

BHF zeroes in on 17

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) has zeroed in on 17 players for the national team to take part in the upcoming Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Invitational Hockey Tournament, scheduled to begin in the Indian capital of New Delhi from January 27.

The mooted national selection contains players mainly from the four leading Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey league outfits — defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra, Mohammedan Sporting Club, Dhaka Marine Youngs Club, Usha Krira Chakra — although one Bangladesh Army campaigner has been squeezed in, hunted a BHF source.

The probable players are: Asir, Mamun, Harun, Alamgir, Alam, Raju and Khurshid (Abahani); Haider Alam, Nixon, Ijaz, Ehteshan and Mitul (Mohammedans); Biaka Lusal, Issa Miah and Musa Miah (Mariners); Kamal and Tutul (Usha) and Jahangir (Army).

Bangladesh, who leave for India on January 27, play their first match on January 29.

Div II football

Sports Reporter

Govt Printing Press came from behind to beat BG Press S&RC by the odd goal in three in one of the three Second Division football league matches billed for the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Haider and Murad scored for the winners after Abul Kashem gave the eventual losers a sixth minute lead.

Abhijitrick Malibagh earned a lone goal win over Juraim Janata with Palash notching the all important goal in the 21st minute.

Prantick Krira Chakra and Bashabo Tarun Sangha shared points in a goalless draw in the last match of the day.

Meanwhile, no matches will be held today, says a DMFA press release issued yesterday.

Delta Life eves' h'ball begins Friday

Sports Reporter

The Delta Life Inter-college and hall women handball championship, under the auspices of the Bangladesh Handball Federation (BHF), will begin at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex from Friday.

Nine teams including two halls — one each from Dhaka University and Jahangirnagar University — will be split into two groups for the ten-day competition.

Viqarunnisa Noon College play Fazilatunnisa Hall of Jahangirnagar University in a Group A match on the inaugural day. The tie begins at 3:00 pm.

The three other participants of the group are: Arambagh Girls High School and College, Ishpani Girls High School and College and Sher-e-Bangla Girls' College.

Meanwhile, Shamshunnahar Hall of Dhaka University have been placed in Group B along with Eden Girls' College, Anwara Begum Muslim High School and College and Central Women's College.

Cricket friendly

An exhibition cricket match between the Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) and Bangladesh Tobacco Company (BTC) Limited will be held at the BTC ground at Mohakhali here on January 20, reports BSS.

Div III football

Sunrise Sporting Club recorded a solitary goal win over little Friends' Club in one of the two Pragati Insurance Third Division football league engagements at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Shah Alam struck the match-decider for Sunrise in the tenth minute of the first half.

In the other match of the Maghbazaar Kisholaya Sangha and Kadamata Sangsad split points in a 2-2 draw.

Gautam Halder and Arif Hossain gave Maghbazaar a double lead before Lonnie Bishwas and Anwar Hossain restored parity for Kadamata.

Danes, Koreans roll on

WOLLONGONG, Australia, Jan 18: Denmark and South Korea qualified for the final of the four-nation under-23 football tournament here Wednesday when they played out a scoreless draw, reports AFP.

Both teams, unbeaten going into Wednesday's round, killed off host nation Australia's chances of reaching Saturday's final in Sydney when they settled for a draw for each team to finish with four points.



Aamir Malik (L), the stylish Pakistani right-handed batsman, returns to the pavilion along with his skipper Aminul Islam after realising Mohammedans' convincing seven-wicket win over Wari in a Navana Premier Division cricket league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Aamir Malik remained unbeaten on a chancy 56.

Mohammedans march along

Sports Reporter

Pakistani Test-discard Aamir Malik was in the thick of things as title aspirants Mohammedan

Sporting Club collected their fourth consecutive win in the Navana Premier Division cricket league with a highly convincing seven-wicket victory over traditional mates Wari Club at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The sedate right hander, struggling to get into groove, much to the dismay of the fans of one of the giants in local sport, hoisted his first half-century for Mohammedans and then went on to bring up his sides fourth victory on a trot after a shock defeat to Victoria in the opener with a pulled four.

Before that Malik presented an unusual sight at the wicket, imposing a little suspension in the proceedings from purely pious intention as the call for prayer over the loudspeakers of the adjacent stadium filled the air.

Apart from an odd individual achievement and professed religious sentiment, the match that marked the resumption of the Navana league after a two-day unscheduled lay off had very little to offer by way of competition.

