Weerasinghe GMCC's hero

Sports Reporter

Like Wednesday, the Navana Premier Division cricket league yesterday also saw another Shri Lankan batsman in full flow. Sanjeeva Weerasinghe hit a 79-ball 65 to power the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) to an easy four-wicket victory over Surja Tarun Club at the Dhaka Stadium in the only fixture of the day.

Two Shri Lankans — Athula Samarasekara and Sudharshan Gurugee — hit centuries for Abahani Krira Chakra and Mohammedan Sporting Club respectively last Wednesday.

The GMCC skipper Tariquzzaman Munir, the only triple centurian of the country, won the toss and invited his counterpart the veteran Nurul Hadi to make first use of the wicket.

Surja Tarun collected 184 runs for the loss of eight wickets in the 44 overs bowled by the GMCC bowlers out of a possible 45 overs.

Quite surprisingly at this level of the game extras top-scored for Surja Tarun with 36 runs.

Jahangir Talukder Dulu, the national left arm medium-pacer achieved the first success of the day when he had Hadi caught by Weerasinghe in the final delivery of the eighth over with the Tarun score on 20.

Javed Omar Belim Golla joined the other opener Tito and the two pushed the total to 45 in the 18th over when Tito was run out after grafting a patient 17 off 48 balls.

The third-wicket stand between Golla and Rajindar yielded another 40 runs in 8.2 overs before Golla was run out after making 25 off 62 deliveries.

Rajindar, pairing with Shoaib, took the total to 112 in 31.2 overs when Rajindar himself out. The Indian player made 33 with the help of four boundaries while Shoaib scored 26 from 41 balls.

Rodrigo, Surja Tarun's Shri Lankan recruit, made 21 white Subir scored 11 as the side collected 184 when the overs run out.

S WEERASINGHE . . . 65

Dulu arid Weerasinghe captured two wickets apiece.

Chasing a modest target GMCC were in trouble initially losing their three top order batsmen including Indian star Raman Lamba within 8.3 overs with the scoreboard showing a poor 38.

Then Pika along with Weerasinghe steadied the rocking GMCC boat by taking the total to 98 before Pika was clean bowled by Golla for 23.

Skipper Munir came and went after scoring only five.

But Weerasinghe hung around and found able support from Sanwar. When Weerasinghe eventually returned to the pavilion after scoring 65 runs from 79 balls with the scoreboard signalling a healthy 147 in 35.5 overs, GMCC's victory was just a matter of time. Weerasinghe's match-winning innings included seven hits across the fence and one over it.

National bowler Saiful joined Sanwar and GMCC were home and dry making 187 in the 41st over with four wickets to spare. Sanwar and Saiful remained unbeaten on 29 and 22 respectively.

Talha claimed two wickets conceding 29 runs and Golla two for 38 while Rodrigo took one for 23.

GMCC now have full six points from three matches while Surja Tarun have collected four points, also from three outings.

DMCS adamant

Sports Reporter

The Dhaka Metropolis Clubs Samity (DMCS) is adamant to avoid any inter-club players' transfers for the 1993 Premier Division and First Division football leagues until it receives assurance from the concerned authorities that the leagues will be played at the Dhaka Stadium.

This position was reasserted by the DMCS members at a meeting yesterday at the Arambagh Club premises to review the outcome of their failed talks with the Bangladesh Football Federation on the issue last Wednesday.

The DMCS will formally inform the Dhaka Metropolis Football Association, organisers of the Dhaka leagues, about their decision soon.

Although representatives from Abahani Krira Chakra, Public Works Department and Sadharan Bima did not attend the meeting, they reportedly concurred with the majority view.

Nirman cricket

Sports Reporter

An all-round performance by skipper Feroj Mahbub powered Sultan Molla Ideal High School to a convincing five-wicket victory against Dr Mohammad Shahidullah Biddyapith in the only match of the Dhaka zonal qualifying meet for the eleventh Nirman schools cricket tournament at the Brothers Union ground yesterday.

