

# Dad's army eats humble pie

Sports Reporter

All talk about an epic clash between father and son ended in anticlimax yesterday at the Dharmadhi Cricket Stadium as title-chasers Uddity Club kept their unbeaten record at the cost of Victoria Sporting Club in an important tie of the Milnars First Division cricket league.

With the league only about half way through, the match was a trial of strength of the two top bidders for this year's league title and promotion to the Navana Premier Division. The rare coincidence of a father playing against his son made it a cynosure of the cricket enthusiasts of the country. But expectations mocked the knowledgeable crowd as Uddity romped home by three wickets on a devilish, underprepared wicket. Former skipper of the national cricket team, Roqibul Hassan, now leading Victoria, got a duck while his son, the Uddity opener, was bowled by a shooter for five to round off a day's cricket that had nothing to be savoured.

The authorities' criminal apathy towards the maintenance of the ground went unchallenged as fortunately no one from either side was hurt on a wicket where the ball came at a variable height with the batsmen saving their wickets and themselves more

by relax and luck than any genuine batting skill. There is no room for complacency in the thought of conducting cricket matches on such unsafe wickets. In view of their inability to provide good, predictable turf wickets the authorities should switch over to matting wickets. This kind of indifference will take our cricket nowhere.

As for the match, Uddity captain Imran beat Roqibul in the spin of the coin and opted to field first. Openers Ronny and Didar went back with the score on 28. Mukul and Jewel battled with grit and determination to bring back some of the ground cut up by Imran and Rahul. Mukul, the promising young batsman of Victoria, topscored with 31, inclusive of four boundaries before falling leg before to the spin of Rokon. Jewel, the tall two down batsman, served well as his foil, scoring a patient 27.

Roqibul Hassan came and departed after playing only four balls, caught and bowled by leg-spinner Durjoy for nought. Shaibal and Wahid chipped with 14 each as Victoria reached 125 for all the ten wickets in 41.3 overs.

Rahul was the best bowler for Uddity taking three for 23. Skipper Imran who bowled right-arm offspin in his second spell finished close to him with figures of three for 24. Leftarm spinner Nafts

bowled well too, claiming two for 12. Leg spinners Rokon and Durjoy took one wicket apiece.

Uddity got off to an equally poor start as an almost daisy-cutter from medium-pace Talha shattered Sajid's stumps. Runs came in a trickle as the Uddity batsmen found it extremely difficult to score off the Victoria pace attack rather unfairly aided by the beastly pitch. Rokon played with some degree of comfort and confidence but a delivery from veteran Mainu hit him on the hind leg. Meanwhile, opener Anup was digging himself in with some watchful, dour batting as first Rinku and then Durjoy took some liberties with the bowling to improve the falling run rate. Durjoy in particular, was audacious. Lifting the spinners on an unreliable wicket to score a quick 19 off as many balls.

Wahid dismissed Tipu and Fahim in quick succession to cause a flutter but the target was too small and Uddity were home and dry in 41.1 overs with three wickets to spare.

Wahid bowled lion-heartedly to defend a small score, claiming three Uddity wickets for 34 runs. Iqbal also had the admirable figures of two for 17.

The victory gave Uddity 16 points from eight matches while Victoria suffered their first defeat to stay on 14 points from eight matches.

# Seles declines Connors' bet

ESSEN, Germany, Feb 7:

Monica Seles, the world's top-ranked female tennis player, said Thursday she would refuse Jimmy Connors' dare to put up a million dollars to play him in a winner-takes-all "battle of the sexes," reports AP.

Seles told reporters she thought she could beat Connors without a handicap. "The money is not important," said the 18-year-old from Yugoslavia, but she doubted such a bet would be legal.

Connors, 39, is 21 years older than Seles, and his best tennis years are behind him, while Seles has her No. 1 world ranking to protect.

Big-time tennis has occasionally seen such "battles of the sexes," and rumours of a duel between Connors and Seles have been around for months. A Beverly Hills company, Destiny Productions, is trying to arrange a March date in Las Vegas.

Connors said this week in Atlanta he would put up a check for a million dollars and Seles should do the same, though he also said there had been a lot of media talk about such a match without anyone talking to him about it.

Seles said such a match would produce only "one day of headlines" but might cost her the No. 1 ranking as she would have to leave competition on the women's tour and train to play Connors.

