Pepsi Cup semis fall through

Sports Reporter

The first semi-final of the Pepsi Cup national cricket championship between holders Chittagong and Sylhet could not be held yesterday due to unplayable ground conditions caused by heavy overnight downpour.

The two captains, Minhazul Abedin Nannu of Chittagong and Golam Faruque Suru of Sylhet, along with the umpires inspected the field and decided not to take a chance in a rain soaked wicket.

Weather permitting the two-day fixture, now curtailed to a 50-overs-a-side match, will be held today.

Air Force halt Navy march

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Air Force halted Bangladesh Navy's march, forcing them to a goalless draw in the office hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh Navy, with two successive win in their credit, lost their first point when their forwards failed to capitalize on any of the nine penalty corners they got in a rather one-sided affair.

Nat'l cycling begins Mar 30

Sports Reporter

The 19th national cycling competition begins from March 30 at the Hockey Stadium with 78 cyclists from nine different clubs taking part.

Fifty-nine men and 19 women are taking part in the three-day meet which concludes on April 1.

Nat'l v'ball on

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Mar 28: The first phase of the national volleyball championship, under the auspices of the Kushtia Districts Sports Association, got underway at the local stadium today.

Twenty teams, divided into six groups, are taking part in the first round.

Five matches were held on the opening day with Khulna, Dhaka, Jessore and Bangladesh Police winning their respective matches by straight sets while Narsingdi got a walk over against Chittagong as the latter failed to turned up.

Khulna defeated Agricultural University 15-11, 15-0, 15-6 while Dhaka handed a 15-9, 15-5, 15-2 defeat to Patuakhali.

In the other two matches of the day, Bangladesh Police trounced Netrokona 15-8, 15-3, 15-9 while Jessore earned a 15-2, 15-2, 15-13 win over Moulvibazar.

Eight matches will be held tomorrow.

The six top finishers from their respective groups along with the five top teams of last year and hosts Kushtia will compete in the final phase, which is scheduled to begin on April 1.

BSF meet held

The first meeting of the newly formed executive committee of the Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) was held yesterday at the federation office, reports UNB.

West Indies in trouble

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Mar 28: West Indian left-hander Jimmy Adams fell to a bizarre dismissal in the last over of the day and left England on top in the third Test on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Adams smashed a full toss from leg spinner Ian Salisbury against Robin Smith fielding at square short leg, the ball then ballooned into the air, and Jack Russell dashed out from behind the stumps to hold the catch.

West Indies, who trailed by 76 on first innings, were 143 for five at the close of the third day, and will resume after today's rest day with a slender lead of 67.

Smith left the field clutching his left arm and was due to go to hospital for a precautionary X-ray.

The dismissal of Adams for 43 came not long after paceman Andy Caddick had achieved a significant breakthrough by sending back Keith Arthurton after he stroked 42 from 33 balls.

Caddick's strike ended a threatening fourth wicket stand of 80 between Arthurton and Adams that rescued West Indies after they slipped to 51 for three.

England had held the edge for most of another absorbing day at Queen's Park Oval, thanks partly to a combative performance by Salisbury, who hit a swashbuckling tail-end 36 and took a superb catch to dismiss the dangerous Brian Lara for 12.

Salisbury initially stole the spotlight with his innings of unorthodox hitting and authentic strokes, sharing a last wicket stand of 34 with Angus Fraser that lifted England from 294 for nine to 328 all out.

The pair gave the touring team, 236 for five overnight, a relatively bigger lead than seemed likely when Curtly Ambrose produced a spell of three for 30 and Winston Benjamin chipped in with a wicket.

Ambrose, who ended with five for 60, first removed Russell with a delivery that kept a shade low and straightened off the pitch, sending the batsman's off stump cartwheeling.

Chris Lewis (9) was undone by an Ambrose delivery that shot through low and ripped out his off stump, and Graham Thorpe received a ball of extra bounce that he could only edge to Lara at first slip, the left-hander batted 167 deliveries for 86, his first half-century of the rubber.

