

Mohammedans outclass Brothers

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club tipped off its blossoming into the most powerful side in this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium when the only unbeaten side crushed last year's champions Brothers Union club by a staggering margin of seven wickets.

Brothers Union, who never looked like threatening Mohammedans, made exactly 200 for nine wickets after being put into bat by Minhauz Abedin Mannu, in their stipulated 45 overs.

Mohammedans achieved the victory target with a bye off the second ball of the 41st over bowled by 'formality' bowler Halim Shah. Rafiqul Alam, the moody, right-hand batsman, played himself right under the lime-light after a couple of indifferent seasons with — a sterling, unbeaten 91. He sent the ball to the ropes five times, playing 101 balls in the process.

It was the second consecutive big knock by this former national batsman after his 82 against FWD. One of the finest players of spin bowling in the country Rafiq, who must be knocking at the door for a return to the national eleven after a rare display of consistency with the willow this season, looks at this stage of his career a little suspect against pace. He was, however, in no trouble against a Brothers attack depleted by poor fielding. Rafiq, given a new lease of life by a magnanimous gesture of sportsmanship by teammate Aminul Islam Bulbul, failed to get what would have been a well-deserved hundred, his first of the current season.

first to respond to a sharp single, sacrificed his wicket after seeing his partner charge down the wicket to depart for a brisk 26.

A new look Ashar Hossain Shantoo was the other Mohammedan batsman to shine with the willow, hitting a breezy 58 with the help of five boundaries off 83 balls before holing out to Tomal at mid-wicket. It was the second consecutive fifty for the bespectacled opener after a long lay off. A very straight player, not



RAFIQUL ALAM ... 91 n.o.

known for cross batted strokes, Shantoo now plays the pull shot frequently to punish the shorter balls.

Jehangir Alam, Mohammedans' mainstay with the bat at the beginning of the season, could not choke off his bad luck as a Fernando delivery rocketed to his stumps off the inside edge of his bat much to the dismay of the young opener. However, he had a fine day behind the stumps

managing five victims, a rare feat in a predominantly batsman's game.

Earlier in the day, Brothers opener Nurul Abedin Nobel compiled a fine 63 with the help of five fours and one six in his usual unorthodox manner.

Habibul Bashar Sumon, the talented young right-hand batsman going great guns this year, made 37 before airing one to Gamagee off veteran leggie Waheed. His 43-ball innings contained four elegant boundaries.

Burly Arup Bhattacharya did his best in the slog overs to collect an unbeaten 39 off only 34 balls.

Captain Athar Ali Khan, who scored a fine unbeaten hundred off the GMCC attack in the previous match, was a big flop yesterday scoring only one before being stumped by Jehangir off Shantoo.

Sri Lankan all-rounder Fernando was sent back by Bulbul for only 12 and Halim Shah became the third victim of the off-spinner after making 11.

Mohammedans' tall barrel-chested opening bowler Gamagee who had earlier dismissed opener Tomal, returned to produce a tight second spell, restricting Brothers to 200. He finished with two for 26 while Bulbul, with a wee bit of pasting, returned figures of three for 50.

Shantoo and Waheed picked up one wicket apiece.

This was Mohammedans' tenth victory on the trot while for Brothers Union, last year's champions, it was their fourth defeat in ten outings.

Abahani are second in the league standings, having won nine of their ten games to date, having suffered their solitary defeat at the hands of arch rivals Mohammedans on January 13.

SCOREBOARD

BROTHERS UNION

Tomal c Jehangir b Gamagee	4
Novel c Waheed b Bulbul	63
Shamsul c Jehangir b Dulu	5
Sumon c Gamagee b Waheed	37
Athar Ali st Jehangir b Shantoo	1
Arup not out	39
Fernando c Gamagee b Bulbul	12
Halim Shah st Jehangir b Bulbul	11
Shovon c Jehangir b Gamagee	9
Saad run out	1
Salahuddin not out	0
Extras	18
Total	200

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Gamagee	7	0	26	2
Dulu	7	0	14	1
Bulbul	8.4	0	50	3
Nannu	4.2	0	19	0
Shantoo	9	0	34	1
Waheed	9	2	44	1

MOHAMMEDAN SC

Jehangir b Fernando	2
Shantoo c Tomal b Salahuddin	58
Rafiq not out	91
Bulbul run out	26
Nannu not out	9
Extras	15
Total	201

