

Winning start for Abahani

Sports Reporter

Abahani made a good start in the All India Sports Journalists Federation invitational football tournament defeating IFA Eleven by 2-1 at the East Bengal Club ground in Calcutta yesterday.

Abahani who had hardly any preparation before setting off for Calcutta on Thursday to participate in the fund raising tournament for distressed journalists, displayed a better brand of soccer in their first round robin league tie.

Two borrowed booters — Mizan and Mintu scored once each for the winners while Alok pulled one for IFA XI.

Mizanur Rahman, who played for Brothers Union last year opened the Abahani account in the 22nd minute while substitute Mintu, the Sadharan Bima's regular player last year consolidated the victory with a 40th minute strike.

Alok reduced the margin for IFA XI in the 86th minute of the play.

Abahani will play their second match against Calcutta Mohammedan on Sunday.

Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club who are placed in the other group of the tournament will appear against Titianam on the same day.

Eight teams including two Dhaka football giants are taking part in the meet.

Meanwhile PTI adds, strong contenders Calcutta Mohammedan opened their campaign in style thrashing Mahindra and Mahindra of Bombay 3-0.

Tausif Jamal struck twice in quick succession late in the opening session for the city giants while Ohidul Islam completed the rout in the injury time in a rather one-sided contest.

Mohammedan dominated the proceedings from the word go and shot into the lead ten minutes before the interval when Tausif Jamal dribbled past a defender and placed the ball in following a pass from Ohidul Islam.

Five minutes later, Tausif consolidated the position for his team with another neat placement after the hard-working Rehmatullah broke in from the left flank and did all the spadework. Ohidul Islam then headed home a corner kick from substitute Sanjay Ghosh Roy to seal the fate of their opponents.

ABAHANI KC: Mohsin, Alamgir, Rehan, Munna, Masud, Rana, Zakir, Rumi, Swapan, Gaus (Miftu), "Mizan" and Mamun Jorader (Alfaz).

Vital, exciting win for Orient

Sports Reporter

Orient Sporting Club defeated Amoryoti Club by five runs in the super league play-off match of the Second Division cricket super league at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Guided by an opening stand of 113 runs in 26.4 overs by Shahriar (64) and Rito (45), Orient piled up 210 runs for six in the allotted 40 overs.

Besides, Shahriar and Rito, Bipul scored 29 off 25 deliveries.

Extras contributed 47 runs to the Orient innings.

Tariquzzaman and Raju claimed two wickets apiece for Amoryoti giving away 49 and 17 runs respectively.

Chasing 211 to win, Amoryoti fell six short of their goal as the scoreboard showed 205 for nine at the completion of 40 overs.

Ahmed made 56 while Rashed, Sumi and Cezanne chipped in with 34, 30 and 21 respectively.

Rashed's stormy 34 came off 20 balls with the help of three sixes and a couple of fours.

Amoryoti seemed to be heading to the right direction at one stage when their batsmen took 20 valuable runs from the penultimate over. But with 11 runs required from the final over, Orient bowler Bipul bowled tightly to concede four runs only to thwart Amoryoti's ambition.

Tuhin and Mintu were the two successful bowlers for the winners with figures of three for 25 and three for 56 respectively.

Jadukar Samad

SOCER

Sports Reporter

Wasim notched a hat-trick as Little Friends Club moved into the quarterfinals of the Jadukar Samad Smriti juvenile football tournament eliminating Sheikh Russell Smriti Sangsab by 4-1 in day's first match at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Little Friends slammed three goals in the second half after the first half ended in a 1-1 draw.

Wasim scored three goals and Alamgir netted the other for the winners while Hasan pulled one back for the losers.

In the other match of the day played at the same venue, Guzarbagh SC shared points with Chalormi in a goalless draw.

SA squander initiative



JOHANNESBURG

Mar 4: A resolve 69 by Jonty Rhodes rescued South Africa from a mid-order collapse but Australia still held the upper hand after the opening day of the first Test at the Wanderers today, reports Reuter.

After South Africa were dismissed for 251, Australia reached 34 without loss by the close and their decision to include two spinners already looked vindicated.

Although paceman Merv Hughes ended with the best figures of three for 59, it was the spin of Tim May that caused the mid-afternoon collapse as South Africa, who won the toss, slumped to 126 for six.

May took two wickets in the space of three balls, bowling veteran Peter Kirsten through the gap and then having Brian McMillan caught at short-leg by David Boon.

A seventh-wicket partnership of 68 between Rhodes and wicket-keeper Dave Richardson enabled South Africa to stage a recovery but then leg spinner Shane Warne trapped Richardson leg before for 31.

With the pitch already taking spin, it was an ominous sign for South Africa who had

opted to play four pacemen.

South Africa scored quickly in the opening session, reaching 103 by lunch but losing three wickets in the process.

Andrew Hudson (17) was the first to depart, caught behind off a lifter from Craig McDermott and Hansie Cronje (21) edged Steve Waugh to slip.

Opener Gary Kirsten hit eight boundaries in an enterprising 47 from only 75 deliveries but he was then bowled by Hughes shortly before lunch.

