

Pakistan 76 for two

HARARE, Jan 27: Pakistan were 76 for two in reply to the President's XI 301 for four declared at the close on the opening day of their three-day match on Friday, reports Reuter.

RU upset DU

Rajshahi University recorded a 37-run victory over favourites Dhaka University in the inter-university cricket championship at the BUET ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Sent in to bat, Rajshahi University were all out for 155 in the stipulated 40 overs with Babu top scoring with 66 and Tarek making 44 runs respectively.

Talha of Dhaka University captured four wickets giving away 24 runs while Shamsul and Rupu took two wickets each.

In reply, Dhaka University were bundled out for 118 in 36.2 overs with Nahid hitting 20 runs.

Azam Babu of Rajshahi claimed two wickets for 16.

Delta Life h'ball semis today

Fazilatunnessa Hall of Jahangirnagar University booked a semifinal berth in the Delta Life inter-college/hall women's handball tournament yesterday, reports UNB.

They finished four-all with Sher-e-Bangla Girls' College in the last group match at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex to reach the last four.

Earlier, Viharunnessa Noon College, Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University and Eden Girls' College confirmed their places from their respective groups.

Group A champions Viharunnessa Noon College will take on Eden Girls' College while Group B champions Shamsunnahar Hall will meet Fazilatunnessa Hall in the semi-finals today.

Ex-ACB chief passes away

SYDNEY, Jan 27: Former Australian Cricket Board chairman Fred Bennett died late Thursday, officials said Friday. He was 79, reports AP.

Bennett, who was ACB chairman from 1983-87, died in Sydney shortly after returning from a business trip to India.

He managed six Australian touring teams between 1969 and 1981.

Australian players donned black armbands during the lunch break at the fourth Ashes Test in Adelaide after hearing of Bennett's sudden death.

Bennett's tours as manager were Sri Lanka, India and South Africa in 1969-70, England in 1972, Canada and England in 1975, West Indies and Bermuda in 1978, Pakistan in 1980 and Sri Lanka and England in 1981.

He was an ACB delegate for 19 years and was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1978.

UCBSA extend Woolmer's services

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 27: Former England all-rounder Bob Woolmer has had his contract as South Africa's cricket coach extended by a year, reports Reuter.

Woolmer, the ex-Warwickshire coach who guided the county to an unprecedented three titles last season, was initially appointed by South Africa until the end of the 1996 World Cup in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

But United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) managing director Ali Bacher said on Thursday that Woolmer's contract would now run until the end of March 1997.

Bacher told a news conference: "The UCBSA is delighted with the significant contribution made to the success of our national team by Bob Woolmer."

"His style and thinking is refreshing, innovative and stimulating and, in our opinion, he is improving the cricketing skills of our national players."

Woolmer who steered South Africa to victory in the recent Mandela Trophy quadrangular series and then to a 2-1 Test series win over New Zealand, told Reuters on Thursday: "I'm very happy and thrilled with the news."

"I now have more time and leeway to put into action what I've already instituted with the team."

"However, there is still a way to go. Our batting needs more solidity," with people scoring big hundreds," he added.

Reflecting on his fortunes in the past year, Woolmer said: "In a sporting career, you have to celebrate the ups when they come. For me, the last 12 months of cricket, from March 1994 onwards, have been remarkably full of ups."

Hosts beat Kenya again

Sports Reporter



Batsmen made heavy weather of a simple situation before Bangladesh clinched the one-day series with a three-wicket victory against ICC Trophy runners-up Kenya at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The second successive victory for the hosts in two days came when Bangladesh posted 195 for seven wickets in 45.3 overs with twenty-seven legitimate deliveries of their stipulated quota of fifty overs to spare.

Enamul Haq, later adjudged the man-of-the-match for second day in a row following the first one on Thursday in Bangladesh's exciting two-run victory, remained unbeaten along with fellow southpaw Mohammad Rafiq when fate of the three-match series involving Kenya and the Bangladesh national team was sealed.

