

BKSP nat'l youth champs



Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) lifted the 14th BEXIMCO national youth cricket championship trophy with a facile seven-wicket win over Dhaka DSA in the final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The young pace trio of Sajal, Shuvro and Rahul devastated Dhaka after their skipper Al Sharir Rokon decided to field first after having called correctly in the spin of the coin.

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 no-ball, bowled his quota of nine overs at a stretch finishing with an excellent analysis of 9-15-2.

Rahul's first victim was Adil (14) who fell to a brilliant catch by Murshed 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.

Rashed, the eight down batsmen making his debut for Dhaka, took his team to a respectable total with an enter-

Sports Reporter

prising 26.

He executed three huge sixes, two over mid wicket in successive overs from Sohail and the other, a straight hit off leg-spinner Rokon's bowling.

BKSP, who proved their superiority over Dhaka in every department, reached the victory target of 150 for three wickets with more than five overs to spare.

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



MONI ... m-o-m

Moni shared a 52-run partnership with left-handed Murshed for the third wicket after BKSP lost the wickets of Ujjal (17) and Rokon (O) for 51.

Murshed made 37 with the help of two hits to the fence before being bowled by Bappi.

Man-of-the-match Moni, who did not strike a single boundary in his 117 ball, grafted knock then shared 27 runs for the unbroken fourth wicket with Sohail (16 n.o.) to guide his team to an easy victory.

Mintu and Nahid shared one wicket each for Dhaka.

Earlier: BKSP moved into the final winning all their four round robin league matches against Sylhet, Satkhira, Rajshahi and Comilla.

Last year's champions Dhaka reached the final eliminating Dinajpur, Jessor and Chittagong.

In all nine teams divided into two-group took part in the final round.

The Secretary for the Ministry of Youth and Sports M Azizul Haque gave away the prizes as the chief guest.

SCOREBOARD

BEXIMCO
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

Biplab b Shuvro	0
Sajid c Ujjal b Sajal	17
Adil c Murshed b Rahul	18
Momin c Murtaza b Shuvro	0
Mintu c Moni b Sajal	0
Open run out	28
Atia b Rahul	2
Bappi b Rahul	2
Nahid not out	28
Rashed c Murtaza b Rokon	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
Shuvro	9	4	15
Rahul	9	0	28
Munna	9	2	32
Sohail	4	0	22
Rokon	5	0	11

BKSP

Ujjal lbw Nahid	17
Moni not out	64
Rokon c Opee b Mintu	0
Murshed 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
Rashed	4	0	21
Mintu	9	2	18
Nahid	9	0	32
Opee	3	0	14
Rana	5	0	17
Momin	1	0	07
Sajid	0.3	0	01

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 club's 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 government's 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 Newells 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 \$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.

Reigning league champions Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club and arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakrha will clash at the semifinal stage of any tournament but few fans will be witness the passionate encounter.

Reigning league champions Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club entered the semifinals of the Charms 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.

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



Nicolas Ouedec of France (R) gets past Russian Sergei Mandreko during the European under-21 soccer championship in Montpellier, southern France on Tuesday. France defeated Russia 2-0.

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 AFP.

Everything is 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 US audiences. That could be difficult if the US club loses.

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

"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 covered 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 organizers 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 Dhanmondi Progati Sangha has been rescheduled for March 12 instead of March 11 due to the holy Lalatul Qadar and Akheri Jumaa said a Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) press release issued yesterday.

Pakistan leave NZ broke



INZAMAM.... m-o-m

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 Basit 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

PORTRAIT 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