

Sport

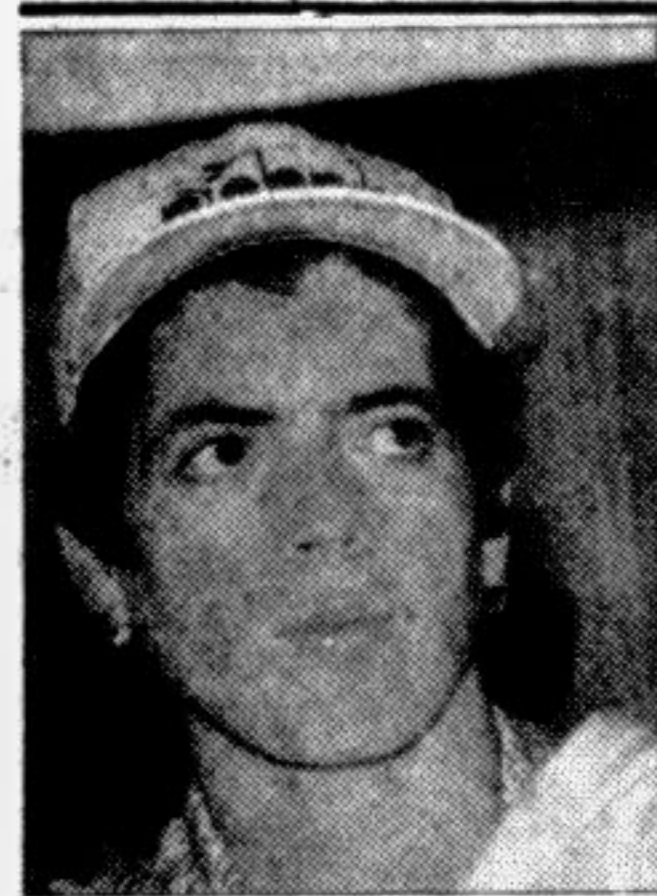
Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT keeping sports clean of politics is more easily said than done. Nowadays, either politicians get involved with sports or sportsmen indulge in politics.

SPORTS TALK



Hassiba Boulmerka

(Algeria's ace long distance runner) "When I win I think the title is for me, but the gold medal is for the girls of Algeria. And for the people of Algeria."

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

(The rules are published every Saturday)

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-19 Tick the Correct Answer (Competition closes: 8 p.m. Dec 29, 1995)

- 1. The Nastase was famous for playing Tennis Football Cricket
2. "Beamer" is a term used in Cricket Rugby Squash
3. Where is Sabana Park, the famous cricket ground, located? Jamaica Barbados Trinidad

Name: Roll No: School Address: Phone: (if any)

Libya's change of heart

CAIRO, Dec 27: Libya is reviving its sports teams, banned more than a decade ago by Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, to show the country can function despite UN sanctions.

The state-run television, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corp in London, said Monday night that sports competitions will resume Jan 12.

In the early 1980s, Gadhafi banned all sports competitions, especially soccer, saying that game allowed only 22 people to play, while everyone should be allowed to join any game.

New FIDE chief's pledge

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Dec 27: The new president of the World Chess Federation, or FIDE, promised Tuesday to mend the current split in the world's chess organisations, reports AP.

"There will be only one world champion," said Kiran Ilyuchitnov, who is also president of the Russian region of Kalmykia. He is on an unofficial visit to Indonesia.



Two Bangladesh forwards are caught off-side at the Indian goalmouth after skipper Monem Munna (foreground) hit a typically testing free-kick from the edge of the box

Madras Games' montage

MADRAS, Dec 27: Despite the disappointment in football, Bangladesh have done well to haul seven golds in the seventh SAF Games which concluded at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here today, according to BSS.

In the inaugural Games in 1984 in Kathmandu, Bangladesh had two golds, seven silvers, and 13 bronzes. In 1987 Calcutta Games Bangladesh reaped only three golds, 19 silvers and 32 bronze medals.

