

Nadeem's ton powers MSC

Sports Reporter



Nadeem: You is hammered his second century in the league to guide Mohammedan Sporting Club to a thumping eight wicket win over their first phase conqueror Victoria Sporing in the last match of the six-team super league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The win left Mohammedans to finish at par atop the table along with their arch-rivals Abahani Kriya Chakra on completion of this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league, both collecting 26 points from their sixteen league engagements.

The right handed Pakistani opener, who had earlier scored a brilliant unbeaten 108 against Brothers Union, made the most of a depleted Victoria attack for yet another unbeaten 114 as Mohammedans, chasing

a modest Victoria total of 179, posted the required 180 for the loss of only two wickets and with more than 14 overs to spare in the 45-over-a-side match.

Nadeem's ton is the sixth in the league while the other century makers are — Abahani's Naimur Rahman Durjoy (132 not out), Indian Arun Lal of Gulshan Youth (100), Mehmood Hamid of GCC (105) and Habibul Bashar Sunon of Bangladesh Biman (105 not out).

The well-built Lahore cricketer, who plays for Allied Bank in the Pakistan domestic cricket, shared an undefeated 92 runs for the third wicket along with his skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul to propel Mohammedans to their fifth consecutive victory in the super league.

Nadeem, who reached the

three figure mark with a boundary off spinner Ekramul Islam Lulu in the 29th over, cracked 11 powerful hits to the fence and a huge sixer in his 99-ball knock.

Bulbul scored a patient 28 off 35 balls while Sajjad Ahmed Monsur Shipon chipped in with 26.

Earlier, sent into bat Victoria who beat Mohammedans by four wickets in their first phase engagement, scored 179 for five in the stipulated 45 overs with their young opener Mehrab Hossain Opi contributing a sedate 53 off 100 balls.

Hasanuzzaman Rinku with 33 and hard hitter Iqbal with an unbeaten 28 were the other notable run-getters for the losers.

Mohammedans young left-arm spinner Mustadir Litu took two wickets for 37 runs in his seven overs.

No play off!

Sports Reporter

The two giants of the local sports circuit — Mohammedan and Abahani — expressed their reluctance to involve in a championship deciding play-off match scheduled to be held at the Dhaka Stadium today.

With the organisers, the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) all set to decide a lone champion of this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league and brought two umpires from India last night to officiate the crucial match, the surprise decision came after officials of both the clubs jointly made a written plea expressing their inability to play the match.

They further requested the league committee to declare them joint-champions terming the play-off 'as an extra load' for the players after such a gruelling league campaign.

Changes to SL Asia Cup squad

COLOMBO, Mar 30: Sri Lanka have made several changes in their team for four-nation Asia Cup cricket tournament to be played at Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates next month, reports AP.

Veteran opener Roshan Mahanama returns to the side after missing the New Zealand tour because of injury. But batsmen Sanjeeva Ranatunge and Chaminda Mendis have been dropped, the Sri Lankan Cricket board said Thursday.

Kumar Dharmasena, who bowls off-cutters, and medium-pacer Champaka Ramanayake have been brought in place of spinner Jayantha Silva and medium-pacer Ravindra Pushpakumara.

SQUAD

Arjuna Ranatunge (captain), Aravinda De Silva (vice-captain), Roshan Mahanama, Asanka Gursinghe, Hashan Tillakaratne, Sanath Jayasuriya, Ruwan Kalpage, Chaminda Vaas, Chamara Dunusinghe, Kumar Dharmasena, Champaka Ramanayake, Muthiah Muralitharan, Dulip Samaraweera, Jayantha Ganage.

Surrey sure Waqar will play

LONDON, Mar 30: Surrey are still optimistic that Pakistan fast bowler Waqar Younis will be fit to play for them this season, their director of cricket said here Wednesday.

Waqar, who has taken 232 Test wickets at an average of 18.9 since arriving at The Oval in 1990, has been suffering from a back injury.

But he is flying to England for hospital tests and the country are hoping he will be available this summer.

Director of cricket Mike Edwards said: "Waqar will be flying in sometime during the next 10 days. He will be seen by a specialist."

"What we have heard about the extent and gravity of the injury is inconclusive, so he is coming over here to have a further examination."

