

## Chattala Cup Ctg MSC hold Muktijoddha

Sports Reporter

The opening match of the Chattala Cup football tournament between Dhaka's Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra and Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club ended in a 1-1 draw at the floodlit MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong last night, according to a telephonic message received here.

National striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib put the all-reds ahead in the 10th minute while Zakir levelled the score for the home side in the 40th minute.

Four teams are taking part in the robin league from which the top two teams will qualify for the September 15 final. Local Abahani Krira Chakra and Regensea Club are the other two teams participating in the tournament, jointly organised by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) and the Chittagong Zila Krira Parishad (CZKP) to help flood victims.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader inaugurated the tournament as chief guest while BFF general secretary Harun-ur Rashid MP and other CZKP officials were present on the occasion.



Action from yesterday's First Division hockey league match between Sonali Bank and Dhaka Ansars at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium. — Star photo

## ICC president due Saturday

Sports Reporter

The International Cricket Council president Jagmohan Dalmiya and his chief executive David Richards will arrive in the capital on Saturday to review the ongoing preparation for the Wills International Cup beginning at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from October 24. Asif Iqbal, the event manager of the knock-out tournament, involving nine Test playing nations, will also arrive in the city on the same day to brief ICC.

During his two-day stay, Dalmiya is scheduled to meet State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader and discuss various issues related to the grand event.

Dalmiya will return to Calcutta on Sunday while Richards and Asif Iqbal will fall back on the following day.

According to Syed Ashraful Haq, general secretary of Bangladesh Cricket Board, the ICC officials may meet the local press on Sunday.

## C'wealth cricket Bangladesh face Barbados today

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will take on Caribbean island Barbados in their opening first round group match of the 16th Commonwealth Games at the STC ground in Kuala Lumpur this morning. The match will start at 8 am BST.

Bangladesh, pencilled in group C, will meet South Africa in their next match on September 13 before facing Northern Ireland in their final group match on September 15.

Bangladesh manager Tanveer Haider informed last Tuesday that all the 14 Bangladesh cricketers were fit. He also mentioned that the starting eleven will be selected on the morning of the match.

Although the formal opening of the Games is scheduled for tomorrow, the cricket competition began in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Sixteen nations, split into four groups for the first round, are taking part in the inaugural cricket competition of the Games. The top team from each group will qualify for the semifinals.

**BANGLADESH:** Akram Khan (captain), Aminul Islam, Shahriar Hossain, Naimur Rahman, Khaled Mahmud, Faruque Ahmed, Azam Iqbal, Khaled Masood, Morshed Al Khan, Hasibul Hossain, Sabbir Khan.

**BARBADOS:** Philo Wallace (captain), Henderson Bryan, Sherwin Campbell, Pedro Collins, Vasbert Drakes, Otis Gibson, Adrian Griffith, Ryan Hinds, Roland Holder, Ricky Hoyte, Mark Lavine, Winston Reid, Horace Waldron

## Quddus puts Bank in the green

Sports Reporter

Sonali Bank posted their second win in the Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey league with a solitary goal win over Dhaka Ansars in one of the two matches played at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first-half, defender Quddus scored the all-important match-winner through a short corner in the 51st minute.

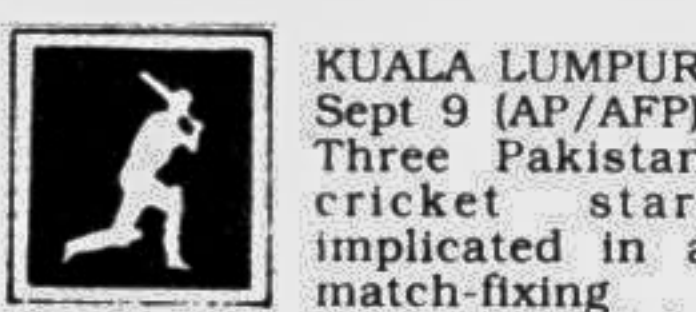
In the day's other match, Bangladesh Railway and Victoria shared points with a 1-1 draw.

