

Athar sends Biman on detour

Sports Reporter

A useful 19 and wicket-keeper Dalim remained unbeaten on 15 to take the score to 144. Athar Ali Khan bowled superbly to take three for eleven from his nine overs. Off-spinner Salahuddin took two for 20 to make the going tough for



ATHAR ALI ... 3 for 11

those of Suman and Fernando, but the target in the end appeared too small as Salahuddin sealed the fate of the match with an on-drive past the long-on fence for four. Biman skipper Shanu's handling of the bowlers left a lot to be desired. He under-bowled Rafiq in particular who, brought on for his second spell pretty late, caused a few problems to the Brothers batsmen. One wonders what prompted Shanu to keep his pacers away from the attack. Alok, the other new-ball bowler, was given just two overs in which he gave away five runs and Rafiq, looking dangerous with the ball keeping low, took two for 11. Left-arm spinner Mond, normally the most accurate of the Biman bowlers, bowled a series of wides to finish with a costly analysis of two for 42.

those of Suman and Fernando, but the target in the end appeared too small as Salahuddin sealed the fate of the match with an on-drive past the long-on fence for four. Biman skipper Shanu's handling of the bowlers left a lot to be desired. He under-bowled Rafiq in particular who, brought on for his second spell pretty late, caused a few problems to the Brothers batsmen. One wonders what prompted Shanu to keep his pacers away from the attack. Alok, the other new-ball bowler, was given just two overs in which he gave away five runs and Rafiq, looking dangerous with the ball keeping low, took two for 11. Left-arm spinner Mond, normally the most accurate of the Biman bowlers, bowled a series of wides to finish with a costly analysis of two for 42.

PLAY-OFFS SCHEDULE

Meanwhile, the dates of the three play-off matches to decide the last team to qualify for the six-team Navana Premier Division cricket super league, have been scheduled. Surja Tarun, Bangladesh Biman and Gulshan Youth are locked with tie points each at the end of the first phase matches. If these play-off matches should fail to break the dead-lock, then the run rate will be considered to decide the sixth team of the super league. Bangladesh Biman will play Surja Tarun Club on February 19. Surja Tarun will play Gulshan Youth on February 22 and Biman play Gulshan Youth the next day. All three matches will be played at the Dhaka stadium. The team qualifying for the super league will have to play its first super league match on February 24, says a BCCB press release.

Journalists protest high ticket prices

SYDNEY, Feb 17: Angry cricket reporters from India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan will boycott Wednesday night's opening ceremony of the World Cup because of ticket prices, reports AP. Media tickets for the dinner ceremony are US \$375. Sub-continent reporters say that a ticket equals a month's pay. Australian Cricket Board spokesman Ian McDonald agreed the prices were too high, but said they had been set by the World Cup Committee and were necessary to cover the expense of hosting all nine teams for the Cup. For the first time, the opening ceremony has been open to the public, with the paying customers effectively subsidising those players, officials and hierarchy who get in for free. McDonald said the Committee had lowered the media tickets from US \$130, but the reporters said that the price was still unacceptable. "It's scandalous," said Kuldip Lal who has been on tour since India arrived in Perth in November. "If there's a speech we have to cover or report on at the dinner it will cost us \$76 for the story and we just can't afford that." "We were provided everything at the World Cup in India and Pakistan in 1987 for nothing." The round-robin competition commences in New Zealand and Australia on Feb 22.

S Africa beat Tasmania

HOBBART, Australia, Feb 17: Allrounder Brian McMillan scored an unbeaten 40 Monday to guide South Africa to a seven-wicket victory over state team Tasmania in a World Cup warm-up cricket match at Belvoir Oval, reports AP. South Africa powered to 163 for three with 10.1 overs remaining as it chased Tasmania's total of 161. McMillan was supported by Adrian Kuiper, who was unbeaten on 38, as the pair put on 76 in an unbroken fourth-wicket stand. Opener Andrew Hudson also did well with the bat, scoring 35 to get the South African innings off to a brisk start. Earlier, 40-year-old spinner Omar Henry took three wickets for 36 as the South African attack tied down the Tasmanian batsmen. Pace bowlers Allan Donald and Tertius Bosch backed him up, with Donald taking two for 26 and Bosch two for 22. Mike Farrell top-scored for Tasmania with a polished 47, including three fours. The Tasmanians were without captain David Boon, who had to attend Australian team practice in Sydney, and batsman Danny Buckingham, who was excused following a family bereavement. South Africa continues its preparation for the nine-nation World Cup when it faces the Queensland state team in Brisbane on Friday. The tournament begins on Saturday but South Africa does not face Australia in its tournament opener until Feb 26. Scores: Tasmania 161 (Mike Farrell 47; Omar Henry 37); South Africa 163-3 (Brian McMillan 40; Adrian Kuiper 37). South Africa won by seven wickets.

