Asif conjures Gulshan Youth's fifth win

Sports Reporter

Left arm spinner Asif proved that his five-wicket haul against Udity Club was no fluke as he conjured up a fifth consecutive victory for Gulshan Youth who beat Victoria Sporting Club by five wickets at the Dhanmondt Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Astf claimed six wickets for 28 runs as Victoria, put into bat first, were all out for 176 in their quota of 45 overs. Gulshan romped home by five wickets as they lost only five wickets to post 177 in 42.3 overs to send Victoria tumbling to their fifth defeat in seven outings.

Guishan, also playing their seventh match, were cock-ahoop when paceman Joydev sent back Wahid for nought with Victoria on ten.

A defiant 35 by left-handed Calcuttan Raja Venkat and Raquibul's painstaking 28 were the only instances of Victoria's mode taking up the Gulshan gauntlet.

Asif, who got some turn from the wicket, ran through the Victoria batting once Venkat and Raquibul left. The last five Victoria batsmen could add only 31 runs as wickets fell on a heap.

Asif finished with magical figures of six for 28 off nine.

Shabbir, Joydev and Arun Lal, the most economical of the three, took one wicket apiece.

Unlike Victoria, Gulshan discovered no tartar either in the pitch or in the opposition ranks and went about their task untroubled.

After Liton and Mamun had given them a fine start of 53 without loss, in-form Arun Lal and Ehsan saw them through in 42.3 overs with some re-

laxed batting. Apart from Arun Lal who made 40, Liton with 32 and Ehsan with 30 were the other

notable scorers. Selim Shahed and Calcuttan Gautam Some with two wickets apiece and Prince with one wicket shared the five Gulshan wickets that fell on the day.

City win big in Milnars Sports Reporter

A 156-run second-wicket stand between Ujjal and Gautam steered City Club to an impressive eight-wicket victory over Lalmatia Club in the Milnars First Division cricket super league match at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yester-

It was City Club's day from the moment the two skippers walked in to try their luck with the coin. The City skipper won the toss and decided to

His decision readily paid off as the Lalmatia batsmen found themselves on a precarious one run for two wickets very early in the innings. It was mainly due to some responsible top and middle-order batting that the Lalmatia total reached a respectable 166 in 44.5 overs. Faheem played the anchor role with a staid 46. Shibli (22), Rome (29), Khokon (14) and Liton on an unbeaten 19 were the other significant contributors.

Of the five City Club bowlers used on the day four -Salahuddin, Bappi, Ujjal and Sujon - dismissed four wiflow-wielders each while Al-Amin won one of the two remaining wickets. The other went back run out.

City Club were not in any serious danger chasing a modest score despite having lost their first wicket on stx. Ujjal and Gautam never let the bowlers get on top as the two picked every run with commendable ease.

The pair was severed just eleven runs short of victory the target when Gautam gave Faheem a catch off Aminul after scoring a 92-ball 82 studded with twelve fours. When the chase came to an end Ujjal was still there on 66 with five boundaries and Murad on stx.

Agrani Bank will be up against Dhanmondi Club at the Mirpur Pallabi ground in today's only Milnars engagement.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter Kakrail Boys and Evergreen Club won their respective Second Division cricket league matches at two different city enues yesterday.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground Kakrail Boys defeated Rainbow Athletic Club by six

wickets. Batting first Rainbow Club made 160 for the loss of eight wickets with Shafiq remaining unbeaten on 65 and Pappu

making 23. Topu bagged three wickets

for 29 for Kakrail Boys. In reply Kakrail Boys made 163 losing four wickets with Munna topscoring with 61 and Sharmin and Swapan getting

37 and 25 respectively.
Pappu took two scalps while Nobel and Faruk claimed one wicket each for Kakrail Boys.

GMCC send Abahani reeling Sports Reporter

The Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) provided the biggest

surprise of this year's Navana Premicr Division cricket league when they inflicted a startlingly stinging ten-wicket defeat on last year's runnersup Abahani Krira Chakra at the

Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The result which made Damal Summer champions

from the moment Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu lost the toss but not even the staunchest GMCC supporter could foresee such a flattering victory.

On a dampish wicket

Abahani did not get off to a fair start against the best new ball attack comprising Jahangir Talukdar Dulu and Satful Islam.

The irrepressible Athula Samarasckara, the tall Shri Lankan opener who had smashed two big hundreds in

last year's skipper responded well. Playing authoritative shots against heavy odds this young man once again reminded the national selectors of their tragic apathy towards him. His bright 32 studded with six fours came to an end when an indecisive Lipu's 'no'

resulted in his run out. Lipu tried his best to get on with a lost cause before being caught and bowled by Indian Raman Lamba for 29.

