

Biman Cup Shooting on Feb 22

SPORTS REPORTER
The eighth Biman Cup inter-club shooting competition will begin in Kushtia on February 22. The three-day meet involving 45 affiliated clubs of Bangladesh Shooting Federation (BSF), will feature 250 shooters. There will be three events. They are: air rifle, open site point 22 and air rifle match. The sponsors Bangladesh Biman will provide Taka one lakh to hold the competition. The president of BSF Abdul Mueed Chowdhury in a press briefing at the Gulshan Shooting Complex yesterday said that it would require a total of Taka 3.5 lakh to run the meet.

Rajshahi cricket

ONLINE CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
Provati Sangha recorded a massive 106-run victory over Diganta Prosari Sangha in the Rajshahi Premier Division Cricket League at the District Stadium yesterday. It was a good toss to lose as Provati piled up a huge 262 for nine in their allotted 48 overs with the assistance of a fine 73 by Litu. Tapan, 54, and Nayan, 38, were the other major contributors. For Diganta Prosari, Koel, Shobh and Monti claimed two wickets apiece. However, it was always an enormous task for the losers as they required to score almost 5 and a half runs per over and were eventually shot out for 156 in 45 overs. Nayan and James were the wrecker-in-chief as they took four and three wickets respectively. With the day's outcome, Diganta Prosari were relegated to the First Division.

UAE win

FROM PAGE 13
Feroz 7.1 2 10 2
Riaz 5 0 7 1
UAE
Amir not out 49
Vivek c & b Shukri 23
Wasim not out 2
Extras: (nb-4, w-2) 6
Total (for 1 wkt in 8.3 overs) 80
Fall of wickets: 1/57.
Bowler O M R W
Vic'waran 4.3 0 51 0
Tamilarasan 2 0 21 0
Shukri 2 0 8 1
Result: UAE won by nine wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Leon Carlo (UAE).

Munik stars

FROM PAGE 13
ries in his 134-ball knock. He found ideal support from middle order Shakti Gauchan who chipped in with 59 off 50 balls with a six and half a dozen of boundaries. Extras, 58 of them, too contributed handsomely. In reply, Singapore could muster only 71 before being bowled out in 20.2 overs. Irfan Siddiqi was the wrecker in chief for Nepal with four for 17 followed by Manjeet who took three wickets for 20. Munik Shrestha was later named man-of-the-match. It was Nepal's second win in four matches which enabled them to finish third in Group B behind hosts Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Scoreboard of the GrameenPhone Under-17 Asia Cup match (45-over) between Nepal and Singapore at the Jahangirnagar University ground on Monday.
NEPAL
Munik not out 113
Yaswant c Eric b Zeeshan 15
Dipesh b Zeeshan 0
Rohit c Glenn b Christopher 29
Shakti b Maxim 59
Manjeet b Maxim 17
Bashant run out 3
Lakpa not out 1
Extras: (b-2, nb-4, lb-7, w-45) 58
Total: (for 6 wks in 45 overs) 295
Fall of wickets: 1/60, 2/60, 3/125, 4/248, 5/290, 6/294.
Bowler O M R W
Iftikhar 9 0 83 0
Maxim 9 0 56 2
Zeeshan 9 1 50 2
Peter 9 0 38 0
Christopher 7 0 41 12
Nishant 2 0 21 0

SINGAPORE
Iftikhar lbw b Manjeet 2
Anand run out 9
Glenn b Manjeet 0
Ahmed c Shakti b Bashant 1
Zeeshan lbw b Manjeet 0
Peter c Dipesh b Irfan 27
Eric b Irfan 4
Nishant b Lakpa 2
Christopher c Shakti b Irfan 0
Low not out 6
Maxim c Munik b Irfan 5
Extras: (lb-3, nb-2, w-10) 15
Total (all out in 20.2 overs) 71
Fall of wickets: 1/6, 2/6, 3/11, 4/13, 5/11, 6/9, 7/9, 8/9, 9/9, 10/9, 11/9, 12/9, 13/9, 14/9, 15/9, 16/9, 17/9, 18/9, 19/9, 20/9.
Bowler O M R W
Manjeet 6 0 20 3
Bashant 5 0 15 1
Lakpa 5 1 16 1
Irfan 4 2 0 17 4

Result: Nepal won by 224 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Munik Shrestha (Nepal).