There will be no matches today.

## TOMORROW'S MATCHES

Wari Club v Victoria SC (2:30 pm)  
 Bangladesh SC v Dhaka Ansars (4:15 pm)

## PCB about to nail 'culprits'



KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 9 (AP/AFIP): Three Pakistani cricket stars implicated in a match-fixing scandal should be banned for life if proven guilty, Pakistani sports officials said Wednesday.

Wasim Akram, Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed were named in a preliminary report by the Pakistan Cricket Board after extensive investigations into charges of match-fixing that have hounded the country's top players for years.

"It is most unfortunate from a cricketing point of view and from a national point of view," said Syed Naushad Ali, the manager of Pakistan's Commonwealth Games cricket team.

"The prestige of Pakistani players has plunged a lot after this affair. A life ban would be the simplest punishment. Fixing a match and losing it (on purpose) is betraying your nation and is a crime," Ali told The Associated Press.

Former Pakistan opener Mohsin Khan, who is coaching the Games team, was equally harsh. "I am also sorry that we will lose three world class cricketers. But if it is true I would have no hesitation in banning them for life," he said.

The cricket board's report lends credence to accusations in 1994 by Australian players Mark Waugh, Tim May and Shane Warne that Malik tried to bribe them. Malik was cleared by a hearing in Pakistan.

May said Wednesday he felt vindicated.

"Before the finding there wasn't evidence to suggest it but now it seems there is the evidence to take this thing further," said May who now heads the Australian Cricketers' Association.

The interim report by the Pakistan Cricket Board committee, made available to AFP at the Commonwealth Games, said the three should not play in Tests until further investigations are finished.

The report by the three-member committee, headed by Justice Chudha Ejaz Yusuf, said Akram, Malik and Ijaz should be kept away from the Pakistan team "to save youngsters and new entrants in the

game from being effected further and spoiled by the soiling atmosphere."

"However, the final decision against them and all other concerned may be deferred to the finalisation of inquiry and findings."

The report, based on interviews with current and former players and a journalist, spelled out the involvement of players in betting and match fixing — a charge first levelled by Australian players against Malik in 1994.

Former captain and coach Intikhab Alam is quoted as saying "It is true that match-fixing does take place."

Former Test paceman Ataur-Rehman gives a graphic account of how a one-day international in Christchurch was fixed during Pakistan's tour of New Zealand in 1994 when Malik was the captain.

"A day prior to the match, Wasim Akram contacted him (Rehman) at about 8-9 pm and enquired whether he would be ready to take a purse of four lakh rupees (9,000 dollars) for doing a favour," the report says.

"On query, Akram disclosed to him that the match was fixed and all arrangements were made by Ijaz Ahmed and Salim Malik. In case (the) match is lost by Pakistan all the players would be paid."

"Since it was the first occasion he (Rehman) agreed to the proposal."

"When Pakistan took the field, Malik came to him and told him that since he had agreed to the proposal, he would have to bowl opposite to the field placements."

"Rehman stated that instructions were accordingly carried out and Pakistan ultimately lost the match."

"He further stated that in the Christchurch game, except Rashid Latif and Aamir Sohail, all team members were party to the betting and match-fixing business."

"He further disclosed that Wasim Akram, Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed were responsible for the arrangements."

Rehman also said manager Intikhab Alam made his players swear on the holy Quran that they were not involved when reports trickled in that a 1994 Sharjah Cup match between Pakistan and India had

been fixed.

Malik and Ijaz, top order batsmen, were named to the Pakistani team that plays against India for the Sahara Cup in Canada this month.

Akram, a former captain and pace bowler, is playing county cricket in England.

But Malik Nasir Khan, Pakistan's chief-de-mission at the Commonwealth Games, cautioned against moving against the players before the full facts are out.

