

GMCC recover to 232

Sports Reporter

The Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) weathered some early shocks to recover to 232 all out off the last ball of their 75-over quota in the Navana Premier Division cricket league match against Brothers Union which started at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

By day's end Brothers, in reply, had made 25 for the loss of opener Zahed Razzak Masoom's wicket after 12 overs of batting.

Put in to bat, GMCC started most disastrously, losing their first two wickets without a run on the board. Left-arm pacesman Golam Nowsher Prince justified his skipper Atahar Ali Khan's decision to insert the opposition by striking two crucial blows in his opening over. With his second ball he removed opener Liton, caught by Shovon for nought, and then

clean bowled Sri Lanka all-rounder Rodrigo off the sixth delivery to have the GMCC camp in a quandary.

However, local Gopibagh lad Tutul who made 27, and Selim, 10, took the score along to 41 before another wicket fell. GMCC's other Sri Lanka all-rounder Duminda, played a fighting knock of 43, while former Bangladesh national skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu returned to action scoring 23 to steady the GMCC boat. Although Shabbir, 32, wicket keeper Nasu, 13, Zakir, 26, and Sanwar, 19 not out, all made useful scores the GMCC total reached its final proportions thanks mainly to a healthy bonus of 38 extras. The Brothers bowlers, despite their relative success on the day, sent down an incredible number of 17 wicks and two no-balls, which meant an extra three overs for GMCC.

Prince was naturally the pick of the Brothers bowlers,

taking three for 43 runs, while spinner Shamsul got two for 24, Fernando one for 42, Arup Bhattacharya one for 33, Salahuddin one for 30 and Masoom one for 24.

Masoom, who's had an indifferent form with the bat so far this season; was the first Brothers wicket to fall, caught by Duminda off Zakir for 13 when the score was 18. Since then, Shovon and Farooq, both batting on four each, had taken the score along to 25 by draw of stumps.

When play resumes this morning, Brothers, who have won two of their three previous matches—losing to Biman despite that huge score will be looking to get the remaining 208 runs for their third win to sustain their title challenge.

GMCC have lost two of their three matches today, the other being washed out against Lalmatia. That match will be replayed.

Vital victory for Wanderers

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Wanderers club recorded an important three wickets victory over Nirman Schools XI in the relegation play-off match of the Milnars First Division cricket league yesterday at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Wanderers now have eight points from ten matches while Nirman remain at six points also from ten matches.

The other two teams all fighting to avoid relegation are Sadharan Bima who have gathered ten points from the same number of encounters while Amarjyoti Club are in dire strait with four points also from ten outings.

Nirman Schools, asked to bat first, were shot out for a paltry 103 runs in 29.1 overs. Arif, 19, Biddut (jr) 18, Nadim 10, and Afzal with 10 runs were the Nirman batsmen to reach double figures.

Joydev was the wrecker-in

chief with five wickets for 19 runs.

Wanderers, in reply, crawled to 107 for the loss of seven wicket, in 36.1 overs. Ismail 16 not out, Joydev 13, Kaisar 13, Talyub 11 and Chapal with 10 runs were the able wanderers batsmen. Afzal

with three wickets for 15 runs, Talha with two wickets for 10, and Arif with two for 33 were the successful Nirman bowlers.

TODAY'S MATCH
Udity vs Young Pegasus (Mirpur)



Shamima of Bangladesh Ansars won the women's singles title in the Econo table tennis tourney which ended yesterday. —Star photo

England beat Kiwis

CHRISTCHURCH, Feb 9: England won a thrilling see-saw one-day match against New Zealand at Lancaster Park today by a meagre 14 runs, reports Reuter.

England scored 230 for seven in their 50 overs after winning the toss, and New Zealand needed just 20 off the last three overs to win.

But pacesman Martin Bicknell removed both Ken Rutherford (77) and Chris Harris (56) in the 49th over on the tallenders left New Zealand stranded at 216 for eight wickets.

