

Eskaton crush Pegasus

Sports Reporter

Eskaton Sabuj Sangha outclassed Young Pegasus by 82 runs in yesterday's Minara First Division cricket league encounter at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

It was a pathetic show by a team that once boasted of national cricketers like Mujibul Haq Montu, Golam Nawsher Prince, Abul Khair Mohan, Golam Faruq Chowdhury Suru and Nazrul Kader Lintu.

For the newly promoted Eskaton Sabuj Sangha it was a big day. Their opening bowler Aminur produced a match-winning performance with the ball after their batsmen presented them with a somewhat unsafe total of 167.

Although Eskaton suffered an early loss following the departure of opener Biddut, Opi, the other opener, along with one drop Mona, batted resolutely to put their side on the right course.

Mona's gritty innings of 44 included one hit to the fence. But the later batsmen could not build on the good work done by the upper order batsmen.

After Mona and Opi, the latter who got a patient 26, only Babul showed any desire to hang around with a well made 27.

The rest came and went

and the team from Eskaton lost all their wickets for 167 runs from 44.4 overs in the 45-over-a-side match.

Liton bowled well for Pegasus to capture two for 15 from nine overs.

Mahmud's two wickets cost him thirty-six runs.

Young-Pegasus, in their turn, were shot out for a paltry 85.

Only two batsmen reached the double figures, Mahmud, perhaps frustrated by the ceaseless funeral procession of the upper order batsmen, opened his shoulders to good effect to match up an unbeaten 27 that included three fours and one six.

Sohel was the other notable scorer with 16.

Pegasus owe their 85 to the sloppy Eskaton fielding.

But the fielding, which left a lot to be desired, could not desist Aminur from bagging five wickets at a nominal cost of 22 runs.

And the team that in the past gave headaches to our cricketers were sent packing in only 26.1 overs.

There are no matches scheduled for today and tomorrow because of the Victory Day.

SCOREBOARD

Eskaton Sabuj Opi b Atiq 26

Biddut run out	4
Mona c Shahinur b Pappu	44(4x1)
Babul b Liton	27
Sohel st Shabbir b Mahmud	8
Khosru b Mahmud	0
Adil run out	3
Bulbul c Kafi b Liton	14
Zahid run out	8
Faruque not out	3
Aminur b Kafi	2
Extras	28
Total (all out)	167

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Majed	6	0	24	0
Kafi	8.4	1	30	1
Atiq	6	0	22	1
Liton	9	2	15	2
Biplob	3	0	17	0
Mahmud	9	0	36	2
Pappu	3	0	16	1

Young Pegasus				
Shahinur c Khosru b Aminur	7			
Pappu b Faruque	6			
Sohel st Shabbir b Opi	16			
Shabbir c Zahid b Faruque	5			
Biplob b Opi	0			
Asam lbw Opi	1			
Liton c Soheli b Aminur	0			
Mahmud not out	27			
Kafi c Adil b Aminur	2			
Atiq b Aminur	2			
Majed b Aminur	0			
Extras	21			
Total (all out)	85			

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Zahid	4	0	17	0
Aminur	7.1	1	22	5
Opi	7	1	14	3
Rarouque	5	1	9	2
Babul	2	0	2	0
Khasru	1	0	19	0

Two more reach Suhrawardy Cup final round

Sports Reporter

Two zonal finals of the eighth Suhrawardy Cup national under-19 football championship were held yesterday.

At Kurigram, Nilphamari DSA edged past Lalmonirhat 1-0.

The first half of the match was goalless. Abdul Hossain scored the all-important goal to clinch the zonal championship for Nilphamari in the 10th minute of the second half.

Seven teams took part in the Kurigram zone.

At Jhenaidah, Jhenaidah DSA beat Jessore DSA 4-3 in the tie-breakers and moved into the final round of the tournament.

The match ended goalless in the stipulated time.

