# When heroes came festive home

Hasan Masood



the morning of April 14, the Bengali new year's day. An aircraft carrying country's cricketers who with their commitment and skill shaped Bangladesh's status as the unbeaten champions in the sixth ICC

way of ZIA. The tarmac wore an unusually delightful and busy look as hundreds of relatives .the Prime Minister and other VIPs prepared to welcome the homecoming heroes. While an army band was filling the ether with a typical tune to mark the triumphant return, thousands of cricket fans created a boisterous assembly with banners and

Trophy, touched down the run-

bands outside the VIP lounge. Precisely, at 7:25 am, the F-28 small aircraft of Biman stopped right in front of the red carpet. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received the boys and the officials with flowers.

After the official rituals, the conquerors of the 22-nation meet in Malaysia, fell in the desired embraces of their near and dear ones many of whom were unable to hold back tears.

They were all, quite expectedly, tired but grinning. For the last 24 hours, since that nerve tingling last-ball victory over favourites Kenya, the cricketers virtually had not rest. After the unavoidable spot formalities they had to attend a few receptions before boarding the aircraft for a flight through the night. But an overwhelming sense of satisfaction and the contagious enthusiasm of countless cricket buffs seemed to have blotted their exhaustion albeit for the time being.

Quite naturally, it was the lucky, smiling skipper Akram Khan who was at the thick of things. When asked about his feelings, the big man said in an emotion charged voice, 'I always had this regret of being a kid in 1971, a fact which did not allow me to participate in the War of Liberation. But today I am happy for being able to do something for my country and the regret is no longer there. It gives me more pleasure that the victory came on the eve of the new year which I believe is an additional bonus for the na-

'I am specially grateful to my management, coaches and the leadership of the board whose efforts put together have brought us where we are now. I also want to express my gratitude to the Bangladeshis in Malaysia who despite their daily existential struggle gave us vociferous suppor,' Akram

Answering to another question about his match-winning innings of 67 against Holland, a proud Akram said, 'that was the most crucial match in the whole meet because our fate depended on this match. After losing few early wickets we all were nervous. But I had the confidence in me and the blessings of the people which helped me keep my cool against all odds.' Away at the corner, coach

Gordon Greenidge, the man behind this transformation, was standing with the board officials with a black Panama hat on his head.

am very pleased to guide the boys through ICC Trophy. This is the biggest achievement of my life as a coach. But the job has just started because we will have to prove our abilities in the World Cup. We have to concentrate on that, Greenidge

an excellent job and all credit go to them.

He said. The boys have done

Gazi Ashraf Lipu, the former national skipper and the manager, was standing nearby When asked about the secret behind the success of the team, the soft-spoken man said, 'Well, it was a combined team effort where everybody played his role in an atmosphere of camaraderie. I can not name anybody in particular, because all the boys had equal contributions to the success. Everybody was in the game and that has led us to the victory podium.'

Minhazul Abedin, the most senior and one of the key players of the team, said, 'I am very happy to be on the side which has won the ICC Trophy. It was

Agrani Bank's

reception

my dream which I had been waiting for to come true since I took to cricket. Today I am the \* thing for my nation.

competition.

happiest man of the world. When asked which about the most crucial match in the ICC Trophy this time, the highest capped Bangladeshi cricketer in the ICC Trophy mentioned the last second round match against Holland and the final against Kenya as the most im-

portant matches in the whole

off the last ball. I am proud of having been able to do some-

All-rounder Mohammad Rafique, who took the highest 19 wickets in the ICC tournament said, 'I am delighted with this memorable performance. I was a bit worried about my leg injury I suffered prior to the meet. But thanks to Allah who has made me fit for the tournament and allowed me to do something for the team. I want

something heart and soul, you will achieve that one day and

we have proved that at last. Saber Hossain Chowdhury the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board and the man behind roping in Greenidge as the coach was standing beside his

About the success the articulate BCB boss said, i Our main objective was to qualify in the 1999 World Cup. That has increased our responsibilities. We



