

Green team 294 for 6

A brilliant 95 by Faruque Ahmed took Bangladesh Green to 294 for six in 85 overs against Bangladesh Red on the first day of the three-day practice match at the BKSP ground in Savar yesterday, reports UNB.

The two teams were picked up from the selected players undergoing training camp at the BKSP residential camp to prepare for the World Cup.

Bangladesh Green were led by national captain Aminul Islam Bulbul while the Bangladesh Red was led by captain Khaled Mahmud.

In his 195-minute stay at the crease, Faruque hit 14 boundaries off 172 balls.

The former national skipper shared 104 runs in a valuable partnership with Aminul for the fourth wicket. The skipper made 59 of 110 deliveries with nine fours.

Opener Ehsanul Haq played another notable innings of 52 runs off 106 balls with six hits across the rope.

Javed Omar Elmoum contributed 16 runs. Hasanuzzaman 13 and Jahangir Alam 10.

Naimur Rahman was batting with five while Nahid was yet to score as the stumps were drawn for 46 runs.

BANGLADESH GREEN: Gulla, Seezan, Jhangir Alam, Faruque, Bulbul, Hasanuzzaman, Durjoy, Nahid, Imran, M Babi and Moni.

BANGLADESH RED: Akram, Opeee, Sanwar, Rokon, Sujon, Nannu, MAK Sumon, Sumit, Rafique, SA Babu and Shanta.

Busta Cup cricket

Day Three rained off

POINTE-A-PIERRE, Trinidad, Feb 23: Rain cancelled the third day of the Busta Cup cricket semifinal between Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago on Monday, virtually guaranteeing Trinidad's berth in the finals, reports AP.

The home team with a first innings lead of 140, has only to avoid defeat on the fourth and final day Tuesday to advance to the championships on March 20.

Rain prevented play before lunch, and just as umpires Zainul Maccum and Billy Dogtrove were due to make an inspection at 12:30 pm, further showers abandoned any hope of a start.

Barbados host Jamaica in the second semifinal at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown on Friday.

Scores: Guyana 175 (Clayton Lambert 75, Vishal Nagamootoo 37; Mervyn Dillon six for 46, Marlon Black two for 37, Phil Simmons two for 37).

Trinidad and Tobago 315 (Daren Ganga 92, Phil Simmons 59; Mahendra Nagamootoo three for 86, Neil McGarrell two for 44, Colin Stuart two for 67).

Tri-series schedule amended

CAPE TOWN, Feb 23 (Reuters/Internet): The final of the one-day international triangular series between England, Zimbabwe and hosts South Africa next year has been put back three days to Saturday, February 12.

The dates of three round-robin matches have also been changed, the United Cricket Board of South Africa said on Tuesday.

South Africa meet Zimbabwe in Durban on February 2 and play England in East London on February 4. Zimbabwe meet England in Centurion on February 9.

Int'l junior tennis on

Thirty-one boys' singles qualifying round matches were decided on the opening day of the 13th Bangladesh International Junior tennis championship yesterday at the Rama National Tennis Complex, reported UNB.

Earlier, in the morning, State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed opened the five-day meet.

Vice-President of Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) and Additional IG of Police M Nurul Alam and BTF general secretary Sanau Haq were present.

Ninety-one players, including 31 girls, from 13 countries are taking part in the four-event Junior World Ranking Group-3 tournament.

The countries: India, Pakistan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, UAE, Malaysia, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Kazakhstan, United Kingdom, South Africa, Canada and Bangladesh.

On completion of the qualifying round, eight boys entered the singles' main draw.

Twelve local boys took part in the qualifying round however all were eliminated.

The main competition in both boys' and girls' singles begins today at 8 am with 32 participants in the boys' group and 31 in the girls' group.

Five local players — Nadim Kamran Khan, Rohan, Fahim Ahsan Romi, Rahat Kamal Islam, Kabir Hossain and Mustafizur Rahman Russel — will compete in the boys' main

draw.

