MADRAS, Dec 20: Karar

Mizan is ready to set the pool

afire, Bimol Chandra Tarafder

anxiously awaiting to run for

his life and the Bangladesh

football team is fit and kick-

ing to amend the debacles in

a hectic schedule on the

third day of the Seventh

South Asian Federation (SAF)

Games here in the south In-

of the Bangladesh contingent

along with some die hard

sports zealots in the country

who obviously had passed

sleepless night webbing the

vivacious and vibrant images

of our heroes, would be

awaiting with bated breath

for the first gold in the Se-

venth edition of the regional

flock of local journalists, it

would be a taxing day to cope

with the busy schedule be-

cause, when the country's ace

swimmer Qarar Mizan is to

be pitted in the 100m

breaststroke at the remote

Velachery aquatic complex at

3.30 pm, then the fastest

man of South Asia, Bimol, ex-

pectedly step into his boots

in defence of the 100m

sprint crown in front of an

alien crowd at the spectacu-

But among the two Mizan.

blazing the trail of Bangla-

desh's supremacy in bre-

aststroke with a 200m gold

of the sixth SAF Games under

his belt, was the most

confident onlooker to im-

BRIEF SCORES

for 3 in 50 overs (Nadeem

Younus 141 not out, Minhazul

Abedin 66 not out, Aminul Is-

lam Bulbul 57; G Faruque

48.4 overs (Nasir Ali Khan

88. Nahid Alam 51 not out.

Jubair Ishtiaque 41; Hasibul

Hasan Shanto 5/31, Shahed

arm

magnificent century by

Pakistani opener Nadeem

Younus gave joint holders

Mohammedan Sporting Club

a sound start to their cam-

paign for retaining the

Premier Division cricket

the league, Mohammedans

the reigning champions along

SHANTO ... 5 for 31

with their arch-rivals Abahani

Krira Chakra, posted a con-

vincing 71-run victory over

promotees Agrani Bank

Sports Club at the Dhaka Sta-

which saw more than a total

of five hundred runs. Shanto,

MSC's new-ball bowler.

played a vital role in bundling

out Agrani Bank for 227 runs

in 48.4 overs as he sent back

the last three Bank batsmen

to the pavilion in successive

deliveries before they could

add a single run to their ac

count. The contribution of

Nadeem Younus was nothing

very less than that of Shanto

as the tall Pakistani right-

hander fired an unbeaten 141

in the morning which helped

the Motifheel outfit to pile up

a massive 298 for three in

session. Mohammedans be-

gan on a promising note with

openers Jahangir Alam and

Nadeem Younus added fifty

runs in 73 balls before the

latter was out on 14 being

caught by Shariful Haque Pla-

ban off a Suru delivery in the

at the office for Jahangir who

has been going through a bad

patch since November. The

lanky opener cum wicket-

keeper scored his 14 runs

facing 36 balls which in-

After Jahangir, all-rounder

cluded two boundaries.

It was yet another bad day

13th over

Electing to bat in the first

their stipulated 50 overs.

in a high-scoring match

dium yesterday.

In the inaugural match of

sibul

A brilliant hatt-

rick by right-

fast bowler Ha-

Shanto and a

medium-

Hasan

AGRANI BANK SC: 227 in

Suru 1/27)

Mehmood 2/44)

league title.

MOHAMMEDAN SC: 298

And for the impressive

extravaganza.

at 3.45 pm.

On the otherhand, officials

dian city on Thursday.

ited 40, made any significant

Akram and Aaguib Javed

the Pakistani bowlers, each

fined 50 per cent of his

match fee for showing dis-

while leg-spinner Mushtag

Ahmed was fined 10 per cent

of his match fee for showing

sent to an opposing player,

picking up three wickets.

were the most successful of

Aaquib, however, was

Man-of-the-match Wasim

progress.

fixtures

Following is today's fixtures with the name of Bangladeshi participants:

Athletics: (Nehru Stadium) - men's 100m sprint (Bimal and Mahboob), men's 400m hurdles (AR Naim): Women's 100m sprint (Shirin Sultana Kaniz), women's 5000m run (Juthi and Monira).