Ziauddin Shovon was the



Abahani skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu cuts GMCC's Shri Lankan leggie Sanjeeva Weerasinghe square of the wicket during the Navana Premier Division league tie at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club upset the Damal Summer champions with a astonishingly facile ten-wicket victory. This was Abahani's first defeat in six outings.

SAIFUL ... 3 for 24

league matches, started in his

usual bang-bang fashion, racing

The sky changed for Aba

hani with the score on 23

when Jahangir, who groped for

a long time to get off the mark,

was finally relieved of his bur-

den when a Dulu delivery

touched his bat on its way to

reparable blow in the very next

over when Samarasekara, the

mainstay of Abahani's batting,

played on to a delivery from

Saiful, easily the finest pace

proved all the more costly for

Abahani as GMCC skipper

Tariquzzaman Munir, spurred

by this unexpected success.

bowled Saiful two more overs

and the whippy young bowler

tore the Abahani batting apart

centurion of the last match

gone the onus fell on in-form

Faruque Ahmed and Abahani's

With Sujan and Akram, the

with two more wickets.

Samarasekara's adventurism

Abahani suffered an ir-

to 16 in no time.

wicketkeeper Pappu.

bowler in the country.

deseat came as the coup de grace on a day that saw stopgappers doing professional umpires' job with refreshing

competence and flair. Affiliated umpires of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB), who chose to take a day-off for a picnic yesterday, were hardly missed as almost all the seven cricketing engagements of the day were well conducted by the umpires to leave the BCCB with some food for thought about promot-

ing umpires from players. None highlighted the proposition better than Tanjeeb Ahsan Saad, the former national cricketer, now playing the dual role of player-cum-coach for Brothers Union and Munir, the tall seasoned Senior Division cricketer. Players' faith in the match officials was one of the remarkable features that was overshadowed by the most dramatic outcome of this

GMCC, however, have reasons to feel slighted by such remark because they were the side who beat Mohammedan Sporting in a group match of the Damal Summer Cricket championship earlier this season. The result led to a premature clash between traditional rivals Abahani and Mohammedan and the latter's first-ever ouster at the semifinal stage in the 14-year history of the tournament.

GMCC who too, were thrown out in the semis of the curtain-raising tournament, shook off a sluggish spell yesterday and once again underlined their strength by killing one of the two giants of local cricket.

Abahani Krira Chakra knew their hands were full right

-Star photo only third batsman in the 34.5 over old Abahani innings of 125 to reach the double fig-

ures with 17 not out. Abahani's plight could be well gauged from the 22 extras given away by GMCC without which the fancied team would have struggled to reach the three-figure mark.

Saiful deservingly had the best bowling analysis with figures of three for 24.

Raman Lamba's swing bowling earned him two for 26 while Dulu and Shri Lankan leg-spinner Sanjeeva Weerasinghe claimed one wicket apiece:

The desiccated afternoon wicket made the task of the GMCC openers -Rownakul Islam Tutul and Raman Lamba - all the more easier and the two knocked off 127 runs in 26.4 overs. Tutul was more aggressive,

hitting seven fours in his unbeaten innings of 56 while Lamba sent the ball five times across the fence in his unconguered knock of 57.

Incidentally, Abahani's tenwicket defeat was only the third instance of such a big loss in the recent times since their twin ten-wicket losses to arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club. Once, in a league encounter, Abahani were bowled out for 49 while on the other occasion Mohammedans skittled them out for 98 in a delayed Damal Summer

While for the fancied Abahani it was their first loss in six games, GMCC have won all their four games todate.

TODAY'S MATCH

Brothers Union vs Surja Tarun (Dhaka Stadium)

Play-off to decide championship today

Sports Reporter

praise for her rival.

conclude

Sports Reporter

ished fourth in the First

Division hockey leagne last

year, signed up four players for

the forthcoming league in the

inter-club players' transfers

which concluded yesterday at

the Bangladesh Hockey

yesterday were Khawaza Anadil

from Azad Sporting Club, Md

Javed from Sadharan Bima,

Syed Kamrul Hassan from

Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club

Abahani Krira Chakra retained

their old squad while league

champions Mohammedan

Sporting Club, who have se-

cured the services of talented

young player Md Sadek of Ajax,

will be missing players like

day changed their allegiance to

raise the number of transfer-

Eight other players yester-

Rabi, Jamal and Mitul.

seekers to 67.

Last year's runners-up

and Hafizuddin from Bima.

Players who joined Ajax

Federation.

Ajax Sports Club, who fin-

Nipa or Zakia — who'll be the winner?

