

Railway in Division One

Sports Reporter
A brilliant century by middle-order Harris Erian steered Bangladesh Railway to a comfortable 52-run victory over Spread Eagles in the second semi-final of the Acme Second Division cricket league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

BRIEF SCORES

BANGLADESH RAILWAY: 254 for 8 in 45 overs (Erian 119, Akbar 27, Sohail 23, Sumon 21, Jewel 3/44, Biplab 2/3).
SPREAD EAGLES: 202 for 9 in 45 overs (Shaheen 52, Jewel 39 n.o., Biplab 20, Safdar 3/36, Halim 2/23, Sohail 2/27).
Result: Bangladesh Railway won by 52 runs.

up a huge 254 for eight in 45 overs with one down Erian hammering highest 119 runs off as many deliveries inclusive of 13 fours, Akbar (27), Sohail (23) and Sumon (21) were the other notable run-getters.

In reply, Spread Eagles were restricted to 202 for nine in their share of 45 overs. Lower order bat Shaheen scored highest 51 followed by Jewel who added an unbeaten 39 runs.

Safdar was the most successful Railway bowler capturing three wickets for 36 runs while Halim Babu and Sohail took two wickets each.

The winners will take on Orient Sporting Club in the final likely to be held on March 12.

Nirman cricket results

Sports Reporter
Mirpur Bangla High School, Scholastica and Rashid Adarsha High School won their respective Nirman School cricket Dhaka zonal matches held at different venues in the city yesterday.

On the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Mirpur Bangla School recorded a convincing 150-run victory over Razarbagh Police Lines High School.

Batting first, Mirpur Bangla piled up a huge 224 for seven in the stipulated 35 overs with middle-order bat Jewel hammering highest 76, Fazle (38) and Helal (17) were the other leading scorers for the winners.

In reply, the Razarbagh boys were shot out for 74 in 24.1 overs.

Mirpur's Shawkat, the man behind Razarbagh's debacle, captured four wickets for 12 runs while Razib and Helal shared the other six wickets.

Scholastica handed Shaifuddin Academy a five-wicket defeat on the nearby western strip.

Chasing a paltry Shaifuddin Academy total of 160 in 35 overs, Scholastica lost five wickets before reaching the summit with more than three overs to spare.

In the other match of the day, Rashid Adarsha High School defeated Shahidullah High School by five wickets at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Army b'ball

RANGPUR, Mar 5: Four more robin league matches of the Bangladesh Army basketball championship were held at the Rangpur Cantonment this morning, reports BSS.

Comilla Area defeated Savar by 80-73, Air Defence Artillery beat Dhaka Signals 94-18, Dhaka Infantry outplayed Momenshahi 100-94 and Rangpur overtook Dhaka Engineers 102-50 points.

Earlier, two more robin league matches were held on Tuesday afternoon. The Chittagong Area defeated the Dhaka Signals by 96-51 and the Rangpur beat the Momenshahi 95-50 points.

Annual sports

The annual sports competition of Haider Ali High School and College was held at the college ground yesterday, says a press release.

Javed hits unbeaten hundred Big win for Bangladesh



JAVED OMAR... 102

Opener Javed Omar Belim with a fine unbeaten century propelled Bangladesh to a convincing eight-wicket win over Karachi Electric Supply Corporation (KESC) in their first exhibition cricket match at the BKSP in Savar yesterday.

Javed hammered a polished 102, his first ton of the season, as Bangladesh, chasing a commanding Karachi Electric total of 241 in the stipulated 50 overs, reached the summit with more than three overs to spare and eight wickets in hand.

Bangladesh's batting line-up reflected remarkable depth and maturity while chasing an imposing total of the Karachi outfit, which looked like more of a

mediocre team despite the presence of their star opener Shahid Afridi.

Facing a daunting task of scoring a little less than five runs per over, Bangladesh got off to a rollicking start with openers Athar Ali Khan and Javed putting on 86 runs in 15 overs.

Athar, the tall national all-rounder, scored a fluent run-a-ball 46 punctuated with nine sweetly timed hits across the rope before off-spinner Mansoor Khan had him clean bowled with the first delivery of his seven-over spell.

With Aminul Islam Bulbul, who was pushed forward to bat at number three in place of injured Sanwar Hossain, skipper Akram Khan and a watchful Javed clicking as a cohesive force, Bangladesh, who were

hardly troubled to overhaul the Karachi total, demonstrated a confident show of brilliant batsmanship on the slow artificial turf.

Despite the batting general's high hopes for the forthcoming ICC Trophy which begins in Malaysia from March 24, it was especially the fielding which was as depleted as usual; they were seemingly engaged in an horrendous competition of shامتurism that cost at least six easy catches, let alone the toothless bowlers.

Karachi innings, the stout right-hander literally set the field afire with a flurry of eye-pleasing shots. He raced to complete his 31-ball 50 with a massive sixer off new-ball bowler Hasibul Hossain. He was particularly harsh on left-arm seamer Anisur Rahman.

