

Sport

Spread Eagles' sensational win

Sports Reporter

Spread Eagles registered a thrilling one-run win against Lalbagh in one of the two matches of Second Division cricket league played on the western strip of the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

On a day marked by plenty of excitement and entertainment, Spread Eagles, a local outfit of Dhamondi, escaped defeat by the skin of their teeth as Lalbagh, chasing 162 for an outright win, gave up finally with the scoreboard showing 160 for nine at the end of the 40 overs.

Sanjay of Spread Eagles captured three wickets for 38 runs to stop Lalbagh, who looked poised for a win with useful contributions from Shakil, Mamun and Anwar.

Shakil topscored in the Lalbagh innings with 45 followed by Mamun and Anwar who made 40 and 25 respectively.

Earlier, skipper Shibli scored 48, to help Spread Eagles reach 161 for nine in their quota 40 overs.

Madan tailed his captain with 30 while Ripon and Reza chipped in with 19 and 13 not out respectively to give Spread Eagles a fighting total.

Lalbagh's Shaheen returned rich figures of four for 25. Mamun took another two for 22.

TUSHAR'S TON

Progoti Sangha's Tushar had the distinction of being the first century-maker in this year's league as his side, powered by his three-figure knock, outclassed United Heroes by 185 runs in the day's other encounter at the Dhamondi Club ground.

Heroes, who were on the run throughout the day, showed some heroism in seeing themselves through the ordeal which was anything but enjoyable.

While Tushar, who made 103 with the help of 15 fours, swung away lustily at everything the antithesis could manage in a slap-stick comedy of cricket, the eventual losers gave away 53 extras to Progoti's mammoth total of 281 for five wickets from 40 overs.

Almost everyone who, appeared for Progoti with the willow, met with success of varying degrees.

Sujay made 34, Piku another 24 while Morshed and Rafiq contributed 23 each.

Beleaguered, bewildered United Heroes were all out for 96 in 24.2 overs in their turn.

Farhan, Sayeed and Imtiaz stood amid the ruins with 25, 21 and 13 respectively.

Progoti's Ruhel was spread panic among the Heroes with figures of four for 21. Rafiq supported him with two for 31.

National sub-junior chess results

Sports Reporter

Fifteen players led the points table at the end of the second day of the 14th sub-junior national chess championship at the chess room of the National Sports Council.

Rakib, Monowar, Tipu, Imron, Shakeel, Rajeeb, Bobby, Sifat, Prince, Arif, Shifur, Debraj, Romance, Moti and Rahil all got two points to ensure a cavalcade of leaders.

Mainul and Jamal got one and a half points each to cling to the second position.

Yesterday in the second round of the inchoate meet, Rakib, Arif, Monowar, Tipu, Imron, Shakeel, Rajeeb, Bobby, Sifat, Prince, Arif, Shifur, Debraj, Romance, Moti and Rahil all got two points to ensure a cavalcade of leaders.

With the sub-junior competition just two days old, the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) yesterday announced the dates for the 15th national junior championship.

Unlike the ongoing competition, which is for the under-16 players, the age limit for the national junior championship scheduled to start from January 12, is 20.

Interested players have been requested to complete the entry formalities at any time between 3 to 8 everyday upto January 11.

One more for J-League

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 4: Argentine international striker Ramon Medina Bello has joined Japanese side Yokohama Marinos from River Plate, reports AFP.

The Argentinian agency DYN said the two million dollar deal would be completed next week and that Medina Bello would start play in the J-League from April.

The Marinos already have Argentinian Ramon Diaz, Gustavo Zapata and David Biscotti. He will rejoin the national squad to start preparations for the World Cup finals in May.

Evergreen escape the axe

Sports Reporter



Evergreen Club steered clear of relegation fear when they squeezed out a narrow two-run victory over Lalmata Club in their last match of the Milnara First Division cricket league at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Evergreen, with yesterday's win, their third in nine encounters, raised their collection to six, two points clear of what seems to be the relegation zone.

