

Beximco youth cricket

Three more in final round

Three more district teams — Comilla, Barisal and Satkhira — emerged zonal champions yesterday to book the last three final round berths of the 15th Beximco national youth cricket championship, reports UNB.

The eight-team final round with defending champions BKSP, runners-up Dhaka DSA and the six zonal champions will begin in the capital on April 5.

Earlier, Rajshahi, Pabna and Manikganj confirmed their places from their respective zones.

In a Zone-A final at Noakhali, Comilla DSA eliminated former champions Chittagong DSA by 39 runs.

Comilla: 165 all out in 41.5 overs. Hassan 32, Sumon 26, Nazrul 24, Nuruddin 4/25, Munna 2/32.

Chittagong: 126 all out in 39.3 overs. Tarek 32, Arif 16, Azim 10, Sujon 2/13, Hassan 2/14, Sumon 2/24.

In a Zone-C at Faridpur, Barisal DSA defeated Kusthia DSA by 14 runs in the final.

Barisal: 185 all out in 45 overs. Siddique 50, Ranak 4/36.

Kusthia: 171 all out in 41.3 overs. Nishan 43, Manju 5/38.

In the Zone-E final at Jessore, Satkhira DSA recorded a facile nine-wicket victory over Faridpur DSA.

Faridpur: 54 all out in 33.4 overs. Sohag 8, Baten 6, Tapu 4/6, Mukti 3/21.

Satkhira: 55 for one in 12 overs. Akhtarul 17, Kiran not out 14, Tapu unbeaten 13, Bappi 1/10.

SAARC Bristol Gold Cup on Star TV

The Star TV network's 24-hour sports channel Prime Sports has acquired live and exclusive satellite and cable broadcasting rights to the SAARC Bristol Gold Cup. Hosted by Prime Sports' Brian Langley and Dale Tempest, each match will be aired live or on a short delay and will be available in Mandarin, says a press release.

The tournament will feature some of the newer teams entering the international football scene, which hope to gain recognition and respect amongst the top footballing nations throughout the world. Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and India will fight it out on the pitches of Sri Lanka for the prestigious SAARC Gold Cup which take place every other year.

Date	Match	BST	Short delay
Mar 25	Pak v Bangladesh	8:30 PM	Live
Mar 26	Bangladesh v Nepal	8:30 PM	Live
Mar 27	Pak v Nepal	4:15 PM	Live
Mar 28	Sri Lanka v India	9:00 PM	Short delay
Mar 31	1st semifinal	8:00 PM	Short delay
Apr 1	2nd semifinal	3:00 PM	Short delay
Apr 2	Final	8:15 PM	Live

Lancer golf tomorrow

Sports Reporter

The Lancer golf tournament 1995 will be held tomorrow at the Kurmitola Golf Club course. As in previous years, a large number of leading golfers from home and abroad, including ladies, will take part in the day-long meet which tees off at seven in the morning.

The tournament, sponsored by the giant Japanese corporation Mitsubishi Motors and their local agents Rangs Ltd, offers attractive trophies and prizes.

Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, Managing Director of the Rangs Group, is the chief patron of the annual event.

Nat'l schools begins today

The Green Delta national schools table tennis tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation, begins at the wooden-floor Gymnasium here today, reports BSS.

Managing director of Greed Delta Insurance Company Limited Nasir Ahmed Chowdhury will inaugurate the tournament at 5 pm.

Twenty three school teams from the city and different districts will take part in the five-day event.

Seeds for French Open badminton named

PARIS, Mar 22: Denmark's Martin Lundgaard Hansen and Sweden's Margit Borg are the top seeds for the 1995 French Open badminton championships which start here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Both aim to keep the momentum set by compatriots at the prestigious All-England championships, the "Wimbledon" of badminton, in Birmingham, England, last week.

European champion Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen of Denmark unexpectedly beat title holder Heryanto Arbi of Indonesia 17-16, 15-6 in the men's singles final.



