

Tall order for Tarun

Sports Reporter

Star-studded Brothers Union were set to post their second successive victory in the Narana Premier Division cricket league after reducing Surja Tarun to 31 for the loss of three wickets by the end of the first day's play in reply to their 276 for nine in 75 overs at the Dhaka Stadium.

A sparkling 64 off 65 deliveries by Brothers' West Bengal recruit Arup Bhattacharya, backed by consistent contributions from most of their top-order batsmen gave the Gopibagh boys a comfortable total by the time their overs ran out.

Farooq and Shovon gave Brothers a flying start by putting on 63 for the first

wicket with Farooq making 32 and Shovon 22. Zahed Razzaq Masoom made 31, skipper Atahar Ali 45 while all-rounder Golam Farooq Suru, coming in at number seven, hammered a quick 34. Even left-arm pacer Golam Nowsheer Prince chipped in with a dozen runs while sundries added another two dozen.

Suru and Arup added 85 runs for the sixth wicket with Suru using the long handle with abandon, especially against Shaheen's off-spin and Saad's leg-spin.

Shaikat was Tarun's most successful bowler on the day returning figures of four for 37 off 15 economical overs while Saad took three for 60, Morshed one for 32 while Shaheen came in for a bashing at the hands of the Brothers batsmen, his 13 overs costing an

expensive 68 runs. In reply, Tarun were relying at 31 for three after 12.4 overs at day's end with Shaheen, Hadi and Rupam all falling cheaply. Their first wicket fell on 19, the second on 22 and the third one off the day's last delivery, the fourth ball in Sri Lankan pacer Fernando's sixth over. Fernando had taken two of the three wickets with Prince picking up the other.

Tarun, who lost their opening league engagement to Bangladesh Biman, face a tall order when play resumes today. They need another 245 runs to win in 62.2 overs. Their Sri Lankan batsman Aruna De Silva was at the crease with four runs against his name.

Shaheen made nine, Hadi two and Rupam four.

Agrani Bank win in Milnars league

Sports Reporter

Agrani Bank recorded a massive 89-run victory over Wari Club in the Milnars First Division cricket league yesterday at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Agrani Bank, put into bat, rattled up 183 for the loss of eight wickets in their allotted 44 overs. One over was not possible as the Wari bowlers failed to complete their 45-over bowling quota in the allotted time.

Nasim 35, Babu 29, Atiq 24, Neaz 22, and Bellal with 15 runs were the notable Agrani batsmen.

Ripon with three wickets for 28 runs and Zia with two for 24 were the successful Wari bowlers.

Wari, in reply, were bundled out for a poor 94 runs in only 34.2 overs. Rafiq (Sr) 22, Raja 13, and Iftekhar with 10 were the three Wari batsmen to reach double figures.

Sohel with three wickets for 16, Towrit with three for 28 and Masood with two for 22 runs were the successful Agrani Bank bowlers.

Agrani Bank thus recorded their fourth win in eight matches while Wari, in the same number of games, crashed to their third defeat.

Today's match

Nirman Schools XI vs Udaya Club (Mirpur).

Rain curtails first day's play

WELLINGTON, Jan 21: Wellington batted comfortably through to 59 for one wicket in 90 minutes on a rain-affected first day of a four-day match against Sri Lanka today, reports Reuter.

Overnight rain left damp patches alongside the wicket, preventing play starting until late on a cloudy but mild afternoon.

Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga won the toss and sent Wellington in to bat on a fairly green pitch. Opening bowlers Graeme Labrooy and Champaka Ramanayake got plenty of early movement both off the seam and in the air.

Ramanayake was rewarded for some tight early bowling, getting opening batsman Graham Burnett leg before wicket for just two runs in the fourth over when the score was 10.

However, Wellington captain Ervin McSwaney, who promoted himself from the middle order to open the batting, and New Zealand captain Martin Crowe were scarcely bothered in the remaining hour or so before bad light stopped play.