On the other hand, Lalmata, who finished with only four points, same as Shantinagar B Club, will now have to keep their fingers crossed for an Agrani Bank triumph over Public Works Department (PWD)—the other team to have collected four points so far—so that they get another chance to stay in the Senior Division. In case PWD lose, the three bottomers would fight it out in a relegation play-off series.

Yesterday, everything started quite well for the Lalmata team, fielding first after losing the toss, reduced Evergreen to 17 for three in 6.3 overs. When the fourth wicket fell on 55 it seemed Lalmata were going to have an easy ride.

But a couple of responsible knocks in the middle helped Evergreen reach 156 for nine in the stipulated 45 overs.

Azim (sr) scored 38 runs in 63 balls with the help of four fours to be the highest individual scorer. Shaibal followed him with 31 made off 47 balls, having sent the ball across the fence on two occasions.

Total, the Evergreen all-rounder, contributed a useful 23 while Bipul and Mamun weighed in with 18 and 16 not out respectively.

Shanto, who put the Evergreen batsmen on the back foot, claiming two early wickets, finished with sparkling figures of five for 22 in his nine-over spell of medium pace bowling.

Div II soccer

Sports Reporter

Shantinagar Club made an auspicious start to their super league campaign when they beat Police by a solitary goal in the first of yesterday's two Sonali Bank Second Division football league matches at the Hockey Stadium.

Alaudin scored the match winner in the 22nd minute of the match.

City Club and Jurain Janata split points in the second encounter played later in the same venue.

Alamgir gave City the lead with a 28th minute goal but Ali Akbar of Jurain restored parity with a 49th minute strike.

Cronje, calm and confident



SYDNEY, Jan 4: Stand-in captain Hansie Cronje, the youngest member of the South African cricket team, says he is ready for the challenge of leading his country against Australia, reports AP.

Cronje will take over from regular skipper Kepler Wessels, who has broken the little finger on his left hand and will return home to recover in time for Australia's tour of South Africa next month.

The elegant 24-year-old all-rounder said Tuesday he hadn't thought about his approach as captain, but urged his teammates to call on all their resources to win the three-Test series and the one-day competition that also includes New Zealand.

"It's a big task on my shoulders," Cronje said Tuesday. "Obviously with being vice-captain and taking it over is a big challenge in my career but I look forward to it and the rest of this tour."

Wessels promoted himself from six to four in the second innings, seeing out 41 minutes for seven runs as South Africa reached 94-2 at stumps to trail by 29 runs overall.

Cronje said Wessels' decision to bat was a brave one, and it was now an important stage of the tour.

"I think it's crunch time now," he said. "Fortunately our captain decided that he'll hang in there for the next two days which is good to see. We need that bit of determination if we're to stay in the series."

Cronje said the toughest team to conquer might be his own.

"Obviously it's going to be quite hard to earn the respect of the rest of the players," Cronje said.

"I've got no problem there,"



HANSIE CRONJE

Atiq, Faheem, Naseem and Ashish Malik got one apiece.

In their turn, Lalmata experienced a similar jolt when they lost two wickets for only 29 in 11.4 overs. However, a sedate stand of 75 between Saiful and Biplob for the third wicket appeared to set the side on the winning trail. But when both these batsmen left within the space of five runs, the scenario suddenly changed with Evergreen bowlers getting on top.

From 109 for four in 34.2 overs, needing 46 runs in 64 balls for victory, the Lalmata batsmen lost the tempo and finished painfully short of the winning target at 154 for seven.

Saiful topscored with 45 in 93 balls while Biplob made 36 with the help of three boundaries. Hassan and Faheem were the two other batsmen to have hit double-digit scores, contributing 21 and 18 respectively.

The chase was never too hard for the Eskaton batsmen as they posted the winning run in the 29th over, reaching 102 for the loss of three batsmen.