The day's other events are: Women's 400m hurdles. 5000m run and shotput and men's 800m run.

Swimming: (Velacherry Acquatic Complex) - 100m breaststroke (Karar Mizan and Makbul). 200m butterfly Din Amin and Moniruzzaman), 100m freestyle (Mahboob) and 1500m freestyle (Asaduzzaman).

Shooting: (Veerapuram Shooting Range) - men's free pistol 60 shot (Atiq. Nazrul and Towfique); women's air rifles (Fousia, Sabrina and Ferdoushi).

Football: (Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium) - Bangladesh vs Maldives at 4:30 pm.

Kabaddi: (Nehru Park Sports Complex) -Bangladesh vs Pakistan at 8:15pm. Pakistan Vs Sri Lanka at 10 am and Sri Lanka vs Nepal at 7 pm. Basketball: (Dr JJ Indoor

Sports Complex) Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka at 2:30 pm and India vs Pakistan at 4 pm.

Judo: (IIT Indoor Stadium) - 45 kgs, 50 kgs and open category.

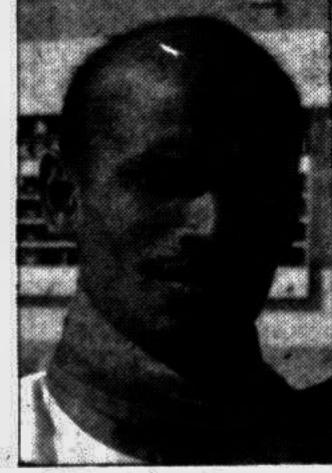
Table Tennis: (Santhome Higher Secondary School) men's singles and men's dou-

Tennis: (Tennis Stadium, Nungambakkam) — men's singles and men's doubles.

Hockey: (Mayor Rk Stadium) - India vs Sri Lanka and Pakistan vs Nepal.

Xavier betters own mark

MADRAS, Dec 20: Sebastian Xavier of India shattered his own record in the 50m freestyle claiming the gold in the swimming event of the



SEBASTIAN XAVIER SAF Games, which began at Elachery, about 20 km from here today, reports PTI.

Sebastian clocken 23.89

secs bettering his previous time of 23.95 secs in 1991. IC Raju of India took to

silver in 24.62 secs and Ghefari Dulapandan of Sri Lanka bagged the bronze with 24.80

Acme Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Rainbow Cricket Club and Evergreen Sporting Club won their respective Acme Second Division cricket league matches on Wednesday.

Rainbow defeated Uditi Club by five runs at the Mirpur Outer Stadium While Evergreen recorded a marginal one-wicket victory over Kakrail Boys Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. **Brief scores**

Rainbow CC: 154 in 36.5 overs (Nasir 36, Mustafa 35, Saiful 2/22. Sohel 2/26) Uditi Club: 149 in 37 overs (Sohel 44, Nastr 3/36)

Result: Rainbow won by 5

Kakrail Boys: 183 for 8 in 40 overs (Babu 66, Shiplu 2/28. Arman 2/28)

Evergreen CC: 184 for 9 in 39.2 overs (Bablu 35, Azad

32, Mizan 3/360) Result: Evergreen won by one wicket.

Gunnell to

Gunnell will open her indoor season at the IAAF Ricoh Tour meeting two weeks earlier as she makes her return to competition following an Achilles injury which prevented her defending her world title in Gothenburg last

two weeks later.

Today's SAF | The day of reckoning

From Al-Amin

prove his mark in the 100metre. Although the 24-year old petty officer of the Bangladesh Navy finished with a sedate bronze in the event during the sixth version of the regional meet held in Dhaka, in 1993, is the best bet this time following his better show in the recent past.

