

Sport

Waheed sends Tarun on a spin

Sports Reporter

Controlled spin bowling, especially by leg spinner Waheedul Ghani who picked up six wickets for 41 runs, gave title contenders Mohammedan Sporting their third straight win in the Navana Premier Division cricket league.

On the second day of their two-day match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday, Mohammedans dismissed Surj Tarun for 198 in 63.5 overs to win by the comfortable margin of 73 runs.

On Friday Mohammedans had made 271 all out in 72.4 overs.

Tarun, who resumed on 61 for one in 18 overs, needing another 211 runs in the remaining 57 of their stipulated 75 overs, lost an early wicket when Rupam left after adding just one more run to his overnight 25 to make it 65 for two. Then Hadi, who made 39, and Aruna De Silva added 37 for the third wicket before



WAHEEDUL GHANI

Hadi departed. By then the Tarun challenge started to fall behind the clock and the Mohammedan spinners had found their line and length.

Waheedul Ghani got back among the wickets by troubling almost all the Tarun batsmen while skipper Mianzul Abedin Nanno, who picked up two wickets for 35, and off-spinner Selim Shahed the batting hero in the Mohammedan innings with 108 also did his bit by picking up

one for 15.

The substantive partnerships that Tarun needed to pose a credible threat in search of their first victory in three outings prove quite tame about with only Shehab and Zulkarnain offering some resistance by making 44 and 21 respectively. Sri Lankan Aruna De Silva managed only 20 while Arif, Suphi, Saad, and Shafat all made early exits.

In the Mohammedan innings Friday, besides Selim Shahed's 108, Nanno and Ratan made 36 each while Shafat took three wickets for 51. Moshed two for 26 and Saad two for 41.

Yesterday, Mohammedans' Sri Lankan paceman Gamage, who picked up ten wickets in his team's first two games, went wicketless with the spinners holding sway.

Mohammedans are now placed jointly at the top of the eight team league table, along with reigning champions Abahani Krira Chakra and Bangladesh Biman, with six points from three matches.

Ajax, Victoria win in Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Two matches of the Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket league were decided yesterday at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Ajax Sports Club notched up a big six-wicket win over Three Stars Sporting Club on the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

On the western strip, Victoria Sporting Club registered a narrow nine-runs victory over Friends Union.

Three star, batting first, were restricted to 124 for the loss of seven wickets in their allowed 35 overs.

Alam was the leading Three Stars batsman with an unbeaten 45. On with 16 was the only other notable scorer.

Shawkat with three wickets for 16 and Liton with two for 15 runs were the successful Ajax bowlers.

In reply, Ajax S C cruised to victory, scoring 126 for the loss of four wickets in only 26.3 overs.

Hip lob (Sr) 39, Rupam 35, Alumgir 24 and Dodul 14 with 13 not out helped Ajax to their four-wicket win.

In the other match, Victoria SC, electing to bat, were bowled out for 155 runs in 31.3 overs. Noor Mohammad top scored with 48. Liton and Milton claimed three wickets each for Friends Union.

In reply, Friends' Union managed only 146 for the loss of nine wickets in 35 overs.

Star youth cricket

CHITTAGONG, Feb 2 : Ashkhar Dighi Ekadosh beat Bathua Cricket Club by six wickets in the CJKI Star youth cricket tournament at the Outer Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Bathua batted first and were all out for 64 runs in 20.5 overs. Saiful was the only bathua batsman to reach double figures by scoring 17.

In reply, Ashkhar Dighi scored 65 for the loss of four wickets in 10.5 overs.

Hero of Ashkhar Dighi scored 23. Khaleq of Bathua took three wickets for 32 runs.

Bad loss for Bima

Sports Reporter

Shadharan Bima, who badly needed to win yesterday's Milans First Division cricket league match to make the four team super league, managed instead to go down by eight runs to wooden-spoonists Amaryjoti at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

The result means Bima, who now have only ten points from their nine matches, yesterday managed only 143 in 28.5 overs in reply to Amaryjoti's 151 for seven in 30 overs in a curtailed match.