Eight teams competed for the Jhenaidah zonal championship.

Meanwhile, the last of the eighth zonal finals will be held this afternoon at the Netrokona Stadium between the hosts and Kishoreganj DSA.

The final round of the eighth Suhrawardy Cup national youth championship will start from December 25 in Naogaon.

The eight zonal champions, the champions of the seventh Suhrawardy Cup and the hosts Naogaon will compete for this year's trophy.

Gazza given go-ahead

LONDON, Dec 14: English World Cup soccer star Paul Gascoigne has been given the go-ahead to step up his training after a specialist gave his damaged knee the all-clear, reports Reuter.

Tottenham's Gascoigne is now on course to meet his target of playing again by March and looks certain to be in action before Lazio's May 31 deadline when he must prove his total recovery for a 5.8 million pound (10.45 million dollars) move to Italy.

"He saw a specialist yesterday and the fracture to the knee-cap has completely healed," said Tottenham manager Peter Shreeves.

"Paul is a lad who needs a target, and being back in action next March is now a real possibility." "Obviously I'm pleased and I am aiming for next March," Gascoigne said.

V-Day kabaddi

Sports Reporter

Two matches of the Victory Day kabaddi tournament, under the auspices of the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation, were decided at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court yesterday.

Bangladesh Police outplayed Bangladesh Fire Service by 14 points to 13.

The winners led the first half 8-4.

In the other match of the day, Bangladesh Rifles got the better of Bangladesh Ansars 11-10.

The winners led the first half 6-5.

These four teams are taking in a league.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Bangladesh Rifles vs Bangladesh Police (3 pm)
Bangladesh Ansars vs Bangladesh Fire Service (4 pm)

V-Day cycling now Dec 25

Sports Reporter

The 100 km open cycling competition to commemorate the Victory Day, earlier scheduled to start at 6.30 on December 16 from the Shishu Park gate, will now get underway from the same place at the same time on December 25 instead due to 'unavoidable circumstances'.

The junior open cycling competition will start at 2.15 pm on the same day, says a BCF press release.

Lankans restrict Pakistan

SIALKOT, Dec 14: Pakistan were in sight of a first innings lead after scoring 243 for four in reply to Sri Lanka's 270 all out on the third day of the first Test here Saturday, reports AFP.

But although Pakistan still have six wickets in hand, their chances of gaining a big margin appear slim if the tourists can maintain their impressive level of fielding and bowling displayed so far.

Opener Rameez Raja narrowly missed his third Test century after being dismissed for 98, while star batsman Javed Miandad, whose fitness had been questioned, suffered a shock dismissal.

Miandad, who missed two games against West Indies last month because of back trouble, fell for just one to Don Anurasiri, caught by Sanath Jayasuriya at silly point off a pad and bat rebound.

Sri Lanka's new Test cap Pramodaya Wickremasinghe picked up his first Test wicket when he sent back opener Shoaib Mohammad before the lunch interval when Pakistan

during the 1985-86 series.

The two had started the day at 72 for nought.

Rameez fell to left arm spinner Don Anurasiri, edging a catch to wicketkeeper Hashan Tillekeratne before tea.

Sri Lanka's Rumesh Ratnayake claimed the third wicket by catching Zahid Fazal at 36 off his own delivery when Pakistan were on 232.

A run later, Anurasiri had Javed Miandad caught to give the tourists a delightful breakthrough.

At close, Salim Malik and skipper Imran Khan were at the crease on 36 and five respectively.

Good, sunny conditions prevailed for most of the day, enjoyed by a larger crowd than the first two days because of the local holiday declared for the match in this border city famous for its sporting goods industry.

Bad light forced the teams

to return to the pavilion 14 minutes before play was scheduled to end.

The match resumes Monday after Sunday's rest day.

An earlier AFP report said: Pakistan were 141 for one at lunch on the third day of the first Test at the Jinnah Stadium here.