Nirman cricket from today

The Dhaka zonal championship of the ninth Nirman schools cricket competition begins today with Tejgon Govt Boys School taking on Kakali High School and Rayer Bazar High School clashing with Ali Ahmad High School at the Dhanmondi Club ground. Twenty-eight schools - split into six groups - are taking part in the knockout meet. Only the six group champions will move into the next round.

Waqar Younis to return home

Lankans add insult to Pak injury

SYDNEY, Feb 17: Pakistan pace ace Waqar Younis has been ruled out of cricket's fifth World Cup due to back injury, it was learnt Monday, reports AFP. Team manager Intikhab Alam said Younis would return home soon, thus depriving the highly fancied Pakistanis of the services of one of the game's fastest bowlers for the limited-overs tournament starting on Saturday. Pakistan, who will officially name their squad of 14 on Tuesday, have called up all-rounder Wasim Haider as a replacement for Younis, Intikhab said. Those in the touring 17-member squad likely to return home with Younis are off-spinner Akram Raza, left-arm seamer Saleem Jaffer and batsman Shahid Saeed. Younis 20, who developed back pain during Pakistan's home series against Sri Lanka, has not played a single match since the team arrived in Australia two weeks ago to prepare for the World Cup. The team management kept Younis in the squad hoping intensive physiotherapy here would get him back on his feet, but the bowler has shown no signs of recovery. To add insult to injury, Pakistan's batting caved in dramatically for the second time in two days to give Sri Lanka a morale-boosting 14-run win in a practice match at the North Sydney Oval here Monday. Pakistan, chasing Sri



WAQAR YUNIS

The Pakistanis had lost to South Africa in Canberra on Saturday in similar fashion when six wickets tumbled for 16 runs. Seamer Champaka Ranjitha took seven for 41 to help Sri Lanka wipe out memories of a 4-1 rout in a one-day series in Pakistan last month. The only consolation for the beleaguered Pakistanis was the batting form of frontliners Javed Miandad and Salim Malik who put on 141 for the third wicket. Miandad showed he had recovered fully from a back injury by smashing seven fours and a six in a strokeful 90. Malik, standing-in for cap-

tain Imran Khan, who rested for this game, hit 64 but the pair found no support from the later-order batsman who caved in against Sri Lanka's superior fielding.



RAMANAYAKE ... 7 for 41

Scoreboard of the one-day cricket match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the North Sydney Oval here Monday. **SRI LANKA:** Mahanama c Sohail 6; Samarasekera c Aaqib b Ijaz 25; Gurusinha c sub (Saeed) b Iqbal Sikander 47; De Silva run out 48; Ranatunga run out 6; Jayasuriya c Sikander b Aaqib 20; Tillakaratne c and B Akram 25; Ranjitha c Inzamamul b Akram 1. **PAKISTAN:** Aamer Sohail c Jayasuriya b Ramzanayake 18; Rameez Raja c Tillakaratne b Ramzanayake 1; Inzamamul-Haq c Jayasuriya b Ramzanayake 0; Javed Miandad run out 80; Salim Malik c Samarasekera b Ramzanayake 64; Wasim Akram c Anurastril b Gurusinha 5; Ijaz Ahmed c Samarasekera b Ramzanayake 4; Motin Khan c Anurastril b Ramzanayake 7; Iqbal Sikander run out 2; Mushtaq Ahmed c Anurastril b Ramzanayake 1; Aaqib Javed not out 1; Extras: (lb 2, nb 5, w 6), 13. Total: (all out in 48.5 overs) 196. Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-10, 3-30, 4-171, 5-180, 6-181, 7-190, 8-194, 9-194. **Bowling:** O M R W; Ramzanayake 7 3 24 0; Ramzanayake 9.5 0 41 7; Wickramasinghe 10 3 22 0; Anurastril 7 0 36 0; Gurusinha 9 0 41 1; Samarasekera 3 0 14 0; Jayasuriya 3 0 16 0. Sri Lanka won by 14 runs.

