

## Chattala Cup Ruhul Amin, Don Regensea's joy

Sports Reporter

Regensea Club came from behind last night to pull off a thrilling 2-1 win over Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club in their Chattala Cup football clash at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong, according to a telephone message received here last night.

In a see-saw match, Mohammedan took the lead in the very ninth minute of the match when ace striker Alfaz Ahmed put the black and whites ahead with a brilliant goal.

However, it was Regensea who had the last laugh with Ruhul Amin scoring the equaliser in the 16th minute and Don scoring the winner in the 73rd minute.

## Div II football Bima beat Jatrabari

Sadharan Bima Krira Sangha beat Jatrabari Krira Chakra 1-0 in the inaugural match of the Metropolitan Second Division football league at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad inaugurated the meet as chief guest.

Sixteen teams are taking part in the single league basis meet.

In the day's match, substitute player Zakaria Palash scored the match-winner in the 79th minute.

**TEAMS**  
**SADHARAN BIMA:** Masud, Jony, Biplob, Litu, Sohel, Zuku, Belul, Mamunur Rashid (Muzammel), Babu (Palash), Basia and Mukul.

**JATRABARI KC:** Salahuddin, Anisuzzaman, Manik, Shahin, Zahir (Nepal), Iqbal, Shahabuddin, Tawfiq (Nasir), Mamun, Anisul and Kamal.

Today's matches: PWD SC vs T&T Club (2:30 pm), Gandaria Famous SC (4:30 pm) at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, and Muslim Institute vs Adamjee SCC (3 pm) at the Army Stadium.

## KL GAMES DIARY

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 11 (AP):** Two badminton fans spent the night in jail for using borrowed volunteer worker passes to watch Commonwealth Games events.

The two were released Thursday morning, and the two volunteer workers who lent them the passes were dismissed, the New Straits Times reported Friday.

Volunteers at the Games "had been briefed that they would pay for their folly if they loaned their passes to their friends," the newspaper quoted Johnny Quek, sports manager at the badminton stadium, as saying.

It added, however, that the stadium was in no danger of running short of workers. More than 750 people have volunteered to help at badminton.

**BAGS OF SUPPORT**  
Five bagpipe players are part of the cheering section for Scotland's team at the Commonwealth Games.

The Bank of Scotland has provided the funds to bring them to Kuala Lumpur for the 10-day Games opening Friday.

**BOWLING FOR GOLD**  
Malta has just one tenpin bowling center, but two sisters hope their skills in the sport will bring the Mediterranean nation its first gold medal ever in the Commonwealth Games.

Tenpin bowling is making its debut in the Games, which until now had only the lawn variety. Bowlers Melissa Anastasi, 29, and Suzanne Abela, 32, are among 21 athletes in Malta's games delegation.

"We come from a small country with a population of only 375,000. But imagine how meaningful it would be if we can return home with a gold medal," Abela told the New Straits Times.

She said the sisters consider their chances about even in the women's doubles, starting Sunday, because "the competition is quite well-balanced."

Anastasi has a gold in doubles from the Mediterranean Challenge Cup and a silver for all-events and team bowling.

Abela has a bronze in singles from the 1997 European zone championships.

Malta's total medals count for all previous Commonwealth Games is one bronze in 1990.

**BETTER THAN GOLD**  
Yvonne McGregor, England's only cycling gold medalist in the last Commonwealth Games in 1994, is looking for something even more satisfying at these games.

The 37-year-old rider finished second to Australian Lucy Tyler-Sharman in the women's 3-kilometre pursuit race in the recent World Track Championships in France and in both last year's World Cup and World Championships.

Now she wants to beat her and win the gold.



**DANCING QUEENS:** Malaysian girls performing the coloured ribbons dance during the opening ceremony of the 16th Commonwealth Games at Kuala Lumpur yesterday. —AFP photo

## Sceptics proved wrong Opening ceremony without a blemish

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 11:** Defying sceptics, the first Commonwealth Games in Asia got off to a trouble-free start today with the weather smiling and political turmoil well away from Malaysia's coming out party, reports Reuters.