Fresh from their victory against Greater Mysenigh Cricket Club (GMCC) latest of

their three so far, Wari, after being put in a truncated 35-overs-a-side affair, lost way after a bright start.

After posting 42 off the first nine overs Wari could make only 13 off 13 overs with the match more than halfway through in the face of some tight bowling.

The match, which got off to a delayed start because of the wet ground conditions, caused by overnight rain was virtually decided at that point and although Pakistani Aamir Wasim took a good-looking

sixer off Mustadr, also a slow left arm — left with the dubious distinction of bowling the most expensive over conceding as many as 13 runs — and paceman Salahuddin (R) hoisted an unusually loose Rafiq for a towering sixer next over that fetched a dozen, the road to an easy victory for the fancied team was laid well and truly.

Azam Iqbal, one of Mustadr's three victims, was the topscorer in the Wari innings with a stonewalling 31 made off 84 balls.

Spinner Aamir Wasim's charge in the slog overs deposited 21 runs to his account while Salahuddin hammered a quick-fire 18 off 14 balls when the highly courteous cricket gave way to some heat produced by the lusty willow.

Although the Mohammedan bowling failed to make any impression, their fielding was

quite sharp as the first two Wari batsmen would testify.

Mustadr was the most successful bowler with a bag of three for 26. National cricketer Rafiq, took a bit of stick but still finished with two for 32 with his flattish slow left-arm bowling.

New-ball bowler Salahuddin cashed in on poor shots played by the Mohammedan openers to pick two early wickets and a little boost for Wari, who looked pretty down after being all out for 138.

Nadeem Younus, the tall Pakistani right hander who scored an aggressive 76 in the last match against Surja Tarun, was out for 18 after his partner Sajjad had gone for one.

Mohammedan lost another wicket in the form of one-drop Selim Shahed but Malik, though unconvincing, made 56 from 98 balls with the help of three boundaries and skipper Aminul Islam with 29 not out posted 141 for three in 32.1 overs for a very comfortable victory.

Salahuddin's two wickets cost him 38 runs from a stint of 6.1 overs while Aamir Wasim claimed one for 23 from seven overs.

The day's other Navana engagement billed for the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium between holders Abahani and lowly Gulshan Youth could not be held at all due to the poor ground condition.

Reid replaces Howarth

WELLINGTON, Jan 18: Former

Test batsman John F Reid was appointed New Zealand's interim cricket coach today with just four days to go before taking on the mighty West Indies, reports Reuter.

Reid, not to be confused with John R Reid, the former New Zealand captain and all rounder, was named a day after Geoff Howarth resigned.

Howarth quit under pressure after a poor showing in the recent series in South Africa and equally disappointing tours to England and Australia last year.

Reid said in a television interview he would bring a positive approach and set strong and severe standards to win the players' respect.

"I'm looking forward to making a contribution to the side and we're going to have a great summer," he said.

New Zealand Cricket chairman Peter McDermott said in a statement: "John has all the qualities we currently require and both the board and the team are looking forward to working with him."

Reid has been appointed for the rest of the 1994-95 season although McDermott said there was no reason why he should not remain in the job.

"We will advertise and consider applicants for the permanent post of coach over the next few months," McDermott said. "At this stage no one, including John, has been ruled out for the position."

Reid, 37, is currently executive director of Auckland Cricket Association and was

former director of coaching for Auckland.

He was a successful batsman for New Zealand from 1978 to 1985. A left hander, he played in 19 Tests, scoring 1296 runs at a very respectable average of 46.28.

He scored six Test centuries with a top score of 180 against Sri Lanka in Colombo

by two Tests.

Their crowded, centenary season also includes a quadrangular one-day tournament against India, Australia and South Africa, and a mini-series against Sri Lanka.

Acme Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Western Cricket Club and Rainbow Athletic Club registered victories in their respective Acme Second Division cricket league matches at different city venues yesterday.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Western raced to a comfortable eight-wicket win over Public Works Department (PWD) in a rain-reduced 25-overs-a-side affair.

Having restricted PWD to 109 for six in 25 overs, Western cricketers were given a flying start by the opening pair of Satinath Banik and Faiyaz, who put on 73 runs in 13.5 overs for the first wicket.

Although the two openers were eventually sent back to the dressing room, a Western triumph was never in doubt. In the end, the winners made 111 for two in 21.1 overs, well inside the revised quota.

A few blocks away at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, in another truncated encounter, Rainbow recorded a four-wicket victory over Cantonian Sporting Club.

On the western strip of the stadium, Ujjal Kumar Saha led the charge with an unbeaten 40 as Rainbow, chasing the Cantonian total of 138 in 30 overs, made 141 for six in 27.4 overs.



