

Athar's ton goes in vain

Sports Reporter

Athar Ali Khan's celebrations marking his long delayed return to form were considerably marred by his side's third loss in this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league when the Brothers Union bowlers undid the good work of the batsmen and last year's champions suffered a five-wicket defeat at the hands of the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

Athar, the Brothers skipper who had been subject to heavy criticism over his prolonged lean patch, returned to his usual business of run making with a vengeance, scoring a superb hundred to help his side amass a huge total of 238 for four wickets from 44 overs.

Athar's unbeaten 108 off 107 balls was completed with the help of ten fours and one six.

Arup Bhattacharya, the Calcuttan all-rounder, played an equally meritorious, rapid-fire knock of 60 off 61 balls.

The bulky southpaw hit five fours and one six.

Opener Nurul Abedin Nobel was the other notable contributor with the willow for Brothers with 32.

GMCC's Zakir bowled magnificently on a lifeless wicket to return with figures of two for 21 from his quota of nine overs.

GMCC opener Salim laid the foundation of a prize-worthy victory of his side with a brilliant 92 off 90 balls, inclusive of seven hits to the fence, before being caught and bowled by lanky Nadir Shah.

Although Sri Lankan Duminda Perera and Sharath let down the tempo somewhat, skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, along with the normally phlegmatic Anisuddin Bhuiyan Pika smoothed the victory path with some fine tip-and-run one-day cricket.

Lipu scored 38, sending the ball four times to the fence while Pika stayed till the end with a swashbuckling 33 off 28 balls.

Just how well the GMCC batsmen paced their innings could be gauged from the fact that the victory target was achieved with as many as 22 balls to spare.

Tanjub Ahsan Saad with two for 45 and Nadir Shah with two for 48 were the principal wicket-takers for Brothers.

The win brightens GMCC's chance to qualify for the six-team super league as they have now collected eight points from as many outings.

Brothers Union's tally remained at twelve from nine matches.

Brothers Union's tally remained at twelve from nine matches.

Brothers Union's tally remained at twelve from nine matches.

Brothers Union's tally remained at twelve from nine matches.

Brothers Union's tally remained at twelve from nine matches.

Brothers Union's tally remained at twelve from nine matches.

Brothers Union's tally remained at twelve from nine matches.

Brothers Union's tally remained at twelve from nine matches.

Brothers Union's tally remained at twelve from nine matches.

Brothers Union's tally remained at twelve from nine matches.

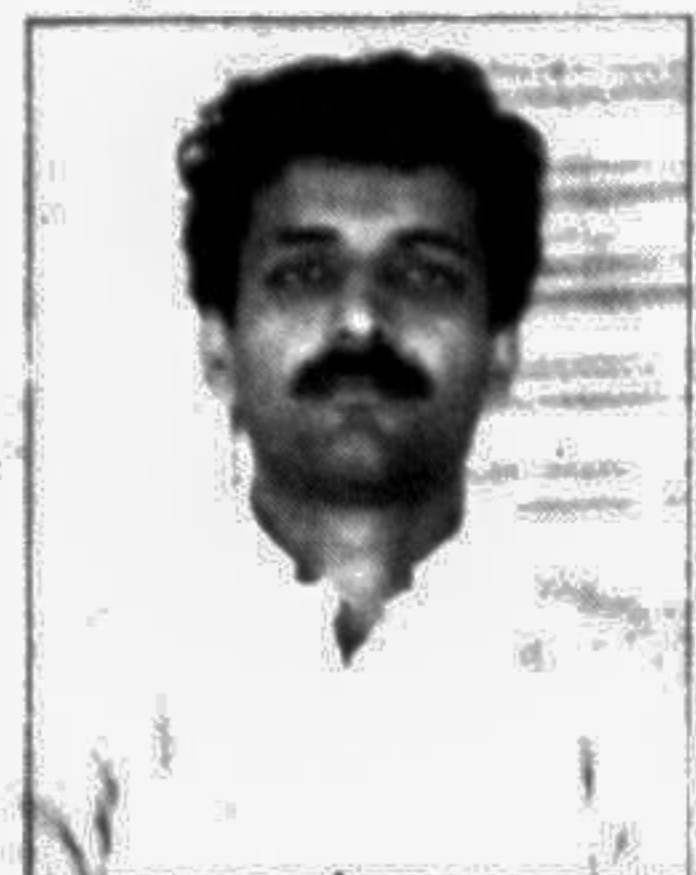
Brothers Union's tally remained at twelve from nine matches.

