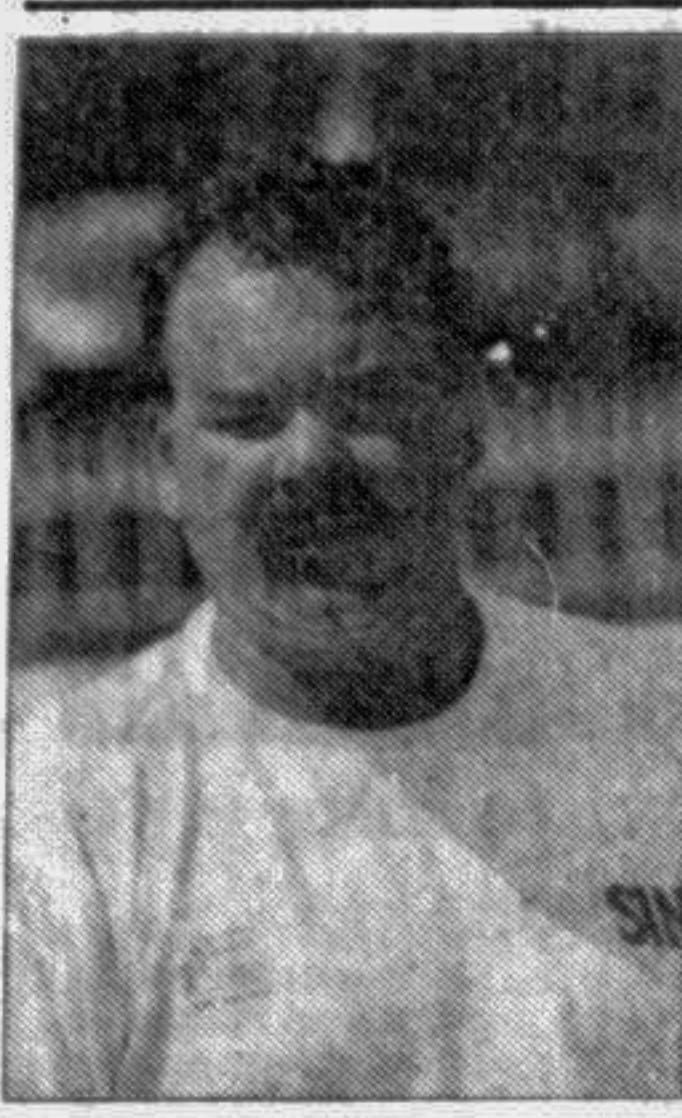


SPORTS TALK



Bangladesh's late stumble



The soaring spirit of the national in the third Junior Asian hockey championship suffered a severe jolt when Malaysia ended Bangladesh's surprising yet impressive all-win record with a squeaky 4-3 victory in Singapore yesterday.

Bangladesh, who had earlier scored a poem of a win over giants India (2-1) on their way to top Group A in the 10-team meet, with this dampening defeat are now left with the daunting task of beating Japan in their last group league match on June 5 for a berth in the semifinals.

According to a telephonic message received here last night, Bangladesh were trailing by a lone goal at the breather, but produced a brilliant display in the latter half and held on to a 3-3 score four minutes from the final whistle. But, the strong Malaysians, aided by some bizarre umpiring decisions, stole what would have been yet another feather in their cap after their historic win over India last week.

For Bangladesh, backed up by strong vocal support from a couple of hundred expatriates, centre-forward Ehtesam, defenders Isma Nixon and Mahabubul Alam Nixon scored one goal apiece against Malaysia's quick reprisals in a

Sports Reporter

see-saw second-half battle. In the absence of defender Mamun, their ever-dependable captain, and a member of the all-Asia star eleven, sidelined due to an appendicitis operation. Bangladesh were completely off-colour in the first 35 minutes with the Malaysians dominating the proceedings.

Replies to a query Bari said, "Japan are not mean opponents. I think they are better than Malaysia. Besides, it was unfortunate for them against Malaysia."

Japan, who were thrown out of the race conceding a 3-2 defeat at the hands of India, had earlier drawn with Malaysia 2-2 despite playing like winners, said Bari.

"We will miss Mamun for the remaining matches. That is obviously a minus point for us. But the way the boys played today I'm hopeful about Tuesday's match which is a do-or-die encounter for us."

"Besides, we will play after the India-Malaysia match on the concluding day of the first round which is obviously advantageous for us," said Bari who further added that the players are fit and kicking for the final showdown.

There were two umpires in the match, one from Germany and the other one was from South Africa. But among the two, the South African was hardly competent to officiate matches in the last four while Malaysia, the only unbeaten team in the group with two wins and a draw, need only a draw, to finish atop the group.

have a draw. But let bygones be bygones. We are looking forward to the semifinals despite the defeat. Our boys are ready to take up the final challenge against Japan."

Replies to a query Bari said, "Japan are not mean opponents. I think they are better than Malaysia. Besides, it was unfortunate for them against Malaysia."

Japan, who were thrown out of the race conceding a 3-2 defeat at the hands of India, had earlier drawn with Malaysia 2-2 despite playing like winners, said Bari.

