

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter
Shantinagar Club B outplayed Nirman XI by five wickets in the only match of the Second Division cricket super league at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Both teams now have six points from four super league matches and a play-off match will be arranged later on to decide the Group X championship.

The Group X champions along with the top finishers in Group Y will earn promotion to the Mirnas First Division league next season.

Battling first Nirman XI were all out for 176 in 39.3 overs with Dipu topscoring with 45 from 76 balls with the help of five fours and Shabbir making a 50-ball 43, a knock embellished with a couple of hits across the fence and one over it.

Skipper Kazi Asad scored a 31-ball 40 with the help of five fours.

Bappi and Tuhin (Sr) evenly shared six wickets for 20 and 35 respectively while Shantoo bagged two for 25.

Shantinagar B cruised past the opponents' total making 177 in 39.3 overs with five wickets in hand.

Nehal top-scored with 63 from 110 balls with the help of four boundaries and Happy made a quickfire 35 off 27 deliveries while Raja and Bhutto got 22 and 14 respectively.

Hero and Apon took a wicket apiece for Nirman XI.

TODAY'S MATCH

Gandaria Cricketers vs Bangladesh Boys (Mirpur Pallabi)

BSWA holds discussion meet

Sports Reporter
A discussion programme on a recently published book on sports entitled 'Khekar Katha, Kathar Kheka' by several writers was held at the National Sports Council gymnasium yesterday.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka attended the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) organised programme as chief guest.

Secretary in-charge of the Youth and Sports Ministry M Azizul Haq was present as a special guest.

Those who participated in the discussion were the DG of Shilpakala Academy Mobarak Hossain Khan, Director of Bangla Academy Shamsuddin Khan, Senior Assistant Editor of Daily Ittefaq Ziaul Haq, senior staff reporter of Danik Bangla poet Hasan Hafiz and the BSWA secretary Mahmud Hossain Khan Dulal.

The speakers felt the need for publishing such sports books more often for the overall development of sports and games in the country.

Abdul Towhid, the president of BSWA, publishers of the book, presided over the function.

The discussion session was followed by an iftar party.

Schools handball

Sports Reporter
Defending champions Narinda Govt High School outplayed Rahmatullah Model High School by 18 goals to five in the fifth Bata schools handball tournament at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.

The winners led the first session 8-1.

Bishnu netted eight goals and Saiful scored thrice for Narinda School while Osman and Sobel netted up two goals each for Rahmatullah School.

Rajarbagh Police Lines High School beat Badda Vidya Niketan by 20 goals to 13 in the other match of the day.

Jamal netted nine goals for Police Lines School while Zahid got five for Vidya Niketan.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Bhahantek School vs Rifles School (2:30 pm)
Shaheed Nabil School vs St Gregory's School (3:30 pm)

Independence Day chess held

Sports Reporter
Maqsood Ahmed with full five points emerged as champion in the Independence Day chess competition which concluded yesterday at the Azimur Community Centre, says a press release.

Twenty-two players participated in the five-round Swiss league meet, organised by Samashid.

Meanwhile, the auction bridge competition will continue till March 22 at the same venue.

Bankrupt no more

ATLANTA, Mar 18: The International Olympic Committee, which was nearly bankrupt 15 years ago, is showing a much stronger financial picture these days, reports AP.

The IOC's proposed budget for 1993 shows expenses of \$124.3 million, an increase of 15 per cent over last year's figure.

Biman's flight smooth, but late

Sports Reporter

Having been disappointingly late in getting off the ground, refuelled, fully-revved Bangladesh Biman returned to the hangar amidst disappointment simply because the flying period is over.

Yesterday, the former champions signed off for this year on a winning note with a comfortable five-wicket victory against Gulshan Youth Club to leave cricket lovers pondering over a feeling that perhaps the most balanced of the teams had the misfortune of dropping off from the race for the title.

