

CAB pile up 384 for 5 against BCCB

Southpaws smother aimless attack

Sports Reporter

In a game known for glorious uncertainties and rather anticlimactic dilution of expectations, Saurav Ganguly, the newly-arrived left-handed middle-order batsman of the visiting West Bengal cricket team, gave the local crowd an entertaining display of batsmanship that had helped this 'Bangalee' cricketer to make it to the Indian national team on its trip Down Under.

Flying in from Calcutta only Wednesday night, Saurav Ganguly replaced his elder brother Snehashish who, after topscoring in both the matches against Abahani and Mohammedans, was sidelined with an injury suffered while fielding against the Mohammedans.

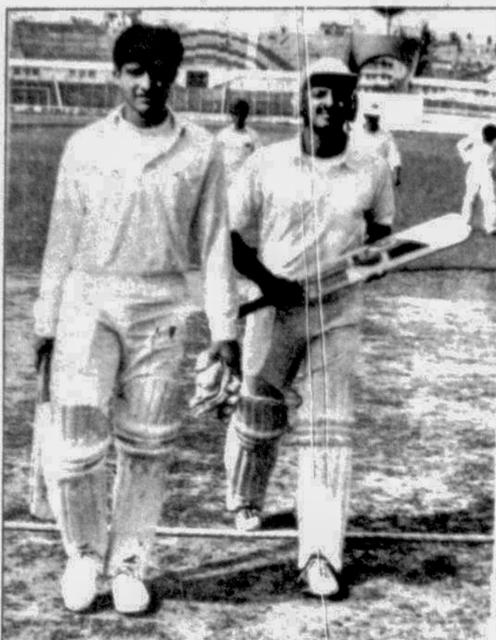
Saurav's batting was indeed, as the meaning of his name would suggest, redolent of some sweet-smelling flower; absolutely unconstrained, something which originates from the ability to sight the ball earlier than others and a correct technique.

Captious people would go on saying that this teenage prodigy from across the border got his hundred-plus runs with a couple of 'lives' and against an ordinary attack of a country that has miles to go yet to make any impression in international cricket. Any discipline of sports does not allow such negative attitude; that is not cricket. The glory of the game lay in the manner in which the southpaw lorded over the local bowlers with boyish exuberance tinged with an air of audacity.

There was however no felt tendency to take the seam apart; it was more like what Othello said about Desdemona: 'She could sing the savage out of a bear'. There was no savagery during Saurav's 148-minute tenure at the wicket in which he toyed with the bowling of the BCCB Eleven to compile 129 runs, embellished with nine boundaries and an overboundary off 141 balls.

His ton, for obvious reasons, overshadowed his veteran teammate Raja Venkat's 154 which in all likelihood will be the highest individual score of the two-day exhibition match.

At the completion of their stipulated 80 overs, the



Saurav Ganguly (L) and Raja Venkat scored 129 and 154 respectively on the first day of the two-day match against the BCCB XI at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) piled up an imposing 384 for five wickets with skipper Ashok Malhotra and Rajiv Sethi remaining unconquered on nine and 16 respectively.

Earlier, in the morning, Malhotra won the toss and with reinforcement of a batting talent like Saurav, chose to bat unhesitatingly.

The left-right combination of Indu Bhushan Roy and Mintu Das gave them a sedate start on a wicket that shone like a mirror; an aspect that might explain batsman Mintu Das's slip while trying to play defensively to a delivery from medium-pace Saiful who also had a similar fall in his follow through. Mintu was bowled by a Dulu delivery that did not rise sufficiently and the left-hander Indu Bhushan Roy perhaps misread a googly from leggie Waheedul Ghani to be castled for a well-made 40, staggered with two lovely hits to

the fence — a laid back cut past point on a fine, feather-touch glance off pacesman Dulu who, aided by the uneven bounce of the wicket, looked good after a long time.

Their departure ushered in a period of fruitless, lackadaisical toil for the Bangladesh bowlers who seemed to have delegated the responsibility of ensuring the departure of the two left-handers to the batsmen themselves. The fact that Saurav Ganguly was let off twice and Mintu's flitting with a ball outside the off-stump was allowed to go score-free speaks for itself. Young, Nippy right-arm medium-pace Saiful Islam was to pay for the butter-fingers of his teammates — Enamul Haq Moni on two occasions and skipper Nannu on another.

Raja Venkat, however, was not to benefit from such reprieves. If Saurav Ganguly delighted the crowd with his

crisp driving and caressing late cuts, the veteran, genial batsman caught the eye with his soundless sweeps, generally for two runs. His was sweeping in the literal sense, as the closeness of the bat and the ground gave viewers the impression of sweeping the floor with a broom-stick or as we call it 'ful jharu'. His 154, studded with 12 fours and made from 187 balls, came to an end when his tired runner Mintu Das was beaten by a good throw from the deep by Saikat.

