

Brothers serve champs well

Sports Reporter



Reigning champions Chittagong won without turning a hair while star-studded Sylhet suffered a wee bit of struggle to post a win in the Pepsi Cup 20th national cricket championship at different city venues yesterday.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Chittagong served well by some effective off spin bowling from Afzal and Rubel, outplayed unfancied Satkhira by eight wickets.

Afzal, younger brother of national cricketer Akram Khan, had a haul of four wickets for 25 runs as Satkhira, after deciding to bat first on an uncomfortable wicket, were bowled out for 112.

With the wicket offering turn and Satkhira badly lacking in experience and ability to counter the strong Chittagong attack, the result was never, never in doubt.

In a monotonously one-sided affair, Akram Khan scored a half century to ensure some incidental amusement as Chittagong romped home in 31.3 overs, making in the process 116 for two wickets only.

Satkhira innings, which lasted 42 overs — four short of the full quota of 50 overs — recorded two instances of two-hit resistance in the middle order where Lalu made 24 and skipper Khokan 17.

Extras contributed 25 and Prince chipped in with 11 to become only the third batsman to reach the double figures.

With Afzal skimming the cream of the bowling honours with a quartet of scalps, Rubel emerged as the perfect foil for the younger journeyman, bagging two for 26.

Saiful, the quickest bowler in the country, set the pattern in the morning with a hostile spell. The young pacesman, who originally hails from Mymensingh and is currently enjoying a place in the very short list of 'sympathised' cricketers as a left out from the national

Independence Day b'ball results

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Army Reds recorded their second successive win in the Independence Day basketball championship when they earned a hard fought 63-50 victory over Eagles Club in one of the two matches at the wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Fresh from Monday's easy win over Josephite Club, the Army outfit took a convincing 38-23 lead in the first half.

However, Eagles Club, who beat Bangladesh Army Blues in their first match, came back strongly in the second session, scoring 27 points against Army's 25 but, still, failed to change the outcome of the match.

Mamun of Eagles with 18 points was highest scorer of the match while Iqbal and Shafiqul caged 15 points each for the Army selection.

In the first match of the day, Bangladesh Air Force gave an auspicious start to their campaign with a 71-59 win over Josephite Club.

The winners led the first half 34-29.

Sharif of Air Force shared the honour of being the highest scorer of the day with Siddiq of Josephite, caging 21 points.

Sattar and Hafiz scored 17 points each for the winners.



Tanima Parveen of Bangladesh moves her pawn up during her match against Anwar Hossain on the second day of the second United Insurance International Masters' (IM) chess tournament at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

— Star photo

Ageing players in new shirts



BONN, Mar 22: Germany have a new shirt design, but coach Berti Vogts seems intent on picking an ageing outfit as the world champions build-up to the World Cup picks up pace against Italy on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The Germans are parading their new strip for the 1994 World Cup for the first time in the soccer friendly in Stuttgart which brings together two teams who have both won the competition three times in the past.

Vogts is enthusiastic about the new apparel: "It's something fresh, perfect for the United States."

But now, white cassocks don't turn 30-year-olds into choristers. Some of the faces in his squad are far from the Bundesliga's freshest.

Vogts has recalled 29-year-old VfB Stuttgart defender Thomas Berthold, into his squad after an absence of three years. Veteran midfielder Andreas Brehme, who scored Germany's winning goal in the 1990 final against Argentina, recently returned to the fold at the age of 33.

possible World Cup options. As Borussia Dortmund's Karlheinz Riedle struggles to stamp his authority up front, the door is open wide for young German strikers to make a late bid for a World Cup place. The problem is few youngsters are putting a foot near it.

Vogts resorted to calling up Kaiserslautern veteran Stefan Kuntz during the December tour to the United States and Mexico.

With Riedle and Kuntz injured for the Italian match, Vogts is expected to have to push Juventus midfielder Andy Moeller into a striking partnership with Juergen Klinsmann. Voeller has yet to return, but Vogts is regularly on the phone to the south of France.

