

Schools h'ball starts today

Sports Reporter
Holders Viquarunnissa Noon School will take on Shahjahanpur Railway Government Girl's High school in the inaugural match of the girls' competition of the 11th Bata schools handball tournament which starts at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex in Dhanmondi this afternoon.

A total of 12 schools are taking part in the first round. The teams have been divided into four groups. Top finishers of each group will move into the semifinals.

Around 17 schools are expected to participate in the boys' competition which is expected to commence some time in April.

This was revealed by Bangladesh Handball Federation (BHF) general secretary Asaduzzaman Kohinoor at a press conference yesterday. Bangladesh Women Sports Association president Rafia Akhter Doly and KMS Alam, the general export manager of Bata, were present on the occasion.

The BHF has estimated a budget of Tk 2,10,000 for the tournament out of which sponsor Bata will provide Tk 1,68,000.

The following 12 teams are taking part in the girls' group:

Group A: Viquarunnissa Noon School, Shahjahanpur Railway Government Girl's High School and Hazrat Shah Ali Girl's School and College.

Group B: Scholastica, Lake Circus Girl's High School and Bhashantek High School.

Group C: Bangladesh Rifles School and College, Ispahani Girls' School and College and Mohammadpur Preparatory Girl's High School.

Group D: Agrani Girl's School and College, Azimpur Girl's School and Maple Leaf International School.

Today's matches:

Viquarunnissa Noon v Shahjahanpur Railway (2 p.m., Ground 1)

Scholastica v Bhashantek High School (2 p.m., indoor)

Ispahani v Mohammadpur Preparatory (2 p.m., ground 2)

Viquarunnissa Noon v Hazrat Shah Ali (4 p.m., indoor)

Scholastica v Lake Circus (4 p.m., ground 2)

Agrani Girl's v Azimpur Girl's (4 p.m., ground 1)

Azlan Shah Cup

South Korea reach final

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 23: Asian Games gold medalist India kept themselves in contention for a bronze finish beating Malaysia 2-1 in the penultimate league match while South Korea continued their unbeaten run defeating Canada in the 10th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup hockey tournament here yesterday, reports PTT.

In pouring rain, India were stretched to the breaking point before they finally came out winners by a close margin. India also benefited from a botched penalty stroke by Kuan Shanmuganathan of Malaysia at the Bukit Jalil Stadium.

Earlier, Asian champions Korea assured themselves of a place in the final with a 2-1 defeat of Canada. The match got stretched by an hour due to rains, but Korea dominated throughout before beating the Pan-American champions.

Aussies tame

From page 13
balls, said the chase was always going to be tough.

"We created opportunities with the bat but we had a bad period and lost crucial wickets," Fleming said.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the second one-day international between New Zealand and Australia at Carisbrook on Wednesday:

AUSTRALIA

Gilchrist c Cairns b Vettori 77
M Waugh b Cairns 75
Hayden c Cairns b Harris 20
Bevan c Cairns b Cairns 52
S Waugh retired hurt 43
Symonds not out 34
Martyn not out 1
Extras: (lb-2, nb-5, w-1) 8
Total: (For 4 wickets in 50 overs) 310

Fall of wickets: 1-114; 2-166; 3-185; 4-291.

Did not bat: D Fleming, S Warne, B Lee, G McGrath.

Bowler: O M R W
Vettori 10 0 49 1
Harris 10 0 37 1
Cairns 10 0 61 2
Wisnieski 8 0 58 0
Styris 6 0 56 0
Astle 6 0 48 0

NEW ZEALAND

Spearman lbw b Fleming 2
Astle b Warne 81

Fleming c Hayden b Fleming 24
Twose lbw b Martyn 62
Cairns c Gilchrist b Martyn 13
McMillan c Harvey (sub) b Warne 1

Harris not out 25
Parore hit wicket b Lee 8
Styris c Symonds b Lee 19

Vettori c Symonds b McGrath 0
Wisnieski c M Waugh b McGrath 6

Extras: (b-4, lb-5, nb-8, w-2) 19

Total: (All out in 45 overs) 260

Fall of wickets: 1-13; 2-48; 3-169; 4-187; 5-197; 6-199; 7-223; 8-246; 9-277; 10-260.

