

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Leander Paes

(Indian tennis star)
"The art of doing well as a pro is to win on your bad days as well."
After India beat South Korea in the Davis Cup tie.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

Competition-128

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
April 28, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Who is the number one women's tennis player?
Hingis Davenport Seles
- Who won the United Insurance IM chess title?
Refaat Zia Aung
- How many Tests did Walsh need to break Kapil Dev's world record?
114 115 116
- Who was adjudged man-of-the-series in the West Indies v Zimbabwe Test?
Rose Walsh Adam
- Who are the First Division cricket champions?
Dharmodhi Wicketmakers Khelaghar

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
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Div II soccer

Kashafut Samaj Kalyan Parishad managed a 2-1 victory over BG Press in the Metropolitan Second Division Football League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, reports UNB.

Sanaullah put the winners ahead in the 7th minute and Tutul doubled the margin in the 21st minute while Sterlin netted the lone goal for the losers in the 55th minute.

In the day's other match, Sadharan Bima KS earned a facile 3-1 win against Sheikh Russel KC at the same venue.

Foday Kang Bai struck twice and Saiful once for the winners while Liton netted the consolation goal for the losers.

Dhaka-Ctg Club cricket match at BAT ground

The friendly cricket match between Dhaka Club and Chittagong Club will be held tomorrow at the British American Tobacco factory ground in Mohakhali this morning instead of City Club ground in Mirpur. Everything else will remain unchanged, according to a press release yesterday.

The match would feature a few current and former national players of Bangladesh.

Rajshahi soccer

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Apr 27: Abahani Krira Chakra defeated Alide Club 3-1 in the Rajshahi First Division Football super league played at the Rajshahi District Stadium today.

Jalil of Alide Club scored the first goal at the eighth minute in the first half. Kamal of Abahani equalised the goal just four minutes later. Then he scored two others at the 24th and the 65th minutes, respectively.

Mohammedan Sporting Club will take on Radiganj Sporting Club tomorrow.

BCB to appoint a CEO

Sports Reporter



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) finally set the wheels in motion to bring professional into the organisation.

The sensational decision to appoint a paid executive secretary in the board came after a meeting yesterday.

"We will invite applications for the post of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in the next few days. He will look after the administrative, marketing and financial matters of the board," said the general secretary of the BCB Ashraful Haque in front of a crowded press after the meeting.

But Ashraful admitted that the function of the administrative officer, first of its kind in our sporting arena, would only be effective after the reconstitution of the present board.

"We have discussed a lot about introducing dynamism to meet the challenges in the years to come. A draft constitution has been drawn up, which I believe would be accepted at our annual general meeting on June 10," said Ashraful.

But he refrained from providing details of the document. "I can only say that there will be no provision for a general secretary or joint secretaries. These functionaries would be replaced by a board of directors," said Ashraful who himself was not sure about his role in the proposed new-look board.

"While I'm not sure about my future but I'm confident that a shake-up in the structure will be beneficial to our cricket," said the charismatic organiser.

Although the present committee under the leadership of Sabir Hossain Chowdhury has won the right to run the board till May 2001, Ashraful claimed that there would be no problem in restructuring it before the scheduled tenure runs out.

"There are a lot of legal procedures. Firstly, all 32 committee members must resign. And if they do not then the National Sports Council has the power to dissolve the present body. Moreover, our board president is keen for a change," said the former national cricketer.

Regarding the Asia Cup, to be held in Dhaka from May 28, Ashraful said they are going to announce a fresh working committee for successful holding of the mega event.

Ashraful said that the Board approved the selection of the two local umpires --- Mahabubullah and Akhtaruddin Shaheen --- for the four-nation meet.

This will be the first time Bangladesh umpires would conduct a one-day international.

Regarding the financial aspects of the Asia Cup, where defending champions Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh will take part, Ashraful pointed out that the board had already sold the advertisement rights to TWI for 140,000 dollars.

"We will also get 150,000 dollars from the ACC (Asian Cricket Council) to run the event," said Ashraful adding that they are expecting a handsome amount in the form of gate receipts from seven games including the grand finale on June 7.

BFF call up 70 U-19 players

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday called up 70 players in a trial for under-19 team which will take part in the forthcoming Asian Under-19 Group Four qualifiers in Dhaka next July.

The trial will begin at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur from May 2.

Iraq, Maldives and Nepal will take part in the qualifying round along with hosts Bangladesh which will be held from July 7 to 11.

The selected 70 have been instructed to report to coach Abu Yusuf with their kits at 7 am on May 2.

