

BCCB names 14 for Asia Cup

Sports Reporter Sajjad Ahmed Monsur Shipon and Habibul Bashar Sumon are the two new faces in the 14-man national team announced by the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) late last night to take part in the forthcoming fifth Asia Cup championship beginning in Sharjah on April 4.

Shipon, who plays for Mohammedan Sporting Club, will replace an out-of-form Jahangir Alam of Bangladesh Biman while Sumon piped to the post the burly Zakaria Imitiaz for the four-nation meet where Bangladesh is the only member sans Test status. India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are the other participants.

Akram Khan retained the captaincy. Aminul Islam Bulbul has been appointed his deputy.

THE SQUAD

Following is the full squad: Akram Khan (captain); Aminul Islam Bulbul (vice-captain); Minhazul Abedin Nannu, Athar Ali Khan, Enamul Haq Moni, Saiful Islam, Mohammed Rafique, Enamur Rahman, Khaled Masud Pilot, Hasibul Hossain Shanto, Naimur Rahman Durjoy, Habibul Bashar Sumon, Sajjad Ahmed Monsur Shipon and Mohammed Javed Omar Belim Golla.

The three stand-by players are: Zakaria Imitiaz, Debasish Baruah and Zaur Rashid Rupom.

The team will leave for the Emirates later this week.

Aussie batsmen run riot

CASTRIES, St Lucia, Mar 27: Australia, confronted by a hard, true pitch and mostly innocuous bowling from the West Indies Cricket Board of Control President's XI, set about preparing for Friday's first Test with a lively batting session here on Sunday, reports AFP.

Michael Slater, 90, and the Waugh twins Steve and Mark, who contributed 73 each, pushed the tourists to 322 for five when bad light stopped play with seven overs of the daily quota of 90 left to be bowled.

Skipper Mark Taylor and David Boon, the two most experienced batsmen, fell cheaply to leave Australia, 58 for two.

However, a century third-wicket stand between Slater and Mark Waugh and an unfinished sixth-wicket partnership of 96 between Steve Waugh and Ian Healy reconfirmed the strength of the batting.

Slater's 90 in 210 minutes off 136 balls contained nine fours and two sixes before he became the first of two wickets for leg-spinner Rajindra Dhanraj, the most impressive of the President's men.

Slater was stumped as he charged down the pitch to drive and missed the ball.

The other wicket for Dhanraj, in the West Indies squad for the first Test in Barbados on Friday, was that of Greg Blewett, lbw on the back-foot offering no stroke.

In between, the flamboyant Mark Waugh hit nine fours and three sixes before being run out on 73 by a brilliant piece of fielding by Shivnarine Chanderpaul.

Steve Waugh and Healy indulged themselves towards the end with an array of strokes to send the crowd and Roland Holder, the board captain, into a frenzy.

All but 37 of Waugh's unbeaten 73 came in boundaries and Healy's 42 not out has been spiced with five fours.

Rimarohdi, Rybkina French Open champs

PARIS, Mar 27: Unseeded George Rimarohdi and Elena Rybkina won the men's and women's singles titles at the French Open badminton championships here on Sunday despite little recent form on the international scene, reports AFP.

Unseeded Indonesian Rimarohdi beat European silver medalist and second seed Tomas Johansson of Sweden 10-15, 15-9, 15-11 in an hour and 10 minutes in his first senior international in Europe.

And Elena Rybkina, who had to compete in the qualifying event for her first round place, beat compatriot and second seed Marina Yakusheva 11-4, 11-1 in the women's final in only her second tournament after giving birth.

Rimarohdi, a former Indonesian junior runner up, surged back from a first set deficit as he varied his game to outwit the 25-year-old from Gothenburg club Frolunda.

Rimarohdi said afterwards: "It was a tough match, but I knew if I kept going I had a chance. When I got the netcord to go 13-11 ahead in the final game, I thought it was my day."