Bowler: O M R W

McGrath 9 1 35 2
Fleming 6 0 42 2
Lee 9 0 51 2
Symonds 3 0 39 0
Warne 10 1 50 2
Martyn 8 0 34 2

The match takes to 2-0 a shortened five-match series after the first scheduled game, in Wellington, was rained out on February 17.

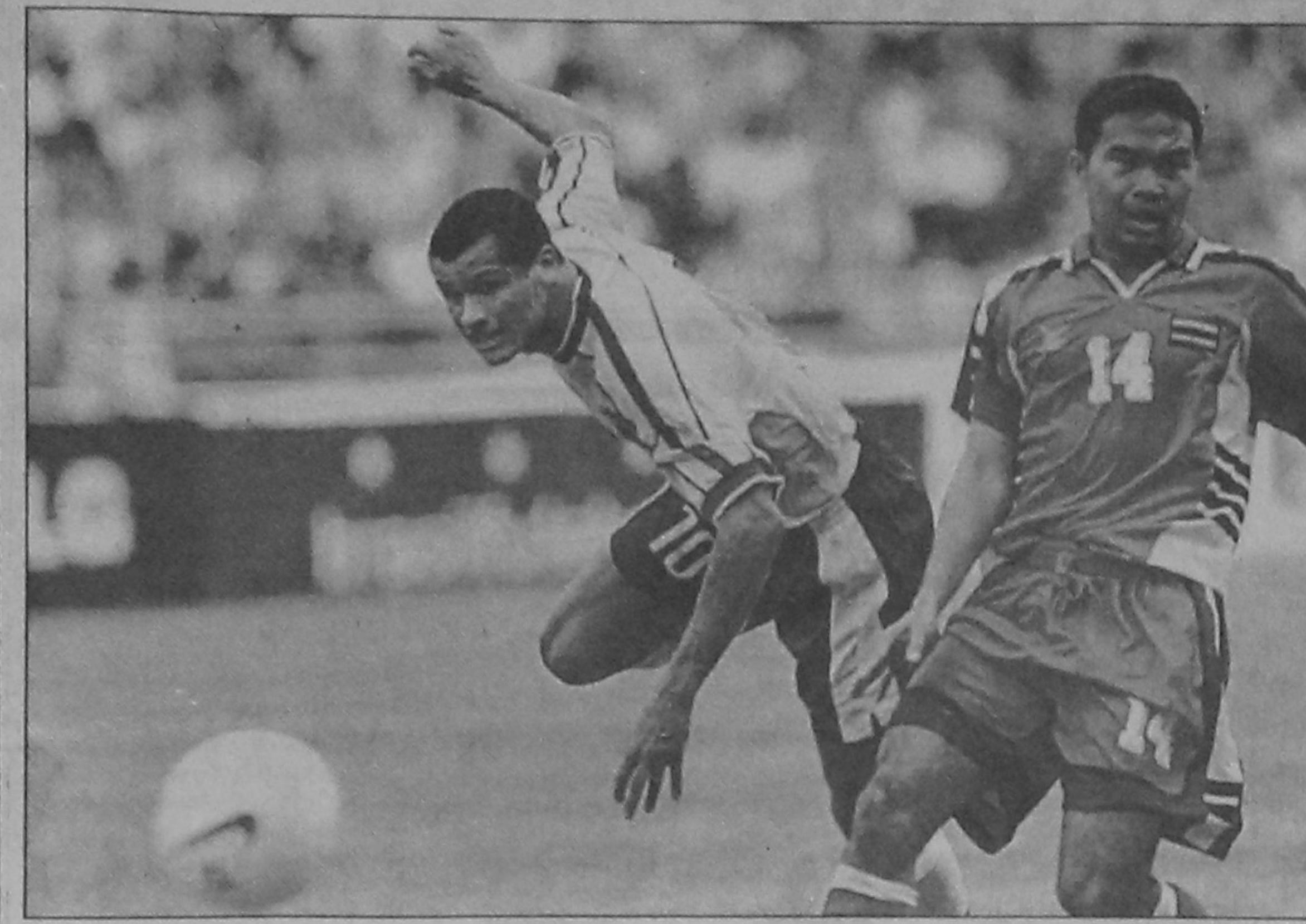
Result: Australia win by 50 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Adam Gilchrist.