Rohan reached the main draw by virtue of his rating while four others on Wild cards.

Three local girls — Seefat Nusrat Baishakhi, Dyuti Shanchaeta and Disha Islam — will directly enter the girls' main draw.

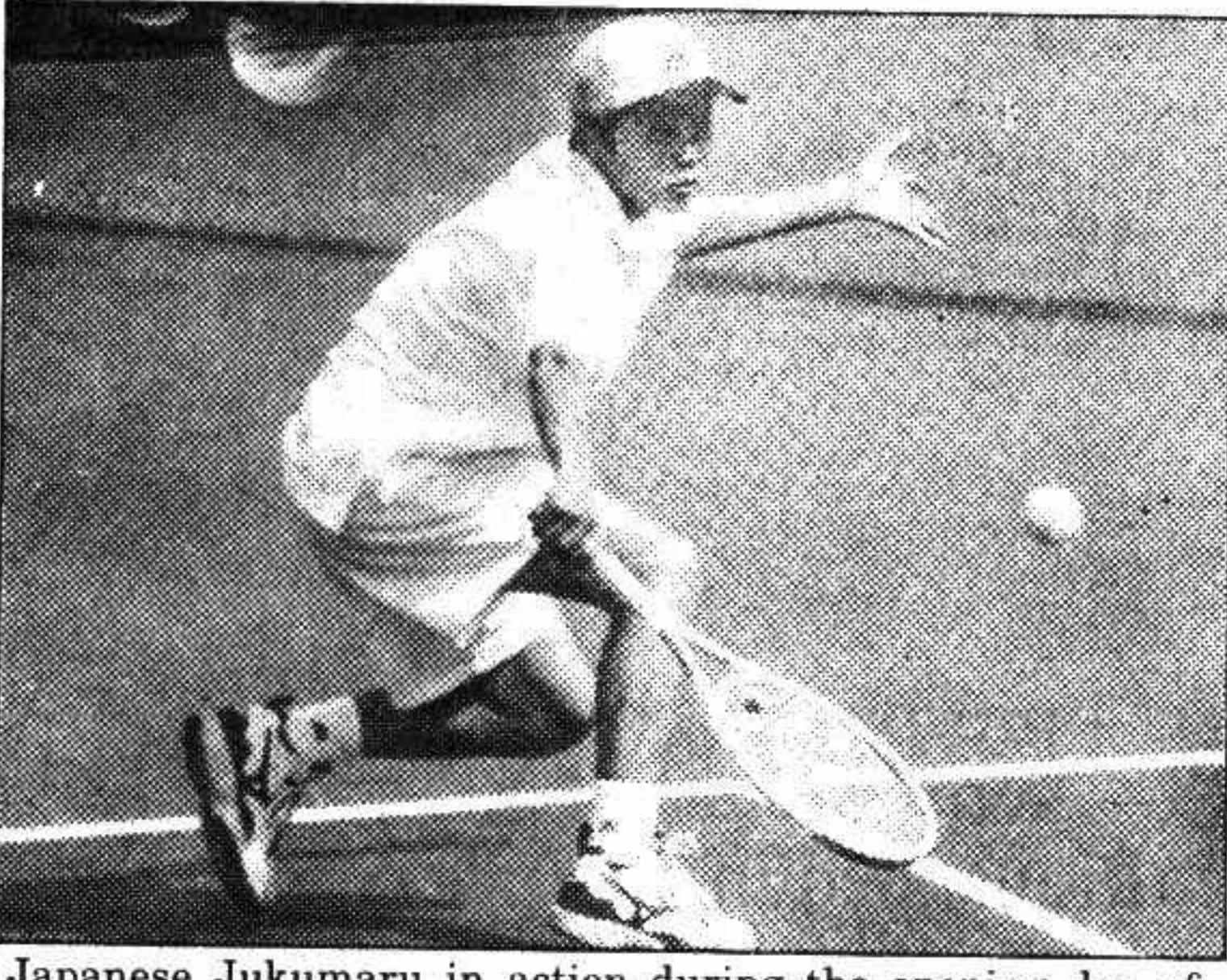
Although Ihsrat Jahan Eti, qualified for directly, she is not available to compete.

