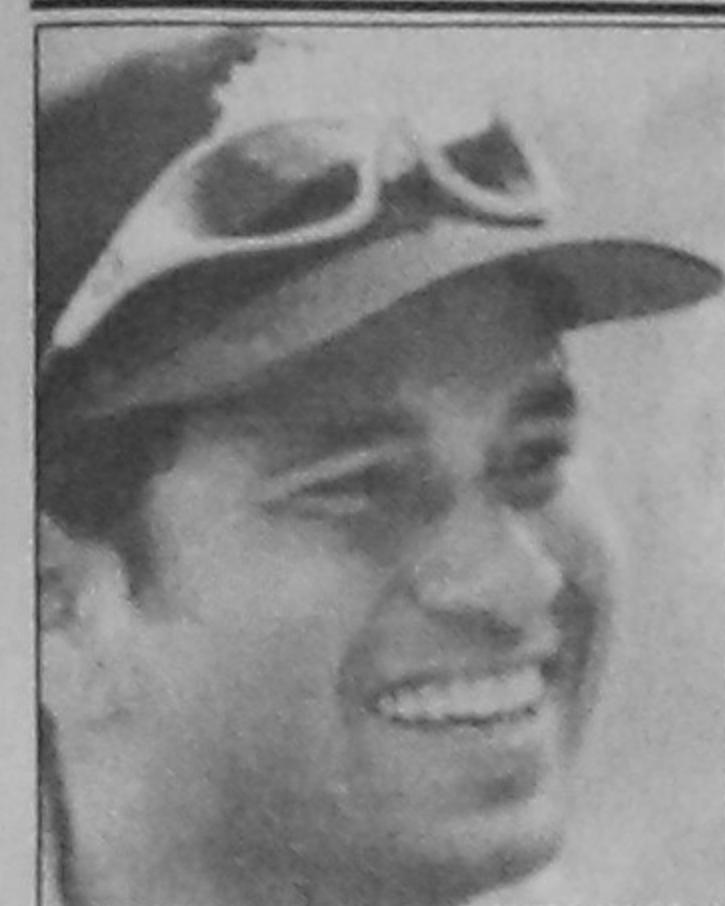


SPORTS TALK



Sachin Tendulkar

(Indian batting maestro)

"I don't think too much about what I've achieved so far. I'm happiest when I can make runs and help the Indian team win matches."

Sports Whizz Kid

Competition 139

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
 Post to The Big Star
 Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
 Dec 1 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who clinched the world chess crown?
 Kasparov | Karpos | Kramnik

2. Who lifted the Purabi Div I basketball title?
 Dhukumketu | Josephites | Titas

3. Who became Leipzig tennis champ?
 Hingis | Davenport | Clijsters

4. Which club lifted NBL Div I soccer title?
 Fakirpuroli | Agrani Bank | Wari

5. Who was declared man-of-the-match in the Bangladesh-India inaugural Test?
 Saurav | Aminul | Joshi

Name

Class, Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 21: Bankai Sangha recorded a 98-run win over Sonali Insurance Club in the first Shaheed AHM Qamruzzaman Smriti Cricket tournament at the Katakhal Adarsha Degree College ground today.

Winning the toss, Bankai batted first and made 213 runs in 22.3 overs losing all the wickets.

In reply, Sonali went all out collecting 105 runs in 17.1 overs.

HANDBALL

Abahani Kira Chakra and North Bengal Sporting Club won their respective matches of the Rajshahi First Division handball league at the A H M Qamruzzaman Divisional Stadium today.

Abahani defeated Diganta Proshery Sangha 9-4 while North Bengal beat Cosmos Club 19-8.

SOCER

Abahani defeated Rahapur 3-1 in the Chhapaikawabganji First Division super league football at the local stadium. Salim netted two goals and Moin one for the winners. Hauroon reduced the margin for the losers.

Zia wants results

LAHORE, Nov 21 (Internet report): Pakistan cricket supremo Lt-Gen Tauriq Zia says that a concerted effort must be made in Pakistan to produce pitches that offer a better contest between bat and ball.

The first Test between England and Pakistan ended in a draw on Sunday, partly because it was played on a slow, turning pitch.

He added that preparing sporting pitches was part of the PCB strategy to widen the support base of the game by making domestic matches a family affair.

Former Test star Geoff Boycott elaborated.

"Dead tracks were producing dull draws and driving spectators away from Tests in Pakistan and other countries," Boycott was quoted by Dawn as saying.

"This is a tragedy. The game will die an unceremonious death if crowds were not attracted back to the stadia."

"Pakistan can initiate day and night Tests to make them attractive for those lovers of the game who cannot take leave from their jobs," said Boycott.

Nat'l carnival begins today

Sports Reporter

The 2nd National Cricket League kicks off today with matches being played at different venues of the country.

The eight-team league will be sponsored by Green Delta Insurance Company.

Participating teams play each other on a home and away basis in 11 different centres across the country. The first round will see teams playing a three-day fixture which will be followed by a limited overs game on the fourth day. The second phase of the league will have four-day encounters instead of the three-dayers.

Four matches of the league are scheduled for today, the pick of which is at the Bangabandhu Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) where defending champions Chittagong will take on new comers and title contenders Bangladesh Biman.

National paceman Hasibul Hossain will skipper Sylhet which includes batsmen Parvez Ahmed, Rajin Saleh, Nasirul Islam, Mohammad Rafique, Iqbal Hossain and Pakistani all-rounder Saiful Magsi.

Fresh Test cap Akram Khan will be the star attraction in a formidable batting line-up consisting of Ehsanul Haque, Jahanjir Alam, Azam Iqbal, Nafis Iqbal and the captain himself.