Ganguly had left earlier, sending one down Selim's throat at deep midwicket while trying his second shot off Nannu. Nannu, incidentally, finished with statistically superior figures than others, cashing in on the adventurous mood of the West Bengal batsmen. He took two for 68.

Leg-spinner Waheedul Ghani bowled encouragingly but wallowed in the face of the walloping by Saurav and Venkat. Saiful was the pick of the bowlers but went wicketless for reasons mentioned above.

To say it modestly, the BCCB batsmen will have their work cut out today, at an asking rate of just under five runs an over. In the ultimate analysis, the moot point may prove to be whether our boys can last the full quota of eighty overs that they'll be entitled to.

SCOREBOARD

West Bengal	40
I B Roy b Waheed	17
Mintu Das b Dulu	40
Raja Venkat run out	154
S Ganguly c Selim b Nannu	129
D Gandhi c Akram b Nannu	11
R Seth not out	16
A Malhotra not out	9
Extras	8
Total (for 5 wks)	384
Fall of wks: 1/30, 2/67, 3/341, 4/355, 5/364.	

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Dulu	9	1	33	1
Saiful	19	1	79	0
Nannu	13	1	68	2
Shantoo	8	0	35	0
Bulbul	12	0	57	0
Waheed	12	0	75	1
Moni	8	0	35	0

Umpires: A Asghar and M Milky.



Rokeya Begum of Bangladesh Customs and Excise (centre) on way to retaining the 100m hurdles gold on the second day of the three-day national championships at the Army Stadium yesterday.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Boys Club registered a two-wicket victory over Dhaka Friends Union in the Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket league yesterday at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Sent into bat, Friends Union were all out for 153 runs in 32 overs.

Milton and Anis made 39 and 38 respectively for Friends Union.

Palash bagged three wickets while Ujjal and Babu took two wickets each for Bangladesh Boys.

In reply, Bangladesh Boys scored 157 for eight wickets in 38.4 overs with skipper Nilufar Yasmin's teammate Jasmin Khanam also made a good jump to equal the existing mark of 5.56 while the veteran Najma Haider Raicza of BTMC managed a poor 5.14m for the bronze.

BJMC maintained their lead in the medals table with a haul

BJMC lead medals table

Sports Reporter



It was another lacklustre day in the 20th national athletics championships at the Army Stadium yesterday. Like the opening day Wednesday, only one athlete managed to improve upon an existing record.

Young Nilufar Yasmin of BJMC garnered all the glory by leaping across a distance of 5.60 metres, four centimetres further than the existing mark for the women's long jump.

Nilufar Yasmin's teammate Jasmin Khanam also made a good jump to equal the existing mark of 5.56 while the veteran Najma Haider Raicza of BTMC managed a poor 5.14m for the bronze.

BJMC maintained their lead in the medals table with a haul

of ten golds, seven silvers and six bronzes. Defending champions Bangladesh Army were placed a close second having also won ten medals of the glittering kind, and five silvers and four bronzes. When one considers that unlike BJMC Army fields only male athletes at these annual championships, the overpowering domination of the soldiers becomes all too obvious.

Bangladesh Customs displaced Ansars for third place, having won their first gold medal of the three-day meet.

When Rokeya Begum won her pet event, the 100m hurdles, in a time of 16.20 secs. Customs athletes have also won three silvers and three bronzes.

Ansars and VDP are fourth in the medals list with one

gold, two silvers and two bronzes. Bangladesh Navy have a gold and a silver while BTMC, a formidable force in the country's athletics arena, are rather surprisingly languishing in sixth place, having failed to win even a solitary gold medal. Their athletes, mainly the girls, have so far given them five silvers and as many bronzes. Bangladesh Air Force with two bronzes and Rajshahi Division with one bronze are the only others among the 17 participating teams to have won any medals.

In other events yesterday, Army's Lance Naik Md. Yusuf Ali won the men's 20-km walk gold, L/Nk Md. Solaiman Majumdar the 400m hurdles, Nk. Md. Momtazul Haq the hammer throw, L/Nk. Md. Zahiruddin the high jump, L/Nk Md. Mujibur Rahman the 3000m and Havildar Dulal Chandra Sarkar the men's javelin gold.

