Samarasekara savages MSC

thula Samarasekara, the Shri Lankan Test discard, conjured up the deep off left-arm paceman ption of Ravana to crack 167 off 113 balls to destroy Muham-medan Sporting Club as the reigning champions suffered an ignominious eightwicket defeat to arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra in the finale of the first phase of the Navana Premier Division ericket league at the Dhaka

Yesterday's holiday entertainment watched by the biggest crowd of the season assumed almost comic proportions as Abahani aided by Samarasckara's assault crossed Mohammedan's imposing total of 254 for six in 33.2 with almost 12 overs to spare.

Stadium yesterday.

Set to score 255 for victory at an asking rate of almost six per over Abahani were given a rollicking start by a handicapped Samarasekara who developed some trouble in his leg and had to have Khaled Mahmud Sujan as a runner. At the end of the day, after the dust had settled; this turned out to be a luxury, the tall Shri Lankan could have afforded without Sujan's help.

Hundred of his 167 runs came from 'strokes', including 13 fours and eight massive sixes. For a curious follower of the game it looked like an act of vengeance that Samarasekara chose to repay a particular Mohammedan bowler so cruelly. Rafiq, who won a leg before decision against Samarasekara in the semifinal of the Damal Summer tournament earlier this season. much to the dismay of the batsman, really went through the hoop yesterday. Six of the eight sixes were plundered off the former Abahani skipper's straightish leg-spin.

Samarasekara rode his luck to post 146 for the first wicket in 20.1 overs in tandem with Jahangir Alam with the latter scoring only 31. The wicketkeeper-batsman had to leave the wicket when a fine return by a substitute Mohammedan fielder from short fine-leg left him stranded with the bowler effecting a simple run out.

Samarasekara, who was dropped by Piyal off Nannu on 45 - a hot chance in the covers - finally departed with Abahani happily placed on 244 in 31.5 overs with Wahidul Ghani signalling an end of uninterrupted session of toying with the bowling.

Earlier, Abahani skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu won the toss and asked Mohammedans to bat first on a marvel of a wicket. Mohammedans did not have to curse themselves as the opening pair of Azhar Hossain Shantu and Harunur Rashid Liten put on 57 runs for the first wicket.

Narayangani, Co-

milla, Bak-ergani

Dinapur and Sh

their respective

zonal finals of the qualifying

round for the Beximco 13th

national youth under-19

cricket championship which

began last Thursday at five

At the Comilla Stadium,

Narayangani made the Group A

semifinals registering a mas-

sive 152-run victory against

amassed 230 for the loss of

seven wickets in the stipulated

45 overs with Pappu top scor-

ing with 42 and Munna and

Mona making 35 and 34 re-

while Sajal, Rubel and Topu

got 17, 16 and 15 respectively.

conceding 48 runs for

a paltry 78 in 23.1 overs with

Pitul and Sanjay scoring 20

for 15 while Topu, Mona and

Jahangir evenly shared six

and 10 respectively.

wickets between them.

Manikgani on March 1.

Biddyut chipped in with 26

Elias took three wickets

Chandpur were shot out for

Raj claimed three wickets

Narayanganj will play the

utors of tomorrow's quarter-

final between Chittagong and

Electing to bat Narayangani

venues across the country.

Chandpur.

spectively.

Chandpur.

crpur moved into

Sports Reporter Liton was particularly as gressive, hitting eight fours in his 34-ball knock of 36 balls before sending one down the throat of Khairuzzaman Babu in

outstayed him at the wicket to score a freewheeling 57 before holing out to Sujan off Effec. His half-century knock came off 54 balls with the help of three fours and two sixes



Athula Samarasekara was in marauding mood yesterday in the crucial Navana Premier Division tie between archrivals Abahani and Mohammedans at the Dhaka Stadium. Samarasekara hooked, pulled, cut and drove savagely to power Abahani to an astonishingly easy eight-wicket - Star photo victory.

Both Rafiq and Aminul Islam Bulbul brought their own downfalls with indiscreet strokes with the latter's brief tenure at the wicket proving quite costly in the end. Bulbul, who reportedly played with a fever, swung Abahani's rightarm scamer Babu only to be brilliantly caught by a sliding Samarasekara at deep backward square-leg for 12.