Refaat's 3rd victory

Sports Reporter

International Master (IM) Reefat-bin-Sattar of Biman recorded his third successive win in the Professor Abdur Razzak 26th National Chess Championship yesterday.

The top seed defeated Fide Master Enamul Hossain Rajib of Titas Club in the third round at the NSC chess room.

Playing with black pieces against a win-war variation opening of Rajib, Reefat adopted French defence and won the board after 25 moves.

With yesterday's win, Reefat remained atop the table along with qualifier Mainuddin Ahmed of Chittagong, both having three points each.

Mainuddin beat Tayebur Rahman of BUET in the round.

Mainuddin played with whites and needed 35 moves to checkmate Tayeb.

Holder IM Ziaur Rahman of Biman, who was forced to a draw by Ansars Abu Sufian Shakil in the second round, returned to winning ways defeating Arifuzzaman Siddik.

Zia played with whites in Queen's gambit decline and won the board after 21 moves.

Fellow IM Abdullah Al-Rakib beat Ruhul Kabir Shipilu in the third round.

Playing with white pieces against the Nimzo Indian defence of Shipilu, Rakib ran away with the board after 47 moves.

Both Zia and Rakib are now sharing the second spot with 2.5 points each.

In the other matches of the day, Monir Hossain of Leonine Chess Club beat Dewan Shahidul Amin Tipu of Kamalapur Samaj Kalyan Sangha, Shawkat Hossain Palab of Ansars beat Abul Kashem Bhuiyan of Titas Club while Abu Sufian Shakil drew with Khandkar Aminul Islam of Leonine.

The other match between Sheikh Nasir Ahmed and of Ansars and Saifuddin Lovlu of Titas Club was going on till the filing of this report.

The fourth round starts at the same venue today at 2:30 pm.

TODAY'S MATCHES: Reefat v Kashem, Tayeb v Pallab, Tipu v Mainuddin, Shipilu v Monir, Shakil v Rakib, Arif v Amin, Lovlu v Zia and Rajib v Nasir.

Politics not on Arjuna's mind

COLOMBO, Apr 27: Sri Lanka's World Cup winning cricket skipper Arjuna Ranatunga Thursday denied joining a fledgling nationalist party, his close associates said, reports AFP.

Speculation was rife he had joined the Sihala Urumaya Sinhalese Heritage Party, after the Daily Mirror newspaper carried a front page picture of Ranatunga at the inauguration of the new party on Wednesday.

"He was there only as an observer and not a member of the party," a close associate of Ranatunga told this news agency.

The Sihala Urumaya party consists of hardline elements from both the ruling People's Alliance as well as the main opposition United National Party.

Ranatunga's father is a deputy minister in the government while another brother is a provincial politician.

The water-logged state of the Everest Ground in the capital, caused by heavy unseasonal rainfall, forced the Guyana Cricket Board to shift the venue for the match, Pakistan's only first-class fixture prior to the opening Test of three against West Indies here at Bourda Oval.

Uitvlugt Community Development Centre ground is on the west coast of the Demerara River, one of the main tributaries in the South American nation.

The ground is some 20 miles from the capital and hosted last year's match between Guyana and India 'A'.

It will provide the platform for Pakistan to warm-up for higher intensity tussles with the West Indies, whose record of losing a home Test series only once since 1973 will be under threat.

Pakistan are likely to rest some of their established players to give others a chance to catch form ahead of the rubber, but the Under-23s can still expect to be given a stern examination from whatever side Pakistan puts out.

—Star photo



Players and officials of Bangladesh football team pose before their departure for Maldives last night.
—Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Confident booters off to Male

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh captain Alfaz Ahmed is confident of winning the quadrangular tournament in Maldives starting on May 1.

The ace forward, who scored the gold medal goal against Nepal in the SAF Games final in capital Kathmandu last October, said that he was ready to emulate that feat to uphold Bangladesh's supremacy in the regional event.

Alfaz was speaking at a press conference last evening prior to his team's departure for Maldivian capital of Male later.

Bangladesh Football Federation joint secretary Badal Roy, coach Mark Harrison and team leader Kazi Usha Mishu were also present.

"Our approach will be different this time because the system has been changed," said Alfaz adding that the tactics they followed in the SAF Games were defensive under the guidance of Iraqi coach Samir Shakir.

"Our formation was 5-3-2 in the SAF Games but now it will be 4-3-3. We will play attacking football," Alfaz said.

Replying to a query, the fleet-footed striker said that his team did not face any difficulties to adopt the new formation initiated by English coach Harrison.

"Mark's formation is nothing new for us. We had adopted such game plan in the past," said Alfaz.