He said Malik insisted on his innocence when he was questioned earlier this year by a 11-member Parliamentary.

The fact that he is on the team to Canada "proves that he was not involved," said Khan, a lawmaker who sat on the inquiry panel. He said Akram also is scheduled to appear before the panel.

The Australian team at the Commonwealth Games refused to comment on the issue. Waugh, one of the accusers, is a member of the team that beat Canada in a preliminary match Wednesday by 10 wickets.

Mohsin Khan said he was "not surprised that such a thing was going on but I am surprised at who was involved."

Khan played with Malik during a career of 51 tests from 1978-87.

Asked if he was suspicious about Malik and other teammates at the time, Khan said: "The suspicions were always there, there were always doubts."

## Suspension for insults

ATHENS, Sept 9 (Reuters/Internet): Olympiakos Piraeus coach Dusan Bajevic has been banned from the bench for 15 days for using insulting language to describe Greek league organisers.

He will miss two league matches.

Bajevic criticised the decision to play Olympiakos's first league match.

## Asian Youth football Ninetieth minute cruelty in Doha

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh's skimpy hopes of a semi-final berth in the eighth Asian Youth under-16 football championship were puffed to nullity in the last minute when they lost their penultimate group B match to South Korea 1-2 at Doha's Al-Sadd Stadium on Tuesday night, according to a faxed message received here yesterday.

The match was locked 1-1 in the first half.

Bangladesh, who held defending champions Oman in their group opener but lost to Bahrain 0-2 in their second match, reportedly played better against the Koreans. Although they conceded a goal when Korean forward Kim Dong Jin found the net from a corner in the 30th minute, it took only eight minutes for the Bangladeshi boys to equalise with Tanveer scoring the goal.

Inspired by the first-half performance, Bangladesh maintained their impressive performance against their mighty counterparts in the second half. And the morale of the boys were further boosted when goalkeeper Bhaskar denied the Koreans from a penalty in the 70th minute.

However, it was sheer bad luck that the Koreans should earn the winning goal with the stroke of the final whistle with Kim scoring his second goal of the match.

It was Bangladesh's second defeat in a row in three matches, having drawn the first, which locates them at the bottom of the group with only one point.

Bangladesh will take on Japan in their last match tomorrow before returning home the next morning.

## India-Pakistan hockey Pause in the noble cause

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) is facing fresh problems in their bid to organise exhibition matches between India and Pakistan in aid of the flood victims. The matches are scheduled for end-September immediately after the 16th Commonwealth Games.

The Indian Hockey Federation had given its consent on Tuesday allowing the Commonwealth squad to play a few exhibition matches against their arch rivals in Dhaka. The Pakistan Hockey Federation conveyed its green signal yesterday.

The Pakistan team, which will arrive in Dhaka along with the Indians from Kuala Lumpur, however, has demanded air fare for the team from Dhaka to Karachi. This has put the BHF officials in a thick soup.

"We are in desperate need of sponsors who will help us in this regard because if we spend money for the Pakistan team's travel, there will hardly be any amount left for the flood relief fund," Zahidur Rahman Pushkin, a joint secretary of BHF said last night.

"Unless we get sponsors, we can not arrange the matches," added Pushkin.

The BHF has appealed to local companies to come forward and help the federation arrange the event, which is for a very noble cause.

## Aussies, Lankans win at a canter Cricket's wet & gloomy debut

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 9: A Pakistani match-fixing scandal and heavy downpours cast a shadow over cricket's entry into the Commonwealth Games Wednesday, while the tournament was virtually snubbed by locals, reports AP.

Pakistan officials released a report linking three of their country's stars — Wasim Akram, Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed — to a bribery scandal which has haunted the sport for several years.

While none of the players were in Kuala Lumpur, Pakistani team officials reacted by saying they should be banned for life if the allegations are proven.

The news dominated a historic day for the sport where highly-paid internationals turned out just for the honour of representing their countries. And the public reaction belittled lowly amateur sport — at most of the venues, event volunteers and reporters easily outnumbered paying spectators.

