

Agrani Bank beat Lalmatia

A late flourish by skipper Uttam failed to save Lalmatia Club from a narrow five-run defeat against Agrani Bank in the Milnars First Division cricket league at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Set a target of 240 off 45 overs, the Lalmatia batsmen managed 234 for the loss of nine wickets in their turn.

The day had started well for the Lalmatia cricketers as their new ball bowler Ali sent Agrani Bank opener Neaz back with only four runs on the board after their skipper elected to field.

But then Anwar, the other Bank opener, teamed up with Atiq and the two put together 110 runs for the second wicket. Anwar was first to go, edging a catch behind the stumps off Atiq for 56 off 65 balls, inclusive of seven shots across the fence.

Atiq, the one-down batsman, went 42 runs later after a breezy 79 off 67 balls with seven fours and two sixes.

Azam contributed 27 and Intoo remained unconquered on 30 when the Bank innings closed on 239 for seven after 45 overs.

Atiq, the slow left-armed, was the most successful Lalmatia bowler taking two for 44 off his nine overs. Ali, Chapal and Uttam claimed one wicket apiece.

The opening pair gave Lalmatia a solid but slow start mustering 53 off 91 balls with the asking rate just over five runs an over. After the fall of the first wicket Choyon and Rome shared a brisk second-wicket partnership of 59 off 66 balls to keep their side well on course but when Choyon departed things seemed to go wrong for the Lalmatia boys.

Uttam and Mott made a last-ditch effort but when Mott left on 209 to the first ball of the 43rd over, Lalmatia's fate was settled.

Choyon topscored with 61 off 81 balls with seven shots to the fence. Hassan (38), Rome (35), Mott (20) and skipper Uttam with 36 off 24 balls were the other notable scorers. Kaiser took two Lalmatia wickets for 43.

TODAY'S MATCHES

S Bima vs Dhanmondi Club(DCS) B Railway vs Evergreen Club(Mirpur).

Div II cricket begins today

The 1992-93 Second Division cricket league begins this morning at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (DCS) with Three Star Boys Club taking on Shantinagar (A) Club.

Thirty-one teams split into four groups will vie for the top two places in the points table to earn promotion to the Milnars First Division cricket league next season.

Navana league resumes Jan 2

The Navana Premier Division cricket league will resume on January 2.

Brothers Union will play Kalabagan Krita Chakra at the Dhaka Stadium.

The league was earlier postponed on December 24 on account of the unfinished SAARC cricket tournament.

Siraj memorial cricket

RAJSHAHI, Dec 27: Sultanabad Club reached the final of Siraj Memorial cricket tournament beating Friends Sports Club by five wickets at the local stadium today (Sunday), reports UNB.

They will meet Bandhan KC in the final on December 29.

Friends SC batted first and were bundled out for 113 runs in 34 overs with Masud scoring 39.

In reply, Sultanabad Club reached the target hitting 114 for the loss of 5 wickets in 33 overs. Sanu contributed 37 runs.

Rumi, Manzur re-elected

Masud Ahmed Rumi and Manzurul Haque were re-elected the president and general secretary respectively of the Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association (BSJA) for another two-year term (1993 and 1994) yesterday, reports BSS.

The election of BSJA executive committee was held at the biennial general meeting of the association at its office.

Shafiqul Karim Sabu and Ajoy Barua were elected vice-presidents, while Nasimul Kabir treasurer.

The executive members of the association elected for the 1993-94 term are: Rowshan Jamil, Mostafizur Rahman Mamun, Syed Mamun, Mahfuzur Rahman and Enamul Haque Chowdhury.

Nannu ton allays MSC worries

Sports Reporter

Skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannu's responsible ton and Indian Sanjeev Sharma's resourcefulness helped Moham-medan Sporting Club post a fairly imposing first day of 356 for seven on the first day of the two-day long semifinal, the second of the Victory Day cricket tour-

ners wicketkeeper dropped edges from both, but did not have to curse himself long as both Liton and Shantu followed each other to the dressing room in quick succession.

