

Junior booters take on Saudi Arabia today

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh will take on hosts Saudi Arabia on the opening day of the sixth Asian under-16 football championship at the Saudi city of Dahrn today.

The Bangladesh team, which has been placed in Group A along with the hosts, Kuwait and Malaysia, will play their second match against Kuwait on April 14 and their last round robin league match against Malaysia on April 16.

Bangladesh to play in world U-19 cricket

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh will take part in the upcoming world under-19 cricket championship, scheduled to be held in Malaysia from July 30 to August 7 this year, says a BCCB press release.

With a view to forming a squad for the tournament, the BCCB have asked interested cricketers, who have played in this season's Senior Division leagues (Navana Premier and Milnars) and will be 19 by July 1 this year, to submit their names by April 15 at the board office for reckoning.

Second Division qualifiers in May

Sports Reporter
This year's Second Division cricket qualifiers begin some time in May, according to a Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) press release issued yesterday.

Interested clubsides have been asked to complete entry formalities by April 15, submitting Taka 2,000 to the board treasurer as entry fees.

Khulna dethrone Tangail

Sports Reporter
Khulna District Sports Association emerged champions in the Biman Cup national under-14 football championship when they beat last year's winners Tangail by a solitary goal at the flood-lit Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Midfielder Saiful Islam struck the match-winner in the 27th minute of the game with a powerful right-footer from outside the box.

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, who is also the president of the Bangladesh Football Federation, was introduced to the players just before the start.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M A Mannan, who was a special guest on the occasion, distributed trophies among the winners.

TEAMS
KHULNA: Anisur Rahman, Mukijul Islam, Awal, Nafijur Rahman, Mostak Mahmood, Mokter Hossain (Russel), Saiful Islam, Khalid Saifullah, Ashikul Islam, Mozzamel Haider and Wahidur Rahman.

TANGAIL: Hasan Al Masud, Najir Hossain, Jahangir Alam, Masudur Rahman, Sumon (Anupam), Shafulul Islam, Shah Alam, Atikul Islam, Mostafizur Rahman, Shipon Hossain and Golam Kibria.



Aminul Haq Moni (L), general secretary of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) and the owner of Bangladesh Beverage, Amanullah Miah, who is also the local representative of renowned soft drink Pepsi-Cola exchange the contract papers of the three-year sponsorship deal at a local hotel yesterday. BCCB president Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman flanked by State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain on his right provide an otiose but ornamental background.

BCCB enters Pepsi age

Sports Reporter
The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) took the first positive step to clear the remains of a blighted past as it formalised a proposed sponsorship deal with Pepsi-Cola yesterday.

The world famous soft drink house, which has been gradually emerging as major financiers in promoting cricket in the subcontinent in particular, will flow in 450,000 US dollars in the next three years for the improvement of the game in this country.

Besides, Pepsi, which plays quite a big role in patronising cricket in Pakistan, will help fetch a coach from the country of current champions in one-day cricket.

While the BCCB was represented by general secretary Aminul Haq Moni, Amanullah Miah, chairman of Pepsi's local bottlers Bangladesh Beverage played the role of the other contra-hunt in this deal, solemnised at a local hotel.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, who is also the president of the BCCB, thanked the multinational company for its volunteering into the cause of Bangladesh cricket.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain deemed Pepsi's involvement with the local cricket as a watershed in its annals, hoping this would add a new dimension to local cricket, which has already come a long way.

The all local tinge of the deal was saved by the presence of Leslie G. Ham, Pepsi's Asian division president.

Although the deal came into being only yesterday, Pepsi's arrival in the local scenario has been quite a few days from now. The recently-held national cricket championship underwent a nomenclature change with Pepsi replacing former sponsors Bangladesh Tobacco Company.

In fact Pepsi's emergence dates back even earlier. Bangladeshi cricketers enacted the first part of the contract when they took part in the fifth ICC cricket tournament with the Pepsi's logo quite conspicuously inscribed on their flannels.