Bangladesh had a very poor showing in Islamabad two years later where they won only one gold 12 silvers and 23 bronzes. At the 1991 Colombo Games Bangladesh bagged four golds, eight silvers and 29 bronzes.

However, hosting the second Games in Dhaka in 1985 Bangladesh garnered nine golds including five won by Mosharraf Hussain in swimming. In the last Games held in Dhaka in 1993 Bangladesh got 11 golds, 19 silvers and 34 bronzes.

Sri Lanka with their sterling performance challenged India's authority in the athletics events snatching 11 golds including the honour of being the fastest man and woman of South Asia.

Chinataka Tillekeratane and Susanthika Jayasinghe of Sri Lanka became fastest woman and man with new marks in the events.



Bangladesh's Mahbub Alam came to the spotlight with his astonishing speed by taking the 200 meters sprint

gold. In almost all the 14 disciplines including swimming, athletics, shooting, boxing, wrestling and weightlifting India outclassed their rivals to take medals with ease.

India bagged 21 athletics golds, out of 37 that were on offer. Besides, the hosts country took 20 golds in shooting out of 30 while Bangladesh and Sri Lanka took five golds each.

Except the gold won by Bangladesh's Karar Mizanur Rahman India picked up all the other 15 golds in swimming. India also made almost a complete sweep of the golds in boxing, wrestling and weightlifting.

The seventh edition of the Games witnessed setting up of the highest number ever of new records in different events. About 22 new records were created in athletics of out of the 37 events while in swimming 13 records were improved out of the 16 events.

Complete medals tally

MADRAS, Dec 27(UNB): Following is the discipline-wise final medal list of the 7th SAF Games which concluded here today.

Table with columns: Event, Country, Gold, Silver, Bronze, Total. Rows include Athletics, Basketball, Boxing, Weightlifting, Hockey, Judo, Kabaddi, Wrestling, Swimming, Tennis, Shooting, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Football, and Total.

Jayasinghe, Jaspal Games' two bests

MADRAS, Dec 27: Indian pistol prodigy Jaspal Rana and Sri Lankan sprint queen Susanthika Jayasinghe have been voted the best male and female competitors of the seventh South Asian Federation (SAF) Games by the Bangladesh Sports Writers Association, reports PTI.

The Bangladesh scribes covering the Games, which ended here today, chose Jaspal Rana for his record sweep of eight gold medals from the range. Susanthika clinched the sprint double and led the 4x100 metres relay squad to victory, all with new Games marks.

Ahbab Ahmed, chef-de-mission of the Bangladesh squad, handed over a citation and memento to them at a function in the Games village today.



Shabbir Pasha (R), the hero of India on the day, is joined by fellow star striker Vijayan while celebrating India's gold in SAF football.

Sarcastic security!

MADRAS, Dec 27: Over-zealous security almost forced abandonment of the football final between India and Bangladesh after the bus carrying the visiting team was denied entry through the main gate and the players were forced to take a long walk to reach the ground, reports PTI.

The security personnel, who have already proved a thorn in the flesh for all those legitimately connected with the Games, stopped the bus and forced them to take a detour. Piqued by the attitude, the Bangladesh team refused to play but relented after the All India Football Federation vice-president, C R Viswanathan — also the Indian team manager — pleaded with them.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) secretary, Peter Velappan, also suffered a similar fate when his car was refused entry into the stadium. Velappan, a special invitee here to oversee the development work done in South Asia and watch the final encounter, arrived with the All-India Football Federation president, P Radasan HI.

They eventually managed to enter the stadium. Interestingly the closing ceremony is timed at 1630 hours and if the match goes into extra time and tie-breaker a piquant situation could arise.

Munna desires to retire Second fiddle, once again

From Al-Amin

MADRAS, Dec 27: The living night mare of wandering in the wilderness for the last eleven years once again gripped the whole nation when the Bangladesh football team went down to their Indian counterparts to bring a painful end to their crusade to win a maiden SAF Games football gold here yesterday.

The stakes were high and the emotion upbeat for the long-eluding title for Bangladesh, where soccer is a passion.

