



Action from yesterday's Star First Division league match between Dhanmondi Club and BRTC at the Mirpur Stadium. The teams drew 1-1. — Star photo

Dhanmondi hold BRTC 1-1

Sports Reporter

Dhanmondi Club split points with Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) in the first match of the Star First Division football league at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

BRTC dominated the first half of the match which they led one nil.

BRTC looked a more organised unit in the first half with Prasanta Litu and Noman combining well up front.

With the defence taking good care of the rarefied opposition forays, Masud in particular in the midfield forwarded few useful balls but BRTC's attacks lost way in the crowded Dhanmondi defence as instead of using the flanks they concentrated playing down the middle.

The goal that came in the 15th minute was a product more of an individual celerity and sharpness than a concerted move.

Masud, the lucky BRTC medio, got a ball inside the right

corner of the Dhanmondi box; he took an instantaneous angular right-footed drive which gave Tayeb under the Dhanmondi bar no chance (1-0).

Noman, the stockily built industrious winger playing from a little behind where an old-fashioned wing-half would have been, was again in the action in the 32nd minute when he got the possession inside the box from Prasanta, glided a few paces to his right to make room, then unleashed a thunderous drive off his right foot which hit the inside edge of the crosspiece before returning to play.

Dhanmondi began the second half with more poise and purpose and pushed the transport men in red and white on the defensive.

Thirteen minutes into the second half Dhanmondi's Aziz Babu raced down the left flank to send in a cross but substitute Babul headed over the bar.

Two minutes later Aziz attempted spectacular back volley from close but the effort, which drew applause from the

handful spectators stooging around in the empty terraces, missed the mark.

The equaliser was always on the cards with Dhanmondi under the inspirational Aziz Babu lending the cutting edge to the attacks of the man in yellow and black.

The wight forward received a ball on the right side inside the BRTC box and cracked a low, hard first timer which beat BRTC custodian Moslem hands down.

As is the case with these unambitious weak teams, they soon decided to play it safe with the main objective being a point safely tucked under their belts, and the match petered out to a 1-1 draw.

TEAMS

BRTC: Moslem, Shaheen (Jasim), Humayun, Debashish, Mukul, Masud, Ujjal, Noman, Litu (Ratan), Prasanta, Nipu.

DHANMONDI: Babu, Atiq, Iqbal, Saifu, Ata, Ponce, Halim, Faisal(Babul), Aziz Babu, Titu and Salahuddin (Javed).

Ref: Monirul Islam.

Fakirerpool deny neighbours

Sports Reporter

Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club had one of their players sent off in the second of yesterday's Star First Division football league at the Mirpur Stadium. Yet, despite being reduced to ten men half-way into the second session, when Akram, their midfielder was given the marching orders by referee Anarul Islam Mintu, the youngmen from Fakirerpool did well to force their neighbours Arambagh to part with a point, the match ending in a one-all scoreline.

Arambagh led the first half of a scrappy match one nil.

Arambagh drew the first blood in the seventh minute when Jahangir, the pacy outside-right, galloped down the right to swing in a cross but Sohail was not in the position to cause any alarm for Fakirerpool.

Minutes later Fakirerpool, joining the move familiar Abahani's sky-blue colours, retaliated with Firoz firing at the Arambagh goal only to see custodian Bijoy parrying it for a corner.

Both sides resorted to

rough play and Akram of Fakirerpool became the second player to be given the marching orders this year's league, his cynical charge on Manik incurring the wrath of the man in black.

Referee Mintu's decision enraged to Fakirerpool supporters and officials and not without reason because he had first pulled out the yellow card and then deemed the red card was more in order.

Red card: Akram of Fakirerpool.

Yellow cards: Kamal, Sohail and Haroon Jr of Arambagh and Masud of Fakirerpool.

FAKIRERPOOL YC: Dhanu, Gobindha, Rakib, Swapan, Akram, Montu (Faroque), Masud, Moshit, Bhutto, Mehdi (Apu) and Firoz (Arif).

ARAMBAGH KS: Bijoy, Daboo, Sunny, Ajmat, Manik, Kamal, Shamim, Haroon Sr, Jahangir, Sohail, and Sagar (Haroon Jr).

Referee: Anarul Islam Mintu.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Eskaton Sabuj Sangha vs Police (3pm)

Abahani vs Wanderers (5pm)

Leeds stay ahead of M United

LONDON, Jan 19: Leeds remained one point ahead of Manchester United at the top of the English First Division as both sides came from behind to draw 1-1 on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Crystal Palace, the only team to beat Leeds this season when they won 1-0 at home in October, took the lead through England mid-fielder Geoff Thomas in the 17th minutes.

