

Dhaka grapplers too good

Sports Reporter

Dhaka emerged the unchallenged champions of the 13th national junior and cadet wrestling championship '94 with a haul of ten golds at the end of the three-day competition at the National Sports Council gymnasium yesterday.

Dhaka, in fact, garnered 15 medals including two silvers and three bronzes besides the ten golds.

Munshigonj took the second slot more by default of the other outfits than any real competition with the champs. So ragged was the nature of the pointless tourney that just one silver medal and a bronze were enough to earn them the runners-up position.

Gazipur came third with one silver.

Nine teams — Dhaka, Munshigonj, Gazipur, Khulna, Jessor, Jessor Board, Narail, Chittagong and Rangpur — took part in this competition featuring 16 events.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain gave away the prizes as chief guest.

Office hockey super league begins today

Sports Reporter

The Sonali Bank office hockey super league begins at the Hockey Stadium today with two matches billed for the opening day.

After a day's rest, four top finishers of the round robin league — Bangladesh, Navy, Sadharan Bima, Bangladesh Air Force and Sonali Bank — will vie in the final round where their previous points will also be counted.

Navy, who led the first phase with ten points from six matches, will meet Bangladesh Air Force in the first match at 2:45 pm while Sadharan Bima will take on Sonali Bank at 4 pm.

DU cricket

Sports Reporter

Department of Management pulled off a 20-run victory against Botany in the Dhaka University inter-department cricket championship at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Management batted first to collect 138 for five from their stipulated quota of 30 overs.

Selim was their top-scorer with 25.

Botany's Rashed captured two wickets for 38 runs.

Babu made 29 and Rashed followed his bowling success with 18 but Department of Botany could only collect 118 for nine from their quota.

Management's Shamim paved the path for his side's win with a haul of three for 17.

Nirman cricket final today

Sports Reporter

The 12th Nirman schools cricket championship final between Mymensingh and Narayanganj will be held at the Dhaka Stadium today.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain will give away prizes after the final.

Minnows' moment of truth



SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Apr 12: Debutants United Arab Emirates test their strength against India on Wednesday in the opening match of the one-day Australasia Cup but rows over player selection are still dogging other teams, reports Reuter.

Shri Lanka and previous cup winners Pakistan have been embroiled in selection controversy before the competition which ends on April 22 and also includes Australia and New Zealand.

Pakistan will miss Waqar a lot

ISLAMABAD, Apr 12: Pakistan's cricket squad leaves for the Australasia Cup in Sharjah today, but without top pace bowler Waqar Younis who is recovering from appendicitis, reports Reuter.

Younis, who underwent surgery last week and will be out of action for about six weeks, was replaced by the young Ataur Rehman.

Captain Salim Malik told reporters in Lahore he hoped the middle order batsmen would improve on their recent performance in New Zealand in which Pakistan won the Test series 2-1 but their batsmen had to struggle for runs.

This has become essential because in the absence of Waqar we need to make a big total and allow Wasim (Akram) and other bowlers enough overs to bowl out the opposition," Malik told the official APP news agency.

Other teams taking part in the Australasia Cup beginning on Wednesday are Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, India and the United Arab Emirates.

THE SQUAD: Salim Malik (captain), Asif Mujtaba (vice-captain), Aamir Sohail, Saeed Anwar, Basit Ali, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Wasim Akram, Rashid Latif, Aaqib Javed, Akrum Raza, Athar Laeeq, Shahid Ahmad, Ijaz Ahmad, Ataur Rehman.

Yorkshire beat Montserrat

PLAYMOUTH, Montserrat, Apr 12: The touring Yorkshire county cricket club defeated Montserrat by 16 runs in a limited overs match at Sturge Park on Sunday, reports AP.

The English players, who are touring Leeward Islands to prepare for their new season, batted first on a placid pitch and scored 204 for 4 from 47 overs.

Yorkshire's innings were built around a fine century by former England opener, Capt. Martyn Moxon, who cracked 101 with nine fours and one six.