Fleming's confession

Cricket

AP, Napier

New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming conceded his lineup doesn't have a ready answer to combat the threat of Pakistan's pace battery on the current five-week cricket tour. Fleming's admission came after fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar snared five wickets to lead Pakistan to a crushing six-wicket win Sunday in the series-opening limited-overs clash in Auckland. Pakistan were unlikely to change the winning combination for Tuesday's second match at McLean Park here, although skipper Moin Khan said a final decision would not be made until after a pitch inspection in Napier.

After the veteran pace combination of Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis had produced early wickets with the new ball, Shoaib, returning from injury after 10 months, grabbed five wickets within 11 balls to skittle the Black Caps for 149 and set up Sunday's win. The loss extended New Zealand's run to 12 losses from 14 matches. With Pakistan sporting one of the most well balanced bowling way through. It was a tough going (Sunday). There was no surprises with their bowling. They pinned us early and at the end. Fleming said his batting lineup was not prepared for the pace of Shoaib. "Certain guys haven't faced him before. He bowled straight and quick and got some to swing as well - apart from the bowling machine, there aren't too many ways you could practice for that," he said.

Fleming, leading an injury ravaged side minus all-rounder Chris Cairns, Dion Nash and Geoff Allott, said New Zealand were letting themselves down at crucial stages. "We get to the advantage line and don't push on," he said. "It's very clear what we have to do and we were close to doing it. (But) we let us down at key times."

Moin heaped praise on Shoaib and said it was always crucial to start a tour on a winning note. "The communication and the coordination between the players are excellent," Moin said. "We are blessed with one of the best (bowling) combinations in world cricket. I think we have the best attack."



STEPHEN FLEMING

attacks in both Test and limited-overs cricket, New Zealand are bracing themselves for a tough series. "Yes, it is a very tough series," Fleming said. "We promised ourselves we're going to (fight) all the

Kapil still haunted

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Indian cricket great Kapil Dev on Monday declined an invitation to replay one of the most famous games in Test history for charity - fearing he may be accused of fixing the result. Kapil was invited to take part in a 40-overs-a-side match in Madras on March 17 between the same cricketers who played in the tied Test between India and Australia in 1986.

Kapil, who was India's captain in that enthralling match, told the news agency that he was apprehensive about stepping onto a cricket field again. "Who knows, someone may accuse me of fixing that tied Test," said the former all-rounder, absolved of any wrongdoing by federal investigators after being accused of match fixing by former team-mate Manoj Prabhakar. Kapil, Test cricket's leading wicket-taker until he was overtaken by West Indian Courtney Walsh last year, said he was not willing to make a concession even for a charity match. "But it's cricket. And I don't want to have anything to do with the game again."

Kapil also took a swipe at the organisers for saying the match would raise funds for the survivors of the earthquake victims in the western state of Gujarat. "It's a good thought, but it's not enough for them to just say they will contribute something. They must earmark a figure. We did that when we raised two crore rupees (430,000 dollars) 10 of the 11 players who played in 1986. The only absentee will be current captain Steve Waugh, who will be busy preparing for the third Test of the current tour starting the next day. Organisers have even roped in the same umpires, Dara Dotaliva and Vikram Raju, who stood in the Test. It was Raju who ensured the game ended in a tie by giving Indian last man Maninder Singh leg-before against off-spinner Greg Matthews after the hosts made a spirited chase of a target of 348. The exciting finish provided only the second tied Test in history after the Australia-West Indies match in Brisbane in 1960-61. The Madras match is also remembered for a courageous 210 by Australian batsman Dean Jones, who was put on a saline drip in hospital after his eight-hour vigil in stifling heat caused cramps, nausea and dehydration. The Australians who played in the tied Test were David Boon, Geoff Marsh, Jones, Allan Border (captain), Greg Ritchie, Matthews, Waugh, Tim Zohrer, Ray Bright, Craig McDermott and Bruce Reid. Kapil's Indian team included Sunil Gavaskar, Kris Srikkanth, Mohinder Amarnath, Azharuddin, Ravi Shastri, Chandrakant Pandit, Kiran More, Chetan Sharma, Shivlal Yadav and Maninder Singh. It was not immediately clear who will replace Kapil, Azharuddin and Waugh in the two sides.

