

Jahangir ploughs in sands



Jahangir Alam's maiden ICC trophy was a Bangladesh team bludgeoned to a six-wicket defeat in their last group engagement in the fifth version of the meet now being played in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.

On Monday, at the Ngara Sports Club ground, the United Arab Emirates who ensured passage to the quarter-finals as the Group B champions along with runners-up Bangladesh rattled up 236 for four wickets in 46.3 overs to chalk up an easy, inconsequential but strategically important win.

While the UAE from now will look to the semifinals wistfully from a theoretically easy draw of Group F, Bangladesh added to the loss of the unbeaten status have their work cut out in Group E comprising top-seeds Holland and hosts Kenya.

Bangladesh, however, looked poised for a win when they piled 233 for seven wickets on a perfect batting wicket after the UAE captain won the toss and asked his counterpart to make the first use of the wicket.

The belated discovery of pitch's benign nature was almost lost into deceptive ignorance in the morning as the top half of the Bangladesh batting again caved in for reasons best known to the batsmen.

The only exception was the gutsy right-handed opener Jahangir Alam. Undaunted by the longish funeral procession which included even the redoubtable Akram Khan, the man who gave Bangladesh a new lease of life with an unbeaten half-century against the USA, Jahangir blossomed to play perhaps the best innings of his life and with it carve a niche in the annals as the only third Bangladesh batsman to notch a hundred in the ICC competition. Yusuf Rahman hit the first ton in the second ICC meet in England in 1982. He made 115 against Papua New Guinea. Nurul Abedin Nobel scored 105 against Canada in the fourth meet in Holland in 1990.

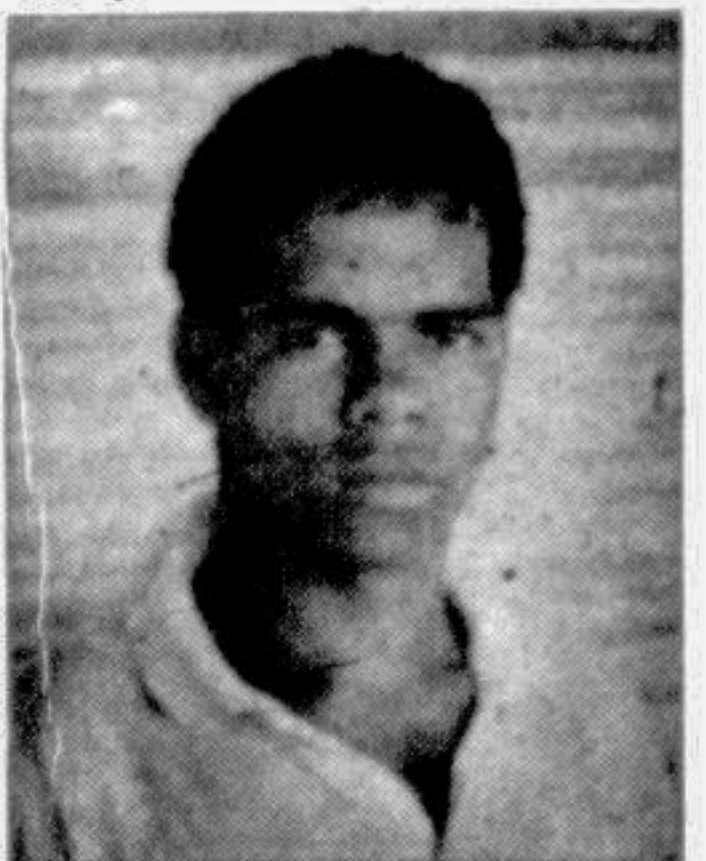
Fighting against odds symbolised in the sickening statistics of 89 for five as Bangladesh batted first for the first time, in other being forced to mark the first use of the wicket, Jahangir thrived on some patient, sensible batting by Selim Shahed, another young man who too like the century made his ICC debut this year. The pugnacious Jahangir remained unbeaten on 117 as Bangladesh finally made 233 for seven from the stipulated quota of 50 overs.

Shahed, celebrated his first half century of the meet before becoming one of the three leg

Sports Reporter

before dismissals for a well made 56.

