

Another tardy triumph

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh made short work of heavy elemental odds and the feeble challenge of East and Central Africa to record their second successive win in the ICC Trophy by the familiar margin of seven wickets at the Impala Sports Club ground of Nairobi Kenya yesterday, said a faxed message received by the Bangladesh Cricket Control (BCCB) office last night.

Required to score 99 for an outright win from 50 overs — a simple task when viewed from the viewpoint of the depth of Bangladesh's batting — the eventual winners who are seeded second in this 20-team meet of all the ICC associate members, had to pass a sleepless night before heaving a sigh of relief.

Bangladesh had bowled East and Central Africa out for 98 in 36.2 overs on Tuesday, the scheduled day of the match but failed to chalk up the win that was there to be picked because of unceasing rain. When rain stopped play Bangladesh were stuck up with a total of 30 for one wicket from eight overs. Athar, who made 15 was the only casualty, suffered by Bangladesh before the abrupt closure.

The postponed match got off to a delayed start yesterday, as rain clouds loomed large but Bangladeshi batsmen apprehensive of the not too improbable prospect of sharing points in the event of no play insisted the umpires to continue play on a pitch rendered quite unplayable at one end by heavy overnight rain.

Jahangir the overnight unbeaten batsman was bowled by Yadav for 15 and Aminul Islam Bulbul departed for 21 as Bangladesh stepped up on the gas to outpace the impending rain but skipper Faruque Ahmed with an unbeaten 27 and Minhazul Abedin Nannu on 12 not out helped post the required 99 runs for three wickets in 22.4 overs.

Gulam Nowshar Prince, the veteran left-arm paceman, was adjudged the man-of-the-match for excellent bowling analysis of four for 36. It was by far the best bowling figures of the Bangladeshi new ball bowler in the ICC Trophy. He had also taken three wickets

ICC TROPHY



in the opener against Argentina which Bangladesh won albeit tardily by seven wickets.

He enjoyed more than adequate support from wobbly Minhazul Abedin Nannu who



PRINCE... man-of-match

finished with figures of three for 20 in East Africa's short-lived innings on Tuesday.

While off spinner Shariful Huq Plabon took a wicket on his debut, Enamul Huq Moni, the consistent successful left-arm spinner returned magnificently tidy analysis of one wicket for three runs from 6.2 overs. Moni was not too far from emulating the still unclipped feat of frugal bow-

ing achieved by Indian Bishan Bedi who gave away just six runs from 12 overs for one wicket against the same East Africa in a group match in the inaugural Prudential World Cup in 1975. Curious it is to note that East Africa are now struggling in a competition of the associate members of the ICC while Bangladesh, along with others vie for a place among the top three finishers of the meet which will provisionally give them a right to rub shoulders with the Test playing nations in 1996 World Cup.

Bangladesh play their next match against the USA on Feb 19.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the ICC Trophy championship Group B match between Bangladesh and East & Central Africa concluded yesterday at the Impala Sports Club ground in Nairobi, Kenya:

EAST & CENTRAL AFRICA				
Merchant b Prince	7			
Sarigat c Jahangir b Prince	5			
Kapere c Nasu b Nannu	1			
Broll b Prince	0			
Sabjali c Akram b Nannu	4			
Dhitrani c Athar b Nannu	2			
Tarmohamed c Nannu b Moni	12			
Bagas b Prince	11			
Patel c Shahed b Plabon	29			
Nasser run out	8			
Shukuku not 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	0

BANGLADESH				
Athar c Merchant b Kapere	15			
Jahangir b Patel	15			
Faruque not out	27			
Bulbul st Merchant b Bagas	21			
Nannu not out	12			
Extras	9			
Total (for three wickets)	99			
Fall of wickets: 1/28; 2/40; 3/82				

Bowling				
	O	M	R	W
Kapere	4	0	13	1
Patel	7	1	32	1
Dhitrani	5	0	30	0
James	4	0	11	0
Bagas	2.4	0	13	1

Result: Bangladesh won by seven wickets.