Milnars super league

The five-team super league of the Milnars First Division cricket league begins today with Udity Club taking on Agrani Bank at the Mirpur Pallabi ground. The other teams who have qualified for the super league are Victoria Sporting Club, City Club and Eskaton Sabuj Sangha. Meanwhile, the five-team relegation league comprising Bangladesh Railway, Sadharan Bima, Ajax SC, Young Pegasus and Wanderers Club will begin tomorrow. Bangladesh Railway will meet Wanderers Club in the opening match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (East).

Div II cricket

Rainbow Athletic Club and Lalbagh Anwar SC won their respective ties in the Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket league yesterday. At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Rainbow AC registered an impressive 69-run victory over Young Pegasus, thanks to the second wicket partnership of 119 runs between Pappu and Titu. Sent into bat, Rainbow made a reasonable 195 runs from their quota of 35 overs for the loss of six wickets. Titu top scored with 53 hitting a six and four fours. Pappu got 52 and Swapan 44 not out for Rainbow. Zubayer took two while Jewel and Pappu bagged one wicket apiece for Pegasus. In their turn, Pegasus were booked for 126 in 34.5 overs. Jewel scored 48 not out with the aid of five fours and Zahid 18 for Pegasus. Mona, the most successful Rainbow bowler, claimed three wickets for 19 while Rumel and Jahangir with two wickets each backed him well. At the Mohakhali T&T ground, Lalbagh Anwar SC registered an emphatic seven-wicket victory over Wari Krira Chakra. Electing to bat, Wari KC were all out for a narrow 82 runs in 25 overs. Imtiaz scored the highest 18 with the aid of three fours. Junayed got 12 while no other Wari batsman could reach the double figures. Mehdi bagged three wickets while Shaheen and Hossain took two wickets apiece for Lalbagh Anwar. Chasing the target, Lalbagh Anwar reached safely home in 17.5 overs for three wickets. Tapan and Hossain, the two openers, made 37 and 30 respectively for the winners. Kader, the only successful Wari bowler, claimed all three Lalbagh Anwar's wickets.

Pioneer soccer

Govt Printing Press suffered a set back in the round robin league of the Janata Bank Pioneer football competition when they dropped a vital point to Spandan KC in a one-all draw at the Outer Stadium yesterday. Printing Press now have three points from two outings. As for Spandan, it was their first round robin league match. Abdus Saki scored for Printing Press while Mizanur Rahman equalised for Spandan. Mizanur Rahman and Tapan Kumar of Spandan received yellow cards. Earlier in the afternoon, Gulbagh Krira Chakra edged past Aganagar PMS 1-0 at the same venue. Mamun netted the all-important goal for the winners in the 28th minute of the first session. Hossain and Payel of Gulbagh and Didar and Dabu of Aganagar were cautioned with the yellow card.

Sterile Star football

Star First Division football league witnessed another barren day as both the matches ended in goalless draws at the Mirpur stadium yesterday. Muktiyoddha Sangsad shared points with Victoria Sporting Club in a goalless encounter in the first match of the day. The dull, drab affair was marked with a red card shown to Victoria player Sagar by referee MR Mukul. The player was given the marching order for kicking Sabuj of Muktiyoddha. This was the seventh red card showed in this year's league. The day's second match played under the flood lights was more entertaining with Bangladesh Public Works Department dominating most of the proceedings against Farashganj. PWD, the more fancied team with the services of Sri Lankan Prem Lal and Packer Ally launched a series of offensives but failed to find the net as bad luck and Farashganj came in their way.

Abahani beat Wari 2-0

Defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra recorded their eighth consecutive win in this year's Green Delta First Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. Both the goals were scored in the first half. Although the winners scored only two goals they reigned supreme, forcing as many as ten penalty corners. Akhtar Hossain sounded the board for the sky blues in the fifth minute of the match when he put one past the Wari custodian Akbar Ali. Jumman Lusat, the tall Abahani defender, completed the tally a minute before the short whistle from a penalty corner, 2-0. Wari, mostly at the receiving end, forced two penalty corners and as many short corners. Today's matches: Bachelors SC vs Usha KC (1.45 pm); Mohammedans vs Wanderers Club (3.15 pm).

