

Sport

Bulbul lifts Mohammedan spirits

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club, despite missing the services of star batsman and skipper Min-haruz Abedin Nannu and all rounder Azhar Hossain Shantoo, did remarkably well to post a total of 263 on the first day of their two-day Victory Day cricket tournament final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Although some time was still left after the fall of the last Mohammedan wicket, the innings lingered just a little too long to deprive the spectators of the sight of the first few overs of the Abahani innings.

Waheedul Ghani, the stand-in Mohammedan skipper, would have certainly liked to have a go at the Abahani opening pair of Zahid Razzak Masum and Raman Lamba, with his new ball bowlers Jahangir Talukdar Dulu and Gamagee in full tilt.

But the tournament by-laws came in the way and all the expectations of late afternoon fire works had to be shelved for the next day.

Perhaps Abahani could have batted yesterday, and some die-hard Mohammedan supporters decided to skip the second and final day's proceedings had Aminul Islam Bulbul, the little ebony-coloured batsman not come up with a brilliant knock.

Waheedul Ghani retained his loss winning luck when he beat his counterpart Frooque in the spin of the coin and

opted for batting. Jahangir Alam and makeshift opener Didar walked out to lay the foundation of the Mohammedan innings but left-arm medium-pace Morshed sent Didar back in the eighth over of the day, clean bowling the opener for nirl.



BULBUL...responsible knock

Wicket-keeper Ratan joined Jahangir to steady the boat on for 24.

part-time bowler Khaled Mahmood Sujon dismissed

Ratan and the stage was ready for a big innings from in-form Rafiq Alam.

Rafiq announced his intention with three sparkling fours in one over from Morshed.

But perhaps the tempo was too high to sustain in a seventy-five over a side match and the batsman gave in to his own impetuosity.

Golan Nawsher Prince, back in the attack for his second spell from the Paltan end, found the edge as Rafiq hung his bat outside the off stump. Rafiq made a bright 23 with four hits to the fence.

Bulbul, Mohammedan's main hope to realise a fighting total, joined Jahangir at the crease.

But Jahangir switched on from Prince behind into the safe gloves of Pappu, and Golan Foruk Suru, running rather gingerly to Bulbul's call, was beaten by a direct throw by Masum from short backward point. Mohammedans were then 125 for 5 in the 41st over.

Waheedul Ghani promoted himself ahead of Gamagee to bear a hand to Bulbul who was batting fluently at the other end.

Waheed, with his unorthodox ways, scored a very useful 27 before perishing to Morshed.

Gamagee, the tall Sri Lankan, the teamed with Bulbul and the pair put on an invaluable 68 runs for the seventh wicket.

Gamagee fell to Asoka De Silva for a sensible 31.

Meanwhile Bulbul continued the battle with deft placements and clever manipulation of the strike.

Using his favourite sweep and paddle shot with great effect Bulbul scored 82 off 118 balls before top edging an intended sweep against off-spinner Effe, to signal the end of the Mohammedan innings.

Prince bowled well for his two for 37. His postlunch spell helped Abahani to wreat the initiative which Rafiq was threatening to snatch away.

Morshed with two for 45 and Ashoka De Silva with two for 36 shared the spoils.

The match resumes at 9.15 this morning.

SCOREBOARD

Mohammedan SC				
Jahangir c Pappu b Prince	47			
Didar b Morshed	9			
Ratan c Masum b Sujon	7			
Rafiq c Pappu b Prince	83			
Bulbul c Akram b Effe	23			
Suru run out	6			
Waheed c Farouque	27			
b Morshed	31			
Gamagee c Pappu b De Silva	27			
Dulu lbw De Silva	3			
Ilyas run out	1			
Mithu not out	0			
Extras	20			
Total (in 72.4 overs)	263			
Fall of wickets: 1/24; 2/50; 3/104; 4/107; 5/125; 6/163; 7/231; 8/239; 9/242; 10/263.				
Bowling: O M R W				
Prince	12	2	37	2
Morshed	15	0	45	2
Sujon	5	0	25	1
Scim	8	0	46	0
Masum	5	0	21	0
De Silva	14	3	36	2
Effe	13.4	1	44	1



Mohammedan Sporting's stand-in skipper Waheedul Ghani flicks Abahani paceman Prince towards leg on the first day of their two-day Victory Day cricket final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

V-Day hockey

Sports Reporter

Mariner Youngs Club edged past Sonali Bank 1-0 in the only match of the 1991 Victory Day Shah Sports Hockey Cup tournament yesterday at the Dhaka Hockey Stadium.

Jamil Parvez Lulu scored the all-important goal in the 49th minute of play from a penalty stroke.

The green card was shown to Lulu, Kanchan and Apu of Mariners and Shaftique, the goalkeeper of Sonali Bank.

