

Of an inferno!

KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 30: Demonstrators armed with stones and protesting against the presence of the Israeli team at the ICC tournament here forced organisers to abandon a match today, reports AFP.

The game between Holland and Canada was called off after more than 300 demonstrators stormed the ground and refused to leave.

International Cricket Council (ICC) tournament officials had been tipped off that a demonstration over the presence of the Israeli team was planned and switched venues between the Holland and Canada game and the match between Israel and Gibraltar.

Angry at being duped, demonstrators damaged a number of advertising hoardings at the ground and refused to leave.

"It was frightening. The crowd were all carrying large stones and they were very angry when they found out that the Israel team would not be turning up," said an official at the ground.

The disruption led to the abandonment of the Holland-Canada game, both sides shared a point and progressed to the second round of the tournament.

Meanwhile, a strong police presence at the venue where Israel were playing Gibraltar, ensured that the match progressed without disruption. Gibraltar defeated Israel by two wickets.

Israel, who have no diplomatic ties with Malaysia, were given special permission to enter the country on the intervention of Tunku Imran, the Malaysian King's son who is also the president of the Malaysian Cricket Association and a keen cricket fan.

The Malaysian government had granted the Israeli cricket team the right to enter the country to play in what is billed as the largest international cricket tournament in the world.

Twenty-two countries are playing in the three-week tournament which three ICC-associate members will join the nine Test playing nations at the 1999 World Cup.

England beat Mexico 2-0

LONDON, Mar 30: A Teddy Sheringham penalty and Robbie Fowler's first international goal gave England a 2-0 win over Mexico in a Wembley friendly on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Sheringham put the home side ahead from the spot in the 18th minute after defender Pavel Pardo was adjudged to have tripped England captain Paul Ince in the box.

Fowler sealed England's victory after the break with a "close range header" after keeper Aldo Rios had parried an initial header from Ian Wright. It was Fowler's first goal for his country in his sixth appearance.

Lopez's 19th in a row

LAS VEGAS, Mar 30: World Boxing Council (WBC) strawweight champion Ricardo Lopez of Mexico surprisingly was forced to go the distance by unheralded Thai challenger Mongkol Charoen to win his 19th consecutive title defence on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Lopez, 45-0, who was bleeding over his right eye after an accidental head butt in the 10th round, had to fight until the final bell for only the fourth time in his professional career.

Lopez was given every round by judges Carol Castellano and Martin Sammon, 120-107 and judge, Jorajico Castillo scored it 119-108.

Charoen, 18, the 10th rated challenger by the WBC and was fighting for the first time out of his homeland and had only arrived here five days before the bout.

"He was well prepared," Lopez said of Charoen. "He surprised me how tough he was. I was surprised he didn't go down."

Charoen had a bloody nose after the first round and continued to absorb a lot more punishment from the champion's stinging head and body punches.

Int'l water polo Army on a roll

Bangladesh Army posted their second successive victory in the hexinco Independence Day international water polo tournament thrashing Bangladesh Air Force 13-0 at the National Swimming Complex, Mirpur yesterday.

The fancied Army outfit, who had earlier defeated Calcutta University Swimming Club by 22-15 goals on Saturday, the inaugural day of the five-day meet, took an unassailable 6-0 lead in the first quarter of the lop-sided affair.

Nurul Islam, who led the Army charge, topscored with six goals while Younus Ali notched three.

Meanwhile, in the other billing of the day between the two foreign participants in the tourney, Calcutta University Institute of India recorded a resounding 22-4 win against Sri Lanka.

The winners led the first quarter 5-1. Sanjay with six goals was the top marksman for the Calcutta outfit.

Six teams — two from India, one from Sri Lanka and three services outfits of the hosts Bangladesh — are taking part in the meet.

Bangladesh win at last

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh defeated Chinese Taipei by the odd goal in three to record their first win in the Asian World Cup football qualifying round in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah on Saturday.

Already out of the race conceding four consecutive defeats including three during the first-leg held in Malaysia early this month, Bangladesh with this hard-fought victory in their second match of the second leg exacted some sort of revenge against their opponents who had earlier beat them 3-1 in the first phase.

According to a faxed message received here yesterday, Bangladesh led the first half by a lone goal with striker Alfaz Ahmed finding the net in the 44th minute.

But their joy was short-lived as Chinese Taipei restored parity 13 minutes into the second half. But thanks to a spectacular goal from Imtiaz Ahmed Naqib four minutes from the final whistle, Bangladesh

squeezed home by the skin of their teeth.

Bangladesh appear in their final Asian Zone One encounter against Malaysia in an insignificant affair today.

Meanwhile, in the other match of the day, the hosts rolled up a hapless Malaysia 3-0 on their way to the next round. Three teams from Asia will earn the ticket for the next World Cup to be held in France in 1998.