Benjamin then found the outside edge of Caddick's bat and Lara took the catch at first slip.

Courtney Walsh ended England's last wicket resistance when Salisbury drove loosely at a delivery outside off stump and Lara snapped up his third catch of the innings.

Salisbury followed his batting exploits by diving to his right at mid-off to hold a brilliant catch to remove Lara when the Trinidadian left-hander was looking in sparkling form.

Lara's dismissal gave Caddick his second wicket, the paceman having taken a one-handed return catch to dispatch captain Richie Richardson for three.

Lewis bowled opener Desmond Haynes for 19, reducing West Indies to 51 for three, but Arthurton responded by carrying the attack to the bowlers.

Arthurton had helped to lift the total to 131 when he tried to pull Caddick, got the ball on the splice, and gave Stewart a straightforward catch at mid-on.

The freak dismissal of Adams moments before the close left England, even on a pitch of variable bounce, with the chance of a victory that would pull them back to 2-1 down in the five-Test series.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the third cricket Test between West Indies and England on Sunday:

WEST INDIES: First innings 252 (R Richardson 63; A Fraser 4-49).

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 236-5)

Atherton c Murray b W Benjamin	48
Stewart b Ambrose	6
Ramprakash c and b W Benjamin	23
Smith lbw b Ambrose	12
Hick lbw b Walsh	40
Thorpe c Lara b Ambrose	86
Russell b Ambrose	23
Lewis b Ambrose	9
Salisbury c Lara b Walsh	36
Caddick c Lara b W Benjamin	6
Fraser not out	8
Extras: (B-10, lb-9, w-1, nb-11)	31
Total:	328

Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-82; 3-87; 4-115; 5-167; 6-249; 7-273; 8-281; 9-294.

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Ambrose	29	6	60	5
Walsh	27.2	3	77	2
K Benjamin	20	5	70	0
W Benjamin	24	3	66	3
Adams	4	0	18	0
Chanderpaul	5	0	13	0
Arthurton	3	0	5	0

WEST INDIES: Second innings

Haynes b Lewis	19
Lara c Salisbury b Caddick	3
Arthurton c Stewart b Caddick	42
Adams c Russell b Salisbury	43
Chanderpaul not out	1
Extras: (b-8, lb-8, nb-7)	23
Total: (5-wkts)	143

Fall of wickets: 1-15; 2-37; 3-51; 4-131; 5-143.

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Fraser	16	5	40	0
Caddick	16	4	27	3
Lewis	13	3	26	1
Salisbury	5.4	0	34	1

England's Andrew Caddick celebrates after having West Indies captain Richie Richardson caught and bowled for three during third day's play of the third Test between West Indies and England in Port of Spain, Trinidad on Sunday. — AFP photo

Rusedski wins

OSAKA, Japan, Mar 28: Big-serving Greg Rusedski of Canada beat Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic 5-7, 6-3, 6-2 Monday in the opening round of the dlrs 650,000 Salem Open tennis championships, reports AP.

The 20-year-old Rusedski, who won his first IMB/ATP tour title at Newport last season, is the world's 54th-ranked player.

In other opening matches, Chuck Adams, ranked No. 76, defeated fellow American Rick Leach 6-4, 6-1, and Lionel Roux of France beat David Adams of Australia 6-1, 6-4 on the hard courts of the Esaka Tennis Centre.

In doubles, Mark Keil of the United States and Stephane Simian o France defeated the Italian pair of Omar Camporese and Cristiano Caratti 6-3, 7-5.

Pete Sampras, the world's top-ranked player, is the top seed among 32 players in the seven-day tournament. He starts action on Tuesday, as do No. 2 seed Michael Chang of the United States, third-seeded Boris Becker of Germany and two other American seeds- No.4 Ian Lendl and NO. 5 Andre Agassi.

The singles winner receives dlrs 89,000 and the doubles champions dlrs 39,000.

