

N'phamari stun

FROM PAGE 13 in Mymensingh, defending champions Biman got their campaign off to a good start with a four-wicket win over Dhaka at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium in their opening match.

Chasing a not-so-impressive Dhaka total of 159 in 50 overs, the national flag career reached 160 in 37 overs with four wickets still in hand.

Bangladesh Test batsman Javed Omar led Biman home with 35 off 55 balls followed by opener Mohammad Ashraf and middle-order Jahangir Alam who added 26 runs each.

Earlier, electing to bat, Dhaka scored 159 before being all out in 47.3 overs.

Middle order Neeyamur Rashid and Sajjad Ahmed scored 46 and 45 runs for Dhaka.

Biman pacer Aminul Islam junior took four wickets for 31 runs.

Arambagh

FROM PAGE 13 much to the disappointment of his team.

On the other hand, Arambagh played cautiously from the start adopting mostly defensive tactics that helped them hold their opponents to a draw and then beat them in the tiebreakers.

Arambagh captain Oinu, Asad, Arman and Ashraf found the net for their team while Ashish and Nayeem succeeded for Army. Kabir shot the ball over the crosspiece while Tutul kicked the ball straight to the goalkeeper Tareq.

The other match of the day between Dhaka Wanderers Club and Victoria Sporting Club also ended goalless after the 90 minutes' play at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mustafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

However, Wanderers prevailed in the end by winning the tiebreaker 4-3.

What to watch

- FROM PAGE 13 ESPN West Indies vs Zimbabwe First Test, Day Four Live at 1:55 pm Sportscentre Hindi Sport News Live at 9:00 pm STAR Sports Bangladesh vs England First ODI Live at 9:00 am Sportline Tonight Sport News Live at 8:00 pm

Inter held

FROM PAGE 16 clever cutback from the byline.

Lokomotiv enjoyed plenty of possession without hurting the Italians in the final third, with central defender Fabio Cannavaro in imperious form at the heart of the Inter defence.

Danieli Adani saw a close-range header strike the post five minutes after the break before Lokomotiv silenced the vast majority of the San Siro crowd by drawing level.

Loskov struck a low left foot shot which was heading straight at Inter goalkeeper Francesco Toldo only for the ball to clip Marco Materazzi's heel and divert into the far corner.

The equaliser rocked Inter and they nearly conceded another moments later when Loskov, with only Toldo to beat, delayed his shot and allowed Javier Zanetti to nick the ball off his toe.

Vieri was thwarted by a brilliant one-handed save from Ovchinnikov as Inter regained the momentum before Gonzalez wasted a glorious opportunity by taking too long to shoot after breaking the offside-trap, giving Oleg Pashinin the time to intercept with a sliding tackle.

Inter finished the match strongly but failed to breach a watertight Lokomotiv defence which has conceded just three goals in four matches.

Kaif holds up India



AFP, Cuttack

Mohammad Kaif hit 64 to help India reach a competitive 246-9 against New Zealand in a TVS Cup triangular one-day series match here on Thursday.

The middle-order batsman hit five fours in his sixth half-century on a low, slow wicket at the Barabati Stadium which made stroke-making difficult.

Kaif put on 50 for the second wicket with opener Venkatsai Laxman (31) and 59 for the third with captain Rahul Dravid (31).

Tail-enders Zaheer Khan then plundered 20 runs in the last over of the innings by seamer Jacob Oram to remain unbeaten on a brisk 33 off 13 balls with two sixes and three fours.

Seamers Scott Styris and Daryl Tuffey each grabbed three wickets and left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori two to restrict India to a modest total before Zaheer's last-over fireworks.

Hemang Badani (41) was the other notable contributor after the early dismissal of star batsman Sachin Tendulkar (14), trapped leg-before by seamer Kyle Mills.

New Zealand, winless after three matches, never allowed the Indian batsmen to build a big partnership in the day-night game.

Vettori played a big role in containing runs, removing Dravid and Yuvraj Singh (nought) in the space of four balls.

Dravid upishly drove the spinner to mid-wicket where Styris made no mistake, while Yuvraj went for a big shot early in his innings and was caught by Mills in the deep.