Surrey were without Waqar's services in 1992 when Pakistan were on tour.

Then last year injury and another tour, which cut into the latter end of the English season, forced the county to decide to take on Cameron Cuffy instead.

Biman tennis from today

The Biman inter-club tennis championships, organised by Dhaka Club, begins at the club courts today, reports BSS.

Tournament director Habibur Rahman at a news conference said twenty-four teams are expected to take part in the knock-out tournament.

The teams are: Gulshan Club, Dhaka Club blue and white, Officers' Club, Engineers' Club, Dhaka Cantonment Officers' Club, Federation of United Nations Staff Associations (FUNSA), Manikganj Tennis Club, Ramna Tennis Complex Club, Agrabad Officers' Tennis-Squash Complex, Patuakhali Tennis Club, Police Officers' Tennis Club, Jessore Club, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Community Centre, Dhaka University Club, Satkhira District Sports Association, Myensingh Club, Rajshahi Tennis Complex, Natore Tennis Club, Narayanganj Club, Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre, Chittagong Club, Meherpur Club and Naogaon Club.

Each team will have five players including a playing captain to play one singles and two doubles.

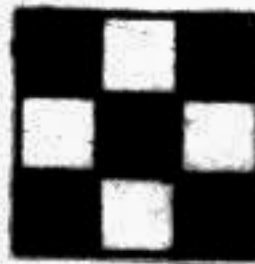
The tournament would be a 32-draw meet with the top eight teams getting first round bye.

Bangladesh Biman, as sponsors, will provide Taka three lakh and some complementary air tickets to the winners.

Industries Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan, who is also the president of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation, will inaugurate the tournament at 4 pm.

Nipa new national champ

Sports Reporter



Shabana Parveen Nipa clinched the 16th national women's championship title when she drew

her last round engagement against Afshana Parveen Nira on the concluding day at the National Sports Council (NSC) chess room yesterday.

The BTMC player, who needed only a draw to reach the highest seven and a half points in the nine-round Swiss league meet, got the required half a point when her younger sister Nira agreed to a draw after only 15 moves.

It was Nipa's second championship title after she won the meet way back in 1989.

Meanwhile, Nipa's nearest contenders last year's champion Tanima Parveen and Afroza Khanom Babli both won their last round matches to finish with seven points each, leaving the second slot undecided.

But as runner-up of the meet will also take part in the Zonal chess championship to be held in India next month, Tanima and Babli will have to engage in a play-off match to decide who joins Nipa for the international meet.

Biman's Tanima playing with black pieces broke through Sajeda Begum Daisy's Rui Lopez opening to win the match after 46 moves while Babli's French defence proved too hard to penetrate for Ferdousi Sultana Muni, who resigned after 56 moves.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champion
1979	Rani Hamid
1980	Rani Hamid
1981	Rani Hamid
1982	Rani Hamid
1983	Rani Hamid
1984	Rani Hamid
1985	Yasmin Begum
1986	Yasmin Begum
1987	Not held
1988	Rani Hamid
1989	Shabana Parveen Nipa
1990	Zakia Sultana
1991	Tanima Parveen
1992	Rani Hamid
1993	Zakia Sultana
1994	Tanima Parveen
1995	Shabana Parveen Nipa



Newly crowned national women's champion Shabana Parveen Nipa is in action against her younger sister Afshana Parveen Nira on the final day of the 16th national championship at the NSC chess room yesterday.

—Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Independence Day basketball final today

Sports Reporter

The final of the Independence Day basketball tournament '95 between Angels Club and Bangladesh Biman will be held today at the Dhamondi basketball gymnasium at 4 pm.

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

Kiwis aim for clean sweep

AUCKLAND, Mar 30: Lifted by victories in the opening two matches of the series, New Zealand will be looking for a clean sweep when they face Sri Lanka in the final limited-overs cricket international at Eden Park on Saturday, reports AP.

New Zealand captain Ken Rutherford said Thursday that the match provides squad members with a further chance to press claims for next year's World Cup, which will be played in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

"The whole crux of the one-day series against Sri Lanka was to try players who might be viewed for selection for the World Cup," Rutherford said.

"The current series is an ideal opportunity for players like Nathan Astle and Justin Vaughan to put their names to the forefront of the selectors' thoughts."