Talking to this reporter at the Games' Village this morning Mizan, the broad shouldered tall natant with an amiable smile said, "I'm



hopeful of winning the gold lar Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in 100m and with no one around to reach my present timing I'm looking for a new

Qarar, who was sitting in. the cosy drawing room of five-storied building, further added that the presence of others was not a concern for

Sports Reporter

Selim Shahed, who led the

BCCB Eleven against the West

Indies under-19 last month.

was next-to go in the 15th

over as he was unluckily run

out on 3 which left MSC on

big shape for Mohammedans

when skipper Aminul Islam

Bulbul joined Nadeem Younus

at the crease in the third

wicket stand. They added

119 runs in 21.5 overs before

Bulbul was bowled by Zakir

on 57 leaving MSC on 180 for

three in the 37th over. Bul-

bul's 57 came off only 64

balls which included six hits

bul. Nadeem and star all-

rounder Minhazul Abedin

Nannu brought, the situation

under control with a solid

118-run fourth wicket part-

nership which came from the

last 79 deliveries of their in-

nings. The duo remained un-

beaten when Mohammedans

ended their innings on 298

Nadeem Younus, who

scored two centuries in last

year's super league for the

same team, notched his third

Nadeem completed exactly

100 in 164 minutes facing

only 115 balls. He remained

at the wicket till the end and

'98 Asian Games

at stake

BANGKOK, Dec 20: That-

land has been warned it

could lose the rights to hold

the 13th Asian Games in

1998 after making little

progress to prepare for the

event, a Thai sports official

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Sabah,

president of the Olympic

Council of Asia (OCA), in-

formed Thai sports officials

that Thailand could lose the

Games after being

"unimpressed" with its

preparations, OCA treasurer

happy with the work con-

ducted over the past six

year." he said, adding that

were "still doubts Thailand

no satisfactory action has

been taken yet," the Sheikh

was quoted as saying by the

Bangkok Post, citing a fax he

had sent to the National

Olympic Committee of Thai-

Sheikh warned that other

countries could apply to host

the Games if the Thai

progress report was not

of the OCA to inform Thai-

land that if today's deadline

isn't met then we will have

to... consider the withdrawal

of the Games from Bangkok,"

That officials would be dis-

patched to Kuwait to plead

Thailand's case to the

Sheikh, but conceded that

finishing the work in time for

"It will not be easy to or-

ganise all the work in three

years," he said. "The Games

have become far more high-

tech than they have in the

1998 would be difficult.

However, Snathiparp said

"It is my duty as president

submitted by today.

The Bangkok Post said the

"Six years have passed and

could organise the Games."

"Sheikh Ahmed is not

Snathiparp Taechavnij said.

said today, reports AFP.

century yesterday in Dhaka.

for three in 50 overs.

After the departure of Bul-

to the fence.

Things started to take a

him at all. He then rounded off with a pronounced intention of eclipsing the previous mark of one minute 10:30 seconds

who emerged from nowhere to win the gold in the 100metre sprint with a record timing, though not confident enough, but, expressed to

But in the most spectacular and gruesome event Bimol has to face a tough challenge from Sri Lanka's Chintika Desanayake and Indian Rajiv Balakrishnan, who has equalled the event record mark to 10.14 in the domes-

As a tougher challenge looming around him Bimol said, "With the pressure mounting on and the expectation is higher, the situation is quite different for me now. and I need to make a good start in the final showdown and that is very important to win the race."

emotional voice added, "As the inspiration of late Shah Alam Bhai is with me, I think that will be a driving force for winning the gold."

a rare feat of becoming the fastest man in the South Asian region twice on successive occasions, was killed in an accident while returning to Dhaka from Calcutta.

Booters begin crusade today

From Al-Amin

MADRAS, Dec 20: Bangladesh will once again engage in a crusade for their maiden SAF football gold when our Booters take on Maldives in the campaign opener at the giant Nehru Stadium tomo-

rrow at 4.30 pm local time. The success --lorn country dubbed - as in all the previous editions of the regional meet - as the pre-tournament favourites despite their not-so-impressive track record, will be looking for a semifinal berth along side holders Nepal, hosts India and SAARC champions Sri Lanka with a victory tomor-

The boys from the land of the Bengal Tiger will also go into the game with hopes of amending their let-down to the nation in their sixth SAF Games opener in Dhaka two years ago when they drew goalless with the same opponents, apparently the weakest in the region.