The first of BCCB's honeymoon with Pepsi proved to be a disastrous one as Bangladesh, tipped as the second seeds of the associate members of the ICC, tumbled out of the quarter-finals, much to the dismay of the local fans, who were set upon a dream of seeing Bangladesh in the 1996 World Cup alongside the nine full ICC members better known as the Test-playing countries.

Normally a low-key meet in the context of world cricket, the fifth version of the world championship of cricket's lightweights had more than its share of publicity as the powers that be at the Lord's engineered an unprecedented provision for three top team of the ICC meet in the next world championship of instant cricket, scheduled to be co-hosted by neighbours India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The United Arab Emirates, champions of the 20-team meet followed by runners up and hosts Kenya and third placed Holland booked the coveted slots, shattering Bangladesh's hopes in the process.

Mohinder Amarnath the former Indian Test cricketer, was put to the charge of the Bangladesh national team to ensure a august transition. With the team failing to realise the dream, the often controversial Indian decided to fly home instead of accompanying the crestfallen cricketers. With BCCB's 'promised' clarification from Amarnath on Bangladesh's failure still not coming and Pepsi airing the possibility of a new coach from Pakistan, it looks like the Amarnath issue is on its way to a quiet burial.



The players of Khulna, the newly-crowned Biman Cup under-14 football champions, pose together after beating defending champions Tangail 1-0 in the final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Quiet day at DMFA

Sports Reporter
The Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) office yesterday had a relatively quiet day on the third day of the inter-club football players transfers with 58 players changing allegiance.

Brothers Union, who were subject to heavy loss during the first two days' trade of footballists, losing five of their key players, finally got into the act, signing seven promising booters. In what seemed to be a desperate effort to hold their camp together, the Gopibagh outfit roped in three PWD footballers — Mushtaq, Humayun and Kakon. Besides, they signed Ranjan of Rahmatganj, and Bakhtiar of Agrani Bank, who was a member of the Gothia Cup winning BKSP squad.

After a hectic second day Sunday, the Mohammedan officials had some sort of a day off with only one signing in the form of Shibu, who played for Farashganj last season. Arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra opted to stay out of the act after a busy scheduled the day before.

The DMFA office, apart from the Brother officials, were crowded by the supremos of the middlings and the minnows of the Premier Division league.

Muktijodhha Sangsad, who occupied the centre stage on the inaugural day of this season's players' transfers when they signed eleven pool players, added two more to their already rich collection of booters. Public Works Department (PWD) had eight, Dhanmondi Club seven, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha four signings yesterday.

Two notable collectors of the 57 tokens issued by the DMFA — Angoor of Rahmatganj, has decided to put on Victoria Sporting's jersey and Dablu, an Arambagh defender planning to play for Angoor's former club — took their tokens on commission.

Navy finish atop

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Navy finished their Sonali Bank office hockey round robin league campaign on a winning high, defeating lowly Police AC by a solitary goal in one of the three matches held on the final day of the first round at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Navy, the only unbeaten team in the first ever office league, finished atop the points table with ten points from six league matches and will lead the four-team super league, scheduled to begin from April 13.

The three other qualifiers for the super league are: Sadharan Bima KC, Bangladesh Air Force and Sonali Bank.

In the first match of the day, Kazi Masuk Khadem scored the match decider for Navy in the very third minute of the play from a penalty corner.

Sadharan Bima KS, who finished second with nine points, also registered a lone goal victory over Air Force in the second match of the day.

Mohammed Sadek struck the match winner in the 62nd minute of the proceedings to up his personal tally to five.

Air Force, who conceded their first defeat in the league, remain stuck to eight points.

In the last match of the day, Sonali Bank scraped through to the super league when they split points with Bangladesh Army in a goalless draw.

Army, who lost two points for violation of tournament by-laws, ended their campaign with four points.