Concern about traffic jams and complaints about ticket sales also were cast aside as the father of the Games, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, basked in roars of approval from the crowd gathered for the event's opening ceremony.

The Games, lasting through September 21, gave Malaysians at least a brief respite from their economic recession and political worries.

More than 4,000 athletes from 70 nations and territories, from Anguilla to Zimbabwe, from swimming to boxing to tennis, were gathered to compete in the biggest Games ever for 1,176 medals in 219 events.

"So hold your breath as Kuala Lumpur hosts the biggest ever sporting event after the Olympics," the New Straits Times newspaper trumpeted today.

"The past years have been a roller-coaster ride with the doomayers very sure the Games would never get off the ground," the Star newspaper commented.

The marathon six hour opening ceremony was blessed by clear skies, ending worries that a tropical deluge could rain on Malaysia's parade onto the international stage.

Malaysia's King Tuanku Jaafar Abdul Rahman was to declare the Games open around 10:05 pm (14:05 GMT) after teams from the 70 participating nations marched into the stadium.

First team into the stadium were Canada, hosts of the previous Games in 1994 in Victoria, British Columbia.

Dressed in athletic team uniforms emblazoned with their national maple leaf symbol, the Canadians strolled casually together to roars from the crowd.

Commonwealth Games Federation president Prince Edward of Britain and the Sultan of Brunei were among Commonwealth dignitaries at the ceremony.

"The weather should even improve more over the next few days," a weather bureau forecaster said.

misconduct, corruption, treason and other crimes. He has denied the allegations. Mahathir said on Thursday that police would charge Anwar if they obtained enough evidence.

Games officials had feared an Anwar gathering could cause more transport chaos in an area choked by people traveling to the opening ceremony.

In the Athletes Village, competitors made the best of the withdrawal of a host of stars, mainly in track and field, who are absent either through injury or because they prefer to go to more lucrative events.

Critics said the absence of the stars was a sign that the sun was setting on the Games, just as it has on the old British empire.

"There is a big buzz starting," said Australian Rugby Union legend David Campese, whose sport is making its Games debut along with other team events such as cricket and hockey.

Abel Chimukoko, a Zimbabwean 10,000-metre runner, said he was not too disappointed by the absence of some stars.

"It would be more exciting if those guys were here. But now new champions will be made," Chimukoko said.

The first gold medals will be decided on Saturday, when there could be an exciting start with a possible assault on the oldest record in men's swimming.

World Champions Michael Klim of Australia will battle against teenage teammate Ian Thorpe and double Olympic champion Danyon Loader of New Zealand in the 200 metres freestyle.

The winning time in Kuala Lumpur is expected to be close to the mark set nine years ago by Italian Giorgio Lamberti.

"Whoever wins the race will have to do it in a time that is awfully close to the record," Australian team manager Ian Hanson said today.

Four other swimming golds will also be won on Saturday with Australia looking at a possible sweep in the men's 200 metres breaststroke, led by defending champion Phil Jones.

England's Susan Rolph, with the fastest time this year, will attempt to hold off defending champion and teammate Karen Pickering and Australia's Susie O'Neill in the women's 100 metres freestyle.

Canada's Joanne Malar and Australia's Nadine Neumann are the favorites in the 400 metres individual medley, and Australia, Canada and England will fight it out for the gold in the 4x200 metres freestyle.

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"No one is sure what will happen next," a senior Pakistani sports official at the Commonwealth Games said here today.

The official, who requested anonymity, said internal wranglings within the PCB have confused the whole issue.

PCB chief executive Majid Khan wanted the interim report, which suggested the three players be banned from international cricket till the probe was over, be implemented immediately.

President Khalid Mehmood, a government nominee, however, preferred not to jump the gun. He wanted the cricketers to continue playing for Pakistan till the final report was released.