Mariner Youngs Club will now meet Bangladesh Army on December 24 to decide the finalists of Group-D.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Abahani KC vs Victoria SC (1:45 pm)
Ajax SC vs Azad SC (3:15 pm)

Ctg karate

CHITTAGONG, Dec 20: Bakola Ekadosh became champions in the Chittagong District karate competition securing seven gold, one silver and one bronze medals at the CJKP Gymnasium here this evening, reports ISS.

Ishlahar Lucky Club became the runners-up with one gold, one silver and two bronze medals.

Bangladesh squad off to Colombo

A 196-member Bangladesh contingent left Dhaka yesterday for Colombo to participate in the fifth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games beginning there on December 22, reports ISS.

Bangladesh will compete in all the ten disciplines of the 10-day games. The disciplines are: athletics, basketball, boxing, football, shooting, swimming, table tennis, tennis, volleyball and weightlifting.

The Bangladesh team, led by Major (ret'd) Qamrul Islam,

MP, will return home on January 2.

Sadek Hossain, State Minister for Youth and Sports, saw the team off at the Zia International Airport.

PMS GREETINGS

Meanwhile, another BSS report late last night said Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia also flew to Colombo for Saturday's sixth SAARC summit by the same plane yesterday, gave the SAF Games-bound athletes and officials a

big morale boost by wishing them success at the Games.

Immediately after the plane's take-off from the Zia airport Begum Zia went to the economy section of the airport and walked down the aisles, talking to the contingent members individually and exchanging greetings with them.

BTV TELECAST

Bangladesh Television will telecast live the opening ceremony of the Games from Colombo starting at 8:15 on Sunday, Dec 22 morning.

Indians set to claim lion's share

COLOMBO, Dec 20: India are expected to take the major honours at the fifth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, which opens in Colombo on Sunday, but they face a challenge from old rivals Pakistan, reports Reuter.

More than 900 competitors from seven countries - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka - will vie for honours in 10 disciplines. Competition in athletics, soccer, swimming, basketball,

volleyball, weightlifting, boxing, table tennis, rifle shooting and tennis matches will be held over 10 days at six venues.

The Games will be opened by Sri Lankan president Ranasinghe Premadasa at a display of folk culture, dance and gymnastics by hundreds of school children.

Some of the heads of state who will be in Colombo for a summit meeting on Saturday of South Asian countries may also attend the opening.

Random drug tests of the athletes will be carried out during the meeting, according

to the head of the Games' medical team Dr C Thuraiaraja. "We will test the participants at random and urine samples will be sent to Japan for testing. We expect the results within 48 hours," he said.

Wherever necessary a gender verification test will be carried out to ensure that males do not compete in women's events, officials added.

India led the field with 61 gold, 43 silver and 20 bronze medals at the last SAF Games in Islamabad in 1989. Its nearest rival was Pakistan with 42 golds, 33 silvers and 22 bronzes.

Rain the spoiler

HOBART, Australia, Dec 20: Constant rain caused the abandonment Friday of the opening day of a cricket match between the West Indies and an Australian XI at Belkiver Oval, reports AP.

The four-day match was scheduled to help West Indies stay in tune during a three-week break in the triangular one-day World Series Cup competition that also involves Australia and India.

Richie Richardson's team is at the bottom of the World Series table with one point from a tie and three losses and is in danger of missing the finals.

The one-day competition will resume after the second and third test matches between Australia and India starting in Melbourne on Dec 26 and Sydney on Jan 2.

Graf to play in Pan-Pacific Open

TOKYO, Dec 20: Steffi Graf of Germany will head a strong field to include seven of the world's top 10 players when she takes part in the 350,000 dollar Pan Pacific Open women's tennis tournament starting here on January 28, reports AFP.

The current Wimbledon champion, aiming to regain the number one ranking, will have to face threats from defending champion Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, Martina Navratilova of the United States and Federation Cup heroine Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain.

The competition also includes Jennifer Capriati of the United States, ranked sixth, Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia, seventh, and Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland, 10th.

A total of 28 leading players will compete in the six-day tournament, vying for top prize money of 70,000 dollars.

Bad light at Gujranwala

GUJRANWALA, Pakistan, Dec 20: Opener Rameez Raja scored an unbeaten 51 as Pakistan reached 109 for two in their first innings before bad light cut short the first day of the second cricket Test against Sri Lanka on Friday, reports Reuter.

The day ended 72 minutes before schedule with Javed Miandad not out 20 at the other end.

Only 36 overs out of the day's quota of 82 were bowled and 178 minutes' play were lost to bad light.

The start of play after Sri Lanka had asked Pakistan to bat first was delayed by 50 minutes and only 44 minutes' play was possible before lunch.

During that period Pakistan scored 23 for the loss of opener Shoaib Mohammad who was caught, for one by Hashan Tillekeratne at the wicket off paceman Rumesh

Ratnayake from the 14th ball of the match.

