

## BCB Eleven announced

Sports Reporter

An 18-member Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Eleven will leave for India tomorrow to take part in a sub-junior cricket tournament, scheduled to begin in Shillong from December 9.

The BCB XI, who have been pencilled in to Group X along with three other local sides, will play their first match against UAC (Alipurduar) on December 11. They will play their second group league match against BJA CCC 'B' on the following day.

The juvenile selection, the lone foreign participant in the eight-team meet, will play their last group league match on December 13 against Aggramee CCC, the host of the invitation tournament.

All the matches will be held at the Dadabhai ground.

The members of the BCB XI: Dipu Roy Chowdhury (manager), Sarwar Imran (coach), Rayan Islam (capt), Anwar Hossain (vice-captain) Moshinuddin Siddiqi, Bishwajit Roy, Nasiruddin, Mohammed Kalim, Nasir Iqbal, Arafat Jahan Khan, Shariful Islam, Mirza Shams Mahmud, Towhidur Rahman, Ali Shah, Ahmed Habib, Ali Iteza, Imrahim Saber and Golam Mostafa.

## Navy tennis

CHITTAGONG, Dec 7: The annual tennis and squash championships of the Bangladesh Navy will begin at BNS Issa Khan from tomorrow, reports.

The gawking Bangladesh captain, who is better known for his off-spinning prowess,

## Colts' perfect riposte

Sports Reporter

When the seniors continued their dismal showings in New Zealand the colts of the country's cricket lived up to their true potential when the national under-20 team lifted the Youth Asia Cup with an astounding 256-run win over Papua New Guinea (PNG) in Hong Kong yesterday.

## BRIEF SCORES

**BANGLADESH:** 347 all out in 50 overs (Rashedul 105, Sabbir 72, Hannan 54, Mushfiqur 40; Wasim 5/56)

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA:** 91 all out in 34.4 overs (W Vaia 19; Tawkir 4/6, Ahsanullah 2/25, Sajal Chowdhury 2/32)

**Result:** Bangladesh won by 256 runs.

The final, which offered a repeat clash after Bangladesh's stinging 21-run defeat at the hands of PNG in their last second round match on Friday, saw the kamikaze kids of coach Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury exacting a sweet revenge at the KCC ground.

One-down Rashedul scored a blazing 105 and skipper Sabbir Khan blasted a hurricane 28-ball knock of 72 to guide Bangladesh to a mammoth total of 347 in their share of 50 overs.

The gawking Bangladesh captain, who is better known for his off-spinning prowess,

then led his side from the front to shot the besieged PNG out for a meagre 91 in 34.4 overs to mark their qualification into the final round, the World Youth Cup cricket championship, as a worthy champions.

Although Bangladesh, by virtue of their national team's triumph in the ICC Trophy, have been ensured of berth in the World Youth Cup, scheduled to kick-off in South Africa from next January, even before playing a single match in the Asian zone qualifying round, the success of the youth team established their supremacy over other associate member nations of Asia. PNG meanwhile grabbed the other Asian slot in the World Cup by making it to the final.

The desire of the determined colts was however crystal clear when Sabbir, after calling the coin correctly in the morning, opted to use the wicket first.

His decision soon turned out to be a nightmarish experience for the toothless PNG bowlers as Bangladeshi batsmen launched a terrific assault on the vanquished.

Opener Hannan Sharkeer started the onslaught with a breezy 54 off 45 balls inclusive of five fours and three sixes before Rashedul came up with that brilliant 68-ball century. It was the only hundred scored in the meet.

The lithe right-hander clouted ten fours and a quartet of sixes in his whirlwind innings before becoming one of

the five victims of Dicana, who finished with five for 56 in his eight expensive overs.

But the Bangladesh innings gained momentum when Sabbir came in to bat at number six. The young stroke-maker, who virtually set the tiny KCC ground afire with a flurry of shots, clubbed half a dozen sixes and five fours in his 28-ball pyrotechnics.

The office then, opening the Bangladeshi attack along with right-arm seamer Sajal Chowdhury, pinned down PNG batsmen with his accurate spin bowling. Sabbir conceded only nine runs in his seven economic overs. Although he captured only one wicket, he made PNG, who were left with a mind-boggling task of scoring a little less than 6.5 runs per over, sweat to score against his niggling off-spinners.