Australia, which has sent a near full strength team to the Games, scored an elementary nine-wicket victory over Canada in Group B with such ease that captain Steve Waugh admitted he felt sorry for the losers.

Indian star Sachin Tendulkar tangled with Antiguan great Curtly Ambrose in front of less than 100 fans, including Malaysian King Tuanku Ja'afar, but the game was abandoned at an interesting stage.

Rain also ended Pakistan's match against a feisty Scottish

team with both teams getting a point each.

Zimbabwe managed a six-wicket win over Jamaica. The Africans bowled their oppo-

Games cricket and almost had a wicket. His appeal for lbw was turned down but he finished with 4-21 off six overs as Canada was all out for 60 in 20 overs.

Only one batsman reached double figures while extras was the highest score with 20.

"It was pretty tough and we expected that playing against the number one team in the world," said Canadian captain Ingleton Liburd. "But we were hoping to do a lot better than 60 runs."

India's clash with Antigua, playing here as one of three nations which contribute players to the West Indies Test team, produced a match-up between the world's best batsman Tendulkar and brilliant paceman Ambrose.

Strangely Tendulkar won the battle with the ball and Ambrose made just 15 before falling as India made 30-2 in reply to Antigua's 164 before the match was abandoned.

Ambrose struck a speedy 23 in Antigua's innings, but his knock was ended when Tendulkar clean bowled him.

Pakistan, under stress with the bribery revelations, were rattled by Scotland's amateur lineup. Pakistan were in trouble at 95 for five but threatened 89 off the last 10 overs.

Akhtar Sarfraz hit three sixes in an unbeaten 66 from 61 balls and shared an unbeaten 106 for the sixth wicket.

The top team from the four pools of four sides will advance to the semifinals.



KUALA LUMPUR 98 XVI COMMONWEALTH GAMES

## May feels vindicated

SYDNEY, Sept 9 (Reuters/Internet): The Australian Cricket Board reacted cautiously on Wednesday to a report naming three leading Pakistan Test players as suspects in a match-fixing probe, but former Australian Test player Tim May said he felt vindicated.

An interim report released by the Pakistan Cricket Board recommended Salim Malik, Wasim Akram and Ijaz Ahmed be banned from playing until a final decision on the investigation is made.

Three Australian players, Shane Warne, Mark Waugh and May, had accused Malik, a former Pakistan captain, of offering them bribes on their 1994 tour of the sub-continent.

ACB chief executive Malcolm Speed said he would not comment on the matter until he had received official word from Pakistan.

"Essentially it is an internal matter for the Pakistan Cricket Board. The Australian Cricket Board has nothing to add," Speed said.

"We are waiting until we receive the formal advice of the Pakistan Cricket Board and the

International Cricket Council regarding the inquiry outcomes and any proposed courses of action."

All three Pakistan players named in the interim report have denied any involvement in match-fixing.

Warne, who is recovering from shoulder surgery, and Waugh, who is representing Australia at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, said they had been ordered not to comment on the matter.

But May, who once threatened to take legal action after a judge investigating the case accused the three Australians of

## Sirajul Islam off to KL for AFC meet

Sports Reporter

The first meeting of the newly-elected executive committee of Asian Football Confederation will be held in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow.

Sirajul Islam Bachchu, a joint secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation, who has already left the city for Malaysia last night, will represent Bangladesh in the meeting, says a press release.

Bangladesh is a member of the executive committee.

concocting the charges, said the findings vindicated their original statements.

"In my own personal way there's a genuine sense of relief that perhaps people are becoming more aware of a problem," said May, who has retired as a player and now serves as the president of the Australian Cricketers' Association.

"Before the finding there wasn't evidence to suggest it but now it seems there is the evidence to take this thing further."

Relations between the two countries have been strained since that 1994 tour and the latest development comes just two weeks before Australia embarks on their latest tour of Pakistan.

