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## Pakistanis on their mettle

Sports Reporter

Pakistan will be desperately looking for a win today to keep their hopes alive when they take on arch-rivals India in the second final of the Coca-Cola Independence Cup at the Dhaka Stadium.

India have already gone one-up in the three-match mandatory finals demolishing Pakistan by eight wickets on Wednesday.

Weather-permitting, the match will begin at 9 am. Both the state-run electronic media — Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar — will provide ball-by-ball commentary from the big bowl.

It will be the 65th one-day encounter between the two rivals since their first clash at Quetta way back in October, 1978. Although India clinched that historical affair with a sensational four-run win, it is however their traditional rivals who enjoy the statistical supremacy with 37 wins. The Indians, following their eight-wicket thrashing in the first final, extended their winning record to 23. Four other matches between them were abandoned.

Meanwhile, for Pakistan, who were twice comprehensively beaten by India in the ongoing tourney, will be on their mettle to restore their flagging image.

"It's a do or die battle for us," said Pakistan skipper Rashid Latif after his team's grueling practice session at the Dhaka Stadium last afternoon.

"We will apply a different strategy tomorrow. Our target will be to get Sachin out as soon as possible because he is making all the difference," said Latif, who was made captain in place of Wasim Akram ahead of the Dhaka tournament. Tendulkar, who lost his captaincy to Mohammad Azharuddin on January 2, rediscovered his brilliant self in the meet. The Bombay-born batting maestro

scored 54, 67 and 95 in three previous matches. But Latif, who arrived here without the fearsome fast bowl-



ing duo of Akram and Waqar, expressed his concern about the lackluster performance of his top-order.

"Amir Sohail and Saeed Anwar will open the innings and Mohammad Hossain will play in place of Mushtaq Ahmed," said the soft-spoken stumper about the new lineup for today.

Pakistan coach Haroon Rashid, whose job is reportedly at stake, appeared optimistic.

"We will definitely try our best to do well tomorrow to remain in the competition and boys are pretty confident. We just need a victory and I hope you will see a better performance from Pakistan," said Haroon, who only wants to see two good partnerships from his top-order.

"I think 250 to 260 will be a good score to defend," added Haroon, indicating that his team would bat first if Latif calls the coin correctly.

When the Pakistanis were in combative mood, their opponents appeared to be a bit relaxed. The Indian team had its

practice in the net without three key players — Azharuddin, Tendulkar and Javagal Srinath.

"They are in top form. They don't need any practice and that's why we've decided to give them a break," said India coach Ansuman Gawkwad.

About the second final, the bespectacled former Indian cricketer said that they were not going to take the match lightly.

"It will be 1-1 if we lose tomorrow. That will give our opponents a chance to come back and win the trophy. We don't want to do that. We want to confirm the championship by winning tomorrow," said a taciturn Indian Gawkwad.

"I know they (Pakistan) are desperate to come back, we will work on that tonight and will find out a strategy for tomorrow," Ansuman added.

Today's match will be played on the number three strip. The robin league clash between teams was played on this pitch which India won by 18 runs.

Rudi Koertzen of South Africa and Doug Cowie of New Zealand will officiate today's match while Zimbabwean Russell Tiffin will act as the third umpire. Nadir Shah of Bangladesh has been kept as the reserve umpire.

### SQUADS

**PAKISTAN:** Rashid Latif (captain), Saeed Anwar, Amir Sohail, Ijaz Ahmed, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Shahid Afridi, Azhar Mahmood, Saqlain Mushtaq, Manzoor Akhter, Aaqib Javed, Mohammad Hossain.

**INDIA (from):** Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Saurav Ganguly, Navjot Sidhu, Ajay Jadeja, Robin Singh, Debashish Mohanty, Javagal Srinath, Siraj Bahutule, Harvinder Singh, Nayan Mongia, Hrishikesh Kanitkar and Rahul Sanghvi.

## Special WC cricket India, Pakistan open against each other?

Sports Reporter

Arch-rivals Pakistan and India are likely to face each other in their first match of the ICC knockout tournament scheduled to be held in Dhaka from October 26 to November 4.

Nine Test playing nations — Sri Lanka, Australia, West Indies, India, Pakistan, New Zealand, South Africa, England and Zimbabwe, will feature in the special 'World Cup' organised by the game's ruling body to raise funds for its ambitious development programmes.

It was learnt that England will play the inaugural match against Zimbabwe. But details on the meet will be disclosed after a special committee meeting, scheduled to be held at a local hotel here tomorrow with ICC president Jagmohan Dalmia in the chair.

## F'pool, Arambagh split points

Youngmen's Club Fakir-erpool and Arambagh Kria Sangstha shared points in a goalless affair of the Premier Division football league at Mirpur Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

On completion of the match, Youngmen's have secured 15 points and Arambagh 14 playing 17 matches each.

### BOYS BEAT EAST END

In the First Division league, Bangladesh Boys Club scored a 4-3 victory over East End Club at the Army Stadium.

The winners led the first half by 2-1.