The same bowling dismissed captain Kepler Wessels for 18 after the interval to a fine, diving catch by Matthew Hyden, playing his first Test in place of Mark Taylor who was ruled out because of flu.

May and Warne then broke through the middle order and only a ninth-wicket partnership of 46 between Rhodes and Fanie de Villiers (16) enabled South Africa to produce something of a respectable total.

Michael Slater (26 not out) and Matthew Hyden (six not out) then made the most of some wayward South African bowling to score 34 in just seven overs before the close.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the first cricket Test be-

tween South Africa and Australia at the Wanderers on Friday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings
Hudson c Healy b McDermott 17
G Kirsten b Hughes 47
Cronje c Border b S Waugh 21
Wessels c Hayden b Hughes 18
P Kirsten b May 12
Rhodes c M Waugh b McDermott 69
McMillan c Boon b May 0
Richardson b/w b Warne 31
Matthews c Boon b Hughes 6
De Villiers c McDermott 16
Donald not out 0
Extras: (1-b 10-lb 3-nb) 14
Total (80.2 overs) 251

Fall of wickets: 1-21; 2-70; 3-103; 4-116; 5-126; 6-126; 7-194; 8-203; 9-249; 10-251.

Bowling: O M R W

McDermott 15.2 3 63 3
Hughes 20 6 59 3
May 22 5 62 2
S Waugh 9 2 14 1
Warne 14 4 42 1

AUSTRALIA: First innings

Slater not out 26
Hayden not out 6
Extras: (1-b, 1-lb) 2
Total: 34

To bat: David Boon, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Allan Border, Ian Healy, Merv Hughes, Shane Warne, Tim May, Craig McDermott.

Bowling: O M R W

Donald 4 0 20 0
De Villiers 3 1 12 0

Rajshahi closer to BEXIMCO final

Sports Reporter

Rajshahi recorded their third consecutive victory eliminating Satkhira by six wickets in the 14th BEXIMCO national youth cricket championship at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Rajshahi, who will play their vital last round robin league encounter against BKSP on Sunday, booked the under dog Satkhira for 151 in 45 overs.

The winners then reached the victory 152 for four wickets in 37.4 overs.

Shaheen and Rownak who added 88 runs for the third wicket after Rajshahi were reduced to 32 for two, took their team to a convincing win.

Rownak completed a half century 51 to be precise off 71 balls with the help of four boundaries and a huge sixer.

Shaheen, who made a patient 41, sent the ball to the fence twice.

Sanchay with 15 kept Rownak company as Rajshahi won with more than seven overs to spare.

Khokon gave 23 runs to take two scalps for Satkhira, who suffered their second successive defeat.

Earlier, in the Satkhira innings Antu topscored with 40 followed by Khokon who made 34.

Azad, Liton and Litu claimed two wickets each for Rajshahi.

In the other match of the day played at the Dhaka National Stadium an all-round performance by Shantoo of Sylhet proved inadequate to stop Comilla's from registering a 44-run win.

Comilla compiled 211 for nine in the stipulated 45 overs defying a fantastic spell from new-ball bowler Shantoo and then went on to bowl Sylhet out for 167 in 44.2 overs.

Shantoo, who took five wickets for 30 runs in his nine-over spell, also dazzled with the bat.

He scored just 50 in his 61 ball innings which included two huge sixes over long-on.

Acme too good for Fisons

Sports Reporter

Former national cricketer Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu scored 59 not out to ensure a massive 10-wicket win for Acme Laboratories over Fisons Bangladesh Limited in Office cricket league at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

After having won the toss Acme put Fisons to bat first and bowled them to out to a paltry 81 in 28.5 over.

Shamsul and extras were the main contributors with 28 and 26 respectively. Acme posted a hurried 85 in 15.4 overs to secure the win. Lipu's 59-run innings featured four sixes and the same number of boundaries. His partner, Nurul Abdin Nobel, a national discard remained not out on 16.

His reputation made him the target of tough tackling and he has a history of ankle injuries. In his first season with AC Milan in 1987-88 he was sidelined for several months after damage to his left ankle.

Martens said a scan of the ankle had revealed a "clear improvement."

It was a very slow process. It hasn't recovered enough to start talking about resuming training," he said.

"We have to realise that he cannot make it for the World Cup. We don't want to take a risk by forcing things."

Martens, who will see Van Basten again in three months, said he was unable to say how long the healing process might last.

Martens, who has also operated on the knee of former AC Milan player and Dutch international Ruud Gullit, said Van Basten could carry on training individually and gradually step up his efforts.

Van Basten, the 1992 world footballer of the year, said his training programme mainly consisted of some cycling, swimming and fitness.

"Sitting still doesn't serve any purpose. You just get fatter and bad-tempered," he said.

Van Basten said he had also

visited other specialists in Spain, the United States and the Netherlands, with the approval of Martens and AC Milan team doctor Roberto Tavares.

"Perhaps I'm too stubborn to accept that it could be over for me," Van Basten said. "But now the picture has showed there is a small glimmer of hope," he said.

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