Right arm seamer Shafuddin Ahmed and Zakir Hossain will lead the pace attack while Pakistani leg spinner Shafiqul Mehmud, who took the highest 55 wickets in the league last year, will form an impressive spin trio in company with off-

break bowler Sabir Khan and slow left armer Suja Erfan.

Biman too are as good as any team in the league. Everybody will be eager to watch Test heroes Habibul Bashar and Aminul Islam while captain Faruque Ahmed, Javed Omar Belim, Hasanuzzaman, Sanwar Hossain and Ziaur Rasid completes a superb batting order. However, Faruque, who is accompanying his ailing brother in India now, will miss the first match. Aminul will act as Biman captain in his absence.

In bowling, Biman are pinning their hopes on the spin of Saifulullah Khan, Shariful Islam and Saleh Ahmed.

The battle between Sylhet and Dhaka Metropolitan at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium will also attract many cricket buffs as both teams will feature a number of local stars.

National paceman Hasibul Hossain will skipper Sylhet which includes batsmen Parvez Ahmed, Rajin Saleh, Nasirul Islam and Saleh Ahmed.

Chittagong, led by former national skipper Minhazul Abedin, have a very balanced squad.

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Apart from the four teams, Dhaka Division, under national captain Naimur Rahman, are the other side who will aim at the championship. The team includes proven performers like Rashedul Haque, Harunur

Rashid, Mahbubur Rahman, Saiful Islam, Fahim Mintasir, Mosaddeq Hossain, Biplob Sarkar, Zakir Hasan, Bikash Ranjan Das and Sajjad Kadir.

Naimur Rahman will, however, miss the first match as he is due to fly to India for treatment on his right wrist. Wicket-keeper Khaled Masood, who has been named as captain of Rajshahi, will also be unavailable for first match as he too is accompanying Naimur with a knee injury sustained on his left knee during the Test against India.

Barisal and Khulna will be led by Hannan Sarkar and Monjurul Islam respectively.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has announced an attractive package of cash awards for the league. The champions of the two-tier league will bag Taka three lakh while the runners up will be richer by Taka two lakh. Taka one lakh has also been kept for the team securing third spot.

Besides, the Board will also offer Taka 35 thousand cash in each match. The winners of the three-day and four-day matches will earn Tk 15,000 while the losers will get Tk 7,000. The winners of one-day match will earn Tk 5,000 while the losers will take away Tk 3,000. Man-of-the-matches of longer version and one-day matches will earn Tk 3,000 and 2,000 respectively.

The budget of the league is Taka one crore and 19 lakh out of which Taka 25 lakh will be paid by the sponsors.

TODAY'S FIXTURE/ALL THREE DAY MATCHES

Chittagong v Biman (BKSP)

Sylhet v Dhaka Metropolitan (DCS)

Rajshahi v Dhaka (Rajshahi)

Khulna v Barisal (Jessore)

ACC Trophy Hong Kong enter final

SHARJAH, Nov 21: Hong Kong qualified for next year's Asia Cup after they thrashed Nepal by 179 runs in the first semifinal at the Asian Cricket Council Trophy on Tuesday. reports AFP.

A blistering knock of 145 not out from Rahul Sharma set the foundation for Hong Kong's huge score of 268 for three in 50 overs. That total was completely outside the reach of the Nepalese batsmen who panicking, were bundled out for 89 in 25 overs.

Hong Kong's win will put them in next year's Asia Cup one-day tournament in Karachi, alongside Test-playing nations India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

The other qualifier from the ACC Trophy will come from the winner of Wednesday's second semifinal between the United Arab Emirates and Malaysia.

The final will be played on Friday.

**Court summons
Pak cricketers**

KARACHI, Nov 21: A Pakistani court Tuesday summoned seven top cricket players including former captain Wasim Akram to answer a petition seeking their suspension on match-fixing charges, officials said, reports AFP.

The Sindh High Court ordered Akram, Waqar Younis, Salim Malik, Inzamamul Haq, Saad Anwar, Mushtaq Ahmed and Ataur Rehman to appear before a two-judge bench on December 12.

Lawyer Abdul Qadir Mandokhail in his petition demanded the suspension of the players from the national team after they were penalised in Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum's report into match-fixing released in May.

He claimed that since the players were found guilty they should be barred from representing Pakistan.

Malik and Rehman have been banned from the game for life while the other five were fined and censured in the report.

BUET v'ball

Sports Reporter

Department of Electric & Electrical lifted the inter-department teachers' volleyball championship defeating Civil Engineering at the court adjacent to the BUET ground on Monday.

Electric and Electrical won the one-sided final 2-0.

Vice chancellor of BUET Prof. Dr. Nooruddin Ahmed gave away prizes among the winners.

ICC to spend huge in Asia

LAHORE, Nov 21: The International Cricket Council (ICC) plans a big increase in allocation of funds for Asia to promote the game in the cricket-crazy continent, an ICC official said Monday, reports AFP.

"Asia has a lot of thrust for the game and people follow it madly. ICC has proposed big funds for the continent which can change the face of the game in this part," Ehsan Mani said at the end of ICC's finance committee meeting here.

Asia would get a lot from the money ICC would earn from the World Cup 2003 rights, Mani who chaired the two-day meeting said.

ICC president Malcolm Gray also attended the meeting which reviewed next year's budget and internal working of the ICC.

Mani, a Pakistan native, said most of the money would be spent in non-Test playing countries such as Nepal, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates.

"But it's icing over the damage that was done early in the match. We would like to have been competing a lot earlier," he said.

Fleming said New Zealand's bowling lacked penetration in the first innings when South Africa made 471 for nine declared and the first innings batting had been "a bit nervous - we played a lot of shots and weren't cautious enough".

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