

Rashid steers Kalabagan clear

Kaiser Rashid once again blazed with the willow to steer Kalabagan clear of relegation fear as the Pakistani allrounder scored a magnificent 93 to engineer a narrow 11-run victory over Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club in one of the last two matches of this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league at the Mirpur Pallabi cricket ground yesterday.

The win, Kalabagan's fourth off eleven matches, means Dhanmondi Club will join Uddity in next year's Milnars First Division league.

Kalabagan, desperately in need of a victory to ensure their place in the top tier for at least another year, started miserably, first losing the toss and then the first wicket with only four on the board.

However, Rashid, who has proved his batting prowess some fine knocks in his side's previous matches, did not lose his cool. Playing with a blend of caution and aggression, the Pakistani allrounder held one end up till the penultimate over to help Kalabagan reach an impressive total.

When his 118-ball stay at the crease, punctuated with four fours and three sixes, ended Kalabagan were 188 for seven, not quite a bad score under the circumstances.

After Rashid's departure, the last three wickets fell in the space of nine balls and in that space 13 valuable runs were added to the score. At the end, Kalabagan total read 201.

Raman Lamba, skipping GMCC this year, gave away 15 runs in his two overs but claimed four wickets, including that of the redoubtable Pakistani.

Needing 202 in 45 overs to win, GMCC were given a flying start by their opening pair of R P Singh and Javed Omar Belim Golla as they gathered 70 runs in only 16.3 overs. However, the middle and lower order batsmen couldn't quite keep up the momentum as the GMCC innings folded at 196 with five balls to spare.

Singh topscored with 45 while Anis made stormy 40-ball 43 with the help of five fours and a sixer. Golla and Selim contributed 32 and 30 respectively.

Gamagee, Pappu and Kaiser Rashid dismissed two GMCC batsmen each.

In the other match of the day, Wari Club beat Gulshan Youth by five wickets in a low-scoring encounter at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Sent in to bat first, Gulshan Youth were bundled out for 96 with Rafiq making 37. Sohei was the only other batsman to make a double digit score.

Salhuddin took four wickets for seven in nine overs and his new ball partner Sharat gave away eight runs in his nine overs for two wickets. Both of them had five maiden overs each to their name.

In reply, Wari lost five of their batsmen and needed 36.3 overs to reach 96.

Mukul and Halm Shah contributed 24 and 20 respectively while three other batsmen had double digit scores.

DU cricket

An all-round performance by Shafiq helped the department of Zoology trounce the Department of Geology in the Dhaka University inter-department cricket at the Jagannath Hall Cricket Ground yesterday.

Geology batted first and were all out for 124 with Morshed scoring 52 and Kamal 28.

Shafiq took four for 20 and Sharan claimed three for 24 respectively for Zoology.

Zoology in reply scored 125 for five.

Shafiq made 44 while Peter remained not out on 36.

Tipu captured two wickets giving away 27 runs while Epoch and Lipu captured one each for Geology.

Div II soccer

Avijatrik Malibagh earned two full points in the Sonali Bank Second Division football league when they beat Lalmita Club 1-0 at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Babu scored the lone goal.

In another match Police AC drew 0-0 with BJMC at the same venue.

Div III soccer

Fire Service and BG Press won their respective Pragati Insurance Third Division football league matches at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Hossain, Faruque and Rafique scored once each to Fire Service in a 3-0 win over Dhaka Sporting Club.

BG Press edged past Chajantika KC 1-0 in another encounter.

Habib scored the decider.

BSJA meets today

The annual general meeting of the Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) will be held at 11 am today at its office premises, reports UNB.



South African batsman Hansie Cronje sweeps the ball to the boundary during his matchwinning innings of 91 not out against Australia in the first of the World Series one-day international in Melbourne yesterday.

Cronje leads run charge as

South Africa coast home

MELBOURNE, Dec 9: Hansie Cronje scored a career-best limited-overs 91 not out Thursday night to guide South Africa to an emphatic seven-wicket victory over Australia in the opening match of the World Series cricket tournament, reports AP.

Vice-captain Cronje shared a 140-run partnership with captain Kepler Wessels as South Africa scored 190 for three in reply to Australia's 189 all out.

Cronje also took two wickets for 42 in a man-of-the-match performance.

"We needed that. We've had a difficult 10 days and we needed something to boost us," said Wessels, whose team had lost its first two matches in Australia and also lost all-rounder Brian McMillan with a knee injury.

"Hansie played superbly. He batted through which is what he had to do," Wessels said. The captain scored 70 to brilliantly support the more aggressive Cronje.

