

Sport

Uzbeks rout Bangladesh

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh suffered a crushing 0-6 defeat at the hands of Uzbekistan in their opening Group Three encounter of the 12th Asian Cup qualifiers in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

According to a faxed message last night, the leaky Bangladeshi defence in absence of star defenders Jewel Rana, Masood Rana and Hasan Al-Mamun let the Uzbeks score thrice in each half.

Uzbekistan mostly composed of Europe-based players went ahead in the 22nd minute and struck two more in the 40th and 44th minute.

The Central Asians completed the rout with goals in the 51st, 65th and 75th minutes.

Bangladesh will face UAE in their next match tomorrow.

Fakhru steers Ctg to safety

Sports Reporter

Fakhru Alam hit an unbeaten 84 to rescue hosts Chittagong Division after a top order collapse against Khulna on the first day of their National Cricket League clash at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

The middle-order bat elbowed 11 fours in his 170-ball unconquered innings to guide his team to 264 for nine at close.

Sent into bat, Chittagong slumped to 67 for four in the 28th before Fakhru came in to pair with Haroon-ur-Rashid.

Fakhru and Haroon, who scored a timely 57, steadied the rocking boat, putting on 66 runs for the fifth wicket.

With Haroon departing at 133, Fakhru found another wily partner in tail-ender Walid Abedin, who blasted a breezy 52 off 57 balls.

Fakhru shared an invaluable 83-run with number nine batsman Walid. That crucial partnership helped Chittagong to post a respectable score after three of their batsmen returned to pavilion scoring ducks.

Jamaluddin was the most successful Khulna bowler with a haul of two for 68.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the National Cricket League match between Chittagong and Khulna began at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

CHITTAGONG: First Innings

	O	M	R	W
Tareq c Nuruzzaman b Khairuzzaman	0			
Nafees b Jamaluddin	34			
Haroon c Khairuzzaman b Azimul	57			
Rezal run out	0			
Faisal run out	0			
Fakhru batting	84			
Akbar c Raju b Jamaluddin	4			
Hafiz c Niaz b Shahri	15			
Walid c Selim b Niaz	52			
Niazuddin c Raju b Tareq	1			
Alamgir batting	0			
Extras: (b-3, lb-3, nb-6, w-5)	17			
Total: (For 9 wkt in 91 overs)	264			
Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-59; 3-62; 4-67; 5-133; 6-148; 7-172; 8-255; 9-264.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Khairuzzaman	10	3	26	1
Tariqul	20	5	47	1
Niaz	6	1	28	1
Shahin	23	7	50	1
Jamaluddin	23	6	68	2
Azimul	9	2	38	1

Asia Cup hockey

Bangladesh versus SL

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh, fresh after their creditable draw against China on Saturday, will desperately look forward to registering their first win in the 5th Asia Cup hockey championship when they take on a lowly-rated Sri Lanka in Kuala Lumpur today.

Bangladesh, who lost to Korea (4-0) in their Group A opener, displayed a spectacular turnaround, holding China 1-1.

Bangladesh will take on former world champions Pakistan in the last group league match tomorrow.

Warne applauds Saqlain

HOBART, Australia, Nov 21: Australia's star leg-sinner Shane Warne says he ranks Pakistani Saqlain Mushtaq above Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralitharan as the world's best off spinner, reports AP.

Warne was a first ball victim of Saqlain on day one of the second Test at Bellerive Oval, clean bowled by the Pakistani's "doosra" — a ball which breaks the wrong way.

Nicknamed the 'Sheikh of Tweak' because of his ability to turn the ball at alarming angles, Warne's wrist spinners stand him alongside Saqlain and Muralitharan as the greatest slow bowlers of the modern era.

Warne has 342 wickets from 77 tests, Saqlain 103 from 23 and Muralitharan 218 from 45 matches.

"You think about the two best off spinners going around and you think of Muttiah and Saqlain," said Warne, who took 5-110 in Pakistan's second innings of 392 on Sunday.

"I think Saqlain is probably a better bowler than Muttiah. The way he bowls his wrong'un, it's just a very good delivery and there is no real change of action, he bowls it excellently and he can land it pretty consistently, too."

"You think of off spinners over the years and you think of them tying up an end and may be getting a couple of wickets for you but these guys, Saqlain and Muttiah, they're lethal weapons."

Saqlain, 22, is only starting out and the mysteries of his "doosra," the Urdu word for his wrong'un, are likely to beguile batsmen for years to come.

SA beaten by brainpower?



CAPE

TOWN

Nov

21:

Internet

report:

The IQs of

South African

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This controversial opinion was aired by the respected sports science guru, Professor Tim Noakes speaking at the opening of South Africa's first Institute of Life Enhancement, the only one of its kind in the world.

Noakes has just returned from attending conferences on sports medicine in New Zealand and Australia. He said he was once again struck by Australia's current pre-eminence in world sport and he asked himself what South Africans must do to be able compete with them.

"In rugby especially in cricket, many players this year did not measure up to standards. In my view this must firstly be ascribed to the com

plex emotional demands of international sport.

"South African cricketers spent 320 days away from home last year and only 40 at home. Nobody can keep up such a schedule for long."

"Unless we address this and other aspects urgently, key players will crack at crucial moments. My point is, and I'm referring specifically to the Australian example and their excellence in Olympic sports, that we have to pay much more attention to detail."

"But the Aussies also showed us that amateurs have to be supported through sponsorships to enable them to practise like the professionals."