Helal BU's hero

Last year's runners-up Brothers Union staged a fine second-half rally to trounce Tarun Sanghad 25-11 for their fifth consecutive win in the CUTE First Division handball league at the Outer Stadium yesterday. The first half was a keener affair with the teams locked 8-8. But the breather seemed to have worked wonders for the boys from Gopibagh. Spear-headed by a refreshed Helal, Brothers ran all over their opponents to score 17 goals in the second session, allowing Tarun Sanghad only three scoring opportunities. Helal scored 14 goals while Palash another eight for the winners. In the other match of the day, Baniaganar Sporting Club suffered the seventh successive defeat in the league when new-comers West Jatrabari Krira Chakra dunked them 33-5.

Hagi hat-trick powers Real

MADRID, Spain, Feb 17: Romanian striker Ogorge Hagi scored three consecutive goals Sunday, leading Real Madrid to a 5-0 rout of struggling Athletic Bilbao and back into sole possession of first place in the Spanish first division, reports AP. Defending champion Barcelona had claimed a share of the lead Saturday with a 4-0 victory at Zaragoza, but Sunday's win improved Real to 15-4-3 and 34 points, two more than Barcelona. The three goals gave Hagi eight on the season, five behind league leader Manolo Sanchez Delgado, who scored once Sunday in Atletico's 2-1 victory over last placed Espanol. In other first division games Sunday it was: Sporting 2, Sevilla 1; Logrones 0, Valladolid 0; Deportivo La Coruna 1, Cadiz 1; Albacete 1, Tenerife 1; Burgos 2, Valencia 1; Mallorca 1, Osasuna 1; and Real Sociedad 2, Oviedo 1. In Madrid, Hagi got Real out to a 3-0 lead by four minutes into the second half. Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez, back after a two game absence, set up Hagi in the 25th minute, and Emilio Butragueno lobbed a pass into the area in the 46th, when Hagi volleyed it for his second. A 25-meter shot from outside the penalty area made it 3-0. Fernando Hierro added a header in the 54th minute and Hugo Sanchez finished the scoring 10 minute later on a Scissors kick. Real missed a chance for a sixth goal when Jose Miguel Gonzalez 'Michel' hit the post with a penalty kick. In Barcelona, 'Manolo' Sanchez Delgado and German Bernd Schuster scored to give Atletico Madrid its victory over Espanol and move it into third place just ahead of Valencia on goal differential. Russian striker Dimitri Kuznetsov scored for Espanol, which fell to 4-4-14. At Palma de Mallorca, Esteban Fradera scored in the 60th minute to give next to last placed Mallorca a 1-1 draw with Osasuna. Jan Urban had given Osasuna the lead with his eighth of the year, tying him with Emilio Butragueno, Michel and Hagi of Real Madrid and Valladolid's Gregorio Fonseca. At Albacete, Uruguayan forward Jose Luis Zalazar scored in the 62nd minute to give Albacete a 1-1 draw with Tenerife, and extend the promoted club's unbeaten streak to 13 games. Tenerife had taken the lead on Argentine striker Juan Antonio Pizzi's ninth goal of the season in the 25th minute. At Gijon, goals by Czechoslovakia's Milan Luhovi in the fourth minute and Bulgaria's Georgui Iordanov in the 65th gave Sporting a 2-1 victory over Sevilla, which dropped to 10th place with a 9-5-8 record. Marcos Martin de la Fuente scored for Sevilla in the 70th minute. At Burgos, 'Edu' Velez Diaz atoned for teammate Pedro Tamayo's own goal, scoring in the 36th minute to lift Burgos to a 2-1 victory and drop Valencia to fourth place. Narciso Rodriguez gave Burgos the lead one minute after kickoff, improving Burgos to 8-9-5 and into eighth place, one point behind Gijon.