Brothers Union's tally remained at twelve from nine matches.

Brothers Union's tally remained at twelve from nine matches.

Brothers Union's tally remained at twelve from nine matches.

Brothers Union's tally remained at twelve from nine matches.



ATHAR ALI...unbeaten 108

ball four times to the fence while Pika stayed till the end with a swashbuckling 33 off 28 balls.

Just how well the GMCC batsmen paced their innings could be gauged from the fact that the victory target was achieved with as many as 22 balls to spare.

Tanjub Ahsan Saad with two for 45 and Nadir Shah with two for 48 were the principal wicket-takers for Brothers.

The win brightens GMCC's chance to qualify for the six-

SCOREBOARD

BROTHERS UNION

Tomal c Nasu b Zakir	3
Nobel c Lipu b Rubel	32
Sumon c Nasu b Zakir	13
Athar Ali not out	108
Arup c Lipu b Sharath	60
Fernando not out	4
Extras	18
Total	238

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Saiful	6	1	29	0
Zakir	9	1	21	2
Sharath	9	0	59	1
Lipu	2	0	11	0
Rubel	9	0	56	1
Duminda	6	0	20	0
Gowala	3	0	20	0

GMCC

Liton c Salaudinn b Saad	17
Salim c b b Nadir Shah	92
Sharath b Saad	15
Duminda c Athar Ali b Nadir Shah	18
Lipu b Salaudinn	38
Pika not out	33
Nasu not out	10
Extras	16
Total	239

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Fernando	8	1	47	0
Saad	7	0	45	2
Nadir Shah	9	0	48	2
Arup	7	0	39	0
Athar Ali	1	0	6	0
Salaudinn	7	0	36	1
Sovon	1	0	10	0
Sumon	0.2	0	1	0

