

Sport

# Pace paralyses India A

Sports Reporter

Favourites Pakistan A expectedly won the battle of the bitter neighbors in the third SAARC cricket tournament when they headed their counterparts from across the border, India A, to a convincing 68-run defeat at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The clash of the second string sides of the two giants of the cricketing world petered into an anti-climatic finish as the holders, broken at the back by a burst of pure pace from Mohammad Zahid limped to 164 for nine after their arch rivals set them a victory target of 233. Put into bat Pakistan A made 232 for nine.

With this win, Pakistan stormed into the final of the four-nation invitational tournament with one match to spare against Sri Lanka A. While it was India's first defeat against Pakistan in the unofficial one-day tourney since its inception in 1992, for India, who had earlier won their previous two meetings of the two countries in this tourney, the defeat was a bad blow to the hopes for a berth in Friday's final. With only one point in the kitty that too by default because of a point awarded in their abandoned match against Sri Lanka, they now need a slice of real good luck for a second successive passage to the final. If Sri Lanka can pull off an upset win against fancied Pakistan tomorrow, Indians can very well pack their bags on their way. Because the Lankans then will have five points, far more than India can manage from the lone match they have at hand against hosts Bangladesh. Only if Sri Lanka lose to Pakistan and India win their tie against hosts Bangladesh Wednesday by ensuring a better net run rate that they can fancy a chance for exacting revenge against their arch-rivals.

Although opener Prasad with a painstaking unbeaten 56 delayed the inevitable defeat for India was virtually sealed when Mohammed Zahid, the firebrand new-ball bowler, ripped through the top order in the span of three deliveries. Zahid, regarded by many as the quickest bowler in the world, started the Indian rot by removing a menacingly poised Amay Khurasiya in the last ball of the 10th over.

The left-hander, coming into bat at number three, showed signs of a fine stroke maker as he pounced on an Aaqib half volley to open his account with a glorious drive through the covers. But impetuousness got the better of him when he chased a rather innocuous and wishy delivery from Zahid to be snatched by Wasim at squarish gully. Inspired by the success, the young speedster though handicapped by the injunction on this use of bowling boots in this meet, produced some sensational stuff in the next over. The sheer pace of the tall but powerfully built Zahid saw the backs of Ajay Sharma and Sharath in successive deliveries.

Skipper Sharma, one of the five batsmen in the Indian innings who returned without scoring, offered a lone catch at first slip while Sharath who hardly had the time to bring his bat down was bowled by a gem

of a yorker. And the Indians, who at one stage looked comfortable with the scoreboard reading 39 for one, were reduced to 41 for four in no time. The misery was compounded in the following over when Hemanga Badani returned after playing a rash shot, leaving his side tottering at 44 for five from where India never recovered.

Although Zahid did the real damage, it was Aaqib Javed who made the breakthrough in the third over. Wasim Jaffer the tall Mumbai batsman who has come here with a growing reputation as a prospective India opener on the strength of his towering feats in the domestic front was foxed by a beauty from Aaqib. The crafty new ball bowler and one of the unsung heroes of Pakistan's World Cup triumph in 1992 and now engaged in a tough battle to regain his place in the mainstream beat the right handed Indian for pace and movement to peg back the off stick.



HARVINDER SINGH... m-o-m

Sairaj Bahutule, however, led a fine rescue operation with a doughty Prasad, together putting 71 runs for the sixth wicket. But after the drinks interval in the 30th over, when the play resumed, the glimmer of hope for an Indian comeback in the match faded away when Bahutule was run out after scoring an enterprising 36 which included five hits across the rope. The departure of the right arm leg-spinner and left handed bat heralded another collapse with India losing their next four wickets for the addition of six runs to the total.

Although it looked like a forgone conclusion for India, the match would have been a close affair had Bahutule got the benefit of doubt in his favour. The television replay suggested that the young Indian might have been home when umpire Nadir Shah upheld the appeal for a run out decision by the Pakistani fielders. Mahab-ullah, the other Bangladeshi official in white apron on the day did a controversy a world of good when he ruled the just entered Noel David caught behind to Pakistan A skipper Asif Mujtaba. Convinced that he got no touch to the leg spinner, David expressed his dissatisfaction in no uncertain terms having taken an embarrassingly long time to trudge back to pavilion.