Sent in to bat Shahidullah Biddyapith were all out for a poor 125 in 331 overs with Mr Sundries, topscoring with 26 and Chapal, Monir and Aziz making 19, 15 and 13 runs respectively.

The Sultan Mollah School skipper Feroz Mohbub with three wickets for 28 was the most successful bowler for his side while Riazuddin, Ujjal Hossain and Shaikh Rafiq with two wickets apiece lent him able support.

In reply Sultan Mollah School made 127 losing five wickets in 31 overs with Feroj Mahbub remaining unbeaten on 48 off 49 balls, an innings inclusive of as many as nine hits across the rope.

Mizanur Rahman scored 28 and Javed Iqbal 15 while extras added 11 runs to the total.

Sumi and Mizan bagged two wickets each while Sohel got one.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Three Stars Club beat Lalbagh Anwar Sporting Club by four wickets in the only match of the Second Division cricket league at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Put into bat Lalbagh Anwar Club were shot out for a paltry 107 in 26.3 overs, 8.3 overs short of the stipulated 35 overs.

Hassan topscored with 25 and Mamun and Zahir collected 21 and 19 runs respectively for the side from Lalbagh.

Pijush claimed three wickets and Salahuddin took two while Nasir, Johnny and Akib got one wicket each.

Chasing a modest total Three Stars made III losing six wickets in 27 overs.

Zakaria remained unbeaten on 25 while Salahuddin, Tipu, Jhonny and Pijush made 22, 13, 12 and 11 runs respectively.

Babul bagged two wickets and Hassan, Shaheen and Zafar took a wicket apiece for Lalbagh Anwar Sporting Club

Div II handball

Sports Reporter

Old Ideals and Christian Youth Club won their respective matches of the Suncrest Second Division handball super league at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Old Ideals beat Dipali Juba Sangha by 20 goals to 15 in the first match of the day.

Suman scored nine goals for Old Ideals while Khokon with four goals was the highest scorer for Dipali Juba Sangha.

Christian Youth Club defeated Kurmitola Apollo Club by 28 goals to 21 in the day's other match.

The winners led 14-10 at half time.

Sabil and Salahuddin netted eight and seven goals respectively for Christian Youth while Shantoo and Enamul Haq netted six and five goals respectively for Kurmitola Apollo.

Refs for King's Cup

Sports Reporter

Two Bangladeshi FIFA referees may travel to Thailand to conduct the matches of the King's Cup soccer tournament to be held from February 2 to 15 in the Thai capital Bangkok, a senior member of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) told The Daily Star yesterday.

The Thai Football Association, the organisers of the King's Cup, has asked the BFF to send two referees.

However, the BFF is yet to select the two lucky whistle blowers for this prestigious tournament of Asia.

Sidhu stars in Indian win

CHANDIGARH, India, Jan 21: India, led by local favourite Najvot Singh Sidhu who made 76, cruised to a five wicket win over England in the second one-day international on Thursday to level the six-match series, reports Reuter.

The 29-year-old opener led India to victory after England, put in to bat on a wicket freshened by early morning dew, struggled to 198 for six with Graeme Hick rescuing an early collapse by making 56 in 73 balls.

India, with the sun on their backs and the wicket firm and dry, then strolled to victory with 29 balls to spare with Sidhu road on all the way by his fellows Sikhs in a bursting capacity-plus crowd.

So crammed in were the spectators— ground officials admitted there were at least 3,000 over the 30,000 limit— that one of the trees ringing the ground collapsed under the weight of spectators who had clambered up for a better view.

Miraculously, only minor cuts were sustained.

Though the win was in helpful conditions it was much-needed boost for India who now go to Calcutta for the first Test starting on January 29 in better heart then for many months.

As soon as captain Graham Gooch called wrongly on the toss and England were put in, they were up against it. Fourteen overs later they were 22 for three after an eight-over period without a run off the bat.

