



Abahani batsman Akram Khan dives successfully to regain the ground as bowler Prince and non-striker Fairbrother watch with different kind of anxiousness. The pair put on 139 runs in match-winning stand for the fourth wicket in the Abahani innings. Abahani won the crucial Navana Premier encounter against arch-rivals Mohammedans by 17 runs at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Cricket call

Sports Reporter
The cricketers selected primarily for the ICC Trophy, scheduled to be held in Kenya next year, have been asked to report at the Dhaka Stadium at 7 in the morning for practice.

Pak bowlers toil in Karachi

KARACHI, Dec 3: Zimbabwe was set to avoid a follow-on on the third day of the first Test against Pakistan here Friday, reports AFP.

At the close of play Zimbabwe were 179 for four and needed just 44 runs to avoid the follow-on with six wickets in hand.

Pakistan earlier declared their first innings at 423 for eight, just 25 minutes after play started Friday. Rashid Latif was not out on 68, partnered by Tauseef Ahmed on 21.

With a slow wicket the match already seems to be heading for a draw. Pakistan bowlers struggled all day for wickets with captain Waqar Younis taking three of the four wickets.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the first Test between Pakistan and Zimbabwe here on Friday:

PAKISTAN: First Innings
(overnight 388 for eight)

Aamir Sohail b Peall	63
Shoaib Mohammad c	81
Javed Miandad lbw	21
Braves	70
Basil Ali c A Flower b	36
Whittall	4
Asif Mujtaba c	68
Dekker b Brandes	13
Rashid Latif not out	18
Waqar Younis c Peall b	21
Flower	28
Mushtaq Ahmed c A	13
Flower b Peall	18
Tauseef Ahmed not out	21
Extras: (b-15, lb-12, nb-1)	28
Total: (for eight wickets in 155	423
overs)	
Fall of wickets: 1-95; 2-134;	
3-217; 4-268; 5-280; 6-305; 7-	
332; 8-363.	

Bowling:

Brandes	35	4	106	3
Streak	29	6	77	0
Rennie	32	6	90	1
Whittall	12	4	26	1
Peall	41	10	89	2
Flower	6	2	8	1

ZIMBABWE: First Innings

G Flower b Waqar	24
M Dekker lbw b Waqar	5
A Campbell lbw b Mushtaq	53
D Houghton lbw b Waqar	46
A Flower not out	21
G Whittall not out	12
Extras: (b-2, lb-15, w-1)	18
Total: (for four wickets)	179
Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-71;	
3-132; 4-153	
To bat — G Jackson, S Peall,	
J Rennie, H Streak, E Brandes.	

Bowling:

Waqar Younis	21	4	55	3
Ataur Rehman	6	1	16	0
Mushtaq Ahmed	22	7	60	1
Tauseef Ahmed	16	6	29	0
Shoaib Muhammad	1	0	1	0
Aamir Sohail	1	0	1	0

C'ganj soccer

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Dec 3: Nabanun Sangha defeated Naogaon DSA by a solitary goal in the opening match of the first Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup football tournament began here today, reports UNB.

Munir netted the crucial goal in the 18th minute of the second half for the winners.

Eight teams are participating in the tournament. They are: Nabanun Sangha, Naogaon DSA, National Sporting Club, BKSP, Rohanpur, Sirajganj DSA, Khulna Cosmos Club and Narayanganj DSA.

Rohanpur football team will take on Sirajganj DSA tomorrow.

In a thrill-spill run feast at Dhaka Stadium

Abahani pip Mohammedans

Sports Reporter

Surely there would not be another match like it in this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league.

Fate had brought two giants on a collision course; one had to give in to break the impasse and Mohammedan Sporting Club went down fighting by 17 runs against arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra in an entertaining, high scoring, ideal specimen of instant cricket at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

While the match leaves Abahani with optimism and wistfulness about retaining the league title as a rich reward for coming out of the death-throes, it irrevocably signalled the end of the road to championship for Mohammedans, the other most popular club of the country.

The path is not rosy yet for Abahani. If Biman do not indulge into any unexpected drama in their last match against Wari on Sunday, then Abahani who had tasted the first and the only defeat so far, to the airlines team on December 1, will meet their vanquishers in a play-off on a yet unscheduled day to decide this year's championship.

Sparkling sediment of yesterday's match belied the hitherto exaggerated griping about the negative nature of the wicket. A day-long leather hunt that resulted in an aggregate of near five hundred runs left no doubts in the mind about its negation of bowlers but those who know how to play confirmed, runs can be scored and if razor sharp fielding is not backed by intelligent bowling they can be accumulated in gay abandon.

