first, without any hesitation.

Prince who had taken three wickets for 25 runs against

Argentina increased his haul by a wicket but gave away eleven runs more to finish with figures of four for 36 from ten overs as Bangladesh bowled this opponent out just below hundred. Minhazul Abedin Nannu who opened the attack with Prince instead of Dulu or Babul was meager and almost equally successful. He took three for twenty also from ten



Shariful Huq Plabon, the teenage off-spinner who was flown in late as a replacement for paceman Saiful Islam Khan took a wicket on his international debut at a cost of 22 runs from six overs. Enamul Huq Moni, who had a bag of three wickets against Argentina, stole the show for sheer economy. Giving a clue to East Africa's proven weakness against left-arm spin, Moni yesterday returned a magnificent analysis of one wicket for three runs, from 6.2 overs. No wonder, Bishan Singh Bedi, one of the greatest left-arm spinners of the game had an analysis of one wicket from 12 overs — a feat yet to be surpassed in the annals of instant crickets World Championship. Relegated to the lower tier

of the championship among ICC's associate members. East Africa, comprising Indian and Pakistani immigrants mostly were all out for 98 in 36.2 overs to justify their fall from grace. Tail-ender Patel threw the bat around a bit to topscore with 29 followed by Mohammed and Bagas who made 12 and 11 to register three the only three double-digit scores of the innings apart from 17 extras.

Athar, the man-of-the-match in the previous match fell for 15 but Jahangir on seven not out and skipper Faruque on two were the batsmen at the crease when rain stopped play with Bangladesh on 30 for one in eight overs. Bangladesh have to go out today to collect the victory. 69 runs adrift only with 42 overs to spare.

SCOREBOARD

E & C AFRICA:

Merchant b Prince	7
Sarigat c Jahangir b Prince	5
Kapere c Nasu b Nannu	1
Brolu lbw Prince	0
Sabzali c Akram b Nannu	4
Dhirani c Athar b Nannu	2
Tarmohaned c Nannu b Moni	12
Bagas b Prince	11
Patel c Shahed b Plabon	29
Nasser run out	8
Shikuku run out	0
Extras	19
Total (for 10 wickets)	98

Fall of wickets: 1-10; 2-17; 3-20; 4-24; 5-24; 6-36; 7-75; 8-87; 9-98; 10-98.

Bowling:

O	M	R	W	
Prince	10	1	36	4
Nannu	10	3	20	3
Plabon	6	1	22	1
Moni	6.2	4	3	1
Athar	4	2	10	1

BANGLADESH:

Athar c Merchant b Kapere	15
Jahangir not out	7
Faruque not out	2
Extras	6
Total: (for 1 wicket)	30

(Incomplete)

Nat'l athletics begins today

Sports Reporter

The three-day 22nd national athletics championship begins today under the auspices of the Bangladesh Amateur Athletic Federation (BAAF) at the Mirpur Stadium said a federation press release yesterday.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain MP will inaugurate the meet at 9-30 in the morning.

Nat'l soccer

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Feb 15: Towhid scored the first hat-trick in the final round of the Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football championship to help Bagerhat reach the quarterfinals when they trounced Lalmonirhat 5-0 here at the local stadium today. Bagerhat will now face defending champions Dhaka University in the quarter-final next Saturday.

The winners dominated the first half 2-0.

Towhid scored first in the 16th minute while Ripon scored the second and third in the 34th and 58th minutes respectively.

Towhid was on target twice in the 60th and 72nd minutes to complete his treble.

Alif and Alamgir of Bagerhat and Robul and Shaheen of Lalmonirhat were cautioned with yellow cards.

Narayanganj take on Bogra today.

Mates let Rokon down

Sports Reporter

Rokon's superb bowling went in vain as Ajax throttled by eighty plus knock from Rafiqul beat Nirman XI on the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (DCS) in one of the Second Division super league encounters billed for yesterday.

Rafiqul made 81 as Ajax batting first collected 190 for nine from the allotted 40 overs. Shaheen with 33 and Tony with 20 were the other contributors.

Rokon of Nirman returned a superb analysis of six for 31.

The poor chap topscored with 31 when Nirman went in to bat to the victory target. Although Nirman made 26, Nirman were all out for 135 in 34.3 overs leaving Ajax winners by 55 runs.

Bablu and Dola took two wickets apiece for Ajax.

Orient beat Uttara by seven wickets at the Pallabi ground. Uttara batted first and were all out for 89 in 27.5 overs. Orient scored 93 for three wickets in 31.5 overs to prance away with the win.