But the leaders hit back through defender Chris Fairclough after 32 minutes.

Manchester United fell behind to a 10th-minute penalty by Tom Johnson — his 12th goal of the season — after Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel had fouled striker Kevin Bartlett.

United also hit their equaliser from the penalty spot, substitute defender Clayton Blackmore converting in the 70th minute after a foul on mid-fielder Paul Ince.

Third-placed Liverpool, nine points adrift of Leeds, came from behind to win 3-2 at Oldham.

In Scotland, Rangers opened a two-point lead at the top of the Premier Division with a 2-0 home win over Motherwell as Hearts crashed to a second successive defeat, 2-1, at Airdrie.

Tough-tackling Notts County blunted Manchester

United's bid to take over at the top from Leeds, who they have bundled out of both cup competitions this month.

United had to reshuffle their defence at halftime when they sent on Blackmore for injured captain Steve Bruce.

Leeds, who lost striker Lee Chapman through injury in the F.A Cup defeat by United on Wednesday, took time to settle and it was no surprise when Palace went ahead.

But Leeds were in control in the second half and had several chances to go ahead, notably when Rod Wallace's 76th minute shot from a centre by England defender Tony Dorigo came back off the underside of the crossbar.

Neil Adams headed Oldham ahead against Liverpool in the fourth minute. But Steve McManaman equalised 13 minutes later and Welsh international striker Dean Saunders made it 2-1 with his 18th goal of the season three minutes before the break.

In the 73rd minute former England mid-fielder Michael Thomas stretched Liverpool's lead when he scored his first goal for the Merseyside club in eight games since his move from Arsenal.

A mistake by Zimbabwean goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar allowed Oldham to pull back a goal through Paul Bernard four minutes from time.

Ailing champions Arsenal, despite the return after suspension of 18-goal England striker Ian Wright, were held 0-0 for the second successive match, this time a London neighbours Queen's Park Rangers.

Manchester City stayed in fourth place with a 1-0 home win over Coventry, David White netting his 14th goal of the season.

Fifth-placed Sheffield Wednesday recovered from their 6-1 hiding by Leeds last Sunday with a 1-0 win at sixth-placed Aston Villa, playing in front of the day's biggest crowd of 28,000. Nigel Jemson scored 12 minutes from time.

Former England striker Clive Allen scored his sixth goal for Chelsea in seven matches in his side's 2-1 win over fellow Londoners Wimbledon.

Ally McCoist, top-scorer in the Scottish Premier Division, hit his 24th goal of the season to put Rangers ahead against Motherwell in the 39th minute. Oleg Kuznetsov added Rangers second four minutes from time.

Alan Lawrence scored twice in two minutes midway through the first half to put lowly Airdrie 2-0 up against Hearts, who pulled back a goal through Johan Robertson.

MSC's Iranian signing in town

Sports Reporter

Syed Mohammad Sajjadi, an Iranian footballer, reached Dhaka Saturday night to play for Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club in the current Star First Division football league.

Sajjadi, a midfielder who was playing for Daraee Club, one of the lesser Iranian sides until he was signed up by the Dhaka title chasers some weeks ago, is said to be a competent play-maker in the mould of his more illustrious compatriot Golan Reza Nalzeagar who played for Mohammedans with distinction a few seasons back.

Mohammedans' Iranian coach Nasser Hegazi told the Daily Star last night that Sajjadi, a fleet-footed midfielder who can adjust to any position or game plan would need a few weeks to get himself properly tuned for the rigours of the Dhaka league programme since he hasn't been playing for the past month or so, his Club having already fallen out of the championship reckoning back home. Sajjadi has also played for Shaheen Club, a more well-known Iranian team.

Mohammedans expect their other Iranian signing, Sharukh Bayani, the star midfielder-cum-striker of 10th Asian Cup champions Esteghal Club, to reach the city by Tuesday, January 28.

Dispelling all speculations, Hegazi told this correspondent that Mohammedans still hadn't made up their mind about the third overseas signing, permitted by the Bangladesh Football Federation this season.

However, Hegazi conceded that that player may also be another Iranian, possibly one by the name of Hassanzadeh. But Hegazi refused to comment.

Meanwhile, Mohammedans are learnt to have agreed to release a couple of their local recruits. They have already let go of third goalkeeper Milon who has joined Rahmatganj with a mutual clearance and Reza, a young right-winger, is also likely to go back to his former club PWD.