Sri Lanka wasted their early advantage through some wayward bowling. Labrooy and Ramanayake were often guilty of not drawing shots from the batsmen. First change bowler Kapila Wijegunawardene showed plenty of pace, but was wide down both sides of the wicket.

The only chance Crowe offered - a sharp catch to a four-strong slip cordon - was put down.

Day of draws in Delta hockey

Sports Reporter

Both the matches of Delta Life Second Division hockey super league, ended in identical 1-1 draws at the hockey stadium yesterday.

Raktim Sangha drew 1-1 with Farashganj Sporting Club. Faiz Noor Save Farashganj the lead by scoring a field goal in the 16th minute of play while Sujan Equalised for Raktim Sangha in the 35th minute.

In the other match of the day, Barnak Samaj fought to a 1-1 draw against Tejgaon Agragami.

Habibullah scored for Tejgaon in the very fourth minute. Mukkadas got the equaliser for Barnak Four minutes from the final whistle.

There will be no play today and the super league will resume tomorrow with Bangladesh Sporting facing Farashganj in the first match of the day while Shishu Kishore will take on Barnak Samaj in the next.

Askhardighi beat Shatadal

CHITTAGONG, Jan 21: Askhardighi Ekadash beat Shatadal Sanghad by 82 runs in the Chittagong Jila Krira Parishad star youth cricket tournament at the Outer Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Askhardighi batted first and scored 210 for 5 wickets in the stipulated 35 overs. In reply, Shatadal scored a paltry 128 all out in 32.5 overs.

Shahajan of Askardighi was the highest scorer with an unbeaten 72 runs which was studded with 12 boundaries. Tayab and Hasan of Askardighi took 3 wickets each for 14 and 18 runs respectively, while Shuja captured two for 36.

Lendl destroys Krickstein to remove all doubts

MELBOURNE, Jan 21: Defending champion Ivan Lendl reacted to suggestions he was past his best at 30

by destroying American Aaron Krickstein 6-2, 6-2, 6-1 to reach the Australian open quarter-finals today, reports Reuter.

Stefan Edberg, however, looked anything but the best player in the world, struggling into the last eight with a hot and cold 4-6, 6-0, 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 win over another American, 16th seed Jim Courier.

Lendl, the third seed and the oldest player here, was in sensational form, winning 10 of 12 games to take the first set 6-2 against the 13th seed and build a 4-0 lead in the second.

The US-based Czechoslovak moved around the court like a teenager and hardly a false sound came from his racket all evening. Krickstein later backed away from his remark, echoed by others including Mats Wilander, that Lendl was tending to lose to players he once beat.

"Ivan plays his best tennis in Grand Slam events. He was on top of his game tonight. When he gets on top of you, when he's crushing, everything seems to get going for him," he said.

Lendl has reached the quarter-finals in all but one of the last 20 Grand Slam tournaments he has entered. Only four seeds have made the quarter-finals here.

Lendl now plays Jaime Yzaga, ranked 86th in the world, after the Peruvian achieved the best result of his career by beating three times Open champion Wilander 7-5, 2-6, 6-1, 3-6, 6-1.

Edberg had not dropped a set before today. But he was



World number one Steffi Graf, returns with a back hand in her fourth round match with Czech Karina Habsudova at the Australian Tennis Open Jan 20. Graf won in two straight sets, 6-0, 6-1.

often in trouble in his first five-set game at the Open since 1988, losing the first and fourth sets with glaring errors.

Having saved five break points in the sixth game of the match Edberg faced two set points at 4-5. He saved one but served his fourth double fault to lose the set.

The Swede increased the pace in the second set, won it 6-0, broke Courier's serve for a 2-1 lead in the third and took that one 6-4.

But his game went off the boil in the fourth, the set went with serve until the 12th game when Edberg served another double fault to give Courier set

point. Faced with a simple overhead one step from the net, Edberg netted.

The top seed made immediate amends, breaking Courier's serve in the next game to give himself a platform for victory. "No one's above choking and he got a bit tight there," said Courier who was warned for verbal abuse in the fourth set.