BJMC's golds on the day, other than Nilufar Yasmin's long jump triumph, came in the women's shot putt from Nelly Jesmin, the favourite, the 4X100m relay quartet of Lovely Begum, Nilufar Yasmin, Nasima Akhtar and Lubna Mahmud; the 400m win by Lubna Mahmud—her third gold medal of the meet — and Md. Mehdi Hassan in the men's 400m.

A shortage of space constrains us from giving all the details, which shall be incorporated in the final results after tomorrow's conclusion of the meet.

Handball result

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars trounced Tarun Sangsad 36-8 in the one-sided affair of the Cute first division handball league yesterday at the Outer Stadium handball court.

Ansars led 18-4 at the breather.

Jewel, Akram and Badshah netted 14, 10 and five goals for the winners while Mousum Ali with three and Sahadat and Syed with two each were the goal-getters for the vanquished.

Ansars, who have lost one match and drawn another, now have seven points from five outings while Tarun Sangsad, after six league ties, are yet to open their account.

Beximco badminton

Sports Reporter

On the fourth day of the Beximco national junior and sub-junior badminton championships, some more matches were held yesterday at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium.

In the boys' singles (under-18) event, Suman (Air Force), Absar (Chittagong), Morshed (Chittagong), Tarek (Air Force), Wahid (Chittagong) and Zia of Chittagong won their respective ties.

In the boys' doubles (under-14), Parimal and Shahed of Moulvibazar, Mamun and Emdad of Mymensingh and Zakir and Imran of Rajshahi won their respective encounters.

In the boys' doubles (under-16) meet, Rafiqul and Anwar (Bogra), Suman and Tarek (Air Force), Raju and Mithu (Comilla), Raju and Mithu (Tangail), Projal and Ibrahim (Jessore), Shakil and Manjur (Pabna), Zakir and Safuddin (Rajshahi) and Subir and Morshed of Chittagong won their respective engagements.

Botham may open for England

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Feb 13: England may experiment by playing all-rounder Ian Botham as an opening batsman in its third limited-overs cricket international against New Zealand at Lancaster Park on Saturday, reports AP.

England captain Graham Gooch said Thursday that he was looking to investigate all his options before the World Cup starts on Feb 22.

"It's something to consider. He's one of our options," Gooch said of the possibility of using power-hitter Botham as an opener.

"We may use him to open on Saturday, we may not. But it's fair to say that will come into the reckoning."

England already holds a 2-0 lead in the three-match series. In the two previous internationals, Gooch opened with Graeme Hick with moderate success. Hick made 23 and seven in partnerships of 63 and 21.

The move to try out Botham would provide England with an extra option if and when they go into a match seeking a flying start.

Gooch indicated that further alterations would be made to the team that beat New Zealand in Dunedin by three wickets on Wednesday.

Neil Fairbrother and Phillip DeFretas both will come into contention if they recover from injuries, as will pace bowler Gladstone Small, who arrives in New Zealand later Thursday.

Fairbrother is suffering from a side strain and DeFretas is recovering from a nagging groin injury.

"Obviously we want Fairbrother to play, we have to wait on DeFretas and we'll see what Gladstone's position is when he arrives," Gooch said.

"There will probably be one or two alterations depending on the fitness of those players."

Both teams have been using the series to prepare for the nine-nation World Cup.

Bagan beat MSC

CALCUTTA, Feb 13: Title-aspirants Mohun Bagan withstood stiff resistance to down Mohammedan Sporting 2-0 in the extra time to cruise into semifinals of the 16th Federation Cup football tournament at the Mohun Bagan ground here today, reports PTI.

Mohun Bagan will now take on JCT, Phagwara, in the first semifinal on Friday.

Eskaton upset Bima

Sports Reporter



The certain came down on the first phase of the Milnars First Division cricket league yesterday in an appropriate atmosphere, rife with excitement as babes Eskaton Sabuj Sangha handed a five-run defeat to fancied Sadharan Bima at the Pallabi Cricket ground.

In a low-scoring match Eskaton were all out for 113 in 42.3 overs after being sent in to bat by Bima captain Rizvi. Biddyt and wicketkeeper-batsman Sobel played invaluable knocks of 31 and 30 as the others found run scoring extremely difficult against the tight Bima bowling. Nineteen extras apart, no other batsman got to the double figures.

Litu of Bima returned the best figures claiming three for 31. Ripon and Jewel joined the act with figures of two for 15 and two for 14.

Ripon changed roles as his side Bima, chasing a paltry target of 114 for victory were tottering at two for ten, but failed to stem the rot with his sensible but inadequate innings of 27 as wickets continued to fall at regular interval.

Eskaton bowlers Babul and Biddyt bulldozed through the middle of the Bima batting.