Rafiq got carried away and skied the ball to deep midwicket for 31 and Shantu tried a stroke which he rarely plays, and Jahangir gleefully accepted the offer behind the wicket off a misgone pull with the batsman on 49. Skipper Minhazul Abedin

Nannu then paired with Sanjeev Sharma, the Indian Test discard, to add 82 runs in 13.2 overs for the fifth wicket with the latter playing the dominant role.

Nannu left, leg before to Shri Lankan Ashoka De Silva for 33 off 41 balls but Sharma

one off Sujan over square-leg and another off Effec over the straight country.

Mohammedans rattled up 254 for six with Shri Lankan Gamagee remaining unbeaten on 14 at the end of their quota of 45 overs.

Babu took two wickets for 32. However, Samarasekara was the pick of the Abahani bowlers giving away only 39 runs in his nine overs on a batsman's paradise. Ashoka, Lipu, Effee and Anis took one wicket apiece.

Mohammedans are now upsides with Gulshan Youth in joint second position in the points table, with Abahani atop with 18 points from ten matches. Mohammedans have 16 points from ten matches.

Once again, the player-umpires - Nadir Shah and Munir Ali Khan — did a marvellous job yesterday with no incident of resentment or dissent shown by any player of any of the two Titans of local cricket. Well

N'ganj, Comilla in zonal finals

Sports Reporter

Group C semifinals defeating Raishahi Education Board by four wickets at Jhenidah.

Comilla will face Satkhira in the first group semistnal to-

Sent in to bat Rajshahi Education Board were all out for 122 in 34 overs with Tinku, Monir and Ujjal making 34, 22 and 12 respectively. Suman bagged three wick-

ets for 17 while Mona and Hanif took two wickets apiece. Comilla cruised past the opponents total making 123

with four wickets to spare in 30.4 overs. Imrul top scored with 31

while Nipu remained unconguered on 26. Titas and Peter took two

wickets each conceding 19 and 20 runs respectively for Rajshahí Education Board.

Bakerganj recorded a convincing eight-wicket victory over Mcherpur in the Group D

quarterfinals at Satkhira. Electing to bat Mchcrpur were bundled out for 124 in 36 overs with Karim topscoring with 40 and Khorshed and Tuhin making 15 and 12 respectively.

Arun with four wickets for 17 ripped through the Mcherpur batting lineup.

Bakergant reached the target making 125 in 28 overs losing two wickets with Comilia moved into the Ibrahim remaining unbeaten. on 61 and Pablu scoring 34. Milon and Morin took wicket each.

Bakerganj will now play Jhenidah in the group semifinals tomorrow

At the Thakurgaon Stadium, Dinajpur received a walk-over against Lalmonirhat in the Group E quarterfinals.

Dinajpur will take on Gaibandha tomorrow. At the Tangail Stadium, Sherpur were declared win-

ners against Netrokona when the latter failed to produce the necessary papers to prove the ages of their players. The youth cricket champi-

onship is restricted to players under 19 years of age. Sherpur will face Kushtia in

the semifinals tomorrow. Thirty five teams in five groups are taking part in the qualifying meet.

The final round comprising the five group champions and the title-holders Jessore and runners-up Rajshahi and the Bangladesh Rrira Shiksha Protisthan will be held in Dhaka from March 10 to 15.

TODAY'S MATCHES Comilla: Tangail vs Sylhet

Tangail: Dhaka vs Chuadanga Jhenidah: Nawabganj vs Sirajgani Satkhira: Patuakhali vs

Thakurgaon: Faridpur vs Joypurhat

> and a half points. Norwood beat Bangladeshi



PQ4 ... Neeraj Mishra of India opens against Pakistani International Master Mahmud Ahmed Khan Lodhi in their sixth round tie of the first Grandmasters' championship at the Jalsaghar of Purbani Hotel yesterday. Lodhi overcame the disadvantage of playing with the black pieces to win in 40 moves. - Star photo

Pak-Windies final today

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 26: World champions Pakistan face the West Indies in the final of the triangular series also involving South Africa at the Wanderers ground here to

morrow, report agencies. Pakistan, who lost all three of their league matches to the West Indies - the last by seven wickets at Cape Town Thursday in the low-scoring encounter - reached the final of the three-team tournament by beating hosts South Africa in all three of their league matches. South Africa suffered their fourth loss in six games to the West Indies whom they had beaten twice.

Another hattrick in Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Md Alauddin of Painadi Agrani Juba Sangsad became the third footballer to score a hattrick in the Janata Bank Pioneer football league.