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**Lewis lances Essex**  
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Leicestershire will be crowned champions for the second time in three seasons if they beat rivals Surrey at the Oval next week.

Their victory charge was held up today when Essex's Ashley Cowan (94) and Peter Such (24 not out) put on 102 in 19 overs for the last wicket.

The win was Leicestershire's then apologetic for his outburst, after being left out of a provisional squad before next year's World Cup.

**Dalmiya says, no comment**  
LONDON, Sept 11: International Cricket Council president Jagmohan Dalmiya said Friday he could not comment on match fixing allegations against three Pakistan internationals until the claims were "proven or otherwise," reports AP.

However, Dalmiya said "match fixing is completely unacceptable."

"In the event that any player or official is found guilty, ICC expects the strongest possible action to be taken against him in order to protect the good name of cricket," he said in a statement released Friday.

Former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram, Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed have been implicated in match-fixing allegations and are being investigated by the Pakistan Cricket Board.

Dalmiya said the PCB had informed the ICC that it was investigating match fixing allegations against "several prominent players."

The investigations commenced with a board committee of enquiry and later reinforced by a government judicial commission. The legal process is expected to be complete by mid-October.

Dalmiya said the issue was the responsibility of the PCB and its chairman Khalid Mehmood had ensured that any accused player was entitled to a proper enquiry and a fair trial.

## Iqbal does it again for B Sporting Hat trick of hat tricks

**Sports Reporter**  
Iqbal Singh scored yet another hat trick to steer title-chasers Bangladesh Sporting Club to a big 9-0 win over lowly-rated Dhaka Anshars in one of the two Green Delta First Division hockey league matches played at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday. In an one-sided affair, Bangladesh Sporting Club shredded the Anshars defence with incessant attacks.

Iqbal, who last week scored two hat tricks in as many matches, that against Cantonian Sporting Club and Bachelors' Club, scored five goals including four in a row to help his side post their third successive win and remain atop the eight-team table with full nine points.

Wari Club, who won the day's other match 2-1 against Victoria Sporting Club, share

the cosy spot at the top. Proshanto Kumar put the old Dhaka outfit ahead with a brilliant field goal in the very first minute of the proceedings while Iqbal, the lanky Calcutta-based forward, sealed the first session with another field goal 28 minutes later.

Although the winners had to struggle to increase the margin in the first session, they looked more positively aggressive after the lemon break, crowning their efforts with three goals in five minutes.

Defender Liton made it 3-0 converting a penalty corner in the 37th minute while Davinder Singh scored two goals in two minutes to take the match away from the Anshars.

After the scoreline reached 5-0, Iqbal took charge and scored four field goals in the space of 13 minutes to mark his third treble of the league.

## WARI'S MODEST TRIUMPH

Earlier, Wari Club posted their third successive win defeating Victoria Sporting Club by two goals to one.

The winners led the first half 1-0. Sabu Joarder opened the Wari account with a field goal in the 20th minute while Rubel Ahmed doubled the margin with yet another field goal in the 36th minute. On the other hand, Noor Mohammad pulled one back for Victoria in the 41st minute.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

(Moulana Bhasani Stadium)  
Sonali Bank v Bachelors' Club (2:30 pm)

B Railway v Cantonian Club (4:15 pm)

## Action against culprits may be delayed

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 11:** A new Pakistan government inquiry into match-fixing allegations may delay action against Test stars Wasim Akram, Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed, reports AFP.

The interim report of a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) inquiry firmly implicated the trio, but may be superseded by a separate government commission appointed last month to investigate bribery.

Justice Malik, Mohammad Qayoom of the Lahore High Court was appointed last month to conduct a new inquiry even as the board's panel was completing one report.

Qayoom is expected to submit his findings by October 10, midway through Australia's tour of Pakistan which commences later this month.

So where does that leave the board's interim report, which was leaked to the media on Wednesday?