Suman's double crown

Rashed Kabir Suman, who earlier clinched the boys' junior doubles title in partnership with Md Tarek, won the double crown, becoming the junior singles champion in the 1992 Beximco national junior and sub-junior badminton championship yesterday, the concluding day of the week-long meet held at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium. Suman of Bangladesh Biman beat Nurul Absar of Chittagong 15-3, 15-2 in the final of the boys' under-18 singles. Earlier, Zakir of Rajshahi won the double crown in the boys' under-14 events. He beat Emdadullah of Mymensingh in the singles final and paired with Imran Ahmed Khan, clinched the doubles' title. Sharmin Ahmed Momo of Biman won the double crown in the girls' under-14 beating Nuri of Bangladesh Ansars in the singles. Momo, in partnership with Faranaz Chowdhury, won the doubles title. Sadek Hossain, State Minister for Youth and Sports, witnessed the concluding day's proceedings as chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners. Twenty-six District Sports Associations and three organizations - Bangladesh Biman, Bangladesh Ansars and Bangladesh Police - comprising nine girls and 132 boys, took part in the competition which began on February 10.

Econo jr TT

Bangladesh Biman, Azampur Young Star, Victoria Sporting Club, Kalpataru Club, Bangladesh Ansars, Azampur Young Boys, Armanitola Juniors and Surja Tarun Club won their respective matches of the 1992 Econo junior table tennis league at the National Coaching Centre yesterday. All eight matches held on the day produced straight-sets results.

Taylor, Hughes included in Aussie squad

MELBOURNE, Feb 17: Test team regulars Mark Taylor and Merv Hughes were recalled Sunday to the Australian limited-overs cricket team and included in the 14-man squad to defend the World Cup from Feb 22, reports AP. Taylor and Hughes both played all five Test matches against India but neither played any of the 10 World Series Cup one-day matches earlier this summer. The pair was included in the Australian squad ahead of inexperienced young pacer Paul Reiffel and 1987 World Cup team member Simon O'Donnell. Geoff Marsh was reinstated as vice-captain after being dropped for the fifth Test against India in Perth two weeks ago. The Australians defeated England in the 1987 final at Calcutta and the squad included seven members of that winning side—captain Allan Border, Marsh, David Boon, Dean Jones, Craig McDermott, Bruce Reid and Steve Waugh. Tom Moody and Peter Taylor were both in the 1987 squad but did not play in the final. Hughes played only one match of Australia's 4-1 limited-overs series win over the West Indies in the Caribbean last year but was recalled with O'Donnell sadly lacking form. O'Donnell injured his shoulder before the Dec 12 World Series Cup match against the West Indies and has not played for Australia since. Australia plays its first match of the World Cup against New Zealand in Auckland on Saturday. The Australian squad is: Allan Border (captain), Geoff Marsh (vice captain), David Boon, Ian Healy, Merv Hughes, Dean Jones, Craig McDermott, Tom Moody, Bruce Reid, Mark Taylor, Peter Taylor, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Mike Whitney.

Kiwis crush Zimbabwe

ROTORUA, New Zealand, Feb 17: New Zealand, badly mauled in the just-ended series against England, salvaged some pride Monday by dishing out a dose of the same medicine to hapless Zimbabwe, reports AFP. Zimbabwe scored 111 for 8 and New Zealanders blasted 114 for 4 a six-wicket win. The originally planned 50-over match was abandoned after heavy overnight rain and wet patches at either end of the wicket prevented a start. On mutual agreement, Zimbabwe batted first on a hard track which offered good bounce. Opener Andy Flower made a useful 28, left-arm batsman Alistair Campbell 28 not out and Eddo Brandes a quick 23 in their total of 111 for 8. For New Zealand, the best of the bowlers was Danny Morrison who took 2 for 13 from his allocated four overs. New Zealand got away to a flying start with John Wright and Rod Latham making short work of a handy but hardly threatening attack. They piled on 65 in just the first nine overs, in stark contrast to poor starts made against England. Wright was out eventually for 38 from 30 balls including six boundaries. Latham made 23 from 27 balls, joining Wright back in the pavilion two balls later and leaving New Zealand at 67.2. "It wasn't much use, but we had to play because there was such a good turnout," Wright, New Zealand's captain for the match, said. Zimbabwe coach Don Topley said, "the match was a useful bit of practice. We needed it to give our batting a bit of practice."

BAF volleyball

CHITTAGONG, February 17: BAF Base, Mafur Rahman defeated BAF Base, Basher by 3-2 sets in the Bangladesh Air Force Inter-Base volleyball here today.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain seen with the winners and other officials at the conclusion of the national junior badminton meet yesterday. — Star photo