"Our mission is to win the tournament because being the SAF Games champions we have been left with no other choice. I know India is there but we are not afraid of them. You can remember that we beat them in our last meeting in Kathmandu," said the Bangladesh captain.

Alfaz said they were satisfied with the preparations under the new coach. "Although the time was very short but whatever the coach told us we tried to follow that."

Coach Mark Harrison also appeared to be very happy with his boys.

"Two weeks are not enough for preparations. We worked hard on the system and I am happy that they responded well."

"We had a match against Bangladesh Navy this morning and they looked impressive. They scored six goals and also

let go a few opportunities. That is a positive sign which encouraged me," said Harrison.

"I am now looking forward to playing against India and win because they will be our first opponents. During the process, I will witness the Maldives-Sri Lanka match on May 1 and then decide my approach against them," Harrison observed adding that attack had been his favourite tactics.

Asked why he did not consider defender Hasan Al-Mamun and striker Shahajuddin Tipu for his squad, Harrison said that he had better players.

Bangladesh will take on India in their first match on May 2 before taking on hosts Maldives on May 4. Bangladesh will meet Sri Lanka on May 7. Top two finishers from the first round will feature in the May 10 final.

SQUAD

Nizam Majumdar, Aminul Haque, Biplob Vattachariya, Pavel Mahmud, Rajani Kanta Barman, Faisal, Ahmed, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Sourav Majumdar, Firoz Mahmud Hossain, Tito, Anwar Hossain, Iqbal Hossain (vice-captain), Monwar Hossain, Matiar Rahman, Munna, Asadur Rahman, Tanvir Chowdhury, Rokonzaman Kanchan, Alfaz Ahmed (captain), Sayedur Rahman Moni, Zulfikar Mahmud Mintu and Mizanur Rahman Don.

FIXTURES

Date	Match
May 1	Maldives v Sri Lanka
May 2	Bangladesh v India
May 4	Bangladesh v Maldives
May 5	Sri Lanka v India
May 7	Bangladesh v Sri Lanka
May 8	India v Maldives
May 10	Final



International Master Ziaur Rahman (L) pondering his next move against Arifuzzaman Siddik in the third round of the Professor Abdur Razzak 26th National Chess Championship yesterday.
—Star photo

Pakistan's lone warm-up

GEORGETOWN, Apr 27 (AFP/Internet): Fresh from taking the 2000 Trophy limited-overs series from the West Indies, upbeat Pakistan face West Indies Under-23 at Uitvlugt in a four-day, first-class cricket match, starting here on Thursday.

The water-logged state of the Everest Ground in the capital, caused by heavy unseasonal rainfall, forced the Guyana Cricket Board to shift the venue for the match, Pakistan's only first-class fixture prior to the opening Test of three against West Indies here at Bourda Oval.

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Pakistan are likely to rest some of their established players to give others a chance to catch form ahead of the rubber, but the Under-23s can still expect to be given a stern examination from whatever side Pakistan puts out.

Two Pakistanis almost certain to play are fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar and off-spin bowler Saqlain Mushtaq.

They are returning to the game after a variety of ailments and the team management will be anxious to give them some cricket to get them Test-match ready, or something near to it.

However, the tourists have injury problems also. Opener Saeed Anwar will delay flying from Pakistan to join the touring party after a recurrence of a knee injury, while in-form Inzamam-ul-Haq is suffering from heel trouble and is to have an operation following the three-Test series.

"Saeed held a training session in Lahore on Wednesday. He later informed the PCB that his knee was painful more than it was hurting last week. He requested that until the pain minimizes, his departure should be delayed," PCB director Yawar Saeed told the Dawn newspaper of Pakistan.

"The knee was painful on Wednesday and I don't want to put the team in a situation where it is restricted to 10 players," Anwar told the Dawn.

Inzamam has been suffering for some time because of a bone growth on the heel of his right foot. It aggravated during his match-winning innings at Port-of-Spain in the third final when he twisted his ankle while avoiding a run. He will be rested for the first-class match against the U-23 side.

"I had been playing in pain for some time with pain killing injections," Inzamam told. "I cannot afford to have an operation now in the midst of the Test series but I shall have it done immediately after the series is over."

An operation could mean that Inzamam might miss the Asia Cup one-day series in Dhaka later this month or the series in Sri Lanka in June/July.

On the other hand, captain Darren Ganga and left-arm fast bowler Pedro Collins are the only Test cricketers in the West Indies Under-23 squad.

Batsman Sylvester Joseph played in the first of three finals in the 2000 Trophy Series in Bridgetown last Wednesday, but the Under-23 squad represents some of the best budding talent in the Caribbean.

