

Abahani sign Samarasekera

Sports Reporter
Athula Samarasekera, the Sri Lankan Test cricketer, yesterday signed for Abahani Kirta Chakra.

The tall, handsome all-rounder from the Emerald island will reportedly serve the Damal champions throughout the coming league.

Roped in for reported fee of 10,000 US dollars Samarasekera, currently out of the national reckoning, had earlier played for local Wari Club in 1988-89 cricket season. He also played for Mohammedans in the Damal Summer cricket tournament that season.

A stylish, aggressive batsman, Athula can bat anywhere in the order and bowls tight right-arm medium pace.



A SAMARASEKERA
Ashoka de Silva, the right-arm leg-break googly bowler and an effective left-hand batsman who played for Abahani last season, also renewed his contract with Abahani yesterday at the BCCB office.

Abahani still have the option of registering two other foreign players. Under BCCB rules only two foreigners can play in a given match.

Zimbabwe make four changes for one-dayer

HARARE, Oct 23: Zimbabwe, who drew their inaugural cricket Test against India here Thursday, have made four changes for Sunday's one day international, reports AFP.

Opener Kevin Arnott, batsman Andy Pycroft and bowlers Eddo Brandes and Malcolm Jarvis have been left out from the Test squad.

Replacing them are left-arm seamer David Brain, opening batsman Craig Evans, off-spinner Stephen Peall and all-rounder Ali Shah.

Except for Shah, who missed the Test because of a groin injury, all the other three played for the President's Eleven in India's tour opener last Thursday.

Zimbabwe Cricket Union president Peter Chingoka, who announced the squad of 12, said the playing eleven will be named on the morning of the match.

The team:
David Houghton (captain), Andy Flower, Mark Burmester, David Brain, Alistair Campbell, Gary Crocker, Craig Evans, Stephen Peall, Grant Flower, Ali Shah, John Traicos, Andrew Waller.

Reid wrecks Queensland

BRISBANE, Australia, Oct 23: Former Test pace bowler Bruce Reid spurred Western Australia to a 149-run first innings lead over Queensland on the second day of the opening Sheffield Shield cricket match here Thursday, reports AFP.

The giant left-arm pacer, overlooked for Australia's recent tour of Sri Lanka, took four for 58 off 16 overs to skittle Alan Border's Queenslanders for 221, though they avoided the follow-on by just one run.

Reid's impressive spell will push his claims to lead Australia's pace attack against the touring West Indians later this year.

Among Reid's scalps were Border, bowled for 23, and impressive young opener Matthew Hayden for eight.

Western Australia had amassed 370 with Damien Martyn celebrating his 21st birthday with his highest Shield innings of 133 not out to join Geoff Marsh (121) as WA's second century-maker.

With two days' play remaining, WA are well placed to push for maximum points.

SCORES: Western Australia 370 (D. Martyn 133 not out, G. Marsh 121, D. Tazelaar 3-78) vs Queensland 221 (M. Hayden 49, B. Reid 4-58).

Two records on Day Two

Sports Reporter
Two more new records were established on the second day of the 12th national age-group swimming competition now being held at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex pool.

Eleven events were settled on the second day of the four-day meet, as reigning champions Rajshahi Education Board (REB) retained their leading vein with seven more golds which raises their collection to 12 golds out of a total of 33 medals.

Masud Rana of REB set the day's first record when he took two minutes 48.33 seconds to clinch the gold in the 200m back-stroke for boys between 13 and 14 years. Aminur Rahman of the same team got the silver while Abdus Samad of Pabna DSA settled for the bronze. Rana erased last year's record timing of two minutes 48.63 secs.

Abdul Hamid Ripon of Pabna DSA set a new record in the 200m individual medley of 13-14 age group. He clocked two minutes 41.67 secs to erase the previous record of two minutes 45.32 secs.

Masud Rana, of REB, another record breaker, got the silver while Jamal Hossain, also of REB, picked up the bronze.

Nur Khan Alam of REB was the gold winner in the 100m breast-stroke of 15-17 yr age group. His peer Nazrul Alam clinched the silver and Refatul Alam of Madaripur DSA managed the bronze.

The 100m butterfly gold went to Abdul Hamid Ripon of Pabna. Masud Rana of REB picked up the silver while Abdullah al-Muktadir of BKSP bagged the bronze in the 13-14 age category.

The 200m butterfly for

swimmers aged between 15 to 17 years saw the winner in Saidul Islam of REB. Mizanur Rahman was the silver winner for Rajshahi DSA.

The 400m free-style of the 15-17 age group belonged to Mahbubur Rahman Pabna DSA. Abu Bakr Haider of REB got the silver while Nur Khan Alam of the same team took away the bronze.

Nur Khan Alam of REB won the gold in the 200m individual medley of the 15 to 17 years age group. Saidul Alam, also from REB, won the silver while Mahbubur Rahman of Pabna bagged the bronze.

In the 100m backstroke for boys aged between 11 and 12 years, Abu Sayeed Haider of the REB won the gold. Munmun Ahmed of

the silver while Liaquat Ali of REB managed the bronze.

