

Azad Boys, Nabin Sangha win big

Sports Reporter
Azad Boys Club, one-time giants and a team with the likes of Shamoon Kabir, Yusuf Rahman, Syed Asraful Haq, Shaiful Hossain, et al. but now relegated to the smaller grounds and smaller world of the Rank-Xerox Second Division league, yesterday made short work of Kakrail Boys Club, posting a huge 114-run victory at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (west) ground.

Batting first, Azad Boys, with substantial contributions of 50, 44, an unbeaten 46 and 25 from Pavel, Mashook, Mithu and Nayan respectively, made 235 for six.

Sohel of Kakrail picked up two for 36 while Darryl and Bipul took one wicket each.

Savio with 24, Himel 20 and Sohail (Sr) 18 were the notable contributors in Kakrail's paltry total of 121.

Mashook destroyed Kakrail with figures of five for 20. Mithu gave him admirable support with figures of three for 18.

In the other match of the day, at the Dhanmondi Club ground, Nabin Sangha recorded a 43-run victory over East End Club.

Batting first, Nabin Sangha were all out for 182 with Pop top scoring with 50 and Khokon following him closely with 48.

Rakib was the pick of the East End bowlers taking three for 22. Arif gave him a good hand taking three for 22.

East End could muster only 139 in their turn.

Sipu was the lone ranger for his side making 36. Shawkat with 11 and Rakib with 10 were the other batsmen to reach double figures.

Nobel, Pop and Monu were the wreckers taking three for 30, two for 24 and two for seven respectively.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Dhanmondi Club vs Rainbow SC (DCS west)

Lalbagh ESC vs Young Pegasus B (DCG)

2 swimmers die in bus crash

SOUTH BEND, Indiana, Jan 24: A bus bringing Notre Dame's women's swim team home from a meet crashed early Friday just miles (kilometers) from campus in a blinding snow storm. Two people were killed and 34 injured, police said, reports AP.

Diplomats' day in the sun

Cricket is too great a passion to be mewed up in within the pages of magazines and clocked visits to the ground amidst thousand cares and obligations of professional life.

The pick pack, as James Joyce put the clash of the bat and the ball in one of his books, runs off an irrepressible urge to involve in some real life action.

Diplomats of the Commonwealth countries in the city and the Foreign Ministry officials gave reins to their passion for the game of the flannelled fools yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

Cricket, of blood, sweat, sound and fury, was the ineffectual bird, beating its luminous wings in a void because it did not matter who lost or who won; nothing was at stake.

Fraternity, cricket's one basic tenet, evaporating fast in the heat of professionalism, was there with all its salubrious salve as diplomats from different countries giggled, grinned, and cut jokes at each other's performances or pretences.

Spectators, more used to partisan allegiance, did not throw in numbers to fill the vast concrete terraces but the second floor of the VIP enclosure was virtually seething with the relatives, guests and friends of the actors of the show under the bright, pleasant sun of January.

Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman and Sri Lankan High Commissioner Alfred David went out for the toss with the photographers tailing and the band playing a tune of Pritibhi Amare Chat, a popular Bengali film song.

The tall BCCB president won the toss and put the Commonwealth Diplomatic Corps Team (CDCT) to bat, and when, inevitably, Mustafizur Rahman himself bowled the first ball of the match, 'flighted pace bowling' as one BCCB official quipped, it was already a few minutes past the scheduled starting time of 10.30.

SS Suman of India and Samul Khilji of Pakistan gave no inkling of the acerbated, asperous relationship of the two neighbours as they strolled out to open the CDCT innings. SS Suman lent credibility to the careless whisperings about his experience in Ranji

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Trophy with an effortless six over long on and retired after a rapid 19 in a low-iron match.

The laws of the glorious game were toyed with, understandably, to relieve the unwanted, long disused backs and the creaking joints of the diplomats as the motley coloured teeny boppers and women added to the colour of this carnival.

CDCT scored 170 in 30 overs as thirteen Foreign Ministry fielders tried to stem the flow of runs.

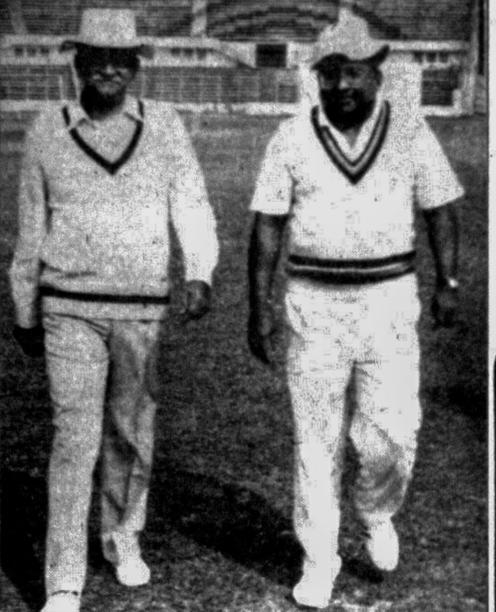
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Ziauddin top scored with 17, Motahar Hossain made 15 and M Asiz got an unbeaten 14.

