



ABAHANI'S JOY: Wicketkeeper Khaled Masud (left) and paceman Saiful Islam appeal successfully to the square-leg umpire (not in pic) as Biman's Indian all-rounder Sanjeev Sharma fails to make his ground to level the scores. Abahani thus won the crucial Navana league tie at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday by the barest of margins. — Star photo by Enamul Huq

Abahani's great escape act

Paceman Saiful Islam struck timely blows for Abahani Krira Chakra's dramatic one-run win over Bangladesh Biman when the two joint-holders of last year's championship clashed in the last league match of the Navana Premier cricket first round match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In a thrilling finish Biman, needing two runs off the last two balls with six wickets in hand, were undone when Saiful removed Shahnewaz Shanu with the penultimate delivery - trapping him leg before. The next ball, the last of the Biman innings, went past the new batsman Enamul Huq and into the safe gloves of wicketkeeper Khaled Masud and managed to hang on to return a one-run margin, enough to settle the score.

Non-striker Sanjeev Sharma, who had taken nine runs out of the 11 required in the last over from the first four deliveries of Saiful's final over, however, made a desperate attempt to tie the match by running for a non-existent ball but a neat throw from Khaled

Sher-e-Bangla Cup soccer Cox's Bazar moved into the next round of the Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football championships beating the hosts Naogaon 5-4 in the tie-breaker at the Naogaon Stadium yesterday. Bangladesh Football Federation sources said here, reports BSS.

Scores in the stipulated time ended goalless. Twelve teams, split into two groups, are taking part in the tournament on knock-out basis.

Mia Audina advances BIRMINGHAM, Mar 15: Mia Audina, Indonesia's precocious badminton talent, found the going tougher than she might have expected as she reached the All-England quarter-finals on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Local Government Engineering Department Netrakona. Invitation for Bids. Sealed tenders in duplicate are hereby invited for the constructions supply and installation of 5 Nos of steel pontoons in Netrakona Dist. at different places under IFAD-assisted Netrakona Integrated Agricultural Production and Water Management Project (NIAPWMP) from bonafide pontoon manufacturers.

Anand, Kamsky split points

LAS PALMAS, Canary Islands, Mar 16: American Gata Kamsky and Viswanathan Anand of India played to a draw Wednesday in the sixth game of the Professional Chess Association candidates final series, reports AP.

The two Grandmasters are even through six games with three points each. Players receive one point for a win and a half point for a draw. The first to reach 6.5 points in the 12-game series wins. Thursday is an off day.

The winner will play PCA world champion Gari Kasparov in a title match in Cologne, Germany, in September. Top-level chess split in 1993 when Kasparov walked out of the World Chess Federation, or FIDE, to create the PCA.

The game was the fifth of six to begin with the Ruy Lopez or Spanish opening. Anand forced Kamsky to concede a pawn, but Kamsky had a powerful knight that could travel while Anand's bishop was passively placed behind a wall of pawns on white squares. This made it very difficult for Anand to make progress. Eventually, he decided to accept a draw by repetition of moves.

The 20-year-old Kamsky, seeking to become the youngest world champion ever, admitted that his play was "kind of shaky" and attributed it to playing two high-level series back to back.

Kamsky defeated Valery Salov in January to earn the right to face Anatoly Karpov for the FIDE world championship. If Kamsky is victorious in both the PCA and the FIDE, he would become the undisputed world champion and the first American titleholder since Bobby Fischer.

Grobbelaar can play

SOUTHAMPTON, Mar 16: Southampton goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar was cleared Thursday to play this weekend following his release on bail after questioning over bribery allegations, reports AP.

The Football Association also said the two other Premier League players questioned in the case, Wimbledon goalkeeper Hans Segers and Aston Villa striker John Fashanu, could return to action.

"They are free to play," FA chief executive Graham Kelly said. "There are no powers under football rules that could prevent them playing... In this country people are innocent until proven otherwise."

Grobbelaar could be back in goal for Southampton's match at Nottingham Forest on Saturday, while Segers would be available for Wimbledon's game against Crystal Palace on the same day. Fashanu, however, is out for the rest of the season with a knee injury.

Becker, Stich in German Davis Cup squad

FRANKFURT, Mar 16: Both Boris Becker and Michael Stich, Germany's top tennis stars, were named Thursday by coach Niki Pille for the Davis Cup match, against the Netherlands later this month, reports AP.

Stich, Germany's No. 2, had earlier threatened to quit the team in a dispute with the German tennis federation over money.

The quarterfinal match is slated for March 31-April 2 in the Dutch city of Utrecht.

Simmons sizzles with willow at St Vincent

ARNOS VALE, St Vincent, Mar 16: Opener Phil Simmons thrashed the Australian attack for 86 runs on Wednesday to ensure victory for the West Indies in their fourth one-day match and an unbeatable 3-1 lead in the series, reports Reuter.

Simmons, who picked up four for 18 with the ball in last match, punished the wayward Australian bowlers from the first over of an innings, shortened to 46 overs because of a rain interruption and slow West Indies over rate.

West Indies passed their target of 206 with 17 balls to spare, finishing on 208-3 for a seven-wicket victory.