"We will miss Mamun for the remaining matches. That is obviously a minus point for us. But the way the boys played today I'm hopeful about Tuesday's match which is a do-or-die encounter for us."

"Besides, we will play after the India-Malaysia match on the concluding day of the first round which is obviously advantageous for us," said Bari who further added that the players are fit and kicking for the final showdown.

There were two umpires in the match, one from Germany and the other one was from South Africa. But among the two, the South African was hardly competent to officiate matches in the last four while Malaysia, the only unbeaten team in the group with two wins and a draw, need only a draw, to finish atop the group.

Davenell Whatmore

(Sri Lanka's Australian cricket coach)

"Sri Lankans are different to most others I think. I don't think they will be able to match people with the month. The only way they can match people is with the bat and by fielding aggressively, taking half-chances, stopping the really hard hit ball, that sort of

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT Croatia will be taking part for the first time when the finals of the European soccer gets underway in England from June 8.

Their run up to the qualification has been more than impressive. Beginning in September, 1994 they blanked Estonia 2-0, beat Lithuania 2-0, stunned Italy 2-1, drubbed Ukraine 4-0, held Lithuania goalless, tamed Slovenia 2-0, went down to Ukraine 0-1, humiliated Estonia 7-1, shared honours with Italy 1-1, had the better of Slovenia 2-1.

Suker, their key player, has 16 goals in 15 matches for Croatia. He has scored in every Euro 96 qualifying game, including two against Italy.

So, watch out for Suker and his Croatia.

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-40

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. June 7, 1996)

1. Grand Master Gata Kamsky is	<input type="checkbox"/>
Russian	<input type="checkbox"/>
American	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swedish	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Indian batting genius Sachin Tendulkar once played county cricket for	<input type="checkbox"/>
Somerset	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottinghamshire	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turkshire	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Who won 100m women's hurdles in the 24th national athletics championship?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Piroza Rahim	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lovely	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. In the 14th Nirman schools cricket championship final Shobhakar beat Nasirabad Govt. High by	<input type="checkbox"/>
23 runs	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 wickets	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 wickets	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. In the 1996 Euro football championship, Bulgaria will be coached by	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rahman	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ammer	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name: _____

Class: _____

Roll No: _____

School Address: _____

Phone: (If any) _____

TODAY'S MATCHES

7th School Girls handball tournament

Venue: Women's Sports Complex, Dhamondi.

Dhamondi Govt. High School vs Maghbazar Girls School (3 pm)

Banani Bida Niketa vs BAF Shaheen School (4 pm)

Holy Cross School vs Dhamondi Tutorial (5 pm)

7th School Boys' handball tournament

(Semifinals, Venue: handball court)

Bangladesh Police Lines High School vs Motijheel Model School (3 pm)

Shahid Nabi High School vs Ansar and VDP High School (4 pm)

School Badminton Championship '96 (Opening day, venue: National Indoor Stadium, Mirpur)

Asian Games in 2001?

SEoul, June 3: The 14th Asian Games, to be staged in South Korea in 2002, may be held a year earlier because South Korea has been named co-host of the World Cup with Japan that year, reports AP.

"To avoid conflict with the World Cup, it is advisable that the 2002 Asian Games in Pusan be rescheduled to a year earlier in 2001," said an official at the (South) Korea Olympic Committee.

The official, requesting anonymity, said the Olympic Council of Asia, Asia's sports governing body, is expected to approve the rescheduling if requested to do so.

Pusan, 320 kilometres southeast of Seoul, is among a dozen South Korean cities bidding to be a venue for the 2002 World Cup finals.

Ecuador, whose victory followed a 4-1 thrashing of Peru in April, were inspired by the creativity of midfielder Alex Aguinaga, who plays for Mexican champions Necaxa.

Argentina once again suffered at the hands of Francisco Maturana, the Colombian coach of Ecuador.

Maturana was in charge when Colombia beat Argentina



Bangladesh's late stumble

Sports Reporter

see-saw second-half battle. In the absence of defender Mamun, their ever-dependable captain, and a member of the all-Asia star eleven, sidelined due to an appendicitis operation. Bangladesh were completely off-colour in the first 35 minutes with the Malaysians dominating the proceedings.

Replies to a query Bari said, "Japan are not mean opponents. I think they are better than Malaysia. Besides, it was unfortunate for them against Malaysia."

Japan, who were thrown out of the race conceding a 3-2 defeat at the hands of India, had earlier drawn with Malaysia 2-2 despite playing like winners, said Bari.

"We will miss Mamun for the remaining matches. That is obviously a minus point for us. But the way the boys played today I'm hopeful about Tuesday's match which is a do-or-die encounter for us."

"Besides, we will play after the India-Malaysia match on the concluding day of the first round which is obviously advantageous for us," said Bari who further added that the players are fit and kicking for the final showdown.

There were two umpires in the match, one from Germany and the other one was from South Africa. But among the two, the South African was hardly competent to officiate matches in the last four while Malaysia, the only unbeaten team in the group with two wins and a draw, need only a draw, to finish atop the group.

