

Partex b'ball

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Azad Boys had another close call when they were stretched 56-52 by Dhumketu Club in a keenly contested match in the Partex First Division basketball league at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Azad managed to hold on to a 25-22 points lead in the first half.

Parvez, Akias and Sadi were the main scorers for Azad with 14, 12 and 10 respectively.

Titas and Nahad caged 14 and 11 respectively for the losers.

Azad have earned 15 points playing nine matches while Dhumketu have collected 14 points from ten outings.

Angels take on Eagles in today's match.

Pallab stays ahead

Sports Reporter

Shawkat Hossain Pallab maintained his lead securing five and a half points, when he drew with Tanima Parveen in the sixth round match of the United Insurance International Masters' (IM) chess competition at the chess room of National Sports Council yesterday.

Four players remained in the second position with five points each.

They are: Arifuzzaman Sikder, Aminul Islam, Tanima Parveen and Moniruzzaman Moni.

Arif beat Monzur Alam, Aminul defeated Din Mohammad, while Moni won against Hanif in their respective matches.

Players who stayed in the third positions on four and a half points were: Amir Hossain, Khurshed Alam, Badrul Alam, Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, Tayebur Rahman, Kazi Mahmud, Monzur Alam, Khalid Shawkat Prince, Abu Sufian Shakeel, Enayet and M R Milki.

In brother's footsteps

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 23: Egyptian striker Hossam Hassan has joined his brother Ibrahim on the sidelines after being sent off in a national league match, reports AFP.

Hossam, 27, was dismissed for trying to hit an opponent. When shown the red card, the temperamental star tore off his jersey and flung it on the ground.

His defender brother Ibrahim Hassan received a worldwide one-year ban for trying to hit the referee after the African Super Cup final in South Africa, which Al-Ahly lost 1-0 to Zamalek.

Hossam was suspended until April 30 — the final day of the domestic season. It is a severe blow to his club and national team.

Hossam plays for Cairo team Al-Ahly, who top the championship but are being hotly pursued by Ismailia and Zamalek.

The consistent scorer is also a key member of the Egyptian squad preparing for the African Nations' Cup finals next month where he could lack match practice.

Al-Ahly support the suspension, according to manager Tarek Salem. "Hossam is a great loss to the club, but principles should not be compromised," he said.

Al-Ahly refused to defend the African Cup Winners' Cup in protest at the suspension of Hossam's brother. But that move backfired when they were barred from Africa for two years and fined 5,000 dollars.

HPA hails appointment

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Hockey Players' Association (HPA) welcomed the appointment of Major General Mohammad Abdur Rah PSC as the president of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF), according to an association press release issued yesterday.

Snow stalls soccer

LONDON, Feb 23: Heavy snow in northern England forced the postponement of Wednesday's second leg of the English League Cup semifinal between Sheffield Wednesday and Manchester United, reports AP.

Officials at Sheffield's Hillsborough stadium reported no problems with the field, but the winter weather was causing havoc on the mountain roads that would be used by many Manchester fans to travel to the game.

The match was rescheduled for March 2.

Manchester United won the first leg 1-0 Feb. 13 at Old Trafford. The winner will play either Tranmere or Aston Villa in next month's final at Wembley Stadium.

Dutch dilute dreams

Bangladesh's hyped up campaign for a place in cricket's big league was severely jolted yesterday, as they suffered a 46-run defeat to favourites Netherlands in a quarter-final tie of the fifth ICC Trophy at the Premier Club ground of Nairobi, Kenya.

Although the quarter-finals of this meet is not a knock-out one and Bangladesh have still two more matches, winning of which can still earn them a ticket, dices appear rather too heavily loaded against them as one of their two upcoming rivals will be hosts Kenya, now in terrific form. Bangladesh play Kenya on Friday and their last quarterfinal match is billed for Sunday against Hong Kong.

Smarting under a heavy six-wicket defeat to the mighty U. A. E. on last Monday, Bangladesh once again suffered from acute batting crisis, an irreversible and incurable trend from the very outset which has now brought Bangladesh to an abyss of pessimism. Seeded second in this 20-team fray of the associate members of the ICC, Bangladesh entered the competition with a view to earn the right to play in the next World Cup besides winning the title. Three top teams of the meet will join the nine Test playing countries in the instant cricket's world championship to be scheduled to be co-hosted by India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, in 1996.