Pakistan, added 69 in the two hours before lunch with Sri Lanka containing the run rate with good fielding and accurate bowling.

Rameez Raja completed his 11th Test half century scored in 114 minutes off 108 balls and was only 19 runs short of a hundred at lunch.

Zahid Fazal, who joined him at the fall of the first Pakistan wicket about five minutes before the interval, was yet to open his account.

ON previous days, bad light did not allow the teams to play the full 82 overs fixed for each day under ICC rules.

Protest against Carr

KARACHI, Dec 14: A group of young cricketers occupied a cricket pitch here yesterday in protest against the appointment of former England captain Donald Carr as adjudicator for the ongoing series between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, reports AFP.

The 25 demonstrators disrupted a domestic game between Multan and Karachi XI by squatting on the pitch for 20 minutes before withdrawing peacefully.

"Carr go back, you damaged cricket enough and insulted Pakistani umpire Idress Baig during an MCC tour in 1956."

Carr is in Pakistan as International Cricket Council adjudicator to settle umpiring disputes during the Sri Lanka-Pakistan Test series.

His appointment has proved controversial in Pakistan because he and some of his teammates allegedly assaulted Pakistani Test umpire Idress Baig during an MCC tour in

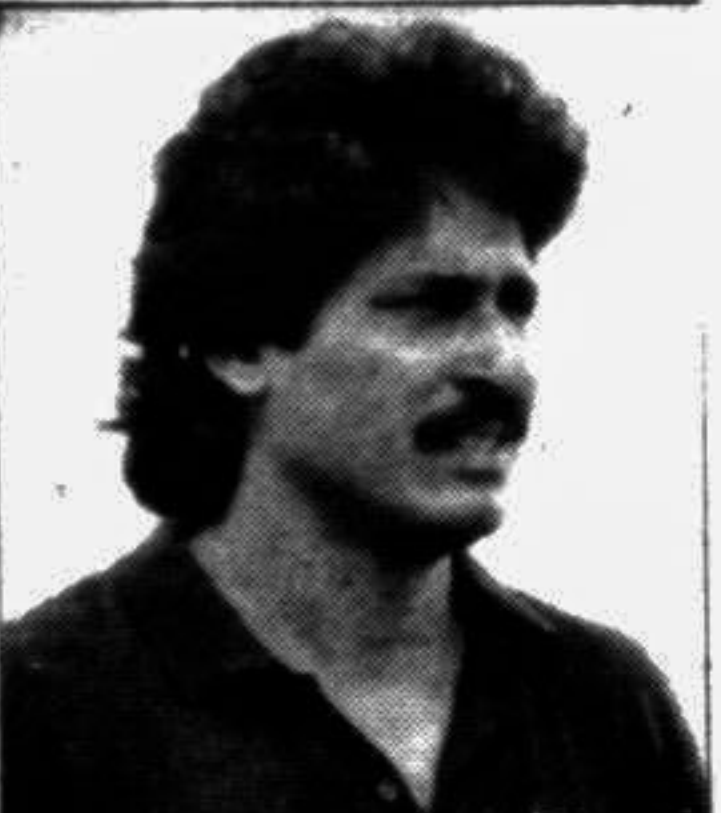
1956.

Carr denied the allegations before an English disciplinary committee.

Secretary of Pakistan's cricket board Shahid Rafi said, "We should not object to an

incident which happened 35 years ago."

The demonstrators, who belonged to various local clubs, also demanded the reinstatement of sacked national selector Salahuddin Ahmed.



RAMEEZ RAJA...98

were on 128.

Shoaib had made 43, sharing with Rameez Raja in a record opening stand for Pakistan against Sri Lanka of 128, beating the previous record of 98 scored at Karachi

Cantona decides to quit

LONDON, Dec 14: French international Eric Cantona said on Thursday he had decided to quit soccer, a day after being banned for two months for throwing the ball at the referee during a league match, reports Reuter.