Amarjyoti prevailed over DOHS by three wickets in another match, played at the Dhaka Stadium.

DOHS made the first use of the wicket to muster 177 for seven from 40 overs.

Amarjyoti posted 181 for seven in 39.3 overs with Sumi and Salman making 44 and 33 respectively.

Kapil's desire

RAJKOT, Feb 15: Haryana hurricane Kapil Dev yesterday expressed his desire to play for another few years for the country, reports PTL.

Speaking at a felicitation function for his accomplishment of 432 Test wickets, Kapil said at the beginning of his career he hoped to play for about 10 years. But after completion of 15-year long cricketing career, the affection and love of the people in the country gave him enough strength to play for some more time, he added.

The chairman of Rajkot Nagrik Sahakari Bank, Chandrakant Pawagandhi, presented the Test star a cheque of Rs 51,000 for his world record.

Gunwant Bhat Dhelawala, president of city's social and cultural club Sargam Club presented Kapil with a memento.

Thailand B first in

BANGKOK, Feb 15: Defending champions China beat Germany's West Falen 2-0 after leading 1-0 at half time in a Group B first round match in the 25th King's Cup football tournament here Monday, reports AFP.

China scored from a Hao De Silva header from point blank range in the eighth minute and Fan Jiyi's 12-yard shot in the 58th minute.

In the group's other match, Thailand B edged Japan League under-23 selection team 1-0 with the only goal scored by Roongphet Charoenwong from 20-yard in the eighth minute.

Thailand B became the first team to qualify for the semifinals.

In the remaining matches to be played on Wednesday, China will meet Japan and Thailand will face Germany.

Standings after Monday's matches: (tabulated under played, won, draw, lost, goal for, goal against, points).



American Diann Roffe in action in the Winter Games women's super giant slalom in Lillehammer yesterday. She won the gold medal. — AFP photo

Healy, Aussies on high

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 15: Ian Healy created a wicket-keeping record as Australia crushed Northern Transvaal by 249 runs for their first four victory at Centurion Park on Monday, reports AP.

Set to make 435 runs to win, the home side were bowled out for 186 in the second innings by the Australian pace attack led by medium pacer Paul Reiffel who had match bag of eight for 84.

Healy's 11 dismissals posted a new South African first-class record. The record consist of 10 catches, five in each innings and a stumping in the second.

Homeside resisted briefly

largely through a 51-run stand for the fourth wicket but two spells by Reiffel was good enough to complete the lopsided game with a day to spare.

In the first innings Northern Transvaal managed 209 in reply to Australia's first innings 363.

Reiffel followed up his remarkable spell in the first innings (four for 27) with four for 57. His figures suffered heavily at the hands of the tallener who used the long handle to add 40 runs for the last wicket.

Roy Pienaar top scored with 42 runs (six boundaries) while Steve Elworthy capped a batting double with 31 runs with as many boundaries. He scored 29 runs in the first innings.

A form-hitting century by

Mark Waugh enabled Australia to score quickly and declare after lunch.

Waugh and acting captain Mark Taylor shared 165 runs in 140 minutes as Australia declared their second innings on 281 for four.

Waugh dismissed for eight in the first innings hit three soaring sixes and 14 boundaries as the visitors added 180 runs in 40 over in the morning session.

His 46th first-class century lasted a little over three hours and consumed 140 deliveries.

Taylor was completely overshadowed by Waugh but batted brilliantly to help himself to 75 runs which included nine boundaries.

He batted for 155 minutes and faced 126 balls.

Will it be Raza?

WELLINGTON, Feb 15: Pakistan may gamble on untested spinner Akram Raza in the second cricket Test against New Zealand, which begins Thursday at the Basin Reserve, reports AP.

Off-spinner Raza only is due to arrive in Wellington on Wednesday afternoon after flying in as a replacement for Mushtaq Ahmed, who is returning home with a back injury.

Raza has played in only three Tests and has no experience of New Zealand conditions.

Pakistan coach Intikhab Alam said Tuesday that either Raza or medium-pace Amir Nazir will replace Mushtaq in the Test team.

The other possible candidate, medium-pace Ashfaq Ahmed, is out of contention after suffering a hairline fracture of his left index finger.

There are two factors in 29-year-old Raza's favour.

He would add variety to a bowling attack which otherwise rests in the fast-medium hands of Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Aftab Ghisani while Nazir is young and hasn't impressed in his two first-class appearances in New Zealand.