In the girls' singles, Bangladesh number one Baishakhi meets V Kameswari of India, Shanchaeta faces Vi-

rat Prasert Suchana of Thailand and Disha takes on Nona Wagh of India.

Girls' top seed Goutham Sheetal of India (world rank 42) will play her inaugural match with Yang Pei Li of Chinese Taipei.

In the boys' singles Rohan of Bangladesh meets compatriot Kabir Hossain Romi takes on Brandon Weir-Smith of South Africa, Rahat Kamal faces Chi Hui Sung of Chinese Taipei and Russel plays Motonari Minato of Japan.



Japanese Jukumaru in action during the opening day of the 13th Bangladesh International Junior Championships yesterday.

—Star photo

West Ham rope in ROK striker



SEOUL, Feb 23: South Korea's top striker Choi Yong-Soo will transfer to London's West Ham United for an Asian record sum of five million dollars, a spokesman for his LG Cheetahs team said today, reports AFP.

Choi — whose deal is worth 700,000 dollars a year on top of the transfer fee — left today for London with LG Cheetahs' deputy head Han Woong-Soo for a tryout before signing the contract on Thursday.

"I'm very pleased. This is a dream come true. I always wanted to play in Europe. I am all the more pleased because I

am going to Great Britain, homeland of football," Choi told journalists before leaving.

"I'll do my best, keeping the

fact in mind that South Korea is going to co-host the 2002 World Cup," he said.

West Ham United will play Choi 700,000 dollars annually on top of the five million dollars it will fork out to LG Cheetahs for the transfer, the spokesman said, adding that the duration of the contract had yet to be fixed.

"Choi's transfer money is the biggest in history for an Asian player," he said, noting that the transfer of Japan's Hidetoshi Nakata to Italy was worth 3.3 million dollars.

Sub Jung-Won's transfer to France's Strasbourg was worth 1.5 million dollars in 1997, the biggest amount previously paid for a South Korean.

Other clubs in Britain, France, Spain and Italy also tried to sign up Choi.

Measuring 184 centimetres (six foot and a half inch) and weighing 77 kilograms (169.4 pounds), the 26-year-old is seen as the best striker in South Korea.

Nicknamed "Eagle" for his speed and ability to read games, he led South Korea to their fourth consecutive appearance in the World Cup in 1998.

He scored seven goals in seven appearances in the World Cup Asian region finals.



LONDON CALLING: Choi Yong-Soo (L), South Korea's World Cup striker and compatriot midfielder Kim Doh-Keun waves bye at the Kimpo International Airport in Seoul yesterday before leaving for London to join Premiership Club West Ham.

—AFP photo

Green team 294 for 6

A brilliant 95 by Faruque Ahmed took Bangladesh Green to 294 for six in 85 overs against Bangladesh Red on the first day of the three-day practice match at the BKSP ground in Savar yesterday, reports UNB.

The two teams were picked up from the selected players undergoing training camp at the BKSP residential camp to prepare for the World Cup.

Bangladesh Green were led by national captain Aminul Islam Bulbul while the Bangladesh Red was led by captain Khaled Mahmud.

In his 195-minute stay at the crease, Faruque hit 14 boundaries off 172 balls.

The former national skipper shared 104 runs in a valuable partnership with Aminul for the fourth wicket. The skipper made 59 of 110 deliveries with nine fours.

Opener Ehsanul Haq played another notable innings of 52 runs off 106 balls with six hits across the rope.

Javed Omar Elmoum contributed 16 runs. Hasanuzzaman 13 and Jahangir Alam 10.