Rafiqul Alam almost made it three down for 27 when an attempted outside turn of Morshed went awry and Shovon at covers floored the rapidly travelling ball to let the



MSC skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannu fails to make contact in his attempt to sweep Brothers Union spinner Shamsul down the leg side. Nannu played a captain's knock of 107 as Mohammedans piled up 356 for seven against Brothers on the first day of the two-day semifinal of the Victory Day cricket tournament yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

batmen release his breath. Having been let off Rafiq played 33 balls and struck three solid fours before top-edging a sweep to Halm off Salahuddin.

Gurugee, who was batting seriously after a pretty long time, scored a valuable 45 at a very crucial stage of the Mohammedan innings. The languorous left hander spoiled morning's good work with a careless stroke that cost his wicket. Having swung Zahid Razzak Masum, a casual right-arm offie for a disdainful four he appeared to have been caught in two minds—whether to swing the bowler across or loft him in the straight country—and managed a time catch to Saad at long on in the end.

Amrul Islam Buitul began gorgeously, punching Athar through long on for a glorious four but gave in to his impetuosity and Halm at deep mid-wicket gobbled him up off an attempted six off Masum after a lively 40-ball knock of 31.

Nannu looked switched on, aware of the necessity of

holding the fort, threatened by their own indiscretion and lack of application. The national skipper whose best shot of the day was a magnificently timed cut past backward point fence found his bearing as soon as Sharma arrived at the wicket.

A strong player on the off side the right handed Delhi batsman hardly missed any

balls to post an invaluable 59 off as many balls with the help of four fours. He eased off the pressure with a pulled four as Nannu got stuck on 97 for a while, but duly completed the third hundred of this brief tournament working Masum to fine leg off his legs.

For Brothers Fernando bowled very well in the morning to capture two for 36 off 12 overs: Morshed, who made batting look quite difficult even for the set and run hungry batsmen like Nannu and Sharma, was rewarded for his perseverance as both the major run getters of the day holed out to long on. The left arm seamer gave away 67 runs for his two wickets from 15 overs.

Masum was lucky to get two wickets for 73 runs also from 15 overs. Salahuddin took one for 42 and an underbowed Shamsul went wicketless spending 22 runs off five overs.

Brothers start their innings spanning 75 overs to get 357 runs for victory today.

Pak morale at a new high: Akram

WELLINGTON, Dec 27: Pacesman Wasim Akram, fresh from a career best bowling spell on Saturday against New Zealand, said today Pakistan's comfortable victory had given the side new confidence, reports Reuter.

Pakistan are touring New Zealand for three one-day internationals and a Test match before returning to Australia for the second half of a triangular tournament against Australia and the West Indies.

Akram said the win would lift his teammates' spirits after their mediocre form in the triangular World Series tournament.

Pakistan have won only one of their five games in the tournament to date and tied another.

"Everybody is really confident now," Akram said. "We bowled really well, fielded really well and the win is what we needed."

The last time the teams met in a one-day series in New Zealand, back in 1989, the Kiwis won 4-1.

"That's why this was a great win for us — against New Zealand in New Zealand," Akram said.

Pakistan batted poorly in Saturday's match in Wellington, scoring just 158 for eight in 49 overs, but skilful New Zealand out for 108.

Akram's left-armed pace was devastating, and he took five for 19 in nine overs, the best figures he has recorded in one-day internationals.

The performance took Akram's one-day haul to 183 wickets from 131 matches, more than twice as many wickets as the next best Pakistani bowler, Waqar Younis, who has 89.

The two teams meet again in the Pacific Ocean port of Napier on Monday.

Meanwhile today, New Zealand named their squad for next week's Test in Hamilton.

It includes 38-year-old left hander John Wright, who went to Sri Lanka last month as a replacement for opener Rod Latham.