Had India's seamers controlled their line and length better, England would have struggled to reach 100. But they were allowed to recover with Hick and Robin Smith, who made a chancy 42, adding 83 for the fifth wicket at four an over.

As the pitch eased Dermot Reeve (33) and Chris Lewis (16) closed the innings with an unbroken partnership of 45 in less than six overs but a target of 199 was never going to be enough.

So it proved with man-of-the-match Sidhu putting on 79 for the first wicket with Manoj Prabhakar (36) in 22 overs despite a testing spell from Paul Jarvis.

He hit two sixes off leg-spinner Ian Salisbury who, on his 23rd birthday, was making his one-day international debut. They took his total of sixes to 13 off English bowlers in the first three week of their tour.

Indian Captain Mohammad Azharuddin, who has been under so much pressure to hold on to both his post and place, then guided India towards victory with 36 and Kapil Dev, in his hometown, hit the winning runs.

A relieved Azaharuddin said : " People have been saying a lot of things about us but now we have proved them wrong."

"My timing was out when I batted at Jaipur but here I was middling the ball well."

It was, he added : " A good toss to win."

England coach Keith Fletchers said : " The toss was vital. We had to bat when the ball was moving around all over the place. When it dried out it became a flat track."

"It was a bit of a lottery but you have to accept that with these early starts. I hope it evens out over the series."

SCOREBOARD:

Scoreboard of England's innings in the second one-day international against India played here today

Dermot Reeve, who scored a run-a-ball 33 for England against India in the second one-day international at Chandigarh yesterday, swings at a Kapil Dev delivery. England lost by five wickets. — Star TV photo.

N SIDHU . . . man-of-match

ENGLAND:

Gooch c Tendulkar b Srinath	7
Stewart c Azharuddin b Kapil	7
Smith lbw b Kumble	42
Gatting c and b Srinath	0
Fairbrother lbw b Raju	7
Hick b Kapil	56
Reeve not out	33
Lewis not out	16
Extras: lb 13, nb4, w 13)	30
Total : (For six wickets, 50 overs)	198

Fall of wickets: 1-19; 2-20; 3-22; 4-49; 5-132; 6-153

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Kapil	10	2	40	2
Prabhakar	8	0	30	0
Srinath	10	2	34	2
Tendulkar	2	0	16	0
Raju	9	0	28	37

INDIA:

Sidhu c Reeve b DeFreitas	76
Prabhakar C Reeve b Lewis	36
Kamblie and b Jaris	9
Azharuddin lbw b Reeve	36
Tendulkar lbw b DeFreitas	1
Amre not out	24
K. Dev not out	5
Extras: (lb3, nb6, w5)	14
Total : (For five wickets, 45.1 overs)	201

Did not bat: V. Yada, J. Srinath, A.R Kumble, V.Raju

Fall of wickets: 1-79; 2-99; 3-148; 4-161; 5-195

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
DeFreitas	10	1	31	2
Jarvis	10	1	43	1
Reeve	6.1	0	33	1
Lewis	10	0	47	1
Salisbury	8	1	42	0
Gatting	1	0	2	0

Result : India won by five wickets.

'95 WC cricket bid

ICC founders warned against using veto

CHANDIGARH, Jan 21: India have warned England and Australia against using their veto powers when the venue of the 1995 World Cup cricket is decided in London on February 2, reports AFP.

India, whose joint bid with Pakistan and Shri Lanka is rivalled by a sole offer from England to host the Cup, are worried the two founding members of the International Cricket Council (ICC) will veto the sub-continent's bid.

Inderjit Singh Bindra, joint convenor of the sub-continent's Cup committee, said Thursday the ICC had written to him that England and Australia are "Not willing to forego the veto powers on the World Cup bid issue."

"But if we win the bid and then are vetoed, then I can assure you England cannot hold the World Cup either," Bindra told AFP during the second one-day international between India and England here.

