

Mohammedans march on

Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club outplayed Surja Tarun Club by 44 runs at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday to record their fifth consecutive win in the Navana Premier Division cricket league. Sent in to bat by Surja Tarun's Sri Lankan skipper Priyatal Rodrigo, Mohammedans lost their opener Ahmed Didar for eight with the total on 16. Another Sri Lankan, Guruge, who a couple years back had a stint with Warli Club, came at the fall of Didar's wicket. But the left-handed batsmen apparently recruited to bolster both the morale and the strength of a somewhat brittle Mohammedans batting, left on the same score, being run out for nought. Rafiq, after a string of useful scores in the earlier matches flopped, scoring only four, bowled by left-arms spinner Saikat. With the cream of the batting removed, the onus to make things hum again fell on the all-rounders Aminul Islam Bulbul and Orlan Faruq Suru. Regarded as one of the finest batsmen currently, the epithet of an all-rounder appears wanting in comparing the batsmanship of this gentle short-statured batsman and Bulbul, with nimble footwork and judicious strokeplay, lent support to that kind of reflection. His 69 off 89 balls with the help of three fours and a six lifted the spirits of the Mohammedan supporters which were simultaneously affected by the morning chill and the dismal performance of their side. Suru, of late, has started making it a habit of featuring prominently in his side's victory. After his fine all-round performance against Gulshan Youth, the well-built all-rounder turned in another virtuoso performance with the willow. During a 71-minute tenure



AMINUL ISLAM BULBUL

not out with 54, made off only 51 balls. Lanky Sri Lankan and the Mohammedan opening bowler Guruge scored 12 runs off three balls with the help two mighty sixes. Suppi, the left-arm Tarun paceman, bowled with good control but without luck to finish with an impressive analysis of none for 15 from nine overs. His new-ball partner Khokon also held a tight leash over the Mohammedan batsmen, taking one for 22. Rodrigo, Saikat, Babu and Shoeb took one wicket apiece for Tarun. Surja Tarun Club began their reply disastrously with opener Javed Omar Golla guiding a lifter from paceman Guruge to the safe hands of his compatriot Guruge at gully in the very first over of their innings. Tlo and Hadi batted positively and purposefully for some time but Dulu sent back both of them to put Tarun on the defensive. Shoeb and skipper Rodrigo rallied round with some sensible batting but when Shoeb was run out for 25 the Tarun challenge gradually thinned into nothingness. Shoeb hit three fours and Rodrigo who remained not out

in Tarun's ultimate total 152 for nine hit only one four. Although Mohammedans looked short of the desired penetration Guruge claimed two wickets for 24 runs and Jahangir Tarukdar Dulu gave one run more to bag another two wickets. Bulbul, Wahidul Ghani and Rafiq took one wicket apiece.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for Team, Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs. Includes sections for Mohammedan SC, Surja Tarun, and Extras.

Pioneer soccer

Six teams won in yesterday's engagement of 1991 Janata Bank Pioneer football league. Two other matches of the day ended in goalless draws. In the lone South Zone match at Mirpur Outer Stadium, Mirpur Sports and Physical Culture Center defeated Rising Star 2-0. Mostafa Kamal scored the first goal in the sixth minute of the first half while Gholam Kibria doubled the margin in the seventh minute after the short whistle. The North Zone match at the Banani Chairmanbari ground was won by Eskaton Sabuj Sangha who beat Mirpur Nabarun Sporting Club two nil, Mizanur Rahman Don and Shaful Islam Mito netted for the winners. Ahsanul Islam of Eskaton and Abed of Nabarun were shown yellow cards for unsocially behaviour in the field. The central zone tie between Madartek Chhatra Sangsad and Ekjhak Paira ended in a goalless draw at the Basabo ground. Saiful of Ekjhak Paira received the yellow card for dangerous play. In the other match of the same zone Matulal Udayan Sangsad defeated Mandya Sangsad 3-1 at the same ground. Billal, Montir and Mokhtar were the scorers for the victors while Ziaul pulled back one for the losers. In the first match of the East Zone at the Dhupkhola Jagannath College ground (Kalgan) Palli Unnayan Samity shared points with Eastern Club in a goalless draw. Abul Kashem of Eastern got the yellow cards for rough play. In the other match of the zone Swarup Krira Chakra edged past Railway Blues by a solitary goal in a scrappy match. Mamun Bahadur scored the all-important goal. Mamun Bahadur and Musum Billah of Swarup and Habibur Rahman Liton and M Shabbir of Blues were contained with yellow cards by the referee for dangerous play. Pardagair Krira Samaj Kalyan Parishad got the better of Mukti Kheclaghar 1-0 at the Dhupkhola Jagannath College ground in the other match of the East Zone. Shoeb Rahman netted for the winners. Arif and Ferdous of Paradgar and Ziaul Kurim of Mukti received yellow cards. In the lone match of the West Zone Badsha Snirity Sangha won against Swadsh Samaj Kalyan Sangha by the odd goal in three. Meanwhile, a DMFA press release said that all future engagements of Bangladesh Bank S.C of North Zone and Motijheel Club of Central Zone will remain suspended until further notice. These two teams gave walkers over in their scheduled matches on January 6 and 7 respectively.

