

BKSP nat'l youth champs

Sports Reporter

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Opener Moni scored an unbeaten 64 to play the anchor-man's role.

MONI m-o-m

Last year's champions Dhaka, who seemed ill-equipped to withstand BKSP bowlers' onslaughts, escaped a complete annihilation mainly because of two vital partnerships that took them to 149 for nine in the allotted 45 overs.

In reply BKSP reached the victory target of 150 for three in 39.3 overs.

On the ropes from the very outset Dhaka at one stage were reeling at 59 for seven in 24.3 overs.

The two new-ball bowlers of BKSP — Sajal and Shuvro shared first four Dhaka wickets with the three top order batsmen unable to open their accounts.

Rahul who along with Sajal had recently been to the MRF pace bowling foundation in India then captured three wickets in quick succession leaving Dhaka innings in tatters.

Sajid Hasan, a member of the Bangladesh team in the recently concluded ICC trophy, opened the Dhaka innings with Biplob (O) and scored 17 before miscuing a hook off a Sajal bouncer and Ujjal at square leg accepted the offer gleefully.

However, Shuvro who drew the first blood in the very second over returning Biplob for a nought, bowled his quota of nine overs at a stretch finishing with an excellent analysis of 9-4-15-2.

Rahul's first victim was Adil (14) who fell to a brilliant catch by Mursheed at gully as the fielder dived full length to cling to a low catch.

The well-built seamer then dismissed Atia (2) and Bappi (2) to finish with three for 28 from his nine over spell.

Opee and Nahid joined hands in a rescue operation of some sort and took the Dhaka score to 100 in 34 overs before Opee (28) was dismissed by a direct throw from cover.

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Pakistan leave NZ broke

WELLINGTON, Mar 9: Pakistan wrapped up their five-match one-day cricket series against New Zealand with an 11-run win in the third match on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

In a game reduced by early morning rain to 48 overs, Pakistan reached a solid 213 for six, thanks mainly to a 142-run partnership between Inzamamul Haq and Aamir Sohail.

New Zealand progressed steadily until the run-rate began to increase and they fell 12 short, finishing on 202 for eight.

New Zealand were undone by some brilliant ground fielding which caused three run outs.

Opener Bryan Young and No 3 Andrew Jones had put New Zealand into a good position at 76 for one until Young was run out by a fine piece of fielding from Inzamam.

Jones was also the victim of a run out by a direct throw, this time from Basil Ali at mid off, for 38 with the total on 106.

Rutherford and Shane Thomson kept New Zealand hopes alive with a brisk fourth-wicket stand of 62 in 77 balls.

But the loss of four wickets in successive overs ended New Zealand's ambitions and New Zealand were left needing 21 from the final over.

The job was far too tough.

Fletcher has feel of the pulse

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Mar 9: England manager Keith Fletcher made it clear on Tuesday that the touring team would not "roll over and die" in the remaining Tests against West Indies, reports Reuter.

We may have lost some matches and that's not good but the team is certainly not down and out, said Fletcher.

England have already lost the one-day series 3-2 and were heavily beaten in the opening Test in Jamaica last month.

Fletcher admitted England played appallingly in the third one-day international when they suffered their heaviest limited overs defeat.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the final match of 14th BEXIMCO national youth cricket championship between Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) and Dhaka DSA played at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

DHAKA DSA

Biplob b Shuvro	0
Sajid c Ujjal b Sajal	17
Adil c Mursheed b Rahul	18
Momin c Murtaza b Shuvro	0
Mintu c Moni b Sajal	0
Opee run out	28
Atia b Rahul	2
Bappi b Rahul	2
Nahid not out	28
Rashed st Murtaza b Rokan	26
Rana not out	4
Extras: (b-2, lb-5, wb-13, nb-4)	24
Total (for 9 wicket in 45 overs)	149
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-35, 3-35, 4-36, 5-44, 6-52, 7-59, 8-100, 9-137.	

