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MSC beat Muktis

Defending holders Mohammedan Sporting Club defeated Muktiyoddha Sangsad 2-1 in the crucial second-leg match of the Premier Division football league at Mirpur Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Alfaz gave Mohammedan an early lead in the 26th minute while Bodi Baba Lola confirmed the victory in the 44th minute. Nakib netted the lone goal for Muktiyoddha in 50th minute.

With the victory, Mohammedans led the points-table, collecting a total of 40 points from 17 encounters. Muktiyoddha dropped to the second position, collecting 37 points from same number of matches.

Abahani Krira Chakra, the other contender of the league title, bagged a total of 35 points from 16 matches.

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Ponir (Nizam Majumdar), Faisal Ahmed, Nazrul Islam, Monwar Hossain Munna, Joy (Rohul Amin), Arman, Matur Rahman Munna, Lodi Baba Lola, Don (Mansur Ali), Bodi Baba Lola and Alfaz.

MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD: Arun Biswas Dewan, Hasan Al-Mamun, Jewel Rana, Barman, Titu, Masud Rana, Iqbal, Golam Gaus, Rakib, Ali Rahman and Nakib.

Yellow cards: Arman (Mohammedan) and Masud Rana (Muktiyoddha).
Referee: Ahsanul Haq.

Zia Smriti cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 12: Mohanagar Clinical defeated Bandhan Krira Chakra by 10 runs in the second round of the 10th Shaheed Zia Smriti cricket tournament today at the Rajshahi Government College playground.

Winning the toss Bandhan Krira Chakra invited Mohanagar Clinical to bat who made 125 runs for eight wickets in the stipulated 20 overs.

Ranzu and Robitul made 29 and 26 runs respectively.

In reply, Bandhan collected 115 runs for six wickets in 20 overs. Pappu and Tito made 25 and 20 runs.

In the second match of the day at the same ground Shaheed Shahjahan Siraj Smriti Sangha beat Dargahpara Juba Sangha by a marginal three runs.

Dargahpara won the toss and invited Shaheed Shahjahan Siraj Smriti Sangha to bat who made 136 runs for all in 19.3 overs.

Parag and Alamgir scored 37 and 35 runs respectively.

In reply, Dargahpara Juba Sangha made 133 runs for seven in the stipulated 22 overs.

Minu, Sawdagar and Mamun bagged 27, 28 and 25 for their team.

Sino swimmer, coach expelled

BEIJING, Jan 12: A Chinese swimmer and coach who were expelled from the World Championships in Australia were returning to China on Monday and would face more punishment, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported, reports AP.

Customs officials found 13 vials of human growth hormone, a banned substance, in the luggage of swimmer Yuan Yuan on Thursday when she arrived in Australia. Coach Zhou Zhewen said he put them in her bag to delivering them to a friend.

The Chinese Swimming Association will penalize them. Xinhua quoted Shi Tianshu, head of the Chinese delegation, as saying. The report did not elaborate.

The two appeared Saturday before a doping panel convened by FINA, the international amateur swimming body, to investigate the alleged trafficking.

Yuan and Zhou left their hotel early Monday and were taking a flight to China, Xinhua reported.

Yuan, 21, could be banned from international competition for four years if the panel concludes she was trafficking in a banned substance. She and Zhou also could be fined 50,000 dollars.

Visser's added responsibility

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 12: Danie Visser, who already holds the post of South African Davis Cup captain, has been appointed today by the South African Tennis Association (SATA) to do the same job for the women's Fed Cup team, reports AFP.

Visser replaces Christo van Rensburg, who captained the team in their last three ties, losing all three.

South Africa play in a Europe-Africa qualifying Group One tournament in Spain from 14-18 April. A top two finish will enable them to play off later in the year for a spot in World Group, which is to be expanded to 16 countries in 1999.



Khaled Mahmud pounces on a rare short-pitched delivery from Pakistan off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq while stumper Rashid Latif looks on.

Independence Cup notebook

Sports Reporter

BLAME IT ON AKRAM & CO

The merchandising committee of the Independence Cup, who have opened two stalls and involved about 20 vendors in-



cluding three girls to sell different souvenir articles, yesterday experienced a dull day as far as their business was concerned.

One girl who was on a mission of pushing sales at the hospitality box area said that it was a bad day for them as no body showed any interest on the items. "If they (the Bangladesh cricket team) can not play, why people will be interested to buy such items?" she complained.

SINGER, NO ARTISTE

The accreditation cards that the media committee of the Independence Cup issued to some mechanics of the Singer Television Company, who are providing the TV monitors in all 24 hospitality boxes and other important places including the press box, have created a lot of confusions among the foreign guests.

