

N'ganj in nat'l soccer semis

KHULNA, Feb 20: Narayan-ganj advanced to the semifinal of the 18th Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football championship edging out Kushiya by a solitary goal in the quarter-final played at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

Narayan-ganj will play either hosts Khulna or Sylhet in the semifinal on Thursday.

Zakir Hossain, scored the match-winner with a solo effort in the 26th minute of the match.

Nat'l youth cricket

Chittagong and Jessore clinched the last two berths in the final round of the Beximco 14th national youth cricket championship yesterday, reports UNB.

The nine-team final round with six zonal champions, last year's champions Dhaka, runners-up Comilla and Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protisthan (BKSP) will begin from March 1 in the capital.

The six zonal champions are: Chittagong, Sylhet, Jessore, Satkhira, Dinajpur and Bahari.

At Chandpur, Chittagong eliminated Barisal by 20 runs to clinch the zonal A title.

Chittagong — 173 all out in 43.5 overs. Tarek 50, Daufin 38, extras 31. Ibrahim 3/22, Arun 3/33 and Asim 2/32.

Barisal — 153 all out in 42.3 overs. Manju 45, Siddique 39, extras 31. Nuruddin 3/25 and Masum 2/21.

Jessore defeated Pabna by 2 wickets at Satkhira to lift the zone C title.

Pabna — 209 for 9 in 45.0 overs. Rashed 53, Jewel 51, Babu 3/27.

Jessore — 210 for 8 in 38.2 overs. Ashiquzzaman not out 59, Ashique Malik 28, Tarek 2/35 and Rashed 2/28.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Dhanmondi Progati Sangha and Kathalagan registered contrasting wins in their respective Second Division super league matches played at different city venues yesterday.

At the Jagannath Hall ground, Dhanmondi Progati won against Mirpur Nabin Krira Chakra by 19 runs.

Batting first, the winners made 191 for nine from their quota of 40 overs.

Rafiq made 50 while Lito toted up another strokeful 44 runs. Rahel with 22 and Rubel with 19 were the other contributors of any worth.

Mirpur's Montu toiled manfully to take 40 for 47.

A valiant 76 by Babu went in vain as Mirpur were all out for 172 in 40 overs.

Rahel and Shantu of Dhanmondi took two-wicket apiece. At the Dhaka Stadium, Kathalagan recorded a biggie six-wicket win against Pegasus 'A' in day's other super league tie.

Kathalagan rattled up 200 for four wickets only in 33.4 overs after Young Pegasus set them a victory target of 197 in 40 overs.

Hossain led the winners with 51 followed by Santosh and Zakaria who made 31 and 30 respectively with the latter remaining unbeaten.

Earlier, Pegasus collected 196 for eight wickets in 40 overs.

Sumah made 50 and Mahub 42 for the eventual losers.

Manna with three and Shaheen with two wickets stopped Pegasus from galloping past 200.

Int'l Masters' chess

Sports Reporter

Nine players jointly led the points table securing full points after the third round of the qualifying matches of the second United Insurance International Masters' (IM) chess competition at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

ROK coach for local booters

South Korea is likely to provide Bangladesh with a football coach on a long term basis to train the youngsters here, South Korean football chief said in Dhaka Sunday, reports BSS.

Uttaran become champs

Sports Reporter

Uttaran Cricket Club became champions in the Kaliakoir cricket tournament organised by the Turag Sporting Club, beating Rasulpur XI by 32 runs in the final at the Kaliakoir Golem Nabi Pilot High School yesterday.

Batting first, Uttaran were all out for 190.

Fuad, Adil and Babu were the main run-getters for Uttaran with 38, 33, 20 respectively.

Pakistan pocket series in style Akram annihilates Kiwis



WELLINGTON, Feb 20: Wasim Akram produced a withering spell of pace bowling to help Pakistan beat New Zealand by an innings and 12 runs today and take a winning 2-0 lead in the three-match series, reports Reuter.

New Zealand, who went into the fourth day at Basin Reserve on 189 for four and needing a further 184 to avoid an innings defeat, crumbled in the face of Akram's onslaught.

The New Zealanders, soundly beaten 2-0 by Australia in their previous Test series, had a glimmer of hope for survival in the second Test when rain washed out the morning session. But the delay seem to fire up Akram whose haul of seven wickets for 119 were his best Test figures.