for the soldiers who fought in the Kargil war in 1999." Ironically, another Indian who will miss the charity game is Mohammad Azharuddin, serving a life ban from the game after being named in the match-fixing report of the Central Bureau of Investigation. The Australians have roped in

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KAPIL DEV

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Their cause for concern

Cricket

AP, Colombo

England's cricket team, currently touring Sri Lanka, is finding itself caught up in the country's civil war because Britain is about to name London-based militant groups it will ban under a new anti-terrorist legislation. A Sri Lankan rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, is headquartered in London and the Sri Lankan government has been lobbying for it to be banned. The Tamil Tigers have been fighting 17 years for a homeland for the country's 3.2 million minority Tamils.

The pending decision has increased security fears for the England team, getting ready to play their first Test on Thursday. "We are indeed taking all precautions," said Deputy Inspector General of Police Jayantha Gamage. "We are aware of the situation and we will ensure that everything goes off well inside and outside the cricket field," said Gamage, who heads an elite police force called Ministerial Security Division and is in charge of providing security to government ministers.

The Tamil rebels have never harmed cricket teams in a country where everyone is crazy about the sport. Security officials fear, however, that a British ban could trigger a reaction. On the other hand, a no-ban decision would anger nationalist groups representing the Sinhalese majority. Such groups have mounted grenade attacks on the Norwegian Embassy and offices supported by Norway after the Scandinavian country tried to arrange peace talks between the rebels and the government. The radicals demand that the rebels should be crushed militarily and no concessions should be given to them. The Terrorism Act empowers Britain to outlaw groups that commit violence abroad and to crack down on supporters who channel funds and recruits to terrorist organisations.

bowler Ruchira Perera confronted England all-rounder Craig White on Saturday during the four-day match against a Board President's XI. Perera pointed a White after he had played and missed at a full-length delivery, and hot words were exchanged. Neither team, however, would explain the incident or say what the fuss was about. In cricket tradition, teams do not make public any exchange of obscenities or obscene gestures, if that occurs. England coach Duncan Fletcher and operations manager Phil Neale complained to the umpires, and will leave it to them to investigate. Neale has since written a letter of complaint to the Sri Lankan cricket board asking them to speak to Perera about his conduct. "We are investigating the matter, but no decision has been taken," said Chandrisshar Perera, a spokesman for the Sri Lankan cricket board.

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England were drawn into a controversy when Sri Lankan fast



Frenchwoman Amelie Mauresmo kisses the trophy of the Terazura Open in Nice on February 18.

Int'l junior tennis results

UNB, Dhaka

Twenty-nine matches were decided on the third day of the 15th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championship at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

Of these, eight were second round matches of the boys' singles, eight of girls' singles, eight of boys' doubles and five of girls' doubles.

Results of the boys' singles and girls' singles:
BOYS SINGLES: Sunil Kumar (IND) beat Anuwat Dalomom (THAI) 6-3, 7-6(5), Rohan Galjar (IND) beat Cheuk Wai Hui (HKG) 6-3, 6-2, Igusti Putu (INA) beat Hsheh Waiva Cheng (TPE) 6-2, 6-3, Hyun Joon Suk (KOR) beat Timu Stephen (CAN) 6-1, 6-2, Seong Kwan Kim (KOR) beat Nishank Mishra (IND) 6-2, 6-2, Chang Kai Lung (TPE) beat Billy Timu (CAN) 6-0, 7-6, Jong Gok Ho (KOR) beat Yu Hui Tung (HKG) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, Vinod Kr Sewa (IND) beat Vikrant Sane 6-2, 6-3.
GIRLS SINGLES: Samia Mirza (IND) beat Eriko Wada (JAP) 6-1, 6-0, Rebecca Dandeniya (GBR) beat Rattiya Hirant (THAI) 6-4, 6-3, Kim So Jung (KOR) beat Joong Jaehye (KOR) 6-3, 7-6, Boda Nisehela Reddy (IND) beat Nivedita Venkatesh (IND) 6-0, 6-0, Chen Yi (TPE) beat Pichaya Laosrichon (THAI) 6-4, 6-1, Chui Yoon Hee (KOR) beat Sasha Abraham (IND) 6-3, 7-6.