Painadi Sangsad, by virtue of Alauddin's hattrick, eliminated Khilgaon Juba Sangha by five goals to one yesterday at the Khilgaon High School ground.

National Football Training Centre outplayed Khelaghar Samaj Kallyan Samtty by four goals to nil at the Mahakhali T&T ground.

Rising Star Club shared points with Badda Jagaroni Sangsad (Jrs) in a one-all draw in the other match at the same

At the Bashabo ground Mugda Samaj Kallyan Sangsad descated Matuail Udayan Sangsad by three goals to nil. Badda Sangsad drew goal-

less with Kendrio Kishore Kasela in the other match at the venue. Kalabagan Krira Chakra

edged past Kasaituli Samaj Kallyan Parishad by a solitary goal at the Lalmatia Housing Society ground. Rainbow Athletic Club of

Narayangani beat Azimpur Kishore Sangha by a solitary goal at the Outer Stadium. Asim was the scorer. The other match of the day

at the venue between Lalbagh Tarun Sangha and Arambagh Krira Chakra (Jrs) ended in a fiasco when the officials and supporters of Arambagh KC allegedly manhandled the refer-

Eskaton Sabuj Sangha (Jrs) drew goalless with Jatrabari Krira Chakra in the other match of the day at the Banani ground.

Kasparov wins LINARES, Spain, Fcb 26:

World champion Garri Kasparov showed good form at the Linares Grandmaster chess tournament on Thursday, defeating Yugoslav Ljubomir Ljubojevic in 29 moves, reports Reuter.

Lodhi still ahead

Sports Reporter

National champion FIDE Master (FM) Reefat bin-Sattar muffed up an excellent opportunity of beating compatriot Grandmaster Niaz Murshed as Pakistani International Master (IM) Mahmud Ahmed Khan Lodhi upstayed his lead in the first Grandmaster's chess tournament at the end of the sixth round at Purbani hotel yesterday.

Recfat, ruffled by time pressure, accepted Niaz's offer for a draw when the young player was a move away from a certain upset victory. Playing with black Reefat adopted King's Indian defence as Niaz, the lone GM of the country began with d4. Reefat the gental student sacrificed knight in the 28th move but never conjured the elustre Qh6 move in the 31st move that could have given him victory.

Niaz now has three and a half points from five matches while Reefat has the same number of points from stx encounters.

Mahmud Lodhi, who led the points table at the end of the fifth round on Wednesday, with lour points accrued another point to his collection when he beat Indian IM Neeraj Mishra in a game of Reti variation in 40 moves. Lodhi, who upstays his lead with five points, played with black pieces.

Indian GM Dibyendu Barua suffered his fifth defeat as British GM Julian Hodgson beat him in 58 moves. Hodgson, who won his adjourned match against compatriot GM David Norwood on the rest day, Thursday, played with white pieces in a match played in Queens Gambit accepted variation. Hodgson, the highest rated player, has three

IM Zillur Rahman Champak yesterday. Playing with black Norwood adopted Modern Defence and subdued his opponent in 29 moves.

GM Daniel King, another Briton beat Indian IM Arun Vaidya in 34 moves. King has three points while Vaidya languishes at one.

The match between Bangladesh FM Ziaur Rahman and Indian V Koshi was in progress when reports last came in.

Border eclipses Gavaskar's record as Aussies get the whiphand

CHRISTCHURCH. New Zcaland, Fcb 26 : Australia wcre in command of New Zealand at the end of the

second day of the first cricket Test today - a day when Allan Border rewrote the records as Test Cricket's most prolific scorer, reports Reuter. Australia amassed 485 in an innings where five batsmen

scored half centuries and then flery fast bowler Craig Mc-Dermott had New Zealand reeling at 30 for two. Martin Crowe was not out on seven and opener John Wright was on four after 85

McDermott had Mark Greatbatch taken by wicketkeeper lan Healy for four from a short lifter in his first over and then snared Andrew Jones lbw for eight playing across the

minutes.

Playing with only five specialist batsmen, New Zealand need another 255 to avoid the follow-on.

But it was Border's day. Needing 50 to surpass the 10,122 runs scored by India's Sunil Gavaskar, Border reached the milestone by pulling off-spinner Dipak Patel to the boundary.

The 37-year-old left-hander doffed his helmet and raised his arms to acknowledge the standing ovation from the small crowd.