Thrilling win for Bermuda

NAIROBI, Kenya, Feb 16: Thrills and spills appear to be the order of the day whenever Hong Kong is playing cricket, reports AP.

It was the same Wednesday when Hong Kong met Bermuda in the first round of the International Cricket Council tournament for emerging cricketing nations.

Bermuda needed eight to win off the last over and their wicketkeeper Minors grabbed them off the very last ball. David Minors, who had been 11 overnight and called a doctor at 3 am, being not out for a hero's 46.

Earlier, stylish batting by Pat Fordham (79) helped Hong Kong post 154, Bermuda finished on 154, but were the winners because they lost

fewer wickets. Elsewhere, Denmark easily beat Fiji (5-56), Canada (90 for 2) walloped Israel (89 all out), the United Arab Emirates beat the United States (206 all out) by four wickets, and Bangladesh (99 for 3) had an easy win over East and Central Africa (98 all out).

By the afternoon, Singapore had scored 96 for eight off 33 overs against Namibia, Papua New Guinea were 105 for 4 off 28 overs against Malaysia, and Ireland had got a start against Gibraltar.

A pattern is emerging. The strong sides appear to be Holland, Canada, Bermuda, Denmark, the United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong and host Kenya.

The three top teams will qualify for the 1996 World Cup to be held in Pakistan, India

and Sri Lanka. Following are some of the results and scores of the ICC Trophy matches played Tuesday:

Ireland beat Papua New Guinea on a superior run-rate. Ireland 230-8 in 36 overs (Allan Lewis 50, Justin Benson 46). Papua New Guinea 88-7 in 32-3 overs when rain stopped play.

United States 206 in 47.5 overs (Richard Denny 61, Azhar Saeed 4-24, Johan Samarasckera 3-32). UAE 74-2 in 17 overs, rain stopped play.

Denmark 219 in 49.3 overs (A. Gregersen 50, Allan From 50, L. Sorowawattini 3-37, T. Batina 3-55). Fiji 58-8 in 15 overs, rain stopped play.

Hong Kong 154 in 47.2 overs (Pat Fordham 79), Anthony Edwards 5-27. Bermuda 66-4 in 23 overs; rain stopped play.

Second Pak-NZ Test begins today

Kiwis up against it again

WELLINGTON, Feb 16: Pakistan, who last week won the first Test in three days, are likely to find New Zealand a little tougher in the second Test beginning here Thursday, but they should win comfortably, reports AP.

New Zealand, hammered by injuries and humiliating defeats this season, as well as mental confusion between the one-day game and Tests, are weak in the batting department and frail in bowling.

Fast bowler Danny Morrison, who missed the first Test through injury, is likely to be fit Thursday, but fellow quick bowler Chris Cairns is doubtful as the result of a nagging knee injury. Still out is batsman Martin Crowe.

Pakistan are poised to gamble on playing off spinner Akram Raza, who will arrive here later Wednesday after flying across Asia and will then begin a five-day Test half a day later.

Raza, who has played three Tests, is coming as a replacement for legspinner Mushtaq Ahmed, who has flown home to recover from a lower back injury.

Pakistan coach Intikhab Alam said the choice of a replacement for Mushtaq from the first Test side lay between medium pacer Aamir Nazir and Raza.

The other candidate, medium pacer Ashfaq Ahmed, is out of contention, having suffered a hairline fracture to his left index finger.

He does not believe the second Test will be easy and expects New Zealand to bounce back from their five-wicket loss at Eden Park last weekend.

"They're a good side. But on that (Eden Park) pitch, facing Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram it was not an easy task."

"New Zealand are a professional team and they'll be trying very hard."

Intikhab is sure New Zealand have been devising tactics for the second Test, just as his team have done.

"We have worked your players out," he said.

"At the same time they must have worked out their strategy, so for example when our number three, number four or number five batsman comes in, the bowlers know exactly what to do."

New Zealand wicketkeeper Tony Blair is anxious local supporters do not count his team out yet.

