

Sport

Lamba, Ashoka Abahani heroes

Sports Reporter

It was long overdue. After hammering nearly half a dozen hundreds in this cricket season...

vere on Badshah whom he despatched for three consecutive fours in one over. Lamba smote Shaheen for a huge sixer, between long-on and mid-wicket, which landed in the gallery.



RAMAN LAMBA...111

only 19 runs off his nine overs. Joydev was the pick of the PWD bowlers with one for 25. Shaheen was the worst sufferer picking up one for 65.



ASHOKA DE SILVA...6/34

Khaled Mahmood Sujon left at 45 to pave the way for an 88-run partnership between Lamba and Akram Khan which consolidated Abahani's position.

Selin, in his brief knock of 25, entertained the crowd with six over long-on, but Ashoka de Silva stole the show with a sweep six over deep backward square off Tutul.

Tutul hitting a fine 65 off 102 balls inclusive of three fours. Sri Lankan Imanin gave him good support with 22, but Abahani's Sri Lankan leg-spinner Ashoka de Silva destroyed the rest of the PWD batting with his devastating leg-spin bowling.

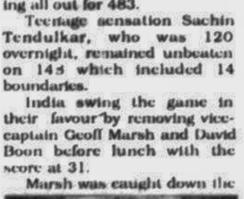
SCOREBOARD table with columns for team, batsman, runs, and overs.

Bowling table for the match between Abahani and PWD.

Additional bowling and batting statistics for the match.

Aussies hang on for a draw

SYDNEY, Jan 6: Australia's seventh-wicket pair of Allan Border and Merv Hughes battled gamely to crush India's victory hopes in the third cricket Test here today, reports AFP.



Merv Hughes

The pair put together a defiant 50-run partnership to enable Australia to force a draw and keep their 2-0 lead in the five-Test series.



Sachin Tendulkar

Chasing a first innings deficit of 170 runs, Australia were in the pits at 114 for six soon after tea on the fifth and final day.

with immediate success. Desperate to disperse the men around the bat, Ian Healy swept at a well-timed delivery but only succeeding in sending a skier to Prabhakar at mid-wicket.



Sachin Tendulkar

India's first innings (overnight 445 for seven) R Shastri c Jones b Wame 206

Scoreboard for the Australia vs India match.

Australia: First innings (overnight 445 for seven) R Shastri c Jones b Wame 206

Eskaton beat Railway

Newly promoted Eskaton Sabuj Sangha carved out a 14-run victory against Railway in the Milnars First Division cricket league at the Mirpur City Club ground yesterday.

Batting first, Eskaton made 154 on their 45 overs. Bulbul top scored with 24 with the help of two fours.

Adil with two hits to the fence scored 22 to bear him a hand.

Biddut with 17 inclusive of two fours was the other notable scorer.

Babu with two for 27 and Azam with two for 23 were the successful Railway bowlers.

Chasing a modest total of 155 Railway were all out for 140.

Apu's fine 53, made with the help of eight fours, and Sajjad's 34 inclusive of four hits to the fence went in vain as the other batsmen threw away their wickets.

Zahid bowled superbly for Eskaton, taking two 13 from nine overs.

Farooq with three for 30 and Saiful with two for 22 were the other successful bowlers.

There is no Milnars fixture for today.

Brothers dump Lalmatia

Brothers Union registered a 79-run victory against Lalmatia Club in the Navana Premier Division cricket league at the Dhanmondi Cricket ground yesterday.

Nurul Abedin Nobel returned to form with a fine 66 that included five hits to the fence.

One-down batsman Sumon scored a brilliant 62 off only 61 balls before falling lbw to Subroto. He sent the ball to the fence five times.

West Bengal all-rounder Arup Bhattacharya scored a quick 30 to help Brothers amass 220 in 43 overs.

Subroto was the pick of the Lalmatia bowlers with figures of three for 30.

Lalmatia, in their turn, crawled to 146 for nine wickets.

Opener Liton top scored with 31 and Sanjeeva Ranatunga followed him with 24.

Off-spinner Salahuddin facilitated Brothers' victory with figures of three for 21.

Sumon went one better with the leather, this time picking up two wickets in one over at the cost of just one run.

TODAY'S MATCHES table listing various matches and venues.

SCOREBOARD table for Brothers vs Lalmatia.

