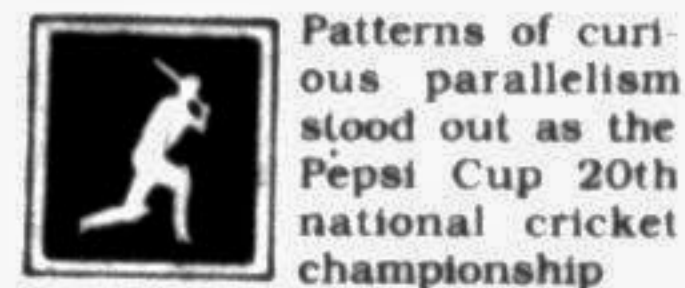


# Pairs prevail in parallel



Patterns of curiously parallelism stood out as the Pepsi Cup 20th national cricket championship broke out yesterday with a vengeance after a day of inaction.

While BUET, Jessore and Satkhira were sent packing from the competition following two successive losses each two of the winners — Mymensingh and neighbouring Dhaka — won by the identical margin of five wickets.

In day's other two matches, Narayanganj and Rajshahi won their respective encounters by the similar margin of four wickets.

At the Dhaka Stadium, Mymensingh had a five-wicket victory over Satkhira, who after being sent in to bat were all out for 108 in 40 overs. Just four batsmen notched double-figure scores with opener Dipu making a top-score of 38.

Mymensingh's Nasim, deployed late in the attack, did the most of the damage with a haul of four for 15.

New-ball bowler Zakir took two for 12.

Liton made 39 and Bilu 20 as Mymensingh posted 110 in for five wickets in 36.3 overs to canter to a facile victory.

Satkhira's Lal bowled well to take two wickets for 21 from nine overs, but not good enough for Satkhira to stay in the fray.

## JESSORE OUT

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Rafiq's fine all-round performance capped Dhaka's

five-wicket win against Jessore.

Rafiq took four wickets for 39 as Jessore managed 166 for nine after having been put in to bat by the toss-winning Dhaka skipper Halim Shah.

Rome and Rana were the major run-getters with 38 and 36 respectively.

Rafiq apart, Durjay was the other bowler who turned the screw on Jessore with a bowling analysis of two for 22 from ten overs.

National discard, young opener Sajjad Mansur scored a sedate 45 and with Halim making 36 and Rafiq an unbeaten 28 Dhaka rattled 168 in 47 overs for a comfy win.

Kazim did a good job for Jessore to return figures of one for 29 from ten overs.

Rana bagged one for 16 from nine overs.

## RAJSHAH ROMP

Wicket-keeper Khaled Masud and Nayan added 106 runs for the fourth wicket to guide Rajshahi to a four-wicket win over neighbours Dinajpur at Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Masud, better known as Pilot, scored an unbeaten 67 while Nayan compiled 51 as Rajshahi, chasing 174 for a win, posted 175 for six wickets in 40.1 overs.

Pilot's unquarrelled 80-ball innings contained seven fours and a sixer while Nayan played 87 balls and struck seven, four.

Garry bowled beautifully for the losers to finish with figures of two for 24 from the quota of ten overs.

Earlier, Dinajpur reached 173 for eight wickets from the allotted 50 overs, mainly because of a splendid innings of 73 not out by Dear who smacked five fours, in a rather lonely vigil.

Shafiq with 23 not out was the other notable run-getter.

## BUET BLANKED

BUET bowed out of the meet when they went down to Narayanganj by four wickets at the Jagannath Hall ground.

After BUET had raised a respectable total of 209 in their assay earlier in the day, Narayanganj made short work of the two hundred-plus total, thanks to some solid batting from Anup, Ripon and Zia.

Anup led the charge with 63 made from 90 balls and inclusive of six fours.

Ripon cracked a rapid-fire 44 off just 39 balls hitting six fours and a sixer while Zia stayed at the kill with an unbeaten 30 off 26 balls, sending the ball across the fence six times, as Narayanganj posted 210 for six in 42 overs.

Earlier, BUET were well served by a series of middling scores from Harun, Kaisar, Rahman and Zaman, who made 47, 30, 31 and 38 respectively.

The students batted through their quota of 50 overs to pile 209 for eight wickets. Zia and Ripon, who later shone with bat during the Narayanganj innings, took two wickets apiece.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

Biman vs Narayanganj (Dhaka Stadium)  
DU vs Dinajpur (DCS).

