

Bangladesh have a long way to go

Pakistan complete rout

SHARJAH, Apr 8: Pakistan decimated non-Test playing Bangladesh by six wickets in the fifth Asia Cup cricket tournament Saturday...

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Pakistan beat India by 97 runs Friday and await the outcome of the India-Sri Lanka encounter on Sunday to determine who plays in next Friday's final.

Wasim Akram and Inzamam-ul-Haq, who played a big part in the victory over India, again tore apart the Bangladesh attack and ended the match with a total of 152 runs for the loss of four wickets in just 29.4 overs.

They were replying to Bangladesh's score of 151 for 8.

After Aamer Sohail had blitzed, through with six boundaries to score 30 runs in 29 balls, paceman Saiful Islam tempted the opener to loft a short-pitched delivery to Naimur Rahman Durjoy, who made no mistake at square-leg.

Saeed Anwar (18) and Ghulam Ali (38) followed, both helping Pakistan to 106.

Inzamam steadied the innings with 29 runs in 34 balls, but not before seeing Asif Mujtaba being bowled for a duck by Athar Ali.

Wasim Akram came on after the fall of Mujtaba's wicket and pulverized the opposition, slamming 30 runs in 23 balls, including three boundaries and two sixes.

Earlier, a fifth-wicket partnership of 72 runs was the only redeeming factor of the Bangladesh team, who lost four wickets in 10.3 overs for just 19 runs.

Khalid Masud Pilot struck an unbeaten 27 to help Bangladesh complete their full quota of 50 overs.

BSS adds: Bangladesh lost to India by nine wickets in the inaugural encounter and to Sri Lanka by 107 runs in their next match on April 6.

Skipper Akram Khan, who aggregated the highest 92 from three matches among the Bangladesh expressed disappointment in both his side's batting and fielding.

He said, "We could have done little better, but we miserably failed to discharge our responsibilities in all respects."

The Bangladesh team included eight new faces and they all need more experience and big-match temperament, he felt.

Cricket's "Little Master" Sunil Gavaskar told BSS immediately after today's match that Bangladesh's young cricketers should develop their fielding vastly along with the other aspects of their game.

"They lack a lot regarding running between the wickets and unless they improve all these things, cricket in Bangladesh will not go up," he said.

ACOG caught off guard

ATLANTA, Apr 8: Olympic organizers and state officials say they were caught off guard by complaints that international travel agents had been quoted exorbitant prices for hotel rooms in Atlanta for the 1996 Summer Games, reports AP.

"That this is raising its ugly head is something we need to find out about," said Rick Layton, hotel executive for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games. "It reflects on all of us."

Carolyn Mills, a spokeswoman for the Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs, said no reports of price gouging have been filed.

The Legislature last year outlawed price gouging during the 1996 Games. Hotel owners, tour operators and wholesalers are allowed to charge up to 5.7 percent more than their published 1994 room rates.

But four agents representing the national Olympic committees of the Bahamas, United Kingdom, Estonia, Argentina and other countries said the rates have been much higher. The agents were in Atlanta for an Olympic travel and tourism trade show, which concluded Friday.

The foreign tour agents said the rates quoted came from local real estate companies or tour operators — not the hotel operators themselves.

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Pakistan team manager Salim Altaf said, although Pakistan have won the match, Bangladesh also played well. He said the Bangladesh bowlers managed to send back four leading Pakistani batsmen to the pavilion with just 107 runs on the board.

"Bangladesh should play more international matches against superior teams abroad, which is very much essential for raising the standard of cricketers from countries like Bangladesh," he said.

Chasing a target of 152 to win, Pakistan played only 29.4 overs to wrap up the victory, before a handful crowd at the stadium.

Once again Bangladesh plunged into deep crisis, losing their first four wickets for just 19 runs. But the experienced Aminul Islam Bulbul and skipper Akram Khan defied the pressure to produce 72 runs to ensure some sort of respectability before Bulbul was caught and bowled by Arshad Khan for 42, which was studied with four boundaries.

