

Rain hits Auckland

AFP, Auckland

Rain interrupted play Monday on the second day of Pakistan's three-day match against Auckland, hindering the tourists efforts to adjust to New Zealand conditions in their one warm-up game before the first Test.

Auckland, replying to Pakistan's first innings 318, moved from their overnight score of 35 for one to 164 for five with play restricted to less than two sessions.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of the second day of the three-day cricket match between Pakistan and Auckland Tuesday:

**PAKISTAN:** First innings 318 (Hameed 96, Farhat 73; Walker 5-55)

**AUCKLAND:** First innings (overnight 35-1)

Richardson c Moin b Shabbir	23
Vincent c Sami b Shoaib	4
McIntosh b Shabbir	32
Horne not out	16
Nicol c Moin b Danish	60
Canning c sub (Younis) b Elahi	7
Young not out	3
Extras: (b-1, lb-5, nb-13)	19
Total: (For 5 wkts in 64 overs)	164
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-69, 3-70, 4-149, 5-158	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shoaib	10	2	25	1
Sami	14	3	51	0
Shabbir	14	5	24	2
Danish	23	5	53	1
Imran	3	0	5	1

Biman move

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Kawsar Ali Ity and Arif Hossain of Rajshahi.

In the other matches, Bangladesh Ansars beat Nakhilpara Jubu Kallyan Sangha 4-0, Titas Club defeated Destiny 2000 Limited 3-1, Sonali Bank beat Karalapur Samaj Kallyan and Krira Sangha 3.5-0.5, Dhaka University Chess Team beat Fighter Krira Chakra 4-0, Farashganj Sporting Club beat Monipur Chess Club 4-0 and Anushillan Krira Chakra beat Mohakhali Prodig Sangha 2.5-1.5.

The eighth round starts today at 3pm at the same venue. The matches are, Nakhilpara v Farashganj, Anushillan v Monipur, Narayanganj v Prodig Sangha, Fighter v Biman, Sonali Bank v University, Destiny v Kamlapur, Leonine v Titas and Ansar v Rajshahi.

Swadhin Bangla

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13, lost two and drew one.

Wherever Pintoo's men went be it in West Bengal, Maharashtra or Bihar they were greeted with open arms. It was a sight to behold for all present at each and every venue where they paraded with a symbolic red and green flag with a map of yet to be born Bangladesh was embedded in it on the ground.

Thirty-two years might have elapsed since the victory was achieved but one man still cherishes a small part he played in Bangladesh's road to self-determination.

"I still remember that day. It is the most memorable moment of my life being the first person to hoist the Bangladesh flag outside the country. It was also a historic moment for Bangladesh football," said Pintoo, now aged 65, while talking to The Daily Star Sport.

He also said that the Swadhin Bangla football team would remain like an eternal flame irrespective of cast, creed and political affiliation.

While going down memory lane the big central defender from Naogaon also recalled the pain his teammates had to endure during their unique battle.

The western media lashed at the India football administration after

the first match at Nadia. The Indian government suspended the District Magistrate of Nadia for fielding an official team. The Indian football association (IFA) was also forced to cancel the affiliation Nadia District Sports Association for hosting the Swadhin Bangla team.

"After that incident the teams we played against did not use their official name. Famous Mohun Bagan had to play under the banner of Goshtopal Eleven. The match in Bombay against Maharashtra Eleven was also very interesting as former India captain and Nawab of Pataudi Mansur Ali Khan led the side and scored one goal," said Pintoo.

"I can still remember Indian film icon Dilip Kumar appearing in the game against Maharashtra and donated one lakh rupees to the team.

"We were about leave for Delhi to play another match when we heard the news that we had been waiting for nine months. The day was December 16, the air was full of euphoria and we joined the never ending celebration."

As the nation celebrates its 32nd Victory Day today we feel its fitting to pay tribute to the members of the Swadhin Bangla team. Five heroes Lutfur Rahman, Nani Bashak, Mahmud, Lahu, and Ali Imam have sadly passed away.

While three players Enayetur Rahman Khan, Saidur Rahman Patel and Shahjahan are now living in the USA. Govinda Kundu and Nihar have migrated to India while goalkeeper Aniruddha has settled in Dubai.

The rest are somewhere in the country.

But they will never be forgotten.

The Swadhin Bangla Football Team:

Players: Zakaria Pintoo (captain), Protap Shankar Hazra (vice-captain), Kazi Salahuddin, Nowsheruzzaman, Lt Nurunnabi, Taslim, Ainul Haque, Khokon (Rajshahi), Lutfur (Jessore), Sheikh Ashraf Ali, Amalesh Sen, Hakim (Jessore), Aminul Islam Suruz (Barisal), Bimal (Chittagong), Shuvash Chandra Shaha (Narshingdi), Mujibur Rahman, Kaikobad, Siru, Sattar, Sanjit, Momen Joarder (Chuadanga), Saidur Rahman Patel, Piara (former secretary, Kushtia DSA), Enayetur Rahman Khan, Shahjahan, Aniruddha, Nihar, Govinda Kundu, late Ali Imam, late Mahmud and late Lahu.

