

Star Sport

DHAKA WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2000 Email: dssports@hdonline.com

Column One

Roost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-126

- ✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
- Competition closes at 8 pm
Feb 27, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards
- How many centuries did Tendulkar score in the Tests series against Australia recently?

One	Two	Three
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 - Who won the last ever European Cup Winners' Cup soccer?

Lazio	Barcelona	Man United
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 - Who was named player of the cricket World Cup?

Klusener	S Waugh	Dravid
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 - Where did Maurice Greene break the 100m world record?

Athens	Sydney	Toronto
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 - Who lifted the National Cricket League title?

Chittagong	Sylhet	Khulna
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Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Sepp Blatter
(FIFA president)
"FIFA cannot impose the idea of rotation. It is not definite the World Cup will go to Africa because of rotation."

SL 162 for 5 Rain mars Day One

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Feb 22: Sri Lanka made 162-5 as bad weather marred the first day of the three-day tour match against a Pakistan Cricket Board President's XI at Rawalpindi on Monday, reports AFP.

The visitors are using the match as preparation for their Test series against Pakistan, which starts February 26.

Overnight rain and later bad light restricted play to just 41 overs. Only captain Sanath Jayasuriya put on a solid performance with a gritty 60.

Batting by choice Sri Lanka lost opener Russel Arnold (11), Tillekeratne Dilshan (5) and Aravinda de Silva (1) at a total of just 48.

The match started after lunch due to overnight rain. Water seeped through the covers and play was halted for 25 minutes after Sri Lankan batsmen protested over a wet spot just short of good length when two bouncers rose awkwardly.

Pacer Mohammad Akram, vying for a place in the first Test had Arnold and Aravinda de Silva in his first spell.

Jayasuriya and his deputy Mahela Jayawardene played cautiously and added 78 runs for the fourth wicket.

The PCB XI fielders dropped Jayasuriya twice, both times off pacer Irfan Fazil.

Jayasuriya fell a victim to leg-spinner Mohammad Shafiq, falling to keep cut shot down and was caught by Irfan Fazil for 60. His innings was studied with ten bounds.

Fazil dismissed Jayawardene off his own bowling for 39.

At close former captain Arjuna Ranatunga was on 19 and Romesh Kaluwitharana on 8.

Sri Lanka rested Marvan Atapattu, Chaminda Vaas and Muttiah Muralitharan.

Panchagarh inter school cricket

PANCHAGARH, Feb 22: The inter school cricket tournament organised by the District Sports Association was held here at Bir Muktojodha Sirajul Islam Stadium recently, reports BSS.

B P Gove High School became champions in the tournament defeating Panchagarh High School by seven wickets in the final.



Action from yesterday's Shah Sports Office Hockey League match between Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Railway at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium. The army men won 6-2. In the other match of the day Sadharan Bima defeated Bangladesh Air Force also by the same margin. — Star photo

League gets going today

Sports Reporter

The Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League begins at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today with a one-minute's silence in memory of Raman Lamba, the former Indian Test cricketer who died in 1998 after sustaining a fatal head injury while playing for Abahani at this ground.

The most colourful limited-overs contest, involving twelve clubs, will kick off at 9.30 am with defending champions Bangladesh Bima taking on promoters City Club.

The League, which will feature 66 first round matches and 15 Super Six affairs exclusively under lights, promises to be a fascinating contest with the arrival of a host of foreign cricketers.

The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM), who runs the coveted league, yesterday announced that they are going to introduce match referees for smooth holding of the meet. They claimed that the League would be completed on April 25.

The president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board Hossain Chowdhury also assured that there would be no interruptions during the league.

"We have no international commitments during this time except for the day-night limited-overs match between the Asian and the World Eleven", said Saber while talking to a host of reporters in connection with the Janakantha League yesterday.

Although the BCB boss wanted the league to run smoothly and complete it on time, but his Board has given the CCDM limited grounds to play with.

"The non-availability of grounds has forced the CCDM, who are yet to get the BKSP ground in Saver for use, to hold only a match-a-day at the all-purpose Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The CCDM meanwhile declared that the gates at the Bangabandhu Stadium would be open for all on the opening day. But they have announced a rate of tickets for other matches.