Results of the boys' doubles and girls' doubles:
BOYS DOUBLES: Sunil Kumar (IND) and Anuwat Dalomom (THAI) beat Rohan Galjar (IND) and Cheuk Wai Hui (HKG) 6-3, 6-2, Igusti Putu (INA) and Hsheh Waiva Cheng (TPE) 6-2, 6-3, Hyun Joon Suk (KOR) and Timu Stephen (CAN) 6-1, 6-2, Seong Kwan Kim (KOR) and Nishank Mishra (IND) 6-2, 6-2, Chang Kai Lung (TPE) and Billy Timu (CAN) 6-0, 7-6, Jong Gok Ho (KOR) and Yu Hui Tung (HKG) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, Vinod Kr Sewa (IND) and Vikrant Sane 6-2, 6-3.
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Div II cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Amarjoyti Club earned a comfortable 130-run victory over Lalbagh USC in the Acme Metropolis Second Division Cricket League at the Uttara Friends Club ground yesterday.

The tourists, trailing by 77 runs on the first innings, batted through the final day's play to make 365-9 in their second knock when stumps were drawn.

Damien Martyn chipped in with 53 while Ricky Ponting followed his 56 in the first innings with another impressive knock of 68. Ponting and Langer added 149 for the fourth wicket as the tourists unveiled their batting strength on a wicket that held little terror even on the third day.

Australia play another warm-up match against Ranji Trophy champions Mumbai from February 22 before the first Test starts at the Wankhede stadium in Bombay from February 27. "This was an important game for us," captain Steve Waugh said after the match. "It's been a good chance to adjust to Indian conditions and I think we have made a good beginning."

The final day's play finally went in Australia's favour after the tourists had struggled to cope with the lifeless wicket on the first two days. After their seasoned batting line-up had been reduced to 133-7 on Saturday, the bowlers let India A off the hook on the second day and allowed them to pile up 368.

The home team's bowlers were just as expensive with the highly-rated leg-spinner Balaji Rao going for 3-100 runs in 18.1 overs. Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh claimed 3-81. Australia, who have secured a record 15 consecutive Test wins, are looking to win their first series on Indian soil in 31 years.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboards on third and final day of the warm-up match between Australia and India A on Monday:
AUSTRALIA: First innings 291 (M

Hayden 49, R Ponting 56, J Gillespie 57, M Kasprovicz 92; R Sanghvi 5-40)
INDIA A: First innings 368 (S Ramesh 101, V Laxman 94, N Mongia 71, C Miller 6-91)
AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 39-1)
Hayden c Badani b Harbhajan 37
Slater c Rao b Harbhajan 11
Langer c Laxman b Harbhajan 115
Ponting lbw b Laxman 68
Gillespie run out 21
Martyn b Badani 53
Gillespie c Badani b Rao 5
Kasprovicz not out 15
Fleming c Laxman b Rao 2
Extras: (b3, lb13, nb5) 26
Total: (for 9 wks in 95.1 overs) 365
Did not bat: C. Miller
Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-62, 3-111, 4-260, 5-287, 6-300, 7-324, 8-354, 9-365
Bowler O M R W
Mohanty 16 5 51 0
Nehra 15 4 52 0
Harbhajan 20 3 81 3
Sanghvi 5 1 16 0
Rao 18.1 1 100 3
Laxman 9 2 22 1
Mongia 8 2 21 0
Badani 4 2 6 1
Result: Match drawn

