

Rain ruins play

DEVONPORT, Australia, Dec 19: Zimbabwe were 141 for three in their first innings in reply to Tasmania's 257 for five declared when rain stopped play for the day on Monday, the second day of the three-day tour match, reports Reuter.

Scores: Tasmania 257 for five declared (R Tucker 78 not out, D Hills 50); Zimbabwe 141 for three (G Flower 59).

Acme cricket

Sports Reporter

Gandaria Sporting Club recorded an eleven-run win over Rainbow AC in the Acme Second Division cricket league at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

Sent in to bat first, the old town outfit compiled a huge 212 for eight in the stipulated 40 overs with Mozaffar (33), Yen (36), Nasir (35), Chapal (29) and Bulbul (12) making it to the double figures for the winners.

Litu took two wickets for 23 runs for the eventual losers.

In reply, Rainbow could muster 201 for seven when they ran out of overs.

Ujjal with 48 was the top willow wielder for Rainbow followed by Mohsin, who chipped in with 46.

Mukul and Mafiz claimed two wickets apiece for the winners.

Graf to lead star parade at Tokyo

TOKYO, Dec 19: Defending champion Steffi Graf should be glad to face Mary Pierce and Conchita Martinez on the fast surface here in the 806,250-dollar Toray Pan Pacific Open women's tennis tournament starting January 31, reports AFP.

Six of the top 10 players in the world, including Lindsay Davenport, local favourite Kimiko Date and Natalia Zvereva, will take part in one of the biggest tournaments on the WTA Tour, the organisers announced Monday.

Graf suffered two shock defeats at the hands of Pierce this year as the German world number one failed to defend the French Open and season-ending Virginia Slims Championships, and lost both to the French start in straight sets.

Graf also lost to Martinez in their last encounter at the Philadelphia final a year ago, after winning the previous five matches against the Spanish Wimbledon champion.

But the fast surface of the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium indoor courts is expected to give an advantage to the German, the winner here in 1986, 1990 and last year, although the field includes dangerous serve-and-volley expert Lori McNeil.

The American surprised the world by eliminating Graf in the first round at Wimbledon.

Other prominent players are Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria, Anke Huber of Germany, Iva Majoli of Croatia, and top players from Indonesia and Taiwan - Yayuk Basuki and Wang shi-ting.

Naoko Sawamatsu and Mana Endo bowled late hopes, while Nana Miyagi, who gave a scare to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain in Tokyo three months ago, picked up a wild card.

Paying the price

CHICAGO, Dec 19: The chairman of the International Swimming Federation (FINA) medical commission has been temporarily excluded from doping control matters because he confirmed reports of positive drug tests by Chinese swimmers before the federation did, the Chicago Tribune reported on Monday, reports Reuter.

Dr Allen Richardson of Honolulu was found by federation officials to have violated FINA's doping control procedures by confirming a story in the Tribune on the tests.

Richardson remains the medical commission chairman, but FINA at its March meeting in Bangkok could permanently exclude him from doping matters.

Liles keeps WBA crown

QUITO, Ecuador, Dec 19: Frank Liles won a unanimous decision over challenger Michael Nunn Saturday night to retain the World Boxing Association's super middleweight crown, reports AP.

The two American boxers fought a fairly even bout, with Liles managing a slight advantage to win the 12-round bout at Quito's Ruminahui Coliseum.

The three judges favoured Liles 115-112, 117-111 and 114-113.

MSC's maiden victory

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club posted a squeaky four-wicket win over Kalabagan Krira Chakra in one of the two Navana Premier Division cricket league matches at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

While giants Mohammedans chalked up their first win following their stunning four-wicket defeat at the hands of Victoria Sporting Club, who have made quite a reputation as the new Davids in the domestic circuit through their remarkable run in the 15th Damal Summer tournament, Kalabagan came down crashing after a four-wicket triumph over

pushed Pakistani left arm spinner Zahid Ahmed to point for a risky single. Had veteran Rafiqul Alam been a wee bit quicker and Malik been even slower to react, things might have taken a different shape.

Rafiqul and Saidul got two wickets each conceding 20 and 31 runs respectively.

Earlier, Kalabagan didn't quite do justice to their theoretical batting strength when they mustered an unimpressive 155 in the stipulated 45 overs for the loss of eight of their batsmen.