THE HEROES CARAVAN: Members of the victorious national cricket team, who won the ICC Trophy, are seen in front of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) office prior to the start of the spectacular victory rally on Monday afternoon. - Star photo

Aminul Islam Bulbul, the best fielder of the sixth ICC Trophy and also the highest run scorer of the team, said team spirit was their main weapon . Everybody gave his best and that is what one requires to win in the international competi-

About his own performance, the vice captain of the team said, 'I don't want to mention anybody in particular because we all chipped in. If anybody's name has to be mentioned singularly it is Akram Khan's because it is he who like a true skipper piloted us through to the semi-final with a magical to dedicate this victory to all who have had some role to play in developing the cricket in Bangladesh

All rounder Enamul Haque Moni said that team's character has undergone great change. 'We did not play for our individual performance. We played for the team and we were successful. This victory belongs to the 120 million people of this soil. That's it,' added Enam.

Hasibul Hasan Shanto, the tall right arm medium pacer, said 'We have proved that we are the best among the ICC associate members. Now we will play in the World Cup, isn't it the shall have to look forward now to England where we will play the World Cup. We have to prepare ourselves for getting the ultimate Test status also.' About the team Saber said, i

They are more mature and confident now. They have started believing in themselves and that is a positive sign for a team to play in the international arena. In the past it was observed that the team tended to collapse under pressure. But it seems to me that they have overcome that problem as we saw them winning two important in thes under intense pressure. It has certainly



Members of the Bangladesh cricket team at the civic reception at Manik Mia Avenue on Monday. Star photo

victory over Holland.

Opener Athar Ali Khan was standing at a corner with his daughter in his arms. When asked about his feelings on his return, the tall right-hand batsman said, i I am at the top of the world now. Al though I did not bat in the final due to the decision of the team management, my happiness is no less than who actually got the chance o bat. This memory will

live for over. Khaled Masood Pilot, who was adjudged as the best wicketkeeper of the series, has something very special to celebrate. The young man from Rajshahi who has the unique distinction of being there in the Bangladesh teams that won three trophies in Malaysia -International Youth Cricket championship (1994), ACC Trophy 1996 and now the ICC Trophy, was in a happy mood with his wife beside. When asked to say something, Pilot said. don't have words to explain my feelings. It was the best moment of my life when I victory came

TOKYO, Apr 15:

Boris Becker, retur-

ning to tourna-

ment singles after

two months out wi-

best moment for a cricketer?'

Naimur Rahman Durjoy, the pinch-hitter who was the captain of Bangladesh Youth team which won the International Youth Championship in Malaysia in 1994, said, 'I am very happy to be a party to the effort to give something special to the nation. I tried to give my best service to the tea....

Right arm medium pacer Saiful Islam praised the team spirit they had in the ICC Trophy. We don't have an Odumbe or Tikolo or Asim Khan, but it is sure that we were the best team there with a group of talented cricketers who knew how to play collectively and clinch the victory. Our performance reflected that.

Khaled Mahmood Sujon was surrounded by his friends and relatives at a corner, when asked to express his feelings. the all-rounder said,' I can't explain that. I am very proud of being a member of this side and will remember this achievement throughout my life. Only thing I want to say is, i If you try changed the attitude of the team which is important.'

About his future plan, the business magnate and member of the parliament said. We have to now concentrate on the playing conditions prevailing in England. We have to plan and act accordingly to have a positive result in 1999 world cup. That will be our mission from now on."

'We have to prepare the team. Of course, a great number of promising players are awaiting to get into the national team. We have to look after themselves for our own interest There will be new team with the mixture of seniors and juniors. We have to begin that task as soon as possible, Saber added.

About a permanent cricket ground, Saber said, Yes, it is an old demand of the cricketers. We need our own ground where we can play with no anxiety at the back of our mind. I think the government will come up now to solve this long-standing

# Becker back with a bang

More passing shots set up his



report agencies.