Afridi, who clouted four towering sixes and half a dozen fours in his blitzkrieg innings, spooned an easy catch to deep mid-wicket off Minhazul Abedin Nannu to allow the huffing and puffing locals heave a sigh

of relief. When Afridi departed Karachi were comfortably poised at 119/3 in 16.5 overs. The second match between the two teams will be held tomorrow at the Dhaka Stadium.

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Fall of wks: 1/86; 2/176.

Did not bat: Minhazul Abedin, Sanwar, Khaled, Enamul, Saiful, Hasibul Hossain and Anis.

Bowling:
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Result: Bangladesh won by eight wickets.

Club Cup hockey Good starts for Abahani, Usha

Sports Reporter
Favourites Abahani blanked Bangladesh Ansars while Usha Krira Chakra thrashed Police Athletics Club on the third day of the Karnaphuli Garden City Club Cup hockey tournament at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In their inaugural first round Group B engagement, Abahani, who finished runners-up in the international invitational tournament last month, outplayed Ansars by 12 goals to nil.

In an one-sided affair which saw the winners leading the first half 3-0, forward Raju scored six goals and Lulu netted three.

Abahani will take on Bangladesh Railway in their next match on March 9.

Earlier in the day's first encounter, national striker Rafiqul Islam Kamal scored the first hat-trick of the tournament as Usha Krira Chakra trounced Police AC with eight goals without reply.

Kamal's goals came in the 44th, 45th and 48th minutes. The stocky forward struck another to finish with four to his name while Mohammad Sadeq had two goals. Besides, midfielder Tutul Kumar Nag and defender Sadeq Khan added one each.

Usha will meet Sonali Bank in their next Group C engagement on March 10.

Youth cricket 3 teams advance

Sports Reporter
Mymensingh, Thakurgaon and Rajshahi Education Board moved into the next round as the zonal qualifying matches of the Gazi Tank 17th national youth cricket championship began in six zonal venues across the country yesterday.

Mymensingh were off to a flying start in Zone D with an impressive 142-run victory over Faridpur at the Tangail Stadium.

Electing to bat first, Mymensingh scored 229 for eight in a 40-over-a-side match with Imran hammering highest 56. Sajal added 52.

In reply, Faridpur were bundled out for 87 in 29.5 overs. Masud and Setu captured two wickets each.

Away in Dinajpur, Thakurgaon recorded a 71-run victory over Nawabganj.

Batting first, Thakurgaon mustered 187 in 41.1 overs with Kabir scoring highest 62.

On the other hand, Nawabganj were all out for 116 in 28.5 overs.

In the day's other match held at the Pabna Stadium, Rajshahi Education Board handed Jhenidaha a three-wicket defeat.

Kaiser to put on war paint

FRANKFURT, Mar 5: England is becoming very aggressive in its efforts to outmanoeuvre Germany for the right to stage the 2006 World Cup and the rival bids could lead to "trench warfare", Franz Beckenbauer said Monday, reports AP.

Beckenbauer, writing in his weekly newspaper column, said Germany was ready for the challenge of bidding against England.

"Such an aggressive bid, as is being conducted by England, is not our style."

"But if UEFA doesn't decide between England and Germany, we have to accept the challenge — and offer a better bid," Beckenbauer wrote in the Bild Zeitung.

"If the Europeans don't decide soon on one candidate, UEFA would be threatened by a split. It would lead to trench warfare."

The fight between Germany and England for the World Cup in 2006 is becoming ever more grotesque, wrote Beckenbauer, who said he had accepted the post of vice president of Germany's campaign committee.

"I have decided to fight for Germany," wrote Beckenbauer, adding that one of his main jobs was to search for sponsors.

Beckenbauer said he had talks in Paris Friday with "my friend" Michel Platini, chief organiser of next year's World Cup in France.

If Germany and England continue to argue, a third country, "such as South Africa," could benefit, Beckenbauer wrote.

Beckenbauer, who won World Cup titles both as captain of the national team and its manager, is now chairman of Bayern Munich. But his influence in German soccer far exceeds his club position.

English soccer and political officials were angered last month when UEFA — European soccer's governing body — said it was backing Germany's bid. UEFA eventually backed down and said it would look at both offers but recommend only one candidate to FIFA, soccer's world governing body.

The deadline for bids is 1999. South Africa, Brazil, Argentina, Egypt and Morocco are among those expected to submit bids. The host will be selected by FIFA in June of the year 2000.

Germany says it was first to let UEFA know it planned to make an official bid and that England only entered the game as a stalling last year's European Championship.

Rate of tickets

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced the rate of tickets for the two exhibition matches between visiting Karachi Electricity Supply Corporation and Bangladesh national team to be held at the Dhaka Stadium on Friday and Sunday respectively.

Tickets for the VIP enclosure will cost Taka 100 each while Taka 60 will be charged for the Club House enclosure. The tickets for general galleries will cost Taka 20 each.

The visitors will also play another exhibition match against Bangladesh A at the Comilla Stadium on March 10.