Cronje and Jonny Rhodes, who was unbeaten on 20, steered South Africa home with eight balls to spare, disappointing a crowd of 58,030 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Australia had to include legspinner Shane Warne in its team after Tim May suffered a minor injury during practice, but Warne took only one wicket and was surprisingly ineffective.

Australian captain Allan Border had not wanted Warne to play against the South Africans until the first Test, which begins Dec 26 in Melbourne.

Two brilliant pieces of fielding by Rhodes helped South Africa restrict Australia to 189 in 45.5 overs — 25 balls short of the allotted 50 overs — after they won the toss and elected to bat.

"Jonny saves so many runs for us. He has to be one of the best fielders in the world," Wessels said.

David Boon (1) and Steve Waugh (33) both were run out by Rhodes when Australia appeared to be taking command.

The home team had scored at a rate of more than five runs an over to be 105 without loss before Michael Slater fell.

Slater, who made a cavalier 73 off 69 balls, was the mainstay of the Australian innings before he was brilliantly caught and bowled by off-spinner Pat Symcox.

One run later, Rhodes stamped his mark on the game.

Boon was responding to a sharp single when Rhodes ran in from cover, and in a diving motion scooped the ball to hit the stumps side-on.

Australia's run surge then came to an abrupt halt after Mark Taylor (30) played on to his stumps off the bowling of Cronje in the 22nd over.

Australia had lost three wickets for one run in the space of two overs to be 106 for three.

Symcox (one for 40) and Cronje were instrumental in stifling the run flow.

Slater clubbed a six and eight fours in his 125-minute stint, but lacked support.

Only two other batsmen: Taylor and Steve Waugh, managed to score boundaries.

Waugh looked set to guide the Australia past the 200 mark when Rhodes made him pay for backing up too far when the score was 166.

His second direct throw at the stumps had Waugh shaking his head in disbelief as he returned to the pavilion.

South African paceman Fanie de Villiers removed Australian tailenders Craig McDermott and Glenn McGrath with successive balls.

"They played very well, but I was very disappointed with our middle-order," said Australian captain Allan Border. "To lose ten wickets for 88 runs was ridiculous."

South Africa next plays New Zealand in Adelaide on Saturday, while Australia will play New Zealand at the same venue on Sunday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in Thursday's World series limited-overs cricket match between Australia and South Africa at the Melbourne Cricket Ground:

AUSTRALIA:

Taylor b Cronje	30
Slater c and b Symcox	73
Boon run out	1
M Waugh c Symcox b Cronje	8
S Waugh run out	33
Border b Snell	11
Healy not out	21
Warne run out	3
Reiffel lbw de Villiers	0
McDermott c Richardson b de Villiers	5
McGrath b de Villiers	0
Extras (lb-2, w-2)	189
Total (45.5 overs)	189

Fall of wickets: 1-105; 2-106; 3-106; 4-119; 5-151; 6-166; 7-180; 8-181; 9-189; 10-189.

Bowling:

Donald	10	1	32	0
Fanie de Villiers	7.5	0	30	3
Snell	8	0	43	1
Cronje	10	0	42	2
Symcox	10	0	40	1

SOUTH AFRICA:

Hudson c Taylor b McDermott	4
Wessels b McDermott	70
Cronje not out	91
Cullinan b Warne	0
Rhodes not out	20
Extras (lb-2, w-1, nb-2)	190
Total (48.4 overs for 3)	190

Fall of wickets: 4, 144, 149.

Bowling:

McDermott	0	1	31	2
Glenn McGrath	8.4	1	28	0
Reiffel	4	0	19	0
Steve Waugh	10	0	37	0
Border	3	0	15	0
Warne	10	0	43	1
Mark Waugh	3	0	15	0

RESULT: South Africa won by seven wickets.

Man-of-the-Match: Hansie Cronje (South Africa)

prizes — in sport.

However, the tournament does not seem to provide the same competitive edge as others on the tour.

Even the reserves who do not hit a ball in anger get 50,000 dollars just for showing up.

Sampras won the inaugural event there in 1990 and has altogether amassed 2.45 million dollars from a total of two previous appearances.

"I have played more golf in the last couple of weeks than I have tennis," he said after demolishing Muster. "I was a bit surprised how well I played today considering I practised only two or three hours in the last couple of weeks."

Stich, who led Germany to victory in the Davis Cup final over Australia on a slow clay court three days ago, quickly adapted his game to the fast carpeted surface against Washington.