Japanese pair

speeds up to 203 kph.

vanced to the round of 16.

doubles with Patrik Kuhnen,

whose erratic service cost the

pair a loss to a wild card

up perfectly. There was no point

when I had pain," said Becker,

who slammed in 12 aces at

in the second set. Becker said, "I

didn't really have a period when

I was playing bad. He played

well. he was aggressive, he took the game to me, and I had to hit

winners. I was able to do that."

twice in the first set, reaching

set point with a sizzling fore-

hand crosscourt passing shot

on a dead run. He suffered his

Becker broke the Canadian

Despite losing his serve once

His right wrist was "holding

tional and glorious success in the 6th ICC Trophy in Kuala The bank also felicitated in favour of all the officers and usual flair in a 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 employees of the institution at victory over Sebastien Lareau this heroic victory of the crick-

## Udinese jolt **Juventus**

eters, says a press release.

ROME, Apr 15: If Juventus believed they had the Serie A title all sewn up, their chief rivals had a very different message for them on Monday, reports Reuter.

Parma and Inter Milan both closed the gap on the reigning champions when Juventus crashed to an unexpected 3-0 home defeat to Udinese on Sun-

Parma had their first ever victory over Roma in Rome, 1-0. while Internazionale beat AC

Milan 3-1 in the Milan derby. Those results left Juventus top with 52 points, Parma second on 49 and Inter third on 45. All three have seven matches left to play.

lone break at 3-3 in the second set on aggressive shooting by

break in the final set's fourth game, and he finished off with one more break, angling in another spectacular pass on the run on match point. The wrist injury first forced

in the Japan Open Tuesday. the three-time Wimbledon "I was surprised by how well champion out of that tourna-I was playing over the whole ment last year, but he finished match," said Becker, who adthe season strongly. Then the wrist problem led him to with-Becker, the No. 2 seed, had a draw two months ago from the first-round bye in singles but Dubai Open, where he reached warmed up Monday by playing

the quarterfinals. Also advancing to the last 16 were No. 4 seed Todd Woodbridge of Australia, who beat Razvan Sabau of Romania 6-3. 6-4, and No. 8 David Prinosil of Germany, who defeated Jerome

Golmard of France 7-5, 6-1. In first-round matches, the only upset was Russian Andrei Cherkasov's 6-3, 7-6 (7-3) victory over No. 9 seed Daniel

Vacek of the Czech Republic. No. 10 Jonathan Stark of the United States beat Bulgaria's Orlin Stanoytchev 6-3, 3-6, 6-1, No. 13 Mark Woodforde of Australia beat Japan's Satoshi Iwabuchi 6-1, 6-3, No. 14 Jeff Tarango of the United States defeated Dutch qualifier Joost Winnink 6-3, 6-2, No. 15 Mag-

nus Norman of Sweden beat India's Leander Paes 7-6, (7-4), 6-1, and No. 16 Lionel Roux of France eliminated South African qualifier David Adams,

Roux said French players prefer hard courts to clay courts.

"That's why they are coming here," said Roux who lost to compatriot Jian Philippe Fleurian in their only previous meeting four years ago. Fleurian was a 6-1, 6-4 win-

ner over American Jim Grab Monday. Japan's Hideki Kaneko defeated Tamer el Sawy of Egypt 6-1, 6-1, and American Justin Gimelstob edged past Fernon

Wibier of the Netherlands 6-4, 7-6, (7/4). No. 1 seed Rechard Krajicek of the Netherlands, who had a first-round bye, has yet to play

his second-round match. On the women's side, No. 3 Amy Frazier of the United States beat Japanese qualifier Yuko Hosoki 6-1, 6-2, No. 6 Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan defeated American Jame Chi 6-3, 6-4, and No. 7 Naoko Kijimuta of Japan eliminated South Korean lucky loser Kim Eun-ha 6-3, 6-2. Karin Kschwendit of Austria subdued Elena Tatarkova of Ukraine 6-3, 6-1.