Bima paceman Nakib tried to arrest the tide of the slide in his typical cavalier fashion

hitting two huge sixes and a four but his policy of curbing a 'desperate disease with a desperate remedy' went in vain when Babul shattered his stumps for 22. Tail-enders Litu and David wagged their tails and narrowed the victory margin to just one stroke but Opt, bowling the third ball of the thirty-third over, sounded the timber to signal the end.

'Babul was the wrecker-in-chief for Eskaton bagging three for 14. Biddyt took two for nine, joined by Zahed and Opt who also took two wickets apiece.

LEAGUE TABLE

Following in the points tally at the end of the first phase of the Milnars First Division cricket league:

Udity Club	9	8	1	16
Victoria SC	9	8	1	16
City Club	9	6	3	12
Eskaton SS	9	5	4	10
Agrani Bank	9	4	5	8
Sadharan Bima	9	3	6	6
B Railway	9	3	6	6
Y Pegasus	9	3	6	6
D Wanderers	9	3	6	6
Ajax SC	9	3	6	6

The first five teams of the table will play in the super league while the last five will be involved in a last-ditch battle to avoid the axe of relegation which will come down on the teams securing the last three places in the points table.

Imran stars in Pak victory

CANBERRA, Feb 13: Captain Imran Khan starred with bat and ball Thursday as Pakistan scored a 48-run victory over the Australian Capital Territory in a warm-up match for the upcoming World Cup, reports AP.

The Australian Capital Territory team was dismissed for 122 in the final over, chasing Pakistan's total of 170 for nine.

Apart from captain Peter Solway, who came in the fall of the first wicket and was last out for 74, the local batsmen had no answer to the Pakistani bowlers.

Imran took three for 11 and Aaqib Javed three for 16. Solway was the only batsman to reach double figures.

Earlier, most of the Pakistani batsmen also struggled against the swing of the home team's medium-pacers.

Moin Khan topscored for Pakistan with 43, while Imran scored 33 and Aamir Soahil contributed 19.

Pakistan next faces South Africa in the first meeting between those nations in Canberra on Saturday.

Rain the spoiler

MELBOURNE, Feb 13: Heavy rain prevented any play Thursday in the scheduled World Cup cricket warm-up match between India and Sri Lanka at Toorak Oval, reports AP.

MSC put 3 past Wari

Sports Reporter



Mumtaz Hyder put Mohammedans ahead in the 28th minute with a spectacular field goal (1-0).

He doubled the margin in the 47th minute in a similar fashion (2-0).

Zahid Makbul completed the tally for the winners by converting a penalty corner a couple of minutes from time (3-0).

Mohammedans, like defending champions Abahani, now have 14 points while Wari have seven from seven games each.

In the other match of the day, Bangladesh Ansars shared points with Sonali Bank after the match ended in a 1-1 draw.

Azharul Islam put Ansars in the lead in the fourth minute while Kamrul Ahsan drew level in the 42nd minute.

Today is the weekly rest day of the league.

Bachelors SC will take on Bangladesh SC tomorrow at 1.45 pm while Ajax SC will clash with Azad SC at 3.15 pm.

Soccer league resumes tomorrow

Sports Reporter

The Star First Division football league will resume tomorrow Saturday after a week's break caused by the country-wide transport strike, says a DMFA press release.

Mohammedan Sporting Club will face Dhanmondi Club tomorrow at 5 pm at the Mirpur Stadium.

Mashuk-Habib lift title

Sports Reporter

Mashuk and Habib defeated Dr. Rashiduddin and Dr. Zahir 4-6, 6-1, 7-5 in an exciting three-setter in the 45-yrs plus age category doubles final of the MA Jabbar memorial tennis tournament yesterday afternoon at the Engineers' Club courts.

In a pulsating match watched by a large crowd, the winning pair came back strongly to draw level in the second set after having conceded the first at 4-6.

In the other final of the day, the 50-yrs and over doubles, Bazlur Rahman and Ali Reza cruised past Aftabuddin and Fazlur Rahman 6-3, 6-2.

The concluding day's fare of the week-long meet today includes the final of the engineers' doubles at nine in the morning and the boys' under-18 final, between Asif and Fayyaz, at three in the afternoon.

Mirza Abbas, Mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation, will give away the trophies after the boys' final as chief guest.



From left: Habib and Mashuk won the 45-yrs doubles title of the M A Jabbar memorial tennis meet beating Dr. Zahir and Dr. Rashiduddin in yesterday's final at the Engineers' Club.



Nelly Jesmin of BJMC retained the women's shot putt gold with a throw of 11.90 metres yesterday.