Edberg's quarter-final opponent is Yugoslavia's Goran Prpic, who overcame a fever to beat Dutch qualifier Jan Siemerink 7-6, 6-7, 6-0, 7-6.

Prpic, who dropped out of the game for two years after a knee operation, felt shaky early on because of his illness but was helped by a fluctuating performance from Siemerink.

After eight days of predictable progress, the big names in women's tennis face their first real test in Tuesday's quarter-finals. The top six seeds have all made it to the last eight and have lost just one set on the way.

World number one Steffi Graf has yet to lose a single match in three years at the National Tennis Center and is unlikely to break the sequence against Jana Novotna. The Czechoslovak, seeded 10th, has lost all nine previous matches against Graf.

The only unseeded player left is German Anke Huber, one year younger than her 17-year-old opponent Monica Seles, who should win in straight sets.

US Open champion Gabriela Sabatini is expected to have few problems against Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, seeded sixth, who is overweight and suffers in the heat.

The closest match should be between thirdseed Mary Joe Fernandez of the US, last year's losing finalist, and Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria.

Queensland on the rack against England

CARRARA (Australia), Jan 21: England's cricketers were poised for a belated first win in first-class matches on the Australian tour after building a lead of 144 and reducing Queensland to 94 for five in their second innings on Monday.

Robin Smith returned to form with 108 in England's first innings total of 430 and Martin Becknell then took two wickets, including the prize scalp of Graeme Hick, as Queensland slumped to 42 for five.

Smith had struggled to find form and appeared in danger of losing his place for the fourth Test against Australia which starts in Adelaide on Friday.

But his confidence will have been boosted enormously by his first century of the tour.

John Morris, who made an unbeaten 118 on Sunday, added only 14 today before

teenage fast bowler Mike Kasprowicz dismissed him. But Allan Lamb, who missed the second and third Tests because of a leg injury, made a workmanlike 55, adding to the



ROBIN SMITH

string of England batsmen starting to hit the ball confidently.

Queensland's West Indies tour hopefuls Craig McDermott and fellow pacerman Carl Rackemann ended with three wickets apiece, but could get no life from the Carrara pitch.

It was a different story when Queensland batted. Pace bowler Bicknell soon had Steve Monty (2) caught by Jack Russell and Gladstone Small bowled his opening partner Peter Cantrell (8) before Bicknell dismissed Hick for 14.

Zimbabwe-born Hick, who qualifies to play for England in April, hit an attempted square drive shoulder high to Mike Atherton at forward point.

Small and left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell struck further blows before Stuart Law and Australian wicketkeeper Ian Healy steadied the ship with an unbroken partnership of 52.

Barcelona, Inter on course

PARIS, Jan 21: Barcelona and Inter Milan stole a lead on their major rivalry a weekend when Eur-ope's top teams found it difficult to earn league points, reports AFP.

In Spain, leaders Barcelona snatched a 2-1 victory over the traditional enemy Real Madrid thanks to a shock 71st minute own-goal from Real's close-season Red Star Belgrade signing Pedrag Spasic.

But the 100,000 partisan spectators, packed in to the Nou camp stadium, had to sur-

although three minutes later they roared their approval when Laudrup opened the scoring, they were silenced again ten minutes later when Butragueno equalised.

The second-half was a hard-fought affair, but tempers frayed and at one stage play was halted after Real's international striker Michel was pelted with missiles from the terraces after going to take a corner.

Spasic's error, midway through the half, enabled Barcelona to stay four points clear of Atletico Madrid who beat visiting Espanol 4-0. Atletico's scorers were Juanito (15), Manolo (31), Bernd Schuster (65) and Paolo Futre (88).

The see-saw struggle at the top of the Italian League took another turn. Inter Milan, who beat Lecce 5-0, moved two points clear of Juventus when the Turin Club were surprisingly beaten at home by Genoa - a first half goal by Czech World Cup star Thomas Skurhavy halting Juventus' progress.

AC Milan lost ground on the leaders, too. They crashed 2-0 away at Parma, the surprise side of the season who are now level on points with Juventus, and Sampdoria dropped a valuable point at home to Lazio.