They have also announced a panel of match referees. They are Shafiqul Haq Hira, Tanjib Ahsan Saad, Sadrul Anam, Roquibul Hassan, Ataul Haq Mullick, Golam Faruque Chowdhury Suru and Rafiqul Alam.

The chairman of CCDM Tanvir Haider, the secretary of the BCB Syed Ashraful Haq and the CCDM secretary Mahmudul Haq also attended the briefing. The Sports Editor of the Janakantha Arif Rahman Shibli, also spoke on behalf of the sponsors.

"This is for the third successive year Janakantha, a leading Bangla daily, is sponsoring the Premier League."

RATE OF TICKETS

Eastern and Western gallery	Tk. 20
International gallery	Tk. 40
Club House	Tk. 60
VIP (Shaheed Jewel Gate)	Tk. 100

Cricket faces ground crisis

Hasan Masood

Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM), the organisers of the colourful Dhaka cricket, is facing serious difficulties in allocating ground for League matches.

At present, CCDM is running two major leagues-- Premier and First Division. The Premier League and one First Division match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium everyday.

On the other hand, the clubs are also quite reluctant to travel down to BKSP, some 40 kms from the city. "We don't want to play in front of empty crowds at the BKSP because that makes the cricketers demoralised. Last year, we were forced to play there," said a club official, requesting anonymity.

Many however felt that the CCDM could have easily used the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium for the Premier league had they finished the First Division on time.

The 12-team First Division, which began in the last leg of November, is yet to complete the 66 first round matches. On completion of the first phase (may be finished on February 26), it will take more than a month for the organisers to finish the second phase.

The CCDM, oblivious to the reality, denied the report of acute ground crisis.

"We don't have any problem with grounds. We have enough now," claimed CCDM secretary and BCB joint-secretary Mahmudul Haq yesterday.

"We will use Bangabandhu National Stadium and the BKSP for the Premier league while Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium will be used for First Division matches," he said.

About holding of the relegation matches of the First Division, Mahmud said that they would hold those games at the tiny City Club ground. A short visit by this correspondent in Mirpur however revealed that the City Club ground was not even fit enough to hold a Second Division match.

Tanvir Haider, the CCDM chairman and the BCB vice-president, also rallied behind Mahmud to undermine ground crisis.

"We have decided to hold one match a day only because we want to have a slow start," said Tanvir.



SAMBA IN BANGKOK: Brazilian superstars Rivaldo (R) and team captain Cafu shake hands with fans after arriving in the Thai capital yesterday. The Brazilian national squad will take on Thailand in an international friendly today. — Internet photo

Saber sings a change

Sports Reporter

The president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board Saber Hossain Chowdhury hinted at a major shakeup in the existing setup of Bangladesh cricket.

"We are going to come up with a strategic plan within the next three weeks. This is at the final stage now," said Saber while talking to reporters at a press briefing yesterday.

Although Saber did spell out the areas where he is planning to overhaul but insisted on saying "We will make any changes needed to meet the demands of the time".

"We are thinking to part with the Dhaka cricket leagues. I think this is the last year CCDM will be running the Dhaka League under direct supervision of the board. And I'm hopeful that the Dhaka Regional Cricket Association will look after it from next year onwards," said Saber.

The BCB president did not even rule out putting his own house in order.

He however expressed guarded optimism on the prospect of Bangladesh becoming a full ICC member by June.

The general consensus is that Bangladesh would be awarded with Test status in June. But this is too early to say at this moment. There a lot of factors involved regarding the issue", Saber said without elaborating.

"I don't wish to comment at this moment. But I can assure you of one thing that we will get more vote than we got last year", claimed Saber. Applied for Test status in 1997 Bangladesh won five out of required seven votes in the last ICC Lords meeting in 1999.

Remembering Raman Lamba



Sports Reporter

Today is the second death anniversary of former Indian Test cricketer Raman Lamba, who died after sustaining a serious head injury while playing in Dhaka.

The dashing Delhi-based opener, who was playing Premier Division cricket league for giants Abahani Krira Chakra, suffered the fatal blow during a crucial match against Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on February 20, 1998.

Lamba was fielding at the forward short leg when a full-blooded pull by the then Mohammedan opener Mehrez Hossain struck his temple.