S Butt, one of the many Pakistanis playing for the multi-national UAE team was the pick of the bowlers with



JAHANGIR ... 117 not out figures of two for 19 from eight overs.

Medium-pace Athar Laiq, tipped as a Pakistan prospect not too long ago and one of the members of the Pakistan team which toured Dhaka in 1988 to take part in the Asian youth cricket championship bagged two for 57.

Shri Lankan Samarasekera.



ICC TROPHY

not the Test player Athula Samarasekera also captured two wickets for 46 runs.

Bangladesh were cock-a-hoop when Athar, opening the attack with Golam Nawsher Prince had UAE opener Saeed caught behind for three with the addition of six more runs the total on 13. Nawsher called for more celebrations as Hussein fell leg before to the experienced leftarm seamer but the sky for Bangladesh changed after that.

Riaz Ponawalla, the UAE vice captain who only a couple of years ago was very much in the reckoning for a place at least in the one day combination of the Indian team paired with Mehra, another Indian connection, to steady the rocking UAE boat. Both completed half centuries with Ponawalla falling to Minhazul Abedin Nannu for 54.

Mehra was stumped by Nasir Ahmed Nasu for 50 off Enamul Huq Moni who in line

with the cliché of cricket's glorious uncertainty, discovered himself as the source of his team's later sufferings as he along with his peers came under heavy punishment from the marauding UAE batsmen.

Ishaq and Reza, plundered the Bangladesh bowling to take 92 runs from 14 overs as UAE raced to 236 in 46.3 overs after being quite delicately placed at 143 for four wickets in 36 overs. Originally from Pakistan these two batsmen indulged in some do-or-die sloggng at the utter bewilderment of the Bangladesh captain who used as many as eight bowlers to sever the partnership. Ishaq remained unbeaten on 49 while Reza, the man-of-the-match returned unconquered on 61.

The second round of quarter-finals begin today with Bangladesh taking on Holland.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the 5th ICC cricket championship Group B match between Bangladesh and United Arab Emirates (UAE) held Monday at Ngara Sports Club ground in Nairobi, Kenya.

BANGLADESH				
Athar Ali c Abbasi b Butt	2			
Jahangir Alam not out	117			
Faruk Ahmed lbw Samarasekera	2			
A I Bulbul c Abbasi b Samarasekera	0			
M A Nannu c Abbasi b A Laiq	11			
Akram Khan lbw Zarawani	10			
Selim Shahed lbw A Laiq	56			
E H Moni c Abbasi b Butt	7			
G M Nowsher Prince not out	3			
Extras	25			
Total: (for seven wickets in 50 overs)	233			
Fall of wickets: 1-6; 2-13; 3-14; 4-70; 5-89; 6-207; 7-220.				
Did not bat: Nasir Ahmed, Shariful Huq Plabon.				
Bowling: O M R W				
Samarasekera	10	0	46	2
S Butt	8	2	19	2
A Laiq	10	0	57	2
S Zarawani	10	1	47	1
A Saeed	8	1	37	0
S Reza	4	0	24	0
Extras				
Total: (for four wickets in 46.3 overs)	236			
Fall of wickets: 1-18; 2-38; 3-115; 4-142				
Bowling: O M R W				
G M Nowsher Prince	8	0	35	1
Athar Ali	10	3	35	1
M A Nannu	10	1	35	1
E H Moni	9	0	56	1
S H Plabon	5	0	27	0
Akram Khan	1.3	0	15	0
Selim Shahed	2	0	22	0
A I Bulbul	1	0	7	0
Result: UAE won by six wickets				
Man-of-the-match: S Reza (UAE)				

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE)

R Ponawalla c S Shabed b M A Nannu 54
A Saeed c N A Nasu b Athar Ali 3
M Hussein lbw Prince 5
V Mehra st N A Nasu b E H Moni 50
M Ishaq not out 49
S Reza not out 61
Extras: 14
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Other ICC results

NAIROBI, Feb 22: Results of final preliminary round 50-over ICC (International Cricket Council) Trophy cricket matches on Monday, reports Reuter.

United States beat Argentina by 111 runs. United States 337-6 innings closed (Sam Skeete 67, Gagendranath Lachman 75). Argentina 226-6 innings closed (G. Kirchbaum 57).