Third match: Christchurch, Feb 26.

Fourth match: Napier, March 1.

Fifth match: Auckland.



Brazil superstar Rivaldo (L) follows through on a shot during their international friendly against Thailand at Bangkok yesterday.

— AFP photo

Brazil lesson for Thailand



BANGKOK, Feb 23:

FIFA World Player of the Year Rivaldo netted twice as Brazil went on a 7-0 against brave Thailand in a friendly match here Wednesday, reports AFP.

The Barcelona star blasted in two long range efforts after jetting in from Spain for the one-sided romp.

Rivaldo was joined in the Brazilian ranks by several Europe-based stars including Emerson of Bayer Leverkusen, Roberto Carlos of Real Madrid and Juninho of Middlesbrough.

Rivaldo opened the scoring in the 15th minute by dancing past the Thai defence before slamming the ball past keeper Wirat Wangchan from 25 metres.

The superior footballing pedigree of the Brazilians began to tell in the second half when gaping holes appeared in the Thai defence and Wirat's technical naivete in goal again gave Brazil several chances.

Eight minutes into the half, Emerson had time to tee up a blistering drive from outside the box which left Thai keeper Wirat with no chance. Roque Junior and Mario Jardel added goals from well-drilled corner moves as the Thais, coached by former Aston Villa and England striker Peter Withe started to wilt.

Brazil kept up the pressure, weathering a late rally by the plucky Thais who tried desperately to get on the scoresheet, roared on by 30,000 screaming

fans.

Emerson completed the rout, adding his second goal in the 90th minute.

The game was the highlight of the annual King's Cup tournament, which also includes Estonia and Finland. Brazil's stars were due to leave Bangkok soon after the game for weekend duty with their European clubs.

The South Americans' remaining matches in the tournament against Finland on Friday and on finals day on Sunday will be played by the Brazilian youth team which opened its campaign with a 1-0 loss to Estonia on Sunday.

TEAMS

Brazil: Dida, Cafu, Roque Junior, Claudio Capaca, Emerson, Roberto Carlos, (Mario Jardel, 55)

Ronaldinho, Juninho, Giovani Elber, Rivaldo, (Athirson 55) Ze Roberto.

Thailand: Wirat Wangchan, Thanongsa Pajakkata, Kowit Foythong, Phathanapong Sripanome, Choketawee Promrut, Anuruck Srikerd, Natee Tongkukao, Kiatisuk Senanamang, Jutupong Thongsukh, Tawan Sripan (Thongchai Aukarapong 70), Thawatchai Damrong Ongtrakul.

Referee: Mohd Nazri Abdulrah (Malaysia). Assistants: Prachya Permanich (Thailand), Chaiwat Kunsta (Thailand).

Attendance: 35,000

Depriving the Brazilians of space in midfield, helped by some questionable decisions by the two Thai linesman and charitable refereeing, Thailand held the visitors at bay until just before half time.

The Brazilians though raised the quality of their passing with ease just before the

start to kill off Thai resistance seemingly at will.

Rivaldo found space on the left and whipped an unstoppable shot past the keeper from all of 35 metres.

Minutes later, rising starlet Ronaldinho, the subject of frenzied transfer speculation in Europe, added a third goal after Thai goalkeeper Wirat had gifted possession to the South Americans with a suicidal throw out of goal.

Thailand created several clear cut chances in the second half, twice hitting the woodwork through speedy Thawatchai Damrong Ongtrakul, who broke clear on goal.

Rivaldo was joined in the Brazilian ranks by several Europe-based stars including Emerson of Bayer Leverkusen, Roberto Carlos of Real Madrid and Juninho of Middlesbrough.

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