Biman, who had more than two overs to spare after crossing Gulshan's collection of 172 with five wickets in hand, will look for consolation in the statistics that they are the only side to have won all of their five super league matches — a feat that will by no means be achieved this year either by reigning champions Mohammedians or Abahani Kriya Chakra, both beaten by Biman — and both of whom are to decide this year's title next Sunday, having pipped Biman to the post with 22 points and a match in hand each.

The punch line of all this dialectics of 'ifs' and 'buts' is that Biman have to keep their fingers crossed, hoping that they will edge past Sunday's losers on run rate for the runners-up slot.

So much for beating the two popular title-aspirants in the recent times, Biman beat Mohammedians by three wickets only to better it with a highly creditable 76-run victory against Abahani in their earlier super league encounter.

Perhaps egged by the pattern of their last match against

Abahani which they won by nine runs, Gulshan skipper Nasir Ahmed Nasu had little hesitation in opting to bat first after winning the toss.

Perhaps Nasu forgot that Ashok Malhotra, one of the architects of Gulshan's golden run in this year's league was not in his ranks yesterday, and Gulshan had to look for inspiration towards Arun Lal — the other Indian Test discard.

Unfortunately for Gulshan, Arun yesterday left cheaply, caught by Rupam off Biman's Pakistani pacesman Wasim



WASIM HAIDER ... 51 no

Haider and although opener Liton, Ehsan and Shabbir chipped in with useful scores Gulshan could muster only 172 for nine wickets in the possible 44 overs.

Liton top-scored with 41, belting six boundaries. Ehsan with 27, Shabbir (Jr) 22 and Nasu with 13 were the other main run getters.

Azhar was the most successful Biman bowler claiming two for 33. Moni, Wasim Haider and Bachechu took one wicket apiece.

Gulshan's dark, lean pacesman Joydev once again under-

lined his promise as a new ball bowler when he rocked Biman's batting with a fiery spell in which he priced out three top Biman batsmen — Rupam, Zakaria and Sharu.

Shahnawaz Shaheed Shanu was, however, good enough to emerge as the topscorer in Biman's innings with yet another half-century, his third in a row. Shanu made 53 before being bowled by Joydev.

Wasim Haider, the Pakistani World Cupper, absorbed the shocks well to guide Biman to what turned out to be a facile win in the end with a customary enterprising innings of 51 not out. The well-built all-rounder who bats at number five for PIA in domestic cricket in Pakistan smashed six fours in his 64-ball knock.

Allrounder Rupam, who opened the innings with veteran Ahmed Iqbal Bachechu, was the other notable scorer with 21.

Joydev's haul of three wickets cost him 30 runs. His new ball partner Shabbir Chowdhury, and Ehsan took one wicket each as Biman posted 175 for five wickets in 42.3 overs.

Biman ended their league campaign with 22 points from 15 matches while Gulshan Youth ended with 18 points, also from 15 matches.

The long drawn out Navana league will end on Sunday with traditional rivals Mohammedians and Abahani entering into an absorbing clash for this year's title. The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) has, meanwhile, announced the rates of tickets.

VIP Gate No 1-Taka 100, Gate 3A-Taka 50, Gate 3B-Taka 30 and the galleries Taka 10.

BTV will cover the match between the two popular clubs live.

Papin's plans

BRUSSELS, Mar 18: AC Milan's French international striker Jean-Pierre Papin was quoted on Wednesday as saying he expected to quit soccer within three years, reports Reuter.

"I'm not that young. In two or three years I should hang up my boots. I still haven't fixed a really precise final date, but I should stop on approaching 33," Papin told Belgium's Foot magazine.

Papin, 29, said he wanted to continue playing for AC Milan.

"I've found an environment that suits me. Anyway it will be difficult to aim any higher."

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Lalbagh Kriya Chakra got the better of Dhaka Dynamo Club by three goals to nil in the Janata Bank Pioneer football league at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Monir Hossain scored two goals and Sarwar Alam Apu one for the winners.

