

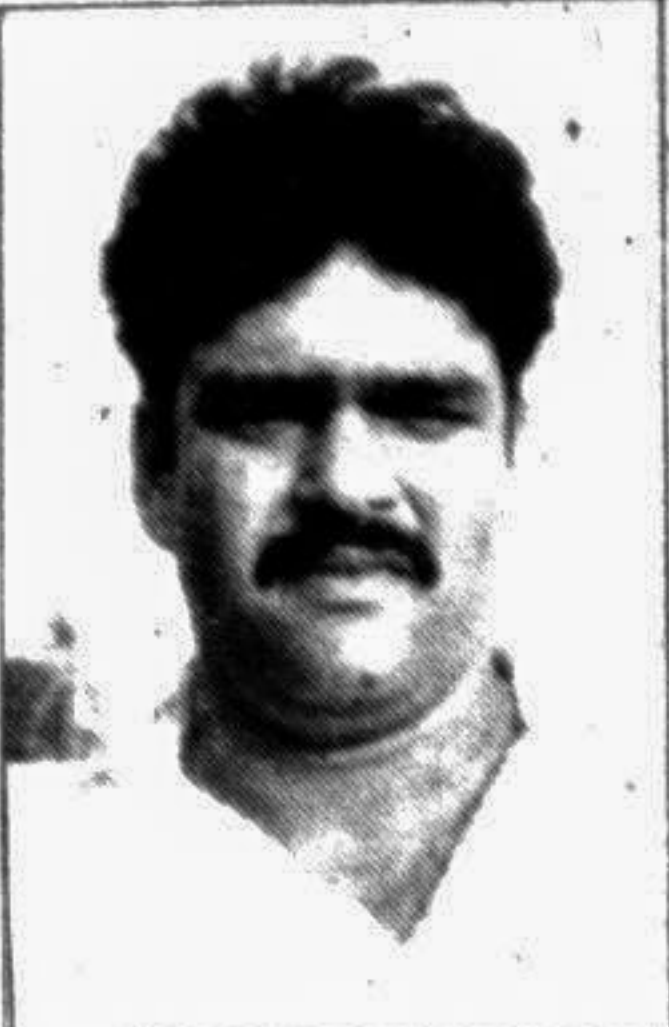
Hosts play Pakistan today

Sports Reporter

Cricket lovers wake up to a week-long session of big time cricket from today as hosts Bangladesh take on favourites Pakistan in the inaugural match of the four-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) tournament scheduled for a 9:00 am

veteran Rameez Raja, will start as the overwhelming favourite in today's match. Besides Raja, the 32-year-old stylish opener currently out of first national team of the one-day world champions, the team contains a number of players with Test experience like

good fight against our fancied opponents. His counterpart, the experienced Rameez, who had a good look at the wicket yesterday, too, accentuated on the spin of coin. However, he appeared little concerned about the wicket.



AKRAM KHAN

start at the Dhaka Stadium. India and Sri Lanka, who, too, like Pakistan will be represented by their second national squads, are also tipped as strong contenders in this regional meet. However, for Bangladesh, the only nation in the sub-continent without Test status in the unofficial one-day tournament, it means yet another exposure with a view to attaining the coveted ICC full membership.

Mooted as an annual affair, the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board's first attempt to hold the tourney in 1992 came a cropper at the fag end due to law and order situation prevailing in the country as a sequel to the demolition of a mosque in India.