They lost their wickets at regular intervals. Whenever their batsman tried to broke the shackles put around by leg-spinner Tawkir! Hossain, who finished with four for only six runs in his 4.4 overs, they got themselves out.

The national youth team are scheduled to return home today. They will, however, enjoy a month's recess before their trip to South Africa, where they will play alongside the selections of nine Test-playing nations. The World Youth Cup, which was introduced by the ICC for the first time, will begin from January 10.

round. We will be making careful preparations to achieve this goal."

## 3. Cameroon

**Player:** Jacques Songo'o: "I think this group is quite playable, and obviously, with teams like this, there can only be difficult matches. You can't choose your opponents. Italy is a major hurdle, but we have to play well against every team. We have to do as well as in Spain or Italy and erase the image we left in 1994."

## 4. Austria

**Coach:** Herbert Prohaska: "I think that Italy is the big favourite but the second qualifying slot is still very open with teams like Cameroon and Chile. But we have a great opportunity to qualify and we are going to do our utmost to seize it."

## GROUP C

## 1. France

**Coach:** Alain Jacquet: "It has been an excellent final draw for us, because we know our opponents well. But the only verdict will be that of the pitch. We

## AIME JACQUET

must remember that Denmark beat us and we suffered before beating South Africa. Saudi Arabia is a difficult opponent, but it is Denmark that we must be very careful with."

## 2. South Africa

**Coach:** Danny Jordaan: "It could have been worse. We are happy to play against France. It's wonderful. We hope to pass the first round at least in second place."

## 3. Saudi Arabia

**Assistant Coach:** "We are very happy with the final draw. We are going to prepare our team to be competitive. Of the 32 groups, none are bigger or smaller than the others."

## 4. Denmark

**Coach:** Bo Johansson: "It's been a good draw. France is favourite and Denmark can take second place. The only objective is to win the World Cup, taking each game as it comes. I hope we will play good football, this is important."

## GROUP D

## 1. Spain

**Coach:** Javier Clemente: "It will difficult for Spain. These teams have experience and a high level. Despite everything, I am confident and calm. My objective is the same as that of all the other teams: to make it to the Final. In any case, we will be playing with high hopes. We are here to win."

## 2. Nigeria

**Mr Nwoboshi Jim (former minister of youth and sports):** "Spain is a very good team. The other two are as well, but we have a good chance of making it through the first round. It's not to our advantage to play against Bulgaria again."

"We can go very far and we hope to play the Final against France. The goal is to get past the quarter finals, a feat never accomplished by an African country."

## 3. Paraguay

**Coach:** Paulo Cesar Carpegiani: "Group D is a difficult one, very strong but balanced. In any case, it will be difficult for us. We will proceed step by step. We have a good chance of making it through the first round. Bulgaria is a team with a lot of tactical experience. Spain is stable in every category of the game. Nigeria is a fast and physically strong team."

## 4. Bulgaria

**Coach:** Hristo Bonev: "We were a little worried before the draw. The three teams are all

pretty strong. We know Spain and Nigeria well as we have already confronted them in the past. We have a revenge to take on Nigeria, who beat us in the last World Cup. As for Paraguay, we will get to know them better during the qualifying round."

"We will try to give our best possible performance. All our players are internationally known and most of them play in well-known foreign clubs. We will try to defend the reputation we have acquired these last years. Our first ambition is to come out on top. Afterwards, we will take the matches as they come."

## GROUP E

## 1. Netherlands

**Coach:** Guus Hiddink: "I am not unhappy with the results, compared with those of some other groups. I wouldn't say that it will be easy either. We already know Belgium well and the other two countries have quality teams. Our primary objective is to get past the first round, but the most important is obviously to be there on the 12th of July."

## 2. Belgium

**Coach:** Georges Leekens: "The draw could have been better as we always find ourselves against the Netherlands. But we accept it. It's going to come down to Mexico and Belgium. The most important is to beat Korea and Mexico. We can go to the round of 16. The match schedule bothers me because it favours Korea and Mexico. We play early in the afternoon, in June, and it will be hot. Our objective is second place, but we must be careful with the Mexicans. We'll have to play a perfect match."

## 3. South Korea

**Coach:** Cha Bum-Kun: "I think that all the teams in our group are stronger than we are. But I am satisfied with the draw. We have played in the Cup 4 times already and each time, we never made it through to the final stages. This time, we hope to go further."