Pakistan subdue dogged Lankans

FAISALABAD, Jan 7: Pakistan defeated a dogged Sri Lanka by three wickets in their final five-day match to clinch the three-test series at the Iqbal Stadium here today, reports AFP. The first two Tests at Saikot and Gujranwala had ended in draws, mainly due to bad weather. In the decider, Sri Lanka scored 240 and 165 while Pakistan made 221 and 188 for seven. Pakistan prevailed after facing trouble at least three times in the face of the Sri Lankan bowlers' superb performance. Kapila Wijegunawardene and Pramodaya Wickremasinghe were the most kthal in the two innings, taking seven and six wickets respectively. When Pakistan came in Monday for their second knock, chasing an overall target of 185, Sri Lanka dismissed four of their front line batsmen for a meagre 60 runs. But Zahid Fazal and Wasim Akram staged a grand comeback, hitting a confident 89 runs in their fifth-wicket partnership and bringing Pakistan close to victory. With Zahid out at 78 to Wickremasinghe, Pakistan were 149, needing only 36 to win. But his departure again revived some hopes in the Sri Lankan camp. The reckless tourists got another precious wicket of Wasim Akram after he had compiled his fourth 50 in his

Test career and soon after sent back the last recognized batsman, Shoab Mohammed, for 7. Touring captain Arayinda De Silva then threw a close net around the wicket, putting maximum pressure on to deny

Ratnayake and Wijegunawardene each bowled a no ball. But keeper Moin Khan hit the winning shot, a stinging four off Wijegunawardene to take his score to 22. Waqar



WASIM AKRAM...man-of-the-match

the Pakistan tail the six runs that separated them from their sixth Test victory against Sri Lanka. Disparately struggling to salvage the match, Ramesh Younis was at one when it was all over. Wasim Akram won the man-of-the-match award for hitting a mature knock of 54 and taking five Sri Lankan wickets.

SCOREBOARD Table with columns for Team, Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs. Includes sections for Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Biman crash to Gulshan

Gulshan Youth, desperate to stare off relegation in this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league, forced Bangladesh Biman to eat a humble pie by two runs with the help of a brilliant all round performance from former Indian Test player Arun Lal at the Dhanmondi Cricket ground yesterday. Arun Lal showed his class in scoring a sparkling 62 off 98 balls, studded with seven fours in a low-scoring match. Save for Arun's stupendous knock only two Gulshan batsmen reached the double figures apart from the rather large contribution of 31 from Mr Sundries in Gulshan's total of 137 in 40 overs. Veteran Ahmed Iqbal Bachchu picked up three wickets albeit a little dearly, conceding 26 runs in his five overs. Selim Shahed bowled well to capture two for 16 and Enamul Huq Moni backed them up with two for 12. Biman got off to a nightmarish start, losing in form Tariqzaman Munir and Bachchu for zero and one. Selim Shahed with three fours scored 25 to steady the boat but skipper Shahnawaz Shanu's early dismissal was a body blow from which Biman never recovered.

Zakaria with a bright 37 inclusive of five fours revived the Biman hopes and Shabbir joined in the act with 25, but both were run out as tension mounted. Arun Lal sent the burning Biman fuselage into air with innocuous off breaks by dismissing Moni, Pial and Ali Ahsan Babu with the three batsmen adding only four to the total which fell short of the target by two runs. Shamim, the young Gulshan paceman, made early inroads in the Biman batting with figures of two for 20. Arun Lal, however, stole the statistical honours with three for 20.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for Team, Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs. Includes sections for Gulshan Youth and Extras.

Extras (all out in 40 overs) 31. Total (all out in 40 overs) 137. Bowling: AA Babu 5 0 12 1, Pial 4 0 16 0, Azhar 3 0 8 0, Bachchu 5 0 26 3, Shahed 9 1 16 2, Shabbir 9 1 31 1, Moni 5 1 12 2.

BIMAN: Munir lbw Shamim 1, Bachchu c Ishraq b Shamim 0, Shahed c & b Rupom 25, Shanu lbw Babul 37, Zakaria run out 35, Shabbir run out 25, Moni c Ishraq b Arun Lal 3, Pial cbb Arun Lal 0, Babu c (sub) b Arun Lal 1, Dalim not out 16, Azhar run out 9, Extras 13. Total (all out in 44.2 overs) 135. Bowling: Shamim 6 0 20 2, Rajkumar 1 1 0 0, Ripon 1 5 0 10 0, Babul 3 0 13 1, Mamun 9 2 15 0, Rupam 7 0 29 1, Arun Lal 9 2 20 3, Manju 7 2 0 25 0. Umpires: Hassan Bablu and Ali Ratan.