The designation mentioned on their cards read the only word "Singer". Seeing that, an unknown witty foreigner at a hospitality box called one of them and asked him to sing a song.



SAEED ON SONG: Elegant Pakistani opener Saeed Anwar pulls Zakir Hasan of Bangladesh for one of his thirteen blistering fours. The left-hander scored an unbeaten 73 off only 69 balls.

BANGLADESH, PAKISTAN SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the tri-nation Coca-Cola Independence Cup cricket tournament between Pakistan and Bangladesh played at the Dhaka National Stadium yesterday:

BANGLADESH				
Javed Omar b Mushtaq	17			
Habibul c (sub) M Hussain b Saqlain	15			
Sanwar st Latif b Mushtaq	13			
Aminul run out	6			
Akram c Latif b Afridi	7			
Mahmud c Latif b Afridi	19			
Rafique b Saqlain	29			
Masud c&b Saqlain	3			
Hasibul b Aaqib	7			
Shafuddin not out	6			
Zakir lbw b Aaqib	0			
Extras (lb-7, w-4, nb-1)	12			
Total: (all out in 39.3 overs)	134			
Fall of wickets: 1-33; 2-38; 3-52; 4-59; 5-76; 6-100; 7-116; 8-126; 9-134; 10-134.				

Bowling				
	O	M	R	W
Aaqib	7.3	1	27	2
Mahmud	8	1	22	0
Saqlain	8	0	33	3
Mushtaq	8	0	20	2
Afridi	8	1	25	2

PAKISTAN				
Anwar not out	73			
Afridi c Sanwar b Shafuddin	11			
Sohail not out	37			
Extras (lb-1, lb-1 w-12, nb-1)	15			
Total: (for one wicket in 24.2 overs)	136			
Fall of wicket: 1-43				

Bowling				
	O	M	R	W
Hasibul	6	0	26	0
Shafuddin	6	0	42	1
Zakir	4	1	18	0
Mahmud	2	0	19	0
Rafique	5	1	18	0
Aminul	2	0	11	0

Result: Pakistan won by nine wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Saqlain Mushtaq (Pakistan).

Khulna cricket

KHULNA, Jan 12: Four matches of the Second Division cricket league played at different venues today, reports BSS.

Railway Eleven beat Rajapur Juba Sangha by 41 runs at the JBS ground.

Winning the toss, Railway Eleven decided to bat and scored 128 runs losing nine wickets in the stipulated 30 overs.

In reply, Rajapur were all out for 87 runs.

In the second match of the day, Kishore Cosmos Eleven defeated New Unique Boys Club by five wickets at the Khulna University ground.

Kishore Cosmos won the toss and invited New Unique to bat. New Unique scored 122 runs losing all the wickets.

In reply, Kishore Cosmos reached their target losing only five wickets.

In the third match BRSS Cricket Club defeated Young Suchana Club by 17 runs.

Winning the toss BRSS scored 117 runs for the loss of nine wickets in the stipulated 30 overs.

In reply, Young Suchana were all out for 100.

In the fourth match at the Khulna Stadium, Liverpool Club defeated Pabla Cricket Club by 10 runs.

Liverpool batted first winning the toss and scored 133 runs.

In reply to their opponents, Pabla Cricket Club were all out for 123.

Perth to beef up security

PERTH, Jan 12: Organisers of the World Swimming Championships have called in extra police and banned the use of ethnic flags after Yugoslavia were drawn to play Croatia in the semifinals of the men's water polo tournament, reports Reuters.

The executive chairman of the championships, Tom Hoad, said the decision to beef up security had been made after a series of flare-ups between rival fans during the preliminary stages of the competition.

The Yugoslavian-Serbian-Croatian problem has a lot of history to it," Hoad said today. "As you know some of them are fanatics and we can't stop that."

"We've already had a few problems with these people and we expect there will be some more when they play each other."

Police were called in to break up a fight between Yugoslav and Croatian fans last Friday.

Although the two countries did not face each other in the round-robin phase of the competition, their matches were usually held at the same venue on the same day.

"There were no arrests but tensions were pretty high," inspector Jim Migro told Reuters. "It wasn't bad but it might have been if we didn't step in."

Croatia and Yugoslavia were drawn to face each other in the semifinal stage after both finished second in their respective preliminary groups.

Croatia came second behind Russia in Group A while Yugoslavia were runners-up to Hungary in Group B.

Hoad said security levels would be doubled for the match at Challenge Stadium on Tuesday.

Pitch told Ashraf nothing

The Animadverter

It appeared quite interesting when the two unequal rivals on the day opted for a choice of striking contrast. A wise man should have put his money on the decision of Bangladesh



ASHRAF HOSSAIN ... wise

team management because hosts determined the pitch characteristics. It is a common practice across the globe.