Yet she did not rule out the idea completely. It would be an exciting challenge, she said, "but on my own terms when I have time to get ready."

Though pro women's tennis seldom goes to the five-set maximum of men's tennis, Seles said she wasn't afraid of five sets.

Seles is in Essen for the Nokia Women's Tennis Tournament, where she easily defeated German Angela Kerek 6-2, 6-2, and advanced to the quarterfinals.

# Batting becomes a chore at Wellington



WELLINGTON, Feb 7:

Batting became joyless labour for most of the second day in the third Test here as New Zealand grindingly reached 104 for one at close of play Friday, reports AP.

John Wright and Andrew Jones kept the innings going after New Zealand lost an early wicket, that of Blair Hartland, with just three on the board.

On a slow wicket, with the ball not coming out to bat, it was difficult for the batsmen to play strokes fluently. This was illustrated throughout the day — first by England, who resumed on 239 for five but then lost five for 66, then by the hosts.

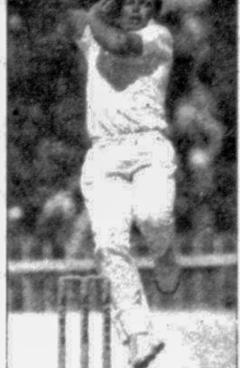
Wright and Jones managed just 42 in more than an hour and a half during the second session. They were cautious, aware of the importance of consolidating the innings.

England's bowlers had a tidy spell of 24 overs in that period with fast bowler David Lawrence bowling seven overs for seven runs and claiming the wicket of Hartland, caught at third slip by Ian Botham. It was a fine chest high catch with the ball to his left and travelling at some speed.

The latter part of the final session brought runs slightly more rapidly. Jones took two boundaries in the eighth and ninth overs from Lawrence: a square cut to backward point

and a slash past gully to third man. The second stroke would have given a catch had there been a fourth slip.

England used bowlers — DeFretas, Lawrence and left arm spinner Tufnell — until the 45th over when Jan Botham the third highest



D. MORRISON...3 for 44 wicket taker in Test history was brought on to bowl in his 100th Test match.

He started with two long hops in the first over — the first to Wright who mistimed his hook and got a single, and the second to Jones, who promptly hooked him for four.

Jones took another boundary in Botham's next over at wide mid-on and then ran three as he played Lawrence to midwicket to reach his half century in 149 minutes.

After conceding 12 in three overs Botham bowled two maidens, but Gooch brought back Tufnell to have a double spin attack with Hick at the other end in place of Lawrence.

New Zealand's hundred came 20 minutes before stumps and after sixty overs in the innings. New Zealand ended the day on 104 with Jones 51 not out and Wright on 44.

All five bowlers used by England had economical figures as New Zealand went through several barren periods of batting.

The last two hours had brought 62 runs and the entire day had seen 170 runs scored.

At the end of the day's play Sir Ron Brierley presented Ian Botham with a mounted photograph of him going out to bat and his first scoring shot on the momentous occasion of his 100th Test.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the third cricket Test match on Friday between England and New Zealand:

ENGLAND : First innings (239 for five wickets overnight)

Gooch b Patel	30
Stewart b Morrison	107
Hick b Patel	43
Smith c Rutherford b Patel	6
Lamb c Smith b Patel	30
Reve c Latham b Su'a	18
Lawrence c Rutherford b Cairns	6
Botham c Cairns b Su'a	15
Russell lbw b Morrison	18
DeFretas lbw b Morrison	3
Tufnell not out	2
Extras : (b-12, nb-11, b-4)	27
Total :	305

Fall of wickets :	1-83, 2-159, 3-169, 4-215, 5-235, 6-248, 7-277, 8-286, 9-298.
Bowling :	O M R W
Morrison	22.1 6 44 3
Cairns	25 3 89 1
Su'a	36 10 62 2
Patel	34 10 87 4
Jones	1 0 7 0

NEW ZEALAND : First innings	
Hartland c Botham b Lawrence	2
Wright not out	44
Jones not out	51
Extras : (b-1, lb-2, w-1, nb-3)	7
Total : (for one wicket)	104

To bat :	Martin Crowe, Ken Rutherford, Rod Latham, Dipak Patel, Chris Cairns, Ian Smith, Murphy Su'a, Danny Morrison.
Fall of wickets :	1-3.
Bowling :	O M R W
DeFretas	8 4 12 0
Lawrence	13 4 29 1
Tufnell	17 9 29 0
Hick	17 8 19 0
Botham	5 2 12 0

# Wins for Spredaegles, Kakrail

Sports Reporter

A good opening partnership of 94 runs between Liton and Masud helped Spredaegles beat United Heroes by five wickets in the Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket league yesterday at the Dharmadhi Club ground.