"They looked in a good position and looked as if they might win. But we turned it in one over," a relieved England captain Graham Gooch told a news conference.



KEN RUTHERFORD

Gooch and England have been under pressure, having just lost the Ashes 3-0 and failing to make the World Series one-day finals in Australia.

Each side appeared twice to have the game won.

New Zealand, receiving assistance from a lively pitch, had England in early trouble with David Gower, Gooch and Mike Atherton all bowled cheaply.

Willie Watson was particularly testing, bowling his 10 overs for 15 runs and Atherton's wicket.

But Robin Smith and Allan Lamb punished the second string bowlers, turning the game with 83 runs in 56 minutes, before Lamb was needlessly run out off a no-ball for 61.

New Zealand was off to a flying start with John Wright smashing 27 off Bicknell's first three overs, but Bicknell responded by having captain Martin Crowe caught and bowled for 13.

After losing Wright (27), New Zealand quickly reached the 80s but lost three wickets for eight runs to be in deep trouble at 90 for five.

Harris then joined Rutherford and with bold hitting and sharp running turned the game back New Zealand's way.

Smith found further support from Alec Stewart and the pair put on 63 in 11 overs to place England in a good position.

Smith batted wonderfully before he was caught by Andrew Jones off Chris Pringle for 65 including six fours and a six.

In 20 overs the pair added 122 for the sixth wicket, a record against England, beating by one Jeremy Concy and Sir Richard Hadlee's partnership set in Adelaide in 1982/83.

However, when the game appeared to be won, Bicknell, whose 10 overs cost 55 runs, had Rutherford caught from a tired shot for 77, and Harris for a personal best of 56.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard for the first of three one-day matches between England and New Zealand at Lancaster Park today:

England
Gooch b Pringle 17
Gower b Petrie 4
Atherton b Watson 0
Lamb run out 61
Smith c Jones b Pringle 65
Stewart c Wright b Pringle 40
Russell c substitute (Latham) b Petrie 10
DeFretas not out 10
Petrie not out 0
Extras (lb-8 w-12 nb-3) 23
Total for seven wickets (50 overs) 230

Did not bat: A. Fraser, E. Hemmings

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-9, 3-46, 4-129, 5-192, 6-217, 7-220.

Bowling

O	M	R	W
Petrie	10	0	5
Watson	10	2	15
Pringle	10	0	54
Larsen	10	0	47
Harris	8	0	46
Rutherford	2	0	9

New Zealand
Crowe c and b Bicknell 13
Wright c Smith b DeFretas 27
Jones run out 17
Rutherford c Gooch b Bicknell 77
Greatbatch c Russell b Hemmings 0
Smith run out 4
Harris c Russell b Bicknell 56
Larsen not out 1
Petrie c Gower b Fraser 0
Pringle not out 21
Extras (w5,lb14, nb2) 0
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs) 216

Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-50, 3-82, 4-86, 5-90, 6-212, 7-213, 8-215.

Bowling

O	M	R	W
Fraser	10	0	28
Bicknell	10	2	55
DeFretas	10	2	36
Gooch	10	0	31
Hemmings	10	0	50

Result-England won by 14 runs

Man of the match: Ken Rutherford.

Lankans struggle to crack Central Districts batting

NELSON, New Zealand Feb 9: Sri Lanka struggled to crack some resilient Central Districts batting on the first day of a four day New Zealand tour match on Saturday, reports Reuter.

took command early after Briasco won the toss and elected to bat in sunny conditions.

Asanka Gurusinha made the first breakthrough with his fifth ball when John Smith was caught at short forward leg for 12 with the score on 28.

delivered, hitting eight fours, and the pair put on 92 before Briasco was out lbw to off-spinner Jayananda Warnawera.