Because of the top-class foreign strikers in the Bundesliga, it is hard for young forwards to establish themselves at their clubs, Vogts

Bima gets a walk-over

Sports Reporter

Sadharan Bima Kirra Sangtha got a walk-over against Public Works Department (PWD) SC in the only match of the first Sonali Bank office league yesterday.

Police SC will take on Bangladesh Air Force in the only match, scheduled for today at 3:30 pm.

their goal and were all out for 197 in 46.4 overs.

Their problems were complicated by some tight slow medium bowling by national cricketer Athar Ali Khan, who took two for 29.

While the tall Athar went through his quota of ten overs of two scalps, Golam Faruque, who opened the Sylhet attack, bowled eight overs to emerge as the most successful bowler with a haul of three for 35.

Earlier, entertaining batting by national skipper Faruque Ahmed and Athar helped Sylhet pile 232 for seven from 50 overs.

Faruque, whose poor form contributed considerably to Bangladesh's sad demise in ICC Trophy in Kenya, top-scored with 76 off 81 balls. The stocky number three batsman hit seven fours and hoisted two sixes.

After Jessore's new ball bowler Aminul had reduced Sylhet 28 for two, Faruque and Athar put on 128 runs for the third wicket with the latter hitting an 81 ball 54 including four fours and a sixer.

Aminul Islam, one of the six Sylhet cricketers with international experience — the others being skipper Gazi Ashraf, Waheedul Ghami, wicketkeeper Nasir Ahmed, Faruque Ahmed and Athar Ali — made 30 and former national captain threw his bat around for a rapid unbeaten 21 to give their side an adequate total to defend.

Aminul of Jessore took two for 34. So did Babu and Kazim, who bagged two each giving away 46 and 43 runs.

Meanwhile, a BCCB Press release, issued yesterday, said there will be no national cricket championship match today. Four matches including today's deferred one will be held tomorrow.

Soccer players' transfers to be deferred

Sports Reporter

With the whole country seemingly caught in a web of muddled-thinking and self-contradiction, the now inevitable deferment of soccer players' transfers, earlier scheduled to be held from March 3 to 9, springs hardly any surprise.

As it had been the practice in the past, the recently-floated Dhaka Metropolitan Club Association (DMCA), a confederate of the representatives from different football clubs, reportedly filed a petition to push back the transfer dates for their perennial fund constraint. Ironically, it is the same association which had earlier pleaded with the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA), the organisers of the local league football, to earlierise the transfers date. The current volte face of DMCA implies that although DMFA is yet to take a decision, the club players' change or retaining old allegiances will now be pushed back by at least ten days.

The DMFA will meet on March 28 to reschedule the mooted deadline.

Lodhi, 7 others lead in IM meet

Sports Reporter

Pakistani International Master (IM) Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi recorded his second successive victory and so did IMs Reefat Bin Sattar and Ziaur Rahman and five others to jointly stay atop the points table of the United Insurance International Masters' chess competition on completion of the second round at the National Sports Council (NSC) chess room yesterday.

Of the top trio in this 40-player tournament, Ziaur Rahman had the easiest encounter against fellow-countryman Abdullah Al-Raqib, forcing the Narayanganj player to resign on the 29th move. Zia, playing with white pieces, launched attack on Al-Raqib's defence adopting the Catalan Open.

Zia's arch-rival Bangladeshi national champion Reefat Bin Sattar, adopting the too familiar Sicilian defence, found a stubborn opponent in Saifuddin Lavlu before finally prevailing in 53 moves.

Lodhi, the mustachioed pathan who needs one more norm for his Grandmaster status, I like Reefat, was also stretched by Indian Paritosh Bhattacharya although he had the advantage of having the white pieces. Lodhi, who opened his attack with the king's pawn, needed 54 moves to push Paritosh in to a no-go position.