Bangladesh team: Biplob, Jewel Rana, Hasan Al Mamun, Prodip, Sohel Al Masum, Jakir, Rakib, Imtiaz, Alfaz, Nurul Haq, Masud Rana.

Inter-varsity volleyball

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Mar 30: Rajshahi handed Agriculture University a straight sets defeat in an inter-university volleyball tournament match at the Islamic University playground today.

The winners secured a 15-4, 15-3, 15-11 victory.

Jansher Khan lifts Super Series

LONDON, Mar 30: World champion Jansher Khan regained the Super Series title when he beat the British Open finalist from Australia Brett Martin in straight games at Hatfield's Galleria Shopping Centre here on Saturday, reports AFP.

It refilled the only important gap in Jansher's trophy cabinet after his shock defeat to England's Del Harris last year and should have further boosted the great Pakistani's confidence before next week's British Open.

He will be trying to win the famous tournament for a sixth successive time, and the manner of Saturday's victory by 9-7, 9-5, 9-2 over the gifted Martin suggested Jansher is a stronger favourite than he was a couple of weeks ago.

There have been hiccups in his preparation but there were none on Saturday, for Jansher was able to keep the 34-year old Martin on the move far more than he found comfortable. Even in as short a match as this the Aussie was breathing hard.

The crucial moment came at 8-7 in the first game when Jansher played a clinging little forehand volley drop that lured Martin into a forehand drive which passed too close to himself and gave the Pakistani a penalty point.

In the second game Jansher was more on top, with Martin increasing his complaints about the refereeing, and in the third game it was one way traffic as the Pakistani took the first eight points without reply.

Jansher also had pertinent remarks to make about the experimental nine-up point-per-rally scoring system, which he described as "too short". The final lasted only 23 minutes.

The third place match however lasted an entertaining 46 minutes. It was won by Simon Parke, who only qualified for the Super Series final in the last tournament of 1996 — the Mahindra International in Bombay — after spending much of the year recovering from cancer.

The world number four from England played an enterprising final game to win 9-7, 9-2, 5-9 and 8-2 against the rapidly improving former world junior champion from Egypt, Ahmed Barada.

Woodies win

KEY BISCAAYNE, Florida, Mar 30: Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde clinched the men's doubles trophy of the Lipton Championships here today, reports AP.

The Australian duo, nicknamed the Woodies, beat Mark Knowles and Daniel Nestor 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (10-8).

In the men's final Sunday, Austrian Thomas Muster faces Spaniard Sergi Bruguera.

"It's great that two European players play the final here," Muster said. "It's the best thing that could happen to us."

The 29-year-old Muster last reached the Lipton final in 1989, when he was unable to play because of an accident with a drunk driver that nearly ended his career.

Laurent retains WBA belt

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, Mar 30: Laurent Boudouani of France retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) light middleweight title in his first defence here on Saturday beating American Carl Daniels on points, reports AFP.

The 30-year-old Boudouani gained a unanimous decision with the judges scoring the fight 118-108, 115-111 and 117-109.

Boudouani, who took the title off Argentinean Julio Cesar Vasquez in August last year, was constantly on the attack against Daniels, a former world champion at this weight, delivering withering volleys of body punches and blows to the head.

The Frenchman's win took his record to 37 wins with 31 inside the distance and two defeats, while Daniels slipped to 38 wins and three defeats.

Tommi leads in Portugal

After the demise of 555 Subaru World Rally Team drivers, Colin McRae and Kenneth Eriksson, Mitsubishi driver Tommi Makinen was totally unchallenged on the Rally of Portugal and finished the fourth round of the FIA World Rally Championship in 1st position, 4 minutes and 5 seconds ahead of his nearest rival, Freddy Loix in the Toyota Celica.

In an event known for its high rate of attrition, former world champion, Carlos Sainz (Ford) and Richard Burns (Mitsubishi) also joined the ranks of retirees, says a press release.

Vast crowds thronged the wooded hills of Portugal to witness the kind of crushing display that ultimately earned Finland's Tommi Makinen the accolade of 1996 World Rally Champion. Makinen's victory did however deny the 555 Subaru World Rally Team the opportunity to equal and potentially beat Lancia's record of six consecutive World Championship wins, but in doing so has demonstrated the competitiveness of this year's series as four different drivers have already led the 1997 Championship.

Gregoire de Mevius, driving the first-ever non-works Ford Escort World Rally Car on a World Championship event maintained his overnight 4th position on the final day to collect his first points of the season. However, the Belgian's current World Championship programme only includes the Acropolis, Sanremo and RAC rallies. Jean-Pierre Richeimi, driving a Ford Escort RS Cosworth, finished 5th overall ahead of Masao Kamioka in the Subaru Impreza 555. The Japanese driver — who won last year's RAC Rally — drove sensibly, gradually climbing the readerboard for a superb result.