Fiji beat West Africa by 152 runs. Fiji 232-9 innings closed (F Lesivou 84, C Talone 46, T Ayama 3-17). West Africa 80 in 40 overs (L Steve 4-17).

Bermuda beat Denmark by 5 wickets. Denmark 183-7 innings closed (Atif Butt 70, J Gregersen 53). Bermuda 185-5 in 44.5 overs (C Smith 51, C Marshall 48 not out, M Seider 3-42).

STANDINGS

Final standings issued on Monday after the preliminary round of the ICC (International Cricket Council) Trophy (tabulated — played, won, lost, points):

Group A				
Netherlands	4	4	0	16
Ireland	4	3	1	12
Papua New Guinea	4	2	2	8
Malaysia	4	1	3	4
Oman	4	0	4	0
Group B				
United Arab Emirates	4	4	0	16
Bangladesh	4	3	1	12
United States	4	2	2	8
Argentina	4	1	3	4
East and Central Africa	4	0	4	0
Group C				
Kenya	4	4	0	16
Canada	4	2	1	10
Namibia	4	2	2	8
Israel	4	1	3	4
Singapore	4	0	3	2
Note : Canada and Singapore totals include two points for a no result.				
Group D				
Bermuda	4	4	0	16
Hong Kong	4	3	1	12
Denmark	4	2	2	8
Fiji	4	1	3	4
West Africa	4	0	4	0

Quarter-final groupings: Group E — Netherlands, Bangladesh, Kenya, Hong Kong. Group F — Ireland, United Arab Emirates, Canada, Bermuda.

IM chess results

Sports Reporter

Shawkat Hossain Pallab of Sonali Bank earned five full points to stay at the top of the points table after the fifth round matches of the United Insurance International Masters' (IM) chess tournament at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

Pallab beat Aminul Islam. Tanima Parveen and Manzur Alam jointly remained in the second position securing four and a half points so far.

The players who got three points were: Khurshed Alam, Arifuzzaman Sikder, Badrul Alam, Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, Hasibul Hassan Hanif, Kazi Mahmud, Khalid Shawkat Prince, Enayet Hossain, Aminul Islam, Muniruzzaman Moni, Din Mohammad and Aminul Islam Polash.

Div II cricket postponed

Sports Reporter

All the matches of the Second Division cricket league which were to be held yesterday and today were postponed due to the inclement weather, said a Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) press release yesterday.

Thailand B King's Cup soccer champs

BANGKOK, Feb 22: Thailand B outlasted Germany's West Faten 4-0 after a goalless first-half to emerge as champions in the 5th King's Cup football tournament here Monday, reports AFP.



Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao (R) presents a trophy to Kapil Dev, who earlier this month became Test cricket's highest wicket-taker, at a simple ceremony in New Delhi on Feb 21.

England in dire straits

KINGSTON, Feb 22: England were left with virtually no escape route in the first Test on Monday as West Indies demolished their top order batting to end the third day within sight of a crushing victory, reports Reuter.

Forced to endure a torrid final session after conceding a first innings lead of 173, England had limped to 80 for four by the close, still needing 93 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

Michael Atherton, Robin Smith and Matthew Maynard all fell victim to short pitched deliveries, but the collapse started when Alec Stewart was run out for 19 attempting a third run to long-off.

Courtney Walsh then removed Atherton (28) and Smith (2) with nasty deliveries, and Winston Benjamin claimed Maynard for a duck with another lifter which the batsman edged to wicket-keeper Junior Murray.

With left-hander Graham Thorpe forced to visit hospital for precautionary X-rays on his right hand, England were grateful that Graeme Hick and Jack Russell were able to hang on at the crease until stumps.

But after today's rest day, there are still two more days to survive if they are to prevent West Indies taking a 1-0 lead in the five-Test series.

Any fond hopes England may have nursed that the West Indian pace attack might turn out less destructive than some of their predecessors were swept away in the post-tea session.

Walsh, in particular, bowled a devastating 14-over spell which ranked in pace with anything seen in the match so far, but it was Stewart's dismissal which proved most damaging for England.

The opener had looked in no trouble until he drove Walsh towards the long-off boundary. He ran two but then failed to beat Kenneth Benjamin's athletic 70-metre throw which scored a direct hit at the bowler's end.