The last match is scheduled to be played on February 4 at the Dhaka Stadium.

Skipper Maurice Odumbe called the coin correctly in the morning yesterday and led from the front with a well-completed half century as the Kenyans recovered well from a cautious and sluggish start.

He scored 59 off 83 balls with the help of three fours and a sixer.

Kennedy Otieno was the other major run-getter with a solid looking 44 from 74 balls including five hits to the fence.

Paceman Tony Suji produced a quickfire 34-ball 31 and so did Steve Tikolo, so far the most consistent of the tourists, with 22 off 29 balls as the associate members of the ICC from Africa collected 194 for eight from 50 overs.

Left-arm paceman Anisur Rahman, the most successful among the local bowlers in the recent times, was the pick of the lot spending 31 runs from nine overs for his one wicket.

However, slow left armer Enamul Haq was statistically the most successful Bangladesh bowler claiming three wickets but took a bit of bashing giving away 55 runs from ten overs.

Bangladesh, who made two changes to the combination that played the first match with opener Jahangir Alam and one-drop Al-Shahriar giving way to Javed Omar and stumper Debashis Barua respectively, got off to a bright start in their quest for the second victory.

Experienced Athar Ali Khan and newcomer Javed put 59 runs for the first wicket in 15.3 overs before the latter was caught behind off slow left-armer Asif Karim for 23.

The tall Athar Ali became the second victim of the bowler for 34 with the addition of 20 runs but Minhazul Abedin, who along with Enamul dragged Bangladesh out of trouble only the other day, struck roots in tandem with Aminul Islam to add to the growing frustration of the visitors.

The nimble Amin, who was shapely well for a big innings, was the first of three mindless run outs to befall the otherwise well-organised chase but not before he had garnered 37, the eventual top score, made off 51 balls including a four and a sixer.

Akram Khan and Minhaz followed suit for 31 and 24 respectively but the vital arithmetic of run never lagged behind that of ball and Enamul remained unbeaten on 19 to pull off a win that was jeopardised only by sheer cal-

lousness and prodigality of the middle-order batsmen than by any extraordinary efforts of the success-lorn Kenyans.

Although the Dhaka Stadium is fated to have a day

Scoreboard table for Bangladesh vs Kenya match



Aminul Islam of Bangladesh fails to make his ground as Kenyan stumper Kennedy Otieno whips the balls off during the second one-day exhibition match at the Dhaka Stadium. Minhazul Abedin at the non-strikers' end is the helpless on-looker.

off today, the visitors will have no rest as they drive to Comilla to feature in a match against the Bangladesh A team.

Cricket returns to the Dhaka Stadium tomorrow with the Bangladesh youth team scheduled to take on the Hong Kong national team, due in the city today.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the second limited overs exhibition match between Kenya and Bangladesh at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

KENYA

Scoreboard table for Kenya batting

Result: Bangladesh won by three wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Enamul Haq (Bangladesh). Next match: Kenya vs Bangladesh A (Today at Comilla Stadium)

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard table for Bangladesh batting

250,000-peseta hare

BARCELONA, Jan 27: Spanish soccer champions Barcelona have been fined 250,000 pesetas (1,900 dollars) by the Catalan regional government after a club official killed a hare which ran across the pitch during a game, reports Reuter.

The fine was imposed under animal protection laws for an incident on March 12 last year when Barcelona were playing Atletico Madrid at Nou Camp Stadium.

The hare, apparently let loose by a spectator, raced onto the pitch, evaded the lunges of players, but was caught by an official who, in full view of 90,000 fans and millions of television viewers, killed it — with a rabbit punch.

BEXIMCO football final today

Comilla will take on Jessore in the final of the BEXIMCO national under-16 schools football tournament today at the Mirpur Stadium at 5:30 pm, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain will witness the final as the chief guest and distribute trophies.