In the 50m free-style (13-14) Abdul Hamid Ripon of Pabna won the gold. Alamgir Hossain of the same team took the silver while Aminur Rahman got the bronze.

Earlier this week, Television New Zealand head of sport John Knowles had said cameramen would be on the lookout for ball tampering and "certainly there will be a 1000 NZ dollar (\$42 US) reward for the first cameraman to pick up the bottle-top."

Pakistan, who are due to make a short tour of New Zealand in December, were accused of ball doctoring on their tour of England this year.

In response to the TV-NZ remark Khalid Mahmood, Pakistan manager on the 1992 England tour, has threatened to cancel the tour.

"We will have to consider if there is any point in carrying on with this tour of New Zealand," Mahmood told the Daily Mirror.

McDermott made it clear that the NZC had nothing to do with the remarks.

"The comments came at the end of the night and were jocular in their context," he said in an interview.

"They were made by an employee of TV-NZ in a flippant manner."

"It is not the policy of New Zealand Cricket or TV-NZ to take the actions described. We weren't prepared for the comments, they were off the cuff."

"Our official stance is that we are distancing ourselves from the comments."

"We will be making a note of explanation to Pakistan that will explain the position of New Zealand Cricket — that we are not involved and are looking forward to having the team here."

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Pak threaten to cancel NZ tour

WELLINGTON, Oct 23: A television network's proposal to set up a camera to spot Pakistani cricketers doctoring the ball was a joke and not serious, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) chairman Peter McDermott said today, reports AFP.

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MSC, S Bima post victories

Sports Reporter
The pavilion with 37 on the board. Only one out of the first six batsmen could reach the double figures. Jewel was the man, caught by Shaheen off Nakib for 10.

Then came Rajkumara's defiant knock of 21 in an innings lasting 51 balls with one sixer and a boundary. Together they took the score to 88 from 43 for six wickets.

Litu came in to rub off the residual resistance by the Gulshan batsmen with figures of three for 12, and the team from the posh residential area were all out for 103 in 37.2 overs.

Nakib took three for 15 from nine overs which also contained two maidens Halim

with a delightful knock of 46 off just 43 balls. The solid right-hander with nimble footwork smote an effortless straight sticer off Javed Belim Golla.

However, the best shot of the day was played by Mohammedan's new recruit Piyal. In his dainty little knock of 21 not out off 16 balls, Piyal stroked the last ball of the Mohammedan innings for a sixer. Rodrigo came on to bowl from the Paltan end and having seen Piyal go down the wicket dropped short on leg and middle. The batsman took it on the rise and with a vigorous whip sent the ball between midwicket and square-leg for a delightful sixer.

Mohammedan finally tallied 205 off 43 overs, two short of the full quota of 45 overs.

Subrata, the Tarun new ball bowler from Chittagong, caused early morning worries with two for 35. Gem was the most successful of the lot with three for 43 while Golla took two for 31 despite taking some stick. However, the best Tarun bowler of the day was Tito, the wry right-arm off-spinner who went wicketless in his nine overs costing just 36 runs. He put a spanner in the works of the Mohammedan batsmen more than any one else.

In reply Tarun started badly losing Nural Hadi to the second ball of the innings. The tall seasoned opener followed a Gamagee outswinger and wicketkeeper Ratan dived full length to his right to pick up a fine catch in front of first slip.

Tarun never broke the shackles applied by the Mohammedan bowlers and although Shoab made 37 and skipper Rodrigo made an unbeaten 27, the losers couldn't manage more than a paltry 110 for four wickets only, leaving Mohammedans winners by 95 runs. Gamagee, Nannu and Rafique picked up one wicket each for Mohammedans.

TODAY'S MATCHES
GMCC vs Udtity (Dhaka Stadium)
Victoria Sporting vs Wari (DCS)

Nannu, however, hung around to make a useful 35 off 62 balls before being caught at the long off of Gem again.

Aminul Islam Bulbul enlivened the dull proceedings

round tie.

Nicolai Pisarev opened the scoring. Valery Karpin got two and Igor Ledyakhov completed the rout after Liverpool had fought back to 2-2 with goals from captain Mark Wright and Steve McManaman.

Liverpool failed to settle early in the wet and muddy conditions, and their defence was cut to ribbons in only the seventh minute when Ian Rush lost possession on the halfway line and Wright failed to intercept.

The Russians mounted a rapid counter-attack and Pisarev broke clear to drill the ball past Grobbelaar.

The Zimbabwean goalkeeper then gave some early warning of an off-night, streaking out of his area twice to clear Spartak attacks and causing confusion in his own defence.

The sorties went unpunished thanks to some last-gasp work at the back and a lack of finishing up front from the Russian strikers.

But as the pressure built up on the visitors, Liverpool's Mike Marsh and Jamie Redknapp were both given yellow cards and the changing rooms at half-time proved to be a welcome break.