## Second semi on BTV today

Sports Reporter Bangladesh Television will telecast the highlights of the second semifinal of the sixth ICC Trophy between Bangladesh and Scotland today at 5

According to a BTV official last night, they will also telecast the other semifinal and the final in the subsequent days.

### Shantinagar in Div I

Sports Reporter

Shantinagar Club and Dhaka Wanderers Club earned promotions to the First Division football league after they emerged champions and runners up in the Second Division league which concluded yester-

On the last day of the 16team league, leaders Shantinagar shared points with Eskaton Sabuj Shangha with a 2-2 draw at the Dhaka Stadium and maintained their solo lead in the table with 36 points on completion of their 15 encounters. They won eleven games, drew three and suffered one de-

Wanderers, the only unbeaten team in the league, registered a 2-1 victory over Prantik Krira Chakra on Monday in their last engagement to follow Shantinagar with 35 points. Meanwhile, East End Boy's

Club and Lalmatia Club were relegated to the Third Division Out of their 15 matches in the league, East End suffered eleven defeats and only drew four matches to finish bottom with only four points. On the other hand, Lalmatia finished second from the bottom with 14 points.

## SAARC-ASEAN TT ends

Sports Reporter

India lifted both boys and girls team event titles in the first SAARC-ASEAN youth table tennis championships which concluded at the National Indoor Stadium last night.

In the boy's team final, India beat the Philippines while in the girls event's final they recorded an easy victory over Malaysia. In the boy's singles, Subhajit

Saha of India clinched the title defeating compatriot Subhajit Dutta while their countrywoman Kasturi Chakraborty won the girl's singles beating Gazala Ruhi of Pakistan.

Besides, Malika Parekh and T Pradeepa of India earned the girl's doubles title while Sri Lankans Thilina Pixadasa and Ravi Windiyan won the boy's doubles trophy. On the other hand. Malaysian pair J Min Singh and T Li Cheng lifted the mixed doubles crown defeating compatriots Chan Koon Wah and Ang A Houy in the final.

A total of 12 countries — five ASEAN and seven SAARC countries participated in the liveday meet began at the same venue on April 11.

### Moriero moving to Everton

ROME, Apr 15: Roma's Italian midfielder Francesco Moriero looks set to join English Premier league club Everton as a replacement for Russian Andrei Kanchelskis, the Gazzetta Dello Sport newspaper

said today, reports Reuter. The paper reported that Everton had agreed a deal with Moriero's agent and Kanchelskis had been given a week to consider terms. His contract with Roma expires at the end of the season.

#### depths of despair. When crores of sports aficionados were relishing the Ashraf. rare ICC Trophy triumph of the

national cricket team, a tinge of disillusionment and dejection were prevailing over the cricketing circuit, especially in the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday. The apex body of local cricket, which chalked up the brilliant ICC success that came following the euphoric path of ACC Trophy last year. surprisingly, not unexpectedly though, sunk in sea of unhappiness following a hectic official rituals and a quizzical award.

Although some ardent sports-lovers were thronging outside the BCB office at the Dhaka Stadium to have the feel of the heroes and the cameramen of the Bangladesh Television, the controversial absentee in the Malaysia spectacle, were preparing for interviews of the cricketers, frustration and dissatisfaction were quite evident among the players as well as the officials.

The mute expectation of this sport, which alone brought some international glory for this success-starved nation so far, was echoed in the voice of Gazi Ashraf Hossain, the manager of the victorious team. Albeit the cricketers were duly honoured, cricket's betterment in broader aspect was sadly overlooked, the team manager

### Incontrad v'ball ends

Rangpur and Khulna emerged champions in the men's and women's groups of the Incontrad inter-district volleyball

championship, reports UNB. In the men's group, Rangpur clinched the title for the second consecutive time beating Khulna 15-13, 11-15, 8-15, 15-12, 15-13 in the keenly contested final at court next to Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Khulna won the women's crown for the second time defeating Tangail 15-9, 15-1, 15-

In the third place deciding matches this morning, Dhaka beat Kushtia by 3-2 sets in the men's competition while Rajbari beat Dinajpur by 3-0 sets in the women's match.