But when the match got un-

derway, it was Pakistani judgement which prevailed. The wicket clearly favoured the spinners, much to the surprise of Bangladesh think tank. Off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq and the leg-spin duo of Mushtaq Ahmed and Shahid Khan Afridi shared seven wickets among them in 24 overs.

During the post-match session, when Gazi Ashraf Hossain was asked about their decision to take an additional seamer, the surprisingly exasperated manager replied, "Nobody knew how the pitch would behave."

Ashraf, who was the coach-cum-manager of the Bangladesh team in its humiliating tour of New Zealand, justified the inclusion of seamer Zakir by saying, "We tried with (spinner) Shariful Haq in the previous match, but he did not perform well. So we thought..."

But when his Pakistani incumbent, Haroon Rashid, appearing before the press, said they determined the wicket as a turner when they had a look at it in the morning. And that was why they opted for four spinners in the team.

So, it seemed that all but Ashraf knew about the pitch.



Player-of-the-match Saqlain Mushtaq (L) receives his crest from Mayor Mohammad Hanif at the Dhaka Stadium.

Jenny's moment of joy

PERTH, Jan 12: After five Olympic team gold medals, Jenny Thompson of the United States finally cracked the big time on her own at the World Swimming Championships Monday, winning the 100-metre freestyle, reports AP.

In other finals Monday, Fred Deburghgraeve of Belgium, the world record holder and Atlanta gold medalist who came into the meet low on form, won the men's 100-metre breaststroke gold medal in one minute, 1.34 seconds, more than a second off his world mark.

Chen Yan of China won the women's 400-metre individual medley and Michael Klim of Australia made amends for not making the Atlanta Olympic 200-metre freestyle final by winning gold over that distance.

Although Klim had hoped to break Italian Giorgio Lamberti's world record of one minute, 46.69 seconds — set in 1989 and the longest-standing men's record — the Australian had to settle for 1:47.41, about eight-tenths of a second slower.

After 150 metres, Klim was inside Lamberti's time, but faded in the stretch.

"I knew the time, but I really didn't care," said Klim, who punched his arm high in the air after his win. "I just wanted to win."

Massi Rosolino of Italy won the silver, nearly a second behind Klim, while Pieter van den Hoogenband of the Netherlands was third.

Thompson was thrilled with her win.

"The time wasn't the greatest, but I'm really happy with the gold medal for our team," Thompson said of her 54.95-

second time, well outside Le Jingyi of China's world record of 54.01. "It's just one step closer to winning gold in 2000."

Martina Moravcova of Slovakia, who has trained for three years at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, was second in 55.09 and Shan Ying of China third in 55.10.

Sandra Voelker of Germany and Amy van Dyken of the United States were one-two after 50 metres but the American faded to fourth and Voelker to fifth.

When asked whether her win over a Chinese swimmer was any more noteworthy because of the drug scandal facing the Chinese team, Thompson said: "Let's just say that's one clean win."

Though an interpreter, Shan said: "The local media has been unfair to our swim team. It's affected our training and life here. As an athlete I say they've gone too far."

Zeng Qiliang of China was second in the men's 100-metre breaststroke and Kurt Grote of the United States third for the bronze.

"I trained as hard and as much before Atlanta, but I wasn't motivated," said Deburghgraeve after the win on a sultry night at the outdoor Challenge Stadium. "My life changed so much after Atlanta and it was much harder for me to concentrate on the competition."

Grote's medal was his first at a world championship.

"That went exactly how I planned," said Grote, a 24-year-old medical student. "I just want to go out now and celebrate with my dad. If I can find him."

Earlier, China won a gold medal in the men's three-metre synchronized dive and took sil-

ver and bronze in the 10-metre platform.

Xu Hao and Yu Zhuocheng scored 313.50 points in the men's dive debut event while Olena Zhupnya of Ukraine took gold in the 10-metre dive ahead of China's Cai Yugan and Chen Li.

Two other members of the Chinese team, tainted by a drug scandal left for home on Monday while FINA, the sport's governing body, said it had received the report which will decide their fate.

Swimmer Yuan Yuan was caught last week trying to import a banned growth hormone into Australia. She and her coach, Zhou Zhewen, face a minimum four-year ban.

United States team captain Josh Davis, a winner of three gold medals at the Atlanta Olympics, missed the 200-metre final, while Germany's Jorg Hoffmann, the former world record holder in the 1,500 metres, was disqualified for a bad start.

The men's water polo programme had the day off Monday as the teams prepared for the semifinals starting Tuesday. In women's play Monday, the Netherlands won its fifth consecutive match with a 9-1 win over Spain.

Officials said they would double security for a men's water polo match Tuesday between Croatia and Yugoslavia. Unruly fans have been ejected from matches involving the teams in the preliminary rounds.