Wright, in his 14th year of Test cricket, will be playing his 80th Test—second only among New Zealanders to Sir Richard Hadlee's 86.

With 5,097 runs, including 12 centuries, Wright is New Zealand's most prolific Test batsman.

SQUAD: Martin Crowe (captain), John Wright, Mark Greatbatch, Andrew Jones, Ken Rutherford, Chris Harris, Dipak Patel, Adam Parore, Danny Morrison, Murphy Su'a, Michael Owens, Willie Watson.

Hughes burst rocks Windies

MELBOURNE, Dec 27: Bury Australian pacesman Merv Hughes put the West Indies in deep trouble by snapping up the three top batsmen for only five runs on the second day of the second Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground today, reports Reuter.

Hughes took Desmond Haynes (7), Phil Simmons (6) and Richie Richardson (15) as the Windies chased the useful Australian first innings total of 395.

In the gloom at the close, the Windies were 62 for three, with Keith Arthurton not out 13 and Brian Lara not out 14.

It was a disaster for the Windies in the last session of play after they fought back to erase the Australian tailenders after fine centuries by captain Allan Border and Mark Waugh.

Waugh was out for 112 and Border out for 110 after the lunch break, the pair putting on 204 runs in a fifth wicket partnership after Australia had also been in trouble.

After Border went on 362, the lower order collapsed leaving the Windies with the difficult task of facing the home side's pace attack in the final overs, interrupted briefly by rain.

Hughes struck his first blow in his opening over, sneaking a ball through to the stumps off the body of Haynes to make the total 111 for one.

Then Phil Simmons popped up an easy catch to Boon at short leg to make it two, followed by captain Richie Richardson clipping a catch to keeper Ian Healy.

Hughes then had the remarkable figures of three wickets for five runs off six overs.

But there was controversy over the catch by Healy, with sand spaying by his gloves as he dived full length, leaving the Windies believing the ball

bounced before being caught.

At this stage, the Windies, despite a perfect batting wicket, will be lucky to force a draw, the result of the first Test in Brisbane.

Australia resumed play today on 227 for four, Border and Mark Waugh having pulled the side back from 115 for the first just after luncheon the first day.

Pacesman Curtly Ambrose, the most consistent of the

Windies bowlers without much luck, got Waugh to edge a catch to keeper David Williams, diving to his right.

Williams made amends for dropping Waugh on 71.

Then Border, after batting for nearly one day for his 25th Test century, gloved pacesman Ian Bishop, also to Williams.

Ambrose took three wickets for 70 runs off 35 overs and Courtney Walsh, dipping into the tail, took four wickets for

91 runs off 39 overs.

After the tailenders went, the Windies faced the Hughes hurricane.

Play in the five day Test resumes on Monday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the second cricket Test between Australia and West Indies at the Melbourne Cricket Ground today:

AUSTRALIA: First innings M Taylor c Lara b Walsh 13 D Boon c Williams b Walsh 46 S Waugh c Lara b Ambrose 38 M Waugh c Williams b Ambrose 112 D Martyn c Simmons b Ambrose 7 A Border c Williams b Bishop 110 I Healy c Hooper b Walsh 24 S Warne c Adams b Bishop 1 M Hughes not out 9 C McDermott b Walsh 17 M Whitney lbw Bishop 0 Extras: (14lb, 3nb, 1w) 18 Total: 395

Fall of wickets: 1-38; 2-100; 3-104; 4-115; 5-319; 6-362; 7-366; 8-369; 9-394.

Bowling: O M R W C Ambrose 35 10 70 3 I Bishop 29 2 84 3 P Simmons 10 2 23 0 C Walsh 39 10 91 4 C Hooper 36 3 95 0 J Adams 4 0 18 0

WEST INDIES: First innings D Haynes b Hughes 7 P Simmons c Boon b Hughes 6 R Richardson c Healy b Hughes 15 B Lara not out 14 K Arthurton not out 13 Extras: (4lb, 2nd) 6 Total: (for three wickets) 62

To bat: David Williams, Ian Bishop, Jimmy Adams, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Carl Hooper.