McDermott's SA tour cut short

DURBAN, Mar 28: Australian fast bowler Craig McDermott is to return home at the end of the third and final Test against South Africa for an operation on his troublesome left knee, reports Reuter.

"Craig's cartilage problems in his left knee are such that we now believe it is in his best interests for surgery to be arranged sooner rather than later," said Australian manager Cameron Battersby.

McDermott will be replaced by Damien Fleming who is in the party which will go on to Sharjah at the end of the present tour.

Fleming, who arrives in Johannesburg on Thursday, played in two one-day internationals earlier this year, against South Africa in Perth and against New Zealand in Melbourne where he took two for 15 in nine overs.

McDermott, who will miss the last four day/night internationals in South Africa, was not in the party for Sharjah.

Transcendental Tendulkar

AUCKLAND, Mar 28: New Zealand might have lost a humiliating defeat here Sunday but India's master batsman Sachin Tendulkar was being hailed today as being "magnificent" and bordering on "genius", reports AFP.

India defeated New Zealand in the second one-day match but the sports press here have virtually overlooked that and instead concentrated on Tendulkar's 82 runs off 49 balls.

"New Zealand sport abounds in great moments, indelible memories, entrancing action which lifts the spirit and allow we ordinary mortals to live briefly with the gods of the games," the New Zealand Herald's Don Cameron began his match report.

He said it did not matter that Tendulkar had handed out New Zealand's worst one-day hiding.

Cameron said their was a twinkling in Tendulkar's eyes as he began hitting balls to the boundary.

"Some batsmen on the rampage appear contemptuous of the bowlers, dismissing the ball with a brutal arrogance. Not Tendulkar, even if the bowlers might not have noticed the difference ..."

"Rather Tendulkar seemed in some private communion with the great and godly arts of the game. As if he and the graces of cricket were in such harmony that anything he attempted would turn into yet another sumptuous stroke."

Cameron noted the way the 18,000 spectators stood in tribute to Tendulkar.

"The word great is overused and has lost its impact," Cameron wrote.

"Perhaps, in that hour, Tendulkar moved beyond the physical limitations of being great, and on to the metaphysical, to the very bordering of genius."

The Dominion's Peter Bidwell said New Zealanders had watched "one of the finest innings seen in a one-day match".

Retired Indian cricketer Sunil Gavasker told the Herald he had seen one of the most talented batsmen in the world play one of the most extraordinary innings.

"Sachin got all his runs with proper cricketing strokes. He will be known among the great ones".

South Africans on velvet

DURBAN, Mar 28: South Africa faced a gigantic task to win the third and final cricket Test against Australia, despite enjoying a strong position at stumps Monday on the penultimate day, reports AP.

Australia, 153 runs adrift in the first innings, lost vice captain Mark Taylor and David Boon for 12 runs apiece as they finished on 89 for two, still 64 runs behind.

The South Africans, bolstered by two outstanding half centuries from all-rounder Brian McMillan (84) and Dave Richardson (59), ran up a morale-boosting 422 in their first innings.

That was in reply to Australia's disappointing 269.

South Africa produced the killer blow 16 minutes before stumps when Boon was caught by Peter Kirsten at gully off fast bowler Allan Donald, just as the visitors looked like cruising to a match-saving position.

After an over-cautious start, Australia lost Taylor, adjudged leg before wicket to medium paceman Fanie de Villiers by Pakistani umpire Mehbood Shah in the 33rd over.

The Australian innings would have gotten off to a worse start had Peter Kirsten gone low enough to hold on to a sharp chance offered by Michael Slater off the fourth ball he faced before scoring in the second over of the innings.

Slater carries Australia's hopes of saving the Test, remaining unbeaten on 56 in 192 minutes of batting.

Night watchman Shane Warne survived the wrath of the South African pace attack after Donald had breathed new life to the game with Boon's wicket after a slow day.

South Africa, having surged past Australian total midway through the third day, faced another 50 overs Monday in adding 100 more runs to their overnight 322 for six.

The McMillan-Richardson stand prospered as they added 143 runs for the seventh wicket before, leg spinner Warne and Steve Waugh struck with late wickets.