All the seven bowlers, employed by the Eskaton skipper, got were among the wickets with Khokon (sr) and Raj Kumar claiming two apiece.

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Kirsten, the Border captain and opener, batted 10 hours 40 minutes, faced 534 deliveries and struck 22 boundaries as his team made 475 for four declared in reply to Northern's paltry 146 all out.

His 271 surpasses his previous highest score of 228 for Derbyshire against Somerset in 1981.

The 38-year-old Kirsten becomes the first South African batsman to have scored eight first-class double centuries, only two of them being compiled in South Africa.

His 271 surpasses his previous highest score of 228 for Derbyshire against Somerset in 1981.

Kirsten, who also broke the first-class individual record for a border batsman previously held by Ian Harty with 222, survived chances on 53 and 190.

With the South African team touring Australia, Kirsten has been the outstanding batsman of the domestic season, having made 18 in a Castle Cup match against Eastern Province and 130 in a Benson and Hedges day-night game against Northern Transvaal.

In his first season as Border captain, he has also skippered the side to their first ever Benson and Hedges semifinals.

Kirsten has been out of favour with South Africa's selectors since just before the tour of Sri Lanka last August and September.

However, on current form, he is likely to captain the South African A side against England A in their five-day match in Port Elizabeth starting on January 27 and, beyond that, a recall to the senior side cannot be ruled out.

Muster moves up

Sports Reporter

ISTANBUL, Jan 4: Istanbul, which failed to land the 2000 Olympics Games, is certain to declare its candidature to stage the 2004 showpiece, it was revealed here on Monday, reports AFP.

Istanbul Olympic Committee spokesman Haldun Domac said that although no official announcement had yet been made a campaign committee had already been set up.

Domac said the bid would be strengthened by the construction of an 80,000-seater stadium.

Bids for the 2004 Games do not have to be declared until March 1996. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) says 15 cities from 11 countries have already declared an interest.

It's something new, being captain of South Africa, but it's definitely a challenge and I look forward to it. I've been captain most of my life, it keeps you involved, puts a lot of responsibility on your shoulders and it's not a bad thing at this time in my career," Cronje said.

Cronje said he hadn't had time to consider where to bat replacement Peter Kirsten in the order.

Tokyo, Jan 4: Japan's prolonged economic slump has cut into corporate contributions, leaving the 1994 Asian Games still about 2 billion yen (drs 18 million) short of their target, the organising committee said Tuesday, reports AP.

Takayoshi Fukushima, the committee's secretary-general, said the committee will do its utmost to raise the money since costs for Asia's version of the Olympics can't be cut. He declined to elaborate on possible new measures to cope with the shortfall.

"Because of the economic slowdown, many Japanese companies are cutting their advertising expenses and are reluctant to make contributions to the Asian Games," Fukushima said.

As of Dec 31, he said, the committee had raised 5.5 billion yen (drs 48.7 million) through corporate sponsorships.

The tournament also lost two Australian players to injury—former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash pulled out of the doubles, while Jason Stoltenberg withdrew only hours before his match with countryman Jamie Morgan.

Pat Cash withdrew after aggravating an old back injury during the first set of Monday's first-round singles loss to Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov. The 1987 Wimbledon winner left for Melbourne for treatment but said he hoped to play in next week's New South Wales Open in Sydney, where he has a singles wild card.

In Stoltenberg's absence, South Africa's David Nainkin became the tournament's lucky loser and took the first set off Morgan in one of the toughest matches of the day before the 22-year-old Australian prevailed 6-7(3-7), 6-3, 6-4.

The 32-man tournament is being played on the Rebound Ace courts at Memorial Drive.

The 15-day games open Oct 2 in Hiroshima, western Japan, with 7,300 athletes and officials expected from 42 nations. The total cost is expected to be 28.9 billion yen (drs 255.7 million).

Of the total, the committee planned to raise 7.5 billion yen (drs 66 million) through contracts with enterprises that would be designated as official sponsors of official suppliers.

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