Rana of Bangladesh Boys claimed a brilliant hat-trick and contributing all the four goals in the 22nd, 32nd, 49th and 68th minutes.

Monir struck twice in the 34th and 58th minutes while Kamal netted the other goal in the 53rd minute for the East End.

With this win, Gopibagh outfit increased their tally to 19 points from 18 encounters while East End remained at 26 points, also from 18 matches.

## World Youth Cup

### WI whack PNG

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 15: West Indies took only 36.5 overs and just under three hours to beat Papua-New Guinea Wednesday in the Under-19 World Cup, reports AP.

After the easy 10-wicket victory, the Caribbean islanders then held a practice match to entertain the crowd.

The match last only 2 hours and 50 minutes. Steven John took four wickets and Ramnareh Sarwan had three as the West Indians bowled out Papua-New Guinea for 59.

Only Richard Leka (18) reached double figures for the Pacific islanders, while the extras contributed of 12.

West Indies openers Christopher Gayle (28) and Darren Ganga (22) quickly eclipsed the PNG total.

## Nat'l jr chess

Sports Reporter

Nineteen players were leading the table of the 19th national junior chess championship at the end of the second round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

In Thursday's round, Enamul Hossain Rajib, Abdullah Al Rakib, Imon, Ruhul Islam Bobby, Fiore, Royal, Oli, Rubel, Hanif, Ejaj, Salam, Amin, Parag, Sentu, Rahman, Aminul, Newton, Mofazzal and Shafique registered their second successive win to remain at the crowded top spot with each having two points.

Eriksson will focus on events where his command of the territory will be invaluable to the 55 Subaru World Rally Team's defence of the World Manufacturers title. In these currently unspecified events, the Swede will drive a third Subaru Impreza 555 WRC 98.

With only two cars registered for points in the Manufacturers' Championship, this season-long commitment by all three drivers, to testing as well as events, will form a strategic and critical platform from which the team will have an unrivalled opportunity for victory in both the Drivers' and Manufacturers' Championships.

## Subaru sticks to winning formula

The 555 Subaru World Rally Team's strategic assault on the 1997 FIA World Rally Championship paid rich dividends with Colin McRae, Kenneth Eriksson and Piero Liatti winning the all-important Manufacturers' Championship for Subaru for the third consecutive year. Such is the strength of this formidable combination, the 555 Subaru World Rally Team will be retaining all three drivers for the 1998 season.

### SQUADS

SOUTH AFRICA: Hansie



FOCUSED: An alert Saurav Ganguly (L) practices fielding along with Debashish Mohanty (2nd from L) Robin Singh and Indian skipper Mohammad Azharuddin (back to the camera) yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

— Star photo

## Courtney assures Brian



MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica, Jan 15: Courtney Walsh, who had the West Indies captaincy wrenched a way only a week ago, has made a whole-hearted pledge of support for his successor Brian Lara, reports Reuters.

Walsh, 35, who was badly hurt by the decision to take away the captaincy, offered himself for selection for the first Test against England — on his home pitch at Sabina Park in Kingston — to avoid further controversy ahead of the series.

"I am available for selection and I am making that clear in order to bury all the talk about a rift between Brian Lara and myself," Walsh said.

After he lost the captaincy following West Indies recent 3-0 Test series thrashing in Pakistan, rumours swept the Caribbean that Walsh might retire from Test cricket immediately.

Walsh's gesture is now being seen as a big boost to West Indies' hopes of beating England in the forthcoming five-Test rubber.

The Jamaican fast bowler,

who began life in the slums of Kingston, is already highly respected in all the islands and his stature has increased rapidly after the dignified way he has handled his dismissal.

He said, "I have waited to make this decision until I was

pete at the highest level.

"I did not want to play in the Test and perform so badly that there was a fresh outbreak of talk about me sabotaging Lara's team."

"That was said about him when he played under me and it was the product of someone's imagination. I want to emphasise that I have never had any problems with Lara in my time as captain."

"I know that he may have a bad time from the spectators at Sabina Park but I will do anything I can to prevent him being heckled. I want him to have a good reception in his first Test as captain against England."

Walsh, who needs 24 wickets to bat Malcolm Marshall's West Indies record of 376 Test victims, denied he was continuing to play just to beat Marshall's tally.

"I would like to beat the record but it will only mean anything if I can help West Indies to victory," he said.

Injury-free England will pick their team for the opening four match against Jamaica's under-23 side, starting on Friday, when they arrive in Montego Bay later today.