On the other hand, defending champions Abahani, who have a glut of fringe players in their ranks, are learnt to have agreed to part with the services of the veteran Yousuf, the stopper who has played for them for the past decade or so. Also, Emily, the once promising but lately disappointing forward, is on the list of released players, as is Krishna, Ranjit, and Mustafa Babu. Harun, another one allowed to move out with a mutual clearance, has already played for Arambagh in the current league.

Yousuf is learnt to have been very upset at Abahani's decision, terming it "unfair" and a "betrayal". Yousuf had the honour of captaining the side a couple of seasons. He is now said to be negotiating terms with Dhaka Wanderers.

Emily may sign for BRTC, along with Krishana who used to play for the transport corporation. Ranjit, the defender, is reported to be still undecided about his future move.

Brazil's Olympic coach looks for more spark

TERESINA, Brazil, Jan 19: Reeling from a 3-0 loss last week to Uruguay, Brazil's Olympic soccer team prepared for a Sunday friendly against Argentina amid expectations of a major shakeup in the team's lineup, reports AP.

Coach Ernesto Paulo, who vowed to bench five starters immediately after the squad's listless outing in Montevideo, was still undecided Saturday on a roster for the match in Alberto Silva Stadium in this northeastern city.

"It's fundamental we have more guts, more competitive spirit," Paulo told the Rio de Janeiro daily O Globo. "The Uruguay game was a real let-down. I want more spark."

The Olympic squad, slow and sluggish on defense against Uruguay, appeared to be affected by a grueling training programme ordered by Paulo to snap the players into shape for the Summer Games in Barcelona, Spain.

But Paulo was visibly disappointed with Brazil's performance at midfield, which gave the Uruguayan players plenty of room to counter-attack and failed to move the team quickly from defense to offense.

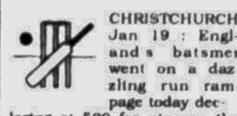
Paulo told reporters on Friday that he planned to drop midfielders Marquinhos and Macedo from the lineup in favour of Dener and Rodrigo, an aggressive player from Rio's Botafogo squad nicknamed "bloodhound."

Observers also expected Paulo to remove one attacker and add an extra midfielder to shore up the team's marking against a quicker, mobile Argentine squad.

Following Sunday's Argentina match, Brazil is scheduled to host the United States in the northeastern city of Aracaju on Wednesday.

Englishmen gorge on a placid pitch

Kiwis will hope rains come to rescue



ALLAN LAMB...93

CHRISTCHURCH, Jan 19: England's batsmen went on a dazzling run rampage today decimating at 580 for nine on the second day of the first cricket Test against New Zealand, reports Reuter.

Bad light and rain at the Lancaster Park ground thwarted the tourists' attempts to crown their achievements with an early wicket.

But England are now unbeatable, with New Zealand needing to score another 378 just to avoid the follow-on.

Allan Lamb, Dermot Reeve and Chris Lewis picked up the mantle today after Alex Stewart, with 148, and Robin Smith, with 96, put England in a commanding position on the first day.

Lamb, playing his 75th Test for England, scored 133 fours and a massive six in his innings of 93 before off-spinner Dipak Patel bowled him.

But New Zealand's beleaguered bowlers were mistaken if they thought relief was at hand when Lamb departed with the score at 468.

Test debutante Dermot Reeve, 28, scored 59 and Chris Lewis thrashed 70 in a lightning innings that included 13 crisply-struck fours.

Reeve, outshone by Lewis, batted maturely, offering no chances and gradually building up a total that gives England's bowlers a good chance.

With star performer Ian Botham due to arrive in New Zealand next week, England's middle-order batsmen have

been keen to show their mettle and try to keep their places.

All of them succeeded in the England innings, the third highest England have recorded against New Zealand.

mentum going on Saturday afternoon, and Lamb, Reeve and DeFreitas kept the pressure on for most of Sunday. The New Zealand bowlers only managed to contain England for a brief spell after lunch.

Clouds settled around the ground in early evening. New Zealand opens John Wright and Blair Hartland faced only three overs before the umpires agreed the light was too bad to continue. The home team were three for no wicket at stumps.

Minutes after the players trooped off, heavy rain settled on Christchurch. Showers are forecast for Monday morning, with the weather apparently New Zealand's only friend.

AP adds: England's batsmen gorged on a placid Lancaster Park wicket Sunday to take control of the first Test setting a record total for visiting teams to Lancaster Park.