Blain fell to Kapila Wijegunawardena, and districts slumped to 143 for five. Duff and Rodney Brown then forged a 56-run partnership which was eventually broken when Ranjith Madurusinghe held a sizzling return catch from Brown.

b Ramanayake 9
Smith c Hathurusinghe c Gurusinha 12
Douglas c Kaluwittharana b Gurusinha 5
Briasco lbw Warnawera 41
Blain c Maduru-singhe b Wijegunawardena 57
Duff not out 62
Brown c and b Madurusinghe 24
Leonard not out 11
Extras (B-4 LB-4 NB-2) 28
Total for six wickets 249

Fine innings from captain Scott Briasco, who scored 41, Tony Blain (57) and Stu Duff (62 not out) kept the home side in the game against the tight Sri Lankan bowling, which had threatened to run through the batting.

Duff and Dave Leonard produced an unbeaten 50-run partnership to see Districts through to 249 for six at the close.

The visitors, who used seven bowlers during the day,

Fellow-opener Ronnie Hart followed in the next over when Champaka Ramanayake had him caught behind for nine.

Only 11 more runs were added before Gurusinha struck again, clipping the bottom of Mark Douglas, but as the left-hander tried to withdraw, Wicket keeper Rumesh Kaluwittharana held the catch.

Blain and Briasco fought back after lunch. Briasco collected his 41 in ones and twos. Blain was more severe on loose

Scoreboard on the first day of the four-day cricket match between Central Districts and Sri Lanka on Saturday:

Central Districts
Hart c Kaluwittharana

To bat: M. Pawson, P. Lowes, P. Gibbs.

Bowling:

O	M	R	W
Ramanayake	20	2	67
Wijegunawardena	17	0	59
Gurusinha	2	3	23
Madurusinghe	16	2	35
Warnawera	21	8	42
Aravinda De Silva	5	1	8
Jayasurya	2	0	7

Gandaria, City win in Div II

Gandaria Cricketers and City Club posted wins in their respective Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket league matches yesterday at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium and Dhanmondi Club ground respectively.

Gandaria cricketers scored a comfortable six wickets victory over Young Pegasus 'B' while City Club registered an exciting three-run victory over Cantonian Sporting Club.

Hosts' hopes dashed

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 9: Australia's Admira Wacker scored a late goal to dash hosts Malaysia's chances of clinching a semi final berth in Group A of the Merdeka soccer tournament here Friday, reports AFP.

for a draw, playing possession football and creating few scoring chances.

The game came alive after Subadron Aziz scored following a goalmouth melee in the 70th minute and then made it three when he latched on to a nicely through ball from Jayakanthan in the 86th minute.

The Malaysians were leading 3-1 with only three minutes remaining but Johannes Abalrerer pulled one back for Australia a minute later to enable China to reach the last four on bitter goal average.

China who overcame Indonesia 3-1 in an earlier match, had to sit out the Malaysia-Australia match to see if they would be joining Australia in the semifinals.

The Malaysians, who reorganised their side after a draw and a loss to Indonesia in their earlier matches, scored a surprising goal in the third minute.

Suddenly finding themselves two down, the Austrians finally started playing the sort of attacking football that had seen them through their earlier ties.

Ernst Ogris raced through the middle and pulled away two defenders before laying the ball off for Abalrerer who unleashed a stinging shot past keeper Omar Salim.

In another match, China had problems coping with the speedy Indonesian wingers and were soon one down following a 12th minute goal by Ricky Yaob.

Midfielder S Balachandran came in on the blind side to nod home a cross which gave keeper Wolfgang Knaller no chance.

But the Australians replied swiftly, equalising within three minutes when Alois Dozi struck home a low shot through a sea of defenders.

The Australians, who fielded several reserve players, seemed content to settle

NSC reception

The National Sports Council will accord a reception in honour of the national sports award winners from 1976 to 1981, February 17 at 4: 30 pm, reports ISS.

Presidential Adviser for Youth and Sports, Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Alamgir M. A. Kabir will be the chief guest on the occasion.