But, the burden of carrying the hopes and dreams of 120 million people seemed too much for our high-profile booters who let the nation down with a pathetic, if not irresponsible display.

"My main concern is the growing injury problem in the team. I can't tell the players to put in their best on a hard pitch where there is always a risk of fatal injuries," said Bangladesh's German coach Otto Pfister on the eve of the final.

The boys have played their best under the condi-



tions. But we were not lucky enough to win the match," said Pfister, adding, "Besides, the atmosphere is not ideal for the final. The match was played under a scorching sun, the ground conditions were poor and we had to play four games — one more than Indian in seven days — a physically improbable task."

Asked whether he is satisfied with his team's showings, Pfister said, "I'm satisfied," reminding the pressmen that his pre-SAF aim was to reach the semis.

Skipper Monem Munna has expressed his desire to retire from the national team after failing to inspire Bangladesh to win their maiden SAF football gold.

"I will request the BFF to omit me from the national team to allow upcoming youngsters to come in. I tried my best to give the nation the SAF football gold but I have failed. I don't believe in luck only. There is something going wrong on every occasion I don't know what it was. But I must say the authorities should do something about that," elaborated Munna with a heavy heart & a choked voice.

and were thoroughly outplayed by the also not-so-impressive Indians.

And, if the lack-luster show from the men in the middle fueled the agony of the nation, then the aftermath reaction from Pfister provided another nail to the injured press from Bangladesh as the professional German trainer tried to justify the defeat with lame excuses.

A gaggle of gaga!

NEW DELHI, Dec 27: The Indian media went to town over their national hockey team's sensational 5-2 win over world champions Pakistan in the South Asian Federation (SAF) Games final, reports AFP.

"India consign Pak to the dustbin of hockey," screamed a front-page headline in the Pioneer today, as the country celebrated a long-awaited victory over their arch-rivals.

Respected hockey writer S Thyagarajan of the Hindu described India's display on Tuesday as "methodical, mobile and mellifluous." The Times of India said "India knocked the stuffing out of Pakistan."

"India manifested the charm and craft of hockey aesthetics of an incredible dimension to outplay and outmanoeuvre the world champions," the Hindu wrote. "It was an emotionally filling moment for every Indian hungry to see the hockey image restored."

India, winners of eight Olympic titles, have seen their fortunes fall dramatically over the last two decades, failing to win tournaments even at the Asian level.

India barely managed to qualify for last year's World Cup in Australia, and must take part in an eight-nation qualifying event in Spain next month for next year's Atlanta Olympics.

But the disappointments of the past were forgotten on Tuesday as the home team weaved circles around the Pakistani defence, going 5-0 up by the 46th minute of the pulsating 70-minute encounter.

"India played such superb hockey that even the most ardent follower of the game rubbed his eyes in disbelief," said the Times of India.

"It was hockey out of this world," wrote the Pioneer, and added that "All the 100-odd medals India won the regional games have somehow been swiftly pushed to the background."

Amidst the euphoria, a note of caution was sounded by India's chief hockey coach Cedric D' Souza who said the team had yet to prove itself at the world stage.

"Defeating a champion team like Pakistan is great, but it is only the beginning of the revival of Indian hockey," D' Souza said.

Shearer shows his prowess

LONDON, Dec 27: England striker Alan Shearer kept up his amazing Ewood Park scoring record on Tuesday to help champions Blackburn to a 2-0 win over struggling Manchester City, reports Reuters.

Shearer had found the target in all nine of Rovers' previous nine home league games this season and he needed just 11 minutes to maintain that record against City, slotting home from 20 metres for his 24th goal of the season. It was his 99th in the Premier league.

By contrast, Blackburn's other goal, in the 50th minute, came from England midfielder David Batty, scoring his first goal for the club since moving from Leeds 26 months ago.

Batty unleashed a right footer which screamed into the top corner for his first goal since netting for Leeds against Middlesbrough in January 1993.

After a poor start, Blackburn have now moved up to ninth position while Manchester City slip back into the bottom three.