Chasing 206 for a win from 50 overs, Bangladesh were all out for 159 against top-seeds Holland.

Opener Jahangir Alam who had scored a sparkling ton in the previous match which Bangladesh lost to the U. A. E. by six-wicket, top-scored with 48 as all other major batsmen fell for insignificant contributions to the total.

In fact Bangladesh were never really in the hunt for the target as perhaps, awed by the occasion they got off to a painfully slow start with just 14 runs coming from the first 11 overs. Things kept on changing for the worse with Bangladesh hopelessly placed at 44 for four after the completion of 22 overs.

Although all rounder Enamul Haq remained unbeaten on 29 and Mizanur Rahman Babul clouded 28 in his first match, Bangladesh's doom was never in doubt and the innings was well and truly

wrapped up in 48 overs. Suffice it will be for a clue to the pathetic batting display that only skipper Faruque Ahmed and Selim Shahed, following up his half-century in the previous match made it to the double figures.

Although Visee took four Bangladesh wickets, skipper Lubbers and Lefebvre did the damage as they handled the new ball superbly to restrain the Bangladeshi openers from indulging into some early flourish. They also prised out three top order batsmen to effectively break the back bone of the Bangladeshi batting.

Jansen who proved a bit costly had the important scalps of Minhazul Abedin and Akram Khan, the two pillars of strength in the Bangladesh middle order. Minhazul better known as Nannu made one while Akram who brought Bangladesh to the quarterfinal with a superb undefeated half-century against the U. S. A. fell for four.

Earlier skipper Faruque Ahmed won the toss and decided to field first. Young, left-arm spinner who was one of the three newcomers following changes from the team that played against the U. A. E., opened the attack with Jahangir Talukdar Dulu and celebrated his debut with a superb analysis of two for 27 from ten overs.

Seamer Mizanur Rahman normally mean customer played his first match as experienced new ball bowler Golam Nawshar, so far the most successful Bangladesh bowler was rested for a muscle injury. Awed by the occasion Mizan, however, gave away 16 runs from only two overs and never got back the ball.

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Jahangir donned the gloves as regular wicket keeper Nasir Ahmed was left out to bolster the all-round strength of the team by the inclusion of Jahangir Talukdar Dulu. The enthusiastic all rounder could not make much headway leaving it to young Saikat who replaced off-spinner Shariful Haq Plabon to do some justice to the change in the combination.

However, part-time bowler Minhazul Abedin Nannu was statistically the most successful bowler with a haul of three for 33.

Van Oosterom was Netherlands' top scorer with 64 as his side was all out for 205 in 48.3 overs.

Skipper Lubbers who later bowled tightly made 34 while Alfonso and Visee chipped in with useful quickfire scores of 22 and 21 respectively.

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Other ICC results

NAIROBI, Feb 23: Results of ICC International Cricket Council Trophy 50-over quarter-final matches today, reports Reuter.

Kenya beat Hong Kong by eight wickets. Hong Kong 86 in 33.1 over (Alfred Niguna 5-24, Martin Suji 3-17). Kenya 90-2 off 16 overs (Kennedy Otieno 52 not out).

Bermuda beat Canada by eight wickets. Canada 149-9 in 43.2 overs (Ingelton Liburd 42, Noel Gibbons 4-31). Bermuda 151-2 off 35 overs (Albert Steede 48, Dexter Smith 44).

United Arab Emirates beat Ireland by 59 runs. United Arab Emirates 295-4 innings closed (Mazhar Hussain 122, Azhar Saeed 54). Ireland 236-9 innings closed (Angus Dunlop 44, Arshad Laiq 4-49).

Faisal moves into qtrs

Sports Reporter

Faisal Syed Haq of Bangladesh moved into the boys' singles quarter-finals of the eighth Bangladesh international junior tennis championship at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

On the second day of the world junior ranking meet Faisal earned a hard fought 7-5, 7-5 victory over Marc Hahn the lone German representative in the meet.

Faisal who is seeded second in the tourney will take on Indian Joydev Shetty today.

Another local lad, Tofazzal Hossain went down fighting in a keenly-contested match against top seeded Roymani Puttipong of Thailand losing 6-7 (6-8), 3-6. Tofazzal was leading the first set 5-2 before losing the initiative.

