

Sport

Pika tilts the balance in GMCC's favour

Sports Reporter



Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club carved out an exciting two-wicket victory against Bangladesh Biman in yesterday's Navana Premier Division cricket league at the Dhaka Stadium.

GMCC skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu won the toss and invited his counterpart to make the first of the strip.

Lipu's decision proved right as rain as his opening bowlers Zakir and Saiful prised out the top four batsmen for only 21. Opener Tariqzaman Munir was first to go as Zakir brought one sharply in to trap the diminutive right-hander leg before for seven. Saiful the opener tickled one behind the stumps to make the score two for eleven. Four runs later, wicketkeeper Nasu gleefully accepted an edge from Zakaria off the same bowler. GMCC were cock-a-hoop when Biman skipper Shah Nawaz Shanu snicked a delivery from Saiful to Nasu and a mid air crash seemed inevitable.

ful batting required by the early collapse played havoc with the run-rate and the situation demanded a desperate measure.

Cometh the hour cometh the man and Biman paceman Rafiq seemed to know exactly what his side needed from him. Batting like a bull in a China shop he scored a hurricane 49 off 27 balls with two sixes and six fours.

Biman finally touched down at 153 in the stipulated 45 overs.

Off spinner Rubel was the pick of the GMCC bowlers taking three for 21. Pace bowlers Zakir and Saiful bowled superbly to return figures of three for 29 and two for 23 respectively.

GMCC's innings also followed the course charted in the morning with Liton, Salm and Sri Lankan Sharath and Duminda returning to the pavilion with the score reading a stinking 49 for four.

Arif Pika steadied the rocking GMCC boat with an excellent half century and he was well supported by skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu.

Pika scored exactly 50 with three hits to the fence off 77 balls.

Lipu got 26 before being caught by Bachchu off left arm spinner Mont.

Saiful with an unbeaten 11 finished the task as GMCC cruised past the Biman score with two wickets and two overs to spare.

Pace man Aloke Chakraborty, back again in the business of full time pace bowling, gave the early breakthrough to finish with two for 25 from nine overs.

Mont claimed two for 30 while Rafiq and veteran off spinner Azhar picked up one apiece.

Saiful c Nasu b Zakir 2
Zakaria c Nasu b Zakir 7
Shanu c Nasu b Duminda 3
Bachchu c Nasu b Duminda 26
Mont b Sharath b Rubel 14
Shabbir run out 16
Rafique b Rubel 49
Jahangir b Saiful 2
Azhar not out 3
Aloke c & b Rubel 1
Extras 23
Total: (all out in 45 overs) 153

Bowling:

O	M	R	W
Saiful	9	1	23
Zakir	9	0	29
Rubel	8	1	21
Sharath	9	3	21
RC Goala	3	0	18
Duminda	7	0	35

GMCC

Liton lbw Aloke	1
Selim c Jahangir b Rafique	0
Sharath c Jahangir b Aloke	1
Duminda c Jahangir b Azhar	11
Zakir run out	14
Pika run out	56
G A Lipu c Bachchu b Mont	24
Nasu c Bachchu b Mani	3
Saiful not out	11
Rubel not out	17
Extras	23
Total (for 8 wickets in 43 overs)	11

Bowling:

O	M	R	W
Aloke	9	0	25
Rafique	7	0	23
Azhar	8	0	42
Mont	8	0	30
Bachchu	7	1	15
Shanu	4	0	16

Umpires: Selim and Shabben.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Abahani KC vs Kalabagan KC (Dhaka Stadium)

Gulshan Youth vs PWD (DCS)

Veteran Ahmed Iqbal Bachchu summoned all his experiences to tinker the Biman innings and he found a willing partner in young Enamul Huq Mont. These two put on 43 invaluable runs for the fifth wicket.

Bachchu scored 26, playing 75 balls, with only one boundary to his name. Mont the attacking southpaw was even more patient playing 54 balls for his 14.

Shabbir also batted sensibly scoring 16 but the dour watch-

NAVANA PREMIER LEAGUE POINTS TABLE

Following are the standings in the Navana Premier Division cricket league after yesterday's match between GMCC and Biman:

M	W	L	D	P
Mohammedan SC	10	0	0	20
Abahani KC	10	0	1	18
PWD	9	6	3	0
Brothers Union	10	6	4	0
GMCC	10	6	4	0
Bangladesh Biman	8	5	3	0
Gulshan Youth	10	5	5	0
Surjo Tarun Club	10	4	6	0
Kalabagan KC	10	4	6	0
Lalmatia Club	10	3	7	0
Wari Club	11	1	10	0
Rupali Bank	10	0	10	0

Azad Sporting post maiden win

Sports Reporter

Azad Sporting Club posted their first win in the Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket league when they beat challengers Evergreen by ten runs in a keenly-contested tie at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

With this hard-earned victory Azad have two points while Evergreen have four points from three matches.

Put into bat, Azad piled up an impressive 217 in 34.3 overs.

Shyamol went great guns with the willow scoring 61 runs with the help of five sixes and half a dozen fours off just 21 deliveries.

Monoj made a half century hammering four fours off 63 balls.

Asad with 25, Sobuj with 12 and Monu with 11 not out lent them support.

Babu, Azad and Asif took two wickets apiece for Evergreen.

Chasing a huge target at the strike rate of 6.2 runs per over, Evergreen were all out for 207 runs in 34.4 overs.

Milon, the most successful Evergreen batsman, scored 54 runs hitting three sixes and four fours off 37 balls.

Asif made 43 runs while Alamgir and Jibon made 24 and 19 respectively.

Monu ran through Evergreen batting claiming three wickets for 23 runs while Liton and Monoj bagged two wickets each for Azad.

In the other match of the day, Shantinagar Club-B outplayed Lalbagh Anwar Cricket Club by an impressive 105 runs in a rather one-sided affair at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (West).

Shantinagar now have four points from three outings while Lalbagh are yet to open their account from an identical number of matches.

Electing to bat, Shantinagar made 215 runs for the loss of eight wickets in their stipulated 35 overs, thanks to fine

knocks by Raja and Bappi.

Raja topscored with 58 hitting two sixes and six fours off 45 balls while Bappi remained not out with 49 hammering seven boundaries.

Opener Sadeque, the other notable Shantinagar batsman, got 30 with the help of four fours.

Sajal and Hossain claimed two wickets each for Lalbagh.

In their turn, Lalbagh were booked for 110 runs in 23 overs.

Sajal, Tapan and Mamun scored 18, 17 and 14 respectively for Lalbagh.

Sadeque, who contributed a useful 30 to his side's total wrought havoc with the leather taking four wickets for 30 runs.

Probal and Sujun, with two wickets apiece, backed him well.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Dhaka Friends Union vs DOHS Club (DCS)

Dhanmondi Club vs Lalbagh VSC (DCG)

Bangladesh-Lanka level at 1-1

COLOMBO, Jan 31: Bangladesh held Sri Lanka one all in the opening day of their Davis Cup tennis Asia Oceania group two quarter-finals here today, reports AFP.

In the first match, Hira Lal of Bangladesh won a hectic five setter 7-5, 4-6, 2-6, 6-4, 7-5 against Sri Lanka's Dishan Herath.

Jayendra Wijeyesekera, Sri Lanka's top seed, beat Faisal Haq in straight sets 6-3, 6-0, 6-2 at the clay courts of the Sri Lanka Tennis Association.

Wijeyesekera and Aruna Seneviratne of Sri Lanka will play Hira Lal and Haq in the doubles tomorrow.

DMP sports

The annual sports meet of Dhaka Metropolitan Police was held yesterday at the Rajarbagh Police Lines ground, says a DMP press release.

The competition featured 96 participants including both male and female.

M Enamul Huq, Inspector General of Police attended the occasion as chief guest while Begun Anamika Huq Lily distributed prizes among the winners.

Star football

Star First Division football league matches remained suspended yesterday because of inadequate security measure following the unavailability of the members of the law enforcing agency. With the fixture bodily shifted with Dhaka Wanderers Club taking on Police AC today in the first match of the day at three pm and Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club facing Arambagh Krira Sangstha in the second match starting at 5 pm.

Tomorrow's matches, it is learnt will remain suspended for the same reason.

Ctg cricket

CHITTAGONG, Jan 31: Dhaka Club beat Chittagong Club by one wicket in a friendly match at the Chittagong Port Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Chittagong Club were all out for 123 in 37 overs with Ripon Making an unbeaten 52.

Lutfia Nazib Khan (Rum) of Dhaka Club took four wickets for 19 runs.

In reply, Dhaka Club made 124 for nine in 39.3 overs. Mainul of Dhaka Club scored 42 runs.

Dantiyasha cricket resumes

Brothers Union (Jrs) outplayed MHQ by four wickets in the inaugural tie of the 1992 Dantiyasha Gold Cup cricket tournament yesterday at the Motijheel Colony Eidgah ground, says a press release.

Batting first, MHQ made 117 runs while Bothers scored 121 runs for six wickets in reply.

Sopu of Brothers Union (Jrs) was adjudged the man-of-the-match.

Mirza Abbas, Mayor of the Dhaka Municipal Corporation, inaugurated the tourney.

RNL Cup badminton

The third RNL Cup badminton tournament, organised by Rangs Limited at their Tejgon workshop premises recently saw Mohammad Hassan earning double crowns.

Mohammad Hassan and his partner Abdur Razzak picked up the doubles title beating Iqbal Hassan and Ershad Ali 9-15, 15-9, 15-10 in the final.

Mohammad Hassan then added the singles title to his credit by beating G H Gulib Biswas in straight sets 15-11, 15-7.

A Rauf Chowdhury, Managing Director of Rangs Group of Companies gave away the prizes to the winners at a function held Thursday night, which was followed by a dinner.



Action from yesterday's Cute handball league encounter between Surjodoy Boys and S Maishundi KC — Star photo

Cricketer killed

CHANDIGARH, Jan 31: Punjab's promising left-arm batsman Dhruv Pandove died in a road accident near Ambala in Haryana early this morning, reports PTI.

Dhruv Pandove, son of AMP Pandove, secretary of Punjab Cricket Association (PCA), had taken a taxi from Ambala for his home town Patiala after playing in the Deodhar Trophy



DHRUV PANDOVE cricket match at Sambalpur when the accident occurred.

Dhruv Pandove, 18, was the youngest batsman to have scored 1000 runs in Ranji trophy.

In 1989 Pandove visited Bangladesh for the Beximco Cup Asian youth under-19 tournament which India won.

Cute handball

Surjodoy Boys Club trounced S Maishundi Krira Chakra 33-11 in the Cute handball league at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Kamal and Babul were the joint top scorers netting six goals each for the winners.

Salahuddin and Nanna scored four each while Apu and Kajal got three apiece for Surjodoy.

Babul (Sr) and Babul (Jr) were the main goal getters for the losers scoring four and three goals respectively.

Reigning champions Bangladesh Rifles got walkover against Dhaka Mariners Young's Club in the other match of the day as they later failed to turn up. As a result Mariners will be scratched.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Victoria vs Bantiyanagar (2.15 pm)

West Jatrabari vs Tarun Sangsad (3.30 pm)

Lewis burst brings England back

AUCKLAND, Jan 31: New Zealand collapsed dramatically in the final session on the second day of the second Test today to give England an unexpected ascendancy after being shot out for 203, reports Reuter.

Well-placed at 91 for two wickets, New Zealand crumbled to 141 for nine on the difficult Eden Park wicket, losing seven wickets for 48 runs in the last 90 minutes.

New Zealand lost their last four wickets for 15 runs. Three of them were lbws — two of them narrow decisions — and Chris Cairns west to a freakish catch.

He smashed a delivery from spinner Phillip Tuffnell on to the boot of Robin Smith at silly mid-off and Graeme Hick took the catch at cover.

Seamers Chris Lewis, Derek Pringle and Phillip DeFreitas were able to get the same movement and lift off the wicket as the New Zealand bowlers had done on the first day and no batsman has appeared comfortable.

England, 146 for seven overnight, were dismissed shortly before lunch with 21-year-old fast bowler Cairns taking all three wickets to give him career best figures of six for 52.

Cairns, son of all — rounder Lance, bowled at sharp pace and got good lift to pick up his second five — wicket bag in Tests.

When New Zealand batted, Lewis bowled with similar control, although troubled by no balls, and was well backed by

Pringle. Lewis has figures of four for 31 off 20 overs.

In his second over he trapped Blair Hatfield lbw for a duck and shortly afterwards made a ball to lift from a length, jamming John Wright's left index finger against the bat.



CHRIS LEWIS...4 for 31

Wright retired hurt on five and went to hospital for a precautionary x-ray, but resumed batting at the fall of Ken Rutherford's wicket.

England gained further ground when the consistent

Andrew Jones, after reaching 14, clipped a ball from DeFreitas into the hands of Robin Smith at cover-point.

Rutherford, recalled to the team after being controversially omitted, joined Crowe and although each of the pair played and missed often, they put on 56, the best partnership of the match.

At 90 for two New Zealand were wrestling control but the match turned when Rutherford attempted one-handed to hit his third four off a DeFreitas over and was caught down the legside by keeper Jack Russell.

Wright returned but was bowled by Pringle for 15.

Lewis then secured the key wicket of Crowe, having the Kiwi captain taken by Graeme Hick at second slip for 45.

Phillip Tuffnell, England's hero in their victory over New Zealand in the first Test, failed to get any turn with his left-arm spinners, and was expensive as Dipak Patel attacked him.

Lewis had Patel lbw from a ball that appeared to be bouncing a little high and then had Danny Morrison also lbw next ball. Willie Watson survived the hat-trick attempt.

In the morning session England, mainly due to lusty 41 by Derek Pringle, added 57.

Pringle put on 37 with Russell and 32 with tallender Phillip Tuffnell until he became Cairns's last victim.

Zealand at Eden Park on Friday.

ENGLAND: First innings

Gooch c Parore b Morrison	4
Stewart c Parore b Cairns	4
Hick lbw b Cairns	30
Smith c Parore b Cairns	0
Lamb b Su'a	13
Reeve c Parore b Watson	22
Lewis c Cairns b Watson	33
Russell c Parore b Cairns	33
Pringle lbw b Cairns	41
DeFreitas c Crowe b Cairns	1
Tuffnell not out	6
Extras: (nb-5, lb-11)	16
Total:	203

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-9, 3-9, 4-34, 5-72, 6-91, 7-128, 8-165, 9-171.

Bowling:

O	M	R	W
Morrison	17	2	55
Cairns	21	4	52
Watson	24	13	41
Su'a	21	8	44

NEW ZEALAND: first innings

Harland lbw b Lewis	0
Wright b Pringle	15
Jones c Smith b DeFreitas	14
Crowe c Hick b Lewis	45
Rutherford c Russell b DeFreitas	26
Patel lbw b Lewis	24
Cairns c Hick b Tuffnell	1
Parore lbw b Pringle	0
Su'a not out	0
Morrison lbw b Lewis	0
Watson not out	1
Extras: (nb-15)	15
Total: (for nine wickets)	141

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-35, 3-91, 4-102, 5-123, 6-124, 7-139, 8-139, 9-139.

Bowling:

O	M	R	W
DeFreitas	16	2	53
Lewis	20	4	31
Pringle	14	7	20
Reeve	7	1	21
Tuffnell	4	2	16

Imran fancies Aussies for Cup

SYDNEY, Jan 31: Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan flew into Australia with his team today and immediately pronounced Australia top prospects for next month's World Cup — if they can overcome a home team handicap, reports AFP.

The 15-man Pakistan squad arrived in Melbourne from Karachi — more than two hours late after missing a Qantas connection, from Singapore — to begin early preparation for the nine-nation tournament which starts on February 22.

India is already in Australia, preparing for the start of the fifth Test in Perth on Friday.

South Africa, late entries

for the competition, arrive in Perth on February 7 to be followed by Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, West Indies, England and New Zealand, all due in for the opening ceremony here on February 19.

In the meantime, England is in Auckland struggling to hold the second Test against New Zealand.

Speaking to journalists Imran said although he had confidence in his own squad, Allan Border's side was the top prospect.

"Australia is playing in its own conditions and they show they are a very good side," Imran said.

However, no home side has ever won the trophy and a lot can happen in a World Cup.

Change of job for Clive Rice

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 31: Veteran South African all-rounder Clive Rice said on Thursday he had quit his 10-year captaincy of Transvaal to take a temporary post as a television commentator for next month's cricket World Cup, reports Reuter.

Rice, 42, deposed last month as captain of the national side and this month omitted from the World Cup squad, said he would work as a television commentator during the competition in Australia and New Zealand in February and March.

Rice, the country's most experienced cricketer, said in a telephone interview about his decision to relinquish the provincial captaincy: "I'm obviously said but it's something that happens with time."

"It's not as if I'm retiring from the game — I'm not — but I can help who ever takes over as captain as I'll be available as a player this year and next."

Rice has said his surprise omission from the World Cup squad — which led to angry placard demonstrations at Transvaal Games — was due to personal differences with chief selector Peter Van Der Merwe. He added his chances of returning to the national side depended on who the selectors were.

The Transvaal Cricket Board said in a statement that although Rice was under contract to play for the province for the rest of the season it had agreed to release him to take up an offer to commentate for Australia's Channel Nine.

"The board would not stand in his way in view of the outstanding service that he has given cricket in this province over an extraordinary length of time," a statement said.

Roy Pienaar and Jimmy Cook are favourites to succeed Rice as provincial captain.

Essex and England fast bowler Neil Foster flies in this week to pep up a Transvaal attack soon to be depleted by the absence of both Rice and World Cup squad member Richard Snell.

border, despite being 3-0 up in the series, has been disappointed with some of his side's performances and is now fuming over the axing of close friend and vice-captain Geoff Marsh so close to the World Cup.

The Australian skipper was not consulted over the dumping of Marsh and apparently missed the first 20 minutes of the last day's play in Adelaide as he was engaged in an animated telephone discussion with Lawrie Sawle, the chairman of selectors.

"It's hard when you lose your right-hand man who's been an integral part of our resurgence over four years," said Border.

"He's the rock of Gibraltar that we've built so many of our successes around. The guy gives so much to the team. He's very close to me, so it's tough."

Marsh's replacement Wayne Phillips admitted he was surprised to be picked but is effectively on trial for the visit of the West Indies later this year.

Marsh was found wanting in the Caribbean last year while Phillips has impressed against the West Indies, both on his Victorian debut in 1988-89 when he made a century and with 51 for the Australian XI this season in Hobart.

Australia may also give a debut to seam bowler Paul Reffel, 12th man for the first and fourth Tests. Leg-spin bowler Shance Warne (one for 228 in two Tests) is the likely drinks water this time.

As for Azaruddin, who rediscovered his scoring touch with a flowing century in the Adelaide Test, a victory would stop him joining Lala Amarnath as the least successful Indian captain in Australia. Amarnath lost four Tests in Australia in 1947-48.

The Indians hope to go in with a four-pronged pace attack on the bouncy Perth wicket but must wait for a fitness test on key bowler Manoj Prabhakar (back injury) before finalising plans.

If Prabhakar is fit, spinner Venkat Raju is likely to make way for seamer Subroto

Banerjee, who took three wickets on his debut in the Sydney Test.

First-choice wicketkeeper Kiran More (thigh injury) must also prove his fitness to earn a recall.

India are to meet with umpires Tony Crafer and Terry Prue before the Test in an attempt to avoid the disputes that have sullied the last three Tests.

There was no consistency in the application of whatever rules they were following, said Mr Baig about the Adelaide Test. There should not be any differences in the case Mr Border to that of Mr Dilip Vengsarkar.

TEAMS

Australia: Allan Border (captain), Mark Taylor, Wayne Phillips, David Boon, Tom Moody, Dean Jones, Ian Healy, Paul Reffel, Merv Hughes, Craig McDermott, Mike Whitney, Shane Warne.

India: Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), Krish Srikkanth, Navjot Sidhu, Sanjay Manjrekar, Sachin Tendulkar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Kapil Dev, Manoj Prabhakar, Venkat Raju, Kiran More, Chandra Pandit, Subroto Banerjee, Jawagal Srinath.

Border resents Marsh's exclusion

PERTH, Australia, Jan 31: Rival captains Allan Border and Mohammad Azharuddin both have good personal reasons for wanting to win the fifth and final cricket Test between Australia and India starting tomorrow, reports Reuter.

Border, despite being 3-0 up in the series, has been disappointed with some of his side's performances and is now fuming over the axing of close friend and vice-captain Geoff Marsh so close to the World Cup.

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Mohammedans without Sajjadi

Syed Sajjadi, Mohammedan's Iranian recruit, will not take part in today's match against Arambagh Krira Sangstha, contrary to the expectation of their fans.

Mohammedan officials not fully convinced yet about Sajjadi's use in the side, have not completed registration formalities of the 31 year old Iranian midfielder.

They are rather eagerly awaiting the arrival of their other Iranian recruit, Shahrookh Bayani, who was expected to reach Dhaka Tuesday last.

Bayani, it is learnt, will arrive on next Tuesday.

Sajjadi's participation now depends on the combination with his compatriot which can only be worked out once Bayani arrives.

Mohammedan officials have decided to wait rather than rush with Sajjadi services to bolster the depleted side.

Wanderers beat Ajax

Dhaka Wanderers Club defeated Ajax SC by 14 runs in a pulsating encounter of the Millnars First Division cricket league at the Pallabi ground yesterday.

Put into bat Wanderers managed 169 for nine wickets from their stipulated 45 overs.

They were given a flying start by their openers who put on 92 for the first wicket. Kiron top-scored with 43, inclusive of seven hits to the fence. His partner Bablu followed him closely with 38 with two hits to the fence.

Later batsmen with the only exception of Chunnu and Halim Babu spoiled the good work of the opening pair.

Halim Babu remained not out on a rapid fire 23 with two fours and one sixer off 18 balls when overs ran out.

Chunnu made 18 while Ismail was the other notable scorer with 16.

Ajax bowler Azim pressed into the service late outshone others with the leather taking

Green Delta hockey

Yesterday was a rest day in the Green Delta First Division hockey league. Today, Sadharan Bima will take on Usha Krira Chakra at 1:45 pm while Bachelor SC will clash with Azad SC at 3:15 pm at the Hockey Stadium.

Fisons cricket

The Head Office of Fisons (Bangladesh Ltd) beat the Factory by 98 runs in the third and final match to win the 'series' 3-0 yesterday at the Banani DOHS ground.

Riaz of the Head Office was adjudged the man of the match.

Deaf sports

The sports competition of the Bangladesh Deaf Sports Organisation was held at the Mohammadpur Physical College field yesterday.

Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Tariqul Islam gave away prizes among the winners of sports competition.

TODAY'S MATCH

Bangladesh Railway vs Agrani Bank (Mirpur Pallabi)