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Sajal	9	1	34	2
Shuvro	9	4	15	2
Rahul	9	0	28	3
Munna	9	2	32	0
Sohail	4	0	22	0
Rokon	5	0	11	1

BKSP

Ujjal lbw Nahid	17
Moni not out	64
Rokon c Opee b Mintu	0
Mursheed b Bappi	37
Sohail not out	16
Extras: (b-3, lb-6, wb-5, nb-2)	16
Total (for 3 wickets in 39.3 overs)	150
Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-51, 3-123.	

Did not bat: Shuvro, Murtaza, Rahul, Nafis, Munna, Sajal.

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Bappi	8	1	31	1
Rashed	4	0	21	0
Mintu	9	2	18	1
Nahid	9	0	32	1
Opee	3	0	14	0
Rana	5	0	17	0
Momin	1	0	07	0
Sajid	0.3	0	01	0

Man-of-the-Match: Moni of BKSP.

Result: BKSP won by 7 wickets.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Years	Champions	Runners-up
1978-79	Dhaka	Dhaka Board
1979-80	Chittagong	Mymensingh
1980-81	Dhaka	Rajshahi
1981-82	Chittagong	Rajshahi
1982-83	Mymensingh	Sylhet
1983-84	Chittagong	Dhaka
1984-85	Chittagong	Khulna
1985-86	Chittagong	Mymensingh
1986-87	Not held	
1987-88	Not held	
1988-89	Chittagong	Mymensingh
1989-90	Chittagong	BKSP
1990-91	BKSP	Dhaka
1991-92	Jessore	Rajshahi
1992-93	Dhaka	Comilla
1993-94	BKSP	Dhaka

Maradona shoots at Napoli

BUENOS AIRES, Mar 9: Italian league team Napoli deserves to do badly, the clubs former star Diego Maradona said Tuesday, reports AP.

In an interview with a local radio station, Maradona took swipes at his former team, which is now seventh in the Italian league. 15 points behind first-place Milan.

Napoli, won their first championship in 1987, after signing a contract with Maradona. They won the UEFA Cup in 1989 and took the Italian league title in 1990.

Maradona in 1992, after serving a 15-month suspension for cocaine abuse, refused to return to Napoli and was transferred to Spanish league team Sevilla.

In Tuesday's interview, Maradona joked that the Italian governments investigation of corruption should include Napoli.

"I don't know what they did with their money. They didn't buy a single player," he said.

Maradona also said he hopes national team coach Alfio Basile will call him to play in this summer's World Cup in the United States.

It would be absurd to deny I'm always thinking about the national team, but just now I need peace and quiet, he said.

Maradona returned to Buenos Aires this week after vacationing in the southern Argentine resort of Oriente, 280 miles (450 kilometers) south of the capital.

He went to Oriente to escape media attention after he shot at journalists with a compressed-air rifle in front of his home Feb. 2, a day after he and Argentine them Newsels Old Boys announced he was leaving the club.

No respite for Warne, Hughes

SYDNEY, Mar 9: Australian Test cricketers Shane Warne and Merv Hughes, fined in South Africa for bad behaviour, were ordered to pay an additional dollars 4,000 (2,840 dollars) by the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) on Wednesday for their verbal abuse of batsmen during the first Test match in Johannesburg, reports Reuter.

The conduct of leg-spinner Warne and fast bowler Hughes "was unacceptable, detrimental to the interests of Australian cricket and provided a totally inappropriate role model for young players," said ACB chairman Alan Crompton in a prepared statement.

Warne and Hughes on Sunday were fined 1000 rand (285 dollar) each by match referee Donald Carr following their outbursts.

Crompton said the ACB would automatically impose a similar 4,000 dollar fine against any player who is found guilty of poor conduct by Carr during the remainder of the tour.

"The actions of Shane Warne and Merv Hughes have brought Australian cricket into disrepute and constitute breaches of their players contracts," the statement added.

"The board is dismayed at the recurring incidence of poor player behaviour in recent seasons."

Hughes was reported by umpires Barry Lambson and David Shepherd for abusing South African opener Gary Kirsten, while Warne came to the umpires' attention when he sent Andrew Hudson on his way with a few choice words after bowling the opener.

Australia went on to lose the first Test by 197 runs to go 1-0 down in the three-Test series.