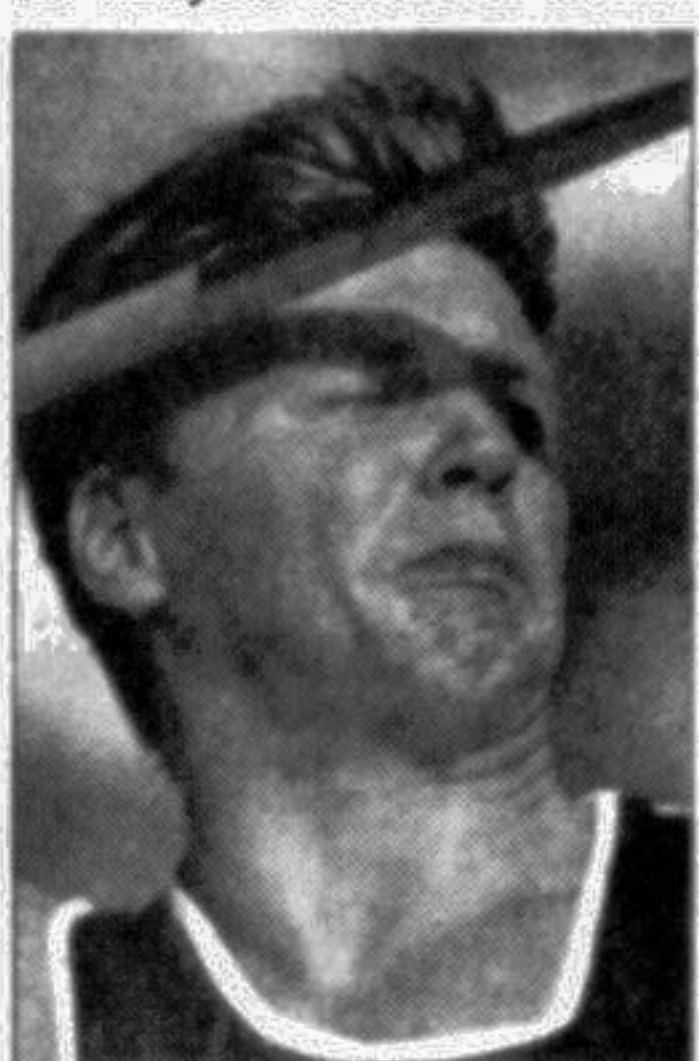
TODAY'S MATCH

Gulshan vs Kalabagan (Dhaka Stadium)

Backley's feat

AUCKLAND, Jan 25: England's Steve Backley broke his own world javelin record on Saturday, extending his previous mark by almost two meters (six feet, six inches), reports AP.

Competing in the Robin Tait athletics meet at PAI Stadium, the 22-year-old sports sciences student from Loughborough, in England's Midlands, threw 91.46 metres (300 feet, 1 inch). His previous record set last year was 89.58 metres.



STEVE BACKLEY...record (293-11)

Backley said he could not have hoped for a better start to his Olympic year.

"The Olympics in Barcelona is my aim but this is a fantastic way to start the year," said Backley. "I've come down to New Zealand for the past three years and it's obviously paying off."

"Conditions were just perfect — nice and warm with the tail wind coming in from just the right quarter."

Backley said he has had problems with his run-up, but that everything clicked on Saturday.

"I knew I was ready to throw 86 meters, but certainly didn't expect to break the world record."

Jansen's record

DAVOS, Switzerland, Jan 25: US speedskater Dan Jansen set a world record of 36.41 seconds in the 500 metres Saturday, shaving .02 off a six-day-old mark set by Uwe-Jens Mey of Germany on the same Davos rink, reports AP.

Flying start for BDR handballers

Sports Reporter

The 1991-92 CUTE Metropolitan handball league got under way yesterday at the Outer Stadium handball court.

Defending champions Bangladesh Rifles, who have won the championship ever since the inception of the league way back in 1984, were off to another flying start, getting the better of newcomers West Jatrabari Kriha Chakra 32-12 in a rather one-sided affair.

Rifles led 19-8 at the breather.

Shah Alam netted seven goals while Maung Shwe, Gonzer and Jahangir scored five goals apiece for the winners. Jafaruddin and Kader got six and three goals respectively for Jatrabari.

Sponsored by Cute Products and organised by the Bangladesh Handball Federation, twelve teams — Bangladesh Rifles, Brothers Union, Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh Ansars, Surjod Boys Club, South Mousind Kriha Chakra, Dhaka Wanderers Club, Tarun Sangsad, Banianagar Sporting Club, Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club, Victoria Sporting Club and West Jatrabari Kriha Chakra — are taking part in the single league competition.

Following is the roll of honour of the First Division handball league:

Year	Championships	Runners-up
1984	Rifles	Brothers Union
1985	Rifles	Dhaka Wanderers
1986	Rifles	Ansars
1987-88	Rifles	Ansars
1988-89	Rifles	Air Force
1989-90	Rifles	Brothers Union

TODAY'S MATCHES

Police vs Mariner Youngs Club (2:15 pm)

Brothers Union vs Victoria SC (3:30 pm)

Azharuddin's bold gamble pays off

ADELAIDE, Jan 25: Indian captain in Mohammad Azharuddin pulled off a bold gamble on the first day of the fourth Test today when, against expectations, he put Australia into bat on its best batting strip then watched his team dismiss them for 145, reports Reuters.

Although Australia, two-nil up in the five-Test series, replied with two quick Indian wickets the tourists had cut the gap to 100 at the close with eight wickets left. Navjot Sidhu was 15 not out and Dilip Vengsarkar eight not out.

Azharuddin, who has endured strong criticism for his tactical decisions and lack of runs, was well backed up by his bowlers, especially left-arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju and experienced seamer Kapil Dev, who strangled Australia's batting with their accuracy.

The Indian captain also made the decisive intervention when Australia looked like escaping, holding a smart catch to dismiss Dean Jones for 41 just as he showed signs of turning around the innings.

The rapid fall of wickets suggested the newly-laid Test strip, never before used, must possess some demons. But there was no sign of them, just bad batting.

Merv Hughes, not the most talented of batsmen, occupied the crease with some comfort for nearly two hours for 26 as he and Jones lifted Australia to respectability.

Even so, their total was the lowest at Adelaide since England dismissed Australia for 11 in 1955, the year before the run-soaked strip dug up this winter was laid.

The last captain to insert the opposition at Adelaide after winning the toss was

England's Bob Willis in 1982-83. He duly watched Australia rattle up 438 and win by eight wickets.

Azharuddin, undeterred by the memory of Graham Gooch's 333 at Lord's in 1990 when England made 653 for four after he sent them in, ignored history and gambled on the new strip being more sporting than the old.

If anything there appeared to be less bounce than before, but India bowled well and Australia hit trouble early on.

Geoff Marsh and Mark Taylor, whose opening partnerships are looking increasingly less impressive, perished for eight and 11 respectively by chopping balls on to their stumps.

Sachin Tendulkar, having made Taylor his second Test victim, then removed Allan Border in his next over for a duck, the Australian captain's second of the series and third in nine innings.

Border, returning to number four in the order after the failed experimental swap with Mark Waugh at number six, drove ambitiously and got an inside edge to the wicket-keeper.

A masterly Kapil Dev delivery accounted for the in-form David Boon for 19 and sent Australia into lunch at 67 for four, with Boon the only batsman not to contribute to his won downfall.

There was little improvement after the break as Mark Waugh (15), continuing his poor run, and Ian Healy (11) played ill-judged shots and Australia slipped to 81 for six.

That brought Jones and Hughes together for their mini-revival but India's disciplined and patient bowling eventually tempted over adventurous shots from both.

Raju, again bowling with

control and variety, finished off the tail to pick up three wickets for 11 from 11.4 overs.

Dev's three for 33 off 23 overs brought his Test wicket total to 392, 39 short of world record-holder Sir Richard Hadlee.

Sidhu and Srikanth replied with unaccustomed solidity, putting together India's highest opening stand of the series — 30 more runs than

the pair had scored in five innings between them to date.

Then Srikanth was adjudged to have gloved Craig McDermott to the wicket-keeper and departed, unhelpfully rubbing his arm, for 17.

Sanjay Manjrekar was leg before the following over, his third ball and bowler Merv Hughes' fifth.

The one bad mark for India was an unnecessarily prolonged appeal from Chandra Pandit for a leg-before decision against Hughes.

The wicketkeeper came up the wicket towards umpire Darrell Hair and appealed three times. Hair, in his first Test, complained to Azharuddin and told him if Pandit did not keep quite he would

revenge.

Botham tried to field a Blain drive that caught him on the knuckle of the right index finger. Botham was taken to the Taranaki Base Hospital for precautionary x-rays and cleared of any serious damage.

"It's not serious," Botham said. "It's a bit stiff, but I'm fine, there's no real damage."

Blain made 45 when he was also caught behind off Dermot Reeve.

Duff, who was dropped by Botham at first slip when on eight, and Dave Leonard took the score to 189 when Brianas declared at early tea. Duff was on 36 and Leonard 10.