Resuming after lunch on 407 for six, the last four wickets crashed for just five runs in 41 balls, with Warne claiming the vital breakthrough by having Richardson caught at cover.

The stand lasted 15 minutes over four hours and provided invaluable runs to what would have been a slender first innings lead.

Richardson's innings included seven boundaries and came off 205 balls.

McMillan's vision of his maiden Test century soon disappeared when a light hearted drive was taken waist-high by Slater at extra cover. He batted for 310 minutes and hit nine boundaries off 223 balls.

When Waugh trapped de Villiers leg before wicket, the six lbw decisions in the innings equalled a Test record.

Warne finished with the outstanding figures of four for 92 in 55 marathon overs, while Waugh picked up three for 40.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the third cricket Test between South Africa and Australia at Kingsmead on Monday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 269 (S.Waugh 64)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 322-6)

Hudson lbw b Reiffel	65
G Kirsten c Healy b Reiffel	41
Cronje c S. Waugh b Warne	26
Wessels lbw b McDermott	1
P Kirsten lbw b S Waugh	49
Rhodes lbw b Warne	78
McMillan c Slater b S Waugh	84
Richardson c Reiffel b Warne	59
Matthews lbw b Warne	1
De Villiers lbw b S Waugh	0
Donald not out	0
Extras: (lb-3, lb-10, nb-5)	18
Total:	422

Fall of wickets: 1-100; 2-117; 3-118; 4-155; 5-256; 6-274; 7-417; 8-422; 9-422.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
McDermott	38	11	76	1
Reiffel	30	7	77	2
McGrath	41	11	78	0
Warne	55	20	92	4
S Waugh	27.2	12	40	3
M Waugh	11	3	38	0
Border	3	0	8	0

AUSTRALIA: Second innings

Slater not out	56
Taylor lbw b De Villiers	12
Boon c P Kirsten b Donald	12
Warne not out	4
Extras: (lb-3, nb-2)	5
Total: (for two wickets)	89

Fall of wickets: 1-55; 2-81

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Donald	10	3	23	1
De Villiers	15	5	30	1
McMillan	8	4	14	0
Matthews	8	4	6	0
Cronje	5	2	13	0

Schoot waters down Popov

PARIS, Mar 28: Frenchman Franck Schoot upstaged Alexander Popov and snatched the Russian master's 50 metres backstroke short-course world best mark in the final meeting of the World Cup swimming series on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Schoot sprinted home in 24.60 seconds as both he and Popov swam inside the 24.66 mark Popov established in Desenzano, Italy, on March 13.

Popov touched in 24.65 to claim second place ahead of fellow Russian Vladimir Selkov, who returned 24.83.

Schoot, who set a long-course European record in the event at the National Championships in Lille on March 18, sealed a great weekend for the French hosts following Franck Espositor's 200 metres butterfly shot course world record on Saturday.

But Popov finished fittingly with a win in the last session of the seven-venue World Cup series, claiming his third victory of the Paris meeting in the 50 metres freestyle.

Popov, winner of Saturday's 100 freestyle and 100 backstroke, swept home in 21.61, just outside his 21.50 world short-course record but ahead of Britain's Mark Foster.

Foster, who lost his world mark to Popov in Desenzano two weeks ago, was second in 21.97 with Germany's Silko Guenzel third in 22.22.

Germany's Sandra Voelker equalled the women's 100 metres backstroke European short-course record with a time of 59.97 seconds which matched the mark set by East German Kristin Otto in Indianapolis on January 8, 1983.

Schoot said his 50 backstroke world best time — technically not a world record because the event is not swum at major championships — was a surprise.

"It's completely unexpected, like the European record in the long-course pool a week ago," said Schoot, who dedicated it to his wife and son.

Esposito followed up Saturday's world record breaking win over American Olympic champion Melvyn Stewart in the 200 butterfly with another fine victory in the 100 butterfly.