Electing to bat, United Heroes had made a fairly reasonable 195 run all out in 34.4 overs.

Pallab top scored with 40, a knock that included six hits to

## Handball face

Sports Reporter

Baniyanagar Sporting Club suffered their fifth successive defeat in the Cute First Division handball league when Dhaka Wanderers Club literally swept them by a half century of goals to two in a grossly one-sided tamarsha yesterday at the Outer Stadium handball court.

Baniyanagar have so far conceded an unbelievable 279 goals in five matches and have scored only 22 goals, suggesting quite amply that they don't really belong in the league.

As for Wanderers, it was their second victory, and they now have four points from four outings.

Dhaka Wanderers led 29-0 at the breather. Abul netted an incredible 36 goals and Azad got three for Wanderers while Pipul and Shilmul got one goal each in the second session of play for Baniyanagar.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

Victoria Sporting Club vs Surjodoy Boys (2:15 pm)  
West Jatrabari KC vs Ansars (3:30 pm).

## Comfort Socks cricket in N'ganj

Sports Reporter

The second Comfort Socks chess tournament organized by the Baburail Cricket Eleven got underway in Narayananj yesterday, says a press release.

Fifty-two chess players are taking part. Ziaul Haque, the former president of the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association inaugurated the meet.

## Seles, Fernandez sail smoothly

ESSEN, Germany, Feb 7:

Top seeds Monica Seles and Mary Joe Fernandez both won their second-round matches in straight sets Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals of the dhrs 350,000 Nokia Women's Tennis Tournament, reports AP.

Defending champion Seles committed some minor errors, but still overpowered unseeded Angela Kerek of Germany with powerful and carefully placed double-handed shots, winning 6-2, 6-2 in 51 minutes.

The Yugoslav, ranked No 1 in the world, will play eight-seeded Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden in the quarterfinals. Lindqvist easily beat Catherine Tanvier of France 6-1, 6-4.

The second-seeded Fernandez played a nearly flawless baseline game, defeating Claudia Porwik of Germany 6-3, 6-3 in one hour and 26 minutes.

The first match of a tournament is always hard, so I'm happy about the win," the American, ranked No 7 in the world, said after the match.

Subrato got 27 with the help of two fours and a six off 36 balls while Ritu and Shaker scored 25 and 20 respectively for United Heroes.

Saiful, Shantoo, Masud and Ripon bagged two wickets a piece for Spredaegles.

Chasing the target, Spredaegles made 200 runs for five wickets in 31.2 overs, thanks to the opening partnership between Liton and Masud.

Liton made 51 runs hammering nine fours off just 45 balls while Masud got 28.

Siraj scored a useful 37 with the help of four fours.

Babu, the most successful Heroes bowler, claimed two wickets for 39 runs.

Spredaegles now have four points from four games while United Heroes have two from three encounters.

In the other match of the day, Kakrail Boys Club recorded an impressive four-wicket victory — their first of the league — over Cantonian Sporting Club by virtue of a captain's knock from Franco, at the Dharmadhi Cricket Stadium (Dhan).

Batting first, Cantonians were booked for a skinny 157 run in 32.3 overs.

Shaheen the Cantonians' first-down batsman, top scored with 37 made with the help of

two boundaries.

Farid and Pial made 33 and 28 respectively.

Mehdi bagged three wickets for 27 while skipper Franco and Masum with two wickets each supported him well.

Chasing a slender target, Kakrail Boys were in real trouble early on when their two openers were back in the pavilion with the score reading a poor 13.

But skipper Franco refused to throw in the towel and he, along with Himel, paved the path for Kakrail's victory. Their partnership added an invaluable 79 runs before Himel was bowled by Imran for 38.

Skipper Franco remained not out, much to the dismay of the opposing bowlers, with a well-made 89 off 83 deliveries, embellished with a dozen hits to the ropes.

Atiq and Imran bagged three and two wickets respectively for the vanquished.

The maiden win gave Kakrail Boys their first points in three outings while Cantonians are yet to open their account.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

East End Club vs Rayer Bazar AC (DCS)  
Lalibang Anwar SC vs Amar Jyoti (DCG)

# Eskaton Sabuj win easy

Sports Reporter

Eskaton Sabuj Sangha outplayed Dhaka Wanderers Club by five wickets in the Milnars First Division cricket league at the Pallabi ground yesterday.

Put into bat, Wanderers Club were all out for 150 in 44 overs with opener Kiron top-scoring with 26. Halim Babu with 23, Chunnun with 22 and Ismail with 16 were the other notable scorers.

All the bowlers employed by the Eskaton captain came out successful with Shaheen outshining others with figures of three for 15.

Opening batsman Opi made light of the task with magnificent 87 made with the help of five fours and two sixers. The batsman who was run out J3 short of what would have been a well deserved ton played 114 balls. Bidyut scored a useful 31, as Eskaton crossed the target in 41.3 overs for the loss of

## Zahid's fine cycling double

Sports Reporter

The fourth round junior schools and open junior cycling championship organized by the Bangladesh Cycling Federation (BCF) concluded in the city yesterday.

The races were held around the Suhrawardy Uddyan, according to a BCF press release. In the junior schools competition, Md Zahid Chowdhury of the BDR Public School became champion clocking 31 minutes to cover 10 miles while Md Gulam Kader and Kamrul Islam, both from the West End High School, finished second and third respectively.

In the open junior meet, Md Zahid Chowdhury of the BDR Public School completed a fine double by coming home first in the 14-mile race in 42 minutes.

Zakaria Habib of Tejgaon College and Jalal Miah of Dinaipur DSA placed second and third respectively.

Kazi Abdul Aleem, vice-chairman of the federation, gave away prizes among the winners.

five wickets. Halim Babu did well with the leather also for Wanderers taking two for 33.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

MILNARS:  
Young Pegasus vs Ajax Club (Mirpur Pallabi)  
Agrani Bank vs City Club (DCS-East)

## NAVANA:

Bangladesh Biman vs Brothers Union (Dhaka Stadium)

## Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Just a single match of the Janata Bank Pioneer football league was held yesterday at the Outer Stadium in which Maneshwar Juba Sangha shared points with Rising Star Club in a goalless encounter.

The first phase of the Pioneer league is nearing its end with only a few more matches of the South Zone remaining to be completed. Once these are finished, the ten team super league will begin sometime between February 15 and 20 with the top two teams of each of the five zones.



Riders going around the Suhrawardy Uddyan during yesterday's junior schools and open competition organised by the Cycling Fed.

# Crowe speaks of missing W Cup

WELLINGTON, Feb 7:

New Zealand cricket captain Martin Crowe said on Friday he may miss the World Cup to be played in New Zealand and Australia starting on February 22, reports Reuter.

Crowe told Independent Radio News he was increasingly concerned over his damaged right knee, which forced him to hobble in the second Test and also in the third Test against England, now in its second day.

"The knee just doesn't seem to want to get better. I'm very worried about my mobility when I'm looking at the one-day Games coming up."

"It's all very well hiding in the slips in a Test match, but it's not acceptable in one-day cricket, so I'm going to have to think about that."

New Zealand is struggling in all types of cricket at present and would sorely miss Crowe, who is not only their best batsman but one of the few they have who can dominate bowling attack.

"I'm hoping that it won't get any worse and at least I can sort of hobble along and do my best for the team."

Crowe said he had tow options.

"I could take a week off at the end of the Tests and give myself a week off before the World Cup but it could still not be right."

"Or I just could keep playing knowing that it's not going to be right at all just keep trudging on really, and hopefully my batting does enough for me to keep playing."

In addition to the knee injury, which was operated on at the start of the season, he has had a poisoned finger and suffered two dizzy spells where he has nearly fainted.

He said he would not make a decision until the end of the third Test, which finishes on Monday.

# Aussies are the team to beat



PERTH, Australia, Feb 7:

Australia's recent campaign form entitles them to start as firm favourites in the nine-nation World Cup one day cricket competition starting on February 22, reports AP.

The limited-overs version of the game is inherently uncertain, and nothing is more predictable than a major element of unpredictability will develop before the slog-fest is over.

However, Australia's irresistible, sometimes brutal, style in the past two months under skipper Allan Border stamps them as the nation to beat.

They were a class or two above India for much of the five-match Test series, which they won convincingly 4-0.

They also carried off the World Series one-day contest at a canter, leaving India and the new-look West Indies gasping in their wake.

Australia's greatest weapons are their bowling and fielding.

There is probable not a pace attack in the world to match Craig McDermott, Merv Hughes, Bruce Reid and Mike Whitney.

They have consistently blasted out Indian and West Indies batsmen on good wickets in recent weeks.

McDermott's Test bag of 31 scalps at an average of 21.61 supports the claim he must be among the best fast bowlers in the world.

On worry for the Australian selectors is Reid. The bearpole-slim left-hander who has so often been a match-winner

is a revelation. Opposing teams are regularly "cheated" of 20 to 30 runs they could reasonably expect to score against lesser sides.

On a good day, the Australian catching and throwing (Bullseye Runouts from side-on throws became two a penny in the World Series games) set standards never before seen in the game.

Potentially, Australia's batting is no less awesome, though it has failed to fire consistently this season.

This was when the selectors dropped opening batsman Geoff Marsh and middle-order batsman Mark Waugh from the final Test against India though both are in the 20-man preliminary Australian Cup squad and are likely to survive when the squad is trimmed to 14.

Marsh, who has a marvellous one-day record, looks set to face the new-ball with David Boon, the form batsman of the Australian summer hit 556 runs at an average of 79.42 in the Tests after punching a century and four half centuries for an average of 61.7 in the one-day series.

Dean Jones, rated the world's best one-day batsmen early in the season, has belatedly recaptured his form, skipper Allan Border is striking the ball well, and giant

right-hander Tom Moody is a potential one-day sensation. He hits the ball perhaps as hard as any player in top cricket and has the ability to decimate an attack in a few minutes.

Simon O'Donnell, Mark Waugh and Steve Waugh (the twins from New South Wales), and Joe Scuderi are all-rounders vying for perhaps only one or two positions in the 14.

Regular wicketkeeper Ian Healy is expected to hang on to the gloves leaving Tim Zoehrer waiting on the sidelines.

The best sides do not always win one-day contests, but it is likely to take a special outfit to relieve Australia of the title they won in Calcutta in 1987 when they defeated England in the final in front of a crowd of 80,000.

Australia's preliminary squad of 20 is:

Allan Border (capt.), Geoff Marsh (vice-capt.), Michael Bevan, David Boon, Dean Jones, Ian Healy, Merv Hughes, Craig McDermott, Greg Matthews, Tom Moody, Simon O'Donnell, Bruce Reid, Paul Reffel, Joe Scuderi, Mark Taylor, Peter Taylor, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Mike Whitney, Tim Zoehrer (squad to be reduced to 14 before Cup starts).

At its best, Australia's field-

# Warm welcome for SA Down Under



PERTH, Australia, Feb 7:

The first South African cricket team to visit Australia for 29 years arrived in Perth today to a warm welcome from officials, compatriots and demonstrators alike, reports Reuter.

The 19-man party for this month's fifth World Cup were met by Australian cricket officials and a group of expatriate South Africans as well as a 30-strong group supporting the African National Congress (ANC) who chanted: "Cricket yes, apartheid no."

Glen Mashinini, one of the demonstrators, told reporters: "This is a rally of support, not a demonstration."

The team are the first cricketers to represent the republic in Australia since Trevor Goddard's 1963-64 side and the first South African sports team since the 1971 Springbok rugby union team.

"It is fantastic to be back," said manager Mike Proctor, a member of the last South African side to play official Tests 22 years ago before the republic was banned from international cricket because of its apartheid policies.

Crick has done a lot for the internal politics of South Africa since 1970. Things are coming right there.

Proctor's co-manager Alan Jordaan said today was: "The greatest day in the history of South African cricket. The wait has been painfully long."

And captain Kepler Wesells, who played Test cricket for

Africa