Inter's German connection again came up trumps. Andreas Brehme put them ahead in the third minute and European footballer of the year Lothar Matthaus got the next two in the 42nd minute and then in the penalty spot after 46.

Fausto Pizzi made it 4-0 after 58 minutes and as Inter coasted home, Jurgen Klinsmann got his on the score sheet in injury time.

Skurhavy struck after 32 minutes in Turin and then Genoa shut up shop for two valuable points. Parma owed their success to two goals from Alessandro Mellini, in the sixth and 36th minutes, while Sampdoria seemed to have the measure of Lazio after Gianni Vialli's 50th minute opener, only for Uruguayan striker Ruben Sosa to grab a point in the 85th minute with a timely equaliser.

Pisa did their hopes of avoiding the drop no end of good with a 2-0 win over as Roma in the capital's Stadio Olimpico and Tuscan neighbours Fiorentina picked up both points in the 2-0 home win over bottom-of-the-table Cesena.

Bologna eased their relegation worries with a 1-0 win over struggling champions Napoli. Pierluigi Di Gias winner coming in the last minute, but the problems continued to pile up for Cagliari, who slumped 4-1 at Bari, despite going ahead in the second minute.

Atalanta, who began the season brightly, slipped fur-

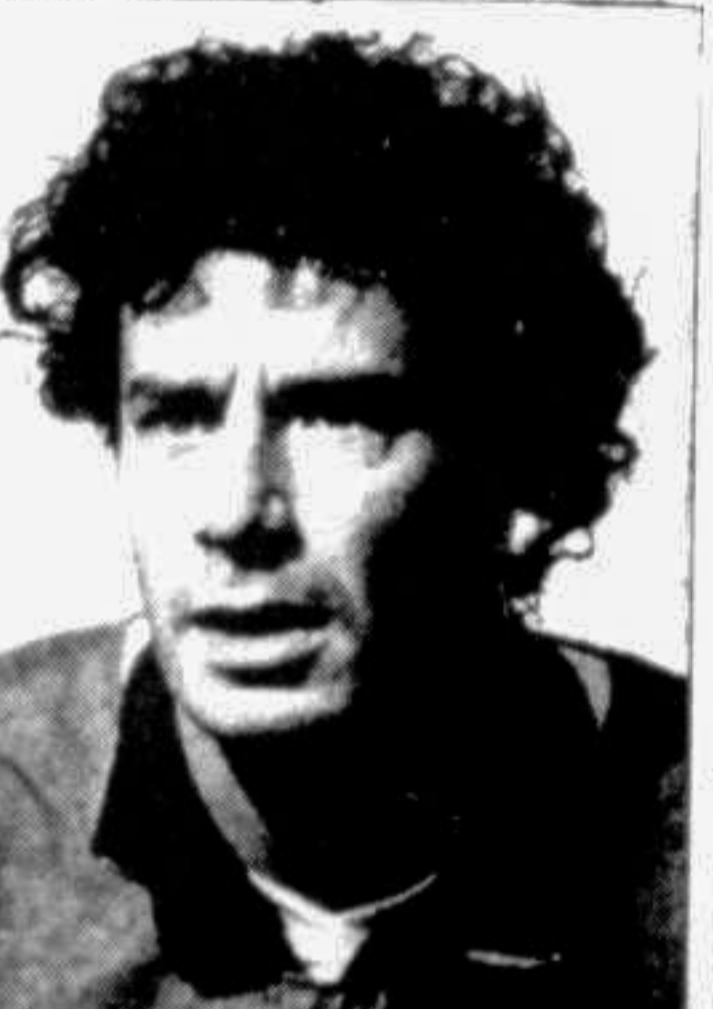
ther towards the danger zone when they went down 1-0 at home to Torino.

In France, pacesetters Marseille crashed to jinx opponents Lille on Sunday, but stayed five points clear because their nearest rivals Monaco and Auxerre also slipped up.

One week after hammering Lyon 7-0, Marseille crashed 1-0 against a side they have not beaten away in nearly two decades.