## Zia atop, alone

### Sports Reporter

International Master Ziaur Rahman solely led the points table with full four points on completion of the fourth round matches of the United Insurance International Masters chess competition at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

While Zia knocked Khandaker Kayes Hassan, who was one of the four players to finish on top after Wednesday's engagements, with a victory on the 44th move, the two other IMs — Pakistani Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi and Zia's coeval national champion Reefat Bin Sattar — agreed for a draw after 45 moves.

The draw leaves the two IMs, one norm short of the coveted Grandmaster status, jointly in the second position with three and a half points while Kayes, after the predictable loss to the higher ranked player, joins the quintet of Pritan Singh, Shubhrajat Saha, Syed Tahmidur Rahman, Jamilur Rahman, and Abdullah Al-Raqib, at the third place.

## Even bronze won't be easy for Aussies

LAHORE, Mar 24: Australia are hoping to come home with the bronze medal when they face the Netherlands Friday in the play-off between the third- and fourth-placed teams in the 16th Champions Trophy hockey tournament, reports AFP.

Pakistan are favourites to regain the international title after 14 years when they face Germany in the final Friday.

Australia had already beaten the Dutch 3-2 in the round-robin series on March 18 but the Dutch raised their game to defeat Great Britain 5-2 Wednesday with Taco van Den Honert smashing home a hat-trick.

"But all that means nothing. It's what happens on the day that counts," is the view of the Australian coach Frank Murray.

The Australians have blooded two young players, Daniel Sproule and Breandan Garard, both midfield players of high promise who could find themselves in the Australian squad for the World Cup later this year.

The Australians, who play the fast, running game, will have to counter the tight marking of the Dutch who are capable of taking control in midfield.

But if Jay Stacy, Stephen Davies and Mark Hager can find the room they constantly seek the Dutch defence will be under pressure. The Dutch have two experts at set pieces, Van den Honert and Floris Bovelander. Stacy will be striking the corners for Australia.

Pakistan, who have not won the trophy since 1980, are the favourites to beat Germany in the final, with an expected 70,000 home crowd baying them on. On Wednesday, the match between these teams ended in a 1-1 draw.

Shabaz Ahmed, the captain, who did not play against the Germans when the match was drawn, is certain to be in the line-up Friday.

"He will be our trump card," according to the senior coach, Zakauddin.

Germany and Australia have won the trophy 11 times, and Australia six times. If Pakistan win, it will be their first big triumph at world level since 1984, the year they won the Olympics gold medal in Los Angeles.

## STANDINGS

Standings at the end of round-robin section (tabulate under played, won, lost, drawn, goals for, against, points):

Pakistan	5	4	0	1	12	4	9
Germany	5	3	0	2	8	5	8
Australia	5	3	2	0	14	11	6
Netherlands	5	1	2	2	13	12	4
Spain	5	0	3	2	9	16	2
Britain	5	0	4	1	8	16	1



Two-time French Open champion Jim Courier (R) shakes hands with Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao at his residence in New Delhi yesterday. From left are: Patrick McEnroe, Richey Reneberg, Todd Martin and Courier.

## In today's one-dayer against India at McLean Park Kiwis hope to break pattern



NAPIER, New Zealand, Mar 24: New Zealand will be without two of their more experienced team members when they face India here Friday for the first one-day international, reports AFP.

But captain Ken Rutherford remains confident he can do well without Mark Greatbatch and Chris Cairns.

"Of course we'll miss both of them. They are two pretty key players for us in terms of one-day cricket," Rutherford said.

Cairns underwent arthroscopic surgery to an injured knee today while Greatbatch confirmed he would do the same Friday.

Cairns' decision not to tour England reflects heavily on the seriousness with which he views the potential pitfalls of continuing to play with his injured knee.

Greatbatch is undergoing exploratory surgery in the hope of confirming his fitness for the English tour.

Rutherford suggested the absence of Cairns and Greatbatch allowed the opportunity for newcomers to leave their mark.

"This will be Stephen Flemings first game and Dion Nash's first at home," Rutherford said.

"So we are looking at bringing in a few players who have played only a handful of Games, if at all."

"It is going to be difficult initially for them. But the good thing about it is that everyone involved in the one-dayers will be going to Sharjah and England."

"So it is a good chance to get some of the squad together anyway and competing in the international arena."

Rutherford wants to end a distressingly long summer season of defeats on a high.

"We'd like to give the public something because it has been a disappointing summer in terms of results for everyone in New Zealand."

The importance of that, said Rutherford, had not been lost on the Kiwi team.

"The players are fully aware of that and, having performed reasonably in the Test match, it is time to look at the one-day series."

