

Column One

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN



Tame draw at Colombo

COLOMBO, Apr 23: Aravinda de Silva hit up 168 as Sri Lanka batted through the fifth day's play to draw the first cricket Test against Pakistan here today, reports AFP.

The 31-year-old batting made amends for a lean patch in Test cricket by smashing 14 boundaries and a six in his ninth century that lit up the dreary fifth day's play.

The Sri Lankans gave themselves useful batting practice before Saturday's second and



SAQLAIN ... m-o-m

final Test by carrying their second innings from the overnight 206 for three to 423 for eight, a lead of 375.

Left-hander Hashan Tillakaratne followed his first innings 103 with a strokeful 54 and one-day specialist Sanath Jayasuriya hammered 62 off 84 balls as the depleted Pakistani attack struggled on the lifeless wicket.

Pakistan, without their injured pace duo of skipper Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, were compensated by a fine all-round performance by man-of-the-match Saqlain Mushtaq.

The 21-year-old off-spinner took nine wickets, including a career-best five for 89 in the first innings. Hit up 58 batting

at number eight and took a splendid catch in the covers to remove De Silva.

Saqlain, playing only his eighth Test, sent down 107.2 overs in the match under scorching heat at the Premadasa Stadium, he was supported by experienced leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed who picked up three wickets in each innings.

As the match petered out into a draw, the rival captains coveted the wicket at the Sinhalese Sports Club, the venue of the next Test would provide more support to the bowlers.

The wicket here was so slow there was little scope of a result," said Pakistan's Rameez Raja, who stood in for Akram.

"But I don't think we did badly without our ace bowlers Saqlain bowled and batted well, and Ijaz continued his good form with the bat, the gains outweighed the losses in this match."

Sri Lanka's Arjuna Ranatunga said De Silva's return to form was timely. "He is our best batsman and we lost 2-0 in New Zealand because we did not get runs from him."

"But he is too good a player to fail for long, and his century here put us in an advantage for the second test," Ranatunga said.

De Silva, 79 overnight, took an hour to reach the three-figure mark, his first in 15 Test innings after the 105 against Pakistan at Faisalabad in September 1995.

His sixth wicket stand with Jayasuriya provided the best entertainment of the day for some 3,000 home supporters, as 75 came off in just 86 minutes of attacking cricket.

De Silva reached his 150 with three boundaries and a two in four successive balls from Mohammad Zahid. Jayasuriya then swung Saqlain high lower on for six.

De Silva appeared set to go for a double century when he fell in the second over after tea, misuring a drive off Mushtaq to Saqlain in the covers.

Jayasuriya became Saqlain's ninth victim, holding out to point an hour before close.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the first cricket Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka on Wednesday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 330 (H Tillakaratne 103, R Kaluwitharana 57, A Ranatunga 49; Saqlain Mushtaq 5-89, Mushtaq Ahmed 3-123).

PAKISTAN: First innings 378 (Ijaz Ahmed 113, Salim Malik 58, Saqlain Mushtaq 58; M Muralitharan 6-98).

Atapattu c Nazir b Saqlain 25

Arnold c Nazir b Saqlain 168

De Silva c Saqlain b Mushtaq 58

Tillakaratne c Raja b Saqlain 54

Kaluwitharana c Moin b Nazir 17

Jayasuriya c Elahi b Saqlain 17

Dharmasena not out 11

Vaas c sub b Mushtaq 1

Extras (b-3, lb-4, nb-5) 12

Total: (for 8 wkt) 423

Fall of wickets: 1-38; 2-53; 3-182; 4-265; 5-315; 6-390; 7-420; 8-423.

Bowling: O M R W

Zahid 11 1 60 0

Nazir 12 0 61 1

Saqlain 63 13 137 4

Mushtaq 39.1 9 94 3

Mujtaba 30 5 64 0

DE SILVA...168

Only cricket at Dhaka Stadium, says Quader

Different sections of people including cricket officials and fans yesterday congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her allotting the Dhaka Stadium only for cricket.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader told BSS that a letter from the National Sports Council would be sent to the respective federations today.

The state minister is also chairman of the National Sports Council.

The state minister said to protect the natural pitch at the stadium, no other sports could be played there.

The manager of the Bangladeshi cricket team Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu expressing his gratitude to the Prime Minister said it has fulfilled the long-cherished demand of the hundreds of cricketers and cricket lovers.

The fans termed the decision as 'excellent and wise.'

Greenidge visits BKSP today

National coach Gordon Greenidge accompanied by some senior cricketers will visit BKSP today to examine the facilities for indoor training, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader, BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP and Youth and Sports Secretary ASM Shahjahan will be present on the occasion.

Inter reach UEFA Cup final

MONACO, Apr 23: Internazionale reached their third UEFA Cup final of the decade despite going down 1-0 to Monaco in the second leg of their semifinal on Tuesday, qualifying 3-2 on aggregate, reports Reuter.

The Italian side winners in 1991 and 1994, meet Schalke of Germany who eliminated Spain's Tenerife 2-1 on aggregate in the two-leg final next month.

Nigerian striker Victor Ikpeba, who scored Monaco's only goal in a 3-1 first leg defeat in Milan gave the French league leaders new hope when he volteed home in the 70th minute.

Inter claimed hand ball but he referee patted the right side of his chest, showing midfielder Sylvain Legwinski had controlled the ball legally as he laid on the goal.

The Italians weathered a Monaco storm after tricky teenage winger Thierry Henry came on for Scotland's John Collins with less than half an hour to go.