Fall of wickets: 1-11; 2-28; 3-33.

Bowling: O M R W C McDermott 10 4 32 0 M Hughes 8 4 18 3 M Whitney 3 1 5 0 S Warne 3 1 3 0

Hudson, Cronje steady SA

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa, Dec 27: Opener Andrew Hudson and Hansie Cronje put together a strong second-wicket partnership Sunday to power South Africa to 163 for three in their first innings of the third Test against India, reports AP.

Having bowled the visitors out for 212, the South Africans appeared in a position to take a strong lead Monday, the third day of the match.

Hudson and Cronje scored 117 runs, and Cronje remained unbeaten on 75 when play ended Sunday. Hudson scored 54 before being bowled

Coming together before lunch at the fall of skipper Kepler Wessels' wicket for zero, Hudson and Cronje batted through the afternoon session to take the score to 117 for one by tea.

The 27-year-old Hudson, who made 55 and 53 in the first two Tests, struck his third successive half century to remain unbeaten on 52 at tea.

The 23-year-old Cronje justified his promotion to number three by striking five boundaries and a six in his 53 not out, his maiden half century in three Tests.

South Africa's previous best stand in the series was 85 between Jonty Rhodes and Brian McMillan for the sixth wicket in the second Test in Johannesburg last month.

Resuming at the lunch score of 42-1, the pair began hesitantly against the Indian spinners Anil Kumble and Venkatapathy Raju, but then settled down to play glorious strokes on both sides of the wicket.

Cronje swung Kumble over square leg for the first six of the match and drove the next ball for three to reach his half century 20 minutes before tea.

Hudson reached his fifty seven minutes before the break with an exquisite cover drive off seamer Manoj Prabhakar for his seventh boundary.

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

INDIA: (197 for eight overnight) R Shastri c Henry b McMillan 10 W Ramn c Richardson b Donald 21 S Manjrekar c Henry b McMillan 23 S Tendulkar c Richardson b Donald 6 M Azharuddin c Richardson b

overnight) H Cronje not out 75 P Kirsten c More b Raju 0 B McMillan not out 19 Extras: (b-2, lb-9 nb-6) 17 Total: (for three wickets) 163

Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-117; 3-117.

To bat: J Rhodes, D Richardson, O Henry, C Matthews, A Donald, B Schultz.

Bowling: O M R W Kapil Dev 15 4 26 0 Prabhakar 12 3 37 1 Kumble 30 11 46 0 Raju 28 8 43 2 Tendulkar 1 1 0 0

Hwang to keep running

SEOUL, Dec 27: South Korea's Barcelona marathon gold medalist Hwang Young-cho said today that he would not retire after all, reports AP.

Hwang, 22, had told a press conference Friday on returning from Japan where he had undergone a month of treatment for a foot injury that he was quitting marathon running.

He said he could not bear the psychological pressure of having to live up to expectations that he would repeat his golden feat at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Hwang said he did not want to be treated as a national hero and that he was prepared to return the 500 million won in rewards he had received after winning the gold medal at Barcelona. "So I could go back to college and live quietly."

As morning newspapers reported that the nation was shocked by his retirement decision, Hwang summoned a press conference to announce that he had changed his mind.

Shearer's pair sinks Leeds

LONDON, Dec 27: England striker Alan Shearer scored twice as Blackburn Rovers beat defending champions Leeds 3-1 to close the gap on Premier League leaders Norwich on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Norwich, held 0-0 by Tottenham after failing to find the net for the third match in a row, are just three points in front of Blackburn and five ahead of Manchester United and Aston Villa.

United stormed back from 3-0 down to draw 3-3 at Sheffield Wednesday with three goals in the last 23 minutes, two from Scot Brian McClair and the crucial equaliser by French striker Eric Cantona six minutes from time.