Afterwards he said: "I went out today and really enjoyed it. I did not think about motivation. I have just come here to enjoy myself and have fun."

"I could have done with a week off but I suppose this is active recreation."

Chang came back from 4-1 down in the deciding set to beat Masur in two hours and 21 minutes.

In the final first round match of the day New Zealander Brett Steven beat Cedric Pioline of France 6-4, 7-6 to earn almost as much money from one match as he has pocketed all year.

He will play Stich in the quarterfinals today while Stefan Edberg will meet South African Wayne Ferreira, Boris Becker's first round conqueror.

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Sampras, Stich sail into qtrs

MUNICH, Germany, Dec 9: Pete Sampras and Michael Stich, the world's top two players, could have been given for humming the hit "Money for Nothing" as they completed one sided victories in the lucrative Grand Slam Cup on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Sampras, the world number one, needed just an hour to beat Austrian Thomas Muster 6-3, 6-1 while Stich beat American Malivali Washington by the same score.

In their first round action American Michale Chang, who has made more than one third of his total career prize money in three previous appearances here, boosted his remarkable earnings from Munich with a 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 win over Australian Wally Masur.

They play an anthem when the players walk on court before their matches here — but "Money for Nothing" by Dire Straits would have been more appropriate for both Sampras and Stich.

The Grand Slam Cup pays out 6 million dollars in prize money and provides rich and relatively easy pickings for the players who qualify to take part by virtue of good performances in the four majors — the US, French and Australian Opens and Wimbledon.

Only the final is played over five sets. The remainder are on a best-of-three basis and Stich and Sampras are guaranteed 262,500 dollars just for reaching the quarterfinals.

There are extra 250,000 dollars bonuses paid to players

who have won a Grand Slam and compete in the tournament.

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Experience, youth combine

NEW YORK, Dec 9: World number three Jim Courier and Davis Cup newcomer Todd Martin will represent the United States in the first round tie against India next March, the United States Tennis Association announced on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Wimbledon runner-up Courier and rising star Martin, who finished the year ranked 13th, will play singles for the United States on grass in New Delhi.

Patrick McEnroe and Richey Renebery were selected to play doubles in the first visit to India by a US Davis Cup team since 1963, the USTA announced.

The March 25-27 tie will also mark the debut of US Davis Cup captain Tom Gullickson, successor to Tom Gorman who stepped down after eight years at the post.

"We have two experienced grass court singles players and a solid doubles pair. This is a winning team," Gullickson said.

Wimbledon champion and world number one Pete Sampras opted to pass up the grueling trip to India, opening the door for Martin, who is considered a better grass court player than eighth-ranked Michael Chang.

Courier will play his first Davis Cup match since clinching victory for the United States in the 1992 final against Switzerland.

Indian contingent arrives Dec 18

NEW DELHI, Dec 9: The Amateur Athletic Federation of India (AAFI) yesterday released a list of 59 athletes and 17 officials selected to represent India in the South Asia Federation (SAF) Games, scheduled to be held at Dhaka from December 20 to 27, reports PTI.

Prominent among the selected athletes are Bahadur Prasad, Ajit Bhaduria, Moly Chacko and K Saramma — all individual medal winners in the recently concluded tenth Asian Track and Field meet at Manila.

Sylvania Pais, Shiny Wilson, HG Apsara, Rachita Panda, Beena Augustine and EB Shyla — members of the medal winning relay teams are also there in the list.

Meanwhile BSS adds: the Indian contingent will arrive in Dhaka on December 18 according to a message received here last night.

India will take part in all eleven disciplines of the Games.

together taking the Pakistan total close to 100, against the bowling of Eddo Brandes and Guy Whittall.

The Zimbabwe skipper reintroduced Brian and Streak into the attack, which paid off.

Miandad was bowled by Streak with his individual tally on 20, while Inzamam followed in the next over, yanked by Brain at 38.

Basil Ali, starting his innings with a few consecutive fours, was caught by Streak when he tried to hit a Brandes' bouncer to the boundary.

At close of play, Asif Mujtaba was batting on 25 and Rashid Latif on 32 with the hosts total at 185 for five.

Taufeeq Ahmed and Mushtaq Ahmed, who were in the Pakistan team in the first Test were replaced.

Akram brought in pace bowler Ashfaq Ahmed to make his Test debut.

Play resumes on Friday at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, where the only other Test in the past was between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in 1992.

BANEX Open results

Top seed Bhola Lal Chauhan and second seed Sohail Hamid moved into the final in the men's group of BANEX Bangladesh Open squash tournament, reports UNB.