Amaryjoti owed their score to a fine unbeaten 50 off 57 balls by Milan who hit five fours and two sixes. Munna who made 27 and Asad 26, Robin and Nakib took three wickets each for 30 and 36 runs respectively.

Nakib was the highest scorer for Bima with 43, Robi made 19, Shahin 15, and Riton 13 but these weren't enough to take them past their target.

Saiful, Partha and Masud picked up two Bima wickets, each giving away 13, 29 and 29 runs respectively.

Seles takes first step towards Olympics

LONDON, Feb 2 : Monica Seles, who has changed her mind about playing in the Olympics, has taken the first step to Barcelona by allowing Yugoslavia to enter her for this year's Federation Cup, reports AFP.

The 17-year-old Yugoslav, who has spent the last 10 years in Florida, decided after going to watch the World Swimming championships in Perth before winning the Australian Open she would like to take part in the Olympics.

One of the qualifying conditions for the Olympic tennis tournament is that players should be on good terms with their national federations.

By playing in the Federation Cup, the women's version of the Davis Cup, at Nottingham on July 21-28, Seles fulfills that requirement.

The Yugoslavs could do with her help. In last year's event in Atlanta, Georgia, they lost in the preliminary round to Indonesia.

World number one Steffi Graf leads the German team at



MONICA SELES

Nottingham where the American trio of Jennifer Capriati, Zina Garrison and Mary-Joe Fernandez, who won last year's trophy, are also expected.

Eighteen of the world's top 20 have entered.

Liverpool look to Speedie

MANCHESTER, Feb 2 : Liverpool, who responded to a mini-crisis by spending two million pounds on three players, hope latest capture David Speedie will bring a quick return on their investment at Manchester United on Sunday, reports AFP.

Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish wants the fiery Scot to inject fresh passion into the champions' bid to retain their title.

"As a professional you always set your sights very high and you can't get higher than Liverpool," said Speedie who cost £75,000 pounds from Coventry.

"I've waited a long time for this and I've got to make the most of it," he added.

But United manager Alex Ferguson doubts the 30-year-old Scot can make an immediate impact.

"It doesn't matter whether



he plays or not," Ferguson said. "Anyone making their debut in a United-Liverpool game would find it hard going and so will he. Considering it will be his first match he'll do well to get through it."

Ferguson is convinced United, 11 points behind

Liverpool, can still mount a surprise challenge.

He is encouraged by just one defeat in 22 games and Mark Hughes' 11 goals in 11 games.

We've been happy to sit just on the fringe of things but if we win on Sunday people are going to say we have a chance of sneaking up on the leaders, and that would get the whole pot boiling.

"We're all in contention if we keep winning. But no-one's playing better than we are at the moment."

Mike Phelan faces a late test for United after bruising his ribs last weekend in the FA Cup win against Bolton. Lee Martin is on standby while Danny Wallace will be on the substitutes' bench after a 10-game absence.

Liverpool could be set for a major reshuffle. Glenn Hysen is available after suspension and Ray Houghton, who has missed five games with thigh trouble, is back in the squad.

Gary Gillespie, who missed the midweek FA Cup replay win at Brighton, will have a late check on his calf injury.

KENNY DALGLISH

He plays or not," Ferguson said. "Anyone making their debut in a United-Liverpool game would find it hard going and so will he. Considering it will be his first match he'll do well to get through it."

Ferguson is convinced United, 11 points behind

Saddam - a gentleman and a fanatic, too

MEXICO CITY, Feb 2 : Saddam Hussein is a gentleman with a sense of humour but he is also a "fanatic" who will not accept defeat in the Gulf war, a Brazilian soccer coach who said he knew the Iraqi leader was quoted as saying on Friday.

"I ate with him or dined with him every week, that's why I say I know him well and know his temperament", Roberto Vieira, who helped Iraq's national team qualify for the 1986 World Cup soccer championship in Mexico, told the Mexico City Daily La Jornada.

"He's a fanatic just like millions of other Iraqis and I can assure you that he'll never accept defeat in the Persian Gulf conflict," Vieira told the newspaper in an interview published on Friday.