FATE ON THE MAKE: Lucky draw of the National Sports Council's (NSC) sixth raffle is being conducted. While the pretty faces put millions' luck in a whirlpool of blind fortune, enthusiasts and those who never stop hoping even if it is against hope itself throng at the NSC premises to know the outcome of the draw yesterday.

Srinath on way to Gloucester

LONDON, Jan 18: Indian Test bowler Jagavall Srinath will play for Gloucestershire this summer, the country's chief executive Philip August confirmed on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

"We received the contract today and will be looking forward to Srinath joining the club. He will add balance to the side," said August.

Gloucestershire decided to look for another overseas player when Australia batsman David Boon pulled out, and August said they were very pleased with their new signing.

"I think Srinath is a better bet than Boon," he said.

He is keen to play a country cricket and can bat as well as bowl.

He is not an out and out fast bowler, but should find English conditions helpful. However, his height should help him get some bounce out of hard pitches.

He should be accurate, being used to the flat pitches of India which offer little help to pace bowlers.

Stewart in, Udal out

MELBOURNE, Jan 18: England opening batsman Alec Stewart is on course to play in next week's fourth cricket

Test against Australia in Adelaide after giving his broken finger a gentle fitness test Wednesday, reports AP.

Off-spinner Shaun Udal, however, will leave Australia on Thursday, the victim of a muscle injury in his side that has not responded to treatment.

Vice-captain Stewart made an undefeated 48 during a social game at Sunbury, north of Melbourne, while Udal was consulting a local specialist.

"Shaun isn't making much progress and we've been told the injury will take four to six weeks to heal," England physiotherapist Dave Roberts said.

Udal will be the fourth England player to return home early from the Ashes tour. The others were Martin McCague (shin stress fracture), Craig White (thorn side muscle) and Darren Gough (foot stress fracture).

Udal injured himself while helping England to a World Series victory over Zimbabwe in Brisbane on Jan 7.

"I wanted to keep playing but now the pain-killers have worn off it's really quite sore," Udal said.

Stewart, meanwhile, now is ready for a more serious challenge on Friday when England begin a four-day game against the Victoria state team — the tourists last fixture before the fourth and fifth Tests.

England takes cue from Aussies

LONDON, Jan 18: National lottery funds could be used to fund an Australian-style national cricket academy, British Prime Minister John Major told the House of Commons here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

With Sports Minister Iain Spat flying out on Saturday to see Australia's training facilities, Major was cautious about whether such an establishment would be set up here.

Spat will Australia's sports training facilities, including their cricket academy in Adelaide.

Major, a keen cricket fan, was asked whether an academy was needed to shore up English cricket following disappointing performances in recent years.

"There is no reason at all, if a suitable project was put forward, why that couldn't be considered," using lottery funds, he told parliament.

Rhine Cup soccer

Sports Reporter

The Rhine Cup soccer, a friendly meet involving children, students and players from home and foreigners living in the country, will be held at the Banani Army Stadium on Friday.

The matches of the day-long meet sponsored by Rhine Garments will be played into two categories — half field and full field.

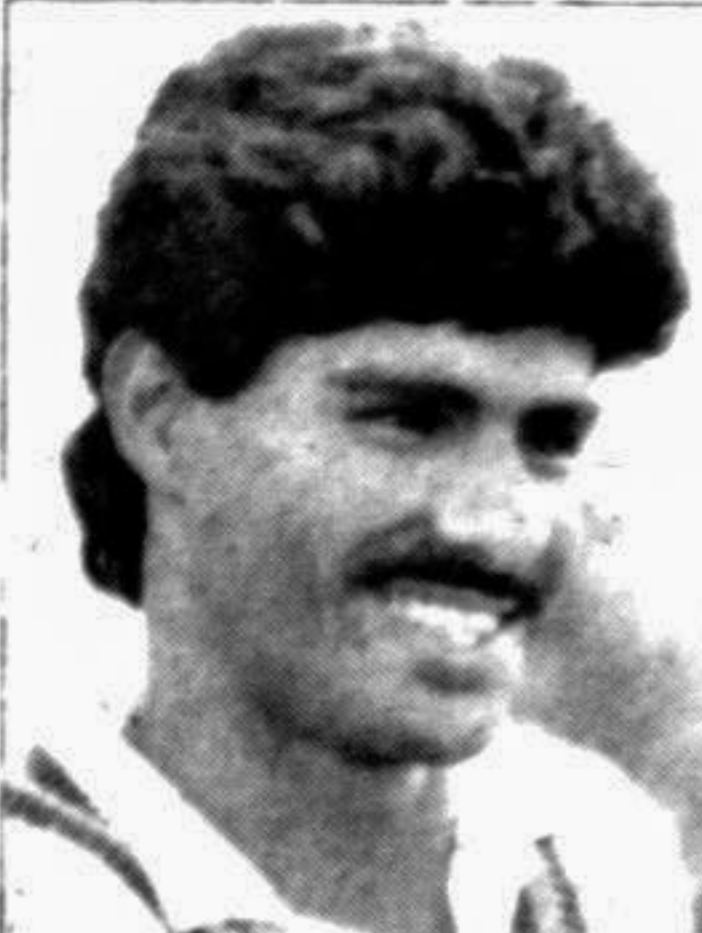
Pak-SA one-off Test at Johannesburg from today