Styris then dismissed the well-set Kaif, who chopped the ball on to his stumps after facing 108 balls.

India made three changes from the team that lost to world champions Australia by 77 runs at Bombay last Saturday.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard after India's innings against New Zealand in the TVS Cup triangular one-day series match on Thursday:

Table with columns: INDIA, Laxman c and b Styris, Tendulkar lbw b Mills, Kaif b Styris, Dravid c Styris b Vettori, Yuvraj c Mills b Vettori, Badani c McCullum b Tuffey, Bahutule lbw b Styris, Agarkar c McMillan b Tuffey



India top-order Mohammad Kaif square-drives one exquisitely against New Zealand in the TVS Cup at Cuttack yesterday.

England safety 'guaranteed'

BBC ONLINE, undated

Sri Lankan cricket officials have received assurances from the country's President and Prime Minister that the tour by England is safe to go ahead.

A state of emergency has been declared on the island following the sacking of three politicians.

But the Sri Lankan government said there would be no security threats to England or their fans.

England are scheduled to arrive on November 13 and play three Tests and three one-day internationals.

"We are going ahead with our plans," Sri Lanka Cricket secretary Mohan de Silva said.

"The president's office and the government of Sri Lanka have assured us that there would be no hindrance or security threat for the safety of players and spectators during the England tour."

The board said David Morgan, president of England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), had been in contact with his Sri Lankan counterpart Thilanga Sumathipala and "has confirmed that the tour goes on as scheduled".

SERIES SALAD

FROM PAGE 13 team even after a bad day.

"As long as I'm captain, I expect nothing short of total commitment from my teammates. I don't want to reflect on the past. My motto is to live to fight another day," Mahmud said ahead of the first one-dayer.

"You're bound to lose if you think negatively before any game."

Mahmud also advocated the need for separate teams for Test and one-day cricket.

"We should start thinking for two separate Bangladesh teams. But this is not the right time since we don't have sufficient players to play with."

Cole keeps Gunners

FROM PAGE 16 with chances they seemed oddly reluctant to devour.

Gilberto leaped high above the Kiev defence to meet Dennis Bergkamp's freekick but directed his header straight into the arms of a relieved Shovkovskiy.

Twice Henry found space inside the box only to lean back and lift his shot into the stand behind the goal.

When Arsenal finally did manage to hit the target, with a looping header from Ljungberg in the 34th minute, Kiev's centre-half Goran Gavranic was there to hook the ball off the line.

The pattern was to be repeated at the start of the second half, Bergkamp firing Henry's astute knock-down at the legs of Shovkovskiy before Pires dragged another half-chance across the goalkeeper and wide of the far upright.

Yet another gilt-edged opportunity was wasted when Pires headed Henry's cutback cross wide from six yards and Kiev almost made Arsenal pay by immediately mounting an attack which produced their best chance of the night.

Fortunately for Arsenal, their profligacy appeared to be contagious and an unmarked Oleg Husyev contrived to sidefoot his shot wide of Jens Lehmann's upright from only eight yards out.

Having survived that scare Arsenal continued to push forward in search of the winner.

When Shovkovskiy tipped Bergkamp's drive over four minutes from the end another evening of bitter frustration seemed firmly on the cards before Cole's drive and determination finally delivered a victory that, combined with Inter Milan's draw with Lokomotiv Moscow, leaves the group wide open.

Celtic up to the task

FROM PAGE 16 First, Hartson laid off for Miller on the right and he sent in a dangerous looping cross that fooled Zitka. Larsson, at the back post, battled to keep the ball in but the Swede could not direct it into the net.

Two minutes later Zitka had to be at his best to keep out a goal-bound header from midfielder Stilian Petrov at the back post after the Bulgarian was set up nicely by Miller with a cross from the right side.

However the big keeper could do little about Celtic's third goal just before the half hour when a Hartson flick-on gave an unmarked Chris Sutton the easiest of opportunities and the former Chelsea striker sent a diving header past Zitka.

After the interval Celtic came out fighting but the first real chance fell to Anderlecht.