"When he starts something he doesn't turn back, there can be no turning back", Vieira, who coaches a local team in Puebla, Mexico, was quoted as saying.

"I have a very good memory of him," Vieira added. "He's a good man, a gentleman who is fond of joking."

Volleyball finals today

Sports Reporter

The final matches of the First and Second Division volleyball leagues will be held today at the volleyball stadium.

Bangladesh Rifles and Titus Club will clash in the First Division final, starting at 4 pm.

Jibon Bima and East End Club will meet in the Second Division final at 2.30 PM.

NSC chairman Major General Mahabubur Rahman will witness the match as chief guest.

TT finals today

Sports Reporter

The final matches of the First and Second Division volleyball leagues will be held today at the volleyball stadium.

Bangladesh Rifles and Titus Club will clash in the First Division final, starting at 4 pm.

Jibon Bima and East End Club will meet in the Second Division final at 2.30 PM.

NSC chairman Major General Mahabubur Rahman will witness the match as chief guest.

TT finals today

Sports Reporter

Hamlet of Bangladesh Ansars and Aminul of Victoria SC will meet in today's boys' singles final in the fifth Mariners table tennis tournament at the National Coaching Centre.

On the concluding day today the girls' singles final will also be held between Zulchka and Buechi of Bangladesh Ansars.

In yesterday's boys' singles semifinal, Hamlet beat Tammy by 3-1 sets, while Aminul defeated Shaon, also by 3-1 sets.

Buechi won against Shamima by 3-1 sets in one of the girls' singles semi final while Zulchka overcame Rinu in straight 3-0 sets in the other semifinal.

The men's singles are also scheduled for today.

National Sports Council Chairman Major General Mahabubur Rahman will give away the prizes among the winners.

Nissan tennis results

Sports Reporter

Twenty-five matches were decided on the third day of the fourth Nissan Cup tennis championships yesterday.

Eight boys' under-12 singles and a similar number of under-16 encounters were played out at the National Tennis Complex, Ramma.

Nine men's doubles first round matches were also decided yesterday at the Gulshan Club.

Zaker and Squib beat Ijaz and Manju 6-1, 6-4, Jalal and partner beat Rabbit and Joy 6

7-5, 6-2 while Dr. Rashid and Musa beat Salukhuddin and Emanem 6-3, 6-0.

In today's men's singles matches at the Gulshan Club, starting at 2.30 pm, Peter Zanuys plays Byzid Rashid, Chun Lal meets national junior champion Shubbul, Sami Razak plays Najmul, Sandru

Salam faces Abdulla, top seed Shovon Jamaly takes on John Summers, Mehram Islam plays Maroof Rahman, Czechoslovak tennis coach Karen Maley plays national junior number two Dilip while Hira Lal takes on

7-5, 6-2 while Dr. Rashid and Musa beat Salukhuddin and Emanem 6-3, 6-0.

Sabatini, who clinched her first-ever Grand Slam title when she beat her archrival Graf in the US Open final in 1989, got off to a flying 5-0 start and seemed set for an easy win when she led 40-love in the next game.

But the Dominican-born American fought back, saving five break points in the game and rallying to trail 3-5, charging the net to put pressure on Sabatini.

The Argentine, however, served out for the set and went on to score the only break in the fifth game of the second.

Although she squandered two match points as the 19-year-old American retaliated with a hard smash and a backhand winner, Sabatini

"I'm better than I was be-

cause I'm better than I was be-

Lankans pile up mammoth total

WELLINGTON, Feb 2 : New Zealand battled towards overhauling a 323-run first innings deficit against Sri Lanka on the third day of the first Test today, reports Reuters.

But despite reaching 91 for no wicket at the close, the New Zealanders face having to bat out the remaining two days to save the match, after a record-breaking batting performance by Sri Lanka.

The visitors 497 for nine declared - the highest Test innings by Sri Lanka - was spearheaded by a brilliant 267 by tiny right-handed Aravinda De Silva who dispatched an often inaccurate New Zealand attack to all corners of the Basin Reserve ground.