England had a poor start when they lost captain Graham Gooch with only 11 on the board. Gooch, on eight, hung out his bat and Leonard, who was bowling strongly had him edging the ball behind to Blain.

Scores: Central Districts 189-7 declared (Tony Blain 45, Scott Brianas 41; Ian Botham 40-2; Derek Pringle 37-2); England 246-2 (Graeme Hick 114, Alec Stewart 101 not out; Dave Leonard 39-2).

Blain, who fell from grace in the New Zealand tour of England in 1986 when he dropped an easy catch off Ian Botham, got some measure of

revenge.

Botham tried to field a Blain drive that caught him on the knuckle of the right index finger. Botham was taken to the Taranaki Base Hospital for precautionary x-rays and cleared of any serious damage.

"It's not serious," Botham said. "It's a bit stiff, but I'm fine, there's no real damage."

Blain made 45 when he was also caught behind off Dermot Reeve.

Duff, who was dropped by Botham at first slip when on eight, and Dave Leonard took the score to 189 when Brianas declared at early tea. Duff was on 36 and Leonard 10.

England had a poor start when they lost captain Graham Gooch with only 11 on the board. Gooch, on eight, hung out his bat and Leonard, who was bowling strongly had him edging the ball behind to Blain.

Scores: Central Districts 189-7 declared (Tony Blain 45, Scott Brianas 41; Ian Botham 40-2; Derek Pringle 37-2); England 246-2 (Graeme Hick 114, Alec Stewart 101 not out; Dave Leonard 39-2).

Blain, who fell from grace in the New Zealand tour of England in 1986 when he dropped an easy catch off Ian Botham, got some measure of

revenge.

Botham tried to field a Blain drive that caught him on the knuckle of the right index finger. Botham was taken to the Taranaki Base Hospital for precautionary x-rays and cleared of any serious damage.

"It's not serious," Botham said. "It's a bit stiff, but I'm fine, there's no real damage."

Blain made 45 when he was also caught behind off Dermot Reeve.

Duff, who was dropped by Botham at first slip when on eight, and Dave Leonard took the score to 189 when Brianas declared at early tea. Duff was on 36 and Leonard 10.

England had a poor start when they lost captain Graham Gooch with only 11 on the board. Gooch, on eight, hung out his bat and Leonard, who was bowling strongly had him edging the ball behind to Blain.

Scores: Central Districts 189-7 declared (Tony Blain 45, Scott Brianas 41; Ian Botham 40-2; Derek Pringle 37-2); England 246-2 (Graeme Hick 114, Alec Stewart 101 not out; Dave Leonard 39-2).

Blain, who fell from grace in the New Zealand tour of England in 1986 when he dropped an easy catch off Ian Botham, got some measure of

revenge.

Botham tried to field a Blain drive that caught him on the knuckle of the right index finger. Botham was taken to the Taranaki Base Hospital for precautionary x-rays and cleared of any serious damage.



VENKAT RAJU...3 for 11

the pair had scored in five innings between them to date.

Then Srikanth was adjudged to have gloved Craig McDermott to the wicket-keeper and departed, unhelpfully rubbing his arm, for 17.

Sanjay Manjrekar was leg before the following over, his third ball and bowler Merv Hughes' fifth.

The one bad mark for India was an unnecessarily prolonged appeal from Chandra Pandit for a leg-before decision against Hughes.

The wicketkeeper came up the wicket towards umpire Darrell Hair and appealed three times. Hair, in his first Test, complained to Azharuddin and told him if Pandit did not keep quite he would

revenge.

Botham tried to field a Blain drive that caught him on the knuckle of the right index finger. Botham was taken to the Taranaki Base Hospital for precautionary x-rays and cleared of any serious damage.

"It's not serious," Botham said. "It's a bit stiff, but I'm fine, there's no real damage."

Blain made 45 when he was also caught behind off Dermot Reeve.