Otto Pfister, the German coach of the Bangladesh team, expressed guarded optimism regarding the game. "Maldives are a very strong side. They may have lost to Sri Lanka yesterday but their delicate short passes and sudden attacks are dangerous against any opponents," said prolific coach at the Games Village today.

Bangladesh skipper Monem Munna also expressed his hopes of winning tomorrow.

Meanwhile, India's Uzbek coach Rustam Akramov has dubbed Bangladesh as top favourites in the meet.

Options remain open for TCCB

can change their preliminary squad of 20 for the World Cup after all, the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The organisers of the tournament in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka from February 14-March 17 had originally insisted that the final 14 had to be selected from the preliminary 20.

When the TCCB submitted 20 names they merely added the four stand-by players -Neil Fairbrother, Neil Smith, Dermot Reeve and Steven Rhodes -- to the squad currently touring South Africa.

The organisers looked into the issue when England said they might later want to pick players not in their original 20

TCCB spokesman Richard Little said: "We have had a letter saying the original request for a preliminary squad was for administration purposes only, but they would like us to get nearer the final squad that we are going to select rather than just give

"So as far as we are con cerned, until the final 14 goes in, round about January 20, we are not restricted in

SL look for ending Aussie monopoly

Lanka will be aiming to break a 10-year drought when they face Australia in a World Series Cup match Thursday at the Sydney Cricket Ground, reports AP.

Australia have won all of their three previous World Series encounters against Sri Lanka in Sydney and have lost only once in the 14 one-day matches they have played against the Sri Lankans in Australia

12 straight matches since notching their sole victory, in January, 1985, at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Faruque new MSC cricket chairman

Noted industrialist Mohammad Faruque has been appointed as the new chairman of the cricket committee of Mohammedan Sporting Club, says a press release



their next match to be held Faruque replaces Abdur on December 24 at the same Rab who resigned due to per sonal reasons

Akram antics sink Kiwis



WELLINGTON. Dec 20: Captain Wasim Akram starred with both bat and ball Wednesday as

Pakistan scored a confident 54-run victory over New Zealand in the third limitedover cricket international at the Basin Reserve, report agencies.

Pakistan scored a formidable 261 for four after being put in to bat and then dismissed the Kiwis for 207 in the 45th over.

Wasim scored an unbeaten

added 51 at a run-a-ball for the first wicket - and their partnership set the pattern.

After Ramiz was unluckily run out for 21. Sohail and Ijaz kept up a brisk run rate. adding 56 in 63 balls for the second wicket.

Left-hander Sohail scored his 17th one-day half-century before being bowled by slowmedium pacer Gavin Larsen for his 58, which was scored off 82 balls.

Malik scored 42 not out from 48 balls while Wasim blazed with 36 not out off just 15 balls, with two sixes and



PAKISTAN: Sohail b Larsen ljaz c Cairns b Twose Inzamam b Twose Malik not out

Extras: (w-1; b-2; lb-5) Total: (for 4 wkts, 50 overs) 261 Did not bat: Basit, Latif, Mushtaq, Waqar, Aaquib. Fall of wickets: 1-51; 2-107; 3-138; 4-217.

Akram not out

Bowling: 10 0 59 Morrison 43 Patel 62 Cairns 0 37 Larsen Twose 31 Astle 0 **NEW ZEALAND**

Astle c Ramiz b Aaguib Spearman c Sohall b Akram

Young lbw b Akram Fleming c Basit b Mushtaq Parore Ibw b Aaguib Twose b Sohail Cairns run out Germon b Akram Patel run out Larsen c substitute b Auguib Morrison not out Extras: (lb-13: w-3) ing three fours in the first Total: (44.5 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-48;

2-48; 3-48, 4-60; 5-107; 6-119; 7-143; 8-166; 9-174. Bowling: Aaguib 0 31 Akram 0 22 Wagar 2 26 Mushtag 0 17 Malik 10 0 47 Sohail

Result: Pakistan won by 54

Man-of-the-match: Wasim Akram

Pakistan lead four-match series 2-1.