Additional bowling and batting statistics for Brothers vs Lalmatia.

Border praises India

SYDNEY, Jan 6: Australian captain Allan Border saluted the Indian team's performance after the third cricket Test ended in an exciting draw here today, reports AFP.

"They deserved to win in the end because they played better cricket," said Border, whose unbeaten 53 rescued Australia from the jaws of defeat.

"My team has never underestimated the Indians although the media may have written them off," he said.

"They are capable of defeating any team on their day and we were lucky to escape losing today."

"We can't afford to relax. We need to have a bit of urgency about our play," he said.

Border was all praise for Merv Hughes who scored a defiant 21 in a match-saving stand of 50 for the seventh wicket.

"Hughes was very determined to see us through. His batting was the turning point for us," Border said.

"If he had got out early, it may have been curtains for us."

Border felt the absence of Bruce Reid due to a torn muscle in the rib cage was greatly felt.

"He is our leading bowler and his absence upset the bowling momentum," he said.

Border hoped for a result in the next Test in Adelaide from January 25 where he expected the wicket to be quick and bouncy.

For the second time in the series, Indian captain Mohammed Azharuddin refused to speak to the press.

"He can't meet you because he is too tired," explained tour manager Ranbir Singh Malhotra when reporters approached the Indian camp for their views.

Azharuddin had evaded the press after the second Test in Melbourne which India lost by eight wickets in four days.

Faisalabad Test wide open

PAISALABAD, Jan 6: Medium-pace Kapila Wijegunawardene snapped up three prized Pakistan wickets in eight deliveries on Monday to give Sri Lanka the chance of snatching their first away Test Cricket victory, reports Reuters.

Wijegunawardene dispatched Javed Miandad, Salim Malik and captain Imran Khan as Pakistan, needing 185 to win the third and final Test and take the series, slumped to 60 for four.

Zahid Fazal, who opened in place of injured Shoaib Mohammad, made a defiant, unbeaten 55 and with Wasim Akram (19 not out) steered Pakistan to 95 for four before bad light ended play 25 early on the fourth day.

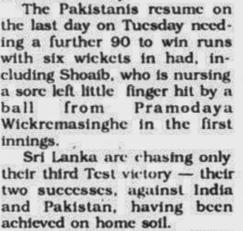
The Pakistanis resume on the last day on Tuesday needing a further 90 to win runs with six wickets in hand, including Shoaib, who is nursing a sore left little finger hit by a ball from Pramodaya Wickremasinghe in the first innings.

Sri Lanka are chasing only their third Test victory - their two successes, against India and Pakistan, having been achieved on home soil.

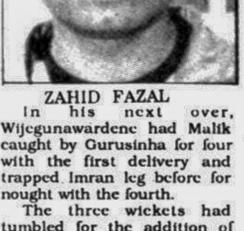
The first two Tests of the current rubber, badly hit by bad weather, were both drawn. Pakistan had resumed after Sunday's rest day on a high note as fast bowlers Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram brushed aside Sri Lanka's second innings. They were dismissed for 165 after being 68 for three overnight.

The dramatic final phase of an eventful day unfolded as Pakistan reached the comparative prosperity of 52 for one after opener Rameez Raja had fallen to Wickremasinghe for eight.

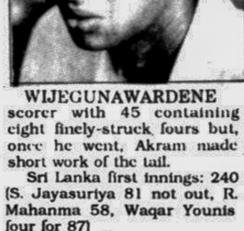
Wijegunawardene, who ended the day with three for 36, struck his first blow by having the out-of-form Miandad caught at first slip by Asanka Gurusinha for two with the third ball of his sixth over.



Javed Miandad



Zahid Fazal



Kapila Wijegunawardene

Imran's rest-day call for a special effort from his pacemen was answered effectively by Waqar, who finished with five for 65, and Akram, with three for 71 including two wickets in two deliveries.

Sanath Jayasuriya was top scorer with 45 containing eight finely-struck fours but, once he went, Akram made short work of the tail.