Although Athar Ali and Farid Hossain gave Kalabagan a sound start, putting on 51 runs for the first wicket, once Mohammedan skipper came into

Farid Hossain c (sub) b Aminul Islam 16
Faruque c A Malik b Aminul Islam 05
Zahid Razzak c A Malik b Aminul Islam 05
Zakaria run out 13
Zahid Ahmed run out 39
Golam Faruque c Aminul b Hossain 10
S Akbar b Hossain 11
R Alam not out 11
R Amir not out 08
Extras: (b-5; lb-3; nb-3; w-10) 21
Total: (for 8 wks in 45 overs) 155
Fall of wickets: 1-51; 2-56; 3-61; 4-63; 5-103; 6-134; 7-134; 8-138.

Bowling: O M R W
Hasibul Hossain 9 1 20 2
Murshed Ali 5 0 40 0
Khaled Mahmud 4 1 10 0
Mustadir Litu 9 0 24 1
Aminul Islam 8 5 1 23 3
Md Rafique 8 10 25 1
Selim Shahed 1 0 5 0

MOHAMMEDAN SC
Sajjad Ahmed c Rafique b Golam Faruque 12
S Tanveer c & b Zahid Ahmed 33
Selim Shahed b S Islam 15
Aminul Islam c (sub) b S Islam 14
Aamir Malik not out 32
Khaled Mahmud b R Alam 01
Md Rafique b R Alam 0
Mustadir Litu not out 16
Extras: (b-1; lb-9; nb-5; w-12) 27
Total: (for 6 wks in 44.4 overs) 156
Fall of wickets: 1-28; 2-77; 3-79; 4-105; 5-117; 6-117.

Bowling: O M R W
Ratsul Amin 2 0 8 0
Golam Faruque 6 2 14 0
Athar Ali 5 0 18 0
Rafiqul Alam 6 1 20 2
Sajjad Akbar 8 0 34 0
Zahid Ahmed 8 4 21 1
Saidul Islam 9 1 31 2

GMCC WIN BIG

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Sharfuddinowa Ibne Shaheed put a spoke to Gulshan Youth's wheel as Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) recorded a hefty 69-run win in the other match of the day.

Sharfuddinowa took four wickets for only 15 in his nine-over spell as the Gulshan outfit was skittled out for 121 in 41.4 overs, well short of the GMCC total of 190 for eight.

Sanwar, who earlier shone with the bat for a breezy 38, was equally effective dismissing three for 14 in five overs.

Apart from Sadeque Amin (44) and Athar Rahman (25) no other Gulshan batsman could produce a respectable knock.

In their turn, GMCC formed their innings on a stormy 63 from Pakistani Rais Ahmed.

Rais, who hit three sixes and four fours, put on 73 runs for the sixth wicket with Sanwar to guide GMCC, reeling at 63 for four at one stage, to a fairly imposing total.

Joydev Bashak took three wickets for 30 from seven overs to offer some sort of an apology for the bowlers.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Brothers vs Surjo Tarun (Dhaka Stadium)
Wari vs Sadharan Bima (DCS)

Gopibagh Friends win a thriller

Sports Reporter

Gopibagh Friends squeezed out a thrilling one-run win over Bangladesh Railway in the lone Yababa First Division cricket league fixture at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Railway, chasing the Gopibagh outfit's 176 for nine in 40 overs, needed ten runs for victory in the last over from Mushtaq and lost Fazole Bari Khan to the last ball of the innings when he went for a run which clearly wasn't there.

Afzal Khan, younger brother of national cricketer Akram Khan, and Shahidur Rahman made 52 and 51 not out respectively to lead Railway's abortive charge.

Earlier, wild bowling combined with sloppy fielding on Railway's part led to a fighting Gopibagh total of 176 in their stipulated overs. Extras yielded 48 runs, half of them from wide balls, while Mashur Rahman contributed 36.

attack everything seemed to fall apart.

Aminul broke through the



SAIKAT... 4 for 15

opening stand when he had Farid caught by substitute Niaz Hassan for 16 and then sent back former national skipper Faruque Ahmed and another national discard Zahid Razaque in the space of five runs to trigger off a Kalabagan slump.

Mustadir held on to a return catch from Athar to make it 63 for four and had Malik, who ran some 15 yards to pull of a superb catch to dismiss Faruque, not spilled Zahid's offer Kalabagan would have folded their innings earlier than they eventually did.