Richardson's own remedy



BRISBANE, Dec 20: Below-par West Indian captain Richie Richardson is considering a

AKRAM ... blazes with all-round brilliance

three fours.

captain.

two balls later.

Slow-medium pacer Roger

New Zealand's innings be-

He reached 33 from 31

Twose was the most success-,

ful Kiwi bowler, finishing

with two for 31 from seven

gan spectacularly with rookie

opener Craig Spearman tak-

balls before being caught at

short cover off the bowling of

the inspirational Pakistani

fore wicket next ball for a

duck and Nathan Astle (9)

was caught at deep mid-off

Zealand sank steadily. Only

Stephen Fleming with 35,

Twose, with 37, and captain

Lee Germon, with a late spir-

From 48 for three, New

Bryan Young went leg be-

over from Aaquib Javed.

36 and then took three

istanis took a 2-1 lead in the

four-match series and de-

prived the New Zealanders of

of the series will be played

Saturday at Eden Park in

tained several notable contri-

scored with 58 from 82 balls,

liaz Ahmed contributed a

brisk 42, Inzamamul Haq

scored his second straight

half-century of the series

with 54 and Salim Malik and

captain Wasim Akram com-

bined to share a 49-run stand

off the last five overs of the

Sohail and Ramiz Raja

Pakistan's innings con-

Opener Aamir Sohail top

of the season.

Auckland.

butions.

their first back-to-back win

The fourth and final match

wickets for 31 as the Pak-

shift down the batting order for the remainder of the World Series Cup to regain his lapsed batting form reports AFP. Richardson came in at No.

6 against Australia in Melbourne Tuesday where the formula of batting Shivnarine Chanderpaul (73) and Stuart Williams (44) higher in the order paid dividends.

The West Indian skipper who suffered from chronic fatigue last year, has been hampered by injury since his return to international cricket which has not allowed him sufficient batting time in the middle.

The Windies arrived here today encouraged by their improved form in Tuesday's 24 run loss to Australia, after emphatically losing their opening two Series games to Sri Lanka and Australia in Adelaide.

The Caribbean tourists play an Australian XI in a three-day game at the Gabba here from Friday. Queensland in a one-day game on Boxing Day and a Queensland XI in Toowoomba, west of here, on Friday week.

Richardson said moving himself to No 6 for the remainder of the series could be an option for his team, who now face having to win all of their matches to ensure making next month's best-ofthree match finals.

"You never know," said Richardson, who today described his form as "not good."

"I believe I can bat any where, put me in at No. 11 and I believe I could do well I'm flexible and whatever is required I'll try to adapt.

"Things haven't been going all that well for me but I'm hanging in there. I took five months off last year came back and got an injury. I came back in England then got injured again.

"Obviously I haven't had much cricket and I've got to start all over again."

Richardson said the form of Chanderpaul and Williams would only be helped when the rest of the batsmen get the chance to spend time in the middle against the Australian XI.

"They were two young guys. Williams hasn't played in these conditions before

and we put him in that spot and he did a terrific job. Chanderpaul was batting

out of his usual position as well as he played exceptionally well. This game will be good for the bowlers as well." Despite their three

straight losses, Richardson believes the Windies came paign is still alive. "It's not the first time that the West Indid have lost the

first three one-day matches, Richardson said. "It's happened before and we've still ended up winning

the finals. We are still very

hopeful. We have been working very hard in the last couple of days and we believe we are

rid of our disease. We are coming back.' While the West Indies will use the game to continue their return to form it is also a chance for the young Aus-

tralian XI players to push their claims. However. Victorian pace. man Brad Williams has been ruled out with a combination of soreness and shin splints and has been replaced by young South Australian quick Mark Harrity, a member of

the Australian Cricket Aca-

Nagpur's dream in doubt NEW DELHI ready," said Jagmohan babwe league match on



Dec 20 World Dalmiya, convenor of the or- March 1 at the Vidharbha ganisers today delayed a decision on whether

Nagpur where 10 fans were killed last month due to the collapse of a stadium wall. will remain as one of the venues, reports AFP. Organisers, said they have

set a two-week deadline for the state government of Ma harashtra to submit its report on the accident, which occured on November 26 dur ing a one day match between India and New Zealand.