England manager Keith Fletcher admitted the incident

had been crucial to the day's events.

"It was a flat pitch and until Alec got out it didn't look as though the West Indies were that keen," said Fletcher.

"But after that they steamed in. It was one of those things, but it was silly... especially in the position we're in."

Smith added to his first innings failure by ducking into a ball from Walsh which failed to rise as much as he expected. It thundered into his gloves and looped gently up to Jimmy Adams at short leg.

No-one stood up to the pace barrage better than Atherton, but after being hit on the helmet and body his resistance cracked after Walsh switched to bowling around the wicket. He was unable to dodge another wicked bouncer and Adams again held an easy catch to end the England captain's lengthy stay.

Maynard's quick departure left England reeling on 63 for four with only the slight consolation that Thorpe's X-rays had revealed only bad bruising and should not prevent him batting when the match resumes on Wednesday.

Hick again revealed an improved technique against fast bowling to be 24 not out at the close, but is certain to come under renewed attack on the fourth morning.

"If he can play that he can play anything," said Fletcher. "There's still hope but obviously the West Indies are in a superb position. We are going to need a big 100 from Graeme after the rest day."

The action in the last session completely overshadowed the earlier efforts of Adams who fell agonisingly short of his first Test century as West Indies reached 407 all out from their overnight 238 for four.

Adams hit an undefeated 95, including 10 fours, from 225 balls, but his fellow Jamaican Walsh was unable to hold out long enough to enable his versatile team-mate to reach three figures. England in fact took the last four West Indian wickets for just 18 runs in a belated attempt to fight their way back into the match.

They also managed to remove century-maker Keith Arthurton who added only 13 to his overnight 113 before he was brilliantly caught by Chris Lewis off Devon Malcolm.

But Adams received good support from Junior Murray and Winston Benjamin and England's fortunes dipped further the longer the day went on. Malcolm and Andrew Caddick were their most successful bowlers, capturing three wickets apiece.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the first cricket Test between West Indies and England at Sabina Park on Monday.

ENGLAND: First innings 234 (A Stewart 70, M Atherton 55, K Benjamin 6-66).

WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 238-4)

Haynes c Thorpe b Malcolm	4
Simmons c Russell b Caddick	8
Richardson c Maynard b Malcolm	5
Lara b Hick	83
Arthurton c Lewis b Malcolm	126
Adams not out	95
Murray lbw b Igglesden	34
W Benjamin b Caddick	38
Ambrose b Gaddick	0
K Benjamin b Lewis	0
Walsh lbw b Lewis	0
Extras: (lb-10, w-1, nb-3)	14
Total:	407
Fall of wickets: 1-12; 2-12; 3-23; 4-167; 5-256; 6-319; 7-389; 8-389; 9-390.	

Bowling: O M R W				
Malcolm	23	3	113	3
Caddick	29	5	94	3
Lewis	26	4	82	2
Igglesden	24	5	53	1
Hick	21	4	55	1

ENGLAND: Second innings

Atherton c Adams b Walsh	28
Stewart run out	19
Smith c Murray b Walsh	2
Hick not out	24
Maynard c Murray b W Benjamin	0
Russell not out	6
Extras: (lb-1)	1
Total: (for four wickets)	80
Fall of wickets: 1-34; 2-39; 3-58; 4-63	
Still to bat: G Thorpe, C Lewis, A Igglesden, A Caddick, D Malcolm	

Bowling: O M R W				
Ambrose	8	2	18	0
W Benjamin	8	2	21	1
K Benjamin	2	0	5	0
Walsh	14	3	35	2

Unprecedented!

NEW DELHI, Feb 22: The Indian government Monday took an unprecedented step to honour all-round Kapil Dev, who earlier this month became Test cricket's most successful bowler, reports AFP.

Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, cabinet ministers, Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin and sports officials were among the guests who attended the hour-long ceremony at a downtown auditorium to salute the 35-year-old cricketer.

It is the first time the government has honoured an Indian sportsman by organising a special function.

"He is also my hero," said Rao, after presenting Kapil with a citation and a gold-plated trophy for what he described as "a unique and magnificent achievement."

The 12-inch (30 centimetres) trophy shows a ball atop three stumps with the inscription "432", the number of Test wickets Kapil has taken in his 15-year career.