Nat'l chess

## Rakib top finisher

Sports Reporter

Former national junior champion Abdullah Al Rakib grabbed the top spot in the preliminary phase of the 23rd national chess championship with a comfortable victory over Showkat Hossain Pallab in the last round held at the NSC chess room on Sunday

With the victory, Rakib raised his tally to eight and a half points from 11 matches. He has got half a point lead over seven players - Enamul Hossain Rajib. Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu. Tayebur Rahman Sumon. Sheikh Nasir Ahmed. Saidul Islam Masum, Arifuzzaman and Khandker Kayes Hasan — who finished second with eight points each.

Besides, eight players — Mohammad Jabed, Rezaul Haque, Shawkat Hossain Pallab, Ali Amiad Mintu, Amir Hossain, Din Mohammad, Saifuddin Lovelu and Abu S f in Shakil — were at the third place with 7.5 points apiece at the end of vesterday's play.

. The top 14 finishers will join defending champion IM Ziaur Rahman and runners-up IM Reefat-bin-Sattar in the linal phase of the championship scheduled to begin in the city after the Eid.



man at the helm of our dream Malaysia Mission, is seen acknowledging the crowd's applause along with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a mammoth civic reception at the Manik Mia Avenue on Monday. - Star photo

## Ashraf vents his agony

Sports Reporter

While the ecstatic Well. I am happy that we nation walks on have finally translated a longthe air cricket arena slips in cherished dream and the way the whole nation backed up to attain the desired goal', said

> 'But if you consider the laurels we got, I think there were lot to be desired. Especially. about the issue of a complete cricket ground. We expected that the government should fulfil that fairly logical demand',



GAZI ASHRAF LIPU

added the former national captain who was waiting for his turn to be in front of the TV camera for interview.

'I appreciate the recognition of our Prime Minister who announced that the government would build a new stadium at Moghbazar exclusively for cricket. But at the same time. I am extremely disappointed as we were not provided with the Dhaka Stadium till we get a new venue', said Ashraf, the man

who was at the helm on both ACC and ICC Trophy triumphs. We are going to play in the World Cup in two years time. And that will be a different ball game when we rub our shoulders with the mighty sides of the cricketing world. To attain a respectable position in the England World Cup we simply cannot spare a single moment.

Ashraf remarked. Right now we need a permanent stadium so that our players can engage themselves with cricket round the year. Besides. to prepare a true wicket, which we are still missing, we need a permanent venue. Because it takes three to four months to lay a sporting wicket. In that case if we are allowed to use the Dhaka Stadium for only six months, you cannot expect a standard wicket', he commented.

Besides, there was nothing new in this announcement. think the previous government had also made such commitment', added Ashraf.

Gazi Ashraf, whose stint with the BCC as a manager has ended after the successful mission in Malaysia, further added that he felt dejected the way they the civic reception at the Manik Mia Avenue on their arrival at home on April 14 was organised.

'I have nothing to say about the essence of the reception. But it was really painful and shame to see my former colleagues like Dipu Roy and Samiur Rahman were standing on the streets when non-cricketers were seen capturing the limelight,' said

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Chief Engineer

Construction & Maintenance Management Unit (CMMU)

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare House No 94, Road No 4, Block-B Banani Model Town, Dhaka

## **Notice Inviting Bid**

Memo No. MOHFW/CMMU/GOB-Rev/96/563 Bids in sealed covers from the pre-qualified Contractors of CMMU for Revenue Budget Works are hereby invited for Construction, Repair, Renovation, Maintenance & Extension works of Different Health Facilities [Location: Thana Health Complex at Dumuria, Avoynagar, Terokhada, Fultala, Mithapukur & Shaharasti, Sadar Hospital at Narayangani and Teaching Morgue at Chittagong Medical College] under GOB Revenue Budget. The works shall be implemented by CMMU, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh through local consultants. The work is very urgent and shall be completed strictly within the stipulated time period mentioned in the Bid Document.