With the score on 209 he took the vital wicket of Andrew Jones who scored 76. Akram produced a vicious inswinger to uproot Jones' middle stump.

The pace of the delivery smashed a small-television camera in the stump but not before viewers were able to see when Jones was on his way back to the pavilion.

Shane Thomson, 37 not out at the start, added 10 to his score before mistiming an off drive against Akram, giving Ataur Rehman a simple catch at midoff.

Then with the score on 244, another Akram gem beat the outside edge of Matthew Hart's defensive prod and cannoned into his middle and off stumps.

Cheered on by vociferous Pakistan supporters, Akram gave the new batsman, tailender Simon Doull, a torrid time.

A relatively straightforward chance was spilled by wicket-keeper Rashid Latif with the score on 252, and a confident shout for leg before was turned down shortly afterwards.

But with the score on 276, Doull chipped an Akram delivery to captain Salim Malik at mid-on. He held a fine one-handed catch above his head, giving the bowler seven for 119 in the innings and 10 wickets for the match.

Tony Blain and Danny Morrison offered stout and en-



AKRAM ... m-o-m

tertaining resistance, posting their highest scores at Test level with a cameo of controlled hitting. Blain struck Malik for three successive fours on his way to 78.

But the irrepressible Akram ended the 74-run partnership on 350, tempting Blain to flick a ball to Basit Ali at third man.

Akram's two-fisted salute at the dismissal was entirely justified. The wicket gave the bowler his Test best figures and 20 wickets in the two Tests against New Zealand.

The stand proved to be the last gesture on defiance. Morrison, having made 42, was trapped leg before by Waqar Younis to give Pakistan a comprehensive victory.

The reaction from the New Zealand board of selectors was

immediate. Barely had the stumps been drawn for the ground than the board announced changes to the squad for the third Test starting in Christchurch on Thursday.

Opener Blair Hartland was recalled for his seventh Test in place of Blair Pocock. All-rounder Chris Cairns, absent from this Test through injury, replaced Richard de Groen. Auckland seamer Chris Pringle was also recalled for his seventh Test at the expense of Michael Owens, 12th man in this game.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at the end of the second Test between New Zealand and Pakistan at the Basin Reserve today.

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 175.
PAKISTAN: First innings 543 for five declared.

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings (overnight 189 for four).
Pocock b Waqar 0
Young b Akram 4
Jones b Akram 76
Rutherford c Raza b Rehman 63
Greatbatch c Latif b Akram 10
Thomson c Rehman b Akram 47
Blain c Basit b Akram 78
Hart b Akram 7
Doull c Malik b Akram 15
Morrison lbw b Waqar 42
De Groen not out 1
Extras: (b-1, lb-5, nb-12) 18
Total: 361

Fall of wickets: 1-3; 2-6; 3-120; 4-143; 5-209; 6-216; 7-244; 8-276; 9-350.

Bowling: O M R W
Akram 37 7 119 7
Waqar 25.2 4 111 2
Rehman 18 1 86 1
Sohail 1 0 1 0
Raza 12 4 25 0
Malik 2 0 13 0

Result: Pakistan won by an innings and 12 runs.
Pakistan won the first Test in Auckland by five wickets.
The third and final Test begins in Christchurch on February 24.

Crowe doubtful

WELLINGTON, Feb 20: Injured New Zealand cricket captain Martin Crowe is unlikely to be fit to play against India when they tour next month, reports AP.

Crowe has been ruled out of action since the first Test in Australia last November and underwent knee surgery late last year. New Zealand have lost five straight Tests under the leadership of stand-in captain Kep Rutherford.

Crowe had been hoping to be available in time for India's tour, which comprises one Test and four one-day internationals, but New Zealand Cricket chairman Peter McDermott said Sunday that Crowe's return is unlikely.

"We haven't had any indication that way at the moment," McDermott said.

"He's keen. If he could, he'd be out there now. But he's determined to be fit and well for the England tour."

New Zealand have a two-month tour of England starting in late April and McDermott doesn't want Crowe taking the chance of coming back before he is fully fit and risking another setback to his career.

New Zealand, meanwhile, have made three changes to their squad of 12 for the third Test against Pakistan, which starts on Thursday in Christchurch.