Aruna Dindane did well to hold off the physical threat of Bobo Balde in front of the Celtic goal however the Ivory Coast forward's shot was deflected and

WI lose Lara cheaply



AFP, Harare

West Indies captain Brian Lara surprisingly fell cheaply on the third day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club here and the tourists, previously brimming with confidence, suddenly found themselves struggling to close a huge first innings gap.

At the tea break they were 205 for the loss of three wickets, which is 302 in arrears.

Facing up to Zimbabwe's 507-9 declared, opening batsman Wavell Hinds set an aggressive tone with a powerful 79 before being caught off Blessing Mahwire.

Even though Chris Gayle fell victim lbw to Heath Streak for only 14, with Daren Ganga taking over the mantle with Lara, two down for 127 at that point did not seem too bad a position.

Lara, who had not played in a Test on this ground before, was expected to give a massive performance with a score in three figures. But it was not to be.

The loss of the West Indies captain for a mere 29 runs was a major psychological blow and conversely a triumph for Zimbabwe, who celebrated his exit in depth.

After lashing Blignaut, Lara took a brief look at Ray Price before dancing

down the wicket at him. It was a fatal move. A towering straight hit seemed destined for the sigh-tscreen, but Mahwire, racing round from mid-on, took a fine running catch some three metres inside the rope.

In a few seconds, Zimbabwe, who were preparing themselves for a punishing afternoon at the hands of the West Indies captain in particular, instead found themselves attacking the tourists' middle order.

Price, nephew of champion golfer Nick Price, who took six Australian wickets in their second innings at Sydney last month, is turning this into a memorable period of his life.

Ganga, in making a secure 68 by the break, passed 50 for the sixth time in Tests.

The day began with a freak accident after a ball, rolling onto the pitch as players warmed up before play, was squashed into it by a roller.

It took two hours to repair and the umpires, who had been intent on making up time after the loss of 45 minutes through bad light on the second day, found that the match was almost three hours behind schedule.

They will play just as long as the light allows, but showers appear possible before the close of play.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at tea on the third day of the first Test between Zimbabwe and West Indies in Harare on Thursday:

WEST INDIES: First innings 507-9

declared in 139 overs (Streak 100 not out, Taibu 83, Blignaut 78, Matsikenyeri 57, Edwards 4-122)

WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 11-0) Gayle lbw b Streak 14 Hinds c Blignaut b Mahwire 79 Ganga not out 68 Lara c Mahwire b Price 29 Sarwan not out 4 Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-4, w-1) 11 Total: (For 3 wkts in 54 overs) 205

Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-127, 3-179 Bowler O M R W Blignaut 14 3 68 0 Streak 16 4 50 1 Mahwire 13 3 49 1 Price 9 4 22 1 M'yere 2 0 10 0

India U-19s

FROM PAGE 13 The juniors' visit to Pakistan was the first by an Indian team since another junior team toured Pakistan in 1998.

India snapped all bilateral cricketing ties with Pakistan in 2000 over political tensions but New Delhi's latest offer to revive sporting links and the junior teams tour have raised hopes of a senior Indian team touring Pakistan in February for the first time since 1989.

Sri Lankan captain Fervaiz Maharoof hit 57 for his team, which was pegged back by some fine paced bowling from Irfan Pathan who took 3-33 and Sunny Singh who grabbed 3-35.

Opener Robin Uthapa hit 88 off 86 balls to set the victory before Rayudu and Rakesh Solanki hit unbeaten half centuries.

Pathan, whose name would come under consideration for the senior Indian team's tour of Australia next month, was declared player of the tournament with 19 wickets, defeating also Bangladesh and hosts Pakistan.

Golf green for

FROM PAGE 13 It was then decided to send the groundsman to the neighbouring Royal Harare Golf Club, borrow equipment which makes holes on golf greens, remove the offending dent on the pitch and replace it with soil and grass taken from the golf course.

It then needed time to dry and the match started an hour late.

Deportivo drown in goal glut

FROM PAGE 16 minute strike.

The France midfielder picked up a through ball and then deftly chipped Jose Molina coming out of the Deportivo goal.

Eight minutes later Monaco were celebrating their 50th Champions League goal when the Deportivo defence were caught napping again - a punt from midfield finding Giuly who nipped around Molina to slot the ball into the net.

The Spaniards' night went from bad to worse when Prso, standing in for the injured Fernando Morientes, struck with a 26th minute header.