The venues of the previous two Cups — India and Pakistan in 1987 and Australia and New Zealand in 1991 — were decided by simple majority, and Bindra wants the procedure followed again.

"We are assured of 25 of the 37 votes at the upcoming meeting," he said, but declined to reveal which countries will support the sub-continent's bid.

According to the ICC constitution, the nine Test playing nations — India, Pakistan, Shri Lanka, South Africa, England, Australia, New Zealand, West Indies and Zimbabwe — have two votes each. The 19 associate members have one each.

Zimbabwe, who became a Test playing nation last year on India's recommendation, have publicly supported the sub-continent's bid.

But West Indies, Australia and New Zealand said they will support England, who hosted the first three Cups in 1975, 1979 and 1983.

Bindra, who will accompany Indian Cricket Board chief Madhavrao Scindia and joint convenor Jagmohan Dalmiya for the London meeting, added the sub-continent's bid was better than England.

"Our bid is to the tune of five million pounds, while England's is around 4.85 million pounds. We are safe in that respect," he said.

India recall Ajay Sharma

CHANDIGARH, Jan 21: India's cricket selectors Thursday recalled middle-order batsman Ajay Sharma for the first Test against England starting in Calcutta's Eden Gardens on January 29, reports AFP.

The 28-year-old Sharma, who last played for India in 1990, has been selected on the basis of his consistent scores in two warm-up matches against the tourists earlier this month.

Sharma, who plays for national champions Delhi in first class cricket, scored 30 and 61 in the tour opener in Faridabad and an unbeaten 75 for the Board President's XI in Delhi last week.

India have retained 12 of the 14 players that formed the squad for the first two internationals. While Sharma comes in for seamer Salil Ankola, who was not tested in the one-dayers experienced wicket-keeper Kiran More replaces his understudy Vijay Yadav.

Announcing the Test squad here chief selector Gundappa Vishwanath said six players who toured South Africa have been dropped they are injured vice-captain Ravi Shastri, batsmen Sanjay Manjrekar and Ajay Jadeja, seamers Chetan Sharma and Subroto Banerjee and Yadav.

Left-hander Vinod Kambli and off-spinner Rajesh Chouhan are the only two players in the 14-man squad without any Test experience.

Vishwanath said the playing 11 will be named on the morning of the match.

Meanwhile, Indian Cricket Board secretary Chandappa Nagaraj said former Indian captain Srinivas Venkataraghvan will umpire the first Test with World Cup official Piloo Reporter.

Juvenile soccer

Sports Reporter

Amligola Kishore Kantha trounced Nirman Shilpi Goshti by nine goals to nil in the Jadukar Samad memorial juvenile soccer tournament at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

The winners led 3-0 at the first session.

Jasim netted four goals while Morshed scored two goals for Amligola Kishore Kantha.

Dhaka Football Training Centre shared points with Progati Krira Chakra in a scoreless draw in the other match of the day.

Sampras subdues Larsson

MELBOURNE, Jan 21: American Pete Sampras overcame a misfiring serve to down feisty Swede Magnus Larsson in four sets Thursday and power into the third round of the Australian Open tennis championships, reports AP.

The No. 3 seed beat Larsson 6-3, 3-6,6-3,6-4 after a tough fight by a player who sometimes was able to match his power.

Steffi Graf, the three-time women's champion, found her path to the third round far easier. The German No. 2 seed beat American Jennifer Santrock 6-1, 6-1 after temperatures plummeted and rain fell in the morning, delaying the start on outside courts.

Graf's win took her 68 minutes and she was in total control despite difficulties with her serve and backhand in gusting winds. She was successful with only 34 per cent of her first serves.

"It wasn't easy, especially against the wind," Graf said.

Seventh-seeded Jennifer Capriati, recuperating from a virus and fever that forced her to withdraw from the doubles a day earlier, fought back from a set and two service breaks down to beat Argentine's Florencia Labat 6-7 (8-10), 7-5, 6-2 in a second-round match.