Zahid went on to score an invaluable 39 as the losers managed a somewhat respectable total of 155 for eight in 45 overs. Athar hit 27 to follow.

Aminul finished with fine figures of three for 23 from 8.5 overs.

SCOREBOARD

KALABAGAN KC:
Athar Ali & F. Mushtaq 110; 27



THAT'S FOR FOUR: Mohammedans' Pakistani batsman Aamir Malik is beautifully poised for a square cut in yesterday's Navana Premier league match against Kalabagan at the Dhaka Stadium.

GMCC in their opener.

Mohammedans, desperately seeking to end a title drought, owed their victory to a gritty unbeaten partnership of Pakistani Test discard Aamir Malik and local Mustadir Litu, who put 36 useful runs for the seventh wicket.

Malik, who came in at number five after Selim Shahed was clean bowled by Saidul Islam for 15 with the score at 79, found the other end of the wicket highly fragile as three batsmen, including skipper Aminul Islam, got themselves out mainly due to lack of application.

With the loss of three quick wickets, suddenly the always reachable target of 156 in 45 overs appeared slipping out of Mohammedans' grip and they were precariously placed at 117 for six when Mustadir walked in.

The diminutive allrounder who was on Bangladesh youth team's successful Malaysian tour earlier this year, did what his more experienced and illustrated teammates should have done - he kept his cool and held one end up to let Malik do the rest.

At the other end of the wicket, the Pakistani right-hand bat, who produced a string of disappointing performances, seemed keen to make up for his previous failures and he couldn't have done it better.

With Mohammedans needing 11 runs in 12 balls, Malik eased up the pressure when he charged down the wicket and executed a vigorous pull off Saidul Islam, who tried to fool the onrushing batsman with a short delivery.

Mustadir, however, collected the winning run when he



Switzerland's Viren Schneider is on her way to winning the women's floodlit World Cup slalom in Sestriere, Italy on Dec 18.

Lara's nemesis

Sports Reporter

SYDNEY, Dec 19: Many of the world's leading bowlers have toiled in vain over the past couple of years to claim the prized scalp of Brian Lara - perhaps they should ask Zoe Goss how it is done, reports Reuter.

Australian women's cricketer Zoe dismissed the world record holder for 26 at the Sydney Cricket Ground - and for good measure she did it twice with the same ball.

Playing in a Sir Donald Bradman XI v World XI charity match, she had Lara caught by wicketkeeper Steve Rixon, who then stumped the West Indian just to make sure.

"I tried my best not to get out but these things happen," said a subdued Lara. "I hope it doesn't get back home - if it does I hope they mistake Zoe for a man's name."

"I think he was fairly nervous about getting out to a girl. It was in the back of his mind," said Zoe. "He didn't do too much talking about it afterwards."

Lara's downfall was witnessed by a crowd of 17,456, who chanted "Zoe's a legend," and television viewers in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. One fan even risked arrest to run on to the pitch to shake her hand.

Presumably it was not the attendant who refused to allow 26-year-old Goss into the dressing room before the match. It was so quick talking to her that she was meant to be there.

She finished with two for 60 from 10 overs of the pace - her other victim was former West Indies Test wicketkeeper Jeff Dujon - and scored 29 with the bat.

Before last night's match, Zoe said she would be "representing the standard of women's cricket". Lara will be the first to agree she didn't do a bad job.

She was narrowly pipped by South African Graeme Pollock as player of the match, but that didn't really matter to Goss, who described it as "one of the best days of my life."

Amunike best in Africa

CAIRO, Dec 19: Nigerian international Emmanuel Amunike was on Sunday voted 1994 African player-of-the-year by the Confederation of African Football (CAF), reports Reuter.

The CAF said its technical and press committee had awarded Amunike 48 points, with countryman Rashidi Yekini and Liberia's George Weah joint second on 44 points.

Nigerians dominated the CAF list with Finidi George and Daniel Amokachi named as fourth and fifth respectively, while Austin Okacha and Sunday Oliseh were joint eighth.

Bengal in IFA Shield final

CALCUTTA, Dec 19: Title aspirants East Bengal rode on Krishanu Dey's brilliance to enter the final of the 100th IFA Shield football tournament with a hard-fought 1-0 victory against Mohammedan Sporting at the floodlit Salt Lake Stadium here today, reports PTI.

Striker Sisir Ghosh struck the all-important goal in the 15th minute of the second session after the crafty Krishanu Dey did all the spadework in a match which seldom rose to great heights.