In the end Mohammedans, in an oft repeated demonstration of a reason betraying collapse, lost eight wickets for 76 runs and hugged a defeat they could not fight shy off. To their credit they showed great resilience to make a match after that sense-bumming assault in the slog overs by the Abahani batsmen led by England international Neil Fairbrother.

Athula Samarasekera, the tall Sri Lankan, long out of form, shook off his gremlins finally and led Mohammedans' brave response to a winning target of 241 in 45 overs. Though not at his murderous best, Samarasekera with the spruce and sound Sajjad Mansur Shipon put 65 runs in 13.2 overs, going part passu all the way with an asking rate of over five runs per over.

If the Sri Lankan Test discard looked like a bronco buster, a young often unjustly criticised Shipon was all elegance. His two shots, a beautifully executed on-drive off Khairuzzaman Babu and a disdainful flick off the pads against Saiful, proved beyond doubt that he is an investment for the future. Even in the morning when Mohammedans were fielding, his getting under the ball to hold a skier from Abahani opener Harunur Rashid Liton reflected a calm grace rarely seen in the chaotic confusion of one-day cricket.

It was probably to free himself from the psychological pressure applied by Abahani's Minhazul Abedin Nannu and Nasir Ahmed Nasu that he tried to hit his way out and Gazi Ashraf Lipu, one of Abahani's heroes and a real leader, took him quite brilliantly at short midwicket.

Former national captain Nannu, earlier, made an unseemly fuss over an appeal for a caught behind and given the near-knuckie combative zeal of Nannu there are reasons to be-

lieve that Tanjeeb Ahsan Saad, a former national cricketer now playing the role of an umpire quite competently, was right in turning down two appeals against Shipon.

Selim Shahed kept up the good work with his unhurried correct approach but lost balance while lunging forward to a Nannu delivery and wicket-keeper Nasu, who had a thoroughly uninspiring day from Abahani's point of view, whipped the balls off to mark an end of a well-compiled innings of 47 off 76 balls.

The breakthrough proved vital as Samarasekera swung wildly at Lipu and Fairbrother arrested it with expected agility at square leg to send Mohammedans' biggest hope on his way. Samarasekera scored 78 runs off 79 balls with the help of seven powerful boundaries.

His departure heralded a slump from which Mohammedans never recovered and the disintegration was hastened by skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul, whose 28 off 34 balls, embellished with a with-the-spin heaved sixer, came of no use.

It was a bad day for this young loved cricketer. He lost the toss, dropped Fairbrother before that decisive slog was on and ran out Athar Ali Khan and Shri Lankan Ashoka de Silva through fidgety and nervous at titude, unbecoming of a national player like him.

But the man, who would like to forget the match as quickly as possible, in Ashoka de Silva. Not only he got out cheaply, he fielded like a zombie, had catches floored off him and gave away 24 runs in the last over of Abahani's innings.

Neil Fairbrother, who, through a Kafkaesque trans-formation knocked daylight out of the Mohammedan bowlers, clobbered a sixer and two fours before being stumped for a hurried 90 off 86 balls. In came the lean and hungry looking Saiful and got ten runs

Australia to tour Pakistan next September

KARACHI, Dec 3: Australia will tour Pakistan for a three-Test series next September and also play in a triangular one-day series after the tour, the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) Shahid Rafi said on Friday, reports Reuter.

South Africa will also take part in the triangular series, Rafi told reporters.

Rafi also said the BCCP will discuss the hosting of the 1995 World Cup and recent allegations of ball tampering with International Cricket Council chief executive David Richards.

BANEX Open results

Nine matches were played on the second day of the BANEX Bangladesh Open squash tournament at Dhaka Club Squash Complex yesterday, reports UNB.

The results were as follows: Karim trounced Shahid 9-0; 9-0; Malcolm Fry beat Faisal 9-7; 9-2; Rashed Chowdhury defeated Samad 9-3; 9-2 and Badal overpowered Alam 9-1; 9-3. Rajun, Borun, T Madar, Ratun and Tasvirul got walkovers in their respective games.

Windies 93 for 1 against Lankan President's XI

GALLE, Sri Lanka, Dec 3: Indifferent bowling by the Sri Lankan Board President's XI enable West Indies to reach 93 for one on a restricted first day's play in their three-day match on Friday, reports Reuter.

Carl Hooper entertained the spectators, who had waited patiently for the action to begin until the afternoon, with a superb half-century, reaching it with an on-driven six off leg-spinner Upul Chandana shortly before the close.

At the close, Hooper had scored 53 from 75 balls with two sixes and five fours. He had a let-off at 30 when the usually reliable Marvan Afapattu dropped him at deep extra cover off left-arm spinner Piyal Wijetunga.