Naimur Rahman was batting with five while Nahid was yet to score as the stumps were drawn for 46 runs.

BANGLADESH GREEN: Gulla, Seezan, Jhangir Alam, Faruque, Bulbul, Hasanuzzaman, Durjoy, Nahid, Imran, M Babi and Moni.

BANGLADESH RED: Akram, Opeee, Sanwar, Rokon, Sujon, Nannu, MAK Sumon, Sumit, Rafique, SA Babu and Shanta.

Busta Cup cricket

Day Three rained off

POINTE-A-PIERRE, Trinidad, Feb 23: Rain cancelled the third day of the Busta Cup cricket semifinal between Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago on Monday, virtually guaranteeing Trinidad's berth in the finals, reports AP.

The home team with a first

innings lead of 140, has only to

avoid defeat on the fourth and

final day Tuesday to advance to

the championships on March 20.

Rain prevented play before

lunch, and just as umpires

Zainul Maccum and Billy Dogtrove

were due to make an

inspection at 12:30 pm, further

showers abandoned any hope of

a start.

Barbados host Jamaica in the second semifinal at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown on Friday.

Scores: Guyana 175 (Clayton

Lambert 75, Vishal Nagamootoo 37; Mervyn Dillon six for 46, Marlon Black two for 37, Phil Simmons two for 37).

Trinidad and Tobago 315 (Daren Ganga 92, Phil Simmons 59; Mahendra Nagamootoo three for 86, Neil McGarrell two for 44, Colin Stuart two for 67).

Tri-series schedule amended

CAPE TOWN, Feb 23 (Reuters/Internet): The final of the one-day international triangular series between England, Zimbabwe and hosts South Africa next year has been put back three days to Saturday, February 12.

The dates of three round-robin matches have also been changed, the United Cricket Board of South Africa said on Tuesday.

South Africa meet Zimbabwe in Durban on February 2 and play England in East London on February 4. Zimbabwe meet England in Centurion on February 9.

Green team 294 for 6

A brilliant 95 by Faruque Ahmed took Bangladesh Green to 294 for six in 85 overs against Bangladesh Red on the first day of the three-day practice match at the BKSP ground in Savar yesterday, reports UNB.

The two teams were picked up from the selected players undergoing training camp at the BKSP residential camp to prepare for the World Cup.

Bangladesh Green were led by national captain Aminul Islam Bulbul while the Bangladesh Red was led by captain Khaled Mahmud.

In his 195-minute stay at the crease, Faruque hit 14 boundaries off 172 balls.

The former national skipper

shared 104 runs in a valuable

partnership with Aminul for the

fourth wicket. The skipper

made 59 of 110 deliveries with

nine fours.

Opener Ehsanul Haq played

another notable innings of 52

runs off 106 balls with six hits

across the rope.

Javed Omar Elmoum contrib

uted 16 runs. Hasanuzzaman

13 and Jahangir Alam 10.

Naimur Rahman was bat

ting with five while Nahid was yet to

score as the stumps were drawn

for 46 runs.

BANGLADESH GREEN: Gulla, Seezan, Jhangir Alam, Faruque, Bulbul, Hasanuzzaman, Durjoy, Nahid, Imran, M Babi and Moni.

BANGLADESH RED: Akram, Opeee, Sanwar, Rokon, Sujon, Nannu, MAK Sumon, Sumit, Rafique, SA Babu and Shanta.

Busta Cup cricket

Day Three rained off

POINTE-A-PIERRE, Trinidad, Feb 23: Rain cancelled the third day of the Busta Cup cricket semifinal between Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago on Monday, virtually guaranteeing Trinidad's berth in the finals, reports AP.

The home team with a first

innings lead of 140, has only to

avoid defeat on the fourth and

final day Tuesday to advance to

the championships on March 20.

Rain prevented play before

lunch, and just as umpires

Zainul Maccum and Billy Dogtrove

were due to make an

inspection at 12:30 pm, further