"Kapil is a legend and an inspiration for the youth of this country," the Prime Minister, a keen cricket follower, said.

Rao said cricket was the most popular game in the country which "kept people away from work" when matches were being played.

"When cricket is played no work takes place in offices," the Prime Minister said in a dig at India's white-collar workers.

A visibly moved Kapil thanked his countrymen for the honour, and promised to continue to give of his best in the years to come.

Indians unchanged

NEW DELHI, Feb 22: Indian cricket selectors stuck to a winning formula for next month's tour of New Zealand, picking the same squad that scored three consecutive Test victories over Sri Lanka in the recent home series, reports Reuter.

India play a one-off Test match and four one-day internationals, as well as two warm-up three-day matches, during the tour which runs from March 6 to April 2.

Chief Indian selector and former Test cricketer Gundappa Vishwanath told reporters they decided not to disturb a winning team, though several other players were considered.

The 15-man squad includes all-rounders Kapil Dev, who earlier this month overtook Sir Richard Hadlee's Test record by taking his 432nd Test wicket.

The squad includes five medium-fast bowlers and three spinners but only one specialist wicketkeeper in Nayan Mongia.

Sanjay Manjrekar, who returned to the national team for the series against Sri Lanka after a one-year gap, has kept wicket in first-class matches and could step in.

"Manjrekar may keep wicket in three-day games but not in the Test match or the one-day internationals," Vishwanath said. "In case of an emergency the tour management could seek a replacement."

SQUAD

Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), Sachin Tendulkar (vice-captain), Navjot Sidhu, Manoj Prabhakar, Ajay Jadeja, Vinod Kambli, Sanjay Manjrekar, Pravin Amre, Kapil Dev, Nayan Mongia, Anil Kumble, Rajesh Chauhan, Venkatesh Raju, Javagal Srinath, Salil Ankola.

Jones plans to quit

WELLINGTON, Jan 22: Veteran New Zealand Test batsman Andrew Jones said today he would retire from international cricket at the end of the current season, reports Reuter.

"I want to spend more time with my family and pursue other interests," Jones, 34, told the New Zealand Press Association (NZPA).

The announcement came despite New Zealand cricket officials admitting they had been trying to persuade the number three batsman to delay his retirement. It came, also, a day after New Zealand had suffered their second big Test defeat at the hands of Pakistan in eight days.

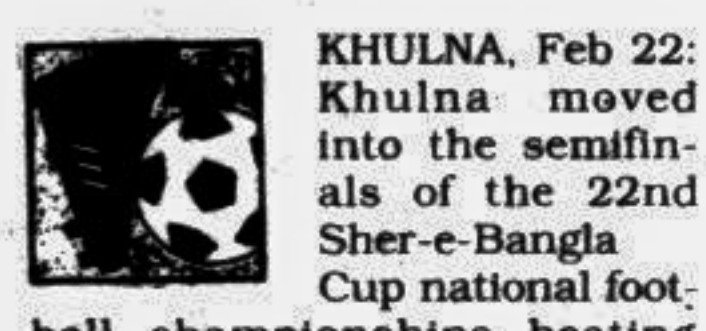
Jones has proved himself New Zealand's most dependable and most successful Test batsman after captain Martin Crowe, who has not played for three months because of a knee injury.

In the two Tests against Pakistan, Jones scored two half-centuries and a 40 while the rest of New Zealand's batting order collapsed around him.

Jones has played in 36 Tests, scoring 2,791 runs at an average of 45.75 and hit seven centuries.

His highest score was 186 against Sri Lanka in 1991 when he shared a record-breaking partnership for any wicket with Crowe who made 299.

Khulna make it to semis



From Staff Correspondent

to save a Badal shot.

Sylhet created their first real opening in the 37th minute when Sylhet's Siraj had to beat the Khulna keeper Tofan but the chance went begging.

Rumi scored a brilliant goal (1-0) in the 39 minute to break the from a deadlock good Khulna attack.

Sylhet desperately searched for an equaliser in the start of the second half.

Sylhet missed some easy sitters in a half which was almost dominated by them.

National player Kaiser Hamid and Jewel Rana provided neat passes to the Sylhet.

Sylhet half.

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