Akram Khan scored a patient 44 which included three boundaries. Khalid Masud Pilot batted well to remain not out on 27.

Wasim Akram improved his record as the highest wicket-taker in one-day internationals by taking another two to increase his tally to 272 from 188 matches. He got Athar Ali Khan caught behind and bowled Habibul Bashar Sumon for a duck.

India's Kapil Dev is the second highest wicket-taker in one-dayers with 251 scalps.

Athar who received some advice from the World famous English cricketer Geoff Boycott just before the match, again failed to dazzle and was out for only two runs after playing 16 balls.

Aamir Nazir bowled the other opener Javed Omar Belim Golla for nirie. Nazir, with the third ball of the same over had Minhazul Abedin Nannu caught behind for nought.

Nannu had made 21 against India and 26 against Sri Lanka. Aminul Islam Bulbul was the second most successful batsman for Bangladesh in the

meet scoring 72 runs from the three games.

Aamir Nazir took two wickets for 23 while Arshad Khan got one for 29.

Aaqub Javed, who destroyed India with five for 19 Friday conceded 29 runs without getting a wicket in his 10 overs.

With today's match, Bangladesh have played 12 one-day internationals, losing all of them.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Bangladesh-Pakistan match in the Asia Cup cricket championship at the Sharjah Stadium here today.

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Australia 168 for 6 at Antigua

Sports Reporter

Australia were 168 for six wickets at tea on the opening day of their second cricket Test against the West Indies at St Johns, Antigua yesterday, according to radio reports monitored in Dhaka late last night.

Brendon Julian with 13 and Greg Blewett with 11 were at the crease.

Earlier, Windies skipper Richie Richardson won the toss and put the tourists in to bat.

But the Australians were off to a relatively good start. Skipper Mark Taylor and Michael Slater put on 82 before the stand was broken, almost at the stroke of lunch, when Curtley Ambrose got the wicket of Taylor. He made 37.

Between lunch and tea, however, the other three bowlers in the Windies pace quartet — Courtenay Walsh, Winston Benjamin and Kenneth Benjamin, made serious inroads by claiming another five wickets among them. The damage was done by the experienced Walsh who picked up three wickets in the session, including those of David Boon (21) and Slater who made 41, till then the highest score. Steve Waugh made 16.

The Australians lost two wickets, the fourth and the fifth, at the same total of 126. The sixth wicket fell at 152.

Winston and Kenneth Benjamin picked up one wicket each to put the Australians who emphatically won the first Test in Barbados last week on the defensive.

Nirman schools tournament

Sohel stars for N'ganj High

Sports Reporter

An excellent all-round performance by Sohail Hossain Pappu helped Narayanganj High School record a 22-run win against Dhaka Residential Model School in one of the four 13th Nirman schools cricket tournament matches played at different city venues yesterday.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket ground, Sohail hammered 72 runs in Narayanganj's total of 188 all out after they won the toss and elected to use the wicket.

The same player was in the thick of things when he used his seven economical overs to capture three for 18 as Residential Model's innings folded at 166.

Asifur with 37, and Fazoleh with 33 were the main contributors of the losers.

At the Dhaka Stadium, Scholastica beat Rajarampur Hamidullah High School of Nawabganj by six wickets.

Send-in to bat after losing the toss, the Nawabganj outfit were bowled out for 148.

Nasirul held the innings together with 38.

Scholastica comfortably reached 150 for the loss of four wickets.

In an exciting match played at the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Nasirabad High School of Chittagong won by the slimmest margin against Mymensingh Zilla School.

Batting first after calling the coin correctly, the Chittagongian school made 145.

Shafadar Ali contributed 47 valuable runs to their low total.

SALEK AND MOSTAK scoring 36 and 30 respectively powered the Tangail outfit to 234 all out when put in to bat.