Both Astle and Vaughan done just that, the former scoring a superb 95 in Wednesday's match and Vaughan picking up four for 33 in the series-opener last Sunday in Christchurch.

New Zealand have clinched the series despite the absence of injured pace bowlers Danny Morrison, Dion Nash and Simon Doull and key batsman Martin Crowe.

"The problems we've had with injuries keep cropping up with the same individuals," Rutherford said.

"There's no reason to suggest the majority of the personnel we're using now won't be utilized next year. It's a matter of the individuals concerned giving the selectors no option but to pick them."

Powerful batsman Mark Greatbatch is the latest injury worry for the New Zealanders. He missed Wednesday's match with back spasms and is a doubtful starter for Saturday's game.

Brazil, Honduras draw friendly

RIO DE JANEIRO, Mar 30: World champions Brazil were held to a 1-1 draw at home by lowly Honduras in a friendly played in near impossible conditions on a severely waterlogged pitch, reports Reuter.

A young Brazil side, with striker Viola the only Remnant of last year's World Cup-winning team, were frustrated by a non-stop downpour that turned the pitch at the Serra Dorurada Stadium in Golanima into a lake.

Honduras, thrashed 8-2 by Brazil in a pre-World Cup warm-up last year, scored a shock opener after 15 minutes of home side pressure when Presley Carson got past central defenders Gelson and Argel to hit home from 15 yards.

It took Brazil nearly half an hour to find a way through the puddles and Honduras' massed defence.

Army basketball

COMILLA, Mar 30: Rangpur area team clinched the title of the basketball championship of the Bangladesh Army which concluded at the Comilla Cantonment yesterday, reports BSS.

Navy b'ball

The annual basketball championship of the Bangladesh Navy concluded at the sailors' Colony playground at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

Inter-varsity basketball

By JU Correspondent

Hosts Jahangirnagar and Dhaka Universities won their respective matches of the inter-varsity basketball championship at the central gymnasium of the Jahangir Nagar University yesterday.

In the first match of the day, Dhaka University recorded a 91-64 points win over Chittagong University with Imon notching highest 27 points for the eventual winners.

Jahangirnagar finished top from Group B when they beat Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) with a comfortable 90-51 margin in the other billing of the day.

Rinku caged 30 points for the winners followed by Khaled, Michael and Liton who scored 16, 12 and 12 points respectively.