Paritosh's teenage compatriot Suryashekar Ganguly also ended the day at the wrong end of the table as the eleven-year-old lost to Aminul Islam. After Monday's disappointing draw, it was quite a blow for the Indian, who produced a number of promising performances leading up to this tourney. Suryashekar now have half a point from his two matches.

The two other Indians in the fray, however, came up with victories, second in a row for both, to remain atop. Priton Singh checkmated Ali Amjad while Shubhrajat Shaha defeated another local player Syed Ruhul Kabir.

Former national champion Jamilur Rahman, Khandaker Kayes Hassan and Kalimullah Khan also won their second consecutive match to finish the day on top of the points table. Jamil beat Khurshed Alam, Kayes got the better of Nazrul Islam and Khan deposited his second point with a victory over A N M Ruhul Kuddus.

Day's other winners were: Arifuzzaman, who upset former national champion Rezaul Huq, Ziaul Kader, Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, Rukhsan Gulshan, Abul Kashem Bhuiyan, Syed Mahfuzur Rahman, Abdul Khaleque and Taneema Parveen.

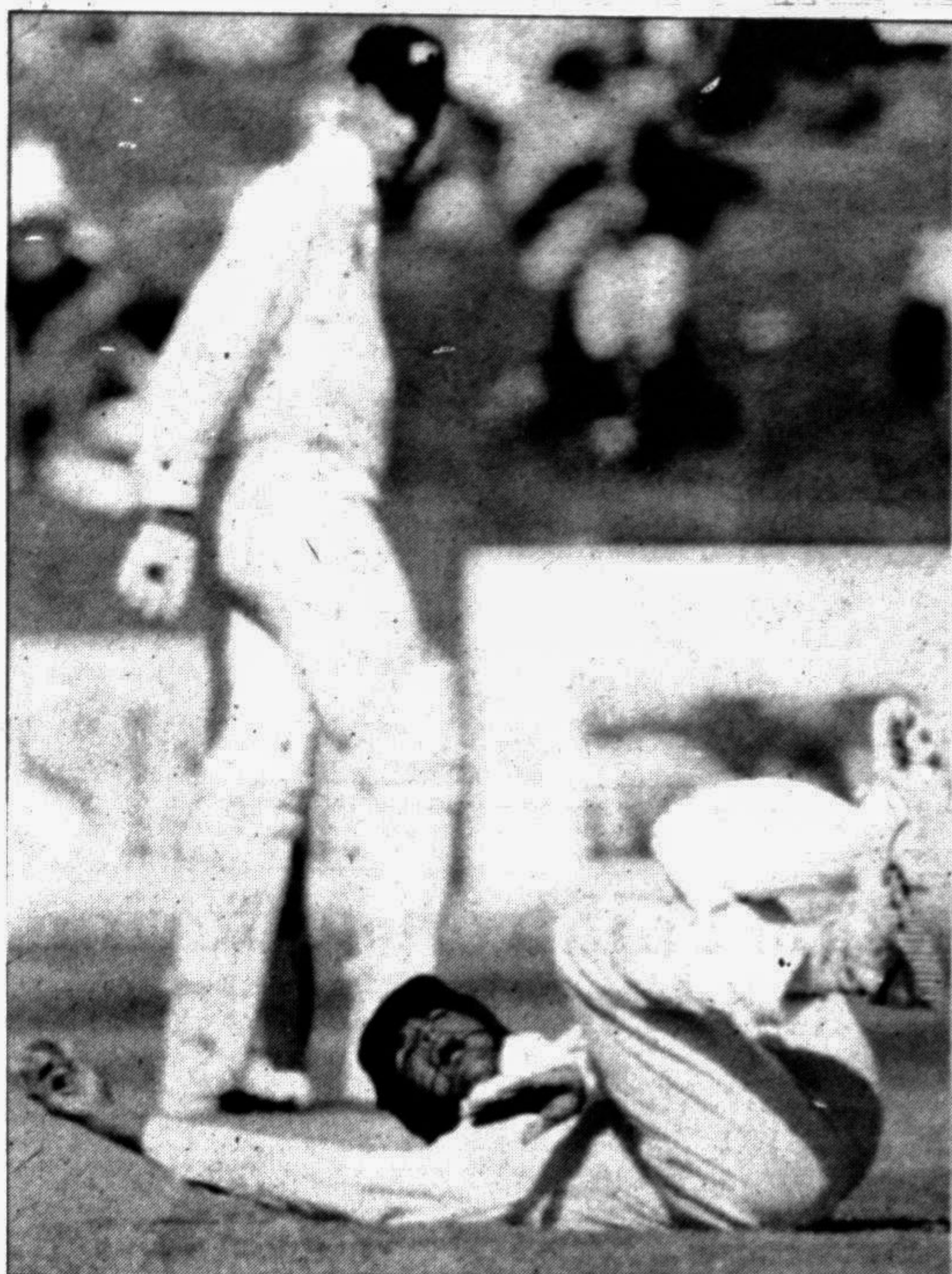
The match between Syed Tahmidur Rahman and Omar Khaled ended in a draw. Amir Hossain-Shawkat Hossain and Zakia Sultana-Aminul Islam matches produced similar results.