But apart from that venomous one over from Zahid, the four-pronged seam attack of Pakistan appeared as undisciplined as usual. Lacking in control the Pak pace trio of Aaqib Javed, Mohammed Zahid and Kabir Khan, who had given away 43 extras in the previous match against hosts Bangladesh, this time were even more generous, giving away as many as 48 extras, the second highest contributor in the Indian total.

Earlier, sent into bat in the morning, Pakistan were off to a sound start with the left-right combination of Akhter Sarfaraz and Mujahid Jamshed putting on 57 runs in 12.5 overs. But once the two openers fell in quick succession, Pakistan suffered a remarkable collapse, losing four wickets for 93. Sarfaraz scored a patient 46-ball 20 while Mujahid Jamshed made 23 before both were dismissed by Harvinder Singh with the addition of three runs to the total.

The right-arm seamer from Punjab who came as a first change bowler, then went on to achieve the best bowling analysis in the SAARC meet with a haul of six for 43 in his 10 overs. His commendable performance later earned him the man-of-the-match award and a cash award of Taka five thousand. Not inclined to do experiment Harvinder stuck to a nagging length and had rewards coming his way regularly. After scalping the openers he dealt Pakistan A big blow by trapping Md. Wasim, one of the batting mainstays, in front of the wicket.

Things really looked ominous for the Pakistanis when their captain and the topscorer in the previous match Asif Mujtaba was done in by the young right arm off break bowler who announced his arrival when he dived full length to his left to pull off a fine stop from a stinging Mujtaba on drive. Perhaps spurred by this, the young man underlined his promise as an offie by producing a delivery normally regarded as the bane of all left handers. He tossed the ball up to beat the Pakistan A captain in the air and wicket-keeper Prasad, who later achieved the distinction of carrying bat through the innings and also a remarkable feat of endurance, did the rest behind the stumps. Apparently under-bowled by skipper Ajay Sharma, who himself conceded 18 and 14 runs respectively in his two overs, had a fairly impressive analysis along side medium pacer Arindam Sarkar who too bowled a good line.

After the sudden Hussain, an experienced Basit Ali with a fluent 67, not only steadied the rocking boat, but also paved the way for a decisive assault in the slog overs by the unheard of Mohammad Hussain. Now engaged in a cool and concentrated battle to regain his place on the main national squad Basit played 81 balls and hit six fours and a sixer. But the real momentum was provided by left handed Mohammed Hussain who plundered 51 runs off 36 deliveries. In his little tornado with the willow, Mohammed, basically a slow left arm spinner, clouted three fours and a couple of sixes including a towering overboundary against left-hander Ajay Sharma which landed on the terraces of

the eastern gallery. No matches will be held today.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third SAARC cricket tournament between Pakistan A and India A at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday:



**PAKISTAN A**

A Sarfaraz c Badani b Harvinder	20
M Jamshed c Sharma b Harvinder	23
M Wasim lbw b Harvinder	8
A Mujtaba st Prasad b David	9
Basit Ali c Khurasiya b Harvinder	67
W Yousaifi c David b Harvinder	15
M Hussain c David b Harvinder	51
A Mehmoode c Khurasiya b Harvinder	2
Kabeer Khan not out	11
M Zahid c Khurasiya b Mohanty	0
Aaqib Javed not out	1
Extras: (lb-7, nb-4, w-14)	25
Total (for 9 wickets in 50 overs)	232
Fall of wkts: 1/57, 2/60, 3/74, 4/93, 5/142, 6/195, 7/216, 8/224, 9/226.	

**Bowling**

D Mohanty	9	0	47	1
A Sarker	8	0	24	0
Harvinder Singh	10	0	43	6
S Bahutule	8	1	35	0
Noel David	7	2	31	1
Ajay Sharma	8	1	45	1

**INDIA A:**

W Jaffer b Aaqib	56
MSK Prasad not out	0
A Khurasiya c Waseem b Zahid	15
A Sharma c Azhar b Zahid	0
S Sharath b Zahid	0
M Badani c Yousaifi b Kabeer	0
S Bahutule run out	36
N David c Yousaifi b Mujtaba	0
A Sarker run out	3
D Mohanty c & b M Hussain	4
Harvinder not out	4
Extras: (lb-1, nb-4, nb-16; w-27)	48
Total (for 9 wickets in 50 overs)	164
Fall of wkts: 1/5, 2/39, 3/40, 4/41, 5/44, 6/115, 7/115, 8/122, 9/128.	