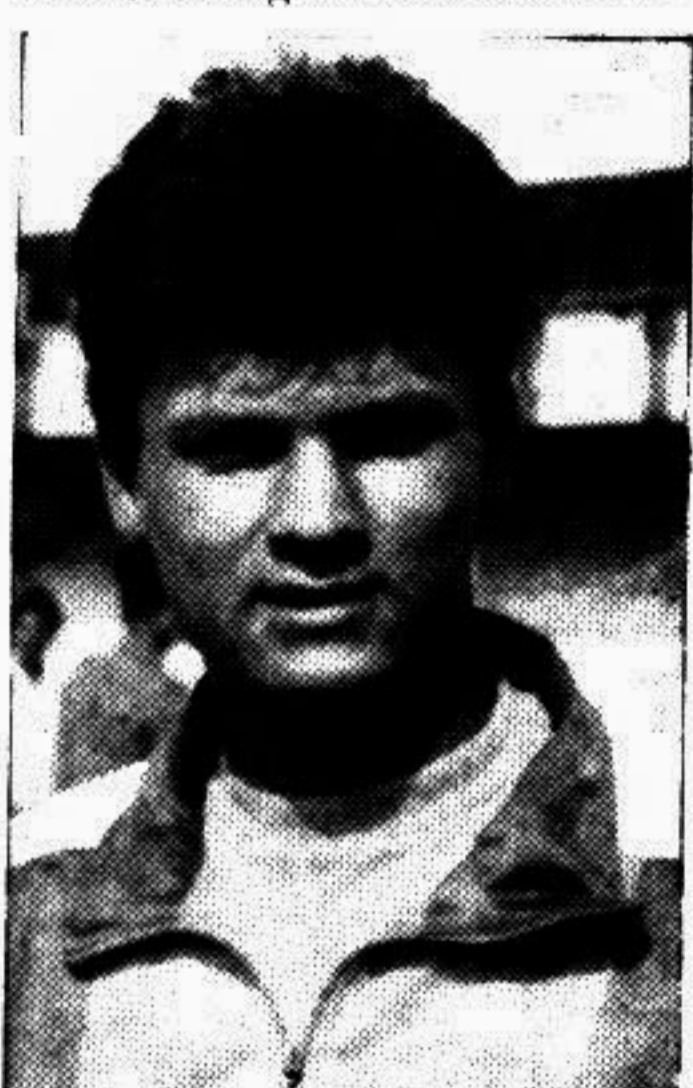
Waqar, Basit, Latif axed

Moin replaces Malik



LAHORE, Mar 30: Wicketkeeper Moin Khan has been named the new captain of the Pakistan cricket team, replacing Salim Malik who lost his post amid recent allegations of match-fixing, reports AP.

English-language daily. "Negative attitudes have been exhibited by some of the players during the last three years. Now it is high time to take ac-



MOIN KHAN

tion." Abbasi did not mention any players by name. However, in an apparent reference to Malik, he said players "who had consistently exhibited undesirable attitude and behaviour should not be considered for selection. I am happy the selection committee did the job very well."

Malik was suspended March 7 while cricket officials investigated reports that he was linked to attempts to fix matches. The suspension was lifted March 20 and the cricket board has not produced any evidence implicating Malik, but his cricketing future remains uncertain.

Three Australian players claim they were offered bribes to lose matches while touring Pakistan in October and November. They did not name Malik as the person who offered bribes, but Australian newspapers said he was the man in question.

WI-Aussie first Test begins today Simpson knows the score



BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Mar 30: Australia minus key strike bowler Craig McDermott and his new ball partner Damien Fleming face an uphill struggle to win their first ever Test at Kensington Oval starting on Friday, reports Reuter.

Both pacemen have gone home early with injuries, placing a tremendous load on the shoulders of wrist-spinner Shana Warne as the Australians seek to dethrone the unofficial world champions in their four-Test series.

Australia endured a forgettable buildup to the first Test, going down 4-1 in the one-day international series and then losing two days of their match against a President's XI in St Lucia to rain.

"We've had a few disappointments but that's history and we would have liked some more time in the middle, but that's the way it goes," said coach Bob Simpson.

Simpson said McDermott's replacement, 34-year-old fellow Queenslander Carl Rackemann, would not be considered for selection until the second Test.

But he defended his inexperienced pace trio of Brendon Julian, Paul Reiffel and Glenn McGrath, who will come up against the equally untried West Indian openers Sherwin Campbell and Stuart Williams.

"I thought the three pace boys bowled very well in St Lucia. They were all impressive," Simpson said.

The Australian bowlers will need to be at their best against a formidable West Indian batting lineup.

Brian Lara and Carl Hooper dominated the one-day series. Jimmy Adams is ranked as the world number one at the moment and captain Richie Richardson showed the benefits of a break from the game due to severe fatigue with three centuries in the Red Stripe Cup.

In addition they have Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh to open the bowling, a pair with more than 400 Test wickets between them.

Simpson better than anyone knows how difficult it will be for the visitors to become the first team to win a series in the West Indies since 1933.

Chappell's Australians in 1973. He was captain of losing teams in the Caribbean in 1965 and 1979 and was coach of the teams who lost in the West Indies in 1991 and at home in 1992-93.

POSSIBLE TEAMS

WEST INDIES: Sherwin Campbell, Stuart Williams, Richie Richardson (captain), Brian Lara, Carl Hooper, Jimmy Adams, Junior Murray, Winston Benjamin, Kenny Benjamin, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh.

AUSTRALIA: Mark Taylor (captain), Michael Slater, Mark Waugh, David Boon, Greg Blewett, Steve Waugh, Ian Healy, Paul Reiffel, Brendon Julian, Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath.

Sabatini exits

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina, Mar 30: World number one Arantxa Sanchez Vicario struggled in her clay season debut Wednesday, rallying to beat Romania's Ruxandra Dragomir 3-6, 6-1, 6-3 at the Family Circle Cup, reports AFP.

The Spanish star won the final five games of the second-round match to eliminate the world's 64th-ranked player in the \$86,250-dollar event.