"I wouldn't write us off yet. If things had gone a bit differently in Auckland — if we at 170 for three on the first after noon hadn't blown it like we did — the match would have been completely different," he said.

Blair believes the problem of getting out of one-day mode into Test thinking is a real one, not a way of making excuses.

Series programme in Australia. "It's a mental thing. Batting is an instinctive art."

"If you've been in the one-day mode, when the ball is there or thereabouts you give it a crack."

"You can't suddenly say I won't do that today. You can't turn it on and off at will," he said.

Both Pakistan and New Zealand will be seeking their first victory against each other on the Basin Reserve. All four previous internationals played in Wellington between the countries have been drawn.

New Zealand had the better of the 1965 match, which ended with Pakistan over 100 runs short of victory, but with only three wickets standing.

Five years ago, Shoaib Mohammed and Javed Miandad made centuries for Pakistan, and Martin Crowe hit 174 for New Zealand, as they amassed 447 in 732 minutes. That was New Zealand's ninth slowest innings in Test history.

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

PAKISTAN: Salim Malik (captain), Saeed Anwar, Aamir Sohail, Asif Mujtaba, Basit Ali, Inzamamul Haq, Shoaib Mohammed, Rashid Latif, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Ataur Rehman, Amir Nazir, Akram Raza (two to be omitted).

Nat'l soccer

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Feb 16: Narayan reached the quarter-finals of the 18th Sher-e-Bangla national soccer championship trouncing Bogra 4-1 at the local stadium here today.

In a rather one-sided match Narayan opened the flood gates in only the 8th minute thanks to a Zakir strike (1-0). He was again on target four minutes later (2-0).

Samrat brought Bogra back into the match with a penalty in the 13th minute of the second half (2-1). Bogra tried to find the equaliser but missed all the chances that went their way.

In looking for that goal, Riaz and Rinku caught Bogra on the break twice with goals in 28 and 36 minute to complete the rout.

Narayan's Mantu and Jubel and Mithu of Bogra were all cautioned.

Today Sylhet take on Netrokona.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Mirpur Nabin Krira Chakra made the most of a half-century by Tarun when they beat Gandaria Cricketers by 42 runs on the eastern strip of the DCS in yesterday's one of the three Second Division super league ties.

Sent in to bat first Mirpur batted through their quota of 40 overs to raise a healthy total of 195 for eight wickets. Barring Tarun the other significant contributions to the near two hundred total came from extras, yielding 27 runs and two individuals — Pavel and Ujjal with the former making 25 and Ujjal staying unbeaten on 17.

Mukul and Rashed of Gandaria captured three wickets apiece giving away 34 and 41 runs respectively.

Gandaria fell a long behind in their chase of victory target of 199 in 40 overs making only 153 at the end of the day with two wickets standing.

Bulbul was unbeaten on 31 with Rashed and Nasir following to complete the line of notable run-getters in the innings. Rashed made 21 and Nasir 19.

Runa was Mirpur's most successful bowler bagging two for 31.

His peers Payel, Montu and Ujjal took one wicket apiece to chalk up a 42-run win for Mirpur.

Although Mirpur got a fairly easy win against Kathalbaggan faced stiffer resistance from Gopibagh Friends Club before recording an 18-run victory at the Dhaka Stadium.

George's middling all-round show came handy for Kathalbaggan who scored 182 for eight wickets after making the first use of the wicket.

Ibrahim made 58 followed by George who toted up another 20.

Liton and Sayeed bagged a couple of wickets each among the Gopibagh bowlers.

Liton waged a spirited battle against heavy odds with some assistance coming from Shakil and Phillip who contributed 29 and 22 respectively but Gopibagh were all out for 164 in 37.4 overs.

Kathalbaggan now have garnered six points to reign atop the points table in E Group.

Day's other match between Pegasus F and Dhanmondi Progoti Sangha was not held due to the unplayable condition of the pitch.