But Johansson was philosophical about the piece of luck which put him within two points of defeat.

Bangladesh live to fight

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh bounced back into contention with a 2-0 victory over Nepal in their last group league match of the Bristol SAARC Gold Cup football tournament at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

After a disappointing dis-

Lanka, placed in the other group, having made it to the last four without even playing a single match following the late withdrawal of the Maldives, the other semifinalist will be decided after the match between Pakistan and Nepal. That encounter will be held on

came his way via a back header from Mamun Joarder.

Rakib then gave Bangladesh an unassailable 2-0 lead at the breather with a spectacular header from a Mamun Joarder cross.

According to Star TV highlights monitored in Dhaka last night, the national booters were very positive from the outset, dominating the entire proceedings against their Sixth SAF Games conquerors and eventual champions. The Bangladeshis could have won by a more flattering margin had Mizan, Manik and Rakib not spoiled some easy chances.

The win brought double delight for Bangladesh who, with this crucial win not only confirmed a semifinal slot, but also took sweet revenge against Nepal, who had handed them a shock 1-0 defeat in the last SAF Games, held in Dhaka in 1993.

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play in their opening fixture against Pakistan, which Bangladesh lost by a solitary goal, the win now virtually assured them of a semifinal berth in the five-team meet.

Wednesday. In a one-sided affair, Bangladesh took the lead after only four minutes through striker Mizan, who tapped the ball home from close after a Rakib floater from the right

NZ win first one-dayer against SL

Rutherford rescues Kiwis

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Mar 27: New Zealand, buoyed by their best batting performance of the season, beat Sri Lanka by 33 runs in a one-day international at Lancaster Park today, reports Reuter.

Sent in to bat after Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga won the toss, New Zealand's middle-order helped compile a more than solid score of 271 for six.

They then bowled out Sri Lanka for 238 with two overs and a ball to spare in their most confident and relaxed performance of the season.

New Zealand were in early trouble at 28 for two when both opening batsmen were dismissed cheaply, but captain Ken Rutherford settled down to lead his side out of trouble with a fine innings of 65.

He and Stephen Fleming put on 94 for the third-wicket before Rutherford was dismissed with the score on 122. Rutherford's 18th one-day fifty took 90 minutes, came off 67 balls and included six boundaries.

Chris Cairns joined Fleming to maintain the momentum until Fleming was out for 46, by then Cairns, dropped in the gully by Aravinda de Silva when on one, had his eye in and proceeded to hit the Sri Lankan bowling attack around

the Park. Pushpakumara 10 0 53 2 Vaas 10 1 41 1 Gurusinha 4 0 19 0 Kalpage 8 0 54 0 Muralidharan 10 0 42 1 Jayantha Silva 8 0 55 0

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of Sunday's one-day international between Sri Lanka and New Zealand at Lancaster Park:

NEW ZEALAND

Mark Greatbatch b Pushpakumara 17 Bryan Young run out 3 Ken Rutherford c Gurusinha b Muralidharan 65 Stephen Fleming run out 46 Chris Cairns c S Ranatunga b Pushpakumara 72 Adam Parore b Vaas 23 Dipak Patel not out 23 Justin Vaughan not out 1

SRI LANKA

Asanka Gurusinha c Greatbatch b Vaughan 33 Sanath Jayasuriya c Greatbatch b Vaughan 46 Sanjeeva Ranatunga run out 11 De Silva c and b Vaughan 54 Arjuna Ranatunga run out 2 Hashan Tilakaratne c Young b Pringle 10 Ruwan Kalpage c Fleming b Vaughan 35 Chaminda Vaas run out 27 Muthiah Muralidharan c Parore b Cairns 8 Ravindra Pushpakumara c Patel b Cairns 3 Jayantha Silva not out 1 Extras: (f b-3, w-4, nb-1) 8 Total 238

Fall of wickets: 83, 96, 98, 105, 132, 193, 208, 228, 236, 238.