Raysahab Bazar Tarun Sangha defeated Railway Blues by two goals to nil in the other match of the day at the Dhoochkhola Ground.

Zahirul Islam and Mohammad Akbar were the scorers.

SL rub salt in England's wound

COLOMBO, Mar 18: It took 11 long years but Sri Lanka's finest moment in cricket dawned here Thursday when Sanath Jayasuriya hoisted a six to bring down the curtain on the game's founding fathers, England, in the one-off Test, reports AP.

A superb all round performance from a determined Sri Lankan outfit enabled them to scamper to a five-wicket triumph soon after the tea interval on the fifth and final day.

England resuming at 226 for nine were bowled out for 228 leaving Sri Lanka a victory target of 140 runs.

The home side endured anxious moments and a few batting jitters, losing four early wickets, before skipper Arjuna Ranatunga and man-of-the-match Hashan Tillekeratne guided Sri Lanka to safety with a 75-run partnership.

Ranatunga was out with Sri Lanka needing four runs to complete a fine win, while Tillekeratne — who hit 93 not out in the first innings — was unbeaten on 36.

Victory was sweet for the home side not only because it was their first taste in five encounters with England, but more so because it gave them the chance to show their former colonial rulers how well they have learnt the game the English brought here 160 years ago.

"It is one of the best wins we have had," said an elated Ranatunga. "The credit must go to the whole team."

"England's problem was their batsmen could not play spin bowling," added Ranatunga.

Sri Lanka played their inaugural Test against England in 1982. Thursday's win was their fourth in 43 Tests, having previously defeated Pakistan, India and New Zealand at home.

For the demoralised English team, who in the last couple of months have stumbled from defeat across India to humiliation in Colombo, there were no excuses for the humbling loss.

"There are no excuses. They won fair and square," said a disappointed Keith Fletcher, England team manager. "The Sri Lankans can play well on their own conditions... very much like the Indians."

"Their spinners managed to get more out of the pitch than ours did. Like our batsmen not being able to bat on turning wickets, our bowlers were also unable to bowl as well," added Fletcher, pointing out the reasons for the loss.

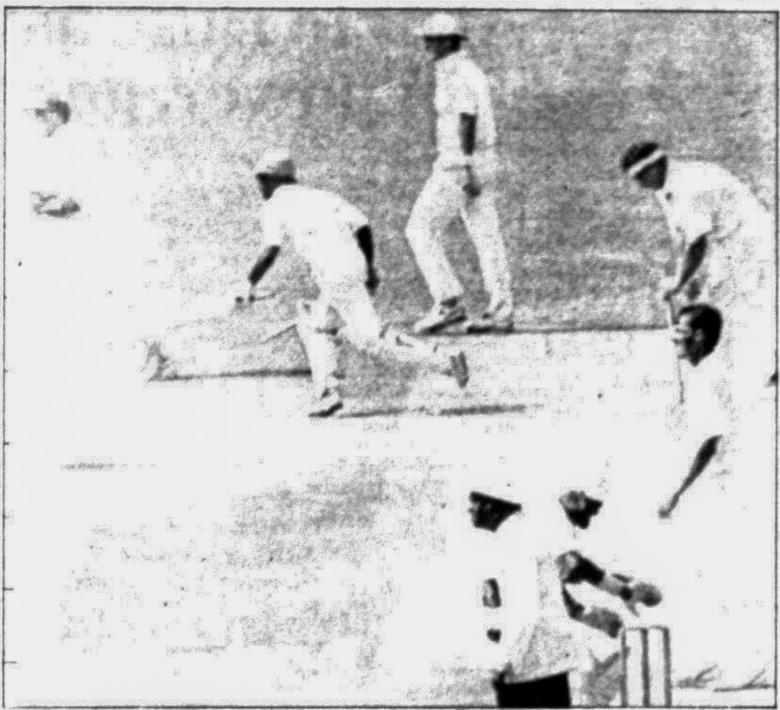
England's debacle continued their run of losses which started last August when Pakistan defeated them in the final Test at the Oval and continued in India when they lost the recent series 3-0.