Lamba was rushed to a local hospital from where he slipped into a coma after two days. And later was shifted to the intensive care unit of the Bangabandhu Medical University Hospital on February 22. He expired the following day in the presence of his Irish wife Kim Lamba.

His funeral was held in Delhi.

Bangladesh Cricket Board donated ten thousand dollars to Lamba's wife in June 1998.

Div I cricket

Sports Reporter

Sajjadul Hasan Setu and Imran Tushar shared 124 runs for the second wicket to help Dhanmondi Club register an eight-wicket win over Uttara SC in the First Division league yesterday.

In a high-scoring affair at the Dhanmondi Stadium, Uttara SC, sent into bat, piled up a threatening 244 for seven in 50 overs. But that was not enough to stop the local boys as Dhanmondi raced on to score 245 in 44.5 overs.

Opener Sajjad hit an unbeaten 94 off 113 ball while one-down Imran blasted a superb 71. Imran clobbered three sixes and seven fours in his 76-ball knock.

On the other hand, openers Humayun Kabir and Mahfuzur Rahman gave Uttara flying start by putting on 119 runs in 28 overs.

Jamaica in Busta Cup final

KINGSTON, Feb 22: Jamaica qualified for this weekend's Busta Cup cricket final against the Leeward islands, after their semi-final match against Guyana ended in a draw at Sabina Park on Monday, reports AP.

Scores in the match: Jamaica 348 and 192 for six; Guyana 242.

Clubs count on Pak power

Syed Ashfaqul Haque

Thanks to the desire of Dhaka club officials, Pakistani players are set to determine the fate of the Premier League championship this year.

Like the past years all the Premier Division clubs have renewed their faith in Pakistani cricketers, majority of whom are unheralded domestic campaigners or disillusioned national cap aspirants.

In a highly controversial move, the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan decided to promote foreign players by raising their quota in the Dhaka cricket this season. As per the decision of the organisers, each club is allowed to register maximum five foreign players and field three of them in a match. Last year, two out of the three registered players were permitted to play.

With the League beginning today, the twelve participating clubs have so far come forth with the names of 25 foreign players, out of them 20 cricketers are from Pakistan. Clubs showed their interests in three Sri Lankans and two Indians to date.

Victoria Club and promotes Gopibagh Friends are yet to get into the hunt for overseas recruits.

On the other hand, an army of professional cricketers from Pakistan would keep coming once the League gets going, forecast most of the club officials.

All but Mohammedan Sporting Club preferred to put their money on Pakistanis, who proved to be the most useful foreign performers here among the Asian neighbours over the years.

A cash-strapped Mohammedan have sought an all-Lankan recipe this year to stage a turnaround. Sri Lankan one-day all-rounder Ruwan Kalpage and former Test cap Hasan Tillekeratne are expected to play a key role in the title-contention of the titans, who finished fifth last season. Their cricket secretary is also trying to rope in former Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga and his deputy Aravinda de Silva.

The only refreshing comment however came from Jahangir Shah Badshah. While all the captains and coaches are counting heavily on their imports, the Surjo Tarun coach appeared concerned about his team's combination.

"I think we could have done better had there not been an option for foreign players. Unlike other teams, we have formed a more balanced side out of locals," said Badshah to a correspondent of The Daily Star Sports few days back.

"To accommodate three foreign players we will have to change the whole structure, and I'm not sure at the moment who is going to play in, which position," he said.

Due to a strange decision by the CCDM, a complete list of foreign guns registered under different clubs, may not be available even up to the last match of the league. Under this preferential act, clubs can register any foreign player at any stage of the league. But, for the local cricketers the rule is very strict and precise-- they must complete the registration during the inter-club players' transfer.

Local hopes sent packing

Sports Reporter

South African Karin Coetzee. Karin will now play Thailand's Prariyawan Ratanakrong in today's quarterfinals. In the other matches of the last eight, South African Chani Scheepers will face Thaiander Pichaya Laosrichon, Chinese Taipei's Hsieh Su-Wei is paired against Thailand's Rattiya Hiranrat and Kumiko Jijima of Japan battles compatriot Natsumi Hamamura.