The conditions brightened after the interval and play continued for the full 90 minutes of the post-lunch session during which Pakistan added 72 runs for the loss of Zahid Fazal who was also caught at the wicket off Pramodaya Wickremasinghe after making 21 in 93 minutes' stay at the wicket.

Zahid and Rameez Raja added 56 runs for the second wicket.

After the departure of Zahid, Javed Miandad and Rameez Raja added 50 runs for the third wicket before bad light ended the day's play.

Miandad played fine cricket after a shaky start and faced 47 balls, hitting two to the boundary. Rameez Raja has hit six fours in 140 minutes at the crease.

An earlier report said, Sri Lankan captain Aravinda De Silva put the home team into bat after winning the toss, play starting 30 minutes

late due to cloudy weather.

Rumesh Ramanayake soon drew first blood when he had Pakistani opener Shoaib Mohammad caught by wicket keeper Hashan Tillekeratne for one.

Only 10 overs had been bowled when thick clouds stopped play, the teams returning to the pavilion for an early lunch.

The other opener Rameez Raja was on five and Zahid Fazal on 10.

The first Test at Sialkot, which was also affected by bad light, ended in a draw on Tuesday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the second cricket Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka on Friday.

PAKISTAN: First innings: Rameez Raja got out 51
Shoaib Mohammad c Tillekeratne b Ratnayake 1
Zahid Fazal c Tillekeratne b Wickremasinghe 21
Javed Miandad not out 20
Extras: (lb-10 nb-6) 16
Total: (for two wickets) 109
Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-59.

To bat: Salim Malik, Imran Khan, Moiz Khan, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Aaqib Javed, Salim Jaffer.

Bowling (to date): O M R W
Ratnayake 13 3 39 1
Ramanayake 10 3 16 0 (40)
Wickremasinghe 7 2 27 1 (20)
Hathurusinghe 2 1 5 0
Anurasiri 1 0 2 0
Gurusinha 2 0 9 0
Ranathunga 1 1 0 0

SRI LANKA - Roshan Mahanama, Chandika Hathurusinghe, Asanka Gurusinha, Aravinda De Silva, Arjuna Ranatunga, Sanath Jayasuriya, Hashan Tillekeratne, Chamapaka Ramanayake, Don Anurasiri, Rumesh Ratnayake, Pramodaya Wickremasinghe.

Umpires: Khizer Hayat and Ather Zaidi.

Agrani beat Eskaton

Sports Reporter

Agrani Bank outplayed newly-promoted Eskaton Sabuj Sangha by 34 runs in the Milners First Divisions cricket league match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Sent in to bat first Agrani Bank, with a generous aid of extras, totalled 171 for the loss of seven wickets.

Into played 80 balls to score a patient 31 that did not contain a single hit to the fence.

Attque with 27 and Chapal with 20 towed their side to a safe total of 171.

Khosru was the most suc-

cessful Eskaton bowler with two for 26.

Aminul with two for 39 backed him up well.

In reply, Eskaton, after getting off to a good start, let the initiative fizzle out by some inept batting.

Sohel was the highest scorer for Eskaton with 26. Siddut and Mona were the other notable scorers with 23 and 21 respectively.

Chapal claimed three wickets for 23 runs to pave the path for a Bank win.

Kolloi with two for 21 and Attque with two for 24 supported him well.

1991: Diego's disgrace made it a depressing year

PARIS, Dec 20: The fall from grace of Diego Maradona, in a sorry end to one of the most illustrious playing careers of the century, marked 1991 as a depressing year for football, reports AFP.

Maradona, 31 and already in disgrace for failing a drugs test while playing for Napoli in Italy, was arrested back home in Buenos Aires at the end of April after being found in possession of cocaine.

Bailed for 20,000 dollars, Maradona then underwent a course of detoxification treatment designed to help him kick the expensive cocaine habit which has wrecked his chances of footballing immortality.

For even many of his staunchest fans will probably prefer to remember the court cases rather than the man who seemed to defy gravity and won the World Cup for Argentina almost on his own in 1986.

Already banned until the end of July 1992, he is unlikely to be able to pick up the threads of his career in Italy, where he has a 14-month suspended sentence for trafficking in cocaine hanging over him.

So his last chance could be in the United States, or like England's Gary Lineker, in Japan where the lure of the yen might provide him with one last payday.

But in Naples, they will not forget so easily how he transformed a mediocre side into league champions for the first time in 1987 and again in 1990, with the bonus of the UEFA Cup thrown in 1989.

However, time moves on and already, the Napoli faithful have switched their allegiance to the young man who resembles him and has replaced him in the team's number 10 shirt this season with deadly effect - Sardinian playmaker Gianfranco Zola.