Opener Blair Pocock has been dropped to make way for Blair Hartland, while all-rounder Chris Cairns returns from injury and Chris Pringle is recalled.

Richard de Groen and 12th man Michael Owens are omitted.

Pakistan won the second Test by an innings and 12 runs at the Basin Reserve on Sunday to take a winning 2-0 lead in the three-Test series.

TEAM
Ken Rutherford (captain), Bryan Young, Blair Hartland, Andrew Jones, Mark Greatbatch, Shane Thomson, Chris Cairns, Tony Blain, Matthew Hart, Chris Pringle, Danny Morrison, Simon Doull.

Nirman cricket results

Sports Reporter

Skipper Junayed led from the front as Scholastica moved into the group final with a massive eight-wicket win over Motijheel High School in a Nirman Schools cricket championship match played at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

Junayed scored 40 in addition to his two wickets gotten earlier in the Motijheel innings as Scholastica posted 192 for two wickets to bring up a huge win.

Yasir, however, was the top-scorer in the Scholastica innings with 44. Shaker contributed 38.

Junayed won the toss in the morning and asked his counterpart to bat first. Motijheel could make 187 for nine with skipper Cezanne hitting 66. Adnan made 31.

Junayed captured two Motijheel wickets for 24 followed by Nayeem who took two for 36.

With this win Scholastica entered the final of Group D, one of the eight divisions in the school cricket competition.

Pallabi Mirpur Islam M High School emulated Scholastica's feat by making it to the Group C final when they registered an emphatic 77-run win against Faridabad High School on the western strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (DCS).

Ataur and Dodul were the heroes of the Mirpur team taking four and three wickets respectively as Faridabad chasing 151 for a win in 35 overs, were all out for 73 in 24 overs.

Ataur's four wickets cost him 16 while Dodul gave just five runs for his trio.

Ruman was Faridabad's lone notable scorer with 23.

Earlier Mirpur M. School batted first and were all out for 150 with extras numbering up to 60.

Benjamin burns England up



KINGSTON, Jamaica, Feb 20: West Indies paceman Kenny Benjamin captured a career-best four for 50 as England collapsed after a century opening stand in the first Test at Sabina Park on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Benjamin, in only his third Test and first against England, dispatched openers Mike Atherton (55) and Alec Stewart (70) and followed up with the wickets of Graham Thorpe and Jack Russell on an incident-filled first day of the series.

England plunged from 121 without loss to 209 for seven at the close, losing six wickets for 51 at one stage in a stunning transformation to the innings.

Benjamin was effectively backed up by fellow pacemen Courtney Walsh, who produced a superb break-back to bowl Robin Smith for nought, and Curtly Ambrose, who removed Chris Lewis with the second new ball.

All-rounder Jimmy Adams, winning his place because of injury to Carl Hooper, also made a significant contribution by bowling Creame Hick for 23 and holding the catch that accounted for Lewis.

There was scarcely a hint of the problems ahead for England when Atherton, winning the toss on a slowish pitch, and Stewart gave their side a deceptively good start with a fine partnership of 121.

Both survived chances before lunch, Ambrose missing a sharp return catch from Stewart on 14 and Atherton escaping on 22 when he edged the same bowler to Brian Lara at first slip where he failed to accept a waist-high chance.

England, 79 without loss at lunch, continued to prosper into the early afternoon until Benjamin broke the partnership when Stewart hooked a shortish delivery, got an under edge and was caught behind

ward.

England went to tea shortly afterwards at 139 for three, and were shackled in the early part of the last session when Thorp and Hick managed only 10 runs in the first 10 overs after the interval.

West Indies tightened their grip by snatching three wickets with the total on 172.

Hick tried to cut the left-arm spin of Adams, found the ball was too close to his body, and chopped it onto his stumps after making 23.

Benjamin then produced another double strike, bowling Thorpe between bat and pad for 16 as the left-hander tried to work the ball on the leg side, and trapping wicket-keeper Jack Russell lbw for nought.

Captain Richie Richardson took the second new ball shortly before the close and was rewarded with another wicket when Lewis flicked Ambrose on the leg side and Adams held a catch at the second attempt at square leg.