Alfred David and Anwar Kemal wrought havoc with the Foreign Ministry batting taking three for 13 and three for 15 respectively.

J N Misra also turned the screw on with two for nine.

Three high commissioners - Alfred David of Sri Lanka, Anwar Kemal of Pakistan and K Srinivasan of India - played while ambassadors and diplomats of other countries



Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman (L) and Sri Lankan High Commissioner Alfred K. David - the respective skippers - go out for the toss. -Star photo

SS Suman with 19, Anwar Kemal 18, J Badar 17, K Srinivasan 15, Rayware 15, W Evans 15, S Khilji 14, and skipper A K David, eight, were the main scorers.

Mustafizur Rahman, K Zaman, Iftekhkar and R Rahman took one wicket apiece for the Foreign Ministry.

The Foreign Office failed to match the combined cricketing talents of their opponents, which is awesome in the real sense too, and managed 122 with a liberal dose of extras amounting to 30.

High Commissioner Anwar Kemal, who scored 18 runs and took three wickets, was adjudged the man-of-the-match. Sri Lankan High Commissioner Alfred David was adjudged the best bowler while Indian diplomat SS Soman was adjudged the best willow-wielder.

Mrs Mustafizur Rahman rounded off the festival of fun, which one hopes from now on will be an annual affair, by giving away the prizes among the best performers.

Cute handball begins today

Sports Reporter

The Cute Metropolis handball league begins at the outer Stadium handball court today.

Twelve teams are taking part in this year's league on a round robin basis.

The teams are: defending champions Bangladesh Rifles, Brothers Union, Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh Ansars, Surjodoy Boys' Club, Dakshin Motshundi Krira Chakra, Dhaka Wanderers Club, Tarun Sangsad, Bantanagar Sporting Club, Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club, Victoria Sporting Club and Paschim Jatrabari Krira Chakra.

Bangladesh Rifles will meet Paschim Jatrabari Krira Chakra at 3-30 pm in the inaugural match.

Qatar beat ROK

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 24: Qatar defeated South Korea 1-0 in the fifth day's play in the Asia final round soccer qualifying tournament for the Barcelona Olympics at the Merdeka Stadium here today, reports AFP.

Mubarak Mustafa netted the winning goal in the 39th minute of the first-half.

Full points for Fakirerpool

Sports Reporter

Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club outplayed Dhanmondi Sporting Club by a solitary goal in the flood-

lite engagement of the Star First Division football league at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Mehdi Masud netted the all important goal in the 22nd minute of the first session.

Both teams, underdogs of the league, displayed attacking brand of soccer making it an enjoyable match.

Fakirerpool carried out the first positive raid, in the very second minute of play, when a cross from outside the Dhanmondi box found the awaiting head of Babuzzaman Babu but Tayeb, the Dhanmondi custodian, had no difficulty in gripping his weak header.

Mehdi Masud of Fakirerpool floated a beautiful cross from inside the opponents' box but Tayeb, diving to his left, again brilliantly saved Masud Karim's powerful nod.

Then came the moment of Fakirerpool's joy. A free-kick from Sheikh Abdullah Swapan came into the Dhanmondi

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danger zone where it found Babu's eager nod; Tayeb succeeded in partially clearing the danger only for Mehdi Masud to head home the rebound (1-0).

Down by a goal, the Dhanmondi boys in yellow pulled up their socks and carried out a series of raids inside the Fakirerpool territory. In the 28th minute Dulal Hossain Dhonu the Fakirerpool custodian, saved a powerful Rakib grounder for a corner.

Soon after this Javed of Dhanmondi received a ball inside the Fakirerpool box following a defence lapse. He dodged past two defenders but unwisely wasted time before kicking the opportunity over the bar.

In the 33rd minute Babul of Dhanmondi passed a ball to Iqbal but Dhonu had no problem in collecting his weak shot.

Down into the ninth minute of the second half, Babu of Fakirerpool found a good ball inside the Dhanmondi box but his powerful right-footer could not get the better of Tayeb.

Fate denied Dhanmondi a chance to level the margin in the 25th minute of the second

Sports Reporter

half when Halim's rasping drive hit the Fakirerpool side bar.

Lady luck once again betrayed Dhanmondi when Iqbal, finding a ball inside the Fakirerpool box managed no more than a weak header directly into Dhonu's lap.