Liverpool came out in the second half looking much sharper, with chances falling to Don Hutchison and Redknapp before Wright bundled the ball into the back of the net from Mark Walters' cross in the 67th minute.

But Grobbelaar soon intervened, taking too long as he tried to clear the ball without picking it up on the edge of the area. A Spartak striker closed him down and the Zimbabwean could only half clear the ball to his left where Karpin was waiting to side-foot

home into an empty net.

Liverpool refused to give up and Walters came desperately close from 20-yards, his pldriver cannoning of the inside of the post.

The equaliser finally came in the 78th minute, when McManaman turned his defender inside the area and rattled home a left foot shot from a narrow angle for only his second goal of the season.

It should have been Liverpool's ticket to the next round, but disaster was just around the corner in the shape of the mustachioed Zimbabwean.

His professional foul put defender David Burrows in goal, and even guessing the right direction left him no chance with Karpin's penalty.

The 60,000 crowd in the Olympic stadium was on its feet again minutes later, when Ledyakhov got the fourth from close range.

BAF hockey
JESSORE, Oct 23: BAF Base Mattur Rahman retained the title of Bangladesh Air Force inter-base hockey championship defeating the Air Headquarters Unit team 2-1 in the final here at BAF Base Mattur Rahman yesterday, reports BSS.

The winners led the first half 1-0. Flying Officer Emran scored the goal.

Air Headquarters equalised (1-1) through Corporal Mahtab in the second half. The winning goal was netted by Flight Lt Minhas at the 52nd min.

Sergeant Anul of Base Mattur Rahman was awarded the best player's trophy of the championship.

Assistant Chief of Air Staff Group Capt Kamal Ahmed witnessed the final and gave away the trophies.

Mohammedan Sporting Club, last year's runners-up, advanced to the next round with a 95-run win against Surja Tarun Club while Sadharan Bima Kirta Sangtha pulled off an upset 47-run victory against fancied Gulshan Youth in the 14th Damal Summer tournament yesterday.

At the Dhaka Stadium, Mohammedans batted first to rattle up 205 and then restricted Tarun to 110.

A fine all-round performance by Shri Lankan Rajkumara went in vain as Gulshan, chasing 151 for victory, were shot out for 103.

Gulshan skipper Nasir Ahmed Nasu won the toss and put Bima into bat. Bima got off to a nightmarish start losing Kiran for nought, caught by Shabbir off Rajkumara, the man who went on to capture three more Bima wickets.

Wickets kept on falling regularly till veteran Halim Babu, who has been two-timing as a player and an umpire for quite some time, scored an unorthodox but highly effective 40 off 54 balls to build a 54-run seventh-wicket partnership with Jewel that proved invaluable in the end.

Earlier, opener Shaheen held on end up with a patient 32 off 76 balls, an effort later outshaded by a rapid 40 by Halim Babu. Jewel was the other substantial scorer with 20. Dear and paceman Nakib, who later appeared in the role of Gulshan's destroyer, scored 12 each to take the score to 150 for nine at the end of the stipulated 45 overs.

Rajkumara bowled beautifully with the new ball to finish with figures of four for 23. Partho took two for 25 while opening bowler Joydev claimed one for 23 from eight no-nonsense overs.

A target of 151 in 45 overs never seemed beyond Gulshan's reach until Nakib ran in to bowl with the new ball. The busy, bustling bowler spat fire yesterday afternoon and had three Gulshan batsmen back in

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Future of Test cricket in Zimbabwe

Blacks hold the key: Houghton

HARARE, Oct 23: Top Zimbabwe cricket officials said Friday that becoming a Test-playing nation alone did not guarantee a rosy future for the game in the country, reports AFP.

Captain David Houghton, who scored a century in the inaugural Test against India which ended in a draw Thursday, said the litmus Test was almost four years away when blacks joined cricket's mainstream.

"Our Test cricket would be said to have arrived when a game is played before 40,000 people in a black township like Chitungwiza," the 35-year-old Houghton said.

"Being granted Test status is a great fillip to the game in Zimbabwe, but the future lies with the blacks."

"We whites will be a part of Zimbabwe's cricket history in 10 years. This is when the game will really arrive in this country," Houghton said.

Soccer and rugby are the popular games of the 10 million blacks in the country, while cricket is essentially regarded as a sport of the 70,000-strong white community.

The blacks took to cricket over the country's independence from white rule in 1980, but Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) is determined to make up for lost time.

The ZCU took an important first step in this direction in August this year when it elected a former black cricketer, Peter Chingoka as its president. Chingoka, 38, who was a successful medium-pace in Zimbabwe's league cricket

The ZCU has built concrete pitches in high-density townships like Chitungwiza and sent out coaches with cricket gear to initiate youngsters to the game.

Promising youngsters from these townships join the Cricket Academy, run by English coach John Lashbrook with the ZCU providing accommodation and education and later helping the cricketers find suitable jobs.

BRIGHT PROSPECTS
The ZCU's untiring efforts have already begun to bear fruit.

Chingoka said a 16-year-old fast bowler George Thandi is an exciting prospect who could be playing Test cricket in a few