Swadhin Bangla booters' torch relay Feb 18

The members of the Swadhin Bangla football team the booters who took part in a series of exhibition and fund-raising matches during the country's Liberation War and played a significant role in boosting the morale of our valiant freedom fighters will run a torch relay on February 18, as a mark of their solidarity with the present democratic movement in the country.

A press release issued in Dhaka, yesterday, said the members of the team, including players and officials, will run with the Torch of democracy and World Peace from Mujibnagar, the wartime capital of the provisional government in Mchherpur, Kushtia and finish at the Dhaka National Stadium. The relay, in which members will run the different legs, starts at dawn on Monday, Feb 18 and end at six the same evening.

Richardson, Waqar top rankings

LONDON, Feb 9: West Indies stokermaker Richie Richardson will enter the forthcoming Caribbean series with Australia at the head of the world batting rankings, reports AFP.

He has dislodged Pakistan opener Shoaib Mohammed, who is just four points ahead of England skipper Graham Gooch.

The bowling list is still headed by Pakistan pacesman Waqar Younus, with West Indies quick men Malcolm Marshall and Ian Bishop just behind him.

Australian scamer Bruce Reid rockets back into the top four after his superb comeback series after injury against England.

Leading ratings

Batsmen: 1. Richie Richardson (W.Indies) 800, 2. Shoaib Mohammed (Pakistan) 773, 3. Graham Gooch (England) 769, 4. Martin Crowe (New Zealand) 746, 5. Imran Khan (Pakistan) 740, 6. Des Haynes (W.Indies) and Salim Malik (Pakistan) 739, 8. Allan Border (Australia) 734, 9. Mohammed Asharudin (India) 710, 10. Robin Smith (England) 696.

Bowling: 1. Waqar Younus (Pakistan) 852, 2. Malcolm Marshall (W.Indies) 831, 3. Ian Bishop (W.Indies) 828, 4. Bruce Reid (Australia) 787, 5. Imran (Pakistan) 761, 6. Wasim Akram (Pakistan) 747, 7. Curtly Ambrose (W.Indies) 724, 8. Angus Fraser (England) 718, 9. Terry Alderman (Australia) 690, 10. Merv Hughes (Australia) 681.

Angels, Vega easy winners

Sports Reporter

League leaders Angels Club and second-placed Vega Sports took their title chase a step closer to fruition by winning their respective partex First Division basketball matches at the wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday afternoon.

In the first match of the day, Angels Club, who have won all their ten matches, downing Five Stars Club 72-54 points in a crucial encounter.

The winners led 37-20 at the breather. Bhulu topscored for Angels with 25, while James netted 16 points. For Five Stars, Talibur scored 21 and Lincoln 16 points.

In the day's second game, Vega Sports, who are just two points behind Angels, defeated Dhumketa Club 63-50 after leading 26-18 at halftime.

Asghar netted 15 points and Nadim 14 for Vega while Titas scored 27 and Jabbar 10 for Dhumketa.

Gallant Morceli misses mark

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey, Feb 9: Noureddine Morceli, the sensational 20-year-old Algerian, fell just short in a gallant bid to break the world indoor mile record Friday night in the Meadowslands Invitational, reports AP.

Morceli, in only his fifth indoor race, was given the impetus he needed by US Air Force Lt. Mike Michno of Peace Air Force Base in New Hampshire, who paced him through the first half-mile in 1 minute, 54.8 seconds.

But after Michno dropped out with just over four laps remaining in the 10-lap race, Morceli was left to race against the clock. He was out front and unchallenged.

He failed to better Eamonn Coghlan's record of 3:49.78, set in this meet in 1983. Morceli's time of 3:50.81 was the third-fastest ever run indoors and made him the No. 2 performer all time. Only Coghlan's record run and the Irishman's cloaking of 3:50.60 at San Diego in 1981 are better than Morceli's performance.

Morceli had said that if he got a 1: 54 half-mile from a pacesetter, he could break the

world record.

The little-known and untested Michno, who is preparing to go to Saudi Arabia for the Gulf war, was confident he could provide Morceli with that swift pace. He did his job, and after leaving the track mile record Friday night in the Meadowslands Invitational, reports AP.

