

Rafiqul dooms Dhanmondi

Sports Reporter

Off-spinner Rafiqul Islam span Dhanmondi to doom as Eskaton Sabuj Sangha registered an exciting 14-run win in a rather low-scoring reduced encounter of the 15th Damal Summer cricket tournament yesterday.

He took five wickets for 25 runs in eight overs as Dhanmondi, chasing 143 for victory in 40 overs, were all out for 128 in 36.3 overs at the Mirpur Pallabi cricket ground.

After a fairly sound start of 35, both the Dhanmondi openers fell to Eskaton's new ball bowler Taher Md Khan, who bowled commendably to finish with an analysis of two for 21 from eight overs.

But Rafiqul stole the show with some effective exhibition of finger spin that earned him the first five-wicket haul of the inchoate season.

On a wicket offering assistance in a very forthright manner, Rownakul Islam provided good support to the man of the afternoon with two for 19 from four expensive overs.

Shabbir Khan and Tapas Sarkar, both of whom became Rafiqul's prey, showed some resistance with 22 and 21 respectively.

Openers Nehal and Morshed along with Kabit made it to the double figures.

England-NSW tie draw-bound

NEWCASTLE, Australia, Nov 14: England held a lead of 163 runs with five second-innings wickets in hand Monday after the third day of their four-day cricket match against New South Wales state, reports AP.

At stumps, England, preparing for the first Ashes Test beginning Nov 25 in Brisbane, were 200-5, with all-rounder Craig White 31 and Mike Gatting 33 sharing a stand of 51 runs.

"It would be nice if Gatt got a hundred," England coach Keith Fletcher said. "He needs time in the middle and given that time I'm certain he'll get more fluent and his strokeplay will come back."

White was dropped in the gully by Brad McNamara on one and wicketkeeper Craig Glasscock missed stumping him on 31.

Captain Mike Atherton made 37 and Graham Thorpe 27 while left-arm spinner Anthony Kershner collected 2-26 for New South Wales.

Earlier Monday, England bowler Devon Malcolm took 4-11 with the second new ball as New South Wales crashed to 365 all out in reply to England's first innings of 328.

Atherton drove off spinner Gavin Robertson firmly, but the ball ricocheted off the boot of Michael Slater in close to Mark Waugh at short cover.

Graeme Hick failed with 12 when he was bowled by speedster Wayne Holdsworth just

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In the morning, Eskaton raised 142 for six from 40 overs, the reflexed quota with five chopped from the original one because of a delayed start, mainly due to a well-compiled 58 by opener Mafizul Islam, a member of the Bangladesh youth team that had a successful tour of Malaysia few months back.

His senior partner Rownakul Islam with 18 and Zafirul Ehsan with 16 were the other batsmen to be in the double figures.

Nehal took two, for 38 while Humayun, Sarwar and Zahid collected one apiece.

On a day destined to follow the path of close contest, Gulshan Youth recorded a three-wicket victory against Agrani Bank in yesterday's other engagement, held at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Veteran wicketkeeper-cum-opener Anwar's 89-ball 51 featuring three fours and a sixer went in vain at the end of the day as bank bowlers failed to defend the modest total of 174 for nine from 45 overs.

Skipper Anwar Huda deposited substantially in the bank account with 37 made from 54 balls.

But the rest of the batting just fell away in the face of some effective bowling by Nafis and Zia, who shared five wickets between themselves for only 57 runs in the slog overs.

Nafis was by far the best with three for 27 while Zia bagged two giving away a run more.

After having proceeded calmly and purposefully to 48 in 18 overs, Gulshan were dealt double blows at the same score with both the openers becoming victims of Nuruddin Jalaly, who went on to have a haul of three for 20.

Although half the side was back in the dressing room with 124 in 33.3 overs, left-handed Imran Hamid Parthay in brief but useful associations first with Nahid and later wicketkeeper Atiar, kept them focused on victory which eventually came in 42.3 overs with three wickets in hand.

Mirza Akbar, a right-handed opening bat from Hyderabad of India, arrived yesterday to be in the line of trial for Brothers Union, in search of useful foreign cricketers to boost their youngish combination.

A seasoned cricketer reportedly with Ranji experience Akbar will be the Gopibagh team's second foreigner to be tried following the abortive trial of a Pakistani who has already been sent back home.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Sadharan Bima vs Udyoti Club (Mirpur Pallabi ground).

Wari Club vs Dhaka Wanderers (Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium).

BU still atop

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Brothers Union stayed five points clear at the top of the points table on completion of the sixth round matches of the First Division chess league at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

Spearheaded by Bangladeshi Grandmaster Niaz Murshid, Pakistani International Master Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi and Indian V Sharavanan, Brothers beat Mahakali Pradip Sangha 3-1 to raise their collection to 21 points.

The only point they lost yesterday came when Abdullah al-Ragib failed to turn up in his match against Abu Suffyan.

Meanwhile, once champions Bangladesh Biman continued their wretched run as the national airlines team drew 2-2 with Genius Chess Club. Biman now have 16 points.

A point behind at the third position were Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) who defeated Protibha Daba Goshthi 3.5-1.5.

Windies 371 for four

BANGALORE, Nov 14: An unbeaten 99 by Keith Arthuron in his 175-run unfinished fourth-wicket partnership helped West Indies build up a total of 371 for four on the second day of their 3-day match against India's Board President's XI Monday, reports AP.

Earlier, opener Phil Simmons scored 91 before being bowled by Saifur Rahaman. Simmons and Stuart Williams hit the Indian bowlers all round the field for boundaries.

Resuming at an overnight score of two without loss, the West Indian opening pair Simmons and Stuart Williams hit the Indian bowlers all round the field for boundaries.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul succeeded Williams, but did not last too long and Brian Lara never settled down and was bowled by Ashish Kapoor for 22.

The West Indians had dismissed the President's Eleven for 238 in the first innings.

DMFA ceremonial

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The prize distribution ceremony of the Dhaka Metropolis Football Association (DMFA), organisers of the city oriented soccer championships for the last three domestic seasons, from 1991 to 1994, will be held at a local hotel today.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain, who is also the chairman of the National Sports Council, country's highest governing body for sports, will be the chief guest of the ceremonial beginning at 7:00 pm.

Meanwhile, the ad-hoc committee of the DMFA, which ran the show for the last three seasons, is likely to place a pia before the state minister for the election of an executive body ahead of the next domestic season.

N'gan football

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANANJ, Nov 14: BSEC (Dockyard) and Sirajuddowla Club shared points in a 2-2 draw in the Hanjin Shipping First Division football league at the Osmani Stadium Nov 28.

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