Abahani's middle-order batsman Akram Khan pulls Biman's paceman Pakistani Wasim Haider for one of his three massive sixes during their Navana Premier Division cricket super league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Abahani won by 55 runs. — Star photo

Akram, Anjum Abahani aces

Sports Reporter

Abahani's middle-order batsman Akram Khan crossed a big hurdle in their quest to retain the league title when they recorded a convincing 55-run win over Bangladesh Biman in a crucial Navana Premier Division super league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In a rather one-sided affair involving the two joint-champions of last year Abahani, sent into bat, compiled a huge total of 231 for eight in their 45 overs and then went on to bundle out Biman for 176 in 39.5 overs to earn their third successive win in the six-team super league.

The Abahani total was built around by a blistering 91 from Akram Khan and a polished half-century from opener Harunur Rashid Liton who together put on a vital 86 runs for the third wicket after the Dhaka outfit lost the first two wickets for only 25 runs.

On a docile wicket assisting the batsmen, the two played confidently before Liton departed for a patient 103-ball 65 inclusive of five fluent hits to the fence and two towering sixes.

After the fall of Liton, caught brilliantly by Indian all-rounder Sanjeev Sharma, Akram tore the Biman bowlers apart in his aggressive innings ensuring Abahani crossed the 200-mark.

The burly right-handed middle-order batsman, who was denied the three-figure milestone by only nine runs, hammered three fours and as

Romario gives Flamengo a fright

RIO DE JANEIRO, Mar 22: Brazil's World Cup hero Romario gave fans of his new club Flamengo a fright on Monday when he left the field crying with pain, after colliding with the opposing team's goalkeeper, reports Reuter.

Romario clashed with Uruguayan goalkeeper Leo of Rio side Bangu as the two players went for a high ball early on and the striker had to leave the field for treatment.

He later returned with his arm wrapped in heavy bandaging but in the 25th minute he was substituted and left the pitch in tears with the pain.

Tests at a nearby clinic, however, showed only heavy bruising to his left arm rather than the break at first feared, much to the relief of dozens of fans gathered in vigil outside.

many sixes in his 89-ball knock. The national skipper, who shared 44 runs for the fourth wicket with Pakistani World Cupper Iqbal Sikander and plundered another 38 runs off only 21 balls for the sixth wicket along with Minhazul Abedin Nannu, was eventually out in the 43rd over with the scoreboard reading 203.

Akram scored 16 runs off left-arm spinner Enamul Huq Moni from the first five deliveries which included a massive sixer over long-on before being caught at deep by Jahangir Talukdar Dulu while trying to force another one in the last ball of the over.

Iqbal Sikander, who scored a run-a-ball 27 and Nannu with 19 off 11 balls, were the other double-digit scorers for Abahani. Biman's new ball bowler Dulu and first change Indian Test discard Sanjeev Sharma were the only successful men with the leather, claiming two wickets apiece.

In reply, Biman made a disastrous start, losing their first three wickets for 53 runs in 17.2 overs before Shahnazwan Shau and Wasim Haider held the rocking boat together, sharing 83 runs for the fourth wicket.

But once the Pakistani Naveed Anjum was brought back into the attack Biman's hopes simply evaporated in the face of some accurate bowling aided by especially brilliant fielding from Abahani's young seamer Rakib Hasan Bappi, who took two magnificent catches.

Naveed Anjum, returning for his second spell in the 33rd over, made the vital breakthrough when the right-arm seamer clean bowled his Pakistani compatriot Wasim Haider for 36.

Japan gets the nod

MANILA, Mar 22: Toyota City in Japan will stage the first Asian mountain bike championship Oct. 28-29, the Asian Cycling Confederation said Monday, reports AP.

The decision came in a management meeting Sunday in Manila, said secretary-general Dato Darshan Singh Gill.

Dato Darshan also said the 17th Asian Cycling Championships will be held as scheduled in Manila April 23-May 2, 1995.

The mountain bike competition will be divided into downhill and cross country races for both men and women, with each member country allowed up to five men and three women riders for each event.

Bokhari new BCCP chairman

ISLAMABAD, Mar 22: Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah Bokhari was appointed chairman of the board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP), reports PTI.

Announcing the appointments for a three-year term, board president Farooq Ahmed Khan said Tuesday night that besides Bokhari, Arif Ali Khan Abassi would be the chief executive while Salman Taseer would be the treasurer.