In other Premier league action earlier in the day, two second half goals by Paul Merson helped Arsenal bounce back from their weekend defeat by Liverpool to beat Queen's Park Rangers.

Merson's goals ensured Arsenal's first victory over Rangers since April 1991 and ended a spell of five league matches without a win.

But fellow Londoners Tottenham again frittered away a chance to make a serious championship challenge as they were held to a 0-0 draw at Southampton.

Wimbledon captain Vinnie Jones was again in trouble, sent off for the 11th time in his career in the match at Chelsea. But his team still managed to cling on to win 2-1.

Jones was dismissed in the 54th minute for a foul on Ruud Gullit, clattering into Chelsea's former Dutch international three metres outside the Wimbledon penalty area.

It was his second bookable offence: he had already been shown the yellow card for a 14th minute foul on Dam Petruscu.

Runaway leaders Newcastle visit main challengers Manchester United today in one of the matches of the season.

Newcastle, on 45 points are 10 clear of Manchester and Tottenham and 11 ahead of Liverpool and Arsenal. Liverpool were prevented from continuing their challenge on Tuesday when their match at Aston Villa was postponed because of a frozen pitch. West Ham versus Coventry met the same fate.

Middlesbrough, another side with hopes of a place in Europe next year, received a setback when they were trounced 4-0 at Everton.

Brazilian Juninho was replaced by Jamie Moreno with 16 minutes to go after struggling to find any fluency and missing the influence of injured midfielder partner Nick Bamby.

Gazza back with a bang

GLASGOW, Dec 27: Paul Gascoigne marked his return after a two-match ban with a fine display, winning a penalty and scoring a superb goal as Rangers beat Kilmarnock 3-0 to increase their lead in the Scottish Premier league on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

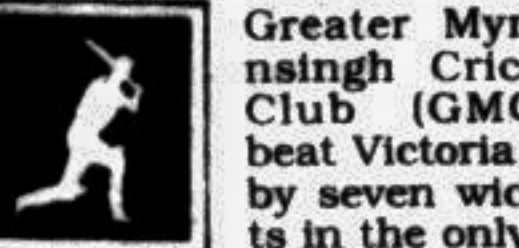
With all other Premier league matches postponed because of snow and freezing grounds Rangers moved five points clear of closest challengers Celtic.

Russian Oleg Salenko scored the opener in the 24th minute, volleying home from close range when he was left unmarked. It was the 2 million pounds (\$3.1 million dollars) striker's seventh goal in 17 appearances for Rangers. The penalty came after Gascoigne chested down a cross by Gordan Petric.

Smooth ride for GMCC

BRIEF SCORES

VICTORIA SC: 130 all out in 46.2 overs (Rajinder Singh 32; Morshed 2/17; Golla 2/15) GMCC: 131 for seven in 39.5 overs (Kabir 41; Zakaria 41; Nahid 2/28)



Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) beat Victoria SC by seven wickets in the only match of the Premier league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Americans to play in Hopman Cup

PERTH, Dec 27: Richey Reneberg and Chanda Rubin will represent the United States in the Hopman Cup tennis tournament, organisers announced Wednesday, reports AP.

The United States pair was called up to replace Sweden in the eight-nation event after Swedish veteran Mats Wilander announced his withdrawal. Wilander was to have partnered Asa Carlsson.

Imtiaz joined Kabir after GMCC lost both their openers in the 18th over with the score on 43.

Imtiaz joined Kabir after GMCC lost both their openers in the 18th over with the score on 43. They added a match-winning 64 runs in 21 overs before Kabir was caught and bowled by Indian spinner Visal Singh Yadav in the 38th over with the side 40 runs shy of the total.

However, Imtiaz along with one of the veterans Rais Ahmed, who also remained unbeaten on 9 reached the target. The only Victoria success was Abul Hasan Nahid who claimed both GMCC openers for 24 runs in his eight overs that included one maiden.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Includes crossword puzzle grid, clues for across and down, and a CRYPTOQUIP section with a word search grid.