Arrigo Sacchi's side come to Germany without the injured European footballer-of-the-year Roberto Baggio, who is replaced by Sampdoria captain Roberto Mancini.

Italy suffered only their second defeat in 20 games under Sacchi when they lost 1-0 to France in a friendly in Naples last month, and the coach has responded by re-modelling his midfield with the return of Dino Baggio of Juventus and Lazio's Giuseppe Signori after injured.

Ardiles plans to hire Papin

LONDON, Mar 22: Tottenham manager Osvaldo Ardiles is planning a 4-million pound (dhs 6 million) bid to hire AC Milan's French striker Jean-Pierre Papin, British reports said Tuesday, reports AP.



India's Sanjay Manjrekar is aground at short-leg with the ball in his hand appealing for a catch against Kiwi southpaw Mark Greatbatch (not in the picture) on the fourth day of the one-off Test against India. Debutant Stephen Fleming, who finished the day unbeaten on 67, looks on from the other end. New Zealand were 306 for five when stumps were drawn on the penultimate day of the Test.

— AFP photo

It's no-go at Hamilton



HAMILTON, New Zealand, Mar 22: New Zealand's batsmen, shaking off the memory of a dismal summer, dominated the fourth day of their one-off Test against India today, reports Reuter.

The home side were 306 for five in their second innings, an overall lead of 247. With a threatening weather forecast for the last day, a draw appears the likeliest outcome.

New Zealand, who start an England tour in April after a generally wretched summer, were encouraged by solid scores from opener Bryan Young, captain Ken-Rutherford and an unbeaten 67 from Test debutant Stephen Fleming.

Spinners Rajesh Chauhan with two wickets, and Anil Kumble, and Venkatapathy Raju with one each, shared the wickets on a day of positive cricket. Bowlers were helped slightly by slow turn but the wicket was relatively easy.

Fleming brought up his well-deserved 50 in the last session with a drive over mid-on off Chauhan, his seventh boundary. The tall left-hander looked assured and prepared to play his shots, hooking and on-driving imperiously.

Shane Thomson was the only batsman dismissed in the last session. He was bowled by left-arm spinner Raju after playing back and fencing at a

ball that pitched outside leg and hit the off-stump.

Thomson and Fleming had batted confidently against the spin attack in their 45-run partnership for the fifth wicket.

New Zealand began the day on 39 for none, 20 runs behind. Bryan Young and Blair Hartland got off to a positive start.

Hartland went before lunch, caught down the legside by wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia off medium-pace Javagal Srinath. But Young and Rutherford, the latter hooking Srinath fiercely.