"I have decided to end my professional career," Cantona told journalists without elaborating.

The volatile striker, who has had frequent brushes with officialdom during his career, swore at a French League disciplinary commission on Wednesday.

Cantona was appearing after being sent off for throwing the ball at the referee during a match between Nimes and St Etienne on Saturday.

The commission decided to ban Cantona for four matches but made it two months after he hurled abuse at them.

Cantona had already been suspended several times in his incident-ridden career.

In September 1988 he swore at national team manager Henri Michel and was left out of the French side for 10 months. A year later he punched Montpellier team mate Jean-Claude Lemoult after a league match.

"Things much worse than that happen in the league," Nimes president Michel Mezy said of the latest incident. "If it hadn't been Cantona there wouldn't be such a fuss about it."

Mezy said he would appeal against the ruling.

Chinese pair in Grand Prix semis

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 14: China's world champion Zhao Jianhua and compatriot Wu Wenka overcome their Malaysian opponents and a partisan home crowd on Friday to win their group matches and sweep into the semifinals of the world Grand Prix badminton championship, reports Reuter.

Zhao, who took the World Championship title last year in Copenhagen, stunned Poo Kok Keong with a string of delicate drops and crosscourt drives to win 15-13, 15-10.



The priestess Maria Pambouki lights the torch of the Olympic flame in Olympia, Greece on Dec 13, for the 16th Winter Olympic Games to be held in Albertville, France in early 1992.

Albertville sparks to life

OLYMPIA, Greece, Dec 14: Next February's Winter Games in Albertville sparked into life when Greek actress Maria Pambouki held aloft the Olympic flame here yesterday, reports AFP.

The flame, lit in a ceremony using ancient Greek stage props, will be taken in a miner's lamp aboard Concorde to Paris on Saturday on the first stage of its relay to Albertville.

"I now feel the Games have well and truly started," said Albertville Games Organising Committee co-chairman Jean-Claude Killy.

Paris mayor Jacques Chirac, who lost out to Barcelona for the 1992 Summer Games, has laid on a 16 million franc (three million dollar) show on the champs- Elysees Avenue on Saturday.

Then 5,500 volunteers will each run a kilometre through every French department before the flame is carried to Albertville for the February 8 opening ceremony.

Reception to Swadhin Bangla booters

Sports Reporter

The Swadhin Bangla football team comprising Bengali booters who had crossed over to India during the independence war in 1971 and played a series of matches to raise funds for the nine-month long liberation struggle, will be accorded a reception in Chittagong tomorrow by the 'Muktijuddher Bijo Mela Parishad'.

Tarver Masha Tanna and Zakaria Pintoo, the manager and the captain of the side respectively, have requested all the players and the officials of Swadhin Bangla football team to be present at the main entrance of Kamalapur Railway Station at 10 pm tonight, says a 'Muktijuddher Bijo Mela Parishad' press release.

The team will leave for Chittagong by the Turna-Nishtha Express.

A friendly match, featuring the veterans of the 1971 side, has also been arranged on the occasion of Victory Day.

PM opens Pioneer league today

Sports Reporter

Sadeque Hossain, State Minister for Youth and Sports, will attend the occasion as a special guest.

Meanwhile, Janata Bank Limited in the official sponsor of this year's Pioneer league football.

Ninety teams, split into five zones, each zone consisting of 18 teams, will take part in the competition. The zonal teams will again be sub-divided in two groups.

Ten teams — top two from each of the five zones — will play in the final round. The league champion and runners-up teams will earn promotion to the Third Division league.

Out of the total budget of Tk 3,60,000 for the league, the

sponsors Janata Bank have already provided three lakh taka. DMFA has also received one lakh taka from the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

The National Sports Council (NSC) has also donated one lakh taka and would give another lakh in due course, it was learnt.

These and other details were disclosed at a press conference at the BFF office yesterday evening.