Pakistan A team, led by Test

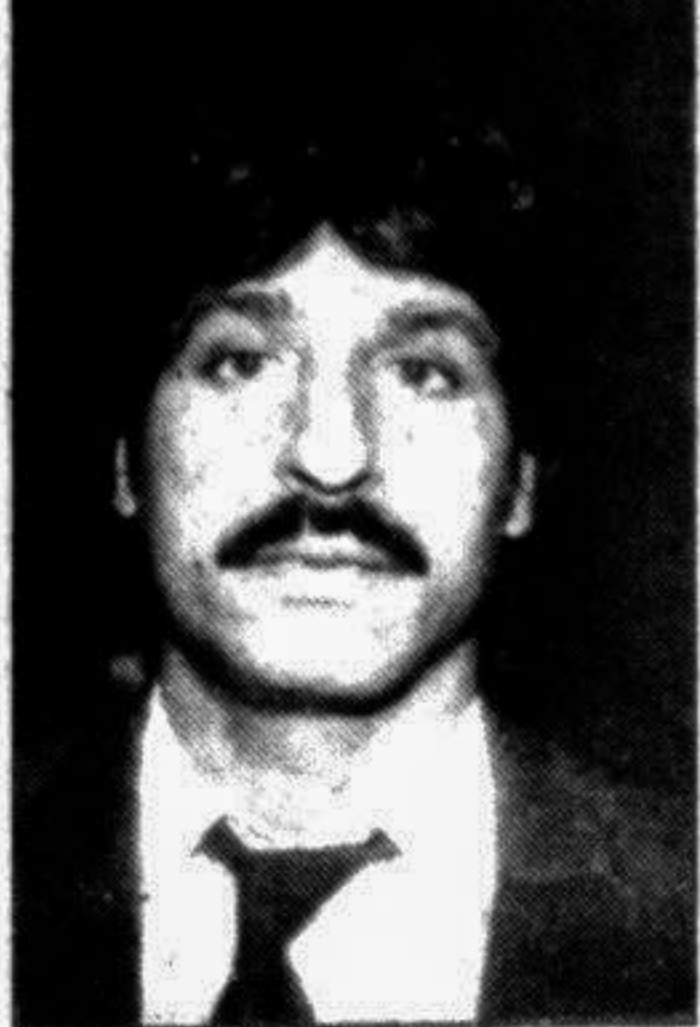


Aamir Nazir, Mohsin Kamal, Nadim Khan and Zahid Fazal. There are a number of Test hopefuls as well who are expected to feel particularly motivated to enhance their claims.

While the Pakistan camp is looking forward to the match with no news of injury to any of the players being aired, the local side may miss regular opener Athar Ali Khan. The tall experienced cricketer is reported to be suffering from sore shoulder.

However, the mood was upbeat in the Bangladesh camp with the newly-appointed skipper Akram Khan attaching particular importance to the toss.

Toss will be vital although our main aim is to put up a



RAMEEZ RAJA

"I think it will be a difficult wicket to bat on. Bowlers will have an edge."

Both teams are likely to play three regular seamers. The man-of-the-match will receive a cash award of Taka five thousand. However, the man-of-the-final will be richer for Taka 10,000.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) has announced award for the player-of-the-tournament while the Bangladesh Sports Writers and Journalists Community (BSWJC) will have an award on the ice for the man-of-the-match on every playing day.

Bangladesh Television and Radio Bangladesh, meanwhile, have completed all arrangements to cover the meet live.

Mayor Cup soccer from today

Sports Reporter

The Mayor Gold Cup tournament, under the auspices of the Chittagong Zila Krira Parishad (CZKP), finally begins in the port city today after a bout of setbacks which almost led to the postponement of the month-long meet.

Twenty-two teams from all over the country including defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra, newly-crowned kings of the Star Premier Division league, will take part in the tourney.

Originally planned to involve some foreign teams, the championship almost crashed at the starting block for Bangladesh Football Federation's mysterious reluctance to have the meet launched.

Having come across BFF's inexplicable indifference, the CZKP modified its plans and decided to confine the tournament to national level.

Ten teams will vie in the first phase to be played on a knock-out basis for the five second round places. The five qualifiers will be joined by six teams, who received straight entry to the second round.

The four Premier teams from Dhaka — Abahani, Muk-tijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra, Brothers Union and Arambagh Krira Sangstha — will play in the quarterfinals, beginning from January 12.

Rising Star and Regency Sporting Club play in the inaugural match at the local Niaz Stadium.

Morshed Khan, special envoy to the Prime Minister, will inaugurate the tournament.

The participating teams are: Dhaka Abahani KC, Dhaka Muk-tijoddha Sangsad KC, Dhaka Brothers Union, Arambagh KS, Farashganj SC, BKSP senior team, Narayanganj DSA, Sylhet DSA, Chittagong Abahani KC, Chittagong Moham-medan SC, Chittagong Brothers Union, Chittagong Muk-tijoddha Sangsad KC, Agrabad Naojawan Club, Chittagong Customs & Excise Club, Rising Star Club, BCIC SC, Moham-medan Blues, Regency SC, Shatadal Club, Kallol Sangha, Bakalia KS and Ispat Ekadash.

Nat'l shooting begins tomorrow

Sports Reporter

The 15th national shooting championship begins at the Gulshan Shooting Range from tomorrow.

One hundred and seventy six shooters including twenty female participants will take part in ten events of the week-long meet.



A goalmouth melee during the Green Delta First Division hockey encounter between holders Abahani Krira Chakra and Bachelors Club. The game ended in a goalless draw. — Star photo

Second Ashes Test begins Dec 24

Gooch may open innings



MELBOURNE, Dec 21: England captain Mike Atherton said on Wednesday that veteran batsman Graham Gooch could be in line to replace Alec Stewart as opener for the second Ashes Test against Australia, reports Reuter.