England decided not risk fast-medium bowler Angus Fraser, who is nursing a fractured finger on his left-hand, and opted for a four-pronged pace attack of Devon Malcolm, Alan Igglesden, Andy Caddick and Lewis.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the first day of the first Test between West Indies and England at Sabina Park on Saturday:

ENGLAND: First innings
Atherton c Murray b K Benjamin 55
Stewart c Murray b K Benjamin 70
Thorp b K Benjamin 16
Smith b Walsh 0
Hick b Adams 23
Maynard not out 24
Russell lbw b K Benjamin 0
Lewis c Adams b Ambrose 8
Caddick not out 3
Extras: (b-2, lb-5, nb-3) 10
Total: (For seven wickets) 209

Fall of wickets: 1-121, 2-133, 3-134, 4-172, 5-172, 6-172, 7-194

To bat: A Igglesden, D Malcolm.

Bowling: O M R W
Ambrose 22 8 46 1
Walsh 23 6 41 1
K Benjamin 20 6 50 4
W Benjamin 15 6 34 0
Adams 10 1 31 1

West Indies: D Haynes, P Simmons, B Lara, R Richardson (captain), K Atherton, J Adams, J Murray, C Ambrose, W Benjamin, K Benjamin, C Walsh.

SCOREBOARD
SOUTH AFRICA
P Kirsten b M Waugh 22
G Kirsten c S Waugh 18
B McGrath 18
Cronje run out 97
Rhodes lbw b Warne 44
Wessels c Healy b McGrath 22
Kuiper not out 47
Simons not out 2
Extras: (lb-6, nb-4, w-3) 13
Total: (five wickets in 50 overs) 265

Fall: 1-45; 2-58; 3-152; 4-203; 5-229

Did not bat: Dave Richardson, Richard Snell, Craig Matthews and Fanie de Villiers.

Bowling: O M R W
McDermott 10 2 46 0
Reffel 8 0 50 1
M Waugh 9 1 32 1
McGrath 10 1 42 2
S Waugh 5 0 28 0
Warne 8 1 41 1

(Incomplete)

Cronje crowns S Africa's day



PRETORIA, Feb 20: South Africa beat Australia by 56 runs in the second one-day international here on Sunday, completing a dismal weekend for the tourists who lost the first encounter on Saturday, reports AP.

South African captain Kepler Wessels again won the toss and elected to bat.

Australia started poorly, slipping to 36 for 4, but skipper Allan Border and Steve Waugh provided a partnership of 107 to give the tourists hope. Once they departed the Australians slid to 209 all out.

The South Africans won the first clash in Johannesburg on Saturday by five runs.

An earlier AP report says South Africa, inspired by a brilliant 97 from in-form Hansie Cronje, hit up an imposing 265 for five in the allotted 50 overs.

Cronje, who was 112 in the first one-day Saturday, had yet another innings of high class and shared 94 runs for the second wicket with Jonty Rhodes (44).

The South African batsmen

quick loss of the two openers brought Cronje and Rhodes together.

The pair once again thrived on an attack that lacked accuracy as they sped in a 125-ball alliance.

Rhodes' innings ended to a Warne flipper after 63 balls with three boundaries.

Kuiper completed run spree with three sixes off successive balls. His effort consisted of four sixes and two boundaries sending the 25,000 fans packing the stadium into ecstasy.

Cronje's vision of his second successive one-day century disappeared when skipper Allan Border accounted for a direct hit at the bowler's end.

The vice captain also shared 51 runs (53 balls) for the fourth wicket with Wessels who was booted during his innings 20 runs.

Cronje for the second time in two days reduced leg-spinner Shane Warne to a non-entity, hitting him for three sixes in his 102-ball innings in addition to eight other boundaries.

After a quick 45-run stand for the first wicket and the

Chang coasts past Courier



PHILADELPHIA, Feb 20: Michael Chang notched his second consecutive victory over Jim Courier on Saturday in the semifinals of the Comcast US Indoor tournament, reports AP.

Chang, after breaking Courier twice in the second set, served an ace down the centre on the second match point for a 7-6 (8-6), 6-2 victory.

Chang advanced to Sunday's best-of-three-sets championship against Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands, who earlier

eliminated eighth-seeded Jaime Yzaga of Peru 6-3, 6-3.

The win improved Chang's career record against Courier to 7-5. He defeated Courier in straight sets at the ATP Championships in Frankfurt last November after six straight losses to Courier over two years.