New Zealand went to lunch on 145 for one but in the second session, India's spinners seized the initiative on the disintegrating pitch.

Rutherford misjudged an arm ball from off-spinner Chauhan and was bowled for 59 and Young, attempting to cut the same bowler, was caught behind for 85. Rutherford had also scored a half-century in New Zealand's first innings.

Mark Greatbatch, in poor form this summer, was caught close in on the leg side by Sanjay Manjrekar off leg-spinner Kumble, and New Zealand went to tea on 223 for 4.

Greatbatch later dropped out of the squad for the three one-day internationals against India, saying he would be having knee surgery.

Star batsman Martin Crowe, who captained the New Zealanders to the semi-finals of the 1992 World Cup, announced during the day he was available to tour England only as a player and not as captain.

Crowe's decision, prompted by his need to regain full fitness after knee surgery, should ensure Rutherford keeps the job he had been doing temporarily.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the cricket Test between India and New Zealand at Hamilton today:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 187

INDIA: First innings 246

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings (overnight 39-0)

Hartland c Mongia b Srinath 25

Young c Mongia b Chauhan 85

Rutherford b Chauhan 59

Greatbatch c Manjrekar b Kumble 27

Fleming not out 67

Thomson b Raju 26

Parore not out 10

Extras : (b-2, lb-1, nb-4) 7

Total: (for five wickets) 306

To bat: M Hart, D Nash, D Morrison, C Pringle.

Fall of wickets : 1-56; 2-172; 3-176; 4-220; 5-265.

Bowling:

Srinath 25 4 76 1

Kapil Dev 10 2 24 0

Raju 24 6 53 1

Kumble 27 6 68 1

Chauhan 27 5 82 2

England 167 for seven at lunch

Sports Reporter

England, needing 234 runs to avoid an innings defeat, were 167 for seven at lunch on the fifth and final day of the second Test at the Bourda Oval, Georgetown yesterday, according to a message received late last night.

SCOREBOARD

Scores at lunch Tuesday on the fifth day of the second cricket Test between the West Indies and England:

ENGLAND: 1st innings 322 (Michael Atherton 144; Curtly Ambrose 4-58)

WEST INDIES: 1st innings 556 (Brian Lara 167, Jimmy Adams 137, Desmond Haynes 63, Shivnarine Chanderpaul 62; Ian Salisbury 4-163).

ENGLAND: 2nd innings (resumed at 119 for four)

Atherton b Ambrose 0

Stewart b Kenneth Benjamin 79

Rampersad b Ambrose 5

Smith c Richardson b Ambrose 24

Hick b Kenneth Benjamin 5

Thorp b Walsh 20

Russell c Murray b Ambrose 6

Lewis not out 12

Salisbury not out 4

Extras: (byes 2, leg-byes 2, no-balls 2) 6

Total: 161 for seven wickets

Fall of wickets: 0-1 (Atherton), 30-2 (Rampersad), 91-3 (Smith), 96-4 (Hick), 129-5 (Stewart), 140-6 (Thorp), 150-7 (Russell).

To bat: Angus Fraser, Alan Jaggesden.

Bowling:

Ambrose 17 3 32 4

Walsh 22 3 62 1

W Benjamin 10 2 35 0

K Benjamin 17 6 28 2

Adams 1 1 0 0

Crowe not too keen on retaining captaincy

HAMILTON, New Zealand, Mar 22: Battering star Martin Crowe said today he would tour England with the New Zealand cricket team but was giving up the captaincy, reports Reuter.

Crowe, easily New Zealand's best batsman, said he wanted to concentrate on regaining his fitness and batting form on the tour, which starts next month.

I want to be scoring runs for New Zealand again as soon as possible, he told a news conference during New Zealand's one-off Test against India.

My batting and my fitness are my two key aims, both of which I must concentrate totally on in the near future. I have informed the selectors of my desire not to be considered for the captaincy of the team to England," Crowe said.