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Pakistan's Inzamamul Haq sweeps the ball during the Asia Cup cricket match against arch-rivals India at the Sharjah Stadium on April 7. Inzamam top-scored with 88 as Pakistan won by 97 runs.

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WASIM AKRAM... man-of-the-match

Pepsi Cup nat'l championship

5 more in zonal finals

Five district teams — Barisal, Narayanganj, Rangpur, Tangail and Mymensingh — moved into the zonal finals of the 21st Pepsi Cup national cricket championship winning their respective semifinals at different zonal venues across the country, reports UNB.

In Zone A at Jessore, Barisal DSA advanced to the zonal final eliminating Jhenidah by 77 runs to meet Khuina on Monday.

Barisal: 183 all out in 38.5 overs. Totan 79, Faruque 25; Roy 3/25, Tuhin 3/28 and Rahim 2/33.

Jhenidah: 106 all out in 34.3 overs. Babu 30, Rahim 18, Tuhin 15; Niaz 3/26, Faruque 2/17 and Totan 2/11.

In Zone B at Barisal, Narayanganj DSA defeated Farjiddur by 52 runs to face Narsingdi in the zonal final, also on Monday.

Narayanganj: 214 all out in 45 overs. Bidyut 87, Zakaria 21, Wahid 19; Sohail 3/28 and Asad 3/28.

Farjiddur: 162 all out in 41.3 overs. Mukul 32, Sohail 31, Pappu 19; Babu 3/21, Zakaria 2/4 and Wahid 2/20.

In Zone D at Thakurgaon, Rangpur DSA beat Chapainawabganj by 16 runs to play in the zonal final against Nilphamari.

Rangpur: 190 for 8 in 45 overs. Pallab 49, Enamul 41; Mitu 2/18 and Javed 2/27.

Hibs-Celtic match drawn

GLASGOW, Apr 8: Hibernian goalkeeper Jim Leighton saved a 74th-minute penalty from Andy Walker as Hibs held Celtic to a scoreless draw Friday night in the semifinals of the Scottish Cup, reports AP.

The teams will replay the match on Tuesday, again at Ibrox.

Celtic, seeking their first trophy in six years, dominated the game and forced 14 corner kicks to one for Hibs, but they couldn't get past 37-year-old Leighton.

The other semifinal, Hearts vs. Airdrie, will be played Saturday at Hampden Park in Edinburgh.

Bundesliga results

FRANKFURT, Apr 8: Two goals by Stephan Passlack helped Bayer Uerdingen to a 4-1 Bundesliga victory over Stuttgart Friday and two big points in the fight to avoid relegation, reports AP.

Passlack scored in the ninth and 52nd, Heiko Laessing got one in the 40th and Markus Feldhoff netted the fourth in the 87th minute for the hosts before 8,000 fans.

Carlos Dunga, the Brazilian World Cup captain, got the only goal for Stuttgart with a brilliant long-range shot in the 61st.

Bochum, another relegation threatened team, played to a 0-0 draw against Hamburger SV before 22,000 fans.

US, Russian grapplers lead

CHATTANOOGA, Apr 8: Defending champion United States was tied with Russia going into Saturday's final round of the freestyle World Cup wrestling tournament, reports AP.

The Americans notched an impressive 29-8 win Friday over defending world champion Turkey and later defeated Iran 23-11. The Americans won nine of 10 bouts against the Turks and stole four victories from the Iranians to stay undefeated in team competition.

Earlier in the day, the Americans stopped Canada 31-5 to put them at 3-0 and even with Russia, which defeated Japan, Canada and Turkey.

The wins at 198 and 220 (pounds -90 and 100 kg) were big," US coach Dan Gable said after the victory over Iran.

"Dominic Black and Kurt Angle were like dynamite. It makes you feel real good. I think we've done what we had to win."