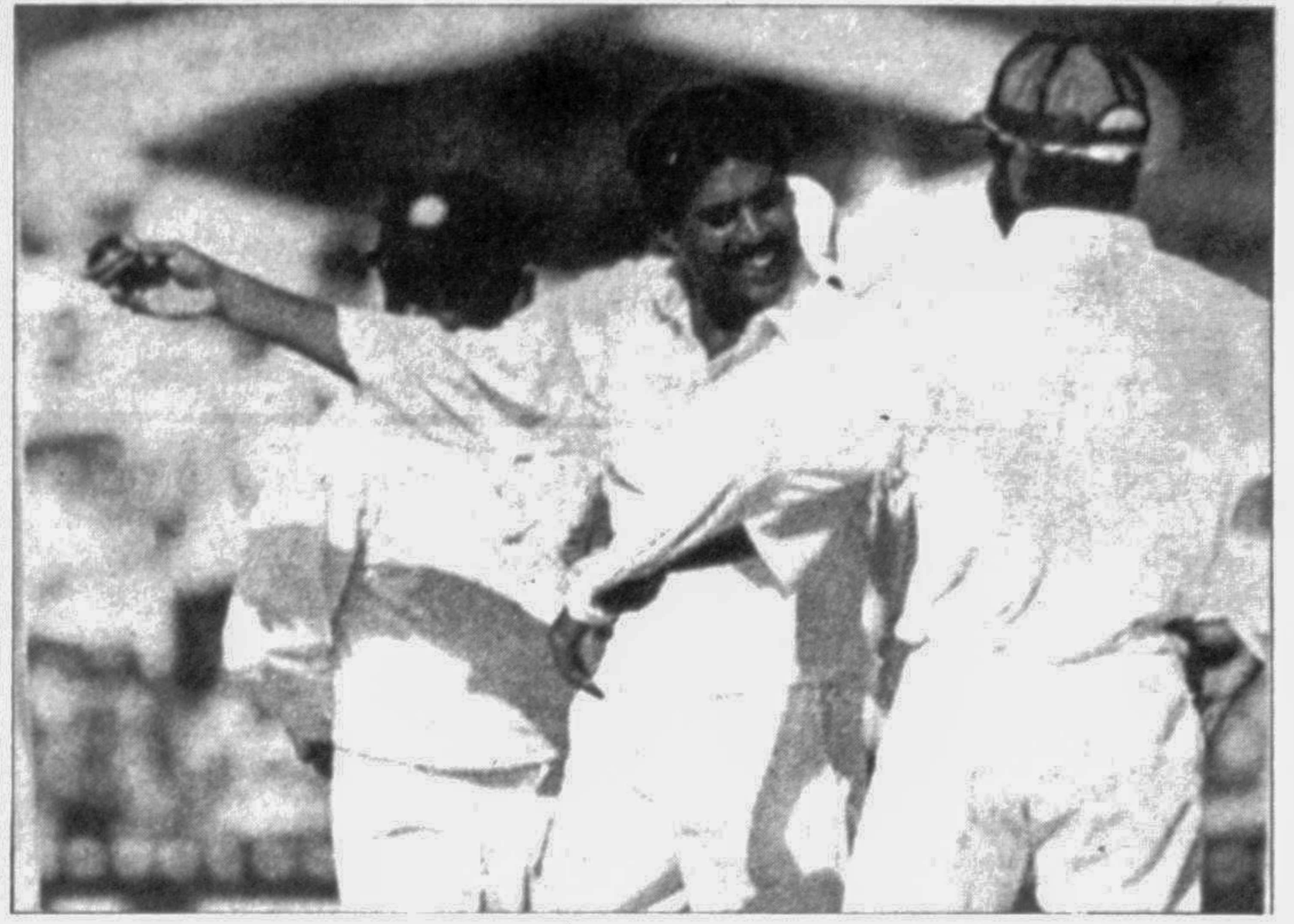
Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Fernando	7	0	20	1
Saad	9	1	27	0
Athar Ali	1	0	8	0
Shamsul	5	0	30	0
Salahuddin	7	0	36	1
Arup	7	0	36	0
Sumon	1	0	8	0
Shovon	2	0	11	0
Tomal	1	0	12	0
Halim Shah	0.2	0	2	0

Umpires: Ataul Hoque Mullick, Abdul Hadi Ratan

TODAY'S MATCHES

Navana
Surjo Tarun Club vs Kalabagan KC (Dhaka Stadium)
Minara
Udity Club vs Agrani Bank (Mirpur Pallabi)



Indian pace bowler Kapil Dev shows Sidhu the ball that captured the only wicket to fall during the third day's play of the fourth Test against Australia in Adelaide on Jan 27. Kapil Dev took five wickets for 130 runs.

Indians face a most daunting task

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 28: India struggled grimly today to stay in contention in the fourth cricket Test against Australia and to keep the series alive, reports AFP.

Chasing a victory target of 372 on a wearing wicket at the Adelaide Oval, India were 31 without loss in their second innings at stumps on the fourth day.

The Indians, who lost the first two Tests in four days through inept batting, need a further 341 runs to win, or bat out three sessions for a draw on the final day Wednesday.

Earlier, Australia — 80 behind on the first innings — were all out for 451 in their second innings soon after tea after a late batting revival in which the last five wickets added 174.

Skipper Allan Border led the recovery with a timely unbeaten 91 made in a dour, defensive style over five-and-a-half hours.

The 36-year-old veteran of 129 Tests, who made a duck in the first innings rout of 145, returned to form after a poor run in the previous six innings in which he managed just 105 runs.

But he fell short of his 24th Test century when last man Mike Whitney, who made his highest Test score of 12 during a stand of 42, holed out in the deep after batting for an hour.

Leading all-rounder Kapil Dev, 34, was India's wicket-keeper-in-chief with five for 130 in 51

overs, which gave him eight wickets in the match and took his career haul to 397 in 114 Tests.

India were lucky not to lose an early wicket when Mark Taylor missed Navjot Sidhu off Whitney's first delivery before the batsman had opened his account.

Sidhu and opening partner Krish Srikkanth survived 13 hostile overs from the Australian paceman to make 13 apiece and carry the fight on to what promises to be an absorbing final day.

Starting the day at 245 for two, Australia were reduced to 277 for five within the first hour when a dramatic middle order slump saw them lose three wickets in four balls for no runs.

David boon, 121 not out overnight, took his score to 135 before wicketkeeper Chandrakanth Pandit ran him out with a direct hit at the non-striker's wicket while the batsman was strolled in through for a single.

Kapil, India's lone bowling hope after Manoj Prabhakar was sidelined with a back strain, then blasted out Dean Jones and Mark Waugh off successive balls to bring India roaring back into the game.

He had Jones caught behind with a superb out-swinger and forced Waugh to edge the next delivery to Sachin Tendulkar at second slip.

Ian Healy slammed a quick-fire 41 in a 71-run stand for the sixth wicket with Border to begin the Australian revival against the depleted Indian attack.

Healy, lucky to see the usually safe Kapil drop a running catch at square leg when on eight, hit four boundaries to take the battle to the Indians while Border was content to defend.

After Healy's departure in the post-lunch session — Kapil's 397th victim — Merv Hughes showed his batting flair by making 23 in a seventh-wicket stand of 35 with his captain.

The pair carried the score to 383 for six when Javagal Srinath responded to India's call with two wickets in one over to temporarily halt the run hunt.

Srinath claimed Hughes leg before with a sharp cutter and two balls later had Shane Warne, playing his second Test, caught down the leg side by Pandit.

But India's hopes of cutting Australia's lead were crushed by useful contributions from Craig McDermott, who made 21, and new-ball partner Whitney.

Whitney, who made just 18 runs in 12 previous Test innings with a highest of seven, put his head down for an hour to help Border give Australia a lead of over 350.

Realising the need to get quick runs, Border smashed Kapil over midwicket for a huge six which landed in the Oval's Car Park, but he was left stranded when Whitney lofted spinner Venkatapathy Raju down Srinath's throat at mid-on.

Raju, who took three for 11 in the first innings, returned with two for 121 from 56

SCOREBOARD

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

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 145 (D Jones 41, Kapil Dev three for 33, V. Raju three for 11)

INDIA: First Innings 225 (Kapil Dev 56, C McDermott five for 76)

AUSTRALIA: Second Innings (overnight 245 for two wickets)

M. Taylor c Raju b Dev	100
marsh b Dev	5
Boon run out	135
border not out	91
Jones c Pandit b Dev	0
M Waugh c Tendulkar b Dev	0
Healy c Srikkanth b Dev	41
Hughes lbw Srinath	23
Warne c Pandit b Srinath	0
McDermott b Raju	21
Whitney c Srinath b Raju	12
Extras: (lb-15, nb-8)	23
Total: (all out)	451
Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-231, 3-277, 4-277, 5-277, 6-348, 7-383, 8-383, 9-409.	

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Kapil Dev	51	12	130	5
Prabhakar	21	5	60	0
Raju	56	15	121	2
Srinath	37	13	76	2
Srikkanth	1	0	5	0
Tendulkar	20	5	44	0

INDIA: Second Innings

Srikkanth batting	13
Sidhu batting	13
Extras: (lb 2, nb 3)	5
Total	31

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
McDermott	7	1	17	0
Whitney	4	1	11	0
Hughes	2	1	10	0

Shastri returns home

BOMBAY, Jan 28: Indian vice-captain Ravi Shastri, flown home from the cricket tour of Australia with ligament and hamstring injuries, is likely to be fit for next month's World Cup, a Bombay Cricket Association spokesman said today, reports Reuters.

"Shastri's injury is not of a lasting nature and he is expected to be declared fit for the World Cup", the spokesman told Reuters.

The right-hand opener had been one of India's few consistent batsmen on the country's roller-coaster tour of Australia, and with his left-arm spin taking regular wickets his absence would have been a major blow to India's World Cup hopes.

India has delayed announcing the 14-man World Cup squad until early February to make sure Shastri is fit enough to play.

"Flown home from Australia on Monday, Shastri is undergoing intensive physiotherapy," the spokesman said.

GMCC aggravate Wari's woes

Sports Reporter

Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club overcame a precarious start to post a comfortable 63-run victory against relegation bound Wari Club in the Navana Premier Division Cricket league match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Electing to bat first GMCC were off to a terrible start with four of their batsman back in the pavilion on a wicket where the ball bounced disconcertingly in the early half of the day.

Zakir fetched off his side with an enterprising 59, including five hits to the fence, with admirable assistance from Sharath, the Sri Lankan all-rounder who made 35.

Saiful with 25 and Pika with 20 provided fine rearguard action to take their side to a safe score of 186 for nine in the forty-two overs sent down by the Wari bowlers. Wari opening bowler Saad, showing promise to emulate his more illustrious name-sake in Brothers Union, took three for 27. Rafiqul (Jr) claimed two for 41.

The fact that GMCC's modest 186 was to much for a weak Wari was soon reiterated when Saiful, one of the most promising quickies around, clean bowled opener Sumon for nought.

Although Kamran laboured for his 33 and Zia made and unbeaten 31, Wari surrendered at 124, losing eight wickets in their stipulated 42 overs.

Sri Lankan Duminda Peretra hastened Wari's doom taking three quick wickets for 22 runs with his left-arm spinners.

Off-spinner Rubel returned an astonishingly economical analysis of seven overs, three maidens, six run and one wicket.

SCOREBOARD

GMCC

Liton c Ripon b Saad	1
Saiful	2
Nasu c Iftekh b Saad	4
Duminda c Raju b Kajal	0
Zakir c Sumon b Rafiqul	59
Sharath b Rafiqul	35
Lipu st Raju b Lahu	4
Pika st Raju b Zia	20
Saiful b Rafiq (Sr)	25
Rubel not out	0
Gowala not out	0

Extras: 36
Total: 186

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Kajal	9	0	27	1
Saad	8	0	32	3
Rafiq (Sr)	4	0	19	1
Ripon	3	0	12	0
Rafiqul (Jr)	9	0	41	2
Lahu	6	1	25	1
Zia	3	0	18	1

WARI CLUB

Sumon b Saiful	0
Kamran c Lipu b Rubel	33
Ripon c Pika b Zakir	0
Rafiq (Sr) st Nasu b Gowala	19
Zia not out	31
Raju b Duminda	0
Kajal c Sharath b Duminda	6
Iftekh b W Duminda	5
Rafiqul c Salim b Nasu	3
Saad not out	2
Extras	24
Total	123

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Saiful	4	0	9	1
Zakir	4	0	9	1
Sharath	5	0	16	0
Lipu	3	0	13	0
Goala	8	0	28	1
Rubel	7	3	6	1
Duminda	9	1	22	3
Salim	1	0	6	0
Nasu	1	0	5	1

Umpires: Nil Ratan, M Aziz

Police surrender to MSC

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club recorded their fourth consecutive win in the Green Delta First Division on hockey league beating Bangladesh Ansars 3-0 yesterday at the Hockey Stadium.

Mohammedans led the first half 2-0.

The title-aspirants, who beat Police Athletic Club in their previous outing, dominated most of the proceedings and created at least five positive chances but succeeded only in scoring from three.

Bangladesh Ansars, who were trounced by Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club 0-7 in their last game, always remained busy in guarding their goal and quite understandably showed little interest in carrying out raids near the Mohammedan goalmouth.

Roby put the black-and-whites ahead in the 12th minute by converting a penalty corner (1-0).

Veteran Kismat doubled the margin in the 20th minute by scoring a field goal (2-0).

Kismat got his second goal for the winners in the 50th minute with yet another field goal to seal the fate of the match (3-0).

Mohammedans earned six penalty corners while Ansars managed to force only two.

Mitul of Mohammedans was warned with the green card.

Mohammedans now have eight points from four outings while Ansars have none from an identical number of outings.

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDANS: Mantu, Roby, Nixon, Jamal, Mitul, Kismat, Zahid, Chapal, Nannu (cap), Shabbir and Rubel (Ilias).

in the 20th minute through another fine field goal (2-0).

Murad reduced the margin for Sadharan Bima in the 31st minute with a field goal scored in style (1-2).

Much to the comfort of the Bima supporters, Nakib restored parity for the former champions in the 60th minute by converting a penalty corner (2-2).

Wanderers once again moved ahead when Fazlu converted a penalty corner (3-2).

But the insurancemen yet again drew level through Nakib just before the hooter (3-3).

Bima earned four corners and ten penalty corners while Wanderers forced as many as five corners and as many penalty corners.

Fazlu, Rubel and Kamal of Wanderers invited the green card while Rana of the same side was cautioned with the yellow card.

Bima now have five points from four outings while Wanderers have six from a similar number of games.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Mariner Youngs Club vs Bangladesh SC (1:45 pm)
Ajax SC vs Usha Krira Chakra (3:30 pm)

Richardson sidelined

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Jan 28: West Indies cricket captain Richie Richardson will be out of action for 10 days after breaking a finger in a match here on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Richardson chipped a bone in the little finger of his left hand while fielding for the Leeward Islands in a Red Stripe Cup game against the Windward Islands.

Leeward Islands manager Val Banks on Monday described the injury as not serious and said the finger was banded.

Richardson is due in Jamaica later this week to help choose the West Indian squad for the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand starting on February 22.

Soccer tour

Sports Reporter

The West Bengal cricket team is likely to make a short tour of Bangladesh next month, according to BCCB sources in Dhaka last night.

The BCCB executive committee meets today to finalise an itinerary for the tour, involving four matches in and outside the capital, between the second and third weeks of February.

The Cricket Association of Bengal yesterday proposed the trip to the BCCB, it is learnt.

Kiwi selectors deny panic

WELLINGTON, Jan 28: New Zealand selectors deny they have been panicked into making sweeping changes to their team for the second cricket Test against England after losing the opening game of the series, reports Reuters.

Four players were dropped after the innings and four run defeat at Christchurch and wicketkeeper Ian Smith replaced by Adam Parore because of injury.

"I don't regard it as panic," said Chairman of selectors Don Neely. "It could be exciting."

Neely said strong measures were needed if New Zealand were to claw back their one-11 deficit in a three-match series and defend a proud record of not losing a home series since 1979.

Middle order batsmen Mark Greatbatch, Shane Thomson and Chris Harris have been replaced by the previously out-of-favour Ken Rutherford and the burly Rod Latham, who makes his debut at 30.

New Zealand's bowling attack has been strengthened by the replacement of Chris Pringle by Willie Watson and given extra variety by the inclusion of left-arm paceman Murphy Su'a to team up with Danny Morrison and Chris Cairns.

The side bowling first may find more bounce and pace than usual in Auckland's Eden Park pitch which is likely to be green on the first day but play lower and slower as the game progresses.

"There is a more than a little bit of grass," England coach Micky Stewart said after inspecting the pitch.

Stewart promised England, who delay naming their 12 until Wednesday night, would not play negatively simply to defend their lead.

Magic Johnson invited to Australia

SYDNEY, Australia Jan 28: Basketball Australia said Tuesday it has invited Magic Johnson to captain a United States all-star team in a pre-Olympic tournament against the country's national team, reports AP.

The invitation is seen as a bid by national officials to distance the sport from remarks made last week by some team members and the team doctor.

The doctor questioned whether the team should play against the HIV-positive Johnson.

The remarks provoked outrage in the United States and