

Rome takes Lalmatia home

Sports Reporter

An obese and rather ancient Rome engineered Lalmatia's three-wicket victory over newcomers Evergreen Club with an entertaining innings of 77 in the only match of the Milnars First Division cricket league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Utam, Lalmatia's skipper, won the toss in the morning and put Evergreen into bat. The first users of the wicket lost opener Maqsood cheaply. However, useful knocks by Mashuk and Momin gave the Lalmatia innings a look of respectability as they reached 166 for nine wickets from their quota of 45 overs.

Momin topscored with 46 off 71 balls including two hits to the fence. Mashuk with 29 and skipper Pappu with a quickish 21 were the other major contributors.

Lalmatia skipper Utam was the most successful bowler, bagging three for 30. Left arm spinner Atiq took two for 33. Khokon also picked up two wickets for 27 while Rome,



ROME... 77
26 for three in 11 overs.
One down Rome then engaged himself in two short but

useful partnerships with Hassan and Utam to wrest the initiative from Evergreen bowlers.

Hasan made 18 while Utam chipped in with 23 as Rome at the other end grinded the Evergreen bowlers to play a match winning innings of 77 before snicking one behind the stumps to Moti off Evergreen pacesman Soheli.

Rome's 77 came off 103 balls and the portly all-rounder hit six boundaries much to the desperation of the Evergreen bowlers.

Lalmatia scored 166 for seven wickets to pick up a three-wicket victory over their opponents, in 44.1 overs.

Evergreen opening bowler Shihab at one stage threatened to eat up the Lalmatia innings with three wickets for 19 runs.

Soheli, Momin and Nafis picked up one wicket each. Meanwhile, Milnars First Division cricket league resumes after a day's gap with City Club taking on Agrani Bank at the Mirpur Pallabi cricket ground.

Sanjeev Sharma to play for MSC

Sports Reporter

Sanjeev Sharma, the right arm medium pace bowler and lower order batsman from Delhi, who represented India in Tests and number of one day matches, arrived in Dhaka yesterday to play for league



SANJEEV SHARMA
champions Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club.

Sharma, who claimed five wickets in a one day match against the West Indies at Sharjah, is reportedly in very good form. Apart from being a competent new ball operator Sharma is a powerful hitter of the ball and has got a few big knocks in Indian domestic cricket.

Mohammedan official Tanveer Haider apprised The Daily Star that they would like to sign up batsman Bhaskar Pillay also from Delhi to bolster their fancied but so far ineffective batting line up.

Bhaskar Pillay is one of the 14 members of the Indian team expected to take part in the forthcoming SAARC cricket tournament comprising India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and hosts Bangladesh.

According to the Mohammedan official efforts were made earlier to get hold of Brendon Kuruppu, the former Sri Lankan wicket-keeper, who played for Surja Tarun Club in the local league cricket couple of years back but to no avail. Mohammedans are facing serious problems in the wicketkeeping department as evident in Shahidul Alam Ratan's keeping in the recently concluded Damal Summer cricket tournament.

Amre's dream debut rallies India



DURBAN, Nov 15: Praveen Amre scored a brilliant century on his Test debut to lead India to a dramatic comeback in the first Test against South Africa here today, reports AFP.

The stylish 24-year-old Amre made 103 as a brave rearguard action saw India recover from a poor 38 for four on Saturday to total 277 and take a vital 23-run first innings-lead.

The South Africans, who made 254 in their knock, will begin their second innings tomorrow as the match heads for an interesting battle over the remaining two days on a wicket of uneven bounce.

India were spared the blushes by a defiant 101-run stand for the eighth wicket between Amre and dapper wicketkeeper Kiran More who was last out after making 55.

Coming together in the morning when the seventh wicket, that of Manoj Prabhakar, went down at 145, the pair stayed together until after tea when Amre played a tired cut off Brian McMillan to be caught by Jonty Rhodes at point.

Amre, who learnt his cricket in Bombay under batting prodigy Sachin Tendulkar's coach Ramakant Achrekar, won his first cap after playing 16 one-day internationals for India, including the World Cup earlier this year.

Using his feet smartly, just like Tendulkar, the short and stocky Amre showed no signs of nerves in his first big match by slamming 10 fours.

Amre joined eight Indians, including the present captain Mohammad Azharuddin and chairman of selectors Gundappa Vishwanath, in a select group who have made a century on their Test debuts.

The others are Lala Amarnath and his son Surinder, Deepak Shodhan, Kripal Singh, Hanumant Singh and Abbas Ali Baig.

Cheered on by a holiday crowd of some 10,000, Amre dominated the South African attack after being lucky to survive a sharp chance early in his innings.

Amre had added four runs to his Saturday's score of 39 when he fended at a short ball from McMillan, but Jimmy Cook in the slips reacted late in taking a simple catch.

That blemish proved costly for the South Africans as Amre stepped up a gear to score freely all around the wicket.

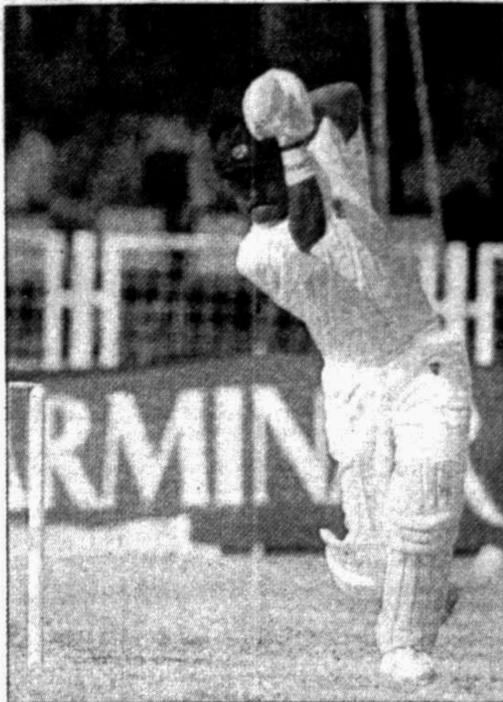
He reached his century a

few minutes before tea with a superb on-drive against spinner Omar Henry for his 10th boundary, but fell in the second over after tea playing a tired stroke.

While Amre kept the scoreboard ticking over, the 30-year-old More showed the experience of having 40 Tests

commentator, said he was delighted at Amre's batting on Sunday.

"It was a typical Test innings where you have got to wait for the bad ball," said Gavaskar, who has scored more runs (10,122) and centuries (34) than any other Test player.



PRAVEEN AMRE joined a select band of cricketers by scoring a gallant century on his Test debut for India at Durban yesterday.

under his belt by defending solidly at the other end and rotating the strike to beat back the threat of the South African pacemen.

More, who was batting on 36 when Amre went, took charge immediately to reach his seventh Test half-century during a 27-run stand for the ninth wicket with Anil Kumble.

Spinner Omar Henry, South Africa's 40-year-old Test debutant, removed Kumble (eight) and More in the same over to terminate India's innings.

"It is difficult to describe the feeling," Amre said. "In the beginning I was just happy to play the Test, so the century is obviously a big bonus. I am absolutely thrilled."

Former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar, here as a television

umpire Karl Liebenberg, who watched a recording of the incident after colleague Cyril Mitchley had signalled for his intervention.

Commenting on Tendulkar's dismissal, Liebenberg said:

"Cyril said he would have given him out anyway."

"It seemed like an age waiting for the replay, everyone was turning round with thumbs up or down. I felt like an executioner pressing the button."

"I still think it takes the human element away, that the umpire should make the decision, but I think it is here to stay."

Match referee Clive Lloyd added: "It worked well. It is too early to say if it is here to stay as people are slow to change but anything that helps the game, that helps the umpire make the right decisions, is good."

The fielder involved was South Africa's best, Jonty Rhodes, running around from backward point and throwing in as Ravi Shastri rejected Tendulkar's rash call.

Andrew Hudson, having gone to the stumps from short leg, broke the wicket as Tendulkar hurried back in vain.

The buzz around the ground as the verdict was awaited was tangible.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third day of the first cricket Test between South Africa and India on Sunday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 254 (K Wessels 118)

INDIA: First innings (overnight 128 for six)

R Shastri lbw b Pringle	14
A Jadeja c McMillan b Schultz	3
S Manjrekar lbw McMillan	0
S Tendulkar run out	11
M Azharuddin run out	36
P Amre c Rhodes b McMillan	103
Kapil Dev c Richardson b McMillan	2
M Prabhakar c McMillan b Donald	13
K More lbw b Henry	55
A Kumble b Henry	8
J Srinath not out	1
Extras: (b-1, lb-7, nb-19, w-4)	31
Total:	277
Fall of wickets: 1-18; 2-22; 3-38; 4-38; 5-125; 6-127; 7-146; 8-247; 9-274	

Bowling:

O	M	R	W
Donald	29	6	79
Schultz	14.5	7	25
McMillan	37	16	52
Pringles	34	10	67
Henry	19.1	3	56

Kiwis rate Lanka series 50-50

COLOMBO, Nov 15: New Zealand captain Martin Crowe, fresh from a 1-0 Test series win against new entrants Zimbabwe, has rated as 50-50 his team's chances in the three-Test and one-day series against Sri Lanka, reports AFP.

"We are in with a 50-50 chance. Sri Lanka has an experienced side and we both are young in a lot of respects," Crowe told reporters here Sunday after arriving in Sri Lanka with a weary 15-member squad on Saturday night.

"Both sides are on equal terms. You always have to expect these days that the home side has the advantage to some extent. We are all excited about this tour. You can see some great cricket," said Crowe.

The New Zealand skipper, who has played in 61 Tests and scored nearly 4,500 runs, said that they had a lot of respect for the Sri Lankan side particularly after the local side's performance against Australia in August.

Sri Lanka lost the three-Test series 0-1 but won the one-day international 2-1.

The 30-year-old Crowe is making his third tour to Sri Lanka but has 10 players who are making their maiden visit to the island nation. The Test series of 1987 was aborted early in the tour after a Tamil rebel bomb blast here.

Crowe expressed confidence in the security measures mapped out for the current tour and cited the vi-

Watson.

But the absence of the top pair of medium pacers Chris Cairns and Danny Morrison



MARTIN CROWE
was still begin felt after they pulled out of the Zimbabwe tour due to injuries.

"We do miss Chris and Danny because they are the best bowlers we have in New Zealand. But we think that we have an attack that can be respected on this tour," said Crowe.

To add to the injury list, all-rounder Simon Doull has flown back home after he sustained injuries in Zimbabwe. He has been replaced by Chris Pringle, an experienced fast medium bowler.

He said that the team's batting ran down the line but they expected their star batsmen to shine including left-hander Mark Greatbatch who has developed from a good one-day player to a Test cricketer.

Crowe said that exciting all-rounder Dion Nash, who will celebrate his 21st birthday on the eve of the first Test, was the cricketer to watch along with left-arm pace bowler Murphy Su'a.

But Crowe, a top-flight right-handed bat, said the side was extremely talented and "They all need to be watched" because they knew it was "a tough challenge for them."

Sri Lankan newspapers Sunday quoted the home team captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, as saying that his side would make every effort to defeat New Zealand.

"Having learnt from the Australian tour, we know it is possible to beat any side in the world," Ranatunga told The Sunday Island newspaper.

Sri Lanka lost the three-Test series to Australia, 1-0, but won two of the three limited-over matches.

Ranatunga, a stocky left-hand batsman, replaced Aravinda de Silva as captain for the Australian series in August/September after Sri Lanka's poor performance in the World Cup.

The Kiwis have won four of the nine Test matches they have played against Sri Lanka. The other five were drawn.

This would be New Zealand's third tour of Sri Lanka. The last one in April 1987 was abandoned when a bomb exploded in Colombo near the hotel where captain Jeff Crowe's team was staying.

Sri Lanka have won only two of the 37 Test matches they have played against all cricketing nations. It has lost 19 and drawn the rest. Of the 135 limited over matches Sri Lanka has played, it has won 29 and lost 102.

New Zealand Squad: Martin Crowe, Blair Hartland, Rod Latham, Mark Greatbatch, Andrew Jones, Ken Rutherford, Chris Harris, Dipak Patel, Adam Parore, Gavin Larsen, Murphy Su'a, Willie Watson, Dion Nash, Mark Haslam, Chris Pringle.

Ashrafu Hq off to Calcutta

Syed Ashrafu Hq, former national player and general secretary of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB), left Dhaka for Calcutta yesterday as an invitee of Indian cricket supremo Jagmohan Dalmiya to attend the meeting of the Indo-Pak joint bidding committee for the next World Cup on November 16.

Indians deny living it up

DURBAN, South Africa, Nov 15: The Indian cricket team dismissed newspaper reports on Sunday that they were living it up in South Africa and making the most of the available night life, reports AFP.

Team manager Aarut Mathur denied a report here that members of the team were regular visitors to night clubs here and in Johannesburg, their first stop on the historic tour of the republic.

In a front page story, the 'Sunday Tribune Herald' reported that Indian players 'were having a ball off the field as they joined local swingers at late-night parties.'

"It was wine, women and song for some members of the team who were spotted at night clubs in Johannesburg and Durban," the newspaper said.

It quoted all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar as saying: "When it comes to women, I don't care

about the colour of their skin, but I prefer mature and intelligent ladies."

Mathur said Prabhakar had denied making the comments in an interview with a female reporter.

"It's unfair that baseless stories like this should appear just after the team has had a bad day on the field," Mathur said a day after India were reduced to 128 for six in reply to South Africa's 254 in the first Test.

"The boys are not stopped from unwinding after a day's play. They are allowed to go out in the evenings, but reports of misconduct are untrue," the manager said.

"Prabhakar was asked questions about his personal life by the reporter, but he refused to speak on the subject. The quotes that are attributed to him are totally baseless and a figment of the reporter's imagination."

But Mathur said the team had no plans to take legal action against the newspaper.

Simmons' sizzling ton

HOBART, Nov 15: Opener Phil Simmons scored a sizzling century Sunday as the West Indies fought back strongly on the second day of their four-day cricket match against an Australian XI at Bellerive Oval, reports AP.

The tourists were 254 for four at stumps after dismissing the Australian XI for 341.

Simmons scored a blazing 106 in 150 minutes that included only 35 scoring shots as the West Indies went on the attack.

The 29-year-old from Trinidad struck 17 boundaries overall and reached his century from only 117 deliveries, almost certainly cementing his place on the team for the first Test.

He used the lofted shot over cover and the off-drive to particularly good effect, being particularly severe on spinners Shane Warne and David Freedman.

Simmons shared an 89-run opening partnership with veteran Desmond Haynes before Haynes fell to a brilliant diving catch by Damien Martyn at mid-wicket off the bowling of Steve Waugh.

Haynes made 36 and captain Richie Richardson contributed 43 that included four boundaries and two sixes.

Keith Arthurton was still there on 24 at stumps, while Gus Logie had scored 15.

Spinner Warne was the most successful Australian bowler but proved expensive, finishing with figures of two for 74.

Earlier, Waugh fell just short of a century after resuming at 76. He was peppered with short balls by the West Indies attack and eventually was caught by wicket-keeper

Junior Murray off the bowling of Ian Bishop for 95.

It was a career-high total for Waugh against the West Indies.

Part-time spinner Carl Hooper was the most successful of the West Indies bowlers with excellent figures of five for 72.

Scores: Australian XI 341 (Steve Waugh 95; Carl Hooper 5-72). West Indies 254-4 (Phil Simmons 106).

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the four-day cricket match between an Australian XI and West Indies on Sunday:

AUSTRALIAN XI: 1st innings (overnight 261 for five)

Phillips c Simmons b Hooper	40
Hayden c Logie b Benjamin	46
Boon c Simmons b Hooper	9
Waugh c Murray b Bishop	95
Martyn run out	39
Lehmann b Hooper	21
Healy c sub Lara b Hooper	21
Warne c Logie b Hooper	6
Mathews not out	26
Hughes b Cummins	14
Freedman c Adams b Bishop	3
Extras: (b-4, lb-9, nb-13) 26	
Total:	341
Fall of wickets: 1-88; 2-99; 3-110; 4-206; 5-233; 6-286; 7-292; 8-303; 9-319.	

Bowling:

O	M	R	W
Bishop	26.3	3	98
Benjamin	24	4	64
Cummins	26	6	73
Hooper	39	9	72
Adams	6	0	21

WEST INDIES: First innings

Haynes c Martyn b Waugh	36
Simmons c Boon b Warne	106
Richardson c Freedman b Hughes	43
Arthurton not out	24
Hooper c Mathews b Warne	22
Logie not out	15
Extras: (lb-6, nb-2) 8	
Total: (four wickets) 254	
Fall of wickets: 1-89; 2-186; 3-191; 4-226	

Bowling:

O	M	R	W
Hughes	16	3	51
Mathews	16	2	50
Waugh	8	3	31
Freedman	7	1	33
Warne	18	3	74

Graf's belated revenge

PHILADELPHIA, Nov 15: Top-seeded Steffi Graf crushed Olympic nemesis Jennifer Capriati 6-0, 6-1 Saturday in a semifinal match at the dlr 350,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia, reports AP.

Graf, who lost the gold medal to Capriati at Barcelona, won the first nine games and kept the pressure on throughout the 42-minute match.

"From the beginning, it was like I had no chance to get into the match," Capriati, the No. 4 seed, said. "There was no way she was going to let me breathe out there."

Graf advanced to Sunday's final against the winner of the Saturday night semifinal between second-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina and third-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain.

Graf and Capriati each had one ace, but Graf made only 12 unforced errors compared to Capriati's 24.

"Everybody knows she could have done better than she did today," Graf said. "I thought it was going to be a lot harder fight."

Graf controlled the match except for the fourth and fifth games of the second set. Capriati took the fourth game when she challenged Graf in deep-court exchanges. Graf hit a backhand into the net, giving Capriati the game.

In the next game, Graf fell behind 15-30, but returned to form and won the next three points for a 4-1 lead.

Graf clinched the match with a cross-court shot that caught Capriati too far out of position.

Capriati, who fell to 1-5 lifetime against Graf, was playing in her first tournament since the US Open. The 16-year-old high school junior had taken a break from the women's tour to concentrate on studies and training, but didn't think her recent lack of competition was a major factor in the loss.

Gias Kamal greets Adityan

President of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) Gias Kamal Chowdhury yesterday congratulated B Sivanthi Adityan for being re-elected the president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), reports BSS.

The BOA president, in a message to the IOA president, said, "Please accept warm felicitations from myself and from my colleagues in the Bangladesh Olympic family."

He said, "The relations between the two neighbouring countries in the field of sports and games would enhance further under your able leadership and with this hope we look forward to the holding of next South Asian Federation (SAF) Games in Dhaka in December next year."

Swimming clinic concludes

The certificate distribution ceremony of the IOC Olympic solidarity swimming coaches' clinic, organised by the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA), was held at a local hotel yesterday, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain distributed the certificates among 27 coaches from all over the country who attended the clinic. BOA president Gias Kamal Chowdhury was present on the occasion.

British swimming expert John Verrier, who conducted the 11-day clinic here, will leave for London today on completion of his year-long programme in a number of world capitals.

In his closing speech, the 66-year-old British coach wished all the best for Bangladesh swimmers. He told the coaches, "I gave you the guideline for success and it's now for you to groom your future gold medalists in different swimming arenas."

Rosset clinches Kremlin Cup

MOSCOW, Nov 15: Marc Rosset of Switzerland overpowered Carl-Uwe Steeb of Germany 6-2, 6-2 Sunday in the men's singles final of the dlr 348,000 Kremlin Cup tournament, taking the top prize of dlr 45,000, reports AP.

It was the first tournament victory in two years for the eighth-seeded Rosset. He broke the fifth-seeded Steeb's serve four times and hit five aces, disposing of him in only 1 hour, 4 minutes.

"It was an unbelievably good week for me," Rosset said.

ITF award for Sandru Salam

International Tennis Federation (ITF) has decided to award a medal to Sandru Salam, national tennis coach of Bangladesh and a former tennis player, for his contribution to improving the standard of tennis locally and internationally, reports UNB.

The decision was taken in the last annual general meeting of the ITF held in the Dominican Republic, says a Bangladesh Tennis Federation press release.

The medal will be handed over soon from the ITF headquarters in London, the press release added.

Dr Milon Smriti chess begins today

The first Shaheed Dr. Milon Smriti active chess tournament begins in the capital today, reports BSS.

Dr. Milon's mother Selina Akhter will inaugurate the competition at 5 pm at the chess room of National Sports Council (NSC).

The competition is organised by Dr. Milon Smriti Sangsad with cooperation from the Bangladesh Chess Federation and Dhaka Chess Foundation.

Forty players will participate in the seven round Swiss league system competition. The organiser has announced prize money of Taka six thousand.

Shooting meet

The three-day .177 Air Rifles shooting competition, scheduled to begin from November 27, has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.



Lalmatia Club's Ripon squeezes this ball from Evergreen's Soheli to point in yesterday's only match of the Milnars First Division cricket league at the Dhaka Stadium. Lalmatia won by seven wickets.



It was an unbelievably good week for me, Rosset said.

DU cricket

An all round performance by Kiron enabled Statistics to post a massive 188 run victory over Institute of Educational Research (IER) in the DU inter-department cricket competition at the Jagannath Hall playground yesterday.