Fakirerpool dominated rest of the proceedings and in the 67th and 86th minutes created two possible scoring chances but their forwards could not capitalise.

Fakirerpool now have four points from three outings while Dhanmondi have just a solitary point, also from three matches.

Yellow cards: Swapan and Babu of Fakirerpool and Atiq and Faisal of Dhanmondi.

TEAMS

FAKIRERPOOL: Dhonu, Faruk, Rakib (captain), Swapan, Gobinda, Montu, Masud (Mamun), Mosh, Bhutto (Apu), Mehdi, Babu (Arif).

DHANMONDI: Tayeb, Atiq, Ata, Iqbal, Saifu (cap), Halim, Sena (Monam), Babul (Siddiqui, Biplab), Aziz, Javed, Faisal.

Referee: Sheikh Badruddin.

Bush chides the US male's ego

WASHINGTON, Jan 24: President George Bush praised the US women's football team here Thursday for their triumph in the World Cup last year and exhorted the American men to accomplish a similar feat when the event comes here in 1994, reports AFP.

"Today America is taking over everywhere, from sumo to soccer," Bush said, adding: "For the sake of the male ego, I hope the men start catching up."

Bush, who played striker for Yale University when it won the East Coast championship in 1945, exchanged a couple of headers with team captain April Heinrichs, saying "It's inevitable" that the sport would catch on in the United States.



President George Bush heads a ball during a photo session at the White House Jan 23 with the US women's team which won the inaugural World Cup in China last year. -AFP photo

Botham strikes straightaway

NEW PLYMOUTH, New Zealand, Jan 24: Ian Botham snared two wickets in his first appearance for England against a Central Districts cricket side on the rain-shortened first day of a three-day match Friday, reports AP.

At stumps, Central Districts was 97 with the loss of five wickets. Rain stopped play Friday for all but three hours.

Botham, who arrived in New Zealand after England's last-session victory over the home side on Wednesday, had Central Districts opener Craig Ingham caught by Jack Russell for 13.

Roger Twoose went on to be lucky 13 also after being caught lbw on a Botham delivery. Botham finished the day at 30-2 with four maidens in 13 overs.

Districts captain Scott Briasco was 41 not out at stumps. Test player Mark Greatbatch fell for only four runs after being caught by Robin Smith off Derek Pringle's bowling.

England left out the injured David Lawrence in the hope of having him fit for the second New Zealand-England test starting next Thursday.

Scores: Central Districts 97-5 (Scott Briasco 41 not out; Ian Botham 30-2, Derek Pringle 25-1, Graham Gooch 7-1).

Appeals rejected

LONDON, Jan 24: Two Pakistani squash players lost their appeal on Thursday against record bans imposed after an incident at a tournament in Germany last month, reports Reuter.

Adamjee beat BRTC

Sports Reporter

Adamjee SCC got the better of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation SC 3-1 in the first tie of the Star First Division football league yesterday afternoon at the Mirpur Stadium.

Adamjee led 2-1 at the breather.

Though Adamjee won the engagement, BRTC dominated most of the proceedings.

Adamjee, however, were denied an early lead in the very second minute when Akhter Hossain found Shahjahan Mithu free with a through inside the BRTC box but Mithu unbelievably kicked the ball wide of the post.

In the tenth minute, Shankar Kumar Das Mukul of BRTC stopped a ball with his hands inside their danger zone. Referee Abdul Aziz had no hesitation in awarding Adamjee a penalty. Yusuf's powerful shot from the spot went into the net, giving Mosht Uddin, the BRTC custodian no chance to move (1-0).

Adamjee doubled the margin in the 15th minute following another BRTC defence lapse. Debasish Barua of BRTC tried to clear an Adamjee centre inside the box but to the mortification of the defender and his teammates, only managed to head the ball into his own goal (2-0).

In the 18th minute of play, BRTC failed to reduce the margin when Prashanta Kumar Das, the BRTC captain could not connect a beautiful Monju cross.

However, BRTC finally suc-

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Khelaghar Samaaj Kalyan Samity blanked Beraid Eleven at the T & T ground three-nil on a day marked by a paucity of goals in the Janata Bank pioneer football league yesterday.

Masud Rana scored twice while Shahinur Rashid netted one for the winners.

Kurmitola Apollo Club drew one-all with Islampur Uttaran at the Banani ground.

Azad of Kurmitola Apollo converted a spot kick while Shahjahan of Islampur Uttaran scored the equaliser.

The match between Eskaton Sabuj Sangha and Nabataranga KSSS ended in a goalless draw at the same ground.

Anwesha Samaaj Kalyan Sangstha and Babla Jagoroni played another sterile draw at the T & T ground.