This is the worst sequence of defeats since David Gower's team were "blackwashed" 5-0 by the West Indies in 1986 in the Caribbean.

The die was cast on the second day when England failed to drive home the advantage after resuming at 245 for three.

The benefits of winning the toss were nullified as England's middle order succumbed to the wiles of Sri Lankan off-spinners Jayananda Warnawera and Muttiah Muralidharan to lose their last seven wickets for 64 runs and be all out for 380.

Apart from centurion Robin Smith (128), Graeme Hick



England skipper Alec Stewart (top left) and other players rush to the pavilion moments after Sanath Jayasuriya (bat in hand) hit a sixer to steer Sri Lanka home to a historic five-wicket victory over England on the final day of the one-off Test in Colombo yesterday. Hashan Tillekeratne (below left, with helmet) is about to grab a wicket as a souvenir. It was Sri Lanka's first win over England.

SL rub salt in England's wound

(68), skipper Alec Stewart (63) and Chris Lewis (22), the rest of the batsmen were rooted to the crease, mesmerised by spin bowling.

In their turn, Sri Lanka's top order clicked with five batsmen reaching half-centuries as they totalled 469.

The game swung heavily in Sri Lanka's favour when England failed to separate a determined ninth — wicket partnership between top-scorer Tillekeratne and Muralidharan, the pair putting on a record 83, to stretch Sri Lanka's first innings lead to 89.

"That was the turning point of the game," said Ranatunga. "The other key factors in our win was Warnawera's bowling, Hashan's batting and the fact that our top order clicked in the first innings."

Those runs proved to be invaluable, when England batting a second time, once again floundered in another spin crisis.

Their reputed batsmen were all back in the pavilion by tea on the fourth day. Reeling at 96 for five, it was left to a gritty performance from spinner John Emburey, who scored 59 — his eighth Test half-century — and Chris Lewis (45) to salvage some pride as the last five batsmen added 132 runs.

"We did not get enough runs in the second innings. It was always going to be hard," recounted a dejected England skipper Stewart afterwards.

At one stage, however, it seemed as if England's 140-run lead might be enough as Sri Lanka faltered to 61 for four in the second innings.

But the thorn in England's

side, Sri Lankan number six bat left-hander Tillekeratne — who has still to be out against England having scored 66 (in the first one-day) and 93 and 36 not out in the Test — com-

SHRI LANKA: 1st Innings:

469 (Tillekeratne 93 not out, P A de Silva 80, Ranatunga 64, Mahanama 64, Hathurusinghe 59, Lewis 4-66, Jarvis 3-76).

ENGLAND: 2nd Innings:

(226 for 9 overnight) Smith b Jayasuriya 35, Atherton c Tillekeratne b Gurusinha 2, Gatting c Tillekeratne b Warnawera 18, Hick c Ranatunga b Warnawera 26, Stewart c Mahanama b Warnawera 3, Fairbrother run out 3, Lewis c Jayasuriya b Muralidharan 45, Emburey b Gurusinha 59, Jarvis st A M de Silva b Jayasuriya 3, Tufnell c A M de Silva b Warnawera 1, Malcolm not out 8, Extras: (b 4, lb 2, nb 18, w 1) 25, Total: (all out) 228

Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-38; 3-81; 4-91; 5-96; 6-130; 7-153; 8-173; 9-188.