The United States was sent to battle Japan (0-3) Saturday morning followed by taking on the Russians in the afternoon.

"We're going to have a hard time beating them," Gable said of Russia. "We've made our breaks so far. If we keep that up, then we can win the World Cup."

FA Cup semis today

All eyes on M United, Spurs

LONDON, Apr 8: Manchester United and Tottenham, who have each won the English FA Cup a record eight times, start as favorites to come through this season's semifinals on Sunday against Crystal Palace and Everton respectively, reports Reuter.

But no-one will be overly surprised if United and Spurs are beaten and Palace and Everton face each other at Wembley on May 20.

Although the sings point to a win for holders United, Palace have saved their best form for Cup football this season.

If their league displays matched their Cup form, the London side would probably be challenging for the title rather than fighting against relegation.

In 34 league matches, Palace have scored only 25 goals — precisely the number they have scored in just 13 Cup ties.

They demolished Wolves 4-1 in a quarter-final replay with two outstanding strikes from Chris Armstrong, who is in peak form with four goals from four games.

Palace are also optimistic that Eric Young and Chris Coleman, their Welsh international defenders will recover from injury.

The only previous FA Cup meetings between United and Palace came when United beat Palace 1-0 in the 1990 Cup final replay after a 3-3 draw.

That was United's seventh Cup success and their eighth, which equalled Tottenham's record, came last year when they beat Chelsea 4-0.

United face Palace without Frenchman Eric Cantona, who scored two penalties in last year's final. Cantona's last match for United was the infamous game against Palace in January when he attacked a spectator and subsequently earned a suspension from the game until September 30.

United are also likely to line up at Villa Park without Andrei Kanchelskis who has a stomach strain and will definitely be without suspended captain Steve Bruce and Cup-tied Andy Cole.

Only two clubs have won the trophy in successive years this century — Newcastle (1951-1952) and Tottenham (1961-1962 and 1981-1982) and the London side could provide a huge obstacle to United adding their name to the list.

Tottenham were not even in the competition when it started as part of their punishment for financial irregularities. But after winning an appeal for reinstatement in January, they have advanced through the rounds as if their name was already engraved on the trophy for a ninth time.

Like Tottenham, who changed managers in November when Gerry Francis replaced Ossie Ardiles, Everton have begun to be revitalised by new manager Joe Royle, who took over from Mike Walker in November.

And Royle, who played in the Everton team beaten in the 1968 Cup final by West Bromwich, said it would be "a nightmare" for him.

MIKE TYSON

MIKE TYSON

Nat'l youth hockey

Sylhet move into Group A semifinal

Sylhet finished Group A runners-up to book the last semifinal berth of the 14th national youth hockey championship eliminating Patuakhali by a solitary goal at the Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Earlier, Bangladesh Kirra Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP), Dhaka and Faridpur qualified for the semifinal from their respective groups.

In the day's match, Khaliur Rahman scored the match-winning for Sylhet in the 51st minute from a nice field goal.

The day's other match between Rajshahi Education Board and Jessore ended in a tame draw at the same venue.

The group title-deciding match between Dhaka and Faridpur was abandoned in the 29th minute due to heavy shower. At that time the scores were goalless. Both the teams have already confirmed their semi-final berth.

Cute handball

Sports Reporter

Surjodoy Kirra Chakra defeated West Jattabari 9-5 in the Cute premier league at the handball court adjacent to the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Surjodoy KC led the first half 5-1.

The second half ended four-all.

Marinos keep on winning

TOKYO, Apr 8: Takahiro Yamada scored one goal in each period, giving the front-running Yokohama Marinos a 2-0 victory over the Nagoya Grampus Eight in a Japanese League match Saturday, reports AP.

Yamada's first goal came nine minutes into the first half, the second one 13 minutes into the second half before 13,254 spectators in Yokohama, just south of Tokyo.

The Marinos picked their sixth victory against one defeat to lead the league. Grampus are 1-6.