Waqar, Donald may not play



JOHANNESBURG, Jan 18: Waqar Younis and Allan Donald, two of the world's outstanding fast bowlers from Pakistan and South Africa respectively, may miss the inaugural Test between the two teams starting on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Waqar aggravated a hamstring strain in the second



WAQAR YOUNIS Mandela Trophy final against South Africa last Thursday and did not practise with the team on Tuesday.

Pakistan manager Intikhab Alam said: "Waqar is very doubtful for the Test and I don't think he'll play."

Pace bowler Aamir Naazir has been flown from Pakistan as cover for Waqar, but is not expected to go straight into the Test team.

If Waqar is ruled out, his place in the pace attack is likely to go to either uncapped left armer Kabir Khan or

paceman Ata-ur-Rehman. Donald was included in South Africa's squad of 13 for the one-off Test at the Wanderers but is not certain to play. He missed the recent three-Test home series against New Zealand because he was recovering from a cyst on his right big toe suffered on last year's tour of England.

South African coach Bob Woolmer said on Tuesday: "Allan Donald will have to prove himself fully fit before he gets back his place in the Test side."

He hasn't played since August apart from two one-day matches so he's not match fit. If we play him it will be a gamble."

Woolmer admitted that if Donald did not play, fast bowler Steven Jack would, but that the two would not be part of an all-out pace attack.

"We will definitely play a spinner and three seamers, and Jack will play if Donald doesn't," said Woolmer.

That means left-arm spinner Clive Eksteen will get another chance despite proving ineffective in helpful conditions in the final Test against New Zealand in Cape Town.

Woolmer also said the number six batting position rested between Jonty Rhodes and Mike Rindel. The uncapped Rindel is averaging more than 50 in first-class cricket this season while the quicksilver Rhodes is averaging under 10.

But Rhodes' proven ability to score runs when they are most needed, together with his matchless fielding, should ensure that he retains his place.

Apart from the likely absence of Younis, Pakistan look set to name the team who lost the second Mandela Trophy final.

Both sides have been hampered in their preparations by heavy rain over the past week in Johannesburg, but the weather cleared up on Tuesday and is likely to remain fine for the duration of the Test.



ALLAN DONALD

TEAMS
SOUTH AFRICA (from): Gary Kirsten, Rudolf Steyn, John Commins, Hansie Cronje (captain), Daryll Cullinan, Jonty Rhodes, Mike Rindel, Brian McMillan, Dave Richardson, Clive Eksteen, Fanie de Villiers, Allan Donald, Steven Jack.
PAKISTAN (from): Saeed Anwar, Aamir Sohail, Asif Mujtaba, Inzamam-ul-haq, Salim Malik (Captain), Ijaz Ahmed, Rashid Latif, Wasim Akram, Akram Raza, Kabir Khan, Aaqib Javed, Ata-ur-Rehman, Waqar Younis.

New rules may be used in MLS



NEW YORK, Jan 18: A proposed series of rule changes to be used in Major League Soccer's inaugural 1996 season and intended to put more kick into the game were outlined by the league's chairman Alan Rothenberg on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

"We want entertaining, offensive oriented, not overly defensive play while still respecting the integrity of the game," Rothenberg said of the style of play requested by America's First Division in professional soccer league that is expected to start play next April with 10 teams.

Rothenberg, the president of the 1994 World Cup tournament hosted by the United States, made his comments at a news conference.

There are two rule modifications requested in a written petition to the US Soccer Federation and FIFA, the governing body of soccer in the world.

The first is giving the team the option of a kick-in or throw-in when the ball goes out of bounds along the sideline. The current rule only allows the ball to be thrown-in.