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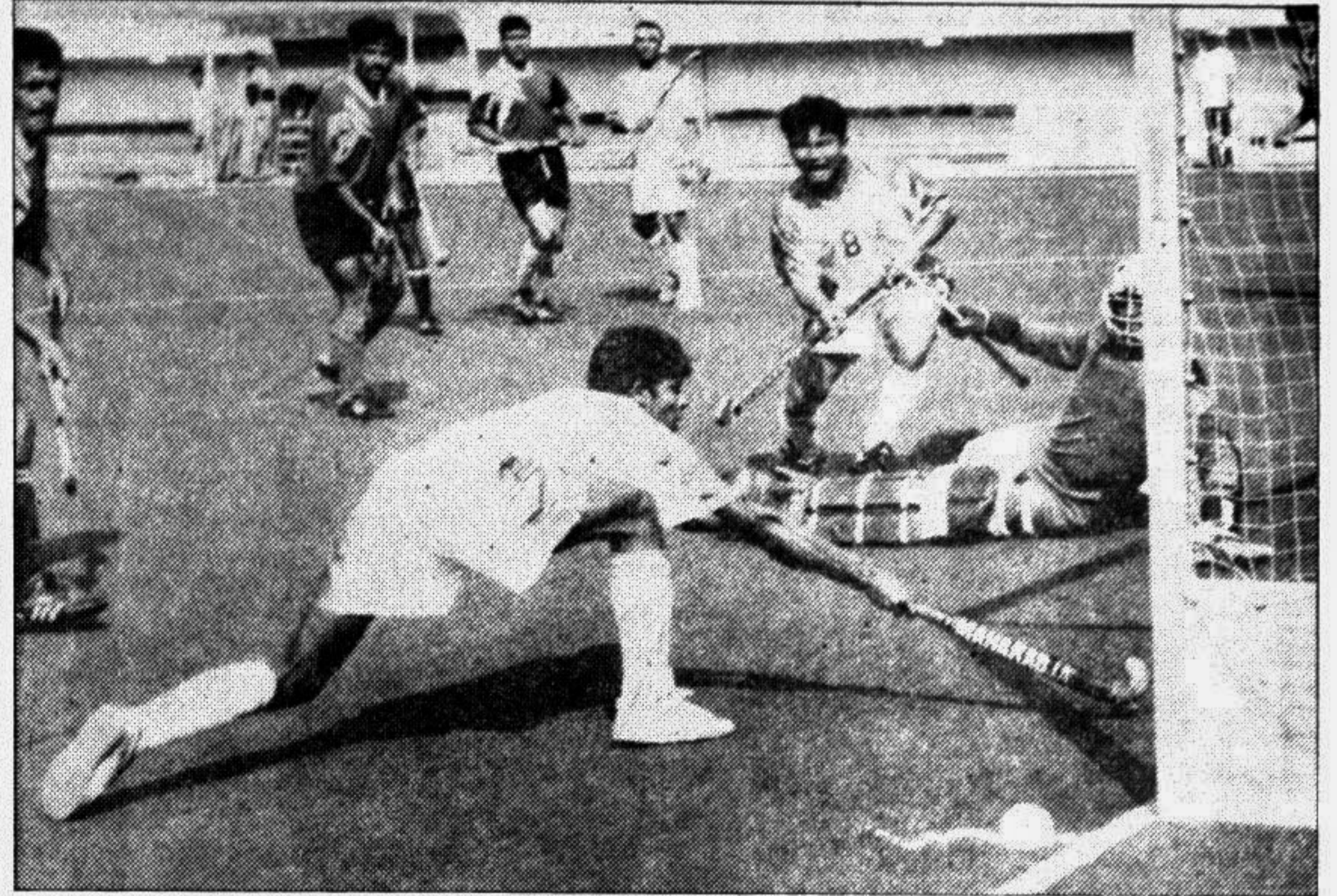
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A goalmouth melee during yesterday's Karnaphuli Garden City Club Cup hockey tournament match between Usha Krira Chakra and Police AC at the Hockey Stadium. — Star photo

Title goes to Thipsay

Sports Reporter
IM Praveen Mahadev Thipsay of India emerged the champion in the third United Insurance chess tournament which concluded in the capital yesterday.

In the final round of the 13-round Swiss league format held at the NSC conference room, Thipsay was held to a draw by local GM Niaz Murshed which raised his tally to nine points, equal with top seed GM Sergei Tiviakov of Russia. But the seven-time Indian national champion who also earned an eleven-point GM norm from this tournament, was declared the winner because of his better winning rate in the meet.

Out of thirteen matches, Thipsay won six while Tiviakov, the only participant unbeaten in the 14-player tourney who beat Saifuddin Lovhi in the concluding round, won five matches. Both the champion and runner up received 1,250 dollars each.

National champion IM Ziaur Rahman and British GM Jim Plaskett finished third and fourth respectively. Both Zia and Plaskett had equal eight and a half points to their credit after the final round. But Zia was announced third because of his victory against the Englishman in their face to face encounter in the tournament. Zia and Plaskett received 450 dollars each.

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