Border had to come to the crease in the first over of the day when Justin Langer was removed lbw by Danny Morrison on his overnight score

He started nervously, nearly running himself out early on, but after lunch it was Border at his confident best, with cuts, pulls and drives of the highest

Aided by a quick-fire 54 in 66 balls from lan Healy and 45 from Mery Hughes which included four sixes. Border

picked up the momentum of the Australian innings.

Even when Border went at 88, a tired flick to wicket



Australian skipper Allan Border hooks for four during his record-breaking knock on the second day of the first cricket Test against New Zealand at Lancaster Park yesterday. Border became the highest run-getter in Test cricket history when he took four runs off Dipak Patel to reach half century. He contributed 88 to Australia's 485. Border now has scored 10, 161 runs, 39 more than Sunil Gavaskar's

keeper Adam Parore off Danny Morrison, the other bataman prospered against the wayward Kiwt bowlers.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the end of Australia's innings on the second day of the first cricket Test between Australia and New Zealand at Lancaster Park

AUSTRALIA: First innings D. Boon c Parore B Owens 15 M Taylor c Crowe b

Morrison J Langer Ibw b Morrison M Waugh c Parore b Patel S Waugh lbw b Owens

A Border c Parore b Morrison I licaly c Morrison b Owens 54 M Hughes c Catrns b Patel 45 P Retffel c Greatbatch b Su'a 18 S Warne not out

C McDermott c Jones b Extras: (w-5, nb-6, lb-6,

b-2) Total Fall of wickets: 1-33; 2-149; 3-170; 4-217; 5-264; 6-363; 7-435; 8-441; 9-480. Bowling:

Morrison Cadrns 3 145 2 Patel NEW ZEALAND : First innings

M Greatbatch c Healy b McDermott J Wright not out A Jones Ibw b McDermott M Crowe not out Extras: (w-4, lb-1, nb-1, b-1) 7 Total (for two wickets) To bat: K Rutherford, A

Parore, C Cairns, D Patel, M Su'a, D Morrison, M Owens Fall of wickets: 1-4; 2-18 Bowling:

McDermott Hughes

When a millstone turns into a milestone a milestone. He arrived in New



swipe off his legs for four, became the world's highest Test run scorer today on the second day of a Test match against New Zealand, reports Reuter. Border, 37, broke Indian

Sunil Gavaskar's record of 10,122 runs when he took four runs from the bowling of New Zealand off-spinner Dipak Patel to reach half century. The quiet, stubborn captain

raised his bat, more in relief than celebration, to acknowledge the polite applause of a small crowd attending the first Test match against New Zealand at Lancaster Park.

"It's a marvellous historic moment for Border and Australian cricket," said Sir Richard Hadlee, the New Zealander who holds the world record for taking the most Test wickets. Several New Zealand play-

ers clapped and slapped Border on the back as his teammates applauded from the stands. Sir Donald Bradman, widely

acknowledged as the world's finest batsman, also paid tribute to Border.

"Not only does this (feat) recognise his skill as a batsman, it is also a tribute to his physical fitness and tough character, because it has taken many years of toil to reach such a milestone.

"Australians look upon Border as a typical Aussic battler who has served his country well," said Bradman,

84. from Adelaide. Border eventually scored 88

as Australia piled up the runs - five players scored half centurnes - on the second day of the Test match. Australia reached 485 all out.

Passing Gavaskar's record had, according to Border, become more of a millstone than



Daily Star file photo shows India's Sunil Gavaskar (L) in conversation with Australian skipper Allan Border during the MCC bicentenary match at Lords in 1987.

TOP 10 RUN-MAKERS IN TESTS

The top 10 runmakers in Test cricket, after Australian captain Allan Border's 88 against New Zealand Friday: (Tabulate under matches, innings, not out, aggregate,

nignest score, a	verage	, 100	s, D	USJ				
A Border (Aus)	139	240	42	10,161	205	51.32	25	5
S Gavaskar (India)	125	214	16	10,122	236	51.12	34	4
J Miandad(Pak)	118	179	21	8,569	280	54.23	23	4
V Richards (WI)	*121	182	12	8,540	291	50.23	24	4
D Gower (Eng)	117	204	18	8,231	215	44.25	18	3
G Boycott (Eng)	108	193	23	8,114	245	47.72	22	4
G Sobers (WI)	93	160	21	8,032	365	57.78	26	3
C Cowdrey (Eng)	114	188	15	7,624	182	44.06	22	3
G Gooch (Eng) G Greenidge (WI)	101 108	183 185	6 16	7,620 7,558	333 226	43.09 44.72	17 19	3

Zealand with a dismal run of performance behind him. Today he arrived at the

crease in the first over with Australia's score on 217 for four. He batted nervously, falling over when hit on the toe by a Danny Morrison yorker and escaping a certain run out only because a New Zealand fielder missed the stumps from five metres.