Officials: Late Lutfur Rahman (Secretary, Bangladesh Krira Samity), Tanveer Mazhar Islam Tanna (manager) and late Nani Bashak (coach).

Chasing an elusive title

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manager Amer Khan it was lack of commitment that resulted in the team's first round Federation Cup exit.

"You don't need a coach for those eleven players because they have played a lot of football in the domestic and international arena. To me they didn't give their hundred per cent and that's why we failed in the Federation Cup," said a straight forward Amer who played for the club from 1991 to 2001 and then joined as manager last year.

The 32-year-old midfielder, however, expressed optimism about his side's Premier League chances, which they have never won.

"Brothers Union represents the inhabitants of Gopibagh. But so far we have failed to do justice to our steadfast supporters. Our only successes came in the 1980 and 1991 editions of the Federation Cup.

"That's why we have formed a

strong team to capture the league crown and so give the fans something to cheer about," he said adding that former India coach Naimuddin is all set to take over from Abu Noman Nannu at the end of this month.

Acting coach Nannu said that the main problem was the absence of a genuine striker who could score goals.

"Alfaz is basically a midfielder who can provide the ball for others to score. The weakness in the frontline was responsible for our debacle in the Federation Cup.

"I'm happy that the club officials have realised that and imported some foreigners to fill the gap," said former Brothers central defender in the seventies and early eighties.

There are as many as four foreign players in the training camp now. However Nannu said that only Russian attacking midfielder David Edward has impressed him.

The other foreign players are defender Francis and forward

Okelo from Uganda and Brazilian midfielder Gomez.

Nannu also warned that local players would have to sit on the reserve bench if a few more quality foreigners are attracted to the club.

He hoped that his team would build momentum at the early stage because their first four games were against Arambagh, Muktiyoddha, Abahani and Mohammedan.

BROTHERS UNION SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Biplab, Ali and Shamim.

Defenders: Rajani, Sujon, Nazrul, Parvez Babu, Tito, Francis, Jahangir, Liton Khan, Munna, Jashim and Montu.

Midfielders: Arman, Monwar, Liton, Iqbal, Gomez, Edward, Rikto and Abul.

Forwards: Alfaz (captain), Okelo, Topu and Tarique.

Coach: Abu Noman Nannu. Manager: Amer Khan.

Flying

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best figures.

Agarkar, not rated highly when he first arrived in Australia with a Test bowling average of 46.57 for his 35 wickets in 16 Tests, has now taken 12 wickets in this series and is India's leading wicket-taker.

"They play positive cricket and usually go for their shots, so it always helps," Agarkar said of the Australian batsmen.

"If there's some sort of movement with the ball, you've got every chance to get some wickets.

"That's the way they play, they try to play positive cricket and we have got every chance of getting them out when a guy is trying to play shots, so we're not complaining."

Agarkar said he had benefited from his bowling experience of touring Australia in 1999-00 although it was a miserable tour with the bat.

"It's been a long time since that happened, but it probably helped my bowling. I just ran in harder and tried to get some wickets so it was a good incentive to bowl well against them," he said.

India need 230 for victory and were 37 without loss at the close on the fourth day.

He will never be a Kapil Dev but Agarkar, who scored a maiden century against England last year and who once cracked a one-day 50 off 21 balls against Zimbabwe, should earn some Australian respect now as well as a new nickname.

Premier Division

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Bangladesh. That's why we are determined to stop this evil practice at any cost and the detective branch will assist us in finding the culprits," said Rahim.

Western Union has agreed to provide 25 lakh Taka for the title sponsorship and its regional manager Eustace Lobo said that they will extend their all-out support in future to promote football in Bangladesh if they get a positive response this year.

The league committee expects to earn a revenue of 30 lakh Taka from the Premier Division League said league committee secretary Mozammel Haq Mukta.

There was no restriction about registering foreign players but a team won't be able to field more than four overseas recruits at a time in a match.

Lara's double ton, SA atop



AFP, Johannesburg

West Indian captain Brian Lara completed his sixth Test double century but it was not enough to prevent South Africa from moving into a strong position on the fourth day of the first Test at the Wanderers Stadium Monday.

South Africa were 88 for one in their second innings at tea, an overall lead of 239.

Lara made 202 before he was ninth out in a West Indian first innings total of 410.

South African captain Graeme Smith made 44 as his side increased their 151-run advantage on the first innings.

He was the only man dismissed, although Herschelle Gibbs, his opening partner, had to retire hurt on six with a broken nose after missing a hook against Vasbert Drakes.

Lara, resuming on 178, saw Mervyn Dillon and Chris Gayle dismissed before he lashed Nel through the covers for four to raise his double century.

Gayle, normally an opening batsman, batted at number nine for a torn left hamstring.