Crowe fit for England tour

WELLINGTON, Apr 11: New Zealand's star batsman Martin Crowe was declared fit today for New Zealand's tour of England starting in May, reports Reuter.

Crowe missed nearly all New Zealand's summer season, including four Tests against the touring Pakistan and Indian teams, after aggravating an old knee injury in the first Test of New Zealand's Australian tour in November.

New Zealand Cricket chief executive Graham Dowling said Crowe and fellow batsman Mark Greatbatch, who like Crowe also had a knee operation, had been cleared to tour following medical and fitness tests.

During his layoff, Crowe surrendered captaincy to Ken Rutherford.

Holland win TCCB's nod

LONDON, Apr 11: The Test and County Cricket Board on Monday approved the Netherlands' entry as the first overseas nation to compete in an English tournament, reports AP.

The Dutch will replace one of the 12 minor Countries in the Natwest Bank Trophy tournament from the 1995 season.

Barbados Test in balance

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Apr 11: England rallied in their second innings and ended the third day of the fourth test against the West Indies with renewed hope on Sunday, reports Reuter.

England 3-0 down in the series were 171 for three at the close after the West Indians had returned to contention by adding 170 valuable runs for their last three first innings wickets.

Alec Stewart, who made 118 in England's first innings 355, was the lynchpin once again and was 62 not out at stumps, having shared an unbroken partnership of 92 with Graeme Hick (52 not out).

England had begun the day in a strong position, with the West Indies struggling at 188 for seven.

But they paid dearly for dropped catches as Shivnarine

Chanderpaul (77) and fast bowler Kenny Benjamin (43 not out) led the West Indies to a first innings total of 304 — just 51 behind England.

Angus Fraser, who had claimed six wickets on Saturday, added the scalps of Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh to return figures of eight for 75, the best analysis ever achieved by an England bowler against West Indies.

England, looking vulnerable at 79 for three, were steadied by Stewart and Hick and were 222 runs in front with seven second innings wickets intact at the close — a heartening situation for them, going into the rest day today.

Fraser's heroics should have enabled England to drive home a greater advantage in the first innings.

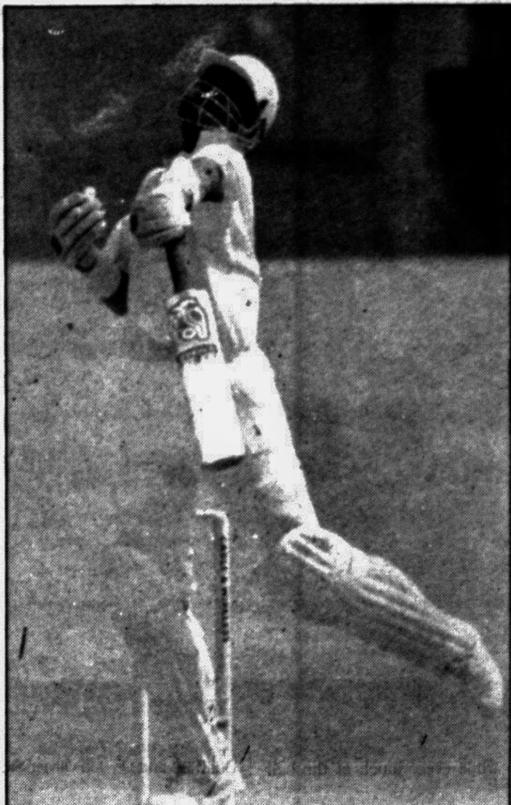
But they let their opponents off the hook and Chanderpaul, dropped by skipper Mike Atherton on 27 on Saturday, compiled his third half-century in as many Tests and Ambrose and Benjamin blazed away to profitable effect.

Mark Ramprakash eventually caught Chanderpaul off the bowling of Middlesex county colleague Phil Tufnell but squandered a chance to end the last-wicket stand between Benjamin and Walsh when he dropped a straightforward catch at deep mid-wicket.