"We will wait for another two weeks for the report. which I understand is almost

tournament to be held in February-March next year. "We are sorry for what

happened in Nagpur, but we don't want to take a hasty decision on the issue." Dalmiya said after a committee meeting here to review the arrangements by co-hosts india. Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

"However we are determined not to compromise on the safety of both the players and fans and will not hesitate to change the venue if an adverse report is submitted."

he said. Nagpur, one of the 17 cup venues in India, is scheduled to host the Australia Zim-

Cup cricket or- ganising committee of the Cricket Association ground. The organisers also sought time till December 31 to de-

> shah Kotla grounds in New Delhi, where renovation work was halted by the state government earlier this month because prior permission was not given. Dalmiya said the govern-

cide the fate of the Feroze-

ment had given the go-ahead on Tuesday, but local officials were undecided whether the proposed four storey pavilion, with new dressing rooms and a media centre would be completed on time for the India Sri Lanka match on March 2.

run indoors

GLASGOW. Dec 20: Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion Sally Gunnell will run indoors for Britain against France here on February 24. it was announced today, reports AFP.

summer The Glasgow international

will serve as a dress rehearsal for the British team bound for the European Indoor Championship in Stockholm



mark in this event."

to set the stage for a delightful double. Meanwhile, Bimol, the dark horse in the sixth version of the regional Olympic,

run for yet another glory. tic meet this season.

However, Bimol with an

Shah Alam, who achieved

Shanto relieves sensation

hit 20 fours in his unbeaten

who made a dramatic trans-

fer to Mohammedans from

Abahani this year, scored a

quick fire 66 off 54 balls and

remained not out when they

concluded their innings

three short of three hundred.

their first wicket in the

fourth over with their board

Sumon got the early break-

through in his second over

when he bowled Bank opener

Anwar Hossain (1) in the

the worse in the seventh over

when the other opener Azam

lqbal (4) returned as he was

trapped leg before by Shanto

in the first ball of his fourth

between wicketkeeper Jubair

Ishtiaque and Pakistani bats-

man Nasir Ali Khan saved the

bankers form further humili-

But a 111-run partnership

Things turned more for'

reading a single run.

second delivery.

YOUNUS ..

boundaries.

ation. The partnership was

built facing only 110 balls

before Ishtiaque was stumped

out by Jahangir off a Nannu

delivery in the 25th over

with the scoreboard on 117.

Ishtiaque scored 41 off 49

balls which features four

Bank scorer who fired 88 off

88 balls, was the next man

out in the 30th over being

caught by Bulbul off Shahed

Mehmood which left his

In the remaining 19 overs.

Bank added a further 86 runs

to their account before they

were eventually bowled out

the main damage to Bank in-

nings. In his second spell,

Shanto took four wickets in-

cluding the magic hattrick in

second, third and fourth de-

livery of his tenth over when

he took the return catch of

Zakir (0) and then bowled

Khorshed Alam (0) and Pla-

ban (0). His other victim in

the second spell was Pial who

Shanto who ended the match

taking five wickets conceding

Dhaka Wanderers Club in

This was a great day for

The winners will face

was also out for a duck.

31 runs in 9.4 overs.

venue.

The hattrick came in the

It was Shanto who caused

for 227 in the 49th over.

the 49th over

team on 141 for four.

Nasir Khan, the highest

141 n.o

In reply, Agrani Bank lost

Pacer Morshed Ali Khan

On the otherhand, Nannu,

141 off 136 balls.

LONDON, Dec 20: England

them 20 names.

any shape or form."

SYDNEY, Dec 20: Sri

Sri Lanka have lost the last

Sports Reporter