The tour itself was in some doubt after Islamabad conducted a series of nuclear tests in May.

The Australian government cut military ties and froze non-humanitarian aid to Pakistan after the explosions but said it would not interfere with sporting tours.

The ACB has said it would only proceed with the tour as long as it had the full support of the Foreign Affairs Department.

## Akram out in the cold

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 9: Wasim Akram, who has captained Lancashire to two titles over the past three days, on Tuesday said he was open to offers from other countries, reports AFP.

Lancashire have decided to sign Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan as his overseas replacement for next season after Wasim virtually talked himself out of a job.

The Pakistan all-rounder originally told Lancashire officials that he would be unavailable next season because he wanted to concentrate on Pakistan's World Cup challenge — and urged Lancashire to chase Muralitharan.

But with his selection for Pakistan by no means guaranteed, Wasim changed his stance and pleaded with Lancashire to allow him to continue his 10-year association with the county. But club officials announced Muralitharan's capture on Tuesday.

It leaves Wasim, one of the greatest all-rounders of the modern era with 355 one-day international wickets and 337 Test wickets, in limbo despite leading Lancashire to the NatWest Trophy and Sunday league title.

Lancashire have given Wasim a possible option of returning in 2000 by only giving Muralitharan a contract for next summer, which restricts his contribution to their chase for honours until after Sri Lanka's World Cup commitments.

But regulations state that overseas players must sign a minimum two-year contract once they have played for another county — virtually ruling Wasim out of an Old Trafford return if he decides to accept an offer from another county.

"If someone wanted to sign me for next year and the year

2000 then that would be great, but I don't want to hang around playing after that," stressed Wasim. "I don't want to go on much after that."

"I believe I'd stay much fitter playing county cricket for the next two years than playing international cricket and resting for six months."

"I've had some fantastic times with Lancashire and I'm going to miss the place so much, the club, the dressing room and being part of it all."

"I've learnt so much both on and off the pitch while I have been here."

"I don't think I've got a single bad memory of my time here."

Wasim, speaking on BBC radio, insisted he did not harbour

match-winner. I think he will do well for Lancashire."

"He's an amazing bowler and he's a very nice guy and I think he will fit in well in the Lancashire dressing room because he's very bubbly and he's always laughing."

Muralitharan produced one of the greatest performances in Test history earlier this month by claiming 16-220, the fifth best analysis of all time, to help Sri Lanka complete a 10-wicket victory over England at The Oval and has taken 68 wickets in eight Tests this year — more than any other players.

His arrival reunites Muralitharan with Lancashire coach Dave Whatmore, who masterminded Sri Lanka's World Cup win in 1996.

## VFB demolish Kaiserslautern

BONN, Sept 9: Champions Kaiserslautern slumped to their first defeat of the season when they crashed 4-0 away to VFB Stuttgart in the German First Division on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Yugoslav striker Sreto Ristic scored twice for the home side, opening the scoring in the 32nd minute and making it 3-0 in the 79th minute.

Fredi Bobic also played his part in Stuttgart's impressive demolition of Kaiserslautern, putting them 2-0 up after 71 minutes.

Bulgarian playmaker Krasimir Balakov completed a merciless display from the penalty spot with five minutes remaining.



WASIM AKRAM

any hard feelings and is totally committed to helping Lancashire complete a unique treble by attempting to land the county championship in their remaining two matches.

Wasim explained: "I wanted to stay but they decided on Murali, which is fine by me and if we can win our third trophy at the end of the season then that would be a dream come true."

"Muralitharan is one of the best off-spinners in the world and there is no doubt he's a



TOWERING INFERNO: Antigua's champion fast bowler Curtly Ambrose bowling against India's star batsman Sachin Tendulkar during a Commonwealth Games cricket competition first round match at Kuala Lumpur yesterday. The match had to be abandoned midway due to rain. — AP/UNB photo