Healing Malcolm

LONDON, Mar 9: Pace bowler Devon Malcolm, who flew home from England's Caribbean tour 10 days ago for keyhole surgery on his right knee, could rejoin the team within two weeks, reports Reuter.

England are baking on Malcolm being fit for the final two Tests next month. West Indies lead the five-match series 1-0.

NEW ZEALAND

B Young run out	37
M Greatbatch c Sohail b Rehman	9
A Jones run out	38
K Rutherford c Malik b Younis	46
S Thomson b Akram	38
C Cairns b Akram	2
C Harris not out	8
T Blair run out	3
G Larsen b Younis	6
D Morrison not out	4
Extras: (b-3, lb-5, w-3)	11
Total (for eight wickets, 48 overs)	202
Fall of wickets: 1-32, 2-76, 3-106, 4-168, 5-176, 6-177, 7-181, 8-193.	

Did not bat: C Pringle.

Bowling:

	O	M	R	W
Wasim Akram	10	1	41	2
Waqar Younis	10	0	43	2
Ataur Rehman	6	0	15	1
Aamir Sohail	6	0	29	0
Salim Malik	10	0	37	0
Akram Raza	6	0	29	0

Result: Pakistan won by 11 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Inzamamul Haq.

Pakistan lead series 3-0.



The players and officials of BKSP who emerged champions in the 14th BEXIMCO national youth cricket championship beating last year's champions Dhaka DSA by seven wickets in the final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo



It's either Abahani or MSC

Sports Reporter

Perhaps for the second time only in the living memory, country's two most adored soccer teams — Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club and arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra will clash at the semifinal stage of any tournament but few fans will witness the passionate encounter.

Reigning league champions Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club entered the semifinals of the Champs Cup invitational football tournament in India when they registered a convincing 4-1 win against Food Corporation of India in their last group engagement at the East Bengal ground yesterday.

According to a telephonic message, Mohammedans who needed a win in this match for a place among the last four dominated the proceedings and led the first half two nil.

The black and whites who like their arch-rivals Abahani entered the fund raising tournament for the distressed journalists of Calcutta with almost no prior preparation lifted their game in the nick of time.

Unlike Abahani who began their campaign in this twice deferred meet smoothly, Mohammedans were in a mess unable to strike their usual rhythm for obvious reasons. Their problems were further complicated by the presence of some drafted footballers from other Dhaka clubs who did not have enough time to adjust themselves to Mohammedan's style. That, however, is one problem which Abahani must have faced too but their loaned booters, particularly Mizan who played for Mohammedans couple of years back being in terrific form. Only the previous day the lanky striker earned Abahani's passage to the semifinal with a hat-trick against Bombay outfit Mahindra and Mahindra. Mohammedans too will have to cope with Mizan's fine form as the two teams meet in the first semifinal on March 11 for the second time before a final since 1986 when Abahani beat Mohammedans in tie-break in a Federation Cup semifinal. Abahani went on to win the annual meet, regarded as a prelude to the domestic league championship.

Although Mizan has been to the fore of Abahani's march to the semifinal, Mohammedans who had earlier drawn their two group matches against Titerium and East Bengal, owed their yesterday's win to

India into business early

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, Mar 9: India named a shadow Test team here Wednesday to take the field Thursday in their three-day match with the New Zealand Emerging Players XI, the first match of their one Test tour, reports AP.

With the Test next week India wanted to give their top line a workout in the colder conditions here.

The only face missing in the side is that of vice-captain Sachin Tendulkar, who has had a boil on his left hand lanced.

Captain Mohammed Azharuddin, who sustained a blow to the little finger on his right hand while training in Christchurch, was passed fit to play.

The Indians spent three hours in the nets in Chilly, windy conditions here.

"At least we've managed to get in some time in the outdoor nets," coach Ajit Wadekar said.

"We didn't get to have a net session in Christchurch even though we ran around outside."

Missing at the lengthy session was one-day specialist Praveen Amre, who suffers from asthma and was not considered for the first match.

Batsman Ajay Jadeja, another one-day specialist, and off-spinner Rajesh Chauhan, are the other two who will miss the first game.