Spurs await Klinsmann's return

LONDON, Jan 27: Tottenham were on Thursday confident that a hospital medical examination today will clear striker Juergen Klinsmann for English FA Cup action this weekend, reports Reuter.

The German international was carried off unconsciously after a frightening collision with goalkeeper Mark Bosnich in Tottenham's 1-0 defeat at Aston Villa on Wednesday.

But a statement from Spurs said: "Early indications are that Juergen has not suffered a break to either his jaw or nose as has been suggested."

He is resting today but he will visit hospital tomorrow for a general check-up as a precaution and he is expected to be fit for our FA Cup tie at Sunderland on Sunday.

Bosnich went to see Klinsmann at half-time after the striker had been treated in Villa's medical room.

Marseille VP suspended

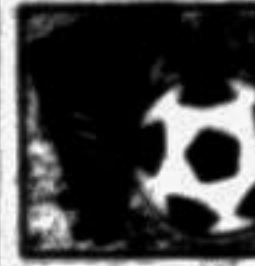
PARIS, Jan 27: Marseille vice-president Jean-Louis Leveau was suspended for one year by the French National Soccer League (LNF) on Thursday for criticising a referee, reports Reuter.

Leveau, who was a close aide to former club president Bernard Tapie, will be banned from any official function and from entering Marseille's dressing rooms, the LNF said.

It followed remarks he made after a Second Division match earlier this month between Marseille and Nancy was called off by the referee a few minutes before fulltime after clashes between police and supporters. Nancy were leading 2-0 at the time.

Leveau said in a television interview after the match the referee was a special envoy from national sports bodies to provoke the Marseille crowd.

Matthaeus may never return



MUNICH, Jan 27: Lohar Matthaeus, Bayern's most capped player, underwent surgery on Thursday for a career-threatening torn Achilles tendon, reports Reuter.

The 33-year-old Bayern Munich midfielder, whose lower left heel was injured during a friendly on Wednesday, was likely to be out of action for the rest of the season at least.

"That is a terrible blow for the national team," Germany coach Berti Vogts said. "I talked to Lohar when he was on the way to the operation and, of course, he is devastated."

"It is a complete tear. It happened without any outside interference. He is going to be out of action for several months. There are vital (European) qualifying games in that time."

Matthaeus, who has made 122 international appearances, suffered a serious knee injury in 1992 and was forced out of the game for six months. He missed the European Championship finals in Sweden later that year.

At such a late stage of his career, the veteran is unlikely to recover fully enough to resume top level soccer.

Matthaeus limped off after slipping awkwardly while jumping for the ball in the third minute of the game against regional league side Arminia Bielefeld.

Mental toughness will be a leading factor in any planned return, but the player known for his "never-say-die" attitude on the field, has a few things on his side in that area.

Many thought his career

had ended with the 1992 injury and he was sold by his Italian club Internazionale. But the German worked hard at his fitness and made a remarkable comeback at Bayern.

"I told him that he should set about recovering with the level."

The Bayern player will find it very difficult to regain his place in the national side, especially since Borussia Dortmund libero-midfielder Matthias Sammer has shown some superb form this season and has been threatening his place.

Sammer, 27, a former East German who has been playing in midfield for the national team, is the natural successor to Matthaeus as libero and captain.

Matthaeus latest injury dealt the second harsh setback to Bayern Munich in as many days. On Wednesday, Bayern's French striker Jean-Pierre Paus underwent knee surgery and will be out for about two months.