"No one is sure what will happen next," a senior Pakistani sports official at the Commonwealth Games said here today.

The official, who requested anonymity, said internal wranglings within the PCB have confused the whole issue.

PCB chief executive Majid Khan wanted the interim report, which suggested the three players be banned from international cricket till the probe was over, be implemented immediately.

President Khalid Mehmood, a government nominee, however, preferred not to jump the gun. He wanted the cricketers to continue playing for Pakistan till the final report was released.

It was under Mehmood's directive that the selectors included both Malik and Ijaz for the Sahara Cup one-day series against India starting in Toronto on Saturday.

Akram was not considered after English county Lancashire refused to release him ahead of the final stages of the session.

## Australia aware of Ambrose

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 11:** West Indian fast bowler Curtly Ambrose hopes the rain will keep away from Australia's batsmen here Saturday, reports AFP.

The lanky Antigua, one of the top names in the first cricket tournament at the Games, has not yet had the opportunity to display his skills before Malaysian fans.

Antigua's opening match against India was washed out at the start of the afternoon session, preventing Ambrose from bowling to Indian superstar Sachin Tendulkar.

He hopes it will not happen again against Australia, even though heavy rain denied his team much-needed net practice today.

"I don't want to go through this wonderful experience of taking part in the Games without bowling a ball," Ambrose said.

"It's always fun bowling at the Australians. They are among the best players in the world," Steve Waugh's Australians, who trounced Canada in two

hours on Wednesday, know their reputation as gold medal favourites may be at stake against Antigua.

Ambrose and fellow Antiguan pace bowlers Winston Benjamin, Kenneth Benjamin and Eldine Baptiste, can prove a handful on the damp Malaysian wickets — as India learnt to their cost.

Chasing Antigua's modest 164-9, the Indians lost Tendulkar and Gagan Khoda cheaply and were a shaky 30-2 in the 10th over when the rains came.

Australian wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist said it would be a big test to face Ambrose for the first time.

"While he's only playing for Antigua and not the West Indies, I am sure he will be pretty keen to fire up against us," Gilchrist said.

"I think any of the bowlers over here are going to be tough because the wet wickets are very conducive to good bowling. At any of the grounds, 200 is going to be a massive score."

India and Pakistan will also be hoping for rain-free cricket on Saturday.

India need a win against unfancied Canada after being forced to split points against Antigua.

Pakistan, who were also robbed by rain against Scotland, must defeat Kenya on Saturday and New Zealand on Tuesday to qualify for the semifinals from Group D.

New Zealand took a one-point lead in the group after beating Kenya on Thursday.

"We are itching to get out there," Indian coach Krish Srikanth said. "I hope we and the other teams don't get beaten by the rains again."

Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka also hope to record their second wins in Group A on Saturday when they take on Malaysia and Jamaica respectively.

The 16 teams have been divided into four groups with the top team advancing to the semifinals.

## Akram tags it as conspiracy

**KARACHI, Sept 11:** Star Pakistani cricketer Wasim Akram on Thursday denied renewed match fixing and bribery allegations and termed it a "conspiracy" against him and the country's cricket.

"I am really shocked and disappointed. Until and unless I am not cross-examined (in court), no one can defame me like this," Wasim told AFP by telephone from England.

He was reacting after he was implicated along with Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed in match-fixing in an interim report, made available to AFP at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, of the Pakistan Cricket Board's probe committee.

"I am a fighter and will fight back once I come back. I will not let my enemies destroy me. I am ready to take everyone on," he vowed, but admitted, "It would be difficult for me to play in such a state of mind."

The 32-year-old paceman has featured prominently in match-fixing scandals haunting Pakistani cricket since 1994. He was stripped of the national side's captaincy in January but has turned down offers to lead Pakistan again.

"It is a one-sided story and should not have come out. The allegations are baseless," Wasim said. "I do not know what is happening."

A judge heading the cricket board's investigation said he believed his committee was heading in the right direction and would finalise its report in three months.