Puttipong will face compatriot Wittonpanich Bhee in the quarter-final. Bhee earned an easy passage in the last eight of boys' singles eliminating Shamim Ahsan Roni of Bangladesh 6-1, 6-0.

Besides, the boys' singles matches, eight girls' singles and boys' doubles matches and two girls' doubles matches were decided on the second day of the five-day long meet.

The boys' singles quarter-finals will start at 9 am today.

Meanwhile, Yenny Kamalawati and Priscilla Mertina of Indonesia and Anuchan Montika and Wongkamalasai of Thailand qualified for the girls' doubles semi-finals.

The Indonesian pair routed Bangladesh's Sathy Sarkar and Yasmin Ahmed Urmi 6-3, 6-2 in the quarter-final.

They will take on Thailand's Saksamran Phorathai and T Phornsarin in the first semi-final today.

Montika and Wongkamalasai conceded only three games to Bangladesh's Taslima Khatun Lucky and Khaleida Fowzia Choitally in their 6-1, 6-2 win.

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Feni dump DU out of Cup

From Staff Correspondent

got the first goal in the 11th minute.

The goal came from a penalty after Pappa (Sr) of Dhaka University handed the ball in the danger zone to thwart a Feni attack. Mizan converted the spot kick for Feni (1-0).

The goal marked unabated onslaughts on the disorganised Dhaka University citadel and Feni doubled the margin in the 38th minute.

Mizan took full advantage of a defensive lapse and slotted past Dhaka University custodian Sayed Hasan Kanan from close range (2-0).

One minute into the breather Shimu of Feni sealed the fate of the match shooting on target from a goalmouth melee 3-0.

Dhaka University who did little to justify their seeding found their rhythm midway through second half pulling back two goals.

In the 27th minute of the second half Rupu reduced the margin for Dhaka University 3-1.

He scored his second goal four minutes before the long whistle by a powerpacked right footer 3-2.

Mizanur (Jr), Shahjada, Ratan and Jilani of Feni and Pappu (Sr) of Dhaka University were cautioned with the yellow card for rough play.

Feni will meet the winners of the Khulna-Narayanganj tie, in the final on Saturday.

Walsh gets his due at last

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Feb 23: Courtney Walsh, often the unsung hero among the West Indies fast bowlers, stepped into the spotlight at Sabina Park with a blistering spell that put England on the ropes in the first Test, reports Reuter.

Walsh captured two for 35 in 14 overs of sustained hostility on Monday's third day to leave England reeling at 80 for four, still needing 93 more runs to avoid an innings defeat when the Test resumes on Wednesday after the rest day.

Jamaican paceman Walsh undermined England by dispatching key pair Robin Smith, who earned his reputation as an accomplished player of fast bowling, and captain Mike Atherton.

Walsh used the bouncer effectively and varied his angle of delivery by going round the wicket, a tactic that earned him Atherton's wicket.

Since his Test debut at Perth in the first match of the 1984-85 series against



COURTNEY WALSH

Marshall, all now retired, and latterly Curtly Ambrose have usually stolen the spotlight.

Yet Walsh has collected an impressive haul of 206 wickets in 61 Tests during a career split between playing county cricket with Gloucestershire since 1984.

Kingston-born Walsh has

clearly found Sabina Park to be a favourite venue, achieving his best Test bowling figures here with six for 62 against India in 1989 and producing his most successful Test performance against England on the same ground four years ago when he took five for 68.

The current opening match of the five-Test series has been a good contest for another Jamaican, Jimmy Adams, who in only his fifth Test has contributed significantly with both bat, ball and in the field.

Adams, whose left-arm spin accounted for Graeme Hick in England's first innings, scored his Test best of 95 not out with a disciplined piece of batting marked by excellent timing and placement, and he has also held four catches.

All-rounder Adams won his Test place here only because Carl Hooper was ruled out with a back injury but the Jamaican's compelling form poses West Indies an intriguing selection task when Hooper returns.

Scores: England 234 and 80-4, West Indies 407.

Agassi as agile as ever

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, Feb 23: Andre Agassi made a triumphant return to competition after a five-month layoff on Tuesday when he beat Mark Kell 6-1, 6-2 in the first round of the dollar 288,750 Arizona men's tennis championships, reports Reuter.