A Patrice Sauvaget header in the 35th minute, from a move started the title holders fifth defeat of the season.

Monaco were beaten 1-0 at Lyon on Friday and Auxerre



GIANLUCA VIALLI

still looking for a win in 1991 and without the services of the injured Enzo Scifo, went down for the third straight game, also losing 1-0 at home to Paris St. Germain. It was the Paris Side's first away win of the season. Auxerre are six points off the lead.

Fourth placed Montpellier were held 0-0 by St. Etienne and they are now threatened by Lille and Cannes who kept up a good run of recent results with a 1-0 victory at Caen.

Toronto awarded '93 world indoor athletics meet

SAN SEBASTIAN (Spain), Jan 21: Toronto was awarded the 1993 world indoor athletics championships on Sunday ahead of the US city of Atlanta, already chosen to host the 1996 Olympics, reports Reuter.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) announced the Canadian victory after a two-day meeting.

The IAAF council also selected the Italian city of Turin for the 1992 Grand Prix final with London's Wembley chosen for the following year. San Sebastian was invited to host the world marathon cup in 1993 while Athens will stage it in 1995, "in order to honour the approaching centenary of the Olympic games." Athens staged the first Olympics in 1896.

Yzaga shatters Wilander's dream

MELBOURNE, Jan 21: Mats Wilander's dream of a big boost to his comeback hopes and maybe even a fourth Australian Open title was ended Monday by a Peruvian player ranked 86th in the world, reports AP.

Jamie Yzaga rode a big forehand and a slew of Wilander errors into the quarter-finals with a 7-5, 2-6, 6-1, 3-6, 6-1 victory on center court.

Yzaga became the first Peruvian to reach the quarter-finals of a Grand Slam tournament in the open era. Alex Olmeda of Peru won the Australian Open in 1959.

"The way to beat him is to keep the pressure on him, and I didn't do that," Wilander said.

Wilander, the Australian champion in 1983, '84 and '87, is now ranked 47th in the world after a sabbatical from tennis. He had looked good in the early rounds, beating seventh-seeded Brad Gilbert in the third round Saturday, with the old Wilander killer backhand showing its stuff.

With a fairly weak draw and a good record here - he reached the semifinals last year - Wilander was in the hunt for championship No. 4.

But the shots fizzled for the most part against Yzaga, who broke for the first set and took six games in a row for the third set after Wilander had tied the match at a set apiece and broken for 1-0.

Wilander took charge in the fourth set, serving four love games and allowing just one point in the fifth service game. He broke for a 5-3 lead on four Yzaga errors and held at love with an ace for the set. That

was the end of the Swede's service dominance - and his chances of a quarterfinal berth.

Wilander had a 22-10 record in five-sets, with Yzaga 8-7. But the Peruvian went on the attack in the fifth set, forcing Wilander to save four match points for 1-1. That was the last game Wilander won.

Yzaga saved a break point for 2-1, broke and held on forehand errors for 4-1, broke on a backhand passing shot down the line and held at 15 on a backhand cross court winner.

Wilander said the tournament overall had made him happy.

"I'm not particularly satisfied with today," he said, "but overall I'm pretty pleased."

Edberg, Prpic stay on course

Stefan Edberg eluded a mugging by young Jim Courier, a tennis battler with some of the hardest strokes in the game, and Little Mac took over for Big Mac at the Australian Open.

Edberg's No. 1 ranking and



MATS WILANDER

hopes for a third Australian title nearly faded against the deep ground stroke punches of Courier, a chunky 20-year-old American who beat the Swede the first time they played.

Edberg, one of the most graceful players in tennis, deftly slipped away from an attack of bird droppings in the second set, evened the match, then repelled another assault by Courier to win 4-6, 6-0, 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 and reach the quarter-finals.

Yugoslavia's Goran Prpic, No. 56, also reached the quarters by beating Holland's Jan Skiemerink 7-6 (7-3), 6-7 (3-7), 6-0, 7-6 (9-7). It was a gutsy effort by both players, with Prpic overcoming a fever and brace-encased sore knee, and Siemerink a sore shoulder that required massage and treatment by a trainer on changeovers.