The match between Chankherpool Kishore Sangha and Azimpur Heroes also ended in a 1-1 draw at Dhanmondi.

Asaduzzaman of Chankherpool and Tareq of Azimpur were the lone scorers.

The other results were unavailable till the filing of this report.

Al-Nasr in final

RYADH, Jan 24: Al Nasr of Saudi Arabia reached the Asian Cup Winners Cup final by beating Al Ramtha of Jordan 2-1 on Thursday with both goals from Fahd H'arif, reports AFP.

The Saudis had won the first leg of the semifinal 1-0.

Deaf sports meet

Sports Reporter

The fourth annual sports meet of the Dhaka Deaf Association (Dhaka Bodhir Sangha) will be held today at 9:30 in the morning at the Physical Education College ground, Mohammadpur.

Harun-ur-Rashid, MP, will inaugurate the competition as chief guest.

Renowned social worker Rotarian Aminul Islam will attend as a special guest.

Bangladesh Bank school sports

The annual sports competition of Bangladesh Bank Ideal High School was held in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank Mahbubur Rahman Khan inaugurated the meet in the morning.

A good number of students of the school took part in different of the competition.

Governor of Bangladesh Bank SH Chowdhury witnessed the events as the chief guest and distributed the prizes.

Deputy Governor ASM Fakhrul Ahsan was present.

India likely to miss Shastri's absence

Sports Reporter

ADELAIDE, Jan 24: The loss of Ravi Shastri, crucially sidelined by a knee injury, leaves India vulnerable at the top of the batting order for the fourth Test against Australia starting on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Despite almost pulling off a stunning and unexpected triumph in the third Test at

Sydney, India, trailing two-nil in the five-Test series, go into this Test as long odds underdogs.

Kris Srikanth, dropped for the Sydney Test after 24 runs in four innings, and Navjot Sidhu, the man flown from India to replace him only to make a duck, will insist the team management, pair up here.

Shastri's knee surgery, after a double century in Sydney, will also keep him out of the fifth Test in Perth, but not, selectors hope, out of the World Cup next month. His absence means a recall for left-arm spinner Venkat Raju.

The pitch is a virgin one, the strip having been relaid for the first time in more than 30 years, but Adelaide's reputation as the batsman's friend is not expected to be endangered although there may be extra bounce and, later, turn. Australian coach Bobby Simpson said there was 'plenty in it for bowlers who put in,' but the last six Tests here have been drawn.

For Australia, David Boon is fit after a knee injury and Shane Warne is expected to get another chance to bowl his leg-spinners.

Mark Waugh, returning to the ground where he made a debut 138 last year, needs runs after making just 88 in seven Test and one-day international innings this season.

Another batsman looking for a score is Dean Jones who

last made a Test century two years and 23 innings ago on this ground against Pakistan.

IT'S A BOON, SAYS BORDER

An AP report adds: Australian cricket captain Allan Border said Friday that an injury to Indian opener Ravi Shastri will be a "huge advantage" for the home side in the



RAVI SHASTRI

fourth Test match. Australia leads the five-match series 2-0 after wins in Brisbane and Melbourne. The third match was drawn in Sydney.

"It will be interesting to see how they work around that; he's also a handy spin bowler and he's turned in a couple of good performances at the top of the order," Border said.

Border described Raju as "a bit of a handful" and the performance of the Indian attack overall as one of the surprises

of the series.

"I think Kapil Dev's really led the way. There was talk about him having lost it to a certain degree, but he's certainly been great for them," Border said.

Border also expects rival skipper Mohammad Azharuddin and veteran Dilip Vengsarkar to find some form with the bat.

"Their batting obviously can fire and if that happens their bowling is very adequate," he said.

Indian manager Abbas Ali Baig said wicketkeeper Kiran More will have a fitness test early Saturday to see whether his lingering hamstring injury had recovered sufficiently. If not Chandrakant Pandit will be wicketkeeper.

Raju's inclusion will squeeze out either Jawagal Srinath or fellow paceman Subroto Banerjee. Fast bowler Paul Reiffel looks likely to be Australia's 12th man.

The expected teams: AUSTRALIA: Geoff Marsh, Mark Taylor, David Boon, Allan Border (captain), Dean Jones, Mark Waugh, Ian Healy, Merv Hughes, Craig McDermott, Shane Warne, Mike Whitney, Paul Reiffel.

INDIA: Navjot Sidhu, Kris Srikanth, Sanjay Manjrekar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Manoj Prabhakar, Kapil Dev, Kiran More, Jawagal Srinath, Venkatapathy Raju, Saurav Ganguly.



Players of the Corps of Diplomats Cricket Team and the Ministry of Foreign Office photographed before the start of yesterday's festival cricket match at the Dhaka Stadium. -Star photo