Allan Lamb and night-watcher Jack Russell added 80 for the fifth wicket before Russell was the only wicket to fall in the opening session Sunday, run out for 36.

Lamb looked on course for a 14th test century but came undone on 93. He was stuck on that total for 24 minutes and Dipak Patel bowled him between bat and pad.

Dermot Reeve, playing his first-Test match innings, scored 59 while Chris Lewis hit out for his second-Test half century.

Lewis hit strongly against New Zealand pacemen Chris Cairns and Danny Morrison. His 50 took just 52 balls and when he was bowled by Chris Pringle for 70, he had hit 13

198 balls making a mockery of Sri Lanka's moderate attack. Haq, playing only his seventh one-day international made 117 off 103 balls before being caught by Pramodaya Wickremasinghe at deep leg off fast bowler Champaka Ramanayake.

Malik who came in after opener Rameez Raja was bowled by medium pacer Kapila Wijegunawardena only for five got his 102 runs from both traditional and innovative strokes before being caught by Sanath Jayasuriya at mid off Ramanayake.

All-rounder Wasim Akram also did not lag behind in gathering runs and remained unbeaten with 16 off six balls in the final over of the innings bowled by Wijegunawardena.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the second day of the first cricket Test between England and New Zealand today.

ENGLAND: First innings

Gooch c Smith b Morrison	2
Stewart c Crowe b Morrison	148
Hick lbw b Cairns	35
Smith c Greatbatch b Pringle	96
Lamb b Patel	93
Russell run out	36
Reeve c Jones b Pringle	59
Lewis b Pringle	70
Pringle c Greatbatch b Patel	10
DeFreitas not out	7
Extras (nb-8, b-5, lb-10, w-1)	24
Total (for nine wickets, declared)	580

Fall of wickets: 1-6; 2-95; 3-274; 4-310; 5-390; 6-466; 7-544; 8-571; 9-580

Bowling: O M R W

Morrison	33	4	133	2
Cairns	30	3	118	1
Pringle	36	4	127	3
Patel	46	5	132	2
Thomson	15	3	47	0
Jones	3	0	8	0

Did not bat: P. Tufnell

NEW ZEALAND: First innings

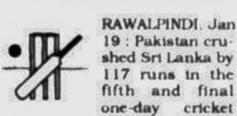
Wright not out	2
Hartland not out	0
Extras (lb-1)	1
Total (for no wickets)	3

Bowling: O M R W

Lewis	1	0	2	0
DeFreitas	1.2	1	0	0

To bat: A. Jones, M. Crowe, M. Greatbatch, S. Thomson, D. Patel, C. Cairns, Smith, C. Pringle, D. Morrison

Pakistan punish Lankans with vengeance



INZIMAMUL HAQ...117

RAWALPINDI, Jan 19: Pakistan crushed Sri Lanka by 117 runs in the fifth and final one-day cricket international on Sunday to win the five-game series 4-1, reports Reuter.

The Sri Lankans needing 272 runs in 40 overs managed only 154 in 38.3 overs in unhelpful conditions following a riot which police controlled with tear gas and batons outside Rawalpindi's newly-built stadium.

Attempts by a large number of enthusiastic fans to enter an already packed stadium led to clashes with the police.

The match was halted for 25 minutes in the 11th over after Sri Lanka skipper Aravinda De Silva won the toss and put Pakistan in to bat.

Sri Lankan batsmen were also to blame for getting out so cheaply on slow-packed track which the Pakistanis had fully exploited to amass 271 for four wickets.

The Pakistani score included fiery centuries by opener Inzimamul Haq and Salim Malik.

Three Sri Lankan batsmen—De Silva, Marvan Atapattu and Sanath Jayasuriya—ran themselves out trying to speed up the scoring.

Only wicketkeeper Hashan Tillekeratne could make a respectable and quick score of 36 off 45 balls.

Pakistani pacemen Waqar Younis and Aaqib Javed grabbed two wickets apiece

while Wasim Akram, Mushtaq Ahmed and Inzimamul Haq bagged one each.

Inzimamul Haq and Salim Malik scored a record 204 runs for the second wicket off



SALIM MALIK...102

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the fifth and final one-day cricket international between Pakistan and Sri Lanka today:

PAKISTAN

Rameez b Wijegunawardena	5
Inzimamul Haq c Wickremasinghe b Ramanayake	117
Salim Malik c Jayasuriya b Ramanayake	102
Miandad run out	19
Ijaz Ahmed not out	4
Wasim Akram not out	16
Extras (lb 1 lb 2 w-5)	8
Total (four wickets, 40 overs)	271

Fall of wickets: 1-5; 2-209; 3-251; 4-251

Did not bat: Imran Khan, Moin Khan, Waqar Younis, Aaqib Javed and Mushtaq Ahmed.