**Bowling**

Aaqib Javed	10	1	24	1
Mohammed Zahid	7	0	36	3
Kabeer Khan	9	0	38	1
Azhar Mehmood	7	2	18	0
M Hussain	10	0	28	1
Asif Mujtaba	7	0	15	1

Result: Pakistan A won by 68 runs. Man-of-the-match: Harvinder Singh (India A)

## Kirmani in town

Sports Reporter

Former Indian Test wicket-keeper Syed Kirmani arrived in the city on Saturday on a two-week visit to impart lessons in the art of keeping.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has organised the trip. Talking to The Daily Star at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday evening, the shaven-headed former World Cup-winning keeper said that he was delighted at the opportunity to train the local wicketkeepers.

When asked about India A's performance against traditional foes Pakistan yesterday, Kirmani said, "I am very unhappy with the way the Indians played today. Moreover, I am also not pleased with the composition of the team. I don't know what led the selectors to pick such an understrength squad may be it would have been wiser to send some more experienced Test discards like the Pakistanis did."

"It's a competition and not a testing ground," Kirmani added.

## Sharma sidelined

Sports Reporter

India A skipper Ajay Sharma returns home today due to a problem in his left eye. The former Indian Test all-rounder is suffering from a fluid leakage which has ruled him out for the rest of the third SAARC cricket tournament.

Sharma informed this to the press in a post-match interview at the Dhaka Stadium after his side suffered a 68-run defeat to arch-rivals Pakistan yesterday. According to the captain, the team management has already sought permission from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for a replacement. He was unable to confirm who that was going to be.

Meanwhile, Arindam Sarkar the right-arm medium pace bowler, is also a doubtful starter for the next match. He injured his right wrist while taking a Azhar Mahmood Skier at short fine leg.

# Speed Pakistan's spade

By Zayd Almer Khan



After an impressive display on the field, nobody expected a meek surrender at the wicket. But the Indian "A" side did just so. At the end, the greater experience and temperament of the Pakistan "A" outfit and the sheep pace of their quickies forced their Indian counterparts to capitulate in such a submissive fashion.

"Death by pace" would be the correct phrase to describe the Indians' fate yesterday as Muhammad Zahid and Aaqib Javed ripped through their top and middle orders with an impressive show of very quick bowling. Zahid, especially, was outstanding and consistently bowled at an express pace that took the Indians off-guard — living up to his reputation of being one of Pakistan's fastest bowlers.

Zahid's thunderous pace was best exemplified by his dismissal of S Sarath, the Indian number five, in the twelfth over. Sarath's bat had not even come down the full length when a complete blinder shattered his stumps. In the same over another blinder whizzed past the helmet of a bewildered Hemang Badani, who had not even had the time to turn his head away before the ball rocked the keeper's gloves. Although Zahid seemed to have done justice to the praises we had heard of him, his teammates reportedly claimed that he can bowl even quicker. Only heaven knows what havoc he might create then.

Aaqib, on the other hand, bowled a more controlled spell as he conceded only 28 runs in his ten overs. He bowled Waseem Jaffer, the most talked-about Indian batsman, with a beauty of a delivery that was completely miss-judged by the batsman.

These two apart, the Pakistani bowlers bowled well, but not exceptionally so. Kabeer Khan was erratic most of the time and the spinners restrictive but not threatening. All the bowlers' figures, however, were helped remarkably by the initial collapse brought about by Zahid and Aaqib.

One thing that did not change from their match against Bangladesh was the amount of extras they conceded — actually they outdid themselves by five runs. The 27 wides and 16 no-balls bowled by the Pakistanis can not be condoned at any level of the game, let alone at the international stage. India's batting, regardless of their poor show, did give some scope for hope. Amay Khurasiya, in his much-too-brief-a-stay at the crease, showed not only good technique but a good deal of class and courage as well. He nudged the ball from the word go and hit some beautifully timed strokes. He is definitely one to keep an eye out for. Sairaj Bahutule was another to have impressed on lookers. His batting abilities and fighting spirit halfway down the order is an asset for any one-day outfit.

The one to have really disappointed, among the Indian batsmen, was opener Jaffer. He looked out-of-sorts throughout his 10-ball stay before being baffled by an Aaqib Javed delivery. For all the hype that has been on about him, he was out for a duck.