She spent all day Wednesday in bed and underwent blood tests at a hospital to ensure her ailment wasn't serious. The stomach pain was so bad she thought she might default. But the fever broke Thursday and she decided to give it a go.

"I started to sweat it out (on court)," Capriati said. "I felt good, especially as the match went on. The adrenalin kept me going."

The No. 2 men's seed, Sweden's Stefan Edberg, had no trouble at all. The two-time winner here blitzed Czech-born German David Prinosil 6-2, 6-0, 6-1 in an hour and 21 minutes, winning a dozen straight games along the way.

PETE SAMPRAS

Earlier, Sampras lost a set for the first time in his last six matches. He served 13 aces but had eight double faults, while Larsson hammered 20 forehand winners to Sampras' three in a two-hour 22 minute serve-volley duel.

"I didn't serve particularly well, but I got through the match, which was good," Sampras said. "This match will hopefully help me in the later rounds."

Sampras now faces Alex Antonitsch of Austria, a 6-3, 6-2, 6-7 (8-10), 6-2 winner over Canadian Chris Pridham.

Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, seeded 10 and a semi-finalist last year, beat German Bernd Karbacher 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5.

No. 12 Carlos Costa of Spain, a clay-court specialist making his Australian debut, beat Swede Nicklas Kulti 6-3, 6-7 (4-7), 6-4, 6-3 in another second-round match.

MaliVai Washington of the United States, seeded 13th, scored a comfortable 6-2, 7-5, 6-1 win over Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic, while No. 16 Alexander Volkov of Russia took four hours to eliminate Cedric Pionline of France 2-6, 6-7(5-7), 6-2, 7-5, 8-6. Pioline squandered seven match points.

Pioline's compatriot Arnaud Boetsch saved six match points and beat Swede Jonas Svensson 5-7, 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-5), 10-8.

Volleyball results

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) and Brothers Union won their respective matches of the NBL First Division volleyball league at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday.

BTMC outplayed Wari Club 15-10, 15-2, 15-6 while Brothers defeated Dilkusha Sporting Club 15-5, 15-6 and 15-5.

The other two First Division league encounters between Titas Club and Nabajagaroni and Bangladesh Rifles and Dhaka Greens were in progress at the time of filing this report.

Meanwhile, Jiban Bima Krira Sangstha and Dhaka Wanderers Club won their respective Second Division league matches at the same venue yesterday.

Tanima hands Rani 2nd loss

Sports Reporter

Defending champion Rani Hamid suffered another defeat in the 14th national women's chess championship when she lost to former champion and last year's runner-up Tanima Parveen in the fourth round at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

Tanima beat her more famous rival on the move when Rani Hamid resigned on a pawn ending.

Tanima now has three points from four matches while Rani, the only International Women Master of the country, has earned just a point from three outings with one game adjourned.

Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa, another ex-champion, defeated Hamida Rahman in a game of Queen's Indian defence the 45th move to raise her collection to three points from as many matches. Hamida has one and half points.

While Nipa was celebrating her third straight victory her younger sister Syeda Afsana Parveen Nira tested her maiden win yesterday by beating Zebunnesa Rina on the 28th move in a game of the Italian opening.

Nira now has one and a half points.

Zakia Sultana, who now jointly leads the table with Tanima and Nipa with three points each, beat Afroza Khanam Babli on the 50th move in a game of Queen's gambit declined. Babli has two points.

The other match of the day between Selina Banu Tuhin and Masuda Begum was in progress at the time of filing this report.

Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa during her 14th national women's championship match against Hamida Rahman at the NSC chess room yesterday. Nipa won the tie. — Star Photo.