Villa's title challenge faltered with a 3-0 drubbing at Coventry. Mick Quinn scored two goals for the third game in a row to take his tally to 10 in six matches since joining Coventry from Newcastle.

Craig Hignett also scored twice as Middlesbrough came from behind to draw 2-2 at Everton.

Striker David White was another two-goal man as Manchester City won 2-0 at home against Sheffield United.

Shearer took his season's tally to 22 with goals in the 45th and 58th minutes after last Monday.

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson said: "I'm disappointed we didn't win it because we set up a good chance after we'd pulled back to 3-3."

"But there was some pulsating stuff and it was a terrific result. It shows the hallmark of a good team. We never stopped attacking."

Villa's defeat at Coventry had manager Ron Atkinson fuming.

That was definitely the worst performance from the team since I came to Villa Park," he said. Chelsea remained in fifth place after a last gasp equaliser by Eddie Newton gave them a 1-1 draw at home to Southampton. Iain Dowie had put Saints ahead after only two minutes. Ipswich stretched their unbeaten run to 12 games with a 0-0 draw at Arsenal, the pre-season championship favourites.

That was a very, very defensive performance by Ipswich but we had the chances and didn't take advantage," said Arsenal manager George Graham after his side's sixth successive game without a win.

Relegation candidates Wimbledon lost 2-0 to Crystal Palace and manager Joe Kinnear said: "Heads may have to roll when I pick the team to play Chelsea on Monday."

The Premier League matches between Oldham and Liverpool and Nottingham Forest and Queen's Park Rangers were postponed because of frozen pitches.

Jason Wilcox had put Rovers ahead in the eighth minute and Scot Gary McAllister equalised half an hour later



ALAN SHEARER with a free kick for Leeds, the only side in the Premier League who have not won away.

Norwich, eight points ahead of the field on December 5, had scored in every match before falling 1-0 Manchester United two weeks ago. They lost 2-0 at home to Ipswich last Monday.

Ansars athletes given reception

A reception was accorded to the players of Bangladesh Ansar-VDP team in the city on Saturday for their glorious success in the just concluded fifth Bangladesh Games, reports BSS.

Home Minister Abdul Malin Chowdhury was chief guest at the reception held at the Ansar-VDP headquarters, according to a press release.

The Ansar-VDP team emerged champions in the fifth Bangladesh Games securing 50 gold, 50 silver and 37 bronze medals.

Speaking on the occasion the Home Minister expressed his sincere thanks to the members of the Ansar-VDP team.

The reception was also addressed by the Director-General of Ansar-VDP Major General Syed Badruzzaman.

The function was followed by a cultural show.

Bring soccer back to Dhaka Stadium, or else ...

Sports Reporter

No club will take part in this year's transfer of football players unless the authorities bring league football back to the Dhaka Stadium from Faraway Mirpur Stadium. This was the essence of the press conference called by the Dhaka Metropolitan Clubs Association (DMCA) at the National Press Club yesterday.

Attended by officials of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) officials, and representatives of different clubs the conference also dwelt on other maladies afflicting domestic football.

Meanwhile, the BFF has called up Munna of Public Works Department to replace his injured teammate Rakib in the camp for the Bangladesh Greens, one of the two local selections to play in the forthcoming President Gold Cup football tournament.

In another development, the BFF regretted their inability to do anything about the belated response of Iran regarding participation in the international football tourney. Ten days after the BFF had forwarded an invitation, Iran sounded off their interest only yesterday, but also too late for the organisers' convenience.

Donald, who grabbed four wickets for only 50 runs in more than 20 overs Saturday, finished with five wickets for 55, his best performance in a Test.

Earlier, South African captain Kepler Wessels, his side's most consistent batsman, was bowled for a duck by Manoj Prabhakar.

India resumed Sunday on 197 for eight and managed only 15 more runs for the final two wickets as Allan Donald continued his torrid fast bowling for South Africa.

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