Walsh inflicted early damage when the West Indies pace attack went into action in England's second innings.

He had Atherton caught by Brian Lara at slip for 15 and Ramprakash by Chanderpaul at backward squareleg for three, leaving England 43 for two.

Robin Smith followed for 13, trapped lbw by Benjamin, but Stewart and Hick held firm, dispelling fears of a repeat of the slide which saw England dismissed for 46 in their second innings in the third Test in Port of Spain.



England vice-captain Alec Stewart is caught in a tangle while avoiding lifter from West Indian pacer Courtney Walsh during third day's play of the fourth Test between England and the West Indies in Bridgetown, Barbados on Sunday.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the third day of the fourth-cricket Test between West Indies and England on Sunday:
ENGLAND: First innings 355 (A Stewart 118, M Atherton 85)
WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 188-7) Haynes c Atherton b Fraser 35 Richardson c Atherton b Fraser 20 Lara c sub (Hussain) b Lewis 26 Arthurton c Russell b Fraser 0 Adams c Thorpe b Fraser 26 Chanderpaul c Ramprakash b Tufnell 77 Murray c Thorpe b Fraser 0 W Benjamin c Hick b Fraser 8 Ambrose c Hick b Fraser 44 K Benjamin not out 43 Walsh c Tufnell b Fraser 13 Extras:(lb-1, nb-11) 12 Total: 304
Fall of wickets: 1-55; 2-55; 3-95; 4-126; 5-126; 6-126; 7-134; 8-205; 9-263.
Bowling: O M R W
Fraser 28.5 7 75 8
Caddick 24 2 92 0
Lewis 17 2 60 1
Tufnell 32 12 76 1

ENGLAND: Second innings Atherton c Lara b Walsh 15 Stewart not out 62 Ramprakash c Chanderpaul b Walsh 3 Smith lbw b K Benjamin 13 Hick not out 52 Extras:(nb-26) 26 Total:(for three wickets) 171
Fall of wickets: 1-33; 2-43; 3-79.
Bowling: O M R W
Ambrose 9 1 25 0
Walsh 12 1 55 2
W Benjamin 12 1 34 1
K Benjamin 11 1 40 0
Chanderpaul 5 2 11 0
Adams 3 0 6 0

Australasia Cup begins tomorrow

Pakistan firm favourites

SHARJAH, Apr 11: Arch rivals India and Pakistan will be shorn of bowling depth when they renew their cricketing battles in the Australasia Cup starting here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

The bitter foes, who last played each other in the 1992 World Cup before snapping sporting ties because of political tensions, face-off on April 15 in a league match of the six-nation tournament.

Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and the local Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) are the other teams taking part, but the Indo-Pakistan clash is the showpiece that will draw in the cricket-loving expatriates of this Gulf emirate.

Organisers have clubbed India and Pakistan in Group A to ensure they play each other at least once in the tournament and almost certainly qualify for the semifinals at the expense of the unfancied ECB.

India, who return to Sharjah after a three-year self-imposed exile to protest a pro-Pakistani bias by organisers, have their task cut out in the absence of world bowling record holder Kapil Dev and wily new-ball partner Manoj Prabhakar.

Indian selectors alluded to Dev's request to take a break from the game and rest a sore, overworked shoulder. Prabhakar has a stress fracture in the left foot which cost him a stint with Warwickshire in the next English county season.

To level matters, Pakistani spearhead Waqar Younis pulled out of the tournament after being operated upon for appendicitis in Lahore on Thursday.

A fit Younis, in tandem with dreaded partner Wasim

son, leaving the captaincy in the hands of opener Mark Taylor and the bowling responsibility on star leg-spinner Shane Warne.

New Zealand, who are on their way to England for a three-Test tour, will take the field without skipper Ken Rutherford and the recalled Martin Crowe, who will join the touring party in London.