Dhaka WASA Tender Notice

পানির অপচয় বন্ধ করুন।। ম্যানহোলের ঢাকনা চুঁরি রোধ করুন।।

Tenders are invited from Dhaka WASA enlisted 1st, 2nd & 3rd class mechanical & electrical contractors for the work — procuring 8" dia non-return valve from Pagla Depot & installing in different deep tubewells and depositing the condemned non-return valves after repairing, at an allotted cost of Tk 94,024/-.

Tenders will be received up to 12:00 Noon of 7/4/97 and will be opened on the same day at 2:00 PM before the tenderers or their representatives (if any) present.

Schedule of tender will be available at the office of the Chief Accounts Officer of Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka and all MODS Zone offices of Dhaka WASA. Other details will be available at the office of the undersigned.

Address: Hatkhola Road, Dhaka
WASA-P.1-95/97
DFP-6465-18/3
G-879

Ajit Kumar Roy
Executive Engineer
FM Division
Dhaka WASA

Sanchez keeps his title

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, Mar 30: Alex "Nene" Sanchez of Puerto Rico retained his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) strawweight title here on Saturday beating Mexican Victor Burgos on points, reports AFP.

Sanchez gained a unanimous decision from the three judges who scored the bout 115-110, 113-112 and 114-111.

The Puerto Rican's win took his record to 25 wins with 18 inside the distance and one defeat while Burgos's record slipped to 16 wins, eight defeats and one draw.

Italy going great guns

LONDON, Mar 30: Italy maintained their 100 per cent record and replaced England at the top of World Cup qualifying Group Two when they defeated Moldova 3-0 in Trieste on Saturday, reports agencies.

The Italians, who won 1-0 in England last month, were never troubled by the visitors and ran out easy winners with an outstanding individual goal from Paolo Maldini (24) and others from Gianfranco Zola (44) and Christian Vieri (49), who score Italy's 1000th international goal on his debut.

The result gives the Italians 12 points from four matches, three more than England, who recorded a drab 2-0 win over Mexico in a friendly, and could go six points up if they beat Poland on Wednesday.

The Netherlands also preserved their perfect record with a 4-0 win over San Marino in Group Seven in Amsterdam. But it took the strong Dutch team 44 minutes to score the first goal against a side who had conceded 21 goals in their opening four qualifiers.

There was never much doubt about a Dutch win however but two of their goals came in the last eight minutes through Pierre van Hooijdonk (82) and Frank de Boer (90). Patrick

Kluivert (44) and De Boer (58) scored the opening goals.

In the same group, Belgium moved back into contention with a 2-1 victory against Wales in Cardiff, leaping over the Welsh into second place.

Romania's sweeper George Popescu took the scoring honours with four of his side's eight as they blitzed minnows Liechtenstein 8-0 to move five points clear of the Republic of Ireland and Macedonia, who play their Group Eight match on Wednesday. The Romanians have maximum.

Russia remained unbeaten in Group Five after a 1-1 tie at Cyprus, the goals coming within 60 seconds of each other in the first half. The Russians lead standings with eight points from five games but can be overtaken Sunday by Israel, who are point behind and visit last place Luxembourg.

Tom Boyd's first goal for Scotland helped take his country a step closer to next year's finals when they defeated Estonia 2-0 in a Group Four qualifying match.

The Celtic defender had waited 43 appearances before finding the net in a Scottish jersey and the victory now puts Craig Brown's team four points ahead of second placed Austria, who they play in Glasgow on Wednesday.

In other qualifiers Denmark came back to claim a 1-1 draw away at Croatia, though they both still trail leaders Greece in Group One. Ukraine stayed in contention in Group Nine after beating Albania in Spain 1-0 while leaders Portugal, who lead Ukraine on goal difference with the latter having two games in hand, were held to a scoreless draw in Northern Ireland.

The rest of the trainers met Sheikh Mohammed today and pledged to stay in Dubai for the rescheduled race.

John Gosden, trainer of Sheikh Mohammed's American bay horse Flemensirth, said: "I don't think that any dirt track anywhere in the world can take the amount of rain that was thrown on it yesterday."

He said the trainers were quite confident Dubai's Nad Al-Sheba dirt track would be in perfect condition for racing under the floodlights on Thursday night.

A crowd of 30,000 people, including international show business celebrities, was expected at the track and millions more racing fans in Europe, Asia and North America had been expected to tune in to satellite television casts.

Chairman of Sonali Bank's board of directors, Mohammad Asafuddin, distributing prizes after the bank's annual sports competition held at the Rajarbagh Police Lines ground on Mar 28.

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