Meanwhile, Patrick McEnroe stepped out of John McEnroe's shadow and into the quarter-finals, trying to make a name for himself. He pressed Mark Woodforde with pinpoint baseline shots and returns in a 6-4, 6-2, 6-1 victory that kicked off an uprising of low-ranked players.

Woodforde, a solid Aussie not easily riled, drew a warning for unsportsmanlike conduct when he threw his racket twice in disgust.

ITF may postpone Davis Cup ties

MELBOURNE, Jan 21: Countries due to play Davis Cup ties in February could be given the option of postponing the matches for nearly two months because of safety concerns arising from the Gulf war, a senior tennis official said today, reports Reuter.

Brian Tobin, executive vice-president of the International Tennis Federation (ITF), told Reuters the ITF would decide on Tuesday whether the first round ties in the first week of February should go ahead as planned.

Tobin said it was possible countries worried about their players safety would be given the option of postponing the ties until the original date for the second round, in late March.

But he said the ITF decision was made harder by ignorance of how long the Gulf war would last.

Tobin said he expected US tennis officials to decide later today whether the American team would travel to Mexico for their world group first round tie.

The United States won the 1990 Davis Cup, beating Australia in the final.

Soviets lift Indira Cup

NEW DELHI, Jan 21: Favourites Soviet Union expectedly won the fifth Indira Gandhi men's hockey title Monday and their captain said he looked forward to stiffer contests ahead, reports AFP.

Needing a draw in their last match against the Netherlands under-21 to take home the cup, the formidable Soviets scored once in each half to win 2-0.

Sergei Shatkovsky and Vitali Kholopov scored in a five-minute spell either side of the interval to hand the inexperienced Dutch their fourth defeat in five matches.

Though the seven-nation, round robin tournament ends Tuesday, the Soviets remain the only unbeaten team, topping the table with 11 points. No other team, including defending champions India, can hope to match them.

South Korea have finished the meet with eight points, and India, with seven points, have one match to go.

The Soviets, who finished fifth in the Champions Trophy in Melbourne in November, were delighted to take the title in the first major hockey meet of 1991.

"It is a good omen to start the new year with a win, but the real challenge has yet to come," said team captain Vladimir Antakov, referring to the upcoming European Championships in Paris next June.

"We don't do well there, we will not be sure of taking part in the Barcelona Olympics in 1992," Antakov said.

Under the new International Hockey Federation (IHF) ruling, only the five continental champions will get a direct entry to the Games along with holders Britain, hosts Spain and World Cup winners the Netherlands.

The rest will have to finish among the top four in the qualifying rounds to be played in Auckland, New Zealand, in November.

The impressive Soviet campaign left hosts India to battle it out for the runners up spot.

The Indians, who routed minnows Poland 5-0 in another match Monday, will have to defeat the Dutch in their last match Tuesday to oust South Korea from the second place.

Skipper Jagbir Singh slammed a hat-trick while Shakeel Ahmed and defender Jagdev Singh scored one goal each as the hosts outplayed Poland in a one-sided contest.

In the day's third match, Belgium and Kenya were locked 3-3 after an enthralling 70-minute encounter in which Kenyan Sam Maina recorded another hat-trick. Maina opened the scoring in the 10th minute but Bel-

gium equalised through Phillipine Hemelen just before half-time.

Maina put his team ahead again four minutes into the second session after Belgium Marc Courdon's penalty stroke was panned away by Kenyan goalkeeper Rahim Osman.

Courdon, however, made amends by scoring Belgium's second equaliser in the 43rd minute.

Danny Van Der Gracht put the Belgians ahead for the first time in the match when he scooped in a pass from brother Eric in the 55th minute.

But the versatile Maina saved the day for Kenya by striking his third goal four minutes later.

Belgium, another contender for the European title, finished with six points from as many matches.

The Kenyans, the likely African representatives at Barcelona, have four points with a match against Poland in hand.