Third-seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, a two-time winner here, was ousted by France's Lea Ghirardi 3-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3. Sabatini struggled with a sore ankle.



Raisuddin Ahmed, vice-president Biman Sports and Cultural committee addresses newsmen at the Dhaka Club yesterday in connection with the Biman inter club tennis championship '96 that gets underway at the Dhaka Club Tennis Complex courts today. — Star photo

Euro Championship qualifiers Italians get act together



KIEV, Mar 30: Italy got their European Championship campaign back on track with a 2-0 win in

Ukraine on Wednesday — their second win in five days, report agencies.

Attilio Lombardo and Gianfranco Zola scored in the 11th and 37th minutes for victory, leaving them second in Group Four — three points behind Croatia.

Coach Arrigo Sacchi reshuffled the side and made six changes from Saturday's starting 11 who beat Estonia 4-1 at home.

Away in Georgia, Germany's Juergen Klinsmann celebrated his call-up as skipper to score both goals in a 2-0 European Championship victory over Georgia.

Germany maintained their 100 per cent record from four matches to stay just behind Group Seven leaders Bulgaria on goal difference.

Tottenham Hotspurs' 31-year-old striker rallied a side without Achilles-tendon victim and usual skipper Lothar Matthaeus and playmaker Matthias Sammer. Klinsmann headed home from a Mario Basler corner on the right in the 24th minute to set the on their way. Just before the break, he added another after shooting on the turn following a superb counter-attacking run by Borussia Moenchengladbach's Heiko Herrlich.

In Rotterdam, the Netherlands maintained their drive for a place in next year's Euro-

pean Championship finals in England when they beat Malta 4-0 in their Group Five qualifier.

After five matches the Netherlands are second with 11 points and a 14-1 goal difference.

Norway, who beat Luxembourg 2-0 on Wednesday, top the group with 13 points from five games.

In Tel Aviv, goalkeeper Bernard Lama blocked Tottenham striker Ronny Rosenthal's last-minute shot helping France to draw 0-0 with Israel in a Group One qualifying match.

The French, playing without banned striker Eric Cantona and injured forward Jean-Pierre Papin, dominated the second half but failed to avenge their 3-2 World Cup qualifying loss in 1993.

In the Bulgarian capital Sofia, the World Cup semifinalists beat Wales 3-1 on to stay top of their qualifying group ahead of Germany on goal difference.

Krasimir Balakov celebrated his 29th birthday with the first goal in the 37th minute and Lyuboslav Penev added two more in the second half to secure Bulgaria's fourth win in four Group Seven matches.

In Bucharest, Romania stretched their lead at the top of Group One when they came from behind to beat Poland 2-1.

Romania, who reached the World Cup quarter-finals last year, stayed on course for a place in the European Championship finals with a 44th

minute goal from Florin Raducioiu and an own goal 11 minutes later by Polish goalkeeper Josef Wnadcic.

Poland, who ended the match with 10 men after Waldemar Jaskulski was sent off in the 72nd minute for a second booking, had taken the lead with a penalty by Andrzej Juskowiak just two minutes before Raducioiu's goal.

In Istanbul, a 75th minute goal by midfielder Sergen Asik gave Turkey an upset 2-1 victory over Sweden in a Group Three qualifying game.

The first half ended 1-0 in favour of the Swedes, after defender Patrik Andersson scored a penalty goal in the 22nd minute.

The equaliser came in the 64th minute when striker Emre Asik shot the ball into the Swedish net from close range. Midfielder Sergen Asik made it 2-1 in the 75th minute with a shot from slightly further out.

It was the first soccer match in 44 years between Sweden and Turkey. The teams played two friendly games in 1951, in which Turkey lost 3-1 and won 1-0 respectively.

In Dublin, Northern Ireland held Ireland to a one-all draw at a European Championship Group Six qualifier.

Northern Ireland, who have a record of two wins, one draw and two losses, have an outside chance of qualifying for the next year's finals in England, while Ireland, with a record of three wins against one draw,



Germany's Juergen Klinsmann struggles with Gorgi Tshichardse (C) and Dimitri Kudimov during a European Championship qualifier in Tbilisi on Mar 29. Klinsmann scored both goals in Germany's 2-0 win. —AFPUNB photo