Akram to lead Bangladesh

Sports Reporter

Akram Khan will lead hosts Bangladesh in the four-nation SAARC cricket tournament beginning from Thursday.

Just two days before the week-long tourney, the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) yesterday announced a 14-member squad with the big right-handed middle order batsman from Chittagong, who plays club cricket for Abahani, as the captain of a contingent that contains a number of new faces.

Young pace bowler Sajal Chowdhury along with his Brothers teammate Al Shahriar are two of the six new presences in the national team.

The other debutants are all-rounder Naimur Rahman of Abahani, left-arm spinner Md Rafiq of Mohammedans, left-arm pacer Anis and opening batsman Javed Omar Belim of Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC).

Although all these players have represented Bangladesh earlier at the youth level, being reckoned with for the full national squad is surely a unique incident for the group of six.

The fourteen selected players are Jahangir Alam, Akram Khan, Athar Ali Khan, Aminul Islam, Minhazul Abedin, Enamul Huq, Nasir Ahmad, Al Shahriar, Sajal Chowdhury, Saiful Islam Khan, Anisur Rahman, Md Rafique, Naimur Rahman, Javed Omar.

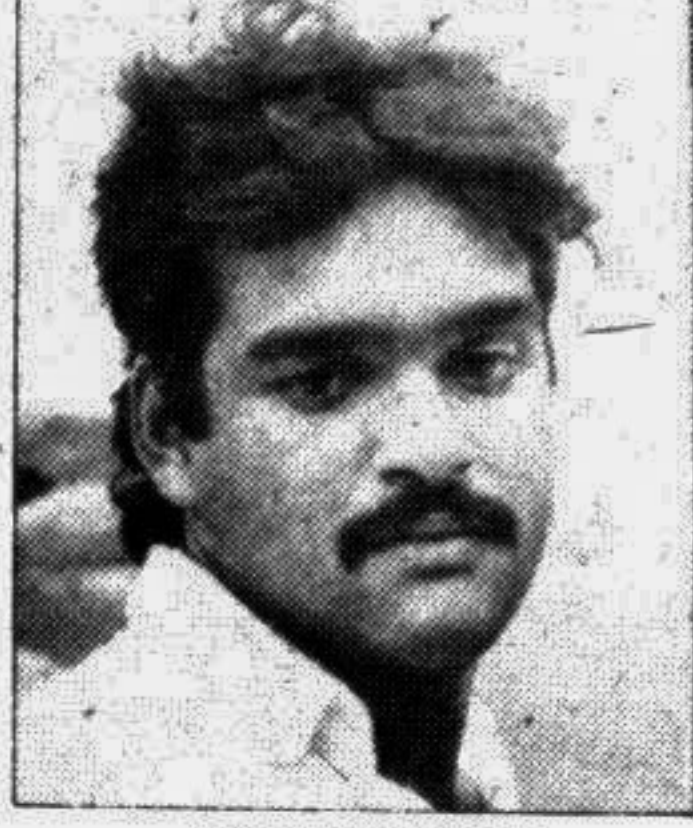
Three players Mohammedans' promising

paceman Hasibul Hassan and left-handed allrounder Mustadir and Victoria's young opening batsman Mihrab Hossain - have been kept under the wings as emergency reserves.

Faruque Ahmed, who led Bangladesh in the ICC Trophy earlier this year, has been dropped along with a host of his peers on that hyped up and blighted tour of Kenya.

Notable omissions from that African safari are stylish middle order Selim Shahed, spinners Sharfuddinowa Ibne Shaheed, Shariful Huq, pacer Mizanur Rahman and opener Sajid Hassan.

Of the lot Mohammedans' Selim Shahed has reasons to curse his luck as despite being



AKRAM KHAN

in fine fettle, the young right-handed batsman, who is a capable off-spinner too, has not had the kind of scores that would have helped him retain

his slot in the national team.

A recent bout of could only weaken Shahed's case.

Although the selectors, who had earlier been embroiled in controversy over the choice of the skipper, predictably picked Akram, they named no one as the vice captain.

Reza-e-Karim, manager of Bangladesh's failed Kenyan mission and one of the selectors, summed up the situation in the face of the queries from the press. "We are the hosts. We do not need a vice captain."

However, the authorities selected three local umpires for a panel of six in connection with the forthcoming tourney.