Having won the toss and decided to bat Australia had scored 210-9 from 48 overs with a 50-minute stoppage for rain at the Arnos Vale ground on the island of St Vincent.

Umpires Delroy Johnson and Lloyd Barker revised the target to 206 during the lunch break.

With a public holiday declared in St Vincent and the small ground filled to overflowing, Simmons and in-form Carl Hooper, who scored 60 not out, provided an afternoon of swashbuckling entertainment.

The touring team are troubled by a number of injuries and will anxiously await the arrival of replacement all-rounder Brendon Julian at the weekend to bolster their attack.

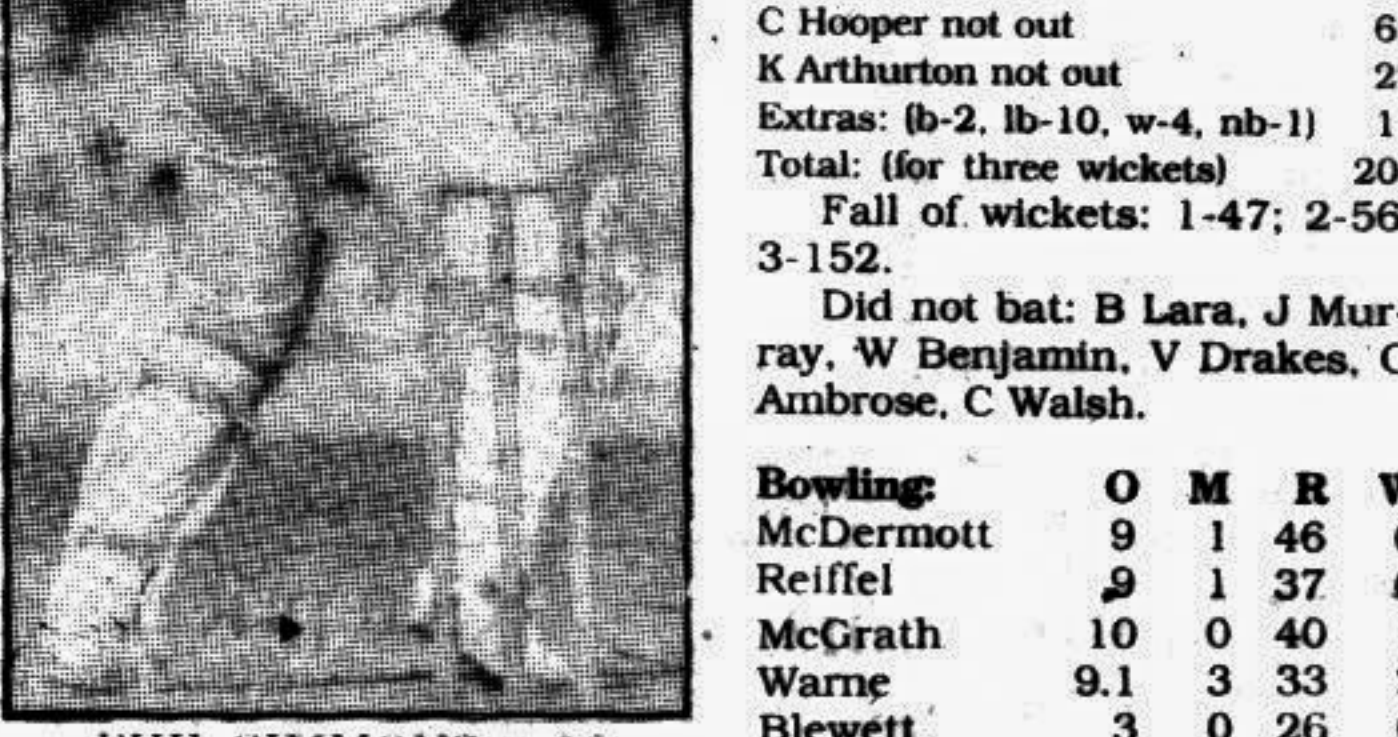
Neither Mark nor Steve Waugh were able to bowl on Wednesday because of injury, prompting captain Mark Taylor to give David Boon a chance to bowl three overs of his rarely sighted off spinners.

West Indies also drafted one of their batsmen into the bowling attack on a wicket which gave some assistance to spinners.

Table with 3 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes names like M Taylor, S Waugh, G Blewett, I Healy, P Reffel, S Warner, C McDermott, G McGrath.

Keith Arthurton picked up two wickets with his orthodox left armers but the bowling hero for West Indies was captain Courtney Walsh who bagged three for 30 and restricted the hungry Australian tail from piling on runs after the rain interruption.

Michael Slater contributed 68 to the Australian cause. The only other good news for the touring team was that



PHIL SIMMONS ... 86 leg spinner Shane Warne managed to avoid a fourth successive hiding from the flashing West Indies bats.