Sri Lanka's preparations were wrecked by a selection crisis back home after four senior players refused to go on tour in protest at the omission of strokeplayer Aravinda de Silva on fitness grounds.

Hughes still has few tricks up his sleeves

SYDNEY, Apr 11: For burly Australian pace bowler Merv Hughes, cricket season 1993-94 was a disaster, reports AP.

Hughes missed the home series against South Africa and New Zealand because he was recuperating from off-season surgery, and he then struggled to regain his rhythm in a three-Test series in South Africa.

He claimed only four wickets at 59.25 in the first two Tests and was dropped for the final match of the tied series.

But the veteran bowler, one of the great characters of cricket, has no thoughts of retirement.

Hughes was widely criticised in the Australian media for his behaviour during the first Test in South Africa.

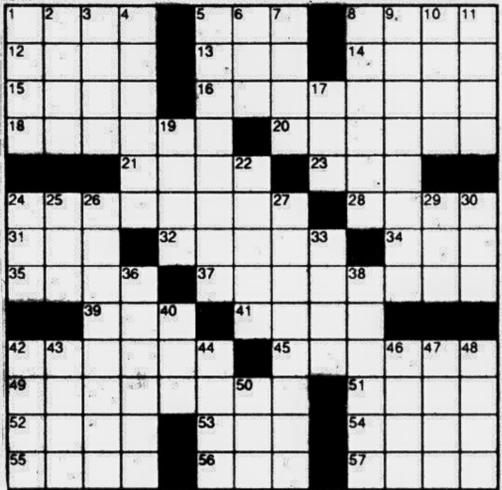
He was fined \$300 US by International Cricket Council match referee Donald Carr for verbal abuse and later was fined a further \$1,700 US by the Australian Cricket Board for breaching his contract by bringing the game into disrepute.

The controversial Victorian also was later slapped a fine — and severely reprimanded — for reacting angrily to a spectators jibes and jabbing his bat at the man.

Hughes did not comment on those incidents Monday, but paid tribute to the determination of his teammates.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Hammer feature
5 "30 Rock" network: abbr.
8 Clumsy craft
12 Circle dance
13 Painter's medium
14 Barcelona boy
15 Hertz rival
16 Racing vehicle
18 Fiery
20 Aplenty
21 Swarthy
23 Calendar abbr.
24 Mantel decoration, at times
28 Reedy
31 One in a row?
32 Insults
34 "I" strain?
35 Mop
37 San Joaquin River city
39 Numerical
- DOWN**
1 Burn a bit
2 Lyricist's topic
3 Saharan abbr.
5 Holes in the head?
6 Drill insert
7 Hoedown dance
8 Small sock
9 Carom
10 Wood knot
11 Incensed
17 Bounder
19 Erstwhile acorns
22 Famed football forename
24 "— your old man!"
25 Spotted, a la Tweety
26 Ha-rangues
27 Most disgusting
29 "— to Rio"
30 Persona — grata
33 Ella's style
36 Suspenders, in Sussex
38 Cherry brandy
40 Squid squirt
42 Egyptian cobras
43 Greek portico
44 Tar
46 Emanation
47 British architect
48 Burpee's wares
50 "Cock-a-doodle—"
- SOLUTION time: 26 min.**
- SCRAP**
MULETA PAROLPS
IMAGES OLIVER
SODA TATI EAT
LION FUL
TOO ORIG PAPA
TAMANAMERICAN
SKED LATE END
LOG LADY
ARE HASH EAST
LITTER ETALII
ACTONE AURORA
SHEETS DENTS



CRYPTOQUIP
P W B H B E J B R V P P N V
R V E N E Q T B S V Q S P W S L
P H U N N T U B Z B S J P
B V Z H S B A J

Saturday's Cryptoquip: SO MANY PEOPLE CAME TO PURCHASE MOM'S HOMEMADE JELLY, IT CAUSED A TRAFFIC JAM.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: H equals C
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.