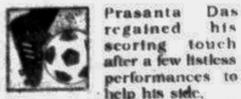


Sport

Prasanta inspires BRTC

Sports Reporter



Prasanta Das regained his scoring touch after a few listless performances to help his side. Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) record its first victory in the Star First Division football at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

The long serving striker who was a constant source of headache for the big teams few years back scored a goal in the second minute of the match to give finishing touch to a coordinated move.

The winners retained the lead throughout the first half. BRTC played better brand of football in this half but poor finish by their forwards nullified their chances of consolidating their position.

Rahamatganj Muslim Friends Society came strongly after the breather, launching several menacing raids. But the BRTC defence, marshalled by the aged Ranajit, beat the forays back till the 56th minute of the match. Rahamatganj left wing-back Seraj overlapped

down the flank to send in a lovely cross and Shah Alam leapt in the air to nod the ball home 1-1.

The match picked up momentum after the equaliser with both the sides trying to force the winner and Prasanta's experience held him in good stead when he headed the ball after Motaleb had sent in a cross from the right wing 18 minutes into the second half.

Prasanta missed two scoring chances at the fog end of the match. Once he shot straight into the hands of the goalkeeper and on the other occasion he scooped the ball over the bar with the Rahamatganj epistodian Tarok well out of the position.

BRTC have now collected five points from six matches while Rahamatganj remained at six from as many matches.

Yellow cards : Ranajit, Gautam and Prasanta of BRTC.

BRTC SC: Nazim, Humayun (Wahid), Shaheen, Ranajit, Jasim, Krishna, Gautam (Debasish), Ratan, Motaleb, Prasanta and Tipu.

RAHAMATGANJ MFS:

Tarok, Sufian, Rubel, Nabih, Siraj, Nazim (Mostaq), Selim, Mokbul (Ali), Sohel and Shohag (Alamgir).

BIMA BEATEN

Fakirpool YMC defeated Sadharan Bima Kirta Sangsaba 3-1 in the second match of the day.

Firoz, who gave the winners the lead in the 33rd minute, scored five minutes after the breather, again. Masud completed the tally for Fakirpool in the 66th minute of the match.

Hadal of Bima reduced the margin eight minutes later. The win gave Fakirpool six points from as many matches while losers Bima stuck to four from same number of matches.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Arambagh vs Eskaton Sabuj Sangha (3 pm)

Abahani vs Dhanmendi (5 pm)

All sporting activities will remain suspended on February 20 and 21, on account of Holy Shab-e-Barat and Ekushey February.

Maoris threaten to wreck W Cup

WELLINGTON, Feb 18: A native Maori Sovereignty group threatened Tuesday to disrupt World Cup cricket next week in a row over the temporary cancellation of Maori language news broadcasts during the tournament, reports AFP.

The group, Tino Rangatiratanga, said it would disrupt games, damage the pitches, damage television equipment, interrupt television commentaries and occupy the studios and buildings of state-owned Television New Zealand (TVNZ).

The Cup tournament opens in New Zealand on February 22.

All the games in the tournament, also being held in Australia, will be broadcast by TVNZ, causing the Maori language news programme to Karere to be sidelined.

Tino Rangatiratanga spokesman Hemi Flavell said, "representatives from the group had approached TVNZ about its concerns that the Karere was being sidelined by cricket and treated as second class by TVNZ."

The group said Maori-language news deserved the same treatment as English news but complained that TVNZ would not discuss the issue.

TVNZ spokeswoman Aline Sandilands dismissed these threats as inflammatory and quite extraordinary.

Tino Rangatiratanga's comments are objectionable and calculated to be disruptive. They quite obviously have no real desire, to discuss the Karere with us, but want to cause trouble," she said.

On its past record Tino Rangatiratanga (which loosely translated means chiefly authority being a reference to traditional Maori rule) could well deliver on its threat.

They organised practically successful boycotts of the 1990 general elections and the 1991 census. Court cases are still under way as the result of the latter.



Action from yesterday's Green Delta First Division league match between Mohammedan Sporting and Dhaka Wanderers at the Hockey Stadium.

Aussies tie last warm-up match

SYDNEY, Feb 18: Australia's World Cup cricket warm-up match against the New South Wales state team ended in a dramatic draw Tuesday at North Sydney Oval after wickets fell on the final three balls, reports AP.

Chasing Australia's formidable total of 277 for four from 50 overs, New South Wales finished at 277 for eight after scoring just one run from its last over.

Greg Matthews took a single from the second ball of Bruce Reid's over but then the tall pace bowler dismissed Brad McMamara and Phil Emery, and saw Matthews run out by wicketkeeper Ian Healy from the last ball of the match.

Steve Small made 101 off only 102 balls for New South Wales while David Boon scored 104 for Australia.