In making his sixth Test double century, Lara joined Javed Miandad of Pakistan in third place on the all-time list of double centurions. Don Bradman of Australia made 12 and Wally Hammond of England seven.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the fourth day of the first Test between South Africa and the West Indies on Monday:

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings 561 (Kallis 158, Smith 132, Van Jaarsveld 73, Gibbs 60; Hinds 3-79, Dillon 2-96, Edwards 2-102, Collymore 2-118)

**WEST INDIES:** First innings (overnight 363-6)

Hinds c Peterson b Nel	10
Ganga c Peterson b Ntini	60
Sarwan c Boucher b Pollock	21
Lara c Van Jaarsveld b Nel	202
Chanderpaal b Ntini	34
Jacobs c Boucher b Ntini	4
Drakes lbw b Kallis	21
Dillon b Ntini	13
Gayle c Kallis b Ntini	8
Edwards c McKenzie b Nel	0

Collymore not out 1  
Extras (b-12 lb-15 nb-5 w-4) 36  
Total: (All out in 133.5 overs) 410

Fall of wickets: 1-43, 2-94, 3-141, 4-266, 5-278, 6-314, 7-380, 8-405, 9-405

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pollock	30	7	65	1
Ntini	32	9	94	5
Nel	32.5	11	78	3
Kallis	22	6	53	1
Peterson	13	2	76	0
Smith	4	0	17	0

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Second innings

Smith c sub b Drakes 44  
Gibbs retired hurt 6  
Rudolph not out 18  
Kallis not out 5  
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-7, w-6) 15  
Total: (For 1 wkt in 34 overs) 88

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Edwards	7	0	33	0
Dillon	10	0	26	0
Drakes	10	2	21	1
Collymore	6	3	5	0
Sarwan	1	0	1	0

History beckons India

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The signs of something extraordinary in the offing came with the wickets of Justin Langer (10), first innings double-centurion Ricky Ponting (0), Matthew Hayden (17), Martyn and Waugh by tea to have the Australians 112 for five at tea.

Gilchrist and Katich looked to be tilting the pendulum back towards the home side with a 71-run partnership, with the buccaneering Gilchrist clouting spinners Anil Kumble and Sachin Tendulkar for two sixes along with four fours.

But once Gilchrist was bowled behind his legs by Kumble in the 50th over, the Australian innings was in an irreversible tailspin.

Andy Bichel (1), Katich, Jason Gillespie (3) and Stuart MacGill (1) quickly followed, all victims of Agarkar. Brad Williams, forced to bat with an injured shoulder, remained four not out.

Australia earlier wrapped up the marathon 647-minute Indian first innings with Dravid out hooking Gillespie to Bichel at fine leg in the second hour of play.

Dravid overtook Sunil Gavaskar's 221 against England at The Oval in 1979 to become the highest Indian

Test scorer outside India.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard after the fourth day of the second cricket Test between Australia and India at the Adelaide Oval here on Monday:

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 556 (Ponting 242, Katich 75, Langer 58; Kumble 5-154)

**INDIA:** First innings (overnight 477-7)

Chopra c and b Bichel	27
Sehwag c Hayden b Bichel	47
Dravid c Bichel b Gillespie	233
Tendulkar c Gilchrist b Bichel	1
Ganguly run out (Williams)	2
Laxman c Gilchrist b Bichel	148
Patel c Ponting b Katich	31
Agarkar c MacGill b Katich	11
Kumble lbw b MacGill	12
Pathan c and b MacGill	1
Nehran not out	0
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, w-2, nb-2)	10
Total: (All out in 161.5 overs)	523
Fall of wickets: 1-66, 2-81, 3-83, 4-85, 5-388, 6-447, 7-469, 8-510, 9-518	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gillespie	40.5	13	106	1
Williams	23	7	72	0
Bichel	28	3	118	4
MacGill	44	8	143	2
Katich	16	3	59	2
Waugh	9	2	15	0
Ponting	1	0	4	0

**AUSTRALIA:** Second innings

Hayden c Sehwag b Nehra	17
Langer lbw b Agarkar	10
Ponting c Chopra b Agarkar	0
Martyn c Dravid b Tendulkar	38
Waugh c Dravid b Tendulkar	42
Katich c Nehra b Agarkar	31
Gilchrist b Kumble	43
Bichel b Agarkar	1
Gillespie c Patel b Agarkar	3
Williams not out	4
MacGill b Agarkar	1
Extras: (b-2, lb-2, w-1, nb-1)	6
Total: (All out in 56.2 overs)	196
Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-18, 3-44, 4-109, 5-112, 6-183, 7-184, 8-188, 9-192	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Agarkar	16.2	2	41	6
Pathan	7	0	24	0
Nehra	7	2	21	1
Kumble	17	2	58	1
Tendulkar	6	0	36	2
Sehwag	3	0	12	0

**INDIA:** Second innings  
Chopra not out 10  
Sehwag not out 25  
Extras: (lb-2) 2  
Total: (For no wkt in 10 overs) 37

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gillespie	4	2	5	0
Williams	3	0	13	0
MacGill	2	0	11	0
Bichel	1	0	6	0