Javed Burki, chairman of the just dissolved ad-hoc committee of the cricket control board, had been appointed adviser on cricket affairs with immediate effect and till further order, according to the official news agency, APP.

According to the announcement, the ad-hoc committee of the cricket board which had been constituted on January 12 last year would cease to hold office with immediate effect.

Meanwhile, the outgoing ad hoc committee, which held a meeting in Rawalpindi on Tuesday decided that Salim Malik must be considered innocent until proven guilty. The ban imposed on him by the committee has been removed and he is free to play cricket during the pendency of the inquiry.

Bhola eliminate Khulna

Bhola DSA moved to the semifinals of the 19th Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football championship upsetting Khulna DSA 1-0 at the Naogon Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Tutul scored the all-important goal for Bhola in the 83rd minute to seal defending champions Khulna's fate. Bhola will play the semi-final either between Nilphamari or Sylhet DSA who meet today.

Army b'ball

COMILLA, Mar 22: Four more robin league matches of the Army basketball championship were held at the Comilla Cantonment, reports BSS.

Utpal replaces Raju in Asia Cup squad

CALCUTTA, Mar 22: India's national selectors have named Bengal spinner Utpal Chatterjee in place of Venkatapathy Raju in the 14-member squad for the Asia Cup beginning early next month in Sharjah, reports PTI.

The team announced by the BCCI secretary, Jagmohan Dalmiya, late into Tuesday night, has only one change from the squad that was selected for the triangular century series in New Zealand recently.

Left-arm spinner Utpal Chatterjee, who has been knocking at the door of international cricket for some time now earned a place in the team for his consistent performance right through the season.

Following is the team Mohammad Azharuddin (capt), Sachin Tendulkar (v capt), Manoj Prabhakar, Navot Singh Sidhu, Vinod Kambli, Sanjay Manjrekar, Ajay Jadeja, Nayan Mongia, Javagal Srinath, Prashant Vaidya, Venkatesh Prasad, Anil Kumble, Aashish Kapoor and Utpal Chatterjee.



Indian all-rounder Sanjeev Sharma clings on to a one-handed catch that marked the departure of Abahani's opener Harunur Rashid Liton who scored a chanceless 65 in his side's 55-run win over Bangladesh Biman at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo by Enamul Huq

Dunedin Test drawn Lankans clinch the series

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, Mar 22: Sri Lanka won their first Test series abroad on Wednesday by drawing the second Test against New Zealand at Carisbrook on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Beaten by 241 runs in the first match of the two-Test series in Napier last week, the onus was on the Kiwis to make all the running here to end their miserable Test summer on a brighter note.

They failed to do that, and on the final day Sri Lanka battered New Zealand's ineffectual bowling to finish their second innings on 411, and overall lead of 337 runs.

New Zealand's Bryan Young then faced just one ball from Chaminda Vaas before a successful appeal against the light ended play and confirmed the inevitable draw that completed New Zealand's nightmare season.

The New Zealand played eight Tests this season, starting with the series in South Africa. They lost five, drew two and won only one.

That left Ken Rutherford in no doubt that his captaincy was now in jeopardy.

"I imagine New Zealand cricket will be thinking long and hard over who they want to see leading New Zealand next summer," Rutherford said.

Caretaker coach John Reid steps down at the end of the summer to resume his duties as chief executive of the Auckland Cricket Association. New Zealand cricket have advertised the troublesome position in New Zealand and abroad.

"I'd like to see it being a New Zealander, I think there is enough talent in the pool here, and I don't think there is a need to go outside the likes of (past internationals) Warren Lees and Glenn Turner who

Dunedin Test drawn

have shown interest," Rutherford said.

Rutherford, who missed most of the second Test because of a hand injury and is in doubt for the first one-day international, said he wasn't surprised by Sri Lanka's series win.

They beat us in 1992 and they've been very competitive in the series here," he said.

Sri Lanka resumed their second innings on the last day at 210-3 and by lunch Asanka Gurusinha, on 92 overnight, completed his sixth hundred before going on to make 127 while Hashan Tillekeratne recorded his second Test century with 108.

Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga said there was some thought to setting New Zealand a target of 250 in 50 overs but an ankle injury to pace-bowler Pramodya Wickremasinghe forced a rethink.

Ranatunga, who made 90 on the final day, was delighted with the series win.

"I have waited a long and hard 13 years for this. I am very pleased that it has finally come about," he said.

While he paid tribute to his team, Ranatunga singled out

all-rounder Vaas, who won man-of-the-match honours for his five-wicket haul in the New Zealand innings and his maiden half-century in the Sri Lanka first innings.

Scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the second Test between Sri Lanka and New Zealand at Carisbrook on Wednesday.

SRI LANKA: First innings 233

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 307 (B Young 84, S Fleming 66, D Patel 52; C Vaas 6 for 87)

SRI LANKA: Second innings

A Gurusinha b Su'a	127
D Samaraweera lbw b Su'a	5
S Ranatunga c Parore b Patel	23
A de Silva c Murray b Patel	13
H Tillekeratne c Murray b Patel	108
A Ranatunga c Parore b Larsen	90
C Dumusinghe c Fleming b Patel	11
C Vaas c Parore b Walmisley	3
P Wickremasinghe c Parore	
b Walmisley	9
M Muralidharan run out	7
R Pushpakumara not out	1
Extras (lb-6, lb-5, nb-3)	14
Total:	411

Fall of wickets: 1-11; 2-63; 3-81; 4-273; 5-295; 6-344; 7-355; 8-377; 9-405

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Walmisley	38	8	121	2
Patel	57	20	96	4
Su'a	26	3	97	2
Pringle	22	8	55	0
Larsen	25.4	14	31	1

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings

B Young not out 0
D Murray not out 0
Extras: 0
Total: (for no wicket) 0

Did not bat: M Greatbatch, K Rutherford, S Fleming, A Parore, G Larsen, D Patel, M Su'a, C Pringle, K Walmisley.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
C Vaas	0.1	0	0	0

Bad light ended play early. Result match drawn.

Series result: Sri Lanka win the series 1-0.

India Sr Challenger champs

CALCUTTA, Mar 22: India seniors scripted an emphatic 73-run victory over India-A to lift the India number one Challenger Trophy in a rather lop-sided final at the floodlit Eden Gardens here on Tuesday, reports PTI.

Chasing a target of 226 runs for an outright win, the India-A never really recovered from the early jolts to surrender quite tamely on a track which gave some assistance to the spinners. India-A managed 152 for seven in their allotted 50 overs.

Only southpaw Utpal Chatterjee (37 n.o.) and Robin Singh (29) provided a semblance of resistance as wickets tumbled with embarrassing ease in the face of some tight and intelligent bowling by the seniors.

Earlier, electing to bat first, Bombay stars Sachin Tendulkar (54) and Vinod Kambli (53) set the tempo with a rollicking 71-run second-wicket stand before a mesmerising spell by leg-spinner Sairaj Bahutule restricted the seniors to 225 all out in 47.3 overs.

Bahutule snapped up four wickets for 26 runs to trigger off a top-order collapse as the seniors lost five wickets in quick succession. But a defiant seventh-wicket partnership between Nayan Mongia (26) and Anil Kumble (21) helped them to cross the 200-mark.

The India-A run chase began on a sedate note as both openers Vikram Rathore and Sanjay Manjrekar were bogged down to a great extent by a tidy opening spell by Manoj Prabhakar and Javagal Srinath.

The first wicket pair stitched 27 cautious runs before Srinath struck the first blow evicting Rathore with a ball that moved away appreciably from a good length. Rathore went on the front foot for a drive but only succeeded in edging to keeper Nayan Mongia who made no mistake.

Srinath struck again in his very next ball getting rid of new man Rahul Dravid with Ajay Jadeja latching on to a bat-and-pad catch at short wicket to reduce India-A to 27 for two after the completion of ten overs.

Tenage batting sensation Amol Mazumder, who came to the middle after Dravid's dismissal, did not survive long as the seniors took control of the proceeding with three quick wickets.

Mazumder went for a suicidal run and paid the price as

Vinod Kambli collected the ball in a flash at mid on and knocked down the stumps.