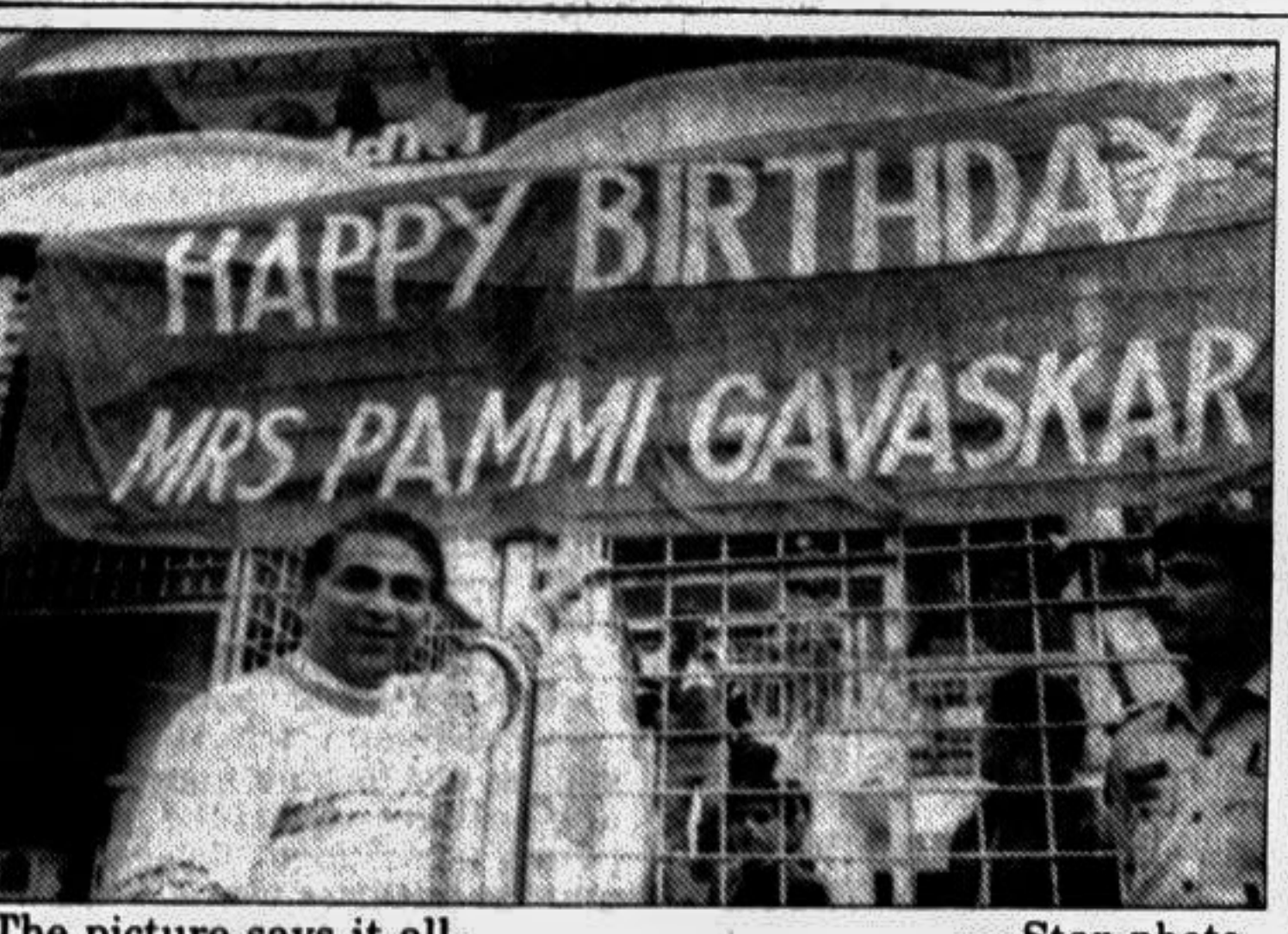
On Tuesday, swimming finals include the men's 400-metre individual medley and 4x200-metre relay and the women's 200-metre freestyle and 100-metre breaststroke. The men's three-metre springboard dive is also scheduled.

Wright not for sale

LONDON, Jan 12: England striker Ian Wright said on Saturday he was staying at Arsenal after a week of growing speculation that he would move to Benfica, reports Reuters.

Wright said he had been flattered and intrigued by a 3 million pound (4.8 million dollars) offer from Benfica manager Graeme Souness to replace injured Joao Pinto at the Portuguese club.

Speaking after Arsenal beat Leeds 2-1 in the Premier league, Wright said he would stay at the London club where his contract still has more than two years to run.



The picture says it all.

— Star photo