Talking of poor batting, the Pakistan innings was not remarkably impressive either. After somewhat of a slow start, compared to their previous match, the Pakistan middle-order could not capitalise on the foundation laid down by the openers — at least one of whom, one thought, should have gone on to make a big score. Mohammed Wasim and Asif Mujtaba both looked unusually edgy.

Basit Ali played a characteristically confident knock intelligently blending in solid defence and flashy stroke play. He proved adept at pacing the team's innings well choosing his shots with responsibility.

What made Pakistan's final score possible, however, was a breezy half-century by number seven Muhammad Hussain. Hussain hit out at the Indians

with considerable ease, his strokes not always perfectly executed but fetching the desired results just as well.

The Indian bowling, barring skipper Ajay Sharma, were a study in disciplined, controlled session. The three pacers especially bowled well within their limits and stuck to their tasks like glue. Harvinder Singh bowled a steady line and length in his eight overs. Rather than venom, which he lacked considerably, it was this steady line that got him his rewards yesterday. Devashis Mohanty looked the quicker of the two but lacked Harvinder's control.

The bowler who looked the most impressive was Arindam Sarkar. His control over the cherry early in the morning, when most bowlers find it difficult to master the swing, was most laudable. He too bowled a disciplined line and gave little leeway to the batsmen.

Sairaj Bahutule and Noel

David followed the footsteps of their quicker colleagues bowling to the field almost always. The latter looked especially sharp on the day.

The Indian fielders backed up their bowlers competently, particularly good skills on the field. However, the Indians' eye for runouts seemed a little drowsy with balls thrown in from the deep left waning.

On the day, the Pakistanis came out deserving winners. Their bowlers had more venom and hunger for wickets; their batsmen, although not outstanding, had enough in them to post a fighting score; and their teamwork seemed more spirited. The Indians too, however, crushing the defeat, had quite a bit to show for. They showed every sign of being a competent and balanced outfit. They too are a good team who simply had a bad day on the field.

# BEXIMCO tennis Danai's double delight

Udomchoka Danai of Thailand completed a delightful double in the BEXIMCO eleventh Bangladesh International junior tennis championships when he clinched the doubles title on the concluding day at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday, reports UNB. Danai, who clinched the singles title on Saturday beating Manoj Mahadevan of India 6-4, 6-4, shared the doubles title with compatriot Atabut Phoemphon beating Korean pair Y Y Lee and H Y Junko 6-4, 6-2 in the final.

In the girls' doubles final, Thai pair Wiratprasert Suchanum and Witoonpanich Piradot walkover against their Korean opponents Hye Jim Kim and M J Kim who did not play due to illness. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad was the chief guest at the closing ceremony of the week-long meet and distributed the prizes.

# The post-match parley

Sports Reporter

A demonstration of genuine pace bowling and some brilliant fielding helped Pakistan A to pull off an impressive victory over perennial rivals India A in their SAARC cricket engagement at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Asif Mujtaba, skipper of the second string Pakistan team, commented in a post-match session yesterday.

"We did not have a scare-free total to defend. But the scintillating spells of our quickies along with some good fielding put us on the drivers' seat and, consequently, that led us to the final," said the beaming though-tired Pakistani skipper. While defending his top-order bats, unsuccessful on the day, Mujtaba said, "In one-day cricket you have got to take risks and play shots to collect as many runs as possible. This is nothing unusual and that's why it didn't bother us that much."

Answering to the question whether there were any pressure mounting on them during a seemingly cruising win, the Test discard admitted that there had been some pressure, especially, when they lost four early wickets in the morning and when Prasad and Bahutule were salvaging the Indian chase. But in both cases combined team effort helped them to eliminate the brewing threats. He especially praised Basit Ali, Mohammad Hussain for their timely knocks and extended his warm felicitation to the young quick Mohammad Zahid who sent three Indian batsmen tumbling in space of four balls.

Zahid's spell helped us to a great extent today as we were not very happy with our own score. Although, our bowlers once again gave too many extras, but at the end, I think their good works overshadowed the blemish."

About their opponents, Mujtaba said, "The Indian bowlers did well. They kept good line and length which prevented us from scoring more runs." He also praised the Indian opener Prasad for his slow but useful

innings.