Bowling

Chris Pringle 9 1 47 1 Murphy Su'a 3 0 35 0 Chris Cairns 7.5 0 49 2 Justin Vaughan 10 1 33 4 Gavin Larsen 10 1 38 0 Dipak Patel 8 0 33 0

Overs: 47.5 Result: New Zealand won by 33 runs.

New Zealand leads three-match series 1-0.

Man-of-the-match: Ken Rutherford.

Bowling: O M R W

Extras: (f b-2, nb-1, b-5, w-5) 13 Total: 271 for six wickets. Fall of wickets: 5, 28, 122, 177, 235, 265.

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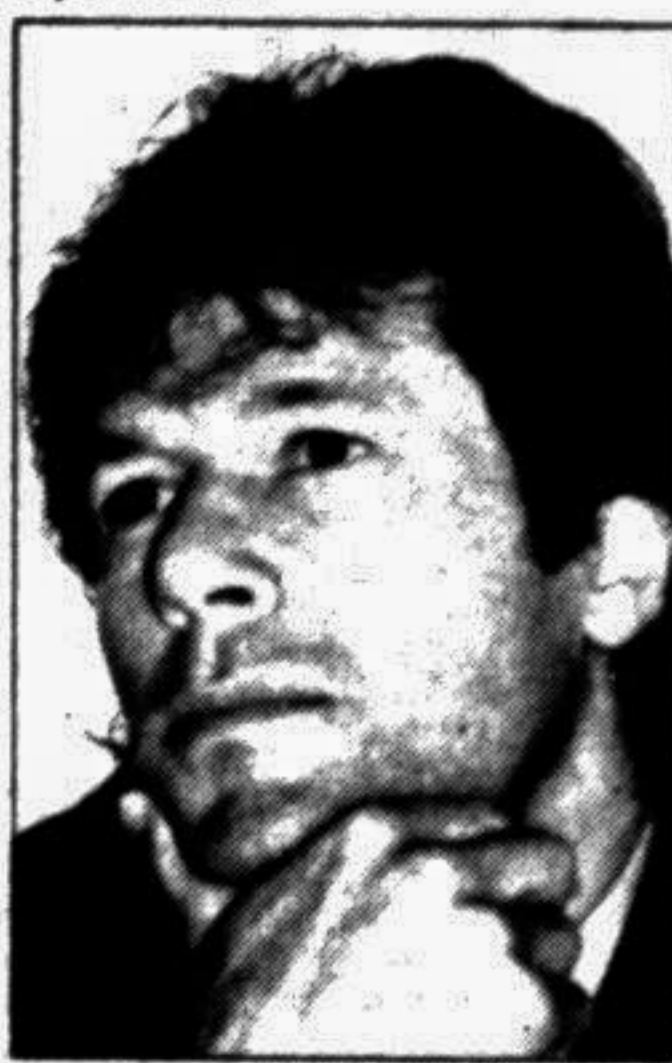
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Imran may play in '96 World Cup

ISLAMABAD, Mar 27: Cricket hero Imran Khan is considering coming out of retirement for the game for the 1996 World Cup, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported Sunday, reports AFP.



IMRAN KHAN

"I think with the sort of crisis facing our cricket, I should seriously consider returning to the game," APP quoted him saying.

Khan, 42, told the agency he was considering playing in the World Cup which will be jointly held by Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka.

He retired from the game after leading Pakistan to victory in the 1992 World Cup in Australia to devote his time to raising money for a cancer hospital he has built in Lahore.

His public statements and articles in recent months on politics and national affairs sparked speculation that the former cricketer was contemplating launching himself into the national political arena.

But, he denied any political ambitions, while vowing to form a pressure group to serve as a check against political and administrative ills.

Cantona not for sale

MANCHESTER, Mar 27: Manchester United is not considering selling controversial French striker Eric Cantona to Inter Milan, a club official said Monday, reports AP.