Ataul Huq Mullick, an all-rounder of a sort with considerable experience in football refereeing, sports commentary and journalism and not to mention his shirt as an umpire, is one of the trio, completed by much younger Akhtar Hossain and Jahangir.

The newly-picked national team will play a trial match with the Foreign players' Eleven led by Aamir Malik today at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Besides Bangladesh, who will field a full national side, Test playing countries India, Test playing countries India, one-day world champions Pakistan and Sri Lanka are sending their A teams in this 50-overs-a-side meet. The competition, not considered as an international one, will be exempt from the field restrictions, observed in any standard tourney of instant cricket.

Close call for Vogts' men

KAISERSLAUTER N, Germany, Dec 19: Germany scored twice in the first 17 minutes and then hung on to beat lowly Albania 2-1 Sunday in a European Championship qualifying match that will renew criticism of German coach Berti Vogts, reports agencies.

An eighth minute penalty by captain Lothar Matthaus and Jurgen Klinsmann's strike nine minutes later gave the Germans a well-deserved 2-0 halftime lead.

But Albania came out more determined in the second half and Altin Rakli, who plays for Bundesliga side Freiburg, fired home after 58 minutes to rattle the former world champions.

Sunday's victory was by the same unconvincing score that Germany beat Albania in Tirana on Nov 16 in the away leg.

"When we only beat Albania 2-1 at home, that's like a defeat for us Germans," midfielder Matthias Sammer said.

The victory improved Germany to 3-0-0 in qualifying, putting them in a virtual tie for first place in Group seven with Bulgaria, who retained a slight edge on goal differential.

"It came with that goal. For some reason the players tightened up," said Vogts of the dismal second-half performance. "I didn't like it at all. There's going to be some discussion."

"We are very disappointed with the way we played in the second half. Altogether we did not create enough opportunities for ourselves," Vogts added.

The final whistle brought boos and jeers from the mainly German crowd and cries of "Berti has to go" from the stands.

Vogts has been criticised since Germany were upset and eliminated from the World Cup by Bulgaria in the quarterfinals. A recent poll said 70 per cent of Germany's First Division players felt he was the wrong man to head the team.

The German players came into the game trying to prove that Wednesday's 3-0 shutout over Moldova was the start of an upswing.

"We Germans have finally got to learn to accept the other side's performance, too, we are no longer the world champions," Matthaus said.

Rakli, who stated before the match it was his dream to score just one goal against Germany, said he was surprised by the hosts' second half performance.

"We thought Germany would put on the pressure, but that did not happen. When we were 2-0 down after 18 minutes, I thought we would get hit for six," he said.

TEAMS

GERMANY: Andreas Koepke, Lothar Matthaus, Thomas Berthold, Thomas Helmer, Stefan Reuter, Thomas Haessler (Thomas Strunz, 78th minute), Matthias Sammer, Ralf Weber, Andreas Moeller, Ulf Kirsten (Stefan Kuntz, 58th), Jurgen Klinsmann.

ALBANIA: Foto Strakosha, Dema, Arjan Xhumba, Salvador Kacaj, Ilir Shkumbi, Sulejman Demollari, Hysen Zmijani, Samir Malko, Bellai, Altin Rakli, Indrit Fortuzi.

SCOTS SINNED AGAINST

Meanwhile in Athens a controversial first half penalty by defender Stratos Apostolakis gave Greece a 1-0 win over Scotland on Sunday to retain their unbeaten record in their European Championship qualifying group.

Scotland felt they should also have been awarded a penalty in the 85th minute when Apostolakis felled John Spencer, but Dutch referee Joe Blankenstein ignored their pleas.

Greece now head Group Eight with a maximum 12 points from four matches with the Scots five points behind in second place.

Greek manager Costas Polychroniou, under pressure after the national side lost all their games in the World Cup, was delighted with the outcome.

"I've been vindicated by this result. We've beaten Scotland, who are a major footballing nation and in our most difficult game so far," said.

The Scots protested vigorously when Blankenstein pointed to the spot after Colin Hendry lunged into a tackle on Alexandris in the 19th minute.

The Greek captain's conversion sparked frenzied celebrations among the crowd of 20,000 on a bitterly cold and wet night in the 85,000-seat Athens Olympic Stadium.

Greece dominated after the first 15 minutes with Nikos Mahlas and George Toursounidis creating several good