Bowling: O M R W

Wasim Akram	8	2	20	1
Waqar Younis	8	0	42	2
Aaqib Javed	6	0	25	2
Mushtaq Ahmed	9	0	29	1
Imran Khan	8	0	30	0
Inzimamul Haq	0.4	0	4	1

Result: Pakistan won by 117 runs.

Pakistan won series 4-1.

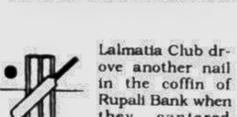
Result of first game: Pakistan won by eight wickets.

Second Pakistan won by 29 runs.

Third Pakistan won by 59 runs.

Fourth Sri Lanka won by four wickets.

Lalmatia nail in Rupali coffin



LALMATIA

Lalmatia Club drove another nail in the coffin of Rupali Bank when they cantered past the minnows by five wickets in the Navana Premier cricket league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Rupali Bank, who own the toss, batted first to score 158 for seven from their stipulated 45 overs.

Jahangir, making both ends meet in his role as an umpire and regular cricketer for the bankmen, did will to top score with 57, inclusive of six fours and one six.

Prince with 26 and Belal with 23 were the other notable scorers for Rupali Bank.

Uttam was the pick of the

Lalmatia bowlers taking two for 30. Atiq backed him up well with figures of two for 45.

Lalmatia made short work of an undemanding target by overhauling the Bank score in 43 overs for the loss of five wickets.

Opener Lito scored 39 with four hits to the fence.

Shaheed came good with his bat making 29 off 31 balls, sending the ball thrice to the ropes.

Babu with 25 and Anwar with 27 were the others to shine with the willow for Lalmatia.

Dulu claimed two Lalmatia wickets for 29. Left-arm spinner Billu picked up two for 28.

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Aussie women reach finals

WELLINGTON, Jan 19: Australia today made sure of their place in the final of the tri-series women's one day cricket tournament when they beat New Zealand by seven wickets at the basin reserve in Wellington, reports AFP.

After bowling New Zealand out for 130, the Australians reached the required 131 with seven wickets and 20.3 overs in hand.

The match slipped from the New Zealanders grasp early in their innings when they lost the wickets of captain Karen Plummer, Kim McDonald and Maia Lewis with the total on 27.

The New Zealand total never looked enough and the Australians were in control throughout their innings despite losing opener Belinda Haggett with the score on seven.

Australia's other opener, Belinda Clark, batted throughout the innings for 51 not out.

New Zealand play England at the same venue Monday to decide the other finalist, with England strong favourites to beat the Kiwis.

Faridpur cricket

FARIDPUR, Jan 19: Udayan Sangha clinched the championship of the Players Cup cricket tournament beating Zia Smriti Sangha by six wickets in the final match played at the local stadium Saturday, reports UNB.

Veteran sports organiser and Vice President of Faridpur Sports Association Chowdhury Mornaj Hossain distributed the prizes among the winners.

Tarun outplay Wari

SURJO Tarun Club cakewalked with an eight wicket victory against pushovers, Wari Club in their Navana league match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Wari decided to bat first and limped to 145 for seven in their stipulated 45 overs. Rafiq tried his best to hold things together for Wari with a gritty unbeaten 52 off 84 balls with two boundaries.

Itekar with 26 and Ripon with an unbeaten 25 helped the side to post a score beyond hundred.

Tarun opening bowlers Suppi and Khokon destroyed

the upper order of the Wari batting with figures of two for 22 and two for 19 respectively.

Spinner Saikat ably supported them taking two for 30.

Tarun reached their target in 41.1 overs with Titu guiding his side with a fine unbeaten 57 made with the help off three fours.

Opener Javed Omar Golla did his job with a wellmade 37 cracking three fours in his 125 minute tenure at the wicket.

Sri Lankan Anura Silva was there with Titu when Tarun crossed the Wari score with a brisk 23.

Azam was the lone successful Wari bowler taking one for 38.

Boxing result

LONDON, Jan 19: Colin McMillan of England won the vacant Commonwealth featherweight boxing championship with a points decision over Ghana's Percy Comney on Saturday, reports Reuter.