Sri Lanka first innings: 240 (S. Jayasuriya 81 not out, R. Mahanama 58, Waqar Younis four for 87)

Pakistan first innings: 221 (Rameez Raja 63, P. Wickremasinghe five for 73)

SRI LANKA: Second innings (overnight 68 for three) Mahanama lbw b Waqar Younis 8 Hathurusinghe c Zahid

Sri Lanka's attack was weakened when their most experienced medium pacer, Rameez Raja, retired after bowling only 10 balls. He

Richards' parting wish



VIV RICHARDS

BRIDGETOWN, Jan 6: Former West Indies captain Viv Richards said on Sunday he would like to end his international cricket career at next month's World Cup, reports Reuters.

Richards, who retired from Test cricket after last year's England tour, told a Barbados radio station he had already made his hopes known.

"I have made my intentions pretty clear," he said in a telephone interview from New York. But he said he would understand if he were not picked for the World Cup, which will be held in Australia and New Zealand in February and March.

"I think if they are looking to rebuild it is important that they do that, and I don't have any regrets whatsoever. It would have been nice to be involved but one has to make way for other people," Richards, 39, said.

Richards, who scored more than 8,000 runs in 121 Tests and never lost a series, said he had received no word from the West Indies Cricket Board on World Cup selection.

"I am just relaxing, but Viv Richards has got to live," he said. "One just cannot sit around for the West Indies Cricket Board to make decisions whether I am going to eat or not. I have things to do and I cannot be held back at

Lamb keen to play S Africa

WELLINGTON, Jan 6: England's South African-born batsman Allan Lamb is looking forward to an occasion he never thought would happen - playing against the Springboks, reports AFP.

"It's going to be absolutely brilliant to play South Africa. I never thought I would happen in my career," Lamb said in an interview with the Sunday Star newspaper.

Now on his fourth tour of New Zealand with the England team he has played for since 1982, Lamb is jubilant about the progress towards racial integration in sport that has allowed South African cricket back into the international arena after nearly 20 years of isolation.

He expects to play against the Springboks in the World Cup tournament next month and hopes the planned tour to South Africa by an England team takes place later this year.

"It's quite something to think Smithy (fellow South African Robin Smith) and I could be batting against South Africa," he said.

"Things have moved fast there (in South Africa) and I would really like to tour with England"

Lamb quit South Africa in 1978, gambling that he was good enough to gain a place in England's Test team. He played out his four-year qualifying period with county team and was selected in 1982.

Since then he has played 74 Tests and 110 one-day internationals, scoring 4,264 runs including 13 centuries.

Player defaulted

SYDNEY, Jan 6: Italian Stefano Pescosolido was defaulted from the New South Wales tennis Open here today after a rare incident which left a spectator in hospital, reports AFP.

Pescosolido, 20, from Rome, was playing Australian Johan Anderson in a qualifying match when he drop-kicked his racket in anger after Anderson acid him during the third set.

The racket flew across the court, cleared the perimeter fencing and hit spectator Nicole McPhail, on the full.

McPhail in her early 20's suffered a cut above her right eye and was taken to hospital to have the wound stitched, according to tournament referee Bill Gilmore.

Pescosolido, ranked 69 in the world, told a press conference that he felt very bad about the incident which he said was an accident.



Action from yesterday's Navana Premier Division cricket league match between Abahani Krira Chakra and PWD at the Dhaka Stadium.

Reid rates SA high

WELLINGTON, Jan 6: South Africa's young team for the World Cup tournament starting next month has some talented players and will be highly competitive in fielding, according to former New Zealand Test player John Reid, reports AFP.

Reid, who lives in South Africa and has coached provincial sides there for the last eight years, was an outstanding Test all rounder in the 1950's and early 1960's scoring more than 3,000 runs and taking 85 wickets.

He said in an interview with Wellington's Dominion Sunday Times newspaper that controversy was still raging in South Africa over the selectors' decision to omit three key veterans - Clive Rice, 42, Jimmy Cook, 38, and Peter Kirsten, 36 - from their World Cup squad.

The selectors have said they want to build a team of younger players for the future, and Reid said that to an extent he went along with that.

"But the one I would have included was Kirsten. He's still playing as well as ever and he's a good fielder. Only four weeks ago he was man-of-the-match against India when they had to get up and score 280 to win. He got them there with a superb 80-odd and to do that in India takes some doing."

"The other two are also still very good players with a lot of experience but probably a little slow around the field."

Reid said there was still a lot of talent in the South African squad although players were not proven at international level.

"If some of these players come off consistently, South Africa will have a good series," he said, adding, "The only thing I can guarantee is that will be a superb fielding side."

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