Australia now travels to New Zealand on Thursday for Saturday's opening World Cup match against the Kiwis in Auckland.

MSC blank Wanderers

Sports Reporter



A brilliant hat-trick by Muntaz Haider, Mohammedians' Pakistani recruit, helped the title-

aspirants record an impressive 4-0 victory over arch rivals Dhaka Wanderers Club in the Green Delta First Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Mohammedan Sporting Club, who forced as many as eleven penalty corners, dominated the entire proceedings allowing no chance to their much weaker opponents to come back into the game.

Zahid Biswas sounded the board for Mohammedans in the very seventh minute of play when he put one passed Wanderers custodian Shtmul (1-0).

Haider doubled the margin in the 49th minute, with a spectacular field goal (2-0).

Soon afterwards, he netted the third one for the black-and-whites in a similar fashion (3-0).

Haider scored his hat-trick

to complete the tally for the winners in the 56th minute with yet another field goal (4-0).

Haider of Mohammedans and Syed and Siam of Wanderers were shown the green card while Zahid Biswas and Mitul of Mohammedans invited the yellow card for more offensive play.

Mohammedans, who have won all their eight encounters, have 16 points, as for Wanderers, they have only six points also from eight games.

Earlier in the afternoon, Bachelors Sporting Club recorded a lone-goal victory over Usha Kirta Chakra.

Ishaque got the winner to seal the fate of the match for Bachelors in the 43rd minute.

Bachelors earned three penalty corners while Usha, despite forcing five penalty corners, failed to convert any.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Victoria SC vs Bangladesh SC (1:45 pm)

Ajax SC vs Sadharan Bima KS (3:15 pm)

Lankans lament Cup schedule

SYDNEY, Feb 18: Sri Lankan cricket captain Aravinda de Silva Tuesday tipped his team to cause upsets during the World Cup tournament, but said he was upset by the tournament draw, reports AP.

The Sri Lankans, ranked eighth of the nine sides playing in the event from Feb. 22, have been drawn to play three matches in country towns, angering de Silva.

"We play games in Mackay, Ballarat and Berrri. None of those are near the capital cities and none of our players have ever played on any of the wickets," de Silva said Tuesday.

"We are expected to go into the tournament with no idea how the wickets play. It's unfair," he said.

De Silva said the Sri Lankans were a youthful team but had improved greatly in the past two seasons.

They beat Pakistan in a warm-up match Monday and a feature of the game was their snappy catching and fielding.

"We realise that we were behind the rest of the world in our fielding, but we have worked very hard to improve that area," said de Silva.

"We will be a threat to most teams."

The Sri Lankans have strike bowler Ramesh Ratnayake sidelined with an injured shoulder, but the nation's top Test wicket-taker said he would be fit for the start of the tournament.

Sri Lanka begins its World Cup campaign with a match against Zimbabwe in New Plymouth, New Zealand, on Feb 23.

Tomba takes lead

VAL D'ISERE, France, Feb 18: Alberto Tomba of Italy, trying to become the first Alpine skier to successfully defend an Olympic title, took a 13 second lead over Marc Girardell of Luxembourg on Tuesday in the first run of the men's giant slalom, reports AP.

Sliding aggressively down the 47-gate course with the No. 6 start position, Tomba had a time of 1 minute 4.57 seconds. Girardell, the silver medalist in the super giant slalom, was timed in 1:04.70, starting 14th.

BDR men surrender to Ansars

Sports Reporter

"Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown" said a careworn monarch of a Shakespearean play. In the sporting world, one does not have to dwell with the fears and anxieties of rebellion and intrigues but there is no escape from the scare and ignominy of defeat which stalks the euphoria of victory. Specially the champions here have the unenviable distinction of living in the glass house of reputation only to be shattered out of it one day. One of those one days was witnessed by the spectators gathered at the Handball court yesterday.

Bangladesh Rifles, the reigning champions, rather one should say the champions

since the beginning of the Handball league way back in 1984, bit the dust as their peers in the league and the fraternity of the law enforcing agency handed them a 21-16 defeat in an absorbing contest. The winners led 9-7 in the first half.

Akram and Jewel were the architects of the upset victory for the Ansars. Both of them were sharp and clinical enough to share sixteen of the twenty one goals of their side. The two players netted eight goals apiece. Farid with two goals was the other notable scorer for the winners. For the losers BDR, Rafiqul scored six goals while Maungaha pr Marmu netted three.

Brothers Union got past Dakshin Maishundi Kirta Chakra comfortably in the day's first match of the Cute handball league. The Gopbogh boys defeated their opponents by 22/12. Helal and Rashedul scored nine and seven goals for the winners while Menzes, Palash and Humayun netted two each. Khokon with six was the main goal getter for Maishundi. Babul and Jewel chipped in with three and two goals respectively.