Dhaka Div top Ansars sports

Dhaka Division became champions in the annual sports and cultural competition of the Bangladesh Ansars and VDP, which concluded yesterday at the Ansars Academy at Shaipur, reports BSS. Kholna Division won the runners-up trophy. Mohammad Aslam Hossain established a new national record in the marathon clocking two hours 30 minutes five seconds against the previous time of two hours 30 minutes 32 seconds. About 400 selected sportsmen and women and artists from four divisions took part in the four-day competition. Home Minister Abdul Mattin Chowdhury distributed the prizes among the winners as chief guest on the concluding day. Speaking on the occasion, the Home Minister lauded the role of Ansars and VDP in the national sports and culture and said they earned laurels at the national level with their appreciable performances. He hoped that the members of this organisation would do their best to attain more success in games and sports at the national as well as international levels.



Arefiv and Sergei Zhukov(R), the two Russian footballers who arrived in the city Monday to play for Senior Division champions Abahani KC this season. -Star photo

Barnes returns with a bang

LONDON, Jan 7: England winger John Barnes celebrated his long-awaited comeback to football with a hat-trick as Liverpool sent Crewe into the FA Cup buffers at Gresly Road on Monday, reports AFP. Barnes showed that a 32-game absence had done nothing to him his reflexes and he was the chief architect in setting up the First Division club's fourth round trip to Bristol Rovers. While he was clearly unwilling to over-extend rusty muscles after Achilles and calf problems, his immediate impact will be good news for both Liverpool and England. Barnes ensured that the new favourites avoided the Fourth Division nightmare suffered by Arsenal less than 30 miles away on Saturday, and he allowed Graeme Souness' side to partly erase the painful memory of their own stumble at Peterborough a month ago in the Rumbelows Cup. Liverpool humiliated their opponents 9-2 in the League Cup last season — and the script was soon being re-read, thanks to Rob Jones, the 600,000 pounds bargain they picked up from Crewe in October. He accelerated on to Ray Houghton's pass down the right in the ninth minute and pulled a low cross into the path of Steve McNamara, who drove a right-foot shot crisply inside the

AC Milan not interested in signing up Papin

MILAN, Italy, Jan 7: Italian league leaders AC Milan say they will not pursue their interest in European player-of-the-year Jean-Pierre Papin even though their own Dutch forward Marco Van Basten has urged the club to sign the French star, reports AFP. "We feel we are adequately covered next season with our two Yugoslav signings," Milan general manager Adriano Galliani said Monday. Zvezimir Boban and Bejan Savicevic will join Van Basten, Ruud Geulit and Frank Rijkaard next season when the Dutch

Maradona may not be welcome in US

WASHINGTON, Jan 7: Fallen soccer star Diego Maradona may encounter obstacles to any plans of taking up residence in the United States, a US official said on Monday, reports Reuter. Maradona, who faces cocaine possession and trafficking charges in Argentina, told the Buenos Aires newspaper La Nacion in an interview published on Sunday that he was planning to move with his wife Claudia and infant daughters Dalma and Giannina to Florida in about three months. Duke Austin, spokesman for the US Immigration and Naturalisation Service, suggested Washington would take a dim

Lawrence wrecks Kiwi side

NAPIER, New Zealand, Jan 7: England pace bowler David Lawrence took five wickets and broke New Zealand opener Trevor Franklin's arm on the first day of a three-day game against a New Zealand Minor Association's team today, reports Reuter. Lawrence had the New Zealand XI reeling at 22 for three before a gutsy 64 from Ken Rutherford led the home team to a respectable total of 245. The Gloucestershire paceman, 28 later this month, ended with figures of five for 52 from 22 overs. In reply, England ended the day at 85 for one after captain

Lankans call up replacements

FAISALABAD, Jan 7: Injury-hit Sri Lanka are flying two new players to Pakistan to bolster their side for a five-match series of one-day cricket internationals beginning on Friday, reports Reuter. Batsman Arjuna Ranatunga's shoulder injury was not responding to treatment and he was being sent home, tour manager Ranjith Fernando told reporters before the start of the last day of the third and final Test on Tuesday. He will be replaced by Ruwan Kapuge, a 21-year-old all-rounder, in time for the first one-day game in Sargodha on Friday. Medium-pace bowler Graeme Labrooy will join before the second match in Karachi on January 13. Ranatunga was injured trying to take a diving catch in the current Test; and was one of several Sri Lanka players injured in the series. Captain Aravinda De Silva, who had a fever and stomach problems, got up to take the field last Saturday, and fast bowler Ramesh Ratnayake has been bothered by a pulled muscle in his groin. Ranatunga, brought back for the series after a one-year suspension for indiscipline, used to be Sri Lanka's leading run-maker but has had a miserable series in Pakistan. He failed to score until the current Test when he made four. Parrott in quarter-finals BOURNEMOUTH, England, Jan 7: World snooker champion John Parrott regained his potting touch in the nick of time to reach the quarter-finals of the 325,000-pound mercantile credit classic here on Sunday night, reports AFP.



DIEGO MARADONA