New Zealand have a good record to uphold at McLean Park here, where they have

never been beaten in six one-day internationals since 1983.

The Indians look set to play Ajay Jadeja up the batting order.

Praveen Amre, who has now recovered from illness, is available but has not played so far on tour.

Those who could miss out are seam bowler Salil Ankola and left arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju.

"We've not come all this way to lose," Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin said.

"This New Zealand side is young, they are rebuilding but they are a good side."

Azharuddin indicated he felt that New Zealand could only improve with experience.

## TEAMS:

**NEW ZEALAND:** Ken Rutherford (captain), Blair Hartland, Bryan Young, Stephen Fleming, Shane Thomson, Chris Harris, Dion Nash, Gavin Larsen, Adam Parore, Chris Pringle, Danny Morrison.

**INDIA:** Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), Navjot Sidhu, Ajay Jadeja, Vinod Kambli, Sachin Tendulkar, Sanjay Manjrekar, Kapil Dev, Nayan Mongia, Jagavallu Srinath, Rajesh Chauhan, Anil Kumble.

# England out of their depth



PORT-OF-SPAIN, Mar 24: England captain Michael Atherton's options for Friday's third Test against the West Indies, a match his side must win to keep the series alive, look distinctly limited, reports AFP.

Despite Tuesday's innings defeat in the second Test, which left his side 2-0 down in the five match series, Atherton does not anticipate sweeping changes for the Queen's Park Oval.

The captain's problem is that all the players left out of the Guyana Test which finished on Tuesday have had no cricket in the meantime and most of the sidelined players are out of form anyway.

Atherton had a look at the Test pitch on Wednesday. "It's damp with a lot of grass on, but given a day of sunshine on it on Thursday there is no reason to suspect it won't be okay," Atherton said the side won't be picked until the morning of the match but he suggested the attack is likely to be the same balance as in Guyana — three seamers and a spinner.

Those seamers are likely to be the trio that did duty at Bourda: Alan Lengdesen, Chris Lewis and Angus Fraser. Steve Watkins and Andy Caddick both looked out of form when they played against the Board



ATHERTON

President's XI ten days ago. Atherton offered no clue as to whether he would pick Ian Salisbury or Phil Tufnell to provide the spin.

With the two out-of-favour batsmen Matthew Maynard and Nasser Hussain both short of practice, Atherton's options are limited here too.

## Mark Waugh, Hughes may lose their places as Border aims to wrap up series



DURBAN, Mar 24: Skipper Allan Border hinted Thursday that batsman Mark Waugh and fast bowler Merv Hughes may be dropped from the Australian side for the third and deciding Test against South Africa, reports AP.

The series is tied one-all, with South Africa winning the first by 197 runs at Wanderers in Johannesburg and Australia the second by nine wickets at Newlands in Cape Town.

Waugh has managed just 107 runs in five tests against South Africa and Border cited "soft" dismissals as a cause of concern.

"It is not that Mark is going through a bad form, it's just that he is getting out softly," Border said, adding that Waugh lacked sufficient credentials to be considered a permanent fixture on the side.

Last year, Waugh was dropped for the third Test in New Zealand in place of young batsman Damien Martyn.

"You have to produce the runs," Border said of Waugh. "We know how much talent he's got. It is very disturbing."

He mentioned Dean Jones as a possible replacement, calling Jones "a good player" who was "batting well in the nets."

Australia trained for the first time Thursday since their victory in the second Test, which concluded Monday.

Border suggested the Kingsmead wicket in Durban, site of the third Test which starts Friday, had plenty of rolled, dry grass that tempted him to use two spinners to balance the attack.

"We obviously consider the two spinners and the pressure is really on Merv (Hughes) if it comes to dropping a fast bowler to accommodate the extra spinner," Border said.

Considered likely to end his illustrious Test career with the

Durban Test, Border said beating South Africa in the series would be a special moment.

"It is something special to go home with a 2-1 after being 1-0 down initially," he said. "Not very many Australian sides have done it in the past. So that will be the icing on the cake."

South Africa seemed unlikely to make any changes, with captain Kepler Wessels rejecting a shift in his all-pace attack.

Pakistani umpire Mehboob shah will officiate the Durban Test with local Cyril Mitchley. English umpire David Shepherd returned home after the first two Tests.

Shah stood in the 1987 World Cup final in Calcutta between Australia and England, won by Australia.

But he also officiated the first Test between Australia and Pakistan in 1988 in Pakistan and was branded a "cheat" by the Australian touring management, which threatened to call off the tour.