India offer to train local booters

Sports Reporter

Indian government will receive two Bangladesh boys under the Indo-Bangladesh cultural agreement for a ten-month football training programme, according to a Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) press release issued yesterday.

Interested booters are asked to apply to the BFF general secretary with all necessary documents by the 20th this month.

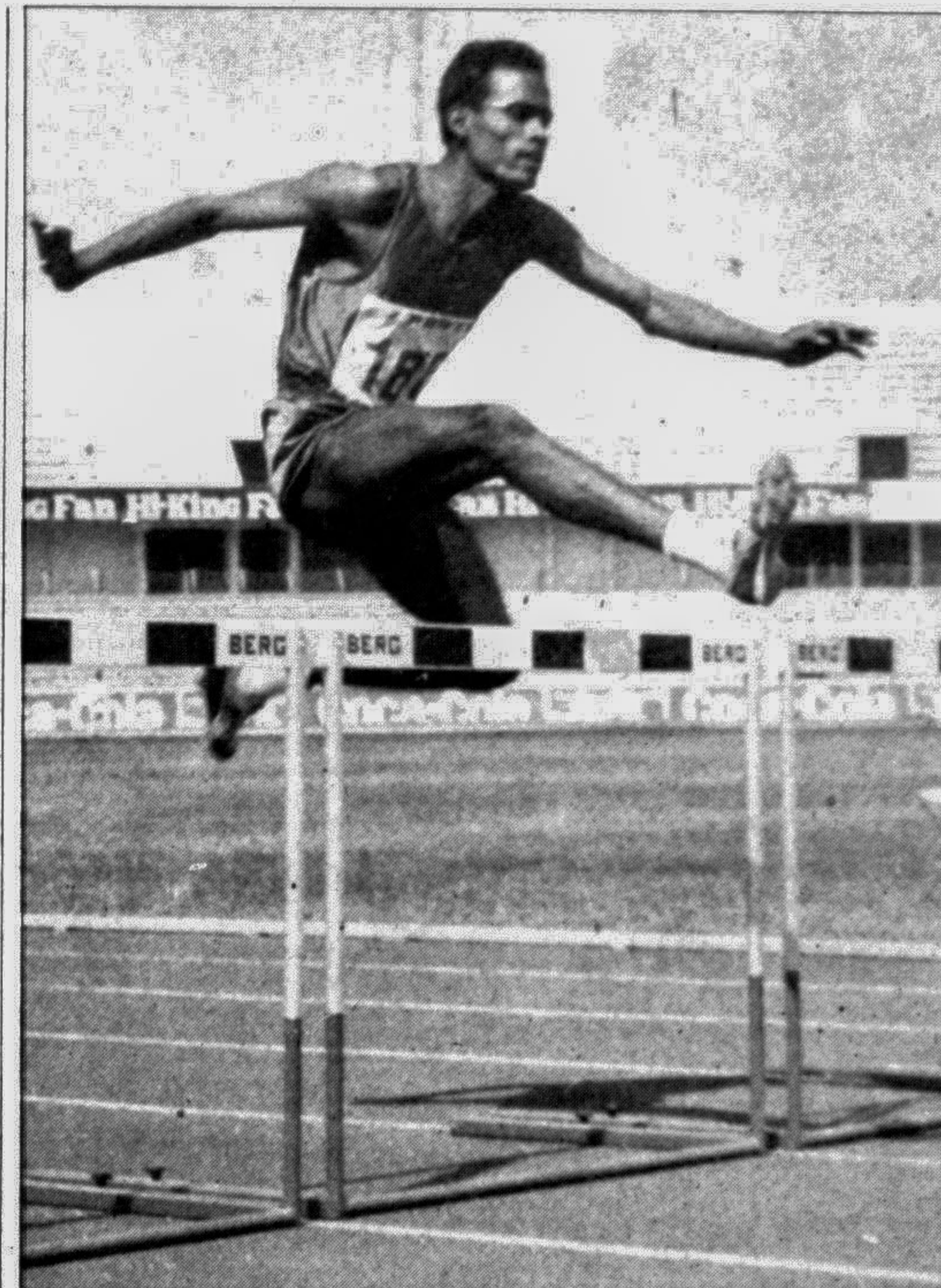
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Sulaiman Mojumder leaps his way to take the gold in men's 400 metre hurdles in the 22nd national athletics championships at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Day One belongs to BJMC