With the home side committed to attack Inter came as close as the width of a post to Equalising in the final minutes.

First striker Maurizio Ganz, who scored twice in the first leg, broke through and looked set to score but central defender Martin Djetou just got back in time to boot the ball over for a corner.

Velappan said there was a growing demand for female referees in Asia, as women's football was rapidly gaining popularity, adding that 12 countries in the region, including China, excelled in the game.

He said there were already six women referees on the AFC list.

Velappan earlier presided at the opening of a three-day AFC course for newly registered world governing body (FIFA) referees and assistant referees.

The course is being led by AFC referees committee chairman and FIFA instructor Farouk Bouzo, a retired Syrian army general, forty-five referees are taking part from 13 countries, including Brunei, China, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Malaysia.

Farouk told AFP that Asian referees, given the right exposure and training, had the ability to officiate at international matches.

He said the AFC stressed "discipline of referees on and off the field," and instructed them to uphold the "honesty, fairness and attractiveness of the game."

Velappan said the AFC would help to train 167 newly-registered FIFA referees every year.

He said the fact that Asians were allowed to referee third and fourth place matches in last year's Atlanta Olympics proved their quality.

Velappan said the AFC will be in a sealed cover with the name of work superscribed on it.

2. Name of work : 1. Construction of 6 (Six) Nos. 10-Bed Thana Health Complex—one at Lakshminchhari under Khagrachhari Hill District under the Scheme Construction of 50 Nos. New Thana Health Complexes (2nd Phase). Sub-Head-Construction of Generator & Store Room. Group No. I (One)

2. Construction of 6 (Six) Nos. 10-Bed Thana Health Complex—one at Matiranga under Khagrachhari Hill District under the Scheme Construction of 50 Nos. New Thana Health Complexes (2nd Phase). Sub-Head- Construction of Generator & Store Room. Group No. II (Two).

3. Construction of 6 (Six) Nos. 10-Bed Thana Health Complex—one at Panchhara under Khagrachhari Hill District under the Scheme Construction of 50 Nos. New Thana Health Complexes (2nd Phase). Sub-Head- Construction of Generator & Store Room. Group No. III (Three).

4. Estimated cost : Group No. I= Tk. 3,64,969/-

Group No. II= Tk. 3,72,775/-

Group No. III= Tk. 3,48,340/-

5. Earnest money : Group No. I= Tk. 7,300/-

Group No. II= Tk. 7,456/-

Group No. III= Tk. 6,967/-

6. The tender form together with schedule of items, specifications, special-1 terms and conditions etc. can be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned and the Executive Engineer, PWD Division No. I/II, Chittagong/PWD Division, Rangamati and all offices of the Sub-Divisional Engineers under this Division during office hours on all working days on or before 6/5/97 on payment of usual charge.



Waiting for Africa's dawn

Goodwill Games attraction

ATLANTA, Georgia, Apr 23: Goodwill Games organisers will offer five million dollars in prize money as inducement for participants in the 1998 New York event, reports AFP.

"We're going to be pretty close to bringing the best people at that time at the top of their game," Goodwill Games president Michael Plant said.

"In order to build a credible event, we had to induce people to come. Now the inducement is going to be the total package."

More than 100 competitors were given appearance fees to compete at the 1994 Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg, Russia. But Plant said only a handful of 1998 competitors will be paid merely to attend.

More than 1,300 competitors from more than 70 nations are anticipated to compete from July 19-August 2 in 12 sports, the most exciting of which are athletics, gymnastics, figure skating and basketball.

The event was conceived as an Olympics alternative in the 1980s when the United States and Soviet Union had boycotted the Olympics.

Recent years have seen the format reduced to elite fields and fewer sports and made it at best a long-term advance look at favourites for future Games.

Council on Africa, made up of major US and transnational corporate executives, with high officials from Algeria and 24 government south of the Sahara Desert invited as guests.

US President Bill Clinton addressed Monday night's closing session at a suburban Washington conference centre through a video screening introduced by his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The Olympic bid from Cape Town, at the Cape of Good Hope on Africa's southernmost tip, comes not only from his country but "is in reality an African bid," Mbeki said.

"Apart from the fact that Cape Town can successfully host the 2004 Olympics... Africa's time has come," Mbeki said. "Africa needs your support to carry through the difficult and complex task of achieving her renaissance."

The 2000 Summer Games have been awarded to Sydney, and the International Olympic Committee plans late this year to choose among Cape Town and four other candidates for the 2004 Games: Athens, Buenos Aires, Rome and Stockholm.

As described by Mbeki, a Cape Town Olympics could be another in a series of African "miracles" emerging from a continent too often dismissed by outsiders as a "netherworld" of hunger, poverty, underdevelopment and unending conflict.

"I stand here today as a product" of one such miracle, the peaceful transformation of South Africa from white supremacist apartheid to racial equality, he said.

Angola's new Government of Unity and Reconciliation, formed after decades of bloodshed, is another miracle, Mbeki continued.

In strife-torn Zaire, "a new miracle slouches towards its birth," he said, not mentioning embattled President Mobutu Sese Seko by name while voicing hope for "a new Zaire, perhaps with a new name, which shall be democratic, peaceful, prosperous, an exemplar of what the new Africa should be."

The winners led the first half by a solitary goal.

Army hockey

JESSORE, Apr 23: Comilla Area defeated defending champions Jessore 2-0 in the inaugural match of the Bangladesh Army annual hockey championship that began here today, reports UNB.

The winners led the first half by a solitary goal.

Sport

CRYPTOQUIP

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

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