Openers Gary Barzey and Alexander Herbert provided a fairly solid start for the home side, taking the score to over 40 but a middle order collapse saw the Montserrat team finishing on 188 for seven from 47 overs.

Herbert hit a patient 45 and Fitzroy Buffonge contributed 32 while Mark Stephane topped scored with an elegant 47.

Medium pacer, David Gough, took 2 for 40 from his 10 overs and Michael Foster 2 for 26 from nine overs.

The tournament will give us the opportunity to get a feel of the international teams," said Emirates team captain Sultan Zarawani.

The other teams will be under pressure not us, for we have nothing to lose," added Zarawani, the sole Arab member of the UAE team which was formed only seven months ago and won the International Cricket Conference Trophy in Nairobi last month.

The UAE team includes eight Pakistanis, three Indians

captain.

The Indian side arrived on Monday in a confident mood after recent wins over England, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka and West Indies.

"We have all the chances in the world to win the tournament," said manager Ajit Wadekar, himself a successful Indian captain.

He snapped at suggestions that the Indian pace attack had lost its sting in the absence of Kapil Dev and Manoj Prabhakar. "Their absence won't hit the balance of the team. We have the resources to tackle the situation."

Australia have arrived with new captain Mark Taylor, who replaced Allan Border. "We have a good chance specially considering our performance the last three one-day internationals in South Africa," Taylor said.

The Australasia Cup, will give (Shane) Warne, who has not yet played against Indian or Pakistani batsmen, a chance to firmly establish his credentials as a world class bowler.

Shri Lanka's cricket squad left for Sharjah today under police guard after a row over fitness tests that failed star batsman Aravinda de Silva and led to captain Arjuna Ranatunga quitting.

"Basically we're treating this tournament to prepare the team for the world cup," Zarawani said.

Five Pakistani cricket fans began a hunger strike on Saturday to try to force officials to recall top batsman Javed Miandad, who announced his retirement from the sport last week after being excluded from the team going to Sharjah.

Pakistan, led by Salim Malik, are also missing key pace bowler Waqar Younis, who is recovering from appendicitis and has been replaced by Ataur Rehman.

There was more controversy in Sri Lanka when captain Arjuna Ranatunga and three other players resigned after failing a controversial fitness test, and the team left for Sharjah under police guard on Tuesday with prolific opener Roshan Mahanama their new

M AZHARUDDIN

and two Sri Lankans and is coached by former Indian Test player Madan Lal. Its ICC win also qualified it for the 1996 World Cup, to be hosted jointly by Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka.

The 14-member side, taking part in this month's Australasia Cup, is led by prolific opener Roshan Mahanama.

The team was taken to the airport under police guard following threats against players by fans unhappy with the selection.

Ranatunga, three players and five selectors earlier quit. They said the test which failed de Silva and four others had not been conducted in line with procedure.

THE SQUAD: Roshan Mahanama (captain), Hashan Tillakaratne (vice-captain), Athula Samarakera, Aruna Gunawardene, Sanath Jayasuriya, Ruwan Kalpage (subject to fitness), Pubudu Dassanayake, Anaka Gurusingha, Chaminda Vaas, Hemal Wickramaratne, Manjula Munasinghe, Champaka Ramanayake, Upul Chandana, Ajit Weerakkody.

President's XI in the township, during their three-Test tour which will also include seven day-night internationals and one day international.

The England A team played a game in Soweto on their tour in December last year.

KIWI TOUR OF SA

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November 11-13 Border
November 15-17 Combined Bowl XI
November 19-22 Orange Free State
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December 1 President's XI
December 3 (day/night) Northern Transvaal
December 6 (day/night) Eastern Province
Day-night int'l
December 9 South Africa
December 11 Day/night int'l
December 14 Day/night int'l
December 17 Day/night int'l
December 19 Boland
December 21-23 Port Elizabeth
December 26-30 Cape Town
Second Test
January 2-6 Stellenbosch
January 10 Durban
January 12 Cape Town
January 14 East London
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Cape Town
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