He finished with two for 33 from 9.1 overs. SCOREBOARD: Scoreboard of the fourth, limited-overs international between West Indies and Australia at the Arnos Vale ground on Wednesday: AUSTRALIA M Slater b Arthurton 68,

AC Milan march into Euro Cup semis with Bayern, Ajax, St Germain

LONDON, Mar 16: Holders AC Milan and French challengers Paris St Germain joined former champions Ajax Amsterdam and Bayern Munich in the semifinals of the European Cup on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Milan, cushioned by a 2-0 first leg advantage over Benfica, played out a 0-0 draw in the second leg of their quarter-final in Lisbon and stayed on course to win the trophy for the seventh time.

Paris St Germain, who drew 1-1 in their away first leg, went behind against last year's beaten finalists Barcelona but hit back to win 2-1 on the night and 3-2 overall.

Jose Maria Bakero scored four minutes into the second half for Barcelona, who were swamped 4-0 by Milan in last May's final in Athens when they finished runners-up for the third time.

But Brazilian Rai equalised in the 72nd minute and Vincent Guerin netted the winner seven minutes from the final whistle to secure a semifinal place for Paris St Germain, the only team to win all their six matches in the preceding Champion's League.

Ajax overwhelmed Hajduk Split 3-0 in Amsterdam with Nigerian striker Nwankwo Kanu heading them in front in the 39th minute and Dutch World Cup defender Frank de Boer adding further goals in the 43rd and 68th minutes.

Bayern, reduced to ten men when goalkeeper Seven Scheuer was sent off for fouling Mikael Martinsson outside the area in the 20th minute, squandered a two-goal lead in Gothenburg but hung on to qualify on the away-goals rule when the match ended 2-2.

Gothenburg had beaten Barcelona and Manchester United at home in a strong run in the Champion's League but could not take advantage of 10-

Bayern, Ajax, St Germain

man Bayern. Alexander Zickler claimed the first goal in the 63rd minute and Christian Nerlinger the second eight minutes later as the German champions appeared to be crashing into the last four.

Gothenburg reduced the arrears 15 minutes from the end through substitute Mats Lilienberg and Martinsson made it 2-2 on the night a minute into injury time.

But it was too late to deny a Bayern side goaded by club president Franz Beckenbauer, who had said after a dismal league draw with Duisburg at the weekend that their chances of winning the European Cup were 100,000 to 1.

Beckenbauer captained Bayern when they won the European Cup three times in succession from 1974 to 1976. Twice runners-up in the 1980s, they have yet to regain the heights they achieved in the Kaiser's playing heyday.

Ajax, who preceded Bayern as European champions in a three-season run from 1971 to 1973, dominated their match with Croatia's Hajduk Split from the start and wasted chances to win by an even greater margin.

"We scored lovely goals. We missed too many chances in the second half but I'd say we played a lovely game," Ajax coach Louis Van Gaal said.

Paris St Germain might also have scored a more clearcut victory, hitting the woodwork four times before they were finally rewarded against Barcelona. David Ginola, in brilliant form, struck the bar three times himself.

AC Milan, winners of the trophy twice in the 1960s and four times in the last six seasons, absorbed all Benfica's pressure and struck back in the second half when Marco Simone, who scored both first leg goals, and Zvonimir Boban each hit the post.

A shot from Benfica substitute Isaias Soares hit both posts in the 76th minute but the Milan defence cleared the danger and the Italians strode through to the last four.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. শেরেবালা নগর গণপুত্র বিভাগ-২, ঢাকা. দরপত্র আহবানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি. দরপত্র নং-২১১. ১) এতদ্বারা নিম্নলিখিত কাজের জন্য গণপুত্র অধিদপ্তরে লাইসেন্সধারী বিশেষ কর্মী প্রোগ্রাম/পনর প্রোগ্রামার/ফর্ম, গণপুত্র ঢাকা জেলায় ২য় প্রোগ্রামার/ফর্ম এবং ঢাকা গণপুত্র সার্কেল নং-৩ শেরেবালা নগর, ঢাকা ৩য় প্রোগ্রামার/ফর্ম এবং ঢাকা গণপুত্র সার্কেল নং-৪ শেরেবালা নগর, ঢাকা ৩য় প্রোগ্রামার/ফর্ম এর নিকট হইতে ২১১ নং বাংলাদেশ কর্মসূচী সীলস্বাক্ষরিত নামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে। উক্ত দরপত্র নিম্নলিখিতকরী অফিস এবং শেরেবালা নগর গণপুত্র বিভাগ-১/৩/মহানগরী এবং ইন্ডেন বিজি ডিভিশন, ঢাকা কর্তৃক আগামী ২০-৩-৯৫ইং দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং এদিনই ১২.১৫ ঘটিকার অধীর্ষ দরপত্রাদানের উপর্কিতিতে (যাহারা উপস্থিত থাকিতে ইচ্ছুক) খোলা হইবে। নামের উপরে কাজের নাম উল্লেখপূর্বক দরপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে। যে সকল প্রোগ্রামার/ফর্ম এর নিকট "জাট" সার্টিফিকেট নাই তাহাদের নিকট কোন দরপত্র বিক্রয় করা যাইবে না।



American Seth Van Neerden is in action during the finals of the 200-metre breaststroke at the 12th Pan-American Games in Argentina yesterday. Van Neerden won the gold medal with a time of 2:16.08. — AFP/UNB photo