Raza is expected bowl in the nets late Wednesday afternoon and the Pakistanis will not decide on their lineup until Thursday morning.

New Zealand, meanwhile, still are not certain about the fitness of allrounder Chris Cairns, who has an inflamed right knee.

Pakistan lead the three-Test series 1-0.

Nirman cricket

Sports Reporter

Armanitola and former champions Willes Little Flower were yesterday's winners in the Nirman Schools cricket championship matches.

On the western strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (DCS), Armanitola scraped past St. Joseph's High School in an exciting match by just one wicket.

An unbeaten 27 by Afzal after Faiyaz's 47, the topscore, of the innings earned Armanitola High School a thrilling win from the full quota of 35 overs with just one wicket standing. They made 160 for nine to ward off stiff challenges posed by the Josephite bowlers.

Ronny captured three for 21 while Ashfaq claimed same number of wickets giving away three runs more than his peer.

Earlier, St. Joseph's were all out for 159 in 34.4 overs. Blessed by 48 extras they had two main scorers in Cezanne and Raihan who made 35 and 29 respectively.

Faiyaz, who led Armanitola's victory charge with the bat, shone with the ball too removing two Josephites for 22 runs. His comrades — Ramzan and Arif took two wickets apiece as well.

In day's other match played at the Dhanmondi Club ground, Little Flower made short work of Bangabani Adarsha High School registering an eight-wicket win.

Turjo did the spade work for the winners capturing four wickets for 48 runs when Bangabani batting first were all out for 73 in 13.2 overs. He enjoyed good support from Mehmod who took three for 18 and First Division player Opee who collected another two for ten runs.

Flower knocked off 75 for two wickets from 11.5 overs with Manna and Opee unbeaten on 17 and 13 respectively.

Partex b'ball

Sports Reporter

Gregs Club continued their charge towards the title when they trounce Dhumketu Club 85-44 in the Partex First Division basketball league at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 50-18.

Faisal Caged 23 and Apu 20 for Gregs respectively.

Titas and Nahad scored 17 and 12 respectively for the losers.

Gregs have earned 18 points from nine matches. Dhumketu have collected 13 points playing the same number of matches.

HPA's ultimatum

Sports Reporter

Hockey Players' Association has served an ultimatum to the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) regarding their participation in the forth coming Asian Games in Heroshima or any tournament in and outside the country under the auspices of the BHF, said an association press release yesterday.

The decision was taken in a meeting held at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The association blamed the federation for their dilly-dally in holding the hockey league in the scheduled time.

3 teams reach final round

Sports Reporter

Rajshahi, Dinajpur and Satkhira became the first teams, to make it through to the final round of the 14th BEXIMCO national youth cricket championship, after winning their respective zonal finals at different venues across the country yesterday.

Rajshahi brought Nilphamari down to earth with a six-wicket win in a zonal final at Thakurgaon.

Nilphamari, winning the toss, decided to make first use of the wicket. However it was to be a costly decision as they could only muster 154 in 42 overs.

Mukhtar was the mainstay of the Nilphamari innings with a patient and watchful 32.

Litu returned the excellent figures of three wickets for only four runs from his quota of overs.

Rajshahi were never in any danger and duly reached 156 losing four wickets with five of their 45 overs to spare. Rownak was not out on 82.

Dinajpur DSA outplayed Nawabganj by 65 runs in a zonal final at Pabna.

Dinajpur made 208 for 7 in 45 overs. Life 58, Babu 50, Raju not out 32, Salahuddin 3/48 and Azad 2/30.

Nawabganj were all out for 143 in 37.5 overs. Jewel 42, Sumon 30, Chhotan 2/4, Asif 1/6, Raju 1/18 and Life 1/46.

Satkhira defeated Kushtia by 30 runs in a zonal final at Jessore.

Satkhira — 150 for 9 in 45 overs. Akhtar 27, Ripon 27, Ranak 3/24.

Kushtia — 120 in 39.1 overs. Azad 31, Kadir 30, Bidyut 2/17.

Besides, Patuakhali and Manikganj moved into the zonal semifinals from their respective zones.

At Chandpur, Patuakhali beat Bhola by six wickets to meet Chittagong in the zonal semifinals on Thursday.

Bhola — 126 all out in 39.2 overs. Masum 23, Shimul 17, Mizan 2/25 and Mahiuddin 1/4.