After scoring just 28 in the two hours before lunch, Border relaxed in the afternoon ses-

The 50 that marked the world record was Border's 59th Test half century. He has scored 25 Test centuries.

Only two other players in the all-time batting top 10 are currently playing Test cricket - third-placed Javed Miandad of Pakistan, with 8,569 runs, and England captain Graham Gooch, who is ninth with 7.620 runs.

Under Border, Australia won the World Cup on the Indian subcontinent in 1987, while their 4-0 triumph in the 1989 Ashes Tests in England was another high point of his captaincy. He was named "Australian-of-the-year" in

Ngugi suspended

LONDON, Feb 26: Track's governing body has suspended Kenya's five-time world cross country champion John Ngugi pending a hearing into his refusal to submit to a drug test,

If Ngugi declines a hearing or the Kenyan federation finds him in the wrong, he faces an automatic four-year ban by the

Border—an apotheosis of application



Feb 26: When Ken Barrington walked out to bat for England it was said you could visualise the national flag

country's cricket, reports Reuter. Australia's answer to Barrington must surely be Allan Border, an equally doughty fighter whose courage, application and durability have

trailing from his shoulders,

such was his devotion to the

reer that reached a peak today. Border became the highest run-scorer in Tests when he broke now retired Sunil Gavaskar of India's world record aggregate of 10,122 during the first Test against New Zealand.

been the hallmark of his ca-

37, a man of few words but with an iron will, has become the cornerstone of his team as much for his leadership as his batting. He is happier leading by example than by haranguing or

cajoling his men into produc-

Australian captain Border,

ing their best form, and he once said of a Test player going through a bad patch: "I can't make his runs for him or help him take wickets." lia's number three. Like many It is a hard-nosed attitude batsmen of his build, he cuts that has worked effectively for and pulls particularly well but

the most part since he was made captain during the 1984-85 home series against West Indies when Kim Hughes tearfully quit after Australia lost the first two Test. Border, reluctant to take

over, offered to quit after try-

ing unsuccessfully to perk some life into a lackluster side but the offer was declined. Faith in Border was ultimately justified. Australia won the World Cup on the Indian sub-continent in 1987, while their 4-0 triumph in the 1989 Ashes Tests in England was

another high point of his cap-

taincy, and he was named

"Australian-of-the-year" in

Part of Border's formula for success is a natural pessimism. "I have the outlook that the worst will probably happen',

he said recently.

So he prepares for the worst. When I'm in it's difficult to get me out. After one Test, he wondered off alone to a downtown

burger bar and chatted to the patrons. "I'm only an ordinary bloke not a god," he said. A stocky left-hander, Border made his Test debut in the 1978-79 season and soon established himself as Austracan also drive with authority. Tenacity and bravery are key elements of his batting, and there was no better example of that than during the fifth Test against England at Old



KEN BARRINGTON

Trafford in 1981 when he scored an unbeaten 123 with a broken finger.

Border believes his greatest innings were 98 not out and 100 not out in the second Test against West Indics at Port of Spain in March 1984.

He said of his 98: "I played against a rampaging West Indies on a difficult wickets, and technically it was the best I've ever played.

Border's form in recent

times has been patchy. His first Test century for four years and 35 Tests was an innings of 106 in the third Test against Shri Lanka in Colombo last September, but he followed with 110 in the second Test against the West Indies in Melbourne last December.

Bradman pays tribute

ADELAIDE, Feb 26: Cricket legend Sir Donald Bradman paid tribute to Allan Border's tough character and fitness today after the Australian captain became the highest scorer of Test runs in the games history, reports Reuter.

"Not only does this recog-

nisc his skill as a batsman, it is

also a tribute to his physical fitness and tough character because it has taken many years of toil to reach such a milestone," Bradman, 84, said in a statement. "Australians look upon Border as a typical Aussic bat-

tler who has served his country well", he said. In 52 Tests for Australia between 1928 and 1948 the

man many acknowledge as the game's greatest batsman amassed 6,996 runs at an average of 99.94 with 29 centuries.