The Croatian forward made the most of finding himself unmarked to connect with a cross from the ever dangerous Rothen.

Poor old Deportivo barely had time to let this latest slight on their honour sink in when they went further behind with Prso's second on the half hour.

A fluffed clearance by Deportivo defender Nourredine Naybet was pounced on by Plasil whose cross across the goalmouth fell to Prso who headed in at the far post.

Stung by all this one way traffic Deportivo, 1-0 winners over Monaco a fortnight ago, picked themselves up off the floor.

First Tristan struck after picking up a cross in the box with his back to goal and quickly turned to slot the ball through Monaco keeper Flavio Roma's legs and then Scaloni tapped in.

But the unstoppable Prso ensured the goal rush was not quite over as he grabbed his third and Monaco's fifth in first half injury time. Giuly broke fast down the right, his cross finding the waiting Prso who prodded the ball into Molina's vacant goal. Deportivo emerged for the second half with the weight of history against them as no team has ever come back from being so far behind in the Champions League.

It would surely have been too much to expect the second half to mirror the first but this was no ordinary game, and three more goals were added to the tally within seven minutes of the teams coming out.

Deportivo coach Javier Irureta wisely spared Molina any more embarrassment, replacing him with substitute stopper Gustavo Munua but the switch brought no change of fortune for the unfortunate Spaniards as Plasil and then Prso continued the Monaco fireworks.

Tristan got a double for Deportivo but Edouard Cisse completed Monaco's goal feast with a fierce drive which whistled past Munua.

Monaco's heroics lifted them onto nine points with games against the bottom two clubs - PSV Eindhoven and AEK Athens to come.

Deportivo are placed second, two points behind.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 1 Word with 'photo' or 'special', 4 Seamstress' concern, 7 Disney fave, 12 Shell game, 13 Eggs, 14 Blazing, 15 Beach acquisition, 16 Inelegent dive, 18 Annoy, 19 Stan's pal, 20 Talon, 22 Longing, 23 Bog material, 27 Score at the plate, 29 Grip a lot, 31 OPEC member, 34 Really miffed, 35 Unimprovable place, 37 Weir, 38 Mischievous makers, 39 Summer sign

Cryptogram puzzle: B W V D Z T Y P V S B G Y W V Z X P G F X V P T T X D P P H S Q X Z G A U Z A H E G U P T D Z T F D W Z F P E Z G Q D G V G W D Yesterday's Cryptogram: WHEN A WRONG NAME IS ETCHED INTO A TOMBSTONE, CAN THAT BE VIEWED AS A GRAVE ERROR? Today's Cryptogram Clue: T equals S

Bayern hit by 'own'

FROM PAGE 16 Bayern was greeted with friendly banners on his return to Bavaria - but on the pitch he was given a far from cordial welcome.

No-nonsense defending from Bayern saw Elber, 31, remain largely anonymous in the first 45 minutes but Bayern fans know all about the qualities of the man who scored over a 100 goals for the 18-time German champions.

With 53 minutes gone Elber made his mark, turning smartly in the penalty area to beat the onrushing Kahn with a well-placed shot.

The goal sent Bayern back into their shell and the French visitors enjoyed a commanding quarter hour spell with Bayern chasing shadows, in particular that of midfielder Juninho.

Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld had called for his side to do their talking on the pitch after some media comments from his players but in truth they never looked like finding an equaliser.

After the match, Hitzfeld was furious with their lack of a response.

"I am disappointed that we could not produce a better performance in the second half," fumed Hitzfeld. "We gave the ball away and did not get any crosses in."

"Giovane Elber's goal shocked the team and we became nervous all of a sudden."

Florent Malouda could and probably should have wrapped up the three points for Lyon with ten minutes remaining but lacked composure as he blasted his shot at the legs of the advancing Kahn.

But the night belonged to Elber, who came off on 80 minutes to a standing ovation from the 59,000 supporters.

The loss is Bayern's first at home this season and deepens the crisis at the German champions who lost 2-0 to Schalke 04 last weekend.

With last year's failure still fresh in the mind Bayern now face a fight to qualify for the quarter-finals with Lyon and Celtic both perched above them.