Chang won five straight games after an 0-1 start in the second set, saving a crucial break point in the fourth game and breaking Courier's service in the third and fifth games.

"Once I got the double break, he didn't really seem that much into it," Chang said.

"I don't know whether he was already thinking about his doubles or what."

Chang double-faulted on Courier's third break point in the first game of the match. He regained the point in the eighth game when Courier made four straight errors from 30-0. In the tiebreaker, Courier lost a set point when Chang hit a sharp forehand down the line.

Courier then hit backhands over the baseline and into the net on the last two points.

"I couldn't get my first serve in, that was a big key," Courier said. "It put me in the hole a lot. He got a lot more out of his serve, which is unusual. I usually will get more out of my serve than he will out of his. Today was his day."

Yzaga set up match point for Haarhuis by hitting a forehand into the net, then ended the one-hour, 32-minute match with a double fault.

Haarhuis, a six-year veteran who has never won a singles title, said before the evening semifinal that he expected a difficult match on Sunday.

"I'm having a great tournament so far, but I'm playing tomorrow against a top 10 player in either Chang or Courier," Haarhuis said. "If they play their best tennis, you don't win."

Haarhuis served eight aces and converted four of 10 break points in a match played on his 28th birthday. Yzaga only made 49 per cent of his first serves and double-faulted four times.

It was the first career meeting between Yzaga and Haarhuis, who were ranked No 34 and No 36 last week.

At last a win for Shri Lanka



JALANDHAR, India, Feb 20: Shri Lanka snatched a sensational last-gasp victory in the third and final one day international against India here Sunday, salvaging a measure of their battered cricketing pride, reports AFP.

Vice-captain Aravinda de Silva and wicket-keeper Pubudu Dassanayake smashed 15 runs off the last over bowled by paceman Javagal Srinath to take their side to the target of 141 with just a delivery to spare.

The tourists' target was revised to 141 from 33 overs after rain robbed 70 minutes of play in the afternoon. They romped home with four wickets left.

India, put in to bat by toss-winning Shri Lankan captain Ajuna Ranatunga, had earlier made 213 for nine from 50 overs.

Dassanayake drove the first ball of the last over to the fence, then stole a single to give De Silva the strike. The vice-captain's wild swing resulted in four more.

Srinath then conceded two wides and with one ball left, the beefy De Silva, named man-of-the-match for his unbeaten 32 after a useful bowling spell, cut him to the boundary. Dassanayake was 20 not out.

It was a consolation win for the tourists, who had lost the three-match series after defeats in Rajkot and Hyderabad, on top of a 0-3 rout in the Tests.

De Silva and Dassanayake took their side to victory after a middle-order collapse saw the Shri Lanka's lose three wickets with the score stationary on 88, and one more later to slide to 99 for six.

Leftarm spinner Venkatesh Raju was India's most successful bowler, finishing with three for 19 in eight economical overs.

India were taken beyond 200 by a sparkling knock of 52 by young batting genius Sachin Tendulkar, who added 48-runs in 47 balls for the eighth wicket with tail-ender Rajesh Chauhan before he was run out.

The home team frittered away the advantage of a bright start given by Navjot Sidhu (46) and Ajay Jadeja (37), who added 83 runs for the first wicket. Vinod Kambli, Praveen Amre, Skipper Mohamad Azharuddin, Nayan Mongia and Srinath fell cheaply.

Sidhu was named man-of-the-series after scoring 108 and 79 in the preceding matches.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard after the Indian innings in the third one-day international against Shri Lanka here today:

INDIA
Jadeja b Kalpage 37
Sidhu b Murali Dharan 46

Kambli c Tilkeratne b Muralidharan 12
Amre b Jayasuriya 3
Tendulkar run out 52
Azharuddin c Samaraweera b De Silva 11
Mongia run out 3
Srinath c Samaraweera b De Silva 7
Chauhan not out 26
Ankola b Vaas 0
Raju not out 1
Extras: (b-2, lb-1, nb-4, w-8) 15
Total: (for nine wickets) 213
Fall of wickets: 1-83, 2-102, 3-112, 4-112, 5-136, 6-142, 7-161, 8-209, 9-209.

Bowling: O M R W
Vaas 10 2 43 1
Wickremasinghe 9 0 34 0
Kal