Patuakhali — 127 for 4 in 22.1 overs. Sabuj not out 48, Simon 44, Shimul 1/17, Rabbi 1/18.

Manikganj got walkover against Sirajganj who failed to turn up.

India cash in on Sidhu's ton to go one-up

Lankans go down fighting

RAJKOT, India, Feb 15: A gallant Shri Lankan effort to pull off a sensational victory over India in the first one-day international fell short by just eight runs on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Chasing India's total of 246 overs at an asking rate of 4.92 runs an over, Shri Lanka, whitewashed in the three-Test series, were well up with the run-rate until the closing stages.

Aravinda de Silva, who top scored for Shri Lanka with 69, made a welcome return to form and at one stage, with 30 overs gone, they were quite clearly in the hunt.

But then the pace slackened at the Shri Lankans lost quick wickets and with one over to go they needed an improbable 16 runs to win.

Jawagal Srinath, who conceded nine no-balls and two wides in an erratic seven-over spell, conceded seven runs but managed to take the wicket of Pramodya Wickremasinghe with the fifth ball of the over and the match was effectively over.

Indian opener Navjot Sidhu was adjudged man-of-the-match after scoring 108 in 207 minutes, his third one-day international century.

The second match of the

three-match series is scheduled for Friday in Hyderabad.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the first one-day international



SIDHU... man-of-the-match day international between India and Shri Lanka today.

INDIA:

Prabhakar run out	67
Sidhu c Mahanama b Vaas	108
Kumbli run out	25
Azharuddin run out	14
Tendulkar c Ranatunga b Kalpage	1

Amre not out	16
K Dev not out	4
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-1, w-8)	11
Total: (for five wickets, 50 overs)	246

Fall of wickets: 1-122; 2-181; 3-211; 4-214; 5-236; 6-236.

Did not bat: N Mongia, A Kumble, R Chauhan, J Srinath.

Bowling:

O	M	R	W	
Vaas	8	2	40	1
Wickremasinghe	10	2	42	0
Ranatunga	2	0	18	0
Anurastri	7	0	42	0
Kalpage	10	0	37	1
Jaisurya	10	0	47	0
De Silva	3	0	18	0

SRI LANKA:

Mahanama c and B Tendulkar	35
Samaraweera at Mongia b	14
Tendulkar	34
Tillekeratne c Mongia b Kumble	34
De Silva b Kumble	69
Ranatunga c Mongia b Tendulkar	8
Jaisurya c Kumbli b Kumble	31
Kalpage b Srinath	25
Fernando not out	2
Wickremasinghe b Srinath	1
Anurastri not out	0
Extras: (lb-5, nb-9, w-5)	19
Total: (eight wickets, 50 overs)	238

Fall of wickets: 1-56; 2-66; 3-119; 4-137; 5-200; 6-218; 7-235; 8-238.

Did not bat: Chamanda Vaas

Bowling:

O	M	R	W	
Prabhakar	10	0	53	0
Srinath	7	0	37	2
Kapil Dev	6	0	26	0
Tendulkar	8	0	43	3
Kumble	10	0	41	3
Chauhan	9	0	33	0

Result: India won by eight runs.

Asian standard appalling?

HONG KONG, Feb 15: Asia's most successful footballer, South Korean Cha Bum-Keun, says he is

"ashamed for Asia" by the standard of regional football he discovered on his return from a glittering career in Europe in 1989, reports AFP.

The Asian Football confederation need to take the lead, said Cha in an interview published here today.

The outspoken Cha has offered the AFC a three-point plan designed to raise the standards of regional football to match the successes already achieved by Africa.

Cha said more emphasis should be given to the AFC's two club competitions, the Asian Club Championships and Asian Cup Winners' Cup, which are formatted to mirror the European competitions but have not enjoyed similar success.

"Having the big European

(club) games gives players the chance to test themselves against different styles, test their skills more, develop more confidence," said Cha, coach of the Korean Hyundai Tigers side, said here.

Cha said in an interview published in Hong Kong's Eastern Express, the AFC

would weed out "no quality" fixtures and cup competitions, as he put it, that often congest domestic schedules but little to test players' capabilities.

The final obstacle which Cha said should be addressed by the AFC was the conflicting domestic schedules of AFC member associations which made it hard for some countries to offer their teams' in season for club competitions.

Cha's comments come at a time when the AFC is facing increasing pressure to translate the individual successes achieved by professional leagues in some member nations like Japan and Malaysia into a region-wide footballing boom.

"Cha boom