## BANGLADESH v ENGLAND SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND:

M Gough	c Murtaza b Sajal	0
R Kay	c Mehra b Mushfiq	27
Franks	c Muntazir b Ahsanullah	65
Shah b Mushfiq		4
Peters	c Murtaza b Mushfiq	11
Flanagan	st Murtaza b Muntazir	0
Schofield	b Sabbir	34
Napier	c Manjural b Ahsanullah	26
Wilton	run out (Mushfiq)	18
Grove	c Sezan b Monzurul	13
Logan	not out	4
Extras (b-5, lb-6, w-10)		21
Total (all out in 49.3 overs)		223

BOWLING:

	O	M	R	W
Sajal Chowdhury	5	1	27	1
Manjural Islam	6.3	0	18	1
Mushfiqur Rahman	9	0	36	3
Hannan Sarker	1	0	15	0
Sabbir Khan	10	0	27	1
F Muntazir	6	0	22	1
Ahsanullah	6	0	33	2
Al Shahrar	6	0	34	0

BANGLADESH:

Hannan	c Wilton b Grove	20
Sezan	lbw b Grove	17
Mehrab	c Schofield b Gough	62
Al Shahrar	b Napier	48
Sabbir	c Schofield b Gough	17
Sajal	c Logan b Napier	7
Mushfiqur	run out (Gough)	0
F Muntazir	not out	27
Ahsanullah	not out	11
Extras (lb-3, nb-1, w-12)		16
Total (for 7 wks in 44 overs)		225
Did not bat: Manzurul Islam and Golam Murtaza.		

BOWLING:

	O	M	R	W
J Grove	6	0	23	2
R Logan	7	0	32	0
G Napier	10	0	61	2
P Frank	6	1	31	0
Gough	10	0	42	2
Schofield	5	0	33	0

## Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Indira Road Kria Chakra, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha and Spread Eagles won their respective Acme Second Division cricket league matches played at different city venues yesterday.

At the Uttara Friends Club ground, Indira Road trounced helaghar Samaj Kalyan Sangstha by 91 runs. Eskaton handed 86-run defeat to Rupali Bank at the Dhamondri Cricket Stadium while Spread Eagles beat Azad Boys' Club by 53 runs at the Mirpur, Outer Stadium.



TAKING IT EASY: Pakistan's ace leggie Mushtaq Ahmed (R) seemingly cracking a joke while compatriots (L-R) Saeed Anwar, Inzamamul Haq and skipper Rashid Latif enjoy every part of it during a practice session at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo

## NZ hoping against hope?



PERTH, Jan 15: New Zealand warned South Africa today there will be no favours when they meet in their "dead" tri-series one-day international at the WACA ground here Friday, reports AFP.

Kiwi coach Steve Rixon said New Zealand pride would enable them to recover from their 131-run thrashing at the hands of the Aussies in Sydney on Wednesday.

He said the players were prepared but stopped short of predicting any ill-feeling between the two teams, which simmered during the last ball thriller at the Gabba in Brisbane last Friday.

"We'll go in there tomorrow (Friday) with a positive, aggressive attitude because we have our pride to play for," Rixon vowed.

"We will play the game hard, but it will also be played fair — I've always believed that you let your opponent know you are around without going too far."

He said New Zealand plays better against South Africa than Australia. "The record stacks up pretty well."

South Africa and New Zealand were involved in a tense clash in which emotions boiled over on several occasions in Brisbane. South Africa won the match by two runs.

Young New Zealand spinner Daniel Vettori complained of being restricted while running between wickets by all-rounder Lance Klusener in the concluding stages of a frenetic run chase.

New Zealand filed a protest but Klusener was subsequently cleared.

The Kiwis were also dissatisfied with some of the send-offs their batsman received from the hard-nosed South Africans.

New Zealand bowed out of

finals' contention Wednesday when Australia, led by captain Shane Warne, scored an easy win to leave Friday's one-dayer here a "dead" rubber.

Rixon said it was imperative his charges, still buoyant despite having recorded only one win from six one-day outings in the international arena, had much to gain from Friday and next Wednesday's day-night tussle with Australia in Melbourne.

"We play Australia in four one-dayers in New Zealand shortly and it would be terrific if we were able to go home on a high note," he said.

"The team is so tight-knit despite the losses and it will only need a couple of wins to do them a world of good."

Meanwhile, champion South African fast bowler Allan Donald is almost certain to be rested from Friday's game, allowing his young black African protégé Makhaya Ntini make his debut in international one-day cricket.

Regular wicketkeeper Dave Richardson may also have a rare day off, with the gloves likely to be worn by his understudy, Mark Boucher, who would also be on duty for the first time in the international limited-overs stage.

### SQUADS

SOUTH AFRICA: Hansie

Cronje (capt), Gary Kirsten (vice-capt), Paul Adams, Adam Bacher, Mark Boucher, Daryll Cullinan, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Lance Klusener, Makhaya Ntini, Shaun Pollock, Jonty Rhodes, Pat Symcox (to be finalised).

**NEW ZEALAND:** Stephen Fleming (capt), Nathan Astle, Chris Cairns, Simon Doull, Chris Harris, Matthew Horne, Craig McMillan, Dion Nash, Shayne O'Connor, Adam Parore, Craig Spearman, Daniel Vettori, Bryan Young (to be finalised).

India, Pakistan  
Battle it out  
in the  
INDEPENDENCE CUP  
CRICKET 1998  
in Dhaka

A Boost for Bangladeshi Cricket



POWERED WITH  
EN-VITS  
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS