

Weather doesn't deny MSC

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club recorded their third successive victory in the Navana Premier cricket league with a facile eight-wicket victory against Gulshan Youth in a smur-interrupted match at the Dhaka stadium yesterday.

Chasing 127 for victory in a revised quota of 34 overs because of a hold up at the end of Gulshan innings, the reigning league champions posted 130 for two in 39 overs.

Gulshan skipper Nasir Ahmed Nasu chose to bat first under overcast conditions with squalls adding to the nip of the chill. Yet, in ideal conditions for pace bowling, at least according to traditional wisdom of the game the Mohammedan

pacemen failed badly as the Gulshan opening pair put on 55 in 13.3 overs.

Liton in particular was in punitive mood, scoring 34 off 38 balls with the help of six boundaries.

Mamun, the other opener, scored a patient 30 with the help of two fours off 81 balls.

Arif, the huge Gulshan batsman scored 26 off as many balls with two fours and an effortless six off Waheed over long-on.

The umpires called for the covers when the smur became a little too thick with Gulshan slipping down to 145 for six in 39 overs and that was the end of Gulshan's stint with the bat.

Sanjeev Sharma, Mohammedan's Indian recruit, claimed two wickets in successive balls in his second spell to finish with figures of two for 30.

Off-spinner Azhar Hossain Shantu, however, had the best figures, bagging two for 11 from nine stringy overs. Waheedul Ghani with one for 24 and skipper Nannu with one for 33 were the other wicket-takers.

A bright innings of 48 not out by Aminul Islam Bulbul eased off the pressure exerted on them by Shantu's cheap dismissal. Bulbul played 59 balls and it one sixer and five fours.

Opener Harunur Rashid Liton was the other major

at the Mirpur Pallabi cricket ground was abandoned due to inclement weather.

Railway skipper Selim won the toss and put the opponents in to bat. The bankers collected 182 off 34 overs for the loss of four wickets when steady drizzle forced the umpires to stop the match.

Kaiser of Agrani Bank was going great guns when play was stopped with a breezy Innings of 59 not out off 48 balls.

NAVANA PUT OFF

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) has called off the Navana Premier Division cricket league sine die for preparations regarding the forthcoming inaugural SAARC cricket tournament.

The Milnars First Division league has been put off till November 27. The league will resume on Nov 28.

COWDREY DECLINES

Meanwhile, Sir Colin Cowdrey, chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), has congratulated the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) for hosting the first-ever SAARC cricket tournament, to be held from December 3 to 11 in Dhaka.

The former England captain has regretted his inability to be present as a special guest but thanked the BCCB for the invitation.

Mirpur Stadium to get new track for SAF Games

A new synthetic athletic track will be laid at the Mirpur Stadium at an estimated cost of taka 3.3 crore for the sixth SAF Games next year.

This was decided in a meeting at the Ministry of Finance with the Finance Minister Saifur Rahman in the chair.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka was also present.

The work will begin next January and is likely to be completed by October.

The government has also sanctioned ten crore taka for holding of the SAF Games in December 1993.

The government will also help the National Sports Council raise through sponsorships and sales another 8.4 crore taka for the meet.

Dinajpur youth kabaddi champs

SHERPUR, Nov 24: Rajshahi Divisional champions Dinajpur DSA clinched the fourth national youth under-19 kabaddi championship title beating hosts Sherpur DSA by four points to three in the final at the Shaheed Darg Ali Municipal ground today.

Dinajpur qualified for the final, trouncing Tangail DSA 11-2 in the first semifinal while Sherpur made the final beating Sakhira DSA 4-2 in the other semifinal held earlier in the day.

Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Scrajul Haque gave away the trophies among the winners.

Live TV coverage of SAARC cricket doubtful

Despite their best intentions Bangladesh Television (BTV) may not be able to telecast live the matches of the forthcoming first SAARC cricket tournament since the tournament's schedule clashes with the two-day seventh SAARC summit to be held in the city December 12-13. The Daily Star learnt yesterday.

A high ranking BTV official said yesterday that both the Outdoor Broadcasting (OB) vans would be installed from December 5 to 12 at the International Conference Centre, venue for the opening and closing ceremonies of the SAARC summit resulting in an exclusion of live cricket coverage during the tourney slated for Dec 3 to 11.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, referred to the first SAARC summit in the city in December 1985 when BTV failed to telecast live proceedings of the opening ceremony for an hour due to technical difficulties and said adequate measures have been taken to avert a similar situation since this is the 'top priority'.

However, BTV will try to telecast the recorded highlights of the matches since that doesn't require any OB van.

The BTV official, who termed the predicament as 'sheer bad luck', was however a bit critical about the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, the organisers of the meet.

In other countries, the board or federation consults their respective broadcasting agencies in the first place but

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UCBSA to probe ball doctoring

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Nov 24: South African cricket officials were preparing on Monday to investigate a suspected case of ball tampering — a controversy that flared on Pakistan's tour of England this year, reports Reuters.

It has emerged that in the weekend's domestic Castle Cup match between Eastern Province and Transvaal at Port Elizabeth a match ball had to be changed at an umpire's request.

The incident happened at tea on Friday, the first day, when Transvaal, whose attack

Ansars lead Div One chess table

Last year's runners-up Bangladesh Ansars with 16 and a half points led the table of the 1992 First Division chess league after the fifth round at the National Sports Council gymnasium yesterday.

Title aspirants Ansars trounced Protibha Chess Organisation 4-0 in yesterday's encounter.

Fancied Brothers Union, playing their fourth outing, drabbed Konica Cultural Sangha also by 4-0 to raise their collection to 15.

Defending champions Bangladesh Biman and Konica have collected 12 points each.

Biman swept aside lowly Farashganj Sporting Club, also by four points to nil, yesterday.

Therapy for Platt

TURIN, Italy, Nov 24: Juventus and England midfielder David Platt is undergoing intensive therapy on a knee injury in a bid to get fit for Sunday's top-of-the-table clash with AC Milan, reports Reuters.

The 26-year-old playmaker who joined Juventus this season will have an operation on the cartilage which has bothered him all season, but may still play against league leaders Milan, Juventus officials said.

A decision on whether he can play on Sunday will probably be taken on Wednesday afternoon, they said, adding the operation could take place on Thursday if he is ruled unfit.

Platt, who played for England against Turkey last week had been expected to play in the Turin derby last Sunday but dropped out after his knee flared up.

England manager Graham Taylor said in London: "Our understanding is that David will undergo a routine operation on a knee this week and that it is expected he will be fit to play within three weeks."

Record profit from Wimbledon '92

LONDON, Nov 24: The 1992 Wimbledon tennis championships made a record profit of 14.3 million pounds (dhs 21.45 million at current exchange rates), according to figures released Tuesday, reports AP.

Lankan squad for second Test

COLOMBO, Nov 24: Sri Lanka on Thursday recalled two former Test players, wicketkeeper Gamin Wickramasinghe and medium-pace bowler Jayawandana Warnawera, for the first Test against New Zealand due to start at the end of the week, reports Reuters.

Wickramasinghe has played in only one Test — against Australia in 1989 — while Warnawera has only played in two others after making his debut in the series against Pakistan in 1986, officials said.

Wickramasinghe the selectors were clearly trying to find a specialist stumper for the side. The Sri Lankan team experimented with two wicketkeepers during the three Tests against Australia, but they both proved unsuccessful.

Besides skipper Arjuna Ranatunga, the team for the

BFF names 60 for President Cup camp

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday announced the names of 60 preliminary selected footballers to form two national squads — the Reds and the Greens — for the seventh President Gold Cup football tournament to be held from January 8 to 20 in the city.

Following are the selected players:

Goalkeepers: Mohsin, Selim, Kanan, Ponir, Totam, Lahul, Tayeb and Bijoy.

Right Backs: Alamgir, Shakil, Pijush, Moon, Shamim.

Stopper Backs: Munna, Rehan, Kaiser, Jewel, Ata, Peter, Sohel, Biplob Marmar, Ponce Sisim, Arif Ershad, and Ataur.

Left Backs: Masud Rana, Barun, Pappu, Pervez, and Haran.

Midfielders: Shabbir, Roxy, Titu, Riaz, Zakir, Swapan, Rupu, Uttam, Rana, Zahid, Shimul, Hira, Javed, Arman, Jewel and Partha.

Forwards: Aslam, Rumi, Ghaus, Mamun, Naqub, Rakib, Ekram Rana, Riaz Jr, Ranjan, Zakir, Tutul, Sheikh Jahangir, Jahangir Hossain and Akhter.

The players have been asked to report to M Nabi Chowdhury, secretary of the selection and coaching committee, on November 30 at 5 pm at the Mirpur Stadium.

After splitting the pool of players into two teams a month-long coaching camp will begin on December 1 at two venues — the BKSP in Savar and the Mirpur Stadium.

The BFF earlier selected MD Kaidobad and Abdul Gaffer as coaches for the Red and Green teams respectively.

Kiwis lose again

MATARA, Sri Lanka, Nov 24: A Sri Lankan XI sent New Zealand tumbling to their second consecutive defeat with a thrilling one-wicket win over the tourists in a limited over warm-up match here Tuesday, reports AFP.

New Zealand, playing without captain Martin Crowe, were restricted to a paltry 149 for eight in their allotted 45 overs, with all-rounders Dion Nash (38 not out), Chris Harris (25) and Chris Pringle (28) doing the bulk of the scoring.

The Board XI scored 152 for nine in 44.1 overs, charging to victory with a late spurge of runs after having failed to build on their success in the filed having won the toss and sent New Zealand into bat.

But when the home side set out in pursuit of their visitors' target, after openers Janaka Kumudu (13) and Russel Arnold (23) had put on 32 runs for the first wicket, the board team appeared to fail to play to a set plan.

Their hesitancy at the outset to step up the victory chase allowed medium pacer Pringle (four for 20) and off-spinner Grant Bradburn (three for 25) to keep the local side on a tight leash until the end.

But needing 18 runs off the last 18 balls, the last pair of Pubudu Dassanayake and Ajith Ekanayake played defiantly to help their side through to victory in the first ball of the final over.

On Monday, a Board XI side captained by Test batsman Roshan Mahanama defeated the Kiwis by 17 runs in the visitors' first one-day warm-up match. New Zealand begin the first Test against Sri Lanka on Friday.

Border poised to create history

PERTH, Nov 24: Allan Robert Border sets out at the end of the week on the final stages of a mission which appears all but certain to culminate in the little left-hander scaling one of cricket's mightiest summits, reports Reuters.

The Australian captain of eight years, now four months past his 37th birthday, enters Friday's Brisbane clash, the first in a five-Test series against the West Indies, needing just 348 runs to become the highest scorer in Test cricket.

India's Sunil Gavaskar, close to a deity in his country, totalling 10,122 runs from 214 innings in 125 Tests for an average of 51.12. He struck 34 centuries and 45 half-centuries.

Border has compiled 9,775 runs from 230 innings in 133 Tests, and averages 51.99. He has scored 24 centuries and 56 fifties.

If Border is able to maintain close to his average and goes to the wicket 10 times during the West Indies series, he should achieve the remarkable milestone well before the final Test ends at the WACA ground in Perth on February 3.

If for reasons of form loss, injury or a reduced number of innings, he falls tantalisingly short of his goal, he will have to wait until the Australian tour of England next year — assuming he retains favour with Australia's selectors.

There are no strong grounds for believing Border will not lead his country in the 1993 Ashes Series, despite a recent call by former star batsman and ex-selector Neil Harvey for Border's head.

Urging that Border be dropped for the Tests against the West Indies, Harvey said, "I'm sorry, but he's got to go-keeper, 64, caught by wicket-keeper, 40, bowled, 49 lbw, 15, runout, nine, stumped, eight, caught and bowled, three.

Close examination of the performances of the world's top batsmen always underlines the extraordinary achievements of the incomparable Bradman.

Robbed of his best years by World War II, "The don" played in only 52 Tests, but totalled 6,996 runs for an average of 99.94.

If he had scored just four more runs, instead of being ousted for a duck by Warwickshire leg-spinner Eric Hollies, in his final Test innings at the Oval in August 1948, Bradman would have ended his career with an average of exactly 100.



TENNIS PROFESSIONALS ON A MISSION: (From left to right) American Jennifer Capriati, Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, Argentine Gabriela Sabatini and Puerto Rican Mary Joe Fernandez sharing a joke just before competing in the Lipton Governor's Cup in Miami, Florida on November 23. The tournament was organised to raise funds for the victims of Hurricane Andrew. — AFP photo

Tennis superstars raise funds for hurricane victims

MIAMI, Nov 24: Four of the world's best female tennis players put aside their rivalries to help raise dhs 240,000 for the victims of Hurricane Andrew at the Governor's Cup exhibition Monday night, reports AP.

Jennifer Capriati, Mary Jo Fernandez, Gabriela Sabatini and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario — all with South Florida roots — donated their time and skills while a boisterous crowd of nearly 6,000 attended the first tennis match ever held at the Miami Arena.

"How privileged we are to have stars like these come out tonight," said Gov Lawton Chiles. "So many of us are here to show we have not forgotten and to make sure that South Dade is better than it was before Andrew."

All money raised went directly to the We Will Rebuild campaign.

"I thought it would be fun to live through a hurricane or tornado, but now I don't," said the No 7-ranked Capriati, who blew a 5-3 lead in losing 5-7 to Sabatini in the first of two, round-robin, single-set semifinals.

In the other semifinal, Sanchez-Vicario beat Fernandez 6-3 before defeating Sabatini 6-1 in the final.

The sixth-ranked Fernandez, given credit for initiating the event while playing in the US Open, was pleased with the results.

"I live here, grew up here and learned how to play tennis here," Fernandez said. "It was very sad and I was shocked by the damage. It'll take a long time to get it back the way it was. This will help remind people to keep donating help to rebuild Miami."

ALLAN BORDER

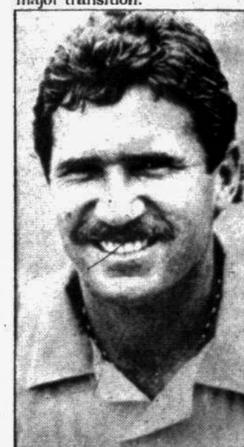
Border has become the embodiment of Australian cricket since Kim Hughes' tearful departure from the captaincy in 1984.

He has had his bumpy patches in recent seasons, especially against West Indian bowling, but Border's motivation remains high.

"I think I can still bat as well as any of those younger blokes running around," he said recently.

"I believe I am going all right... if I can play one long innings early against the West Indies I'll be okay."

Border, like Gavaskar and England's Geoff Boycott, has been a remorseless compiler



ALLAN BORDER

TOP 15 TEST RUN-GETTERS

Following is the list of the top 15 scorers in Test cricket at November 23, 1992: (player, matches, innings, notout, runs, highest score, average, 100s)

S M Gavaskar(India)	125	214	16	10,122	236no	51.12	34
A R Border(Australia)	133	230	42	9,775	205	51.99	24
I V A Richards(W Indies)	121	182	12	8,540	291	50.23	24
Javed Miandad (Pakistan)	117	177	21	8,465	280no	54.26	23
D I Gower(England)	117	204	18	8,231	215	44.25	18
G S Sobers(W Indies)	93	160	23	8,114	246no	47.72	22
G S Sobers(W Indies)	93	160	21	8,032	365no	57.78	26
M C Cowdrey(England)	114	188	15	7,624	182	44.06	22
G A Gooch(England)	99	179	6	7,573	333	43.77	17
C C Greenidge(W Indies)	108	185	16	7,558	226	44.72	19
C H Lloyd(W Indies)	110	175	14	7,515	242no	46.67	19
W R Hammond (England)	85	140	16	7,249	336no	58.45	22
G S Chappell (Australia)	87	151	19	7,110	247no	53.86	24
D G Bradman (Australia)	52	80	10	6,996	334	99.94	29
L Hutton(England)	79	138	15	6,971	364	56.67	19

Bradman launches exhibition

ADELAIDE, Nov 24: Sir Donald Bradman, the greatest batsman in the history of cricket, made a rare public appearance Tuesday to launch the world's largest collection of his cricketing memorabilia, reports AP.

Bradman, 84, posed for photographs holding the bat he used to compile a world record score of 334 against England at Headingley during the 1930 Ashes series.

Hundreds of bats, blazers, cricket stumps, photographs, trophies and newspaper clippings are included in the collection.



Sir Donald Bradman

"I'm surprised, I thought there would be one available that's all."

Sir Donald said he received a cap for each series and would have had 12 to 15 during his career.

"I can't say where they are, I've probably given them away to friends," he said.

Sir Donald, who has been contributing his mementos to the Mortlock Library since the 1960s, said the most valued item on display was a Royal Worcester porcelain vase presented to him in England in 1938 for scoring three consecutive double centuries at the Worcester ground.

"It's quite irreplaceable as it's the only one in the world," he said.

Foreman wants a crack at Bowe

NEW YORK, Nov 24: George Foreman said on Monday that new heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe should forget about his promise to defend the title against Lennox Lewis and instead take on the 44-year-old former champion, reports Reuters.

Foreman, speaking at a news conference to promote his January 16 fight against South African Pierce Coetzer, said a Bowe-Foreman bout could bring in a huge purse, well worth breaking contractual obligations to defend