In other first round matches, 1987 Arizona champion and third seed Brad Gilbert of the United States beat Sweden's Jan Appel 6-3, 6-3 and 1992 champion Stefano Pescosolido of Italy eliminated eighth-seeded Russian Andrei Cherkasov 6-4, 6-1.

Agassi, the current defending champion, showed no signs of rust after having surgery on his right wrist in late December.

"I sure missed it. It felt absolutely incredible," said Agassi after his 57-minute romp past Kell.

"I missed doing what I love, period," added the fifth-seeded Agassi, whose world ranking has dropped to 32. "These past few months I concluded how much I love what I do. I couldn't step smiling out there tonight."

Agassi said he started his match with a case of the jitters but they quickly disappeared.

"It was well past the point of being nervous," the former Wimbledon champion said. "It was a question of missing the excitement and adrenaline. I felt all those things. I still felt a little nervous but that went away quick."

Agassi, 23, said he had mixed feelings about his performance.

Italy beaten

NAPLES, Italy, Feb 17: Italy made an unimpressive start to their preparations for the World Cup finals when they were surprisingly beaten 1-0 at home by France in a friendly international on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Monaco's Yuri Djorkaeff scored the only goal of the game on the stroke of half-time to give the French a well-deserved first victory on Italian soil in 82 years.

McEnroe, Becker join forces

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands, Feb 23: John McEnroe and Boris Becker, who were opponents, in one of the most memorable matches in tennis history, were on the same side of the court Tuesday night, reports AP.

They teamed to beat Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands and Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic 7-6, 7-6 in a first-round doubles match at the Rotterdam indoor tournament.

Together, McEnroe and Becker have won 12 Grand Slam singles titles. McEnroe also has won 10 Grand Slam doubles titles, including the 1992 Wimbledon crown with Michael Stich.

In 1987, Becker beat McEnroe in a classic Davis Cup match that lasted 6 1/2 hours. Tuesday night's match didn't last nearly that long, but it didn't end until 1:30 am because two long early matches delayed the start of the doubles contest until midnight.

It was the first match of the year for the 35-year-old McEnroe, who is no longer a regular on the tour.

Earlier Tuesday the Dutch doubles top seeds Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis, dismissed German pairing David Prinosil and Udo Riglewski in three sets, 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 in their first round clash.

World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation heavyweight titles with a unanimous decision over Riddick Bowe last November.

Holyfield refused to disclose exactly how much money he had offered Steward for the Moorer fight, but said it was in excess of 100,000 today.

"I'm not offering peanuts," Holyfield said. "If a guy carried my shoes I'd give him 100,000."

"I'm not paying for a whole year. I'm in camp for six or eight weeks and I'm only going to pay for six or eight weeks work," added Holyfield, who said he would not pay his trainers a percentage of his multi-million dollar purses.

Steward only worked with Holyfield for his last two fights. Before that, the trainer had guided Moorer's career was

just not in this upcoming bout.

"He never did want me to fight (Moorer) anyway," Holyfield said of Steward. "He said this is a guy you shouldn't fight."

"He'd been training this guy to beat me and all of a sudden he's caught up in the middle of this thing. Could be in a way he just didn't want to handle this fight anyway."

Holyfield said he would use Turner as his trainer, "as long as I'm fighting and he's willing to work for the price I'm paying."

Turner, who will leave the Holmes camp immediately, said the former champion was gracious about his trainer joining Holyfield.

"Larry said it was a great opportunity for me and he won't stand in my way," Turner said.

Holyfield hires new coach

ORLANDO, Florida, Feb 23: Evander Holyfield will have a new trainer in his corner when he fights number one contender Michael Moorer on April 22, the heavyweight champion announced on Monday, reports Reuter.

Holyfield said he retained Larry Holmes' former trainer, Don Turner, to prepare him for the Moorer fight after he was unable to reach a financial agreement with veteran trainer Emanuel Steward.

"We had disagreement on the amount of money he wanted," Holyfield said of Steward in a telephone news conference.

Steward was in Holyfield's corner when he regained his

Havelange isn't quitting just yet

NEW YORK, Feb 23: FIFA president Joao Havelange on Tuesday publicly dismissed recent media speculation that he may soon quit as head of the world soccer body, reports Reuter.