The tourists, trailing 1-0 in the five-Test series, are considering dropping vice-captain Stewart down the order.

"It's one of the points we will have to discuss," said Atherton, who opened with Stewart when England crashed to a 184-run defeat in the first Test in Brisbane.

"We didn't get two great starts in the first Test, but equally, myself and Alec were a good opening partnership in the West Indies, the base around which the side scored runs," added Atherton, referring to England's last overseas tour.

"It's a discussion point as you can't be totally inflexible, you can't write things in stone if you are getting beaten and things aren't going to plan" Atherton told reporters.

Stewart and Atherton added 24 and 50 in Brisbane. Gooch, who has been an opener for most of his Test career, went

in first in this week's tour match against Queensland, making 50 and seven.

Gooch, 41, opened the innings during the first month of the tour after Stewart broke a finger.

Atherton handed wicket-keeper Steven Rhodes a vote of confidence, confirming he would play in the Test at the



GRAHAM GOOCH

Melbourne Cricket Ground starting on December 24.

Rhodes has been struggling for form with both bat and gloves recently, prompting speculation that Stewart would take over behind the stumps.

That would allow England to fill Rhodes' place with an extra batsman or bowler as

they seek to get back into the series.

But Atherton emphatically scotched talk of a change of wicketkeeper when he said: "Steven Rhodes will keep in the Test."

"He's had a bit of a struggle over the past two weeks, but he's a good cricketer with a lot of heart, an experienced cricketer, and he will come good."

Rhodes, 30, has scored only 143 runs in first-class cricket on his first senior tour and last week dropped two catches in England's narrow World Series win over Australia in Melbourne.

But Atherton added: "A wicketkeeper is important as he is in a position to help with tactics. Steve is excellent in that regard and he's got lots of spirit and determination."

"He's been a bit low over the past week and that's understandable, but he'll come good," he said.

England arrived in a rain-soaked Melbourne on Wednesday afternoon optimistic about the fitness of fast bowlers Darren Gough and Phillip DeFreitas, both of whom missed the dramatic victory over Queensland in Toowoomba because of injury.

Stewart, who has been suffering from a back injury, and fellow batsman Graham Thorpe are also expected to be fit.

Abahani fumble in Green Delta hockey

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra fumbled in their third group match of the Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey league when lowly Bachelors Sporting Club held them to a goalless draw at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The Dhannondi outfit can only blame themselves for sheer lack of motivation from their star forwards as they failed to capitalize on as many as eleven short corners in the 70-minute work-out.

The draw takes Abahani to five points from three outings while it was bachelors' first point after two defeats.

India Asian schools' hockey champs

CHANDIGARH, Dec 21:

Bangladesh became runners-up in the first Asian schools hockey championship when they lost to India 0-7 in the final here today, reports PTL.

Bangladesh were 0-3 down in the first half.

Alen Barla and Ajay Kumar scored two goals each while Preet Inser Singh, Mukesh Kumar and Chander Pal netted one each for India.

India and Bangladesh played in the final as top two teams in the league standings.

Bangladesh, in the league matches, drew 1-1 with Malaysia, beat Sri Lanka 3-0 and lost to India 1-7.

Doordarshan telecast the final live from Chandigarh, according to the manager of Bangladesh team SM Shibly Nazir.

Navy athletics

CHITTAGONG, Dec 21: M R

Alam of the Bangladesh Navy, improved national record in the shot-put on the opening day of the annual athletic championship of the Bangladesh Navy at BNS Issa Khan today, reports BSS.

Besides, M Moshirraf Hossain LMF and M. Farid Uddin clinched gold in 10,000 metres run and high jump respectively.

Malaysia may pull out of President Cup

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 21:

Malaysia may withdraw its team from a tournament in Bangladesh next month due to the widening investigation into alleged match-fixing, a newspaper reported Wednesday, reports AP.

Ahmad Shah, deputy president of the Football Association of Malaysia, told The New Straits Times a pull out was possible if too many of the country's top players were arrested.

More than 40 players, officials and coaches from teams nationwide have been arrested and questioned in the past few months about alleged match-fixing in the Malaysia League and the Malaysia Cup.

Under these circumstances, it will be more prudent to wait another week before we decide on the national team," said Ahmad.