Bowling:

Table with columns O, M, R, W for bowlers: Ranatunga (3/0/16/0), Gurusinha (6/3/7/2), Warnawera (25/4/98/4), Muralidharan (16/3/55/1), Jayasuriya (16/3/46/2)

Sri Lanka: 2nd Innings

Mahanama c Stewart b Lewis 6, Hathurusinghe c Stewart b Tufnell 14, Gurusinha b Emburey 29, Aravinda de Silva c Jarvis b Emburey 7, Ranatunga c Smith b Tufnell 35, Tillekeratne not out 36, Jayasuriya not out 6, Extras: (b 1, lb 2, nb 6) 9, Total: (5 wkts) 142

Fall of wickets: 1-8; 2-48; 3-61; 4-61; 5-136

Bowling:

Table with columns O, M, R, W for bowlers: Lewis (8/1/21/1), Jarvis (8/2/14/0), Malcolm (3/1/11/0), Emburey (14/2/48/2), Tufnell (7/4/34/2), Hick (2/0/11/0)

Man-of-the-match: Hashan Tillekeratne (Sri Lanka)

Umpires: K T Francis and T M Samarasinghe.

Result: Sri Lanka won by five wickets.

Fletcher infuriated

COLOMBO, Mar 18: England, smarting after an embarrassing Test defeat against Sri Lanka Thursday, will revamp the team for the Ashes series against Australia this summer, the team manager said, reports AP.

"You got to perform well to keep your place," said manager Keith Fletcher, a former Test batsman.

England have had a disastrous 12-week tour of the Indian subcontinent, first losing the Test series 3-0 against India. Then on Thursday, the humiliation was completed by lowly Sri Lanka who won the one-off Test by five wickets.

"It's bitterly disappointing. We were totally outplayed in India and we were beaten fair and square here too," Fletcher said.

"We now have to go back and think about his summer's series against Australia. I'm only one of the selectors, of course, but I think there will be some changes made," he said, refusing to elaborate.

"We brought what we considered was the best England side. But that is not a guarantee for a place (in the side)," Fletcher told reporters in a post-match news conference.

Of the English players, only makeshift opener Robin Smith, Graeme Hick, stand-in captain Alex Stewart, all-rounder Chris Lewis and seamer Paul played well in either India or Sri Lanka.

Fletcher blamed the lack of turning pitches in England for the team's calamitous performance against spinners outside.

"It applies to our batsmen and our bowlers — both have had to learn out here the different technique needed on

the kind of turning pitches that we never now see in county cricket," he said.

The batsmen had to "learn to play on spinning pitches in virtually five weeks," he said.

England's frontline spinners, John Emburey and Phil Tufnell, could never trouble the subcontinent batsmen. Fletcher, admitting it, said that's because they can not perfect their act in England.

But they "got to learn to be able to bowl on turning pitches

Rutherford rates Wilson high

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, Mar 18: New Zealand batsman Ken Rutherford Thursday predicted his new international teammate Jeff Wilson has the potential to be a star in the future, reports AP.

Allrounder Wilson, 19, is in the 13-man New Zealand squad for five one-day internationals against Australia starting on Friday at Cairnsbrook.

Rutherford captained Wilson in the Otago provincial team. "He's been overseas with the New Zealand youth side and is far more prepared for international cricket than I was at the same age," Rutherford said.

"I've no doubt his ability warrants being picked." Rutherford was included in the New Zealand team that toured the West Indies in 1985 when he was only 19.

He scored only 12 runs in seven test innings and took a long time to get over the experience.

"I was probably thrown in at the deep end two or three years before my time, and it's taken me a while to get over that and establish myself at international level," Rutherford said.

"I think Jeff is probably a bit more mature than I was at his age and he's played a lot more cricket at a higher standard than I had to that point."

Nirman semis today

Sports Reporter

A brilliant five-wicket haul by Russel powered Sathkira Govt High School to a convincing 30-run victory against BM High School of Barisal in the quarterfinals of the eleventh Nirman schools cricket championship at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Russel took his five wickets conceding only 12 runs from 4.4 overs as BM School, needing 158 to win, were shot out for 127 in 35.4 overs.

Sathkira School play Narayanganj High School, who trounced Jessore Sammilani Institute by ten wickets in the other quarterfinal match yesterday, in the semifinals today at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

The other semifinal between Khulna Gazi Memorial High School and Rajbari Govt High School will also be held today at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

At the DCS, sent in to bat, Sathkira High School were restricted to 157 for the loss of eight wickets in the stipulated 40 overs with Rana topscoring with 54 from 74 deliveries with the help of half a dozen boundaries.

Russel made 20, skipper Altaf 15 and Sharif 13 while extras contributed a useful 30 to the total.

Siddique and Goutam evenly shared four wickets while Chanu and Rizvi took one each.

In reply, BM High School were skittled out for 127 in 35.4 overs with Faisal making 25 from 24 balls, and Jelin and Reza getting 24 and 19 respectively.

Shahid scored 16 while extras added 22 to the total.

Apart from Russel's five wickets, Shimul, Tapu and Sharif got a wicket each.

Quite expectedly Russel of Sathkira School received the man-of-the-match award for his devastating bowling.

At the DCG, Narayanganj High School swept aside Jessore Sammilani Institute by ten wickets.

Put in to bat, Sammilani Institute were bundled out for

Blown out of proportion!

Sports Reporter

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, Mar 18: Australian fast bowler Marv Hughes said Thursday that he felt his dispute with New Zealand opener Mark Greatbatch in the third Test at Auckland earlier this week had been blown out of proportion, reports AP.

Hughes and Greatbatch exchanged words on a number of occasions on Monday after the left-hander gave New Zealand a flying start in their chase for a victory that squared the series.

The pair brushed past one another at one stage, while Hughes also spat on the pitch in the batsman's direction after Greatbatch had hit a ball from him over long-on for his third boundary.

Match referee Javed Burki of Pakistan declined to take any action but Hughes said he felt the media, television in particular, had overplayed the incident and that the pair still are firm friends.

"It looked worse on the TV than it actually was," he said. "Because of the angle, it looked as if we were very close together and in fact we were about 11-12 yards (metres) away from each other. There was no big deal made by the players, the referee or the umpires, so it couldn't have been that bad."

Hughes abused Greatbatch as he departed and also made an obscene gesture to a section of the crowd.

Australia will open their five-match one-day series against New Zealand in Dunedin on Friday.

Why not soccer? ROME, Mar 18: Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson, banned for life from athletics for drug-taking, said on Wednesday he would like to try playing soccer in Italy, reports Reuter.

"Why not?" he said in an interview with Italian TG5 television, flagship of media magnate and AC Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi.

"I've got a good shot and I control the ball well — I'd like to come to Italy and play for a team."

Krabbe may yet beat the ban

Sports Reporter

BONN, Mar 18: Katrin Krabbe is almost certain to win her appeal against a recent four-year doping ban and could soon be free to run again, reports Reuter.

The double world sprint champion, suspended with teammates Grit Breuer and Manuela Derr last September after testing positive for clenbuterol, is shortly expected to have her penalty reduced by at least two years.

Two German athletics sources, both close to the case, said independently that the maximum ban to be imposed on Krabbe is two years. Further legal problems are expected to lower it further, possibly to

one year. "If I were Krabbe I would start training very seriously again now," said one source, who refused to be identified.

The German Athletics Federation's (DLV's) arbitration panel, which rules on disputes between athletes and the federation, plans to scrap a scheduled hearing and announce a decision in writing in the last week of March.

"Unless both sides ask for a hearing by this Saturday, the matter will be announced in writing," panel president Wolfgang Schoeppe said on Wednesday. "I expect a decision to be announced in the week starting March 27."

Last June, the 1991 world champion won an appeal

against another four-year doping ban on the legal technicality that the DLV had not written a clause in its rules permitting it to ban athletes for positive out-of-competition tests.

Krabbe has used the argument again in her appeal because the DLV did not update its regulations in time for her positive test during training last July.

Informed sources say the DLV has now given up hope of imposing a four-year ban because of this problem and the panel will only consider a suspension on the grounds that the athletes have acted in an "unsportsman like fashion."

Rutherford rates Wilson high

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