"We will give the accused players all the opportunities to clarify them," Justice Ejaz said.

"NatWest Trophy and Sunday League titles, Lancashire stand third in the county table and are in the hunt for a treble."

Despite his county success, Wasim was not selected for the Pakistan team in the Sahara Cup against India starting Saturday in Toronto, Canada.

"People are trying to kill me mentally and this is a conspiracy against me. I do not want to name the people but I know them very well," said Wasim, one of the all-time leading international bowlers.

The Pakistan Cricket Board began an inquiry into match-fixing and betting after last year's Sharjah Cup, when Wasim led Pakistan to a two-three loss.

"Our people do not accept defeats and that is why they see something wrong in the matches we lose. This is not cricket," he maintained.

"I have always served my country with pride, but have been given a raw deal. It is unjust and I deserve better treatment."

Wasim was criticised after he did not play in the quarter final of the 1996 World Cup against India due to a shoulder injury. Pakistan lost the match, triggering a public reaction that culminated in Wasim's house being pelted and his father kidnapped.

Wasim is due to return home on September 23.

## Malik, Ijaz to play Sahara Cup from today

**TORONTO, Sept 11:** Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed will play as planned for Pakistan in the Sahara Cup tournament, which does not have Test match status.

"It is a one-sided story and should not have come out. The allegations are baseless," Wasim said, from England. "I do not know what is happening."

Wasim was not chosen for the Sahara Cup because of his commitments to the English county team Lancashire.

A judge heading the cricket board's investigation said he believed his committee was heading in the right direction and would finalise its report in three months.

"We will give the accused players all the opportunities to clarify them," Justice Ejaz Yusuf said.

The Toronto star newspaper reported Thursday that team manager Zaidi said: "The news (of the match-fixing allegations) has come as a complete surprise to me and the rest of the team here."

"Nobody has been in touch with me and as far as I am concerned, the two players are part of the team and will play against India."

Zaidi said he had spoken to the team about the reports and was adamant team morale would be high.

Pakistan has also been criticised for fielding a stronger team in Toronto for the Sahara Cup than in Kuala Lumpur

where India and Pakistan are among the teams competing in the Commonwealth Games cricket tournament.

## SQUADS

**PAKISTAN (from):** Aamir Sohail (captain), Saeed Anwar, Shahid Afridi, Inzamamul Haq, Ijaz Ahmed, Salim Malik, Yousef Yohanna, Molin Khan, Azhar Mahmood, Abdul Razvi.

**INDIA (from):** Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), Sourav Ganguly, Navjot Singh Sidhu, Rahul Dravid, Hrishikesh Kankar, Nayan Mongia, Ajit Agarkar, Sunil Joshi, Sarraj Bahutule, Javagal Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad, Sanjay Raul, Jatin Paranjpe, Jyoti Yadav.



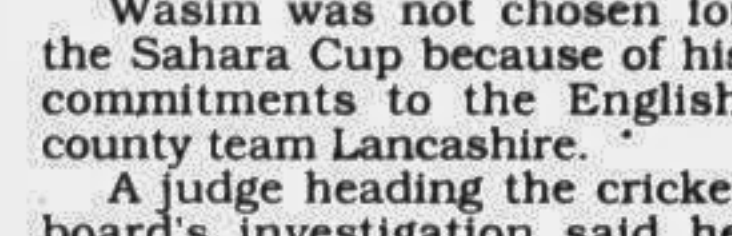
**AZHARUDDIN**

The two players, who have just arrived for the annual tournament of five one-day matches against India which begins tomorrow, were not available for comment Thursday.

A report by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) committee found Malik, Ijaz and Wasim Akram responsible for match fixing and said the three should not play Tests until further investigations were finished.

Even if the ban were implemented as recommended, it would not affect the Sahara Cup tournament, which does not have Test match status.

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**AAMIR SOHAIL**

zaq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Saqlain Mushtaq, Aaqib Javed, Mohammad Zahid.

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