Once a reporter, without context of course, reminded the Pakistani captain that it was their first win against India in the last three SAARC encounters at the Dhaka Stadium. In reply he said, "Well, we did not come in the last two meets so we don't know anything about past."

When asked whom they prefer to meet in the final, the Pakistan A skipper said, "The tournament is still open for both Sri Lanka and India and we do not have any preference." Manager Zahir Abbas was seen in a happy mood with Mujtaba. Talking to the press, Zahir said his team played well and deserved to win.

"It was a good game. Although, it looked at the end that it was just a one-sided match, but I must say India fought very well, they worked hard. But one has to win and Pakistan has won today," said Zahir while giving his views.

When asked to comment on his bowlers' performance, the Pakistani legend said, "Well, I am not very happy with the way they conceded too many wides and no-balls. Even though, from the bowling point of view, it was quite satisfactory."

About what went wrong for the bowlers in giving 48 extra runs, he quipped, "I have to ask them."

When the Pakistanis were celebrating their rights to the final, the Indians were tied in knots while thinking of their prospect in the match after losing to Pakistan.

"To tell you very frankly, it was a very poor performance overall. Although, our bowlers did reasonably good. If you consider the level of Pakistani batsmen, I think, our boys did a commendable job. But our batsmen failed to perform according to their potentials and we lost the match. I want to give full credit to the Pakistani bowlers to inflict the collapse on our top-order," said Krishnamachari Srikrant, the manager of India A team.

When asked whether they still hope to reach the final, Srikrant said that everything would now depend on the match

between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. "If Pakistanis win against the Lankans, we will have a chance. But then we will have to beat Bangladesh and again the run rates will also be considered. So, it is very early to comment on that," he added.

About umpiring, Srikrant said, "I would say it was OK but nothing extra ordinary."

When asked about his impression about the selection of his team, the former dashed Indian opener said, "Well it is not a weak team. They are also capable of scoring runs. Today, I think we played very poor game and that's why we lost."

When the manager was blaming his batsmen for the defeat, captain Ajay Sharma expressed his dissatisfaction about the unfamiliar synthetic turf. "It was a new turf to us and that's why they failed to perform according to their abilities," said a dejected captain.

He also blamed his top-order batsmen as they failed to play according to the demand of the game. "Our batting was horrible. This was not something what we expected out of them. And even I could not play well due to a disturbance in the left eye. I am going back to India tomorrow to have an operation."

## Plaskett suffers setback

Sports Reporter

Four players — IM Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh, IM Praveen Thipsay of India, GM Jim Plaskett of England and IM Nguyen Anh Dung of Vietnam — were leading the table jointly in the third United Insurance Grand Masters chess tournament at the end of the fourth round yesterday.

On the fourth day of the meet at the NSC conference room Zia beat his compatriot Saifuddin Lovlu. Dung outplayed Bangladeshi IM Reefat-bin-Sattar while Thipsay recorded an upset win over his superior English counterpart GM Plaskett.

# Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer (R&H) Manikganj Road Division, Manikganj Tender Corrigendum Notice

Under unavoidable circumstances, the dates of selling, receiving, opening & lottery etc of the tenders invited vide Manikganj Road Division Tender Notice Nos 114/Manikganj, 115/Manikganj & 116/Manikganj of 1996-97 under this office Memo Nos 129 dt 15-01-97, 134 dt 18-01-97, 135 dt 18-01-97 and DFP Nos 1671 dt 21-01-97, 1670 dt 21-01-97 & 1672 dt 21-01-97 respectively are amended as per the undermentioned descriptions.

Except this, other terms & conditions of tender will remain unchanged and this corrigendum will be treated as integral part of the tender.

Serial No	Tender No	Earlier date & time of selling tender	Amended date & time of selling tender	Earlier date & time of receiving tender	Amended date & time of receiving tender	Earlier date & time of opening tender	Amended date & time of opening tender	Earlier date & time of lottery	Amended date & time of lottery
01)	114/Manikganj of 1996-97.	15-02-97 during office hours	-do-	04-03-97 during office hours	-do-	16-02-97 up to 12-30 PM	5-3-97 up to 12-30 PM	24-02-97 at 1-00 PM	13-03-97 at 1-00 PM
02)	115/Manikganj of 1996-97.	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
03)	116/Manikganj of 1996-97	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-

DFP-3700-18/2 G-514

A K M Rezaul Haq Executive Engineer (R&H) Manikganj Road Division Manikganj