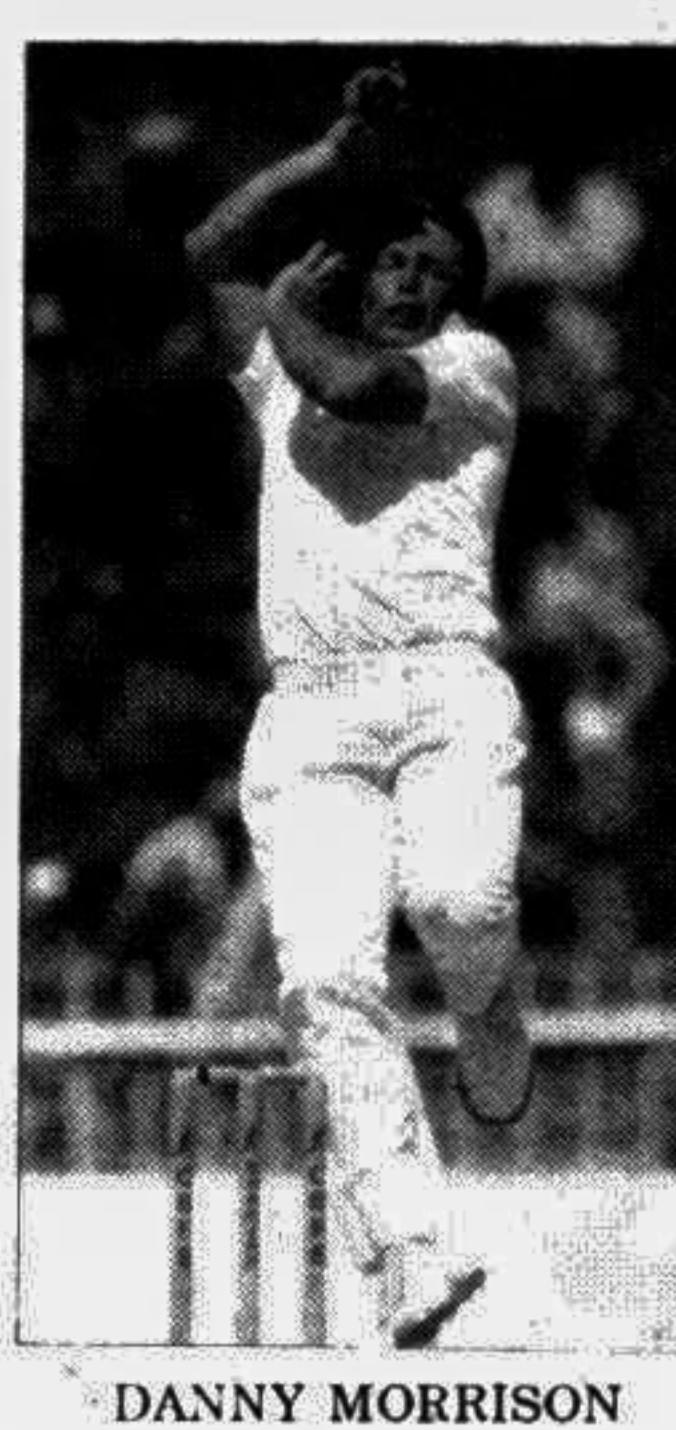
De Silva batted for 509 minutes and faced 380 balls, hitting 40 fours in a world-class innings.

It was the biggest individual Test score by a Sri Lankan, and it allowed Sri Lanka to surpass their previous highest team score in a test of 491 against England at Lord's in 1984.

De Silva began the day on 203 and with captain Arjuna Ranatunga on 52 not out, he was aiming to guide Sri Lanka to a total well in excess of 500.

The grassy, slow-paced pitch provided moderate assistance to seam bowlers after rain.

New Zealand who had toiled throughout the second day to claim just one wicket and concede more than 300 runs,



DANNY MORRISON

soon had success on the third day.

Ranatunga was out in the second over of the morning for 55, stepping back on to his off stump while playing a short