Addressing journalists before a two-day International Football Federation (FIFA) World Cup meeting here, the 77-year-old Brazilian set the record straight.

Head of FIFA for nearly 20 years and facing reelection this year, Havelange said that "in the face of the published rumours" he had met the presidents of all five soccer confederations within FIFA.

He said all five had confirmed his nomination and

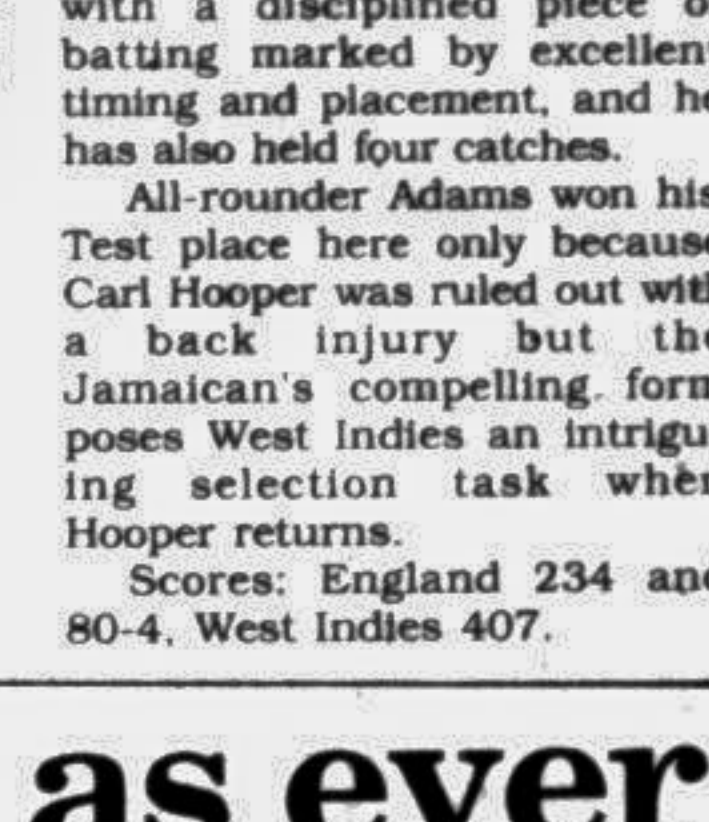
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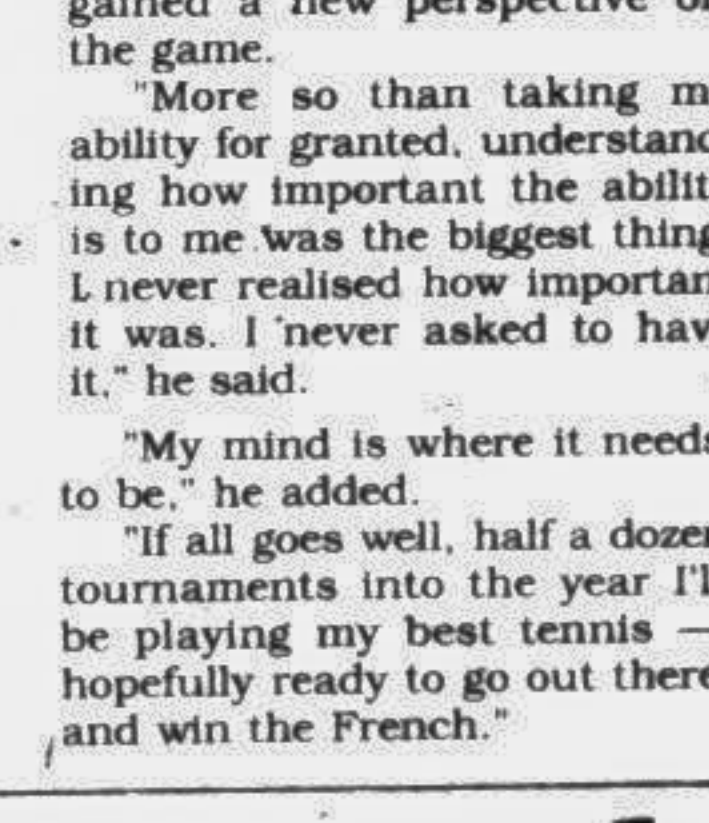
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