"The problem seems to be that the people in charge of creating the blueprints for the future of our sports do not have the necessary expertise to make the decisions they need to make," he said.

Noakes expressed the hope that people will wonder at South Africa's achievements at the Olympics in 50 years' time and that we will then be able to tell them that they were achieved through privatisation and the development of sports science and medicine at community level."

Noakes added that technology would also play an increasingly important role in sport in the future. After seeing the latest sport technology during his

Serie A

Welcome win for Fiorentina

MILAN, Nov 21 (AP/Reuters): Defender Alessandro Pierini, making up for the scoring drought of Argentinian strikers Gabriel Batistuta and Abel Balbo, headed in the deciding goal with eight minutes left to give Fiorentina a 1-0 home win against Perugia in a Serie A match Saturday.

The only good news for the Fiorentina defense was the return to action of Moreno Torricelli following a eight-month absence due to torn knee ligaments.

Torricelli was fielded as substitute in the second half and had a much applauded 35-minute performance.

Batistuta struggled during the first half and had to score chances in the final minutes. Perugia's keeper Andrea Mazzantini denied the Argentine striker his would-be sixth season goal.

Perugia ended the match one player down following the ejection of defender Mauro Mi-

lanese who received his second caution in the 85th minute.

"We won a crucial match against a tough opponent," commented Fiorentina's veteran coach Giovanni Trapattoni. "We could have solved our psychological problems and can look forward to Manchester United."

We made a meal of it today but we also showed we have character," said Trapattoni.

"If we made mistakes it's because we were in too much of a hurry to win. It was a game which could have finished in a number of ways but I'm relieved we were the ones who won. It gives us a lift before Tuesday."

"Anyway," he joked, "Manchester United will be less bothersome than Perugia."



Perugia's Japanese playmaker Hidetoshi Nakata (R) trying to get the better of a Fiorentina defender during their Serie A encounter at Florence on November 20.

— AFP photo

French First Division

Lyon stay a point ahead



PARIS, Nov 21: Brazil's Sonny Anderson converted a late penalty to give Olympique Lyon a 1-0 home win over Racing Lens and keep them top of the French First Division on Saturday.

Anderson, the champion-

ship's top scorer, took his tally to 12 with his fourth goal in three matches after Lens defender Jose Pierre-Fanfan brought down France winger Tony Vairelles.

Lyon have 31 points, one more than Monaco who beat Sedan 2-1 at home with first half goals from Mexican defender Rafael Marquez and midfielder Sabri Lamouchi.

Auxerre are third, a point further back, after an upset 1-0 away victory, only their second of the season, over Olympique Marseille.

Paris St Germain are fourth on 27 points after beating Basa 2-0 at home on Friday.

At Marseille, Auxerre winger Stevie Marlet scored the only goal midway through the second half to send the home side to their second defeat at the Vélodrome.

Auxerre had lost their two previous matches.

Marseille's angry fans chanted for coach Rolland Courbis's resignation just four days ahead of their team's Champions League second phase opener at home to favourites Lazio.

"I would have done the same thing in their place," Courbis said. "We've again missed the boat by losing a match that could have allowed us to get back among the leaders."

Marseille's Pierre Issa said: "When the team conceded so many points at home (14 in nine matches), the crowd naturally take it out on the trainer. It's unjust because it's us, the players, who are mainly responsible."

It was the second home defeat on successive days for

France's Champions League teams after Girondins Bordeaux lost 2-1 to St Etienne on Friday before their trip to Spain's Valencia.

Auxerre soaked up almost constant but ineffective Marseille pressure and scored with their first chance of the second half in the 71st minute.

Issa and fellow defender Sébastien Perez got in each other's way going for a long, high ball out of Auxerre's half by playmaker Stéphane Carnot and Marlet slipped past them to beat keeper Stéphane Porate with a low shot.

Marseille's best chance came from a first half corner when Auxerre goalkeeper Fabien Cool did well to block strike Florian Maurice's shot from close range at the post.

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It was the second home defeat on successive days for

the team to be held here from November 24 to 27, reports PTI.

Windies 131 for four

POR-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Nov 21: Sylvester Joseph hit an undefeated 56 to lead West Indies to 131 for four in reply to India A's 226 on the second day of the opening four-day unofficial cricket Test in Port-of-Spain Saturday, reports AP.

Joseph, a 21-year-old from Antigua, batted just over three hours, and faced 132 balls. The compact right-hander struck six fours, most of them lofted drives over mid-off and mid-on against the spinners.

Joseph shared in a 64-run third wicket stand with his captain Jimmy Adams, who made 35. Adams batted 79 minutes and faced 75 balls before he appeared unlucky to be given out caught bat pad off the persevering left-arm spinner Murali Kartik.

Fast bowler Dodda Ganesh made the initial breakthrough for India by removing Trinidadian favourite Daren Ganga for eight, caught down the leg-side by wicketkeeper Samir Dighie.

Jamaican teenager Brenton Pritchard made 15 on his first-class debut before he was well caught at short leg by Mohammad Kaif off left-arm spinner Rahul Sanghvi.

Left-handed Chris Gayle was the last West Indies wicket to fall before play ended because of bad light with 10 overs still due to be bowled.

The Jamaican played a rash drive at Ganesh and edged a catch to the wicketkeeper after scoring just one.

Earlier in the day, the West Indies fast bowlers combined to dismiss India A for 226 minutes before lunch.

India A, resuming on 179 for five, added 47 runs