Phil Simmons was unbeaten on 30 with a six and a four off 85 balls and with Hooper put on an unfinished stand of 79 for the second wicket.

West Indies vice-captain Desmond Haynes, who led the side in the absence of Richie Richardson, was the only batsman dismissed during the session.

Haynes, needing a big score before Wednesday's one-off Test against Sri Lanka, slashed at a ball from left-arm fast-medium bowler Chaminda Vaas and was caught on the second attempt by Hemantha Wickremaratne at gully for 10.

Vaas, a 19-year-old fast bowler, was the most impressive of the six bowlers used by skipper Ramesh Ratnayake, finishing the day with figures of 9-4-10-1.

Play did not start until after tea because of a soggy pitch following recent rain.

Dates of Asian Winter Games

KUWAIT, Dec 3: The 1996 Asian Winter Games will be held in Harbin, China and the 1993 Winter Games in Yong Pyeong, South Korea, Asia's top Olympics body announced on Thursday, reports Reuter.

There will be no 1994 Winter Games because of lack of organising time after North Korea, scheduled to stage the event, pulled out, the 42-country Olympic Council of Asia decided at a meeting.

The council agreed to change the cycle of the Asian Winter Games, so as not to clash with the Winter Olympics.

South Korea and China, which had been competing to hold the 1996 Winter Games, agreed a compromise in private talks on Wednesday giving South Korea the 1999 event, delegates said.

The following Winter Games will be held in 2003, restoring the four-yearly interval between events, they said.

London's bid for 2002 C'wealth Games

LONDON, Dec 3: London announced a surprise bid to stage the 2002 Commonwealth Games on Thursday, and will battle with Manchester and possibly Sheffield for the right to bring the event back to England for the first time since 1934, reports Reuter.

Both London and Manchester lodged their bids with the Commonwealth Games Council for England on Thursday, but while Manchester's bid was expected, London's came as a surprise.

With Sheffield still pondering a bid, it is possible that England could be involved in an insular three-horse race to stage the Games.

Melbourne in Australia was the only other city to have "made enquiries," about staging the event in nine years time, according to a Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) spokesman.

Manchester, seeking a consolation for missing out on the 2000 Olympics, start as favourite to win the nomination to bring the Games back to England after a 68-year gap.

The host city will be announced at the CGF general assembly in Bermuda in November 1993.

Cash returns

ADELAIDE, Dec 3: Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash will end a year-long break from competition with an appearance at next week's South Australian grass-court tennis championships, reports AP.

Organisers said Thursday that Cash would play doubles in the event with David Adams, and had chosen the Adelaide tournament because he wanted to launch his comeback on grass.

Cash returned to Melbourne recently after spending most of 1993 based in London where he trained under the guidance of advisor Anne Quinn.

McDermott, Warne share spoils as Kiwis throw away initiative

BRISBANE, Dec 3: New Zealand's cricketers failed to make amends for a disastrous performance in the second Test, coming up empty on the opening day of the third encounter Friday with Australia at the Gabba, reports AP.

Just four days after their worst defeat in Test history — the second Test at Hobart — the tourists were again a class below Australia.

New Zealand's fragile middle-order was its undoing and the visitors finished the day at 208-9, wasting promising positions at 96-1 and 167-3. Andrew Jones top-scored with 56 but neither he nor Bryan Young (38), Ken Rutherford (36) nor Mark Greatbatch (35) could push on to a worthwhile score after making a solid start.

Acting captain Rutherford labelled the crushing innings and 222-run loss in Hobart as "no better than club cricket" and said New Zealand must improve or fear being considered a second-rate cricket power.

Spinner Shane Warne played his usual role in New Zealand's plight, finishing the day with 3-66 from 28 overs, while fast bowler Craig McDermott bowled superbly for 4-24 from 19 overs at his home ground.

McDermott grabbed a wicket in his third over and then returned after tea to grab two wickets in the space of six balls when New Zealand threatened a revival.

"It was a very good day for us after they made a reasonable

start," McDermott said. "We did a good job all day and we're now in a position to really take a hold on the game."

The Australians backed their bowlers with sharp work and wicketkeeper Ian Healy's five catches lifted him to 191 dismissals, taking him past another former Queensland state Test keeper in Wally Grout to second on the all-time Australian list.

New Zealand need to win this Test to retain the Trans-Tasman trophy and Rutherford decided to bat in the hope his side could put a stamp on the match. The teams played to a draw in the first Test at Perth.

McDermott guaranteed the worst possible start by having Blair Pocock caught behind by Healy in the fifth over for a duck, leaving the total 1-2.

Pocock has been a major stumbling block in this series and Healy did well to come forward and take a low catch, bringing him level with Grout's tally of 187 dismissals.