Sports Reporter

BJMC dominated the inaugural day's proceedings of the 22nd national athletics championships which got underway at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

BJMC bagged 12 medals including five golds. Bangladesh Army also got five golds to raise their total collection to 10 medals, two short from BJMC.

In day's main event, men's 200 metre final, reigning fastest man of the country Army's Habilder Golam Ambia (though he was over shadowed by BKSP's Bimal Chandra Tarafdar who clocked the fastest time in the sixth South Asian Federation Games recently in Dhaka finished first clocking 21.2 seconds.

Naik Azhar, also from Army, got the silver while Motul Alam of Rajshahi University managed the bronze.

In women's 200 metre final, Nilufar Yasmin of BJMC clinched the gold timing 25.8 seconds. Her team-mate Lovely Begum took the silver while Rehana Parvin of Customs had to be satisfied with the bronze.

Women's 1500m final, Munira Begum of Bangladesh Ansars clocked 5 minutes 17.8

seconds to secure the gold while Nasima Akhter and Juthi of BJMC took the silver and bronze respectively.

In men's 400m hurdles final Lance Naik Sulaiman Mojumder of Army timed 53.7 seconds to earn the gold. Mosharrar Hossain of BJMC and Kamrul Hassan of Air Force finished second and third respectively.

Men's 800m final saw Milzar Hossain of BJMC top with clocking 1 minute 54.8 seconds. Abu Taleb of Ansars and Lance Naik Abdul Aziz bagged the silver and bronze respectively. Akherun Nesa won the women's javelin with a throw of 36.18 metres to manage another gold for BJMC. Her teammate Momela Begum took silver while the bronze went to Custom's Hafiza Begum.

Lance Naik Rezaul Hoque won the men's high jump. Mofazzal Hossain of Navy and Kamrul Hussain of Air Force got the silver and bronze respectively.

In women's shot put, Nelly Jesmin easily confirmed a gold for her team BJMC throwing a distance of 10.86 metre. Another BJMC girl, Jyotsna Afroz, got the silver while Balaka Towhid of Kushtia man-

aged the bronze. In men's long jump, Monzur Morshed of BJMC captured the gold, while two Army men, Bani Amin and Nasir Uddin took the silver and bronze respectively.

Men's discus throw saw Lance Naik Shafiqul Islam of Army win the gold while Imran Ali of BJMC and Montaj Molla of BJMC take with silver and bronze respectively.

Distance runner Habilder Laiq Sheikh of Army finished first clocking 31 minute 53.2 second in the men's 10,000 metre event. Ansars' Aslam Khan claimed the silver while Lance Naik Danis Ali of Army got the bronze.

MEDAL STANDINGS

Following is the medals table after the inaugural day of the 22nd national athletic championships (tabulate under gold, silver and bronze).

Teams	G	S	B
BJMC	5	5	2
Bangladesh Army	5	2	3
Ansars & VDP	1	2	0
Bangladesh Navy	0	1	0
BTMC	0	1	0
Air Force	0	0	2
Customs	0	0	2
Rajshahi University	0	0	1
Kushtia DSA	0	0	1
Total	11	11	11

Wattana cruises into qtrs

BOURNEMOUTH, England, Feb 16: Thai snooker ace James Wattana coasted into the last 16 of the International Open here on Tuesday without moving out of first gear, reports AP.

The world match play champion followed his 5-1 victory over Aussie slow coach Robbie Foldvary in the first round with a similar scoreline against England's Ian Brumby.

We both made mistakes, Wattana admitted. Its just that

I punished him more than he punished me. It as a funny sort of game, very scrappy.