Nat'l youth football in July

Sports Reporter

The national youth under-16 football championship will be launched in the second week of July, according to the Bangladesh Football Federation.

It appears from the BFF Press release that it is yet to finalise the venues of the final as well as the qualifying zonal rounds.

Schools badminton

Sports Reporter

School badminton championship, organised by the Bangladesh Badminton Federation, will commence at the National Indoor Stadium Mirpur this afternoon.

ASIM Shahjahan, secretary for youth and sports, will inaugurate the competition at 5 pm as chief guest of the opening ceremony.

A total of 69 participants including 15 girls will take part in the championship.

School girls h'ball

Sports Reporter

Vikarunnissa Noon, Maghbazar Girls High, Dhamondi Government Girls High and Adarsa Balika Bidyalaya of Narayanganj won their respective matches of the 7th school girls handball tournament at the Dhamondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Vikarunnissa, in the day's first outing, recorded a big 18-1 win over Dhamondi Tutorial while in the next encounter Maghbazar Girls beat Banani Bidya Niketa 9-0.

In the day's other two matches Dhamondi defeated BDR Public School & College 8-1 while Adarsa earned a 52-2 win over Holy Cross School.

Schools h'ball

Sports Reporter

Shahid Nabi High School recorded their third win in the 7th schools handball tournament with a 17-8 victory over Motijheel Model High School at the handball court of Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 11-6.

With yesterday's win, Shahid Nabi earned top slot in the first round Group B standings. They will now face Ansar and VDP High School in today's second semifinal at 4 pm. The first semifinal will be held between Bangladesh Police Lines High School and Motijheel Model High School at 3 pm.

Bosses bow to players

Sports Reporter

Islam of Chittagong won against Sheikh Nasir Ahmed of Dhaka University while Fide Master Rezaul Haque defeated Sawkat Hossain Pallab of Farashganj SC.

The remaining match of the day between Biman's Kayes Hasan and Tamina Parveen of Chittagong ended in a draw.

There will be a break in the championship today and the eleventh round will begin tomorrow from 3 pm at the same venue.

Points Table (after tenth round): 10 points — Rezaul, 8 points — Zia, 7.5 points — Lovli, 6.5 points — Rajib, 6 points — Rakib, 5.5 points — Kayes, 4.5 points — Nasir, 4 points — Rajique, 3 points — Tamina and Pallab, 2 points — Kashem, 1.5 points — Labu and Aminul.

With yesterday's win, Shahid Nabi earned top slot in the first round Group B standings. They will now face Ansar and VDP High School in today's second semifinal at 4 pm. The first semifinal will be held between Bangladesh Police Lines High School and Motijheel Model High School at 3 pm.

Bosses bow to players

Sports Reporter

Islam of Chittagong won against Sheikh Nasir Ahmed of Dhaka University while Fide Master Rezaul Haque defeated Sawkat Hossain Pallab of Farashganj SC.

The remaining match of the day between Biman's Kayes Hasan and Tamina Parveen of Chittagong ended in a draw.

There will be a break in the championship today and the eleventh round will begin tomorrow from 3 pm at the same venue.

Points Table (after tenth round): 10 points — Rezaul, 8 points — Zia, 7.5 points — Lovli, 6.5 points — Rajib, 6 points — Rakib, 5.5 points — Kayes, 4.5 points — Nasir, 4 points — Rajique, 3 points — Tamina and Pallab, 2 points — Kashem, 1.5 points — Labu and Aminul.

With yesterday's win, Shahid Nabi earned top slot in the first round Group B standings. They will now face Ansar and VDP High School in today's second semifinal at 4 pm. The first semifinal will be held between Bangladesh Police Lines High School and Motijheel Model High School at 3 pm.

Bosses bow to players

Sports Reporter

Islam of Chittagong won against Sheikh Nasir Ahmed of Dhaka University while Fide Master Rezaul Haque defeated Sawkat Hossain Pallab of Farashganj SC.

The remaining match of the day between Biman's Kayes Hasan and Tamina Parveen of Chittagong ended in a draw.

There will be a break in the championship today and the eleventh round will begin tomorrow from 3 pm at the same venue.

Points Table (after tenth round): 10 points — Rezaul, 8 points — Zia, 7.5 points — Lovli, 6.5 points — Rajib, 6 points — Rakib, 5.5 points — Kayes, 4.5 points — Nasir, 4 points — Rajique, 3 points — Tamina and Pallab, 2 points — Kashem, 1.5 points — Labu and Aminul.

Bosses bow to players

Sports Reporter

Islam of Chittagong won against Sheikh Nasir Ahmed of Dhaka University while Fide Master Rezaul Haque defeated Sawkat Hossain Pallab of Farashganj SC.

The remaining match of the day between Biman's Kayes Hasan and Tamina Parveen of Chittagong ended in a draw.

There will be a break in the championship today and the eleventh round will begin tomorrow from 3 pm at the same venue.

Points Table (after tenth round): 10 points — Rezaul, 8 points — Zia, 7.5 points — Lovli, 6.5 points — Rajib, 6 points — Rak