Former champion Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa taon Zakia Sultana in an

active play-off series to decide the 14th national women's chess championship af the NSC chess room today. The organisers of the na-

tional championship Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) is arranging the play-off matches since both Nipa and Zakia have collected seven and a half points at the completion of nine-round robin league yesterday.

Even the tie-breaking system could not be applicable to resolve the issue since the match between Nipa and Zakia also ended in a draw last Tuesday.

If the two-set championship-deciding active play-off, scheduled to begin at 3:30 pm, fatls to break the deadlock, the issue will be decided in a sudden death session.

To Zakia Sultana, who hails from Narayanganj, this means a lot more than the trophy.

Although Zakia has been playing in the nationals since 1987, she has never been able to make an impression until this year.

Zakia, who appears in good touch this year, beat both Rani Hamid and Tenima Parveen defending national champion

and runner-up respectively. A final year masters student of Political Science at the Dhaka University Zakia expressed optimism.

"I am looking forward to "She is playing very well clinching the trophy", Zakia, this year," said Nipa. Yesterday Nipa beat her

still single, told The Daily Star younger sister Syeda Afsana However, Nipa, who became Parveen Nira while Zakia dechampion in 1989, seemed feated Hamida Rahman in their very relaxed respective ninth and final "I will play my usual game round matches.

tomorrow", Nipa confirmed Last year's champion and while talking to The Daily Star. the only International Women Nevertheless Nipa was all Master of the country Rani Hamid secured the third position while runner-up Tanima Hockey transfers

Parveen finished fourth. Rani beat Masuda Begum to raise her collection to six and a half points while Tanima drew with Afroza Khanam Babli to take her tally to six points.

Babli with five and a half points finished fifth, Nira with four and a half points became sixth wile Selina Banu Tuhin, who has collected three points, got the seventh place.

Hamida and Masuda have collected two points each and got the eighth and ninth position respectively after tiebreaker.

Zebunnesa Rina, the lucky qualifier for the final round, has half a point to her name, thanks to the drawn encounter with Nira.

Naturally she finished at the bottom of the points table.

Meanwhile, the 14th national junior open under-19 chess championship begins today at 3 pm at the chess

Interested players have been asked to complete the registration formalities with the BCF by 2:00 pm.

Pakistan, SL, Zimbabwe to play in Sharjah

SHARJAH: Jan 27: Pakistan will take on Shri Lanka and Zimbabwe in a triangular cricket tournament to be held Feb 1-4, it was announced Tuesday, reports AP.

Known as the Wills Trophy International, the tournament brings back international cricket to the Sharjah Cricket Stadium after a break of more than a year.

All-rounder Wasim Akram was picked Monday to lead Pakistan for the Sharjah tournament in place of Javed Miandad as the world champions seek to restore their reputation after the recent disas trous tour of Australia.

Arjuna Ranatunga will captain Shri Lanka while Zimbabwe, the newest Testplaying nation, will be skippered by David Houghton.

The teams will play each other on a round-robin basis with the top two teams advancing to the Feb 4 final, according to the organisers, the Cricketers Benefit Fund Series.

Top prize is dirs 10,000, with the runner-up receiving dlrs 5,000. The third place team gets dirs 2,500.

There will be neutral umpires from India for the tour-

Gooch will play CALCUTTA, Jan 27: Fears

that England captain Graham Gooch might be forced by illness to miss the first Test against India cased on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Gooch is the latest England player, along with reserve wicketkeeper Richard Blakey, to succumb to a virus which his sweeping through the England camp.

Coach Keith Eletcher, who had earlier said "Graham is a big worry," later said: "He would have to be extremely ill to miss the Test (starting on Friday).

"We expect he will be fit to practice today.

The virus, which involves a nitld fever, headache and general lethargy, clears within a few days but is still likely to leave Gooch, 39, a little short of full fitness as he goes into his 100th Test. More worrying for England,

as the virus spreads through the team and accompanying media, is whether a key player such as Alec Stewart or Mike Gatting might fall victim on the eve of, or during, the Before Wednesday's train-

ing, number a of the England party are to meet Mother Teresa, the octogenarian catholic missionary who has devoted the last 40 year of her life to the poor of Calcutta's

Many of the South African cricketers who were in Calcutta during their short tour 15 months ago described meeting the Balkans-born founder of the missionaries of charity as one of the most inspirational moments of their

Gower feels it has gone too far, MCC members don't

LONDON, Jan 27: Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) members , meet | here on Wednesday to pursue a campaign against England's selectors which even David Gower, the centre of the debate, thinks has gone too far, reports Reuter.