BFF president M. Siddiqueur Rahman, DMFA president M. Azizul Hoque and DMFA secretary Kazi Mishu spoke on the occasion.

BFF secretary Harun-ur-Rashid also attended.

Gunner Thomas joins Liverpool

LONDON, Dec 14: Arsenal midfielder Michael Thomas trained with Liverpool on Friday before finalising a 1.5 million pound (2.70 million dollars) transfer which signals the departure of one of the club's longest-serving players, reports Reuter.

Thomas 24, has agreed a three-year contract which is expected to allow unsettled England midfielder, Steve McMahon to sign for First Division rivals Manchester city this weekend.

Thomas, how ironically scored the last-minute goal which gave Arsenal the First Division title at Liverpool's expense in May 1989, was met at Manchester Airport by manager Graeme Souness on Friday.

"I really believe that with Liverpool I can make enough of an impact to force my way back into the England set-up," said Thomas, who last started

a first-team game in October.

The anticipated departure of McMahon for 850,000 pounds (1.53 million dollars) is the latest example of changing times at Liverpool who play Nottingham Forest in a demanding home fixture at Anfield on Saturday.

Souness is hoping his team's success in Europe so far this season will filter through to their league form which has been distinctly patchy.

Forest, by comparison, rattled three goals past champions Arsenal last Sunday and will offer a stern test.

Southampton's two million pound (3.6 million dollars) rated winger Matthew Le Tissier is facing the axe for his side's visit to West Ham.

Sains manager Ian Branfoot disapproves of Le Tissier's on-field chatter at referees and said: "There is no automatic place for anyone. Matthew will just have to work his way back."

Leaders leads, at home to

Tottenham on Saturday, draft in 36-year-old defender John McClelland in place of the suspended Chris Fairclough as the chase their seventh straight home league win.

Manager Howard Wilkinson is keen his side should not be distracted by their three vital league and Cup games against Manchester United in the new year.

"I will be surprised and disappointed if they are thinking any further than spurs tomorrow, Nottingham Forest on Sunday week and Southampton on boxing day.

"It is important to concentrate on those games before we start thinking about United."

Their chief rivals, one point behind, are away at Chelsea on Sunday and are more optimistic about the fitness of former England captain Bryan Robson.

Robson was initially ruled out with a calf strain but manager Alex Ferguson has now decided to wait until nearer kick-off and see if the injury improves sufficiently.

Former president of the Jatiya Press Club Gias Kamal Chowdhury and industrialist Mosharraf Hossain were present on the occasion as special guests while the society president Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury presided.

Nabi Chowdhury, who has gone on retirement recently from the police service as Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, has been made manager of the Bangladesh football team to the fifth SAF Games, slated for December 22-31 in Colombo.

The Vice Chancellor was speaking at a reception, organised by a social welfare organisation — 'Manab Kalyan Society — Bangladesh' in honour of Nabi Chowdhury.

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The report, according to Bhuyan, is 'highly motivated, false and fabricated.'

The report under the heading 'Organisational activities of Abahani Kirta Chakra must be stepped up' accused coach Salahuddin and some players of drug addiction. This type of 'imaginary, fictitious reporting in the name of love for Abahani is deleterious to the image of the club,' said a Abahani Samarthak Goshthi press release.

While United lie second in the First Division with only one league defeat, Chelsea are mid-table, having failed to achieve more than two consecutive victories.

"We're still looking for the kind of consistency that United have shown this season," said Porterfield, who believes United are one of three teams with a chance of landing the title.

Interested participants have been asked to assemble at the Tennis Complex by eight in the morning.



Players and officials of BSEC Dockyard and Shuktara Juba Sangha teams seen with the chief guest State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain and others before the start of Friday's final of the 1991 Muldhara First Division football league final at the Osmani Stadium, Narayanganj. Dockyard won the title beating Shuktara 2-0.