Esposito clocked 52.69 — just 0.18 seconds outside the European short-course mark of German Michael Gross— to win from Denis Pankratov of Russia (52.82).

"It's a fabulous weekend. The 200 world record gave me wings for the 100," he said.

Franziska van Almsick, winner of six gold medals at the 1993 European long-course championships, brought the World Cup series to an apt end with her fourth victory of the Paris meeting.

The 15-year-old German, who won Saturday's 50 and 200 freestyle, opened the final Sunday session with victory in the 100 freestyle and closed it by racing away with the 50 butterfly event.

Germany won 10 of the 34 Paris events, including a backstroke double for Voelker in Saturday's 50 and Sunday's European record-equalling 100.

Ukraine's Alexander Djaburia, who broke his own European 50 breaststroke short-course record on Saturday, completed a double with a clearcut triumph in the 100 breaststroke in 59.68.

Popov, who bettered his own European 100 backstroke short-course record on Saturday, won the overall World Cup sprint freestyle category for the season but had to settle for runner-up in the backstroke behind Selkov, who won Sunday's 200 after finishing third in Paris in both the 50 and the 100.

Truly, madly and deeply

BEIJING, Mar 28: World record holder and Olympic champion Yang Wenyi quit after the National Games last September after a decade-long brilliant career, but she has never stopped thinking of how to continue it in a new way, reports Xinhua.

"I am probably born for swimming," the champion said. "If I had another life, I would like to be a swimmer again."

"Maybe I'll become a fish.

The 22-year-old Yang from the booming coastal city of Shanghai came here last week to attend the presentation ceremony for China's top ten athletes of 1993.

It was the second time for Yang to make the best ten in five years. She was first voted into the best ten for 1988, the year she became the first Chinese to break a swimming world record in the 50 metres freestyle, and then won a silver at the Seoul Olympic Games.

She recalled how she lost to the German girl. "The main cause was my inability to withstand the psychological pressure. I was only 16 then, and my hands trembled in the final."

Yang is the only retiree in the list topped by runner Wang Junxia, the women's 10,000 meters world champion and world record holder.

"I am really very happy that the fans still remember me," Yang said.

Yang splashed with two swansong title-winning performances in the 50-metre freestyle and 100-metre butterfly at the National Games last September, which posted her at the top of the world ranking list in both events.

The Shanghai girl is now planning to set up a swimming club in her native town. "It will be named after me," she said. She thought it the best way to link herself with her swimming career for life. Club will be named after her.

"This is an enormous project. The first stage of construction needs millions of dollars," she said. "But I will make it. Even if I cannot make it right now, I will make it early or later."

What Yang wanted most was, as she put it, "more useful knowledge."

Yang said she was also making arrangements for study abroad either on fashion designing or economic management, but she promised to return to China as soon as she completed her education.

Ekota Club lift Samad Smriti soccer title

Sports Reporter

Fakirerpool Ekota Club clinched the title of the fourth Jadukar Samad Smriti juvenile soccer championship when they edged past Gopibagh Little Friends Club by 4-2 in tie-breaker at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

The match rolled into tie-breaker after both teams were locked 1-1 in the sixty-minute keenly-contested affair.

Saju, the fleet-footed striker of Ekota Club, put his team ahead half way through the first half while Shamir levelled the margin few minutes later by a nice header.

In the tie-breaker, Saju, Chanchal and Parvez converted the spot-kicks for the winners while Imran scored the only goal for the losers.

President of Victoria Club Mahabubuzzaman distributed prizes among the the winners. Pervez was adjudged player-of-the-tournament.

Harun-ur Rashid and Abdur Rahim, the two ex-general secretaries of the Bangladesh Football Federation, were also present on the occasion.

Ziaul Haque, the president of the tournament committee, in a brief speech after the final, said 35 players will be sent to BKSP for training.