Maradona was not the only

international celebrity to court trouble in 1991.

The World all but fell apart for England's Paul Gascoigne, having seen it ready to fall at his feet after his tearful television triumph in the 1990 World Cup finals.

Often depicted as more sinned against than sinning, Gascoigne chose precisely the



Maradona...in disgrace

wrong occasion to go over the top - quite literally - in the English FA Cup final.

Tottenham were already resigned to losing their leading asset to Lazio in Italy for a staggering five million pounds, and the showcase at Wembley was to be his swansong for the club.

But he lasted only a quarter-of-an-hour as two wildly over-zealous and unnecessary lungees at Garry Parker and Garry Charles ended his participation, leaving him crippled with ligament damage.

He has had time enough already on the sidelines to rule his actions, having undergone two operations, the painful price he has paid for a couple of moments of immaturity.

The transfer, which was to save his club financially and secure his passport to untold riches in the hardest league in

the world is still on hold. Gascoigne hopes to be back in action in March but will have to satisfy the Italians that he can pass a stringent medical in May before they agree to part with their millions.

As if that were not enough, he ended up in court on an assault charge after attacking a drunk who knocked his sister



Lineker...lured by yen

to the ground in a Newcastle Street. From the dock he poured his heart out, bemoaning the pressures of stardom and saying he had seriously thought of quitting in order to lead a 'normal' life.

'Normal' is not a word which comes immediately to mind when French striker Eric Cantona's name is mentioned.

A disciplinary hearing banned him for a month for flinging the ball at a referee in protest at a decision. Cantona said something untoward, a little too audibly, and they made it two months. That was too much for the Frenchman who then announced his retirement ripped up his contract with Nimes and ended his career in disgrace.

For Cantona's former club Marseille, the world came to an end in Bari - and a second

time in Prague.

In Bari, they outplayed defensive-minded Red Star Belgrade in the European Cup final, but the cynical Yugoslavs admitted they had been playing for a 0-0 draw and then to win the penalty shoot-out which is exactly what they did to the disbelief of most of Europe.

Manchester United crowned English clubs' return to Europe by winning the Cup Winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup remained in Italian hands for the third year running with Inter Milan beating AS Roma in the final.

On the international front, three new names emerged on to the scene for the World Cup qualifiers, the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, all of them former members who never resigned before being absorbed by the now disintegrated Soviet Union.

Italy were dealt another blow with their failure to qualify for the European Championships in Sweden next year, and even lost to little Norway in the process.

That was enough for manager Azeglio Vicini to get the push and former AC Milan boss Arrigo Sacchi to take his place.

However, the Italians could still travel to the finals should either the Soviet Union or Yugoslavia pull out due to domestic difficulties, as they have been named along with Denmark as reserves - even though Italian captain Franco Barresi is on record as saying that they shouldn't be allowed in through the back door.

And there was a taste of things to come for the 1994 World Cup when the draw for the qualifiers took place in New York.

For all the perfect timing and show business Razzamatazz, local interest was minimal - American football and basketball still holding sway over American affections.

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Or at least, it should be after the American side won the inaugural women's World Cup in Guangzhou, China - nine of the side coming from the University of North Carolina.

IOC for raising standards

MILAN, Dec 20: International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch

Samaranch said tougher qualifying standards will be used after the Barcelona Games to improve events jeopardized by an overflow of competitors, reports AP.

In an interview with Italian sports daily Gazzetta Dello Sport of Milan, Samaranch said all nations "legitimately established and recognized" will be accepted into the IOC.

However, he said he saw a threat in the spreading number of new members and stressed that "after Barcelona, all countries will have the right to parade a flag in the Olympics, but many will not have the right to compete if they have not reached acceptable technical levels. We will set tougher standards.....It's the end of Olympic tourism. It's an unavoidable decision."

The Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania recently gained independence from the Soviet Union, which may split further. Likewise, Yugoslavia may disintegrate with the republics of Slovenia and Croatia seeking independence.

Samaranch also said that IOC will put aside protocol and red tape to allow the entry of a unique Soviet team in the winter Olympics at Albertville, France, in February.

Regarding the Summer Games in Barcelona, Spain, Samaranch said a meeting with representatives of the 12 Soviet republics is scheduled in Lausanne, Switzerland, in March to discuss a joint participation.

"We will ask those representatives to develop a plan to have a unique team in the Olympics. I don't know which flag they could use and how the team will be called. This will be discussed later on,"

Bakhrabad meet
COMILLA, Dec 20: The annual sports of the Bakhrabad Gas System was held today at the Comilla Stadium, reports BSS.

A total of 196 participants from different districts and divisions took part in the competition.

Shahidul Islam won the individual championship among the male participants while Mrs Sanjeeda Akhter was the individual champion among the ladies. The Administration Division team emerged group champions.