According to Rothenberg, allowing a team to kick the ball in would lead to more action around the goal and more

scoring chances. The second is stiffer penalties for encroachment on free-kicks by a defender.

A player under the new rule would automatically be hit with a yellow card, causing few instances of encroachment and more free-kick options, according to Rothenberg. The present rule allows the referee to award a yellow card to a player at his own discretion.

"These issues have been the subject of debate in bars, dens, living rooms and stadiums all over the world," Rothenberg said. "We are taking the debate and putting it on the field and see if it works."

The rules changes were tried out in a Third-Division league in the United States last year.

Rothenberg said he is confident FIFA will approve these changes.

"We are getting all the proper signals," Rothenberg said.

Rothenberg was, however, careful to stress the league's desire is not to make up their own game.

"It isn't like we are playing one brand of soccer and everywhere else in the world is playing another brand of soccer," he said.

"We like to be leaders, but a lot of it is going slowly enough that we don't get too far ahead of the pack."

A series of five more rule

changes that the league would like to continue testing this year in the Third-Division league were also presented in the petition.

Those are utilizing a 60-minute game clock with the clock stopped when the ball is out of play, sanctions for excessive team fouls, a larger goal size, more player substitutions and the elimination of off-side within the final defensive 35 yards.

"With the luxury of an extra year we wanted to do some more work on the especially the ones that could be considered a bit more radical," Rothenberg said.

Rothenberg understands that some rules, such as expanding the goal from its present 24 feet by 8 feet dimensions may never be accepted.

"Larger goals are going to be very controversial," he said. "If we were ever to propose that, I'm sure that we start a furor all over the world."

Rothenberg though knows that just changing the rules may not change the way soccer is played.

"I think the biggest thing of any of these is if you can change the mind set of players and coaches."

"If they get into a mind set of attack, attack then you have accomplished everything you wanted to accomplish."

A fearful revelation



WASHINGTON, Jan 18: The trial this week of former football star OJ Simpson for the grisly murder of his wife, Nicole, highlights domestic violence in the United States where a woman is battered every five seconds, reports AFP.

Each year between four million and six million women are punched, kicked, shoved against a wall, or pummeled by their abusers and 1,500 of those battered women die, according to the women's center here.

Domestic violence is the number one cause of injury to American women as it has been for decades, experts said, but the bloody end of a celebrity's wife after years of abuse has emboldened many women — and men — to seek help.

"I've never seen anything have such an impact on the national consciousness," Jan Jackson, director of the "House of Ruth" battered women's shelter in Baltimore, told AFP.

Shelters for battered women around the country reported a dramatic rise in the number of women coming forward to seek help in the months following the June 12 killing of 35-year-old Nicole Simpson.

If Judge Lance Ito allows the jury in "the trial of the century" to hear evidence of Simpson's domestic violence, the nation will get a graphic textbook picture of how domestic violence can escalate to deadly heights.

Abuse cuts across all ages and ethnic groups as well as income levels as evidenced by

Nicole, a rich and beautiful woman whose celebrity on the arm of OJ gave her entree into Hollywood's tight circles of money and glamour.

Nicole was found slashed so badly her head was nearly severed — the culmination, prosecutors say, of a pattern of years of physical and mental abuse at the hands of her husband.

She suffered a bruised neck, a split lip and blackened eyes in that attack. OJ Simpson pleaded no contest to battery.

She feared her husband and believed that even after 15 years together he would kill her and get away with it because nobody would believe such a beloved celebrity could do such a thing, according to her sister Denise Brown.

She apparently anticipated more violence and, perhaps, a deadly outcome.

When police opened a bank safety deposit box they found a cache of photographs of her battered body and letters of remorse from OJ Simpson that prosecutors say document her husband's abuse.

Experts say that the most dangerous time for a battered woman is when she tries to leave her abuser.

Friends and family say as Nicole Simpson tried to free herself from him and filed for divorce in February 1992 when he increasingly became more desperate and determined to stop her.

Therapist Susan Forward, author of the book "Men Who Hate Women And the Women Who Love Them," recalled that Nicole told her she was increasingly afraid of him.

Forward said Nicole Simpson told her that OJ Simpson had beaten her in the past hid in the bushes and watched her and phoned her as many as 30 times a day, threatening to kill her.

She said OJ had kicked in the back door of her town house and a man believed to be her husband can be heard in the background screaming obscenities at her.

It was not the first emergency call played relentlessly on the airwaves after her death she pleads with police for help.

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