The departure of skipper Sanjay Manjrekar came as a big jolt for India-A and all hope of an upset win evaporated with his dismissal.

The Bombay batsman, who struck a sparkling unbeaten 117 in the last match against India-B, could not find the same touch and hung around for 85 minutes for his six before leg-spinner Anil Kumble brought an end to his painstaking knock.

Manjrekar mistimed his cut to a turning ball from Kumble, who was introduced into the attack in the 13th over, but only succeeded in spooning a simple catch to Kambli at gully.

The two left handers Robin Singh and Sairaj Bahutule dropped anchors and tried to salvage the situation for India-A playing the spinners watchfully. But the asking rate kept climbing steeply.

The Indian seniors tightened the noose around their juniors' necks when Bengal speedster Prashant Vaidya, who worked up a tidy spell, evicted Bahutule inducing him to edge an outswinger to the gloves of Nayan Mongia. Bahutule managed just three runs off 20 balls.

Pan-Am Games

Mixed fortunes for Cubans

MAR DEL PLATA, Argentina, Mar 22: Cuba's dream of a boxing clean sweep collapsed at the Pan-American Games on Tuesday while US veteran Roger Kingdom, two-time Olympic champion, won the 110 hurdles after an agonising two hour wait for a judges' decision, reports Reuter.

Kingdom was first disqualified and then reinstated but despite his eventual win, it was the scanty recording of the Cuban national anthem which got the most airplay as the Caribbean island gained three more athletics golds.

Local organisers were asked to make the host nation's passionate sports fans quiet down but with Argentina expected to make the finals in both the men's and women's hockey, the soccer and the basketball, they could have a tough job on their hands.

The US are way ahead in the overall gold medals standings with 137, compared to Cuba's 63. The two nations are tied 4-4 in athletics.

Cuba's hopes of winning all 12 boxing golds, after taking 11 in the 1991 Havana Games, were shattered when welterweight Juan Hernandez, the defending Pan-Am Champion, was disqualified for punching opponent Hercules Kyvelos of Canada in the genitals.

Hernandez, the top ranked amateur boxer in the world in his category and firm favourite for a gold medal, was expected to make easy meat of Kyvelos

until taking a huge swipe which connected fully with his genitals.

The Canadian keeled over in agony and still had tears in his eyes when the referee raised his arm to declare him the winner.

Kingdom, 32, was also in agony for two hours after winning the 110 metres hurdles but then being disqualified

Madrid joins race for '97 World Championship

MONACO, Mar 22: Madrid is expected, to throw its hat into the ring to try and host the 1997 World Championships, International Amateur Athletic Federation president Priino Nebiolo said here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

He added that other official bids were also expected, saying: "In the wake of Mexico's painful withdrawal we are receiving some interesting offers. But I must stress that the post Mexico ferment is diverting attention not only in Europe but in other continents as well."

The president of Spain's National Sports Council, Rafael Cortes, has already publicly supported Madrid's candidature.

Mexico, the nominated hosts, pulled out earlier this month because of an economic crisis

after a judge said he had deliberately knocked down the ninth hurdle.

The US team appealed-and Kingdom suffered for the two hours the six-member jury took to reach a verdict. "I did not knock over a hurdle on purpose," he said.

Kingdom won the event in the 1984 and 1988 Olympics but since 1991 has been struggling to recover from knee surgery. He said he intends to quit with a gold at the Olympics in Atlanta next year.

Connie Price-Smith grabbed a second gold medal for the US in athletics on Tuesday, winning the women's shot put with a throw of 19.17 metres. But elsewhere the Cubans were in charge.

Aliuska Lopez won the women's 100 metres hurdles in 12.68 seconds. Emeterio Gonzalez was first in the men's javelin with a throw of 79.28 metres, a new Games record, and Niurka Montalvo won the women's long jump with a leap of 6.89 metres.

Graciela Mendoza of Mexico took the other gold, winning the women's 10kms walk in 46 minutes 1.93 seconds. Argentina's fans had little to cheer about, which at least relieved one problem for local organisers.

The Pan American Sports Organisation (PASO) said they had asked if the crowds could be called on the quieten down following the partisan atmosphere at some recent events.