A resolution drawn up by 200 members, and declaring "no confidence" in the selectors following their decision to omit Gower from England's team currently touring India, is to be put to a meeting of the world's most famous cricket club.

If it is approved by a majority of MCC's 17,500 members. campaign organisers hope to heap further embarrassment on the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), who run the first-class game in England.

Angel with a devil's heart ADELAIDE, Jan 115-year history of the game,

leaving aside to historic ties. 27: Paceman Jo The 24-year-old Angel, a Angel is to join genuine speedster who comes two other West in as a replacement for injured Australians rook medium-pacer Michael Whit ics, including Juney, was included in the 14stin Langer who starred in the man squad announced by team fourth Test here, to streng-

> officials here Tuesday night. Angel promises to give the West Indies a taste of their own torrid bowling if he's named in the 11 that start play Saturday.

"I've based my bowling on the West Indies for a couple of years now," said Angel.

"I don't move the ball all around the place so I've tried to concentrate on aiming my deliveries between the hip and heart of batsmen which is similar to the West Indies' line."

His youthful team mate, batsman Damien Martyn, for-

Richardson is confident



ADELAIDE, Jan 27: West Indian cricket eaptain Richte Richardson can afford to

be positive going into Saturday's fifth and deciding Test match with Australia, reports AP.

then the much-criticised

Australians for the fifth Test

starting in Perth Saturday,

the cliffhanger fourth Test by

one run, hope to clinch the

five-Test series to make it 2-1

in Perth and retain the Frank

Worrell trophy which they

series by bowling Australia out

for 184, which was two runs

short of victory and the small

est winning margin in the

The Windies squared the

have held since 1978.

The West Indies, who won

reports Reuter.

The West Indies have never lost a Test in three occasions at the WACA Ground in Perth. And after Tuesday's history making one-run victory over Australia in the fourth Test at Adelaide, he and his team would have trouble being anything but upbeat.

"I am very positive and I be lieve we have a much better chance again in Perth to win, the series," Richardson said from Adelaide before leaving for the cross-country flight to Western Australia state.

believe it will help us a lot. We won't change our game plan and we will continue to attack to go out and win the series." "We are entertainers and we have to be aggressive for the

"We like that wicket and we

aim for a draw a try to tie the series 1-1." The fourth-Test victory by the West Indies were the closest margin in the 115-year his-

whole series, rather than just

tory of Test cricket. Australia were within two runs of taking the Frank Worrell trophy for the first time since 1975-76 but the West Indies bowled Australia out for 184 in their pursuit of-

186 for victory.

Despite the close margin, captain Allan Border said the mood in the side was not one of despair.

"I think everyone has got a real good resolve about how we hung in there." Border said Tailenders Craig McDermott and Tim May staged a valiant last-wicket stand but fell a run

"Out of this (the Adelaide) game, I think we'll take all the positives, rather than the fact we lost the game by one run,

added Border. He said the series would go down as probably the tightest he had played in during 15 years of international cricket.



RICHIE RICHARDSON

and that's what we want for cricket," he said. "For sheer tight cricket, it's hard to think of another series to match

ced to pull out of the fourth Test after being accidentally poked in the eye last Friday, is included but will face a fitness test in Perth, Australian team manager lan McDonald said.

One man considered virtually certain to play is Langer, who top scored with 54 under extreme pressure, dragging

Australia back to respectability

and near victory along with Tailenders Tim May and Craig McDermott. But for the courage of a 22year-old rookie batsman and two bowlers who batted un-

fifnchingly, Australian cricket would be hanging its collective head in shame Wednesday. The rest of their top-and

middle-order collapsed under the Windies pace-barrage, with Mark Waugh the only other top-order player to reach double figures with a 26.

The Australian batsmen, especially opener Mark Taylor and the Waugh twins mark and Steve, were harshly criticised by some sections of the media here Wednesday for a dismal

batting performance. The timidness and ineptitude of the Australians under heavy fire revived memories of their empty and ugly campaign in the Caribbean two years ago," wrote cricket commentator Mike Coward.