All-rounder Manoj Prabhakar, who made 95 in the second Test in Napier on the 1989-90 tour, will be at the top of the batting order with Navjot Sidhu.

Left-handed Vinod Kambl is to be at No 3 with Azharuddin, Sanjay Manjrekar and Kapil Dev to follow.

"We want to try and have our players acclimatise as soon as possible to New Zealand conditions," Wadekar said.

He planned to give the entire squad a run in the two leadup games before the tour's one and only Test against New Zealand.

"But we'll have to see how they come through and settle in during the first game," Wadekar said.

The vital factor for India was to adapt to the pitch conditions.

"We need our batsmen to get used to the pitch conditions," said Wadekar.

"Without a doubt that is very important especially as it is a short tour."

"We've been fortunate in that we get two three-day games and hopefully that will be enough."

Wadekar conceded that his batsmen could struggle on a track offering encouragement to the seam bowlers.

"But at the same time I think it will suit our bowling attack with Kapil Dev, Javagal Srinath and Manoj Prabhakar all capable of seam and swing bowling," he said.

TEAMS

INDIA: Mohammed Azharuddin (captain), Manoj Prabhakar, Navjot Sidhu, Vinod Kambl, Sanjay Manjrekar, Kapil Dev, Nayan Mongia, Javagal Srinath, Venkatapathy Raju, Anil Kumble, Sali Ankola.

NEW ZEALAND EMERGING PLAYERS (from): Lee Germon (captain), Blair Hartland, Robert Lawson, Simon Wilson, Mark Douglas, Mark Bailey, Grant Bradburn, Nathan Astle, Paul Wiseman, Michael Owens, Evan Marshall, Michael Sharpe.

SL cricket board orders enquiry

COLOMBO, Mar 9: The Sri Lanka cricket board has appointed a five-man committee to investigate the national teams dismal performances in India last month, reports Reuter.

A board official said today the committee had been asked to submit their report by March 23.

Shri Lanka lost all three Tests by an innings with a day to spare.

Fans don't bother WC organisers

WASHINGTON, Mar 9: Organisers of the 1994 World Cup remain confident the 24-team football championships will be a success, even though US sports fans are largely ignoring the event, reports APF.

"Everything is where it should be. There really isn't one major problem," Organising Committee spokesman Jim Trecker said.

"There is still a lot of work to do. The pace is incredible. But we're confident."

Thursday marks 100 days before the World Cup opening kick-off between defending champion Germany and Bolivia, but there is little national attention for the event.

A poll released two weeks ago showed four people in five do not know the World Cup will be played in the United States this year. Barely more knew what sport was involved. As bad as the figures were, World Cup organizing chairman Alan Rothenberg hailed them as improvements from prior studies.

US sports fans are excited about the college basketball play-offs. World Cup logos and mascot striker are seldom seen, even in the nine cities where games will be played starting June 17.

World Cup promotion will intensify in April. But so will competition. Baseball's regular season begins and professional basketball and hockey play-offs start.

"A lot of things are starting in early April," Trecker said. "We will begin to see an avalanche of publicity."

The US team's pre-World Cup schedule will increase in April, providing an easy outlet to promote the tournament to US audiences. That could be difficult if the US club loses, but Trecker said that was not a worry.

"We're pretty confident the results will be good," he said.

Final details are being set at each stadium. Detroit's grass field for the first indoor World Cup match is in a converted parking lot area near the stadium and not affected by the cold.

Turf for Giants Stadium in New York will be brought from Virginia next month.

Two studies showed the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, site of the July 17 final, was undamaged by a January earthquake.

A record 3.6 million tickets have been sold for the World Cup tournament, with all matches sold out until returns from sponsors are analysed in April.

Disney backed out of talks regarding production of the opening ceremonies, but organisers promise the event in Chicago will feature an American flavour.

Div II cricket play-off rescheduled

Sports Reporter

The play-off match of the Second Division cricket super league between Gopibagh Friends Association and Dhanmendi Progoti Sangha has been rescheduled for March 12 instead of March 11 due to the holy Lailatul Qadar and Akheri Jumaa said a Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) press release issued yesterday.