## BAF bite dust

### Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Air Force suffered an upset 55-63 defeat at the hands of lowly Bangladesh Army Blues in the Independence Day basketball championship at the wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

The Air Force team, for whom a victory yesterday would have been enough for a place in the final, will have to beat favourites Bangladesh Army Reds today in their last round robin league match.

Air Force, with two successive wins in their credit, trailed 22-32 in the first half.

In the first match of the day, Eagles Club finished their campaign with a 74-51 won over Josephite Club.

Australia lost the first Test by innings and accused the locals of pitch doctoring and cheating.

## TEAMS

**SOUTH AFRICA:** (From) Andrew Hudson, Gary Kirsten, Hansie Cronje, Kepler Wessels (captain), Peter Kirsten, Jonty Rhodes, Brian McMillan, Dave Richardson, Craig Matthews, Fanie de Villiers, Allan Donald, Tim Shaw and Eric Simons.

**AUSTRALIA:** (From) Mark Taylor, Michael Slater, David Boon, Mark Waugh, Allan Border (captain), Steve Waugh, Ian Healy, Merv Hughes, Shane Warne, Craig McDermott, Tim May, Glen McGrath, Dean Jones, Paul Reiffel.

Umpires: Cyril Mitchley (South Africa) and Mehboob Shah (Pakistan).



Pakistan forward Kamran Ashraf on his way down after being infringed by the German goalkeeper A Hammersbach (R) during their last round robin league match of the Champions Trophy on Wednesday in Lahore. Pakistan drew level from the resultant penalty — AFP photo

## India need a break but haven't got any so far

NEW DELHI, Mar 24: If the rankings told it all, India might as well not even take the court for this weekend's first round Davis Cup competition against Jim Courier and the big-hitting US team, reports AP.

India, needing the breaks, didn't get any in the draw Thursday. The five-match Davis Cup tie opens Friday with Courier playing India's No. 2, Zeeshan Ali, followed by Todd Martin vs Leander Paes.

India had hoped to open with the Paes-Martin match. With Paes' Davis Cup experience, a boisterous home crowd and its own grass surface, Mukherjee said it was India's best hope for a confidence-building win.

Paes, though ranked 324 on the ATP computer, has a history of Davis Cup upsets, while Martin, ranked 9th in the world, is making his debut playing for the United States.

Courier said he wasn't taking his first round opponent lightly, and Ali, a satellite-circuit player ranked 492, said he wasn't going to be intimidated.

On Saturday, Patrick McEnroe and Richey Reneberg play Paes and Gaurav Natekar in the doubles. Reverse singles will be played on Sunday in the best-of-five series.

Courier decided to join the Davis Cup team last year, when the United States — the defending 1992 champions — lost in the first round.

Last year, an Indian miracle team reached the Davis Cup semifinals after defeating Switzerland and France on their own turf. It lost to Australia at home.

## Navy march on Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Navy earned their second successive victory in the Sonali Bank office hockey league, defeating Sonali Bank by a solitary goal in the first match at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In a lack-lustre match, Abdul Karim scored the all-important goal in the 59th minute of the proceedings.

In the other match of the day, Bangladesh Army outplayed Dhaka Ansars 3-0.

Shahjahan Miah, who scored two goals in the match, put Bangladesh Army in the lead seven minutes into the game through nice field goal. Emdad doubled the margin in the 50th minute and Shahjahan completed the tally two minutes later.

## Little Friends in juvenile soccer final

Gopibagh Little Friends Club advanced to the final of the Jadukar Samad Smriti juvenile football tournament, eliminating National Football Training Club by the odd goal in three at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Shamir netted both the goals for Little Friends Club while Shamim pulled one back for the losers.

The final between Gopibagh Friends Club and Fakirepool Ekota Club will be held on March 28.

## 'Gazza' in tears!

ROME, Mar 24: Temperamental English soccer star Paul Gascoigne had to be comforted by Lazio coach Dino Zoff after bursting into tears during training. Italian newspapers reported on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

"Gazza" lost his nerve after dropping out of training on Tuesday afternoon, complaining that he felt unwell and was suffering a recurrence of a rib injury, the reports said.

A tearful Gascoigne, stormed off towards the car park where his father was waiting for him, and repeatedly slammed the door of his car.

Coach Zoff hurried over to comfort his player, giving him a fatherly hug before taking him off for a 20-minute chat behind closed doors.

The latest episode is sure to increase speculation that Gascoigne will soon be on his way out of the club although Zoff, who will be replaced as coach for next season, was quick to defend him.