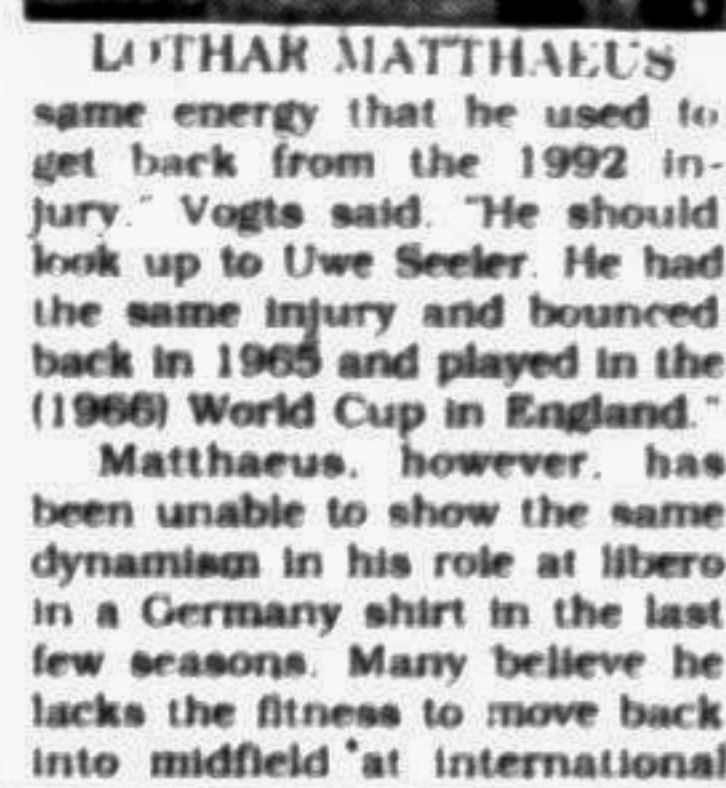
In addition, Bulgarian striker Emil Kostadinov, acquired by Bayern during the off-season, is recovering from groin surgery and also could miss some games. Goalkeeper Oliver Kahn has been out since knee surgery in November.

Bayern meet IFK Goteborg of Sweden in the Champions League quarterfinals March 1 and 15.

Matthaeus will miss the second half of the Bundesliga season, which resumes Feb 18 after their winter break. Bayern face an uphill battle to retain their title.

Describing how the injury occurred, Matthaeus said: "I stopped the ball with my chest and I wanted to give a pass. Suddenly, I felt like someone hit me in the left foot with an axe from behind."

Vogts will also need to make some changes ahead of important European qualifiers against Georgia, Wales and Bulgaria in the next five months.



LOTHAR MATTHAEUS same energy that he used to get back from the 1992 injury," Vogts said.

Cantona pays the price



MANCHESTER, Jan 27: Manchester United on Friday suspended French striker Eric Cantona until the end of the season for attacking a fan at Wednesday's game at Crystal Palace, reports AP.

The 28-year-old striker jumped into the crowd and aimed a two-footed kung-fu style kick at a 20-year-old Palace fan who had been taunting him after the Frenchman had been sent off.

Cantona then punched the fan before being restrained by officials.

Manchester United director Maurice Watkins announced the ban at a news conference Friday, a day after the English Football Association charged Cantona with bringing the game into disrepute.

Watkins also said United had fined Cantona "the maximum sum permissible" under his contract, although the club did not say what that figure was.

United's move came a day after Cantona was formally charged by the English Football Association for bringing the game into disrepute.

"What happened was a stain on our game," EA chief executive Graham Kelly said Thursday. "The Football Association believes the incident was unprecedented in our game. It brought shame on those involved and worst of all on the game itself."

Cantona, the French national team captain and English club player of the year last season, has 14 days to answer the FA's charge. His fate then will be decided at a hearing before an FA disciplinary committee, which also

will take into account the action already taken by United.

Meanwhile, the police continue their investigation into allegations of assault against Cantona. No charges have yet been made.

In scenes the FA said were unprecedented in English soccer, the fan, 20-year-old

"total rage" in Cantona's eyes. "His studs (cleats) were heading for my face. I turned away and one of his feet slammed into my chest. The studs hit me above the heart," Simmons was quoted as saying.

"Cantona kept coming back like he was possessed. He was swinging wild punches and I was trying to hit back in self-defence."