Those Contractors, who did not participate in any bid in the last one year shall not be eligible for participating in this Bid. Those Contractors, who have failed to complete their works within the reasonable time period shall not be eligible to participate in this

In order to seek permission for obtaining the Bidding Documents, the intending contractors shall apply to the Consultants with the following information in support of their compe-tence at least 3 days ahead of the intending date of purchase of Bidding Documents. All information to be submitted shall be supported by documentary evidence without which the information shall not be considered.

Pre-qualification Document. Total value of similar nature of works completed in the last three years should be minimum Tk 100.00 lakh (Certificates from the employer not below the rank of Executive Engineer shall be accepted).

Past performance certificate on executed works from the employer not below the rank of Executive Engineer.

Average of annual turn over of last 3 years (minimum requirement: Tk 50.00 lakh). Financial capability (Minimum requirement: Tk 30.00 lakh).

Cash balance in Bank as on 20-4-97.

Credit facilities not utilised up to 20-4-97. Other deposits as on 20-4-97 Bills due against work(s) done (only the bills which are expected to be paid within next 2 months).

Current commitment and expected expenditure in next 2 months After due scrutiny of the above documents/information, consultant(s) will provide necessa-ry acceptance to the prospective bidders for participating in the bid. Bid Documents shall only be issued to the contractors who have got permission from the consultant(s). Interested permitted Bidders may purchase bid documents on

production of applications in letter head pad of their firms with a Bank Draft/Pay Order of Tk 1000/- (Taka One thousand) only (non-refundable) from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of Chief Engineer, CMMU. Bid Documents will be available during office hours from 22-4-97 to 26-4-97 at the offices mentioned below: Office of the Divisional Commissioner

Dhaka/Chittagong/Rajshahi/ Khulna Division Office of the Executive Engineer, CMMU. Comilla/Rangpur/Khulna/Chittagong

Division. Office of the Executive Engineer, CMMU, Dhaka City. Office of the Consultants

M/s. Shaheedhullah & Associates Ltd. 137. Jahanara Garden, Green Road, Dhaka. Prokalpa Upodeshta Ltd, House # 44. Road # 16 (New),

Dhanmondi R/A. Dhaka. Drawings and other necessary information will be available at the office of the Consultants M/s Shaheedullah & Associates Ltd and Prokalpa Upodeshta Ltd

Earnest money @ 2.5% of quoted amount must be enclosed with the Bid. The earnest money has to be in the form of Bank Draft from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh issued in favour of concerned Executive Engineer, CMMU

Bids in sealed covers will be received in the following manner: In boxes kept in the offices mentioned under paragraph-6 up to 14.00 hrs on 29-4-97.

Through post/courier service at Bidder's risk in the office of the Chief Engineer, CMMU, House No 94, Road No 4, Block-B, Banani Model Town, Dhaka-1215. Bids will be received up to 29-4-97 till 14:00 hours only. Documents received after the above

mentioned time will be refurned un-opened. Bid documents received in boxes/by post or by courier service will be opened in respective offices at 14:30 hrs on the last date of dropping in presence of bidders (if any).

then the selection will be made through open lottery on 3-5-97. Successful bidders will be communicated after evaluation of tender documents. Evaluation will be done centrally after closing together all tenders of a particular package dropped in different places. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all Bids without having any obligation to communicate reasons thereof and this decision shall not be subject to appeal

If all the contesting Bidders quoted same rate in their(s) Bid(s) in a package,

The works will be undertaken only if approval therefor is obtained from the competent authority. If the work can not be undertaken for the above or for any other unavoidable circumstances, this office shall, in no way, be obligated or liable.
The Notice Inviting Bid will also form part of the Contract and will

G-1067

be binding upon the Bidder. Colonel Md Ahsan Habib DFP-7926-1/4

Chief Engineer

For the works of

respective

Division only

For the works

of all Division