In the boys' singles, Nadeem Kamran Khan lost to Tu Hui Tung of Hong Kong 2-6, 2-6, Faleem Ahsan Khali lost to Indian Vivian Chetri 7-6, 3-6, 2-6, Shahriar Haider lost to Indian Harshit Sharma 1-6, 1-6, Moin Kabir Chowdhury lost to Chandrashekar Mohanty 2-6, 4-6 while Alamgir Hossain was beaten by Indian Nishank Mishra 5-7, 3-6.

The girls also went down without a fight against their respective opponents.

National champion Shefat Nushrat Baishakhi suffered a 2-6, 2-6 defeat at the hands of Japan's Kasuya Oasa, Disha Islam lost to Japan's Keiko Minami 2-6, 0-6 and Sintia Jahan Toru went down to Indian Nandita Chandrashekar 0-6, 1-6.

However, local spirits were lifted in the doubles. Nadeem Kamran Khan and Fahaem Ahsan Khan moved into the second round. The pair eliminated compatriots Moin Fubir Chowdhury and Alamgir Hossain 6-4, 6-2.

Meanwhile, the quarterfinal line-up for the boys' and girls' singles were finalised yesterday.

Resmus Noerby of Denmark, who upset top seed Ahmed Wahla of Pakistan in the first round, was the first player to enter the last eight with a 6-3, 6-0 win over Malaysian Adam Jaya in the second round. Noerby will take on Armenian Maruyun Sofyrn in today's quarterfinal.

In the other three quarterfinals, Japan's Taichi Wada will take on Indian Vivian Chetri, Yu Hui Tung of Hong Kong meets Canadian Stephen Timu while Chandrashekar Mohanty of India faces compatriot Shivang Mishra.

The girls' singles also suffered a major jolt when top seeded player Radhika Tubule of India was sent packing. Radhika, who beat Latvian Anete Rozkalne in the first round, was badly beaten by Japanese Natsumi Hamamura makes a forehand return against Indian Sania Mirza in the second round of the 14th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championships at Ramna yesterday. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

NZ target turnaround

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, Feb 22 (AFP/AP): New Zealand claimed Tuesday they could bounce back from the battering they took in the opening match against Australia in the remaining four one-day cricket internationals.

New Zealand crashed to a five-wicket loss after a weak innings of 122 in the second one-day in Auckland on Saturday. The first match was abandoned because of rain.

"It was a bad performance and we're not denying that," New Zealand's top one-day batsman Nathan Astle said before the third one-day at Carisbrook on Wednesday.

"But that's the first one we've had for a long time and we've played pretty consistent one-day cricket from the World Cup until now."

"We're still pretty happy. It was just one of those days where we didn't bat well. There's no worries in the camp yet."

Astle said he would look to make amends for Saturday's first ball duck on a ground where he scored 95 just over a year ago to help New Zealand beat South Africa by three wickets.

New Zealand recently punished some loose bowling to inflict a 5-0 series win over the West Indies, but Astle knows the Kiwi batsmen, including fellow opener Craig Spearman who may get his last chance to retain his place on Wednesday, will have to wait for the rare bad ball against Australia.

"We've got to be a little bit more patient, which we weren't in the first game, and we've got to be selective with our attacking shots," Astle said.

Another Kiwi under scrutiny is experienced wicketkeeper Adam Parore, who returned after an injury layoff on Saturday to score a duck and miss a catch and stumping chance he should have taken.

Pace bowlers Warren Wisneski and Simon Doull are likely to again light out the 12th man duties after both were rested for recalled off-spinner Paul Wiseman in Auckland.

On the other hand, Steve Waugh could pass another milestone Wednesday as his Australians go after a record-equaling 12th straight one-day win.

A victory by Australia would equal the record held by Graham Gooch's 1991-92 England team.

Waugh needs just six runs to pass Allan Border on the list of Australia's leading scorers in one-day cricket, placing him second behind twin brother Mark in a career that has already spanned a record 288 matches.

It's a milestone that does not publicly excite the captain, who has been seen in a somewhat different role since Australia went to the top of the one-day game with their World Cup victory at Lord's in June.

Waugh scored more than half of his career tally of 6,519 one-day runs batting at No 5 for Australia. But his position has been flexible recently, coming in at six and even seven after moving Michael Bevan up to the No 4 role.

Waugh's 120 not out against South Africa was the key Aus. — See page-14