## 4. Mexico

**Coach:** Manuel Lapuente: "We knew that all the groups are difficult, but we are taking it philosophically. The ceremony was a great success. We'll have to work a lot and play many matches in Europe. We have the time to train."

## GROUP F

## 1. Germany

**Coach:** Hans-Hubert Vogts: "We're not going to complain about the draw. We know all our

## 2. Nigeria

**Coach:** Bojan Jokic: "We are very happy with the final draw. We are going to prepare our team to be competitive. Of the 32 groups, none are bigger or smaller than the others."

## 3. Saudi Arabia

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## 2. United States

**Coach:** Steve Sampson: "It's a difficult group, playing against Germany and Yugoslavia. It will be tough. As for Iran, we know less about them. Two of our players have already had experience with German sides, and that might be useful to my team. We want to get through to the second round. Our 1994 experience will be important for us. Perhaps we can pull off a surprise?"

## 3. Yugoslavia

**Coach:** Slobodan Santrac: "We're delighted with our opponents. They're good competitors. It's up to us to prove what we can do and come up with the

## 4. Bulgaria

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## ICC meet in India today

Sports Reporter

The Taj Bengal Hotel of Calcutta arrested the attention of cricketing world when the supremo of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Jagmohan Dalmiya along with his fifteen executive committee members sit there today to finalise the venue for the proposed special World Cup.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) who is now in Calcutta to attend the two-day meeting, will certainly keep his fingers crossed for a decision in favour of Dhaka, one of the four contenders to host the gala event involving nine Test-playing nations.

But Bangladesh's bid to hold a meet of such magnitude is likely to face a tough challenge from other prospective bidders like Disneyworld of the United States, Toronto of Canada and a proven desert venue of Sharjah.

Bangladesh's hopes however revolved around the assurance of Dalmiya, who in his brief visit to Dhaka on November 18, termed the infrastructure here "as reasonably well and absolutely as required".

The ICC has decided to organise an especial World Cup in October next year in a bid to raise funds for the over-all development of the game. The tournament will be played on knock-out basis.

## C'bury crush Bangladesh

Sports Reporter

## BRIEF SCORES

**CANTERBURY:** 266 for nine in 50 overs (Howell 58, Cumming 58, Stead 36; Saifuddin 4/37, Hasibul 3/51)

**BANGLADESH:** 154 all out in 42.4 overs (Akram 51 not out, Mafizur 30; Owens 3/19, Stead 3/23)

The touring Bangladesh cricketers maintained their amazing consistency in losing when they conceded a massive 112 runs defeat against a strong Canterbury side in a limited-overs exhibition match at Hagley Park, Canterbury yesterday.

Bangladesh skipper Akram Khan asked his Canterbury counterpart and formula New Zealand captain Lee Germon to bat first under overcast conditions.

The Canterbury select boasting as many as three New Zealand caps piled up a huge 266 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs with Howell and Cumming chipping with identical scores of 58 while Stead made a quickfire 36. Howell was particularly severe on the Bangladesh bowlers clobbering his runs off only 43 deliveries.

Among the Bangladeshi bowlers, Saifuddin Ahmed had superb figures of four for 37 in his ten overs. He was well supported by his new-ball partner Hasibul who took three for 51.

The target turned out to be an uphill task for Akram's boys. And true to their reputation they caved in for 154 without ever seriously trying to give the Kiwis a scare. Only the portly skipper stood tall among the run-ins with an unbeaten 51 as the innings ended in 42.4 overs.

Stead and Owens grabbed three wickets apiece for Canterbury.

The national cricketers who have lost all their previous tour matches (apart from the ones in which weather intervened) will play their last Shell Conference engagement against Bill Academy at Lincoln. The four-day affair will begin from Dec 9.

## GROUP H

## 1. Romania

**Coach:** Anghel Iordănescu: "This isn't an easy group. England, Colombia and Romania will all have an equal chance of ending up in the top spot. That's why we'll be shooting for the second place, at least, a target in keeping with what we showed in the World Cup."

## 2. England

**Coach:** Glenn Hoddle: "I'm very pleased with this draw. It could have been better for us but it could also have been a lot worse. Romania has a very strong side which is more experienced than us in this kind of competition. I don't know much about Tunisia, but I do know that Tunisia can beat anyone."

## 3. Tunisia