Australia was 7-74 at one stage before Langer teamed with the tail to raise a slim hope of victory that became a big hope until McDermott fended off a rising delivery into the hands of wicket-keeper

mercy from the Windies whose captain Richie Richardson said his new-look side would not be satisfied with a draw. "I am very positive and I believe we have a much better

Australia can expect no

chance again in Perth to win the series," Richardson told journalists. "We like that wicket and we believe it will help us a lot. We won't change our game-plan and we will continue to attack

THE SQUAD

and to go out to win the se-

The Australian squad for Perth is: Allan Border (captain), Mark Taylor, Jo Angel, David Boon, Tony Dodcmaide, lan Healy, Mery Hughes, Justin Langer, Craig McDermott, Damich Martyn, Tim May, Shane Warne, Mark Waugh, Steve

Kumble — a leggie with a difference



CALCUTTA, Jan 27: After years when leg. spinners were as rare a sight on a cricket pitch as a South African Test player they are now flooding the internationals like sponsors'

logos, reports Reuter. Last March, Mushtaq Ahmed played a key role in Pakistan's World Cup victory. In June, Ian Salisbury became England's first Test "leggie" for 20 years. A month ago, Shane Warne spun Australia to victory over the West Indies in

Melbourne. Now India's Anil Kumble hopes to strike a further blow for his art by leading India to their first Test victory since

On Friday, India and Kumble play England, who themselves may well include Salisbury, in the first Test in Calcutta. Kumble, having established himself in the Indian team on

their recent South African tour, could play a key role in a Test likely to be dominated by spinners. It will be the bespectacled 22-year-old south Indian's home Test debut. He played one Test in England in 1990,

was dropped for the 1991-92

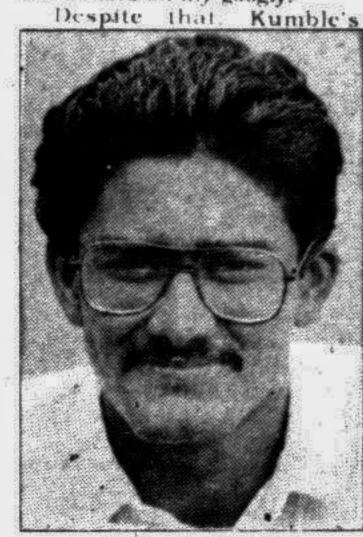
tour of Australia, then recalled

for the South African visit. There he topped the Indian rankings with 18 wickets at 25.94 apiece, bowling an average 63 overs a Test at less than two runs an over.

It was a tour de force and a

marked improvement on the three for 170 earned in his Old Trafford debut.

"i have worked a lot on my bowling since then," said Kumble. "On varying my pace, my angle of delivery at the crease and on my googly."



ANIL KUMBLE strength is his accuracy, not

his variation.

He is a very different bowler from Mushtag, Salisbury and Warne who, like traditional leg-spinners, tend to rely on flight and variation. "I'm not the usual leg-spin-

ner," he admitted. "I'm quicker. I've always been like "When I was younger many

people gave me their opinion. They said Leg-spinners should bowl slower, Don't take a

jump at the crease, 'Flight the

ball a lot'. I found it very diffi- . cult to adjust so I kept doing what suited me.

"Being quicker helps my

accuracy. On a helpful wicket the bounce can also be a strength. Kumble comes from Bangalore, home of Bhagwat Chandrasekhar, the leg-spin-

ner whose polio-withered arm tweaked India to their lirst Test victory in England at the Oval in 1971. Inevitably "Chandra," who

took 242 wickets in 58 Tests. was an influence but not an overwhelming one. "When I was at school we had summer coaching camps,"

said Kumble. "He was the coach. "I really admire him and he is from my town but he was much quicker than me and got

a lot of bounce.

Kumble's game.

match, only in the nets and on television glimpse of 1971 against England so I did not model myself on him." A thoughtful, softly spoken man, Kumble is a mechanical

engineering graduate - he re-

ceived notification in South

"I never saw him bowl in a

Africa of the award of his Bangalore University degree. "Fortunately my studies did not clash with cricket so I did not have to carry books around with me on tour," he said. England have already been studying the mechanics of

Coach Keith Fletcher saw his six for 53 haul in South African's second innings in the Johannesburg Test, and Neil Fairbrother took the long handle to him in this month's Jaipur one-day international.

But neither Fairbrother, nor any other left-hander, is expected to figure in England's senior batting and Kumble who struggled against lefthanded Kepler Wessels in South Africa - can thus relish the prospect of adding to his Test education on home ground.

Nirman cricket

Tejgaon Govt Boys High School and Armanitola High School qualified for their respective group finals of the qualifying meet for the Dhaka zonal championship of the eleventh Nirman schools cricket tournament. Tejgaon School trounced

Kalshi Islamia High School by ten wickets at the Dhanmondi Club ground in the Group E semifinals while Armanitola beat Siddheswari High School by seven wickets in the Group G Semifinals at the Golaphagh ground.

Former national women's chess champion Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa moves her queen

deep into her younger sister Syeda Afsana Parveen Nira's fort in the last round match of the 14th national championship at the NSC chess room yesterday. Nipa won the match. -Star photo