Young and Jones dug in for New Zealand's best stand of the day, adding 94 in 160 minutes for the second wicket.

Young had scored four ducks in eight knocks on tour before this match but gradually came out of his shell after waiting more than an hour to reach double figures. Warne split the stand with a superb example of the slow bowler's art, pushing Jones back twice and then bowling him with a skidding flipper for 56.

In the next over from Mark Waugh, Young tried a rash

hook and skied a catch to Healy, leaving the total 98-3 and the New Zealanders slipping below water.

Rutherford and Greatbatch's burgeooning stand of 69 for the fourth wicket ended at 167 and the departure of one batsman prompted a second fatal collapse to sink the innings.

Rutherford and Greatbatch went in consecutive overs from McDermott and began a tumble that saw the visitors lose 11-5 in 14.4 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the New Zealand first innings at close of the opening day's play in the third and final Test against Australia here today.

NEW ZEALAND: 1st Innings:

Pocock c Healy b McDermott	0
Young c Healy b M Waugh	38
Jones b Warne	56
Rutherford c Boon b McDermott	36
Greatbatch c Healy b McDermott	35
Patel c Boon b May	1
Cairns c and b Warne	5
Blain not out	20
Morrison c Healy b Warne	0
Doull c Healy b McDermott	10
De Groot not out	1
Extras: (b-2, nb-1, lb-3)	6
Total: (9 wkts)	208
Fall of wickets: 1-2; 2-96; 3-98; 4-167; 5-170; 6-174; 7-174; 8-178; 9-193.	

Bowling:

McDermott	19	10	24	4
McGrath	16	5	35	0
S Waugh	3	0	13	0
M Waugh	10	4	14	1
May	21	7	51	1
Warne	28	12	66	3

Cronje to teach Warne a lesson

MELBOURNE, Dec 3: South African vice-captain Hansie Cronje said Friday he will confront Australia's star spin bowler Shane Warne head-on in the forthcoming Test cricket series, reports AP.

On the eve of South Africa's four-day game against Victoria state at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Cronje said the South African top order had learned to counter leg-spin bowling in recent Tests against India and Sri Lanka.

"I'm sure playing against Mushtaq Ahmed and couple of the Sri Lankan guys will prepare us well, we've seen a few of them," Cronje said.

He has never faced Warne but was impressed by what he saw on television Friday in Australia's third Test against New Zealand in Brisbane.

"This guy seems to be a little bit better than most but I'm sure we won't be too negative," said Cronje, who top-scored with 60 against the Prime Minister's XI on Thursday in a losing South African cause.

He said South African batsmen would be prepared for Australia to introduce either Warne or off-spinner Tim May early into the attack on the spin-friendly wickets of the Melbourne ground — beginning

Dec 26 — and at the Sydney Cricket Ground in the second Test beginning Jan 2.

"What was good about going to Sri Lanka and India was that most of the first-change bowlers were spin bowlers," Cronje said.

The right-hander is the heir apparent to 36-year-old skipper Kepler Wessels, but prefers not to speculate on his future as a leader.

This year he has muscled out Peter Kirsten as South Africa's No 3 batsman after scoring centuries in both of his country's series-deciding Test victories — 135 against India in Port Elizabeth and 122 against Sri Lanka in Colombo.

Cronje's free-scoring style has made him a crowd favourite

back home and he hopes to display much of the same stroke play during this tour.

"You've got to keep the crowds entertained, not by being stupid and silly but through good cricket," he said.

At least six South Africans — Cronje excluded — are suffering a stomach virus picked up in India before the Australian Tour, while several key players are yet to arrive from South Africa.

Stylish Daryll Cullinan has already been ruled out of the Victorian match because of the virus while opener Andrew Hudson and fast bowler Richard Snell are also doubtful.

Cronje's free-scoring style has made him a crowd favourite

RU football

RAHSHAHI, Dec 3: Department of Law clinched the title of Rajshahi University inter-department football competition on Wednesday defeating (1-0) Management Department at Rajshahi Stadium, reports UNB.

Monir scored the solitary goal for the winners in 17th minute of the first half. He was adjudged as the best player of the tournament. Department of Islamic History won the fair play trophy.



In observance of the World Disabled Day the annual sports competition of the Kalyani Shikshalay was held at the Isphani Colony ground under the auspicious of the Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation yesterday. Photos (clockwise): (a) poet Begum Sufia Kamal inaugurating the daylong event. Beside her is Professor Sultana Srwat Ara Zaman, director of the Education and Research Institute, DU (b) retarded child examining State Minister Sadek Hossain, (c) a march past by the participants, (d) a mother helping a child put a ball into a basket and (e) children trying to peel nuts as fast as they can.