TODAY'S MATCHES

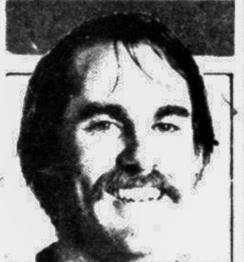
South Maishundi KC vs Brothers Union (2.15 pm)

Surjodoy Boys vs Police (3.30 pm)

Hookes to retire

ADELAIDE, Australia, Feb 18: Former Australian Test cricketer David Hookes announced Tuesday that he planned to retire at the end of the 1992 season, reports AP.

Hookes said he planned to play in the final two Sheffield Shield matches of the season for South Australia state. He needs to score 48 runs to



DAVID HOOKES

overtake John Inverarity as the leading run scorer in the history of the Shield, Australia's premier domestic cricket competition.

Hookes, 36, has scored 9,294 runs from 118 Shield games since making his debut in 1975.

Inverarity holds the record of 9,341 runs from 159 games. Hookes, an explosive batsman, played 23 tests for Australia, at an average of 34.06 runs.

He is best remembered for his exploits in the 1977 Centenary Test against England in Melbourne.

Hookes scored 56 runs in that game at the age of 21, including five successive fours off English medium-pace bowler Tony Sreig.

BAF volleyball

Sports Reporter

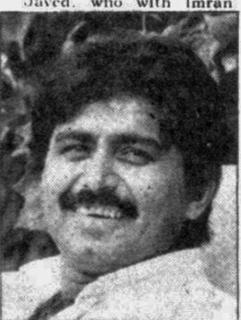
BAF Base Zahurul Haque moved into final of the Bangladesh Air Force Inter-bank volleyball championship held in Chittagong on Monday, said an ISPR press release.

BAF Base Zahurul Haque defeated the Air Headquarters Unit team in the semifinal match by 3-2 sets of 7-15, 5-15, 15-12, 15-13 and 17-15.

Miandad in Pak squad

KARACHI, Feb 18: Javed Miandad was included in Pakistan's final 14-man squad for the cricket World Cup when selectors announced the line-up on Monday, reports Reuters.

Javed, who with Imran



JAVED MIANDAD

Khan will be the only players to have taken part in all five World Cups, was cleared fit to play earlier this month after initially being left out of the

Nissan Cup from Feb 22

The Fifth Nissan Cup tennis championships begin from Saturday, February 22, under the aegis of Gulshan Club at the club courts.

The week long tournament sponsored by Pacific Motors Limited will feature five events.

A record 43 participants are taking part in the Boys' under-12 years age group. Sixty four players will compete in the under-16 age group and 57, including top seed Hira Lal, will vie for the men's singles trophy and a cash award of Taka 15000.

Sixty competitors will take part in the men's doubles category, while 17 players will take part in the women's singles.

The tournament committee will provide conveyance, food and lodging to the outstation players from Chittagong, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Jhendah and Comilla.

Addressing a press conference yesterday, tournament director Syed Wahid said that a budget of Taka 1,75,000 has been estimated for the tour-

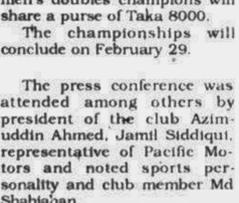
Nirman cricket

Sports Reporter

The Dhaka Zonal championship of the ninth Nirman Schools Cricket competition with two matches being decided at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Kakali Hgh School beat Tejgaon Govt High School by eight wickets on the east side while Rayer Bazar High School recorded a ten-wicket victory over Alh Ahmed School on the west side of the Dhanmondi Club ground.

A press conference was held at the Gulshan Club yesterday in connection with the Nissan Cup beginning from February 22.



A press conference was held at the Gulshan Club yesterday in connection with the Nissan Cup beginning from February 22.

Richardson slams selectors

SYDNEY, Feb 18: West Indies cricket captain Richie Richardson criticised his nation's World Cup planning Tuesday, less than a week before the start of the nine nation tournament on Feb 22, reports AP.

Richardson said his team was disadvantaged because it does not have a full time coach, unlike favourites Australia and England.

He said the West Indies Cricket Board was moving towards the appointment of a coach, but questioned the timing, saying it was a mistake to go into the limited overs competition without one.

The West Indies won the first two World Cups, in 1975 and 1979, and finished runner-up in 1983.

In the past two seasons the team's one-day record has been poor, with the Caribbean squad winning just three of its past 17 games.

Richardson is in his first season as West Indies captain following the retirement of

Sydney inventor's new cricket bat

SYDNEY, Feb 18: An Australian inventor unveiled a revolutionary cricket bat Tuesday, in the first legal divergence from normal characteristics in more than 100 years, reports AP.