The Italian club is reportedly prepared to pay up to 5.5 million pounds (dhs 8.8 million) for Cantona, who has been banned from the sport until next October for attacking a Crystal Palace fan at Selhurst Park on Jan 25.

Cantona was also sentenced to two weeks in jail for the incident, but is free on bail pending an appeal on Friday.

United chairman and chief executive Martin Edwards is apparently determined that Cantona will be staying at Old Trafford.

"We have received a fax from Inter Milan — just one of many from them," assistant secretary Ken Ramsden said. "But our chairman's position is quite clear. He is not giving them any encouragement at all."

The club's comment followed a report in the Daily Mirror that United was prepared to enter into talks with Inter, backed by multi-millionaire Massimo Moratti.

"We want Cantona," Moratti was quoted as saying. "We have invited their chairman Martin Edwards to discuss the situation."

Reports said Moratti also was interested in signing United midfielder Paul Ince, who pleaded innocent to charges of assaulting another fan in the confusion that followed Cantona's kung-fu-style attack on Matthew Simmons.

The Mirror said Edwards had ruled out selling Ince.

SA ready to stage '96 African Nations' Cup final

JOHANNESBURG, Mar 27: South Africa is ready to host next year's African Nations' Cup final, the continent's top soccer official said, reports Reuter.

Confederation of African Football president Issa Hayatou completed a week-long inspection tour of the venues for next January's event which will involve 16 teams.

South Africa stepped in as hosts tournament after Kenya withdrew last November.

"The facilities are all in place and the stadiums are superb. It is as good as France has planned for the 1998 World Cup," Hayatou said after his visit to stadia in Bloemfontein, Durban, Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth.

Johannesburg's soccer city will host the final on February 3, Hayatou said.

The other venues are the Free State Rugby Stadium in Bloemfontein, King's Park Rugby Stadium in Durban and the Boet Erasmus Stadium in Port Elizabeth.

All three have been refurbished and upgraded as venues for the Rugby Union World Cup to be played in May and June.

MSC rise like a phoenix

Sports Reporter

skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul with an unbeaten half-century helped Mohammedan

Sporting Club turn agony into ecstasy by beating their arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra by just one wicket in a spills and thrills Navana Premier Division cricket super league match at the Dhaka Stadium on Independence Day.

In a high-scoring match involving the two most popular outfits of the country, Bulbul remained unbeaten on a rapid-fire 75 off only 58 balls at the kill as Mohammedans, chasing an awe-inspiring Abahani total of 260 in the stipulated 45 overs, posted 264 for eight with three balls to spare.

The dark right-handed middle-order bat, who was dropped at 20 by Iqbal Sikander at long-leg, accepted his second chance with an otherwise flawless innings to guide Mohammedans to an improbable victory.

the middle of the crease and kissed it with great glee before preparing for the late afternoon heroics.

After the fall of Selim Shahed, Khaled Mahmud Sujon joined his skipper to produce 69 runs for the sixth-wicket, Mohammedans as crossed the 200-mark in 36 overs. The ever-agile Sujon chipped in with a 31-ball 30.

An unorthodox Mohammed Rafique then wielded his ball for a swift 14 off only nine balls before being trapped leg before off Mona, leaving the Mohammedans total at 224 for eight in 38.4 overs.

The high voltage drama then appeared to take a decisive turn when Mona removed Mohammedans' wicketkeeper Nasir Ahmed Nasu with the addition of only eight runs.

But Bulbul, who kept his cool at the crucial moment, found a willing partner in Hasibul Hossain Shanto with whom he shared 22 runs off only 16 balls before the young

batsmen contributed useful scores.

Opener Harunur Rashid Liton, who shared 55 runs for the second-wicket with Iqbal Sikander, scored a patient 43 off 70 balls while the tall Pakistani was the top scorer in the Abahani innings with 48.

The burly Akram Khan and a reliable Minhazul Abedin Nannu made 29 and 36 respectively before the lower order set the field afire in the slog overs.