Duff, who was dropped by Botham at first slip when on eight, and Dave Leonard took the score to 189 when Brianas declared at early tea. Duff was on 36 and Leonard 10.

England had a poor start when they lost captain Graham Gooch with only 11 on the board. Gooch, on eight, hung out his bat and Leonard, who was bowling strongly had him edging the ball behind to Blain.

Scores: Central Districts 189-7 declared (Tony Blain 45, Scott Brianas 41; Ian Botham 40-2; Derek Pringle 37-2); England 246-2 (Graeme Hick 114, Alec Stewart 101 not out; Dave Leonard 39-2).

Blain, who fell from grace in the New Zealand tour of England in 1986 when he dropped an easy catch off Ian Botham, got some measure of

revenge.

Botham tried to field a Blain drive that caught him on the knuckle of the right index finger. Botham was taken to the Taranaki Base Hospital for precautionary x-rays and cleared of any serious damage.

"It's not serious," Botham said. "It's a bit stiff, but I'm fine, there's no real damage."

Blain made 45 when he was also caught behind off Dermot Reeve.

Duff, who was dropped by Botham at first slip when on eight, and Dave Leonard took the score to 189 when Brianas declared at early tea. Duff was on 36 and Leonard 10.

England had a poor start when they lost captain Graham Gooch with only 11 on the board. Gooch, on eight, hung out his bat and Leonard, who was bowling strongly had him edging the ball behind to Blain.

Scores: Central Districts 189-7 declared (Tony Blain 45, Scott Brianas 41; Ian Botham 40-2; Derek Pringle 37-2); England 246-2 (Graeme Hick 114, Alec Stewart 101 not out; Dave Leonard 39-2).

Blain, who fell from grace in the New Zealand tour of England in 1986 when he dropped an easy catch off Ian Botham, got some measure of

revenge.

Botham tried to field a Blain drive that caught him on the knuckle of the right index finger. Botham was taken to the Taranaki Base Hospital for precautionary x-rays and cleared of any serious damage.

"It's not serious," Botham said. "It's a bit stiff, but I'm fine, there's no real damage."

Blain made 45 when he was also caught behind off Dermot Reeve.

Duff, who was dropped by Botham at first slip when on eight, and Dave Leonard took the score to 189 when Brianas declared at early tea. Duff was on 36 and Leonard 10.

England had a poor start when they lost captain Graham Gooch with only 11 on the board. Gooch, on eight, hung out his bat and Leonard, who was bowling strongly had him edging the ball behind to Blain.

become the first player to be reported to a match referee.

Azharuddin apologised and spoke to Pandit and the matter ended there. The referee for this Test, former England captain Peter May, will thus not be troubled by the day's events, unlike Australia's batsmen.

Their captain, Border, was not available for comment.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the fourth cricket Test between Australia and India today.

AUSTRALIA: First innings

Marsh b Prabhakar	8
Taylor b Tendulkar	11
Boon b K Dev	19
Border c Pandit b Tendulkar	0
Jones c Azharuddin b Raju	41
M Waugh lbw Prabhakar	15
Healy c Pandit b K Dev	1
Hughes c Manjrekar b K Dev	26
Warne st Pandit b Raju	7
McDermott b Raju	0
Whitney not out	0
Extras: (lb-10 nb-7)	17
Total: (all out)	145

Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-36, 3-39, 4-50, 5-77, 6-81, 7-117, 8-141, 9-145.

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Kapil Dev	23	11	33	3
Prabhakar	18	3	55	2
Srinath	10	2	26	0
Tendulkar	4	2	10	2
Raju	11.4	7	11	3

INDIA: First innings

Srikkanth c Healy	
b McDermott	17
Sidhu not out	15
Manjrekar lbw Hughes	2
Vengsarkar not out	8
Extras: (lb 1, nb 2)	3
Total: (for 2 wkts)	45
To bat: Azharuddin, Tendulkar	