The new design sees the traditional straight handle replaced by a curved handle, which the designer says gives batsmen more power and control.

"Because the change was to the handle, and not the blade of the bat, it has been declared legal by the sport's rule-makers, the International Cricket Conference (ICC)."

The handle of the new bat bends back away from the top of the blade, then hooks forward again, forcing the batsman's hands behind the face as the ball is played.

manager.

"It's very hard for the captain to organize practices and concentrate on his play."

Richardson said Australia had benefitted from having Bob Simpson at the helm as coach over the past few seasons, and said a coach should have been chosen for the West Indies World Cup assault.

He said there were several former players who were interested in the position and would do a good job.

Former Test wicketkeeper Deryck Murray is the team's manager.

"A coach should have been here with us now," Richardson said. "Our players have been talking about the need for this for a number of years."

"I don't know the reason it hasn't already happened, but at all costs we need a coach. Other international sports all have coaches, why can't we have one in cricket?"

The west Indies begins its World Cup campaign on Saturday when it faces England in its tournament opener in Perth.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Nirman Schools Eleven and Three Star Boys Club won their respective ties in the Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket league yesterday.

Nirman Schools registered an impressive 81-run victory over Bangladesh Boys at the Mohakhali T&T ground, thanks to the opening stand of 115 runs between skipper Palash and Shah Asad.

Sent into bat, Nirman Schools made 182 runs for seven wickets in their stipulated 35 overs.

Captain Palash went great guns with the willow getting 87 runs off 84 balls with the help of ten boundaries.

Shah Asad scored 29 while Biplab made 17 for Nirman Schools.

Babu bagged two while Kamrul, Ujjal and Azam took a wicket apiece for Bangladesh Boys.

Facing the target, Bangladesh Boys could muster only 101 for nine wickets in the 35 overs.

Sumi topscored with 35, hitting three fours while skipper Shamim made 15.

Zahid bagged three while Suman took two wickets for Nirman Schools.

In the other match of the day, Three Star Boys Club beat Lalbagh USC by three wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Put into bat, Lalbagh USC were all out for a skinny 103 in 27.5 overs.

Wahim, Motlur and Jasim made 19, 17 and 14 respectively for Lalbagh USC.

Nasir, Roby and Tuton claimed two wickets each for Three Star.

Chasing the target, Three Star cruised past Lalbagh in 29 overs for the loss of seven wickets.

Tipu and Rome made 25 each while Johnny remained not out with 14.

Mantu, the most successful Lalbagh bowler, bagged three wickets for 32.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Nabin Sangha vs Eastern SC (DCS)

Azad SC vs DOHS Club (Mohakhali T&T ground)

Milnars relegation league Railway vs Wanderers (DCS)

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Lalbagh Tarun Sangha edged past Maniknagar Unnayan Samity 1-0 in the Jagan Bank Pioneer round robin league at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Zakir Hossain scored the all important goal for the winners. Amir Hossain Monu of Lalbagh Tarun Sangha was shown the yellow card.

The other match at the venue, between Eskaton Sabuj Sangha (Jrs) and Mirpur XI ended in a goalless draw.

Monturul Islam and Fayyaz of Eskaton Sabuj invited the yellow card for rough play.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Nawab Katra JS vs Agnagar FMS (2 pm)

Gulbagh KC vs Spandan KC

France underdogs at Wembley

LONDON, Feb 18: France may never have won a football match at Wembley, but with their 1992 vintage team they have a better chance than ever before when they step out against England on Wednesday night, reports AFP.

For the first time, they will start as favourites, unbeaten in 19 matches over three years and with a settled side the envy of many of their continental counterparts heading into the European Championships in Sweden this summer.

England, on the other hand, have a whole host of players preparing to prove themselves

worthy of a trip to Scandinavia and manager Graham Taylor has still to get the balance right.

His opposite number, Michel Platini, has promised an evening of French passion, flair and style—the perfect antidote to strained Anglo-French relations after the bruising scenes between the two nations in Saturday's Rugby Union international at the Parc Des Princes.

Platini expects a "beautiful game" and dismisses any hint of lingering animosity. He said: "I know nothing about rugby and I don't believe the honour of France now rest on my shoulders, but I want us to play with style and go for goals and

say 'let the best team win' and hopefully that will be France."

He added: "This is an important time for us with the European Championships so close. It is a big game and hopefully it will be a beautiful game. It should be interesting for the spectators because I would not think of going out there and playing defensively."

And he recognises that the pressure is on Taylor. "We are more settled than England at the moment as there are no worries for us. Our squad for Sweden is virtually selected and we are all sorted out but for England there will be a lot of players still playing for their places," he added.