Scholastica to play in Calcutta

Sports Reporter

A cricket team of Scholastica, a private school of Dhaka, will play a week-long visit to Calcutta from tomorrow, says a press release.

They will play against some leading under-16 sides like St. Xavier's School, Don Bosco School, the Calcutta Cricket and Football Club Juniors and the Calcutta Mayor's Eleven.

The tour is being sponsored by some well known multinational and national companies such as Singer Bangladesh Ltd, Phillips Bangladesh Ltd, Bangladesh Light Casting Co. Ltd, and Rafty Apparels. The school management is bearing all expenses in Calcutta including accommodation, food and transport.

The school have twice been the runners-up in the Nirman schools tournament and are represented by five players in the BCCB under-17 squad.

1994: Delight, drugs, death

LONDON, Dec 21: Record-breakers Brazil were popular winners of the best attended World Cup of all time. Yet the tournament, the first to be held in the United States, also turned up Diego Maradona's latest drug scandal and led to the most tragic event of all, the killing of Colombian defender Andres Escobar.

For soccer, 1994 was that sort of year, writes AP.

Brazil and Italy, both three-time winners, made it to the World Cup final and promised a feast of high-quality soccer. They didn't produce.

Instead, after 120 minutes of lifeless play, some 84,000 sun-drenched fans in Pa-sa-

Italian Cup in the second round by crosstown rivals Inter and also lost to South American champions Velez Sarsfield in the Toyota Cup 2-0.

Their fans let them down, too. UEFA penalized Milan two points in the European Champions' League because of a bottle thrown from the stands that hit Salzburg goalkeeper Otto Konrad.

Elsewhere, Manchester United, winners of the rare league-cup double in England in May, performed poorly in European play in the fall and never reached the Champions' Cup quarterfinals.

By contrast Arsenal, nowhere near the top of the English league by December, were still going strong in the Copa Libertadores in a final as Brazil won the Cup for a record fourth time.

American soccer fans, including some who tuned into the game for the first time, loved the World Cup atmosphere. Nearly 3.6 million fans at 52 matches, an average of 69,000, whooped and roared at what proved to be a high-scoring competition with forwards usually outsmarting defenders.

The downsides of the World Cup were big and obvious. Maradona, who looked impressive in Argentina's first two games, tested positive for what FIFA called a "cocktail" of drugs aimed at helping rapid weight loss. He was banned for 15 months, for the second time in his career, and Argentina was eliminated two losses later.

Then, Escobar was killed. Returning home after the first round, Escobar was killed supposedly for scoring an own-goal against the United States in a 2-1 loss.

Considered one of the pre-tournament favourites, Colombia were hounded by pressure from gangs in their native country over personnel decisions, including a death against midfielder Gabriel Gomez to keep him from playing against the Americans.

By the end of the year, FIFA was saying that the so-called "spirit of America" generated by the competition had evaporated.

According to FIFA, players Cup Winners' Cup. After winning the title in May over much-favoured Parma, Arsenal had returned to the quarterfinals for a meeting with Auxerre.

Individually, it was the year of Romario, Bebeto, Baggio, Stoichkov, Hagi and Savicevic. Romario and Bebeto, rivals with Barcelona and Deportivo de La Coruna in a neck and neck Spanish title race, teamed up so effectively as Brazil's strikeforce it was almost as if they were twins.

Roberto Baggio almost single handedly lifted a flagging Italian team with match-winning goals and inspirational play that eventually drove the team to the World Cup finals.

Battling injury, the Juventus

turned out to be one of the most attractive.

Dejan Savicevic was the key to AC Milan's Champions' Cup triumph over Barcelona, but otherwise was invisible without a national team to play for.

A Montenegrin, he would have worn Yugoslavian colours. But that national was banned from international competition until late in the year as part of United Nations sanctions over the war in Bosnia.

Nigeria's emergence as a soccer power was illustrated by some spectacular play at the World Cup and already is being hailed as a contender for 1998.

The Nigerians downed another developing soccer team, Zambia, to win the African Nations' Cup. Players such as European-based Emmanuel Amunike, Austin Okocha and Finidi George shed their way in the soccer of the future.

In South America, Velez Sarsfield won their first Copa Libertadores after a penalty shootout with defending champions Sao Paulo of Brazil, becoming the first Argentine club to win since River Plate in 1986.

England, who failed to qualify for the World Cup, had more problems in their domestic league but enjoyed an upsurge during 1994, with Terry Venables taking over as coach of the national team and clubs spending money to import World Cup stars such as Germany's Juergen Klinsmann.