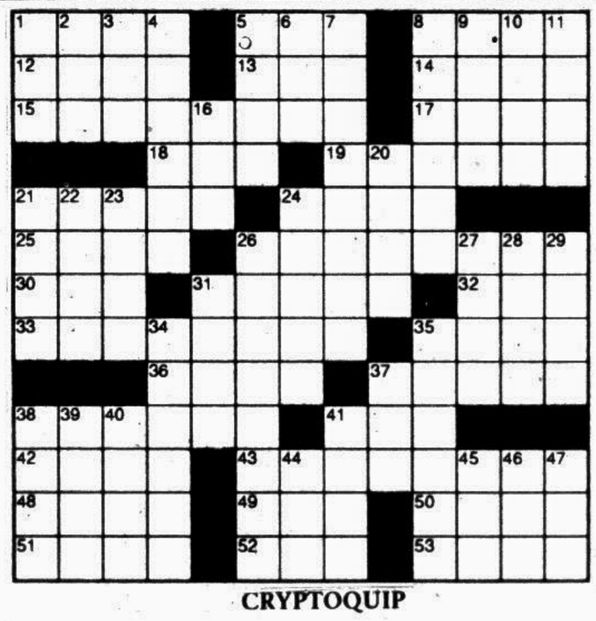
Twenty four teams, divided into four groups, took part in the competition.

Mahbubuzzaman, president of Victoria Club, hands over the Jadukar Samad Smriti juvenile soccer championship trophy to the captain of Fakirerpool Ekota Club, who won the final 4-2 in tie-breaker at the Outer Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Bunch of players
5 Toast topping
8 Lean-to
12 Europe's neighbor
13 Actor Wallach
14 Wear a rut in the rug
15 Digital woe
17 Formerly
18 Annie Oakley's prop
19 Shark of a sort?
21 Parisian plumbing piece
24 Diana of "The Avengers"
25 Skunk's defense
26 Unwanted follower
30 Emulate Betsy Ross
31 Lab rats' challenges
32 Future aves
33 Binge aftereffect
35 "Beverly Hillbillies" cast member
36 Eager
37 Tom's pursuit
38 Portuguese island group
41 Do-it-yourself buy
42 Academic
43 Punt's in-air duration
48 Eleven, to an élève
49 Past
50 Malefic
51 Prophet
52 Catcall?
53 Verifiable

DOWN
1 Scroogean outcry
2 Simile center
3 "Henry & June" role
4 Buccaneer's weapon
5 Miss Brodie
6 "The Greatest"
7 He's at the height of fashion
8 Mooch
9 Round of applause
10 "Behold!" to Caesar
11 Forest denizen
16 Eccentric
20 32 Across, to us
21 Nonsense
22 Basis for an invention
23 Depressed
24 Torn down
26 "Great Expectations" spinster
27 Bellow
28 Finished
29 Not, dialectically
31 Chess turn
34 Hose holder
35 Improved
37 Leprechaun's steps
38 Actor John, of "Roots"
39 Region
40 Cause of Ninja Turtle mutation
41 Have more than a hunch
44 Census statistic
45 "— Got a Secret"
46 Farrow of films
47 Right angle



Solution time: 24 mins.

B	O	G		A	M	A	S	S		A	C	T
A	L	E		S	A	N	T	A		D	U	O
A	D	M	I	S	S	I	O	N		H	E	R
			C	I	S		O	D	D	E	S	T
C	H	A	I	S	E		P	A	I	R		
L	A	D		T	U	B		L	E	E	K	S
A	L	V	A		R	I	M		S	N	I	P
D	E	A	L	T		B	A	D		T	R	I
		N	O	R	A		R	A	I	S	I	N
F	A	T	T	E	N		I	N	N			
I	M	A		A	D	J	E	C	T	I	V	E
J	O	G		D	R	A	K	E		D	E	W
I	K	E		S	E	W	E	R		A	X	E

CRYPTOQUIP

J H Z J L V E S L A S A H Z H M A X X J H I E D I R F J K Z J L G J D M W A R K W M M A F Z J V V G Z M .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT LUNCH AT THE DEBATERS' CLUB SOMEHOW DIDN'T AGREE WITH ME.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: S equals P

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.