"His nerve snapped. He told me he was down. He knows he's not done his best and feels he owes the club something," Zoff was quoted as saying in the Corriere Dello Sport.

The injury-plagued Gascoigne has been in Lazio's bad books over the past few weeks after suffering bruised ribs in the Derby match with Roma on March 6.

He played for over an hour for England in a friendly with Denmark three days after picking up the injury but it has ruled him out of Lazio's last league games.

## World Cup warm-up matches Klinsmann revs up champs



STUTTGART, Germany, Mar 24: Jurgen Klinsmann, key marksman of Germany's 1990 World Cup triumph, proved he is returning to his deadly best with two inspirational goals in a 2-1 victory over Italy on Wednesday, reports agencies.

The blond-haired Monaco forward has struggled in the last few seasons to recapture the dangerous form which frightened defences in Italy four years ago.

But with just a few months to go before Germany start the defence of their World Cup title in the United States, the 29-year-old forward showed two sharp pieces of finishing either side of half-time to clinch Germany a confidence-boosting victory in the friendly.

Midfielder Dino Baggio gave the Italians the lead against the run of play in the 45th minute after he headed in a speculative cross from midfielder Roberto Donadoni at the right-hand post.

But less than a minute later Klinsmann, returning to the ground where he made his name as a youngster with VfB Stuttgart, silenced the celebrating Italian fans with a brilliant flashing header in injury

time, after a cross from midfielder Matthias Sammer.

The swift, elegant striker pounced again in the 47th minute to fire in with his right foot from a narrow angle after



KLINSMANN

Andy Moeller's close-range shot rebounded off the post.

## BEBETO BRAZIL'S HERO

In Recife, striker Bebeto scored twice to give Brazil a 2-0 win over Argentina in a friendly on Wednesday and score their first win over their old enemies for five years.

An overweight looking Diego Maradona sat on the substitutes' bench wearing the number 11 shirt but Argentine coach Alfio Basile resisted the temptation to bring him on.

Brazil, who led from the seventh minute, played some sparkling soccer in the first 20 minutes with their playmaker Rai finally playing like his old self.

But the game degenerated after that with both sides committing a succession of cynical fouls and Argentina's players arguing almost every decision. Bebeto wrapped the game up with a header in the 76th minute.

Argentina desperately needed the creativity of a fully-fit Maradona in midfield and relied on individual efforts from Fiorentina striker Gabriel Batistuta for their best scoring chances.

Bebeto took a battering from Argentina full-back Jose Chamot, one of four Argentines and one Brazilian player to be booked.

There were also several flare-ups between players, with Claudio Garcia and Branco slapping each other off the ball and Diego Simeone stepping

on Brazil substitute Rivaldo's hand.

But the two teams faced a journey back Torino in the same chartered plane.

## EUROPEAN PACKAGE

The Netherlands, another leading contender, gained a 1-0 victory in Scotland and looked impressive.

But Romania tumbled 2-0 at Northern Ireland, which gave new manager Bryan Hamilton a victory in his first game in charge. Inspirational Romanian midfielder Gheorghe Hagi was sent off in the 66th minute for spitting at an opponent.

Ireland and Russia, both going to the United States, tied 0-0 and Greece, heading for the finals for the first time ever, failed to find the target in a goal-less tie at home to non-qualifier Poland.

Morocco, another qualifier, gained a 2-1 victory at Luxembourg thanks to a last minute goal.

Of other non-qualifiers, Austria and Hungary tied 1-1 in Linz while Croatia, fielding six Spanish-based players, gained a 2-0 victory over Spain in Valencia.

Steve Morrow and Phil Gray fired goals past Romania in Belfast in the surprise result of the night.

The Romanians fielded a near full-strength team but Northern Ireland discovered defensive frailties other teams have failed to find.

Only seconds remained when defender Abdelkarim El Hadrioui scored the winner for Morocco in Luxembourg.

Midfielder Larbi Hababi gave Morocco the lead in the fifth minute from a freekick, but a tight Luxembourg defence stifled the visitors for the rest of the first half.

With three of its regular midfielders and two key defenders missing because they are due to play in the English League Cup final on Sunday, Ireland struggled to a goal-less tie with Russia at Lansdowne Road.

Greece and Poland created few chances in Salonicia although the visitors striker, Adam Fedoruk, shot wide with only the home goalie to beat and Greek defender Stelios Manolas had a shot deflected wide.

Real Madrid's Robert Prosinecki and Sevilla's Davor Suker were Croatia's scorers against an experimental Spanish lineup in Valencia.