The Football Association fined Tottenham 1.5 million pounds (dls 2.4 million), banned them from the FA Cup and threatened to deduct six league points after finding the club guilty of financial irregularities relating to player payments.

On appeal, an arbitration panel later ordered the FA to restore the six points and the club's status in the FA Cup.

Venables was pursued constantly by allegations that some of his business deals were illegal. And Zimbabwean goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, who moved from Liverpool to Southampton, was accused of accepting a bribe to throw a game.

Venables and Grobbelaar denied all the allegations. But the turmoil created seemed to outweigh the good performances on the field.



ROMARIO

continued to cheat, coaches were intimidating referees and referees were inconsistently applying the rules.

Away from the World Cup, the pattern was the same. Italian power AC Milan produced the best club performance of the year, a 4-0 crushing of Barcelona in the Champions' Cup final, without two of their key defenders. Yet the Red Devils ended the year almost on their knees.

Slumping alarmingly, Milan scrambled into European Champions' Cup quarterfinals on a 1-0 victory at Casino Salzburg and, halfway through the Italian league season, had fallen into the bottom half of the standings.



ROBERTO BAGGIO

striker just couldn't keep going and even missed a penalty in the shootout as Brazil won.

Hristo Stoichkov, another member of the Barcelona team that won a fourth consecutive Spanish league title, scored one of the Bulgarian goals that ended Germany's reign as World Cup champions.

Bulgaria, who had never won a game in six previous World Cup finals, rallied for a 2-1 upset over the Germans in the quarterfinals.

Gheorghe Hagi masterminded Romania's World Cup campaign and also wound up at Barcelona for the 1994-95 season. The imaginative midfielder and goalscorer was the main reason why what appeared to be the "ugly duckling" team of the World Cup

East Bengal regain IFA Shield

CALCUTTA, Dec 21: An inspired East Bengal warded off a late resurgence to humble arch-rivals

Mohun Bagan 2-1 and regain the IFA Shield in their centenary year in an exciting final at the Salt Lake Stadium here today, reports PTL.

Captain Swarup Das struck the first blow early in the second session while young medio Balchungh Bhutta produced a gem of a goal immediately after the interval to seal the fate of their traditional foes in a pulsating encounter.

Medio Ranjan Chowdhury reduced the margin for Mohun Bagan four minutes later but the star-studded forward line failed to get the equaliser despite putting on relentless pressure in the dying stages of the game.

East Bengal turned on the heat from the, word go and forced ahead as early as the 11th minute of the contest with a swinging freekick from defender Swarup Das, giving no

chance to the rival custodian.

After leading 1-0 at the interval, the 17-year-old Bhutta did the star turn for his team when he headed home from inside the box following a flagkick to register East Bengal's first win in seven encounters between the two giants. Mohun Bagan had won three of the last six clashes while three had ended in a stalemate.

Bhutta, who has been in fine form right through the tournament, again excelled in the mid-field showing confidence and authority belying his age. He was always there to supplement the efforts of the forward line.

East Bengal's second goal was the result of a fast counter attack which saw Bhutta, who was unmarked inside the box, head home to a measured corner kick by Satyajit Chatterjee from the left flank.

But even before the celebrations had subsided in the East Bengal galleries, medio Ranjan Chowdhury reduced the margin slumming in from close after the ball rebounded off the goalkeeper Sumit Mukherjee.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD)
Road Division, Perajpur

Notice of RHD Inviting Tender.

- Tender Notice No. 32 PRD/94-95.
- Name of work: Supplying sand (F.M. 1.50) for Construction of Foundation of the Executive Engineer (RHD), Perajpur's Office Building under Road Division, Perajpur during 1994-95.
- Estimated cost: 3,61,463/-
- Earnest money: 7,230/-
- Time allowed: 15 (Fifteen) days.
- Name of offices where tender documents will be available: Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Perajpur/Bansal/Patakhali/Bhola/Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Road Sub-Division, Perajpur/Kawkhali during office hours on all working days. No tender form will be sold on the opening date of tender.
- Name of offices where tender bids will be received: Superintendent Engineer (RHD), Road Circle, Bansal/Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Perajpur/Bansal/Patakhali/Bhola.
- Last date and time of receipt of tender: Up to 12-30 P.M. on 14-9-1401B/28-12-94 E.
- Date and time of opening of tender: At 12-45 PM on 14-9-1401B/28-12-94 E.
- Eligibility of contractor: "A" to "E" general category of RHD.

Md. Jalilur Rahman Pramanik
Executive Engineer (RHD)
Road Division, Perajpur

DFP-13566-18/12
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