A break of 52 gave Wattana the first frame, but Brumby, whose highest break in the contest was just 29, levelled at 1-1.

Wattana then stumbled into a 4-1 lead, before cutting loose with a break of 94 in only eight minutes to seal a third-round meeting with England's David Roe.

"I'll have to do better from now on," said Wattana, who has won all but five of his meetings with Roe. "At least my next

game promises to be more open. David goes for his shots and he'll be difficult to get past."

Meanwhile, world number seven Ken Doherty became the first big name to bow out of the 150,000-pound tournament when he was beaten 5-4 by Malta's Tony Drago, listed 13 places lower than the Irishman.

Doherty said: "The last 32 is the earliest I've gone out of a tournament this season and now I have to go back to basics before the World Championship."

Poor Mishu

Sports Reporter

Mishu turned in a virtuoso all-round performance yet ended up on the losing side at the end of the day as Rifles High School handed Post Office a crushing six-wicket defeat on the western strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium in yesterday's one of the two Nirman Schools cricket tourney matches.

Mishu top-scored with 72 as Post Office collected 182 for seven wickets from the possible 32 overs.

Selim and extras deposited 48 and 27 runs respectively in what looked like a fairly adequate total in the morning.

Sattar was Rifles' most successful bowler taking two wickets for 38 runs.

But a stormy knock of unbeaten 51 by Jinal coming on top of useful contributions from Qureshi, Rizvi and extras made a nonsense of Mishu's heroic efforts with the ball.

Mishu took three of the four wickets that fell in Rifles' eventual score of 183 for four in 28.5 overs — good enough for a massive win — spending 41 runs but failed to make up for the ineffectiveness of his fellow bowlers.

Jainal apart Qureshi, Rizvi and extras added 33, 32 and 41 runs respectively to the Rifles total.

In day's other match, played at the Dhanmondi Club ground, Laboratory won their tie against St Gregory's High School in a canter.

With Johnny making early inroads into the Gregory innings claiming as many as four wickets for 38 runs Laboratory were in little trouble to out-class Gregs by eight wickets.

Batting first St Gregory were all out for 93 in 26 overs with Emdad and Suman chipping in with 21 and 20 respectively.

Jinayed took the cue from Johnny, the destroyer in chief of the Gregory innings to bag three wickets for 18 runs among the other Laboratory bowlers.

Laboratory needed only 13.2 overs to post 96 for two wickets to coast to an easy win.

Haider led their victory charge with 39 followed by Saiful who made 31.

Partex b'ball

Sports Reporter

Wanderers Club edged past Backstroke Club 73-67 in the lone match of the Partex First Division basketball league at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

The winners dominated the first half 34-29.

Benefaus and Rustom scored 21 and 15 respectively for the winners.

Mithu caged 40 points but failed to change the course of the match for Backstroke.

In today's match Eagles Club take on Fleet Club.

Warne's first test

JOHANNESBURG Feb 16: Injury-plagued Australian tourists will for the first time expose match-winning leg-spinner Shane Warne in a one-day game against a President's XI at Potchefstroom on Thursday, reports AP.

Warne's inclusion came after off spinner Tim May and fast bowler Merv Hughes were ruled out of the game and possibly the first one-day international with injuries.

May has a split fingernail on his bowling hand while Hughes is still recovering from a muscle spasm in his back.

Warne hasn't fully recovered from tendinitis on his bowling arm and did not train with the side Wednesday at Centurion Park, where Hughes broke down after four balls.

The visitors decided to give Warne a well deserved rest before the important matches of the tour — Tests and one-dayers — but falling short on bowlers due to injuries has forced them to play him.

The side that is picked for Thursday's game will probably be the team for the first one-day international starting February 19 at the Wanderers.

Skipper Allan Border returns to the side after missing the four-day game against Northern Transvaal.

Left out are the two openers, Michael Slater and Matthew Hayden.

Former Test star Mark Rushmore will lead a team of young hopefuls against the Australians.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA: Mark Taylor, David Boon