Simmons' friend, fellow Palace fan Michael Pickett, admitted that Simmons had run to the front of the stands from his seat 11 rows back to taunt the player. But what Simmons said "was not worse than what you hear at any football match."

World governing body FIFA also condemned Cantona's behaviour, but said that for now it would leave the matter in the hands of the FA.

It was the latest in a long line of Cantona tirades in France and England. Wednesday's red card was his fifth since joining Manchester United in 1992. He missed United's first four European Champions Cup games through suspension and served a three-match ban earlier this season for foul play in a pre-season exhibition game.

The presidents of the French Football Federation and the national soccer league have requested English soccer authorities to relay all information and evidence so they can take appropriate action. Federation president Claude Simonet indicated Cantona would be ousted as captain of the French national team.

"I am stupefied by such behaviour, which is contrary to all sporting ethics," Simonet said. "The French Football Federation will likely take draconian measures at the appropriate moment."

Interviewed by the Sun tabloid, Simmons said he saw



ERIC CANTONA

Matthew Simmons, and Cantona exchanged punches before the player's teammates intervened. As the Frenchman was led away, another fracas erupted between United midfielder Paul Ince and an unidentified 48-year-old spectator.

Scotland Yard said the two fans gave statements at a local police station alleging assault. Both suffered minor bruises.

There was speculation Friday that Simmons, who has a conviction for assault with intent to rob, also may face prosecution over what he said to Cantona to provoke the attack.

British law prohibits behaviour that is "threatening, abusive or insulting."

Interviewed by the Sun tabloid, Simmons said he saw

Gatting's gallant ton



ADELAIDE, Jan 27: Mike Gatting, who was in danger of being dropped because of poor form, struck his first Test century for more than seven years in the fourth Ashes Test against Australia today, reports Reuter.

Gatting, who scored a painstaking 117, guided England to 286 for three at one stage before their last seven wickets tumbled for 67 and they were all out for 353 on the second day at the Adelaide Oval.

Australia, who have already retained the Ashes by taking an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the five-Test series, were given a flying start to their reply.

Captain Mark Taylor hit an unbeaten 43 and fellow opener Michael Slater made 36 not out to spur Australia to 81 for no wicket off 22 overs at the close.

Fast bowler Craig McDermott had been instrumental in the England collapse, grabbing the wickets of all-rounder Chris Lewis, wicketkeeper Steve Rhodes and paceman Devon Malcolm.

McDermott, who shouldered an increased burden after swing bowler Damien Fleming left the field with a hamstring injury, finished with three for 66 from 41 overs.

overnight 196 for two, dominated the morning session in which England took their score to 279 for three at lunch.

Australia's solitary success was achieved by leg-spinner Shane Warne when he tempted Graham Thorpe (26) to edge a low catch to Taylor at slip.

Superb bowling by McDermott and Warne after lunch wrested the initiative from England.

Warne bowled John Crawley round his legs for 28 after he and Gatting had added 75 for the fourth-wicket.

Then McDermott, who produced a spell of two for 22 in 11 overs, had Rhodes caught by Taylor at slip for six and Lewis caught at square leg by Greg Blewett for 10.

Phillip DeFreitas then became leg-spinner Peter McIntyre's first Test victim when he miscued a drive to Blewett at cover to fall for 21.

Gatting, meanwhile, completed his 10th Test century and his first hundred for his country since he scored an unbeaten 150 against Pakistan at the Oval in 1987.

The former England captain, who had averaged a paltry 11 for his five previous innings in the series, spent 31 minutes making the run which took him to three figures.



UT YOU GO... Umpire Jahangir signals Bangladeshi opening batsman Athar Ali Khan's end of tenure at the wicket in response to confident appeal from bowler Arif Karim and keeper Kennedy Otieno. Athar Ali made 34 as Bangladesh successfully chased the Kenyan total of 194 for eight.