"If I had someone to push me at the end, I could have had the record, but I'm not disappointed, Morceli said.

"The first half of the race was fine. That was not the problem."

Ireland Marcus O'sullivan, the two-time world indoor champion at 1,500 meters finished a distant second Friday night in 3:56.75.

Romania's Doina Melinte,

who smashed the world indoor record in the women's mile and collected a 100,000-dollar bonus in last year's Meadowslands Invitational, failed to better that performance, but again won easily.

Melinte, who ran 4:17.14 a year ago, settled for 4:28.11 this time.

Her attempt to break the record again appeared to be foiled early, when Brit Lind-Peterson of Canada, the designated rabbit, was bumped at the start and again shortly thereafter, and was unable to bring Melinte to her requested 2:08 for the half-mile.

After that, Melinte was on her own, as the rest of the field trailed badly. Another Romanian, Margareta Keszeg,

finished a distant second in 4:31.79.

Istvan Bagyula of Hungary and George Mason University set a national collegiate record in winning the pole vault at 19 feet, one-quarter inch.

American Hollis Conway, ranked No.1 in the world in the high jump, beat Cuba's Javier Sotomayor, the world record-holder, for the third straight time within a week.

Conway, the American indoor and outdoor record-holder, cleared 7-7 3/4, with Sotomayor second at 7-6 1/2.

Andre Cason, having established himself as the best indoor sprinter this season, rolled to his fourth straight victory, taking the 55-meter

BAF cricket

Sports Reporter

BAF base Bashar beat BAF base Matjur Rahman by 21 runs in the Bangladesh Air Force inter-base cricket championship which began at the BAF Sports Complex, Dhaka Cantonment, yesterday.

Batting first, base Bashar piled up 123 in their stipulated 30 overs. Base Matjur Rahman replied with 102 all out.

Flying officer Abid and Wing Commander Mahub of base Bashar scored 39 and 18 respectively. Wing Commander Islam got three wickets for 34 runs.

Pilot Officer Rafiq of Matjur Rahman base scored 16. Sgt Ldr Shah of Bashar got three wickets conceding 29 runs.

Base commander of Bashar Group Capt Rasheed Ahmed inaugurated the championship.

Rochi again denies Kochi

Sports Reporter

Mussadequul Hasan Rochi of Bangladesh Biman added another title to the one he won hardly a week ago in the Mariners TT by clinching the men's singles crown in the inaugural Econo Pen table tennis tournament which concluded at the National coaching Centre yesterday.

In a keenly-fought final be-

fore a fair-sized crowd, the balding Rochi once again denied his arch-rival and teammate former national champion Nasimul Hassan Kochi 22-20, 21-17 and 21-19.

Shamima of Bangladesh Ansars lifted the women's singles title beating teammate Zulekha by three sets to two in another exciting match.

Zulekha had clinched the Mariners title last week.

Bangladesh Ansars, who claimed the boys' team title, had another winner yesterday in Hamlet who took the singles crown beating teammate Selim by three sets to one.

The veterans title went to Hafiz who outplayed former national number one Akbar by the odd set in three.

Abul Hasnat Mufazzal Karim, Managing Director Bangladesh Biman witnessed the men's singles final and gave away the trophies as chief guest. The five-day tourney was organised by the Bangladesh Table Tennis Players' Association with sponsorship of the GQ Ball Pen Industries.

The winners and runners-up also received each prizes.



The winners of the Econo table tennis tournament pose with chief guest A H Mufazzal Karim, Managing Director, Biman and other officials at the National Coaching Centre yesterday. —Star photo

Hatkhola badminton on

Sports Reporter

The fourth Hatkhola Sporting Club open badminton tournament got underway at the Hatkhola Road playground Friday last with president of the club SM Akbar Ali inaugurating the eight-day meet.

Forty-four participants are competing in the three events of the meet.