Bhola beat Ram Jagadish in the first semifinal while Sohail Hamid defeated Moti Lal in the second one at the Dhaka Club Squash Complex yesterday.

In the veteran section, Harry Potter and Malcolm Fry advanced to the final, defeating MT Madar and Mathews respectively in the semifinal.

Both the finals will be held today. Industries Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan is expected to be the chief guest on the occasion.

Krabbe to fight on

LAUSANNE, Dec 9: The case of banned former world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe will shortly go to arbitration, an International Olympic Committee official said here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

German Krabbe, suspended for two years by the world governing body (IAAF) for drug abuse, has given her consent for use of the sport arbitration service (TAS).

Laudrup orchestrates Barcelona win

PARIS, Dec 9: Danish international Michael Laudrup proved the inspiration as Barcelona scored a 2-0 home victory over Monaco to go top of Group A in the Champions Cup on Wednesday, reports AFP.

And Kiwi striker Wynton Rufer led a miracle comeback by Werder Bremen who scored a thrilling 5-3 win over Anderlecht after being three goals down in Group B.

Even without Brazilian striker Romario, who injured his ankle in training on Tuesday, Johan Cruyff's men turned out an impressive performance in their Camp Nou Stadium Wednesday night.

In an excellent game of quality fast-moving football, the Catalan club clinched their win with two goals from Aitor Berguistin — both made by Laudrup.

The final score could have been 3-0 but Veteran Monaco goalkeeper Jean Luc Ettori saved a last-minute penalty taken by Ronald Koeman.

Werder Bremen scored all of their goals in the last 24 minutes of their home match against Anderlecht playing in lashing rain.

The Belgians, who had twenty supporters arrested before the match after scuffles in the town, took the initiative when Phillippe Albert blasted home after 16 minutes after Oliver Reck's attempt to punch away a cross failed.

Danny Boffin fired past Reck two minutes later for the second and Albert's second in the 33rd minute, a superb 30-metre lob, seemed to have wrapped up the match.

But the German surged back.

Refer's first goal in the 66th minute began the fightback and sweeper Uwe Bratseth closed the gap by heading home in the 72nd minute.

Bremen took total control in the final ten minutes, Bernd Hobsch heading the equaliser, Marco Bode hitting what looked like the winner and Rufer making sure with seconds to go.

Spartak Moscow, down to nine men for nearly half the match after first Mamedov and then Onopko were sent off, fought out a heroic 0-0 home draw with Galatasaray in the other Champions League Group A clash.

However, the Turks were also reduced to ten men for the last fifteen minutes when Dutch referee John Blankenstein ordered off Mustafa. He booked three other Galatasaray players for good measure.

Spartak made a flying start, their early free kick putting Demirbas Hayrettin in all sorts

Shri Lanka in dire straits

MORATUWA, Sri Lanka, Dec 9: Shri Lanka were precariously placed on 66 for three at the close of play on the first day of the one off Test against the West Indies here Thursday, reports AFP.

Shri Lanka's most experienced batsmen, Aravinda de Silva and captain Arjuna Ranatunga, were battling to keep alive the home team's hopes, making a big first innings score in the firstever Test against the West Indies.

Although half a day's play was lost to a delayed start—due to a sodden outfield—the West Indies quickly made up for lost time by grabbing three wickets in the last session of the day.

But de Silva, unbeaten on 29 and Ranatunga, six not out, negotiated the bowling on a placid wicket, to see the home team end the day without any further loss.

Electing to bat after winning the toss, Shri Lanka's woes came from an unlikely source—

with the West Indian off spinners causing problems.

But it was paceman Winston Benjamin who made the initial breakthrough when he had Roshan Mahanama caught behind by wicketkeeper Junior Murray with the score on 18.

Two runs later, left hander Hashan Tillekratne, was out for a duck, offering a simple catch to lone slip fielder Brian Lara off the bowling of spinner Roger Harper.

The home team's most explosive batsman de Silva stayed true to form when he opened his account by beating Harper over long on for a six.

De Silva and opener Dulip Samaraweera added a further 37 runs before Samaraweera was out caught bat and pad at backward short leg by Harper, to give Hooper his first wicket.

The 21-year-old Samaraweera, making his Test debut, batted with determination for his 16 runs, made in 110 balls.

With acting skipper Desmond Haynes, standing in for an indisposed Richie Richardson, electing to use his spinners, Shri Lankan veterans

de Silva and Ranatunga had few problems in holding out till the close.