and the 3,000." Szabo said after her victory at the Norwich Union Grand Prix meet. Another Olympic champion, Maria Mutola, and silver medalist Stephanie Graf were involved in collision that led to the Mozam-

indoor meet at Sindelfingen, Germany, on March 4. And then it's on to defending her 3,000 title at the indoor World Championship at Lisbon. Szabo was disappointed that the schedule meant she could not defend the 1,500, too. "My coach and my husband say it's impossible to run the 1,500 today's world record is the first step for the summer," the 25-year-old Romanian star said after setting a mark on Sunday for the women's 3,000 metres - an event she hasn't lost in six years. "I like to run indoors because I can work on my speed so that I can then run very fast outdoors."

Szabo's time of 8 minutes, 32.88 seconds at the National Indoor Arena indicated that the Olympic and world champion over 5,000 metres appears to be getting quicker. And Szabo had to run the last seven laps alone because the pacemakers had dropped out and there was no one else anywhere near her as she trimmed 94 seconds off the mark set in March 1989 in Budapest by Dutch runner Elly van Hulst. It's likely to be the same story in her upcoming races. Now she's aiming for the 1,500-metre world record at another

Amelie Mauresmo won her second title in less than a week, capturing the inaugural Terazura Open before her home fans on Sunday with a 6-2, 6-0 rout of Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva. "I didn't expect it," Mauresmo said. "I played a great match from beginning to end." Mauresmo, seeded seventh in the \$65,000 dollars event, was coming off a victory in the Gaz de France in Paris, where she beat Anke Huber of Germany in the finals last Monday. The victory in Paris was her first title in France. Mauresmo defeated Huber again in the Nice semifinals on Saturday, winning 2-6, 6-1, 6-1. Top-seeded Venus Williams lost to Maleeva in the other semifinal Saturday after receiving treatment for her knee in the second set.

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Australia's Justin Langer plays a sweep shot on the third and last day of a tour match against India A in Nagpur yesterday.

Langer hits form

Cricket

AFP, Nagpur

Justin Langer warmed up for the upcoming Test series with a sparkling century as the Australians drew their opening tour match against India A here on Monday.

The left-hander, earmarked for the crucial number three spot, hit 115 with the help of 17 boundaries and two sixes as the Aussies opted for batting practice ahead of the first of three Tests later this month.

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Scoreboards on third and final day of the warm-up match between Australia and India A on Monday:
AUSTRALIA: First innings 291 (M

Hayden 49, R Ponting 56, J Gillespie 57, M Kasprovicz 92; R Sanghvi 5-40)
INDIA A: First innings 368 (S Ramesh 101, V Laxman 94, N Mongia 71, C Miller 6-91)
AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 39-1)
Hayden c Badani b Harbhajan 37
Slater c Rao b Harbhajan 11
Langer c Laxman b Harbhajan 115
Ponting lbw b Laxman 68
Gillespie run out 21
Martyn b Badani 53
Gillespie c Badani b Rao 5
Kasprovicz not out 15
Fleming c Laxman b Rao 2
Extras: (b3, lb13, nb5) 26
Total: (for 9 wks in 95.1 overs) 365
Did not bat: C. Miller
Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-62, 3-111, 4-260, 5-287, 6-300, 7-324, 8-354, 9-365
Bowler O M R W
Mohanty 16 5 51 0
Nehra 15 4 52 0
Harbhajan 20 3 81 3
Sanghvi 5 1 16 0
Rao 18.1 1 100 3
Laxman 9 2 22 1
Mongia 8 2 21 0
Badani 4 2 6 1
Result: Match drawn

and the 3,000." Szabo said after her victory at the Norwich Union Grand Prix meet. Another Olympic champion, Maria Mutola, and silver medalist Stephanie Graf were involved in collision that led to the Mozam-

indoor meet at Sindelfingen, Germany, on March 4. And then it's on to defending her 3,000 title at the indoor World Championship at Lisbon. Szabo was disappointed that the schedule meant she could not defend the 1,500, too. "My coach and my husband say it's impossible to run the 1,50