Crowe has not played for New Zealand since December when he had surgery on his left knee for medial ligament damage. Ken Rutherford took over the captaincy for the two remaining Tests against Australia, the three-Test series against Pakistan and the Indian Test.

Crowe won plaudits for imaginative captaincy during the 1992 World Cup, which took New Zealand to the semi-finals.

Boxers honoured

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Amateur Boxing Federation honoured nine boxers for their excellent performance in the sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, held in Dhaka last year, at a reception at the conference room of National Sports Council yesterday.

State Ministers for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain, who was the chief guest on the occasion, distributed cash awards to the punchers.

Mozammel Haque, who took the gold in the flyweight category, got richer for Tk 10,000.

The three silver medalists — Ibrahim Mandal, Moniruzzaman and Ruhul Amin Howlader — received Tk 5,000 each while Delwar Hossain, Khalilur Rahman, Harunur Rashid, Alauddin and B Ahmed — the five bronze medalists — got Tk 3,000 each.

Amir Ahmed Chowdhury, the federation president, was also present at the ceremony.

Laudrup gets weary of it all

COPENHAGEN, Mar 22: AC Milan striker Brian Laudrup said on Monday he was fed up with the power and the policies of club owner Silvio Berlusconi and that he wanted to leave the Italian champions, reports Reuter.

"In other countries soccer club presidents are elected. But here they are kind of dictators, they step in and decide anything they like over the heads of the coaches and the players," Laudrup told Danish news agency Ritzau in Milan.

The Danish international, who has openly criticised Milan's policy of having two class players competing for each position on the team, has lately been left out of the Milan squad.

Rai in for a real good look



RECIFE, Brazil, Mar 22: Brazil captain Rai is under pressure to turn in an influential performance in Wednesday's friendly against Argentina under threat of losing his place for the World Cup finals, reports Reuter.

With Argentina's Diego Maradona unlikely to play in the match, attention has switched to Rai, who has been spectacularly off-form since joining French club Paris St Germain from Sao Paulo last year.

Brazil trainer Carlos Alberto Parreira's plans to build his team around Rai and give him the captaincy have looked increasingly risky, given the players' extended run of bad form.

Parreira, one of Rai's biggest admirers, stood by him last year, but his lacklustre displays with Paris St Germain have brought him regular slatings in Brazil and the coach has now admitted that alternatives must be considered in case the long-awaited improvement does not materialise.

Parreira names his team on Tuesday, and Rai, the younger brother of former international Socrates, is expected to be given another chance. If he responds with another poor performance on Wednesday, that could provide the cue for

the chop. Sao Paulo coach Tele Santana said last week Rai had turned down an offer by the club to return.

"At Sao Paulo, he was the leader, other players came to him for advice and he felt useful. At Paris St Germain that is not the case," Santana commented.

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lavish praise. Rai is not the only protagonist in Wednesday's match who has doubters.

Argentine goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea, his country's hero in the 1990 World Cup finals, has looked worryingly shaky of late. He was dropped by his club River Plate for one game after an horrendous mistake cost them a goal in a 2-2 draw in a league match.

He was brought back but was still barely recognisable as the player whose saves enabled Argentina to win quarter-final and semifinal penalty shoot-outs at the last World Cup.

Parreira has the unusual luxury of having his top players free of club commitments for Wednesday's game, the first of the year for Brazil.

But Bayern Munich full-back Jorginho and Barcelona's Romario have both pulled out of the squad through injury. Sao Paulo striker Muller, whom Romario criticised as only playing well in club soccer, has been called up as the Barcelona striker's replacement.

Maradona, surprisingly selected by Argentina coach Alfio Basile despite being without a club, had not arrived in Recife by Tuesday morning.

The 33-year-old, sacked by Argentina's Newell's Old Boys last month, was said by team sources to have stayed behind for a checkup at a clinic.



RAI