Naimur Rahman Durjoy, who was dropped by Praveen Amre at mid-wicket when on six, remained unbeaten on a hurricane 43 off only 19 balls as Abahani reached an imposing total.

Durjoy, along with Saiful Islam, plundered 45 runs off only 17-balls for the undefeated seventh-wicket. He hammered seven sparkling boundaries and executed one big six in his pyrotechnic innings while paceman Saiful, who has lately earned quite a reputation with the bat, hit the biggest sixer of the season when he pulled Nadeem Younus over mid-wicket that landed in the western gallery.

Left-arm spinner Rafique was the most successful bowler with two for 50 in his nine overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of Sunday's Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra Navana Premier super league match at the Dhaka Stadium.

ABAHANI

Harunur Rashid Liton c Sajjad Ahmed Shupon b Aminul Islam Bulbul 43 Khaled Masud Pilot c Nasir Ahmed Nasu b Morshed Ali Khan Sumon 9 Iqbal Sikander run out 48 Akram Khan st Nasir Ahmed Nasu b Md Rafique 29 Minhazul Abedin Nannu st Nasir Ahmed Nasu b Md Rafique 36 Naveed Anjum lbw b Hasibul Hossain Shanto 16 Naimur Rahman Durjoy not out 43 Saiful Islam not out 22 Extras: (b-2, lb-7, nb-2, wb-3) 14 Total: (for six wickets in 45 overs) 260

Did not bat: Gazi Ashraf Lipu, Rakib Hassan, Jewel Hossain.

Fall of wickets: 1-30; 2-85; 3-118; 4-156; 5-185; 6-215.

Bowling

Hasibul Hossain 7 1 41 1 Morshed Ali 6 0 27 1 Selim Shahed 5 0 27 0 Khaled Mahmud 6 0 36 0 Md Rafique 9 0 50 2 Nadeem Younus 8 0 51 0 Aminul Islam 4 0 19 1

MOHAMMEDAN

Nadeem Younus c Khaled Masud b Naveed Anjum 9 Nurul Abedin Nobel run out 4 Sajjad Ahmed Shupon c Iqbal Sikander b Jewel Hossain Mona 46 Praveen Amre b Naveed Anjum 0 Selim Shahed run out 41 Aminul Islam Bulbul not out 75 Khaled Mahmud Sujon c Harunur Rashid b Naveed Anjum 30 Md Rafique lbw b Jewel Hossain Mona 14 Nasir Ahmed Nasu c Gazi Ashraf Lipu b Jewel Hossain 2 Hasibul Hossain Shanto lbw b Iqbal Sikander 13 Morshed Ali Khan Sumon not out 7 Extras: (b-5, lb-12, wb-6) 23 Total: (for nine wickets in 44.3 overs) 264

Fall of wickets: 1-7; 2-16; 3-16; 4-86; 5-138; 6-207; 7-224; 8-232; 9-254.

Bowling

Naveed Anjum 9 1 37 3 Rakib Hassan Bappi 7 1 24 0 Saiful Islam 7 0 40 0 Jewel Hossain 7 0 35 3 Naimur Rashid 4 0 28 0 Iqbal Sikander 8.3 0 66 1 Minhazul Abedin 2 0 17 0

Result: Mohammedan won by one wicket.

Marinos' third in a row

TOKYO, Mar 25: Argentine striker Biscanti scored the game's only goal early in the first half as the Yokohama Marinos beat the Yokohama Fluxels 1-0 Saturday in the Japanese League match, reports AP.



Jubilant Mohammedan players and officials celebrate an improbable victory over their arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra along with Morshed Ali Khan (C) who cracked the winning shot in the last over.

Advertisement for 'যমুনা বহুমুখী সেতু কর্তৃপক্ষ' (Jomuna Bhomukhi Setu Kirtipokh) featuring a bridge and text about a competition.