Against ruthless opponents like Pakistan, should any player make a name for himself in the match, he could gain selection to the senior West Indies squad for the summer's tour of England, if not the imminent Test series.

SQUADS

PAKISTAN (from): Moïn Khan (captain), Inzamamul Haq (vice-captain), Saeed Anwar, Imran Nazir, Shahid Afridi, Younis Khan, Yousuf Youhana, Abdur Razaq, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Shoaib Akhtar, Mushtaq Ahmed.

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Mahmudur Rahman, secretary of Wari Club's centenary celebration committee, speaking at a press conference yesterday in connection with tomorrow's exhibition cricket match between CCMD Eleven and International Eleven. Chairman of the celebration committee Mozaffar Hossain Paltu (C) and Managing Director of Gazi Tank Gazi Golam Dasgiri (2nd from right) were also present.
—Star photo

Exhibition match tomorrow

Sports Reporter



A limited-overs exhibition match between International Eleven and Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCMD) Eleven will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow to mark the centenary celebration of Wari Club.

Wari Club, the oldest sports institution of the country which observed its centenary last week, organised the game in cooperation with the CCMD. Gazi Tank will sponsor the event.

Akram Khan will be the CCMD eleven while the captain of international eleven, comprising the foreign players in the Premier league, is yet to be named.

The CCMD announced a 15-member local side and a 18-member squad for the international eleven yesterday.

The winners will be richer by Tk 40,000 while the long team receives Tk 30,000. The man-of-the-match award is worth Tk 3,000.

Spectators will have to spend Tk 10 for a gallery ticket. Besides, a VIP gallery ticket will cost Tk 200. The rate of air-conditioned (AC) and non-AC hospitality boxes have been fixed at Tk 5,000 and 4,000.

A press conference was held at the Wari Club in Motiheel yesterday.

Chaired by Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, the co-chairman of the Wari Club centenary celebration committee, CCMD chairman Tanvir Haider and Gazi Golam Dasgiri, the managing director of Gazi Tank, spoke on the occasion.

Paltu said that the club tried to organise it during its five-day long programme but failed to do so. He also revealed that a foot-

ball match between Wari and its Calcutta cousins would be held in the future.

TEAMS

CCMD ELEVEN (from): Akram Khan (captain), Aminul Islam, Javed Omar, Mehrah Hossain, Habibul Basher Naimur Rahman, Khaled Mahmud, Mohammad Rafique, Khaled Masood, Halim Shah, Shahriar Hossain, Hasibul Hossain, Monjurul Islam, Enamul Hoque and Shafiqul Islam.

INTERNATIONAL ELEVEN (from): Tareq Mehmed, Farhan Adil, Selim Elahi, Rouf Wain, Akhter Sarfaraz, Manzoor Elahi, Mohammad Ramzan, Mohammad Hussain, Abdur Rahman, Hashan Tillekeratne, Manzoor Akhter, Rashed Hanif, Abid Hanif, Gamagee, Saifullah Khan Magst, Dilan Ramana-yeke, Rehan Rafique and Wasim Nayeem.

South Asian h'ball begins today

Bangladesh open against Nepal

The second South Asian Handball Championships, a biennial meet for both men and women, begins today at the Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader will inaugurate the five-day meet involving India, Nepal and Bangladesh at 3:30 pm.

Hosts Bangladesh will take on Nepal in both men's and women's competition in the two opening day matches at 3:45 pm and 5 pm respectively.

Two other South Asian countries Pakistan and Sri Lanka are not participating in the meet as they appealed for deferring the tournament by one month.

In absence of the two teams, this meet is being considered as a warm-up tournament for the Asian Women's Handball Championship to be held in Dhaka from July 25 to August 5.

India, the men's & women's champions of the first South Asian meet held in Indian city of Joypur in 1996, will arrive here today.

The Nepalese team arrived Wednesday night.

In the other men's group matches, India will meet Nepal at 9 am tomorrow and hosts Bangladesh will play India at

3:30 pm on the same day.

In the return league matches, India will face Nepal at 9 am and meet Bangladesh at 3:30 pm on Sunday while Bangladesh will encounter Nepal at 9 am on Monday.

In women's first phase competitions, India will meet Nepal at 10:20 am and play Bangladesh at 5 pm on Saturday.

In the return league, India will take on Nepal at 10:20 am and Bangladesh will play Nepal at 5 pm on Saturday.

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Under-19 hockey players, who will take part in the Asian Youth cup in Malaysia from May 3, get tips from coach Nurul Islam during a practice session at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.
—Star photo