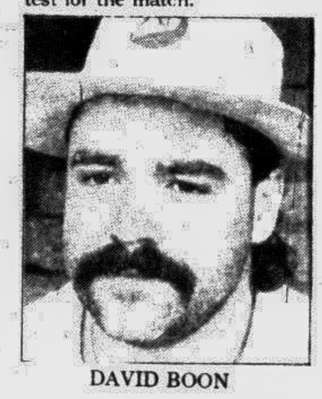
Boon's fitness boosts Aussies

ADELAIDE, Jan 21: West Indies cricket captain Richie Richardson spent today in bed trying to shake off a throat infection as the rest of his 16-man squad trained for the fourth Test against Australia starting here Saturday, reports AFP.

The star number three batsman was examined by a doctor but coach Rohan Kanhai said he had been assured Richardson would be able to train Friday to prove his fitness for the Test.

"He's seen the doctor and he's been advised to stay in bed," Kanhai said. "I would say he will practice tomorrow and he just wanted to take things easy."

But while the Windies fretted about their captain, Australia heaved a sigh of relief as their best current batsman David Boon passed a fitness test for the match.



DAVID BOON

Boon, who aggravated a strained left hamstring during the just-completed World Series finals, was able to bat as normal today after treatment from team physiotherapist Errol Alcott.

Leading the series one-nil with two matches to go, the last thing Australia needed in their quest to regain the Frank Worrell Trophy was the loss of the classy opener.

They have enough problems in the knowledge they are likely to face the unrelenting pressure of a four-pronged pace attack and a side buoyed by victory in the World Series Cup.

Before taking ill, Richardson told journalists here Wednesday it was likely his team would revert to four pacemen instead of three backed up by part-time bowlers of lesser pace.

Even though the Adelaide pitch has been notoriously unresponsive to fast bowlers in recent memory, the West Indies pace barrage represented his team's best chance of bowling out the Australians, he said.

"Its going to be a very good chance because obviously we are going to have to bowl Australia out twice to beat them so it's pretty likely, regardless of the pitch, that we'll play four past bowlers," Richardson said.

The two teams trained side by side in the Adelaide Oval nets today but there was a marked difference in their approach to practice.

The Australian bowlers operated off their full run-ups while the West Indian session was decidedly more relaxed.

Veteran opener Desmond Haynes spent much of his time impersonating fast bowler Curtly Ambrose and bowling bouncers at allrounder Jimmy Adams.

Haynes tried to intimidate Adams, with little success, but did have the satisfaction of finding the outside edge of Brian Lara's bat.

Lara has been in rare form since his 277 in the third Test and Haynes was quick to offer his services as a bowler to the Australians.

Kanhai said the 2-0 win in the WSC had been a huge boost for the side after their recent poor record in the shortened game.

"We have not been doing well in one-day cricket for the last 2-3 years, especially last year in the World Series and the World Cup," he said.

"To come here and beat the world champions (Pakistan) and Australia is a great thing for us."

"But that's gone now and we have to switch on to the five-day scene."

The West Indies have an excellent recent record at Adelaide with wins in 1979-80 (408 runs), 1981-82 (five wickets) and 1984-85 (191 runs) added to a draw in 1988-89.

Sheffield Shield

BRISBANE, Jan 21: Tasmania made slow work of responding to a modest Queensland first innings when they finished at 89 for three wickets on the first day of their Sheffield Shield match at the Gabba ground today, reports Reuter.

The Queensland top order crumbled under the weight of a soft seaming pitch on their way to 168 after being sent in to bat.

Tasmania, however, were not assured of first innings points with Danny Buckingham not out 17 and Jamie Cox 31 at the close of play.

Tasmania's pace duo of Troy Cooley (four for 49) and Chris Matthews (three for 66) were largely responsible for Queensland's demise on a highly responsive wicket.

Changpai Cup from today

Sports Reporter

The second Changpai Cup cricket tournament begins today with Dhaka Wanderers Club taking on Japan Electronics at the Golapbagh ground in Jatrabari.

Jute Minister Brig (retd) A S M Hannan Shah will inaugurate the meet as chief guest.

Sixteen teams in four groups will participate in the over-limit competition.