The pick of the West Indian bowlers was Harper with one for 24 off 18 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the inaugural cricket Test between Shri Lanka and West Indies on Thursday:

SHRI LANKA:

Mahanama c Murray b Harper	11
Benjamin	11
Samaraweera c Harper b Hooper	16
Tillekeratne c Lara b Harper	0
De Silva not out	29
Ranatunga not out	6
Extras (lb-2, nb-2)	4
Total (for 3 wickets)	66

Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-30, 3-57.

To bat: Jayasuriya, Kalpage, Dassanayake, Wickremasinghe, Anurasi, Muralidharan.

Bowling

O	M	R	W
Ambrose	6	5	2
Walsh	9	3	0
Harper	18	10	2
Hooper	8	3	1
Benjamin	6	4	1
Arthurton	1	1	0

Flower's decision pays off

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Dec 9: Zimbabwe restricted Pakistan to 185 for five in the first innings on the first day of their second Test here Thursday, reports AFP.

Pakistan, led by Wasim Akram who missed the first Test at Karachi because of injury, were put into bat by Zimbabwe captain Andy Flower after winning the toss.

Dave Brian struck an early blow when he trapped Shoab Mohammad lbw at 18, with Pakistan on 29 in the 56th minute after the start.

Only four runs later, Heath Streak sent back the other Pakistan opener Amir Sohail who was caught by Dave Houghton, with eight runs to his credit.

At lunch Pakistan were 61 for two, with Zimbabwe, who lost the first Test by 131 runs, threatening to run through the home side.

After the resumption, Inzamamul Haq and Javed Miandad faced up to the challenge,

together taking the Pakistan total close to 100, against the bowling of Eddo Brandes and Guy Whittall.

The Zimbabwe skipper reintroduced Brian and Streak into the attack, which paid off.

Miandad was bowled by Streak with his individual tally on 20, while Inzamam followed in the next over, yanked by Brain at 38.

Basil Ali, starting his innings with a few consecutive fours, was caught by Streak when he tried to hit a Brandes' bouncer to the boundary.

At close of play, Asif Mujtaba was batting on 25 and Rashid Latif on 32 with the hosts total at 185 for five.

Taufeeq Ahmed and Mushtaq Ahmed, who were in the Pakistan team in the first Test were replaced.

Akram brought in pace bowler Ashfaq Ahmed to make his Test debut.

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SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the second Test between Pakistan and Zimbabwe on Thursday:

PAKISTAN first innings:

Aamir Sohail c Houghton b Streak	8
Shoab Mohammad lbw by Brain	18
Inzamam-ul Haq b Brain	38
Javed Miandad b Streak	20
Basil Ali c Streak b Brandes	25
Asif Mujtaba not out	25
Rashid Latif not out	32
Extras (b-4, lb-11, nb-3, w-1)	19
Total (For 5 wickets, 75 overs)	185

Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-33, 3-99, 4-101, 5-131.

Bowling

O	M	R	W
Brandes	21	2	5
Brain	21	4	3
Streak	15	4	2
Whittall	12	5	0
Peall	6	3	0

To bat: Akram (Capt), Younis, Rehman, Ashfaq Ahmed.

frequently left them exposed at the back to a Danish counterattack.

The 60th minute summed up the half, with Gerhard Poschner being denied Borussia's second goal by the post, and then Brondby just mission an equaliser on the break.

Inter's Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp, the man whose goals put England out of the World Cup, destroyed a brave attempt by Norwich to pull back at 1-0 first leg deficit.

Bergkamp, who scored from the penalty spot in Norwich, killed off English interest in the competition with a breakaway goal two minutes from the end of a match which Norwich had dominated.

It was a typical piece of opportunism from the Dutchman, who scored in both Holland's qualifiers against England.

Skipping Mark Bowen's tackle, he moved in on goal and curled a right-foot shot past Bryan Gunn and into the corner.

LEAGUE TABLE

European Champions League tables after Wednesday's results (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Group A

Barcelona	2	1	1	0	2	0	3
Monaco	2	1	0	1	4	3	2
Galatasaray	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Spartak Moscow	2	0	1	1	1	4	2

Group B

AC Milan	2	1	1	0	3	0	3
Werder	2	1	0	1	3	5	2
Bremen	2	1	0	1	7	6	2
FC Porto	2	1	0	1	3	5	2
Anderlecht	2	0	1	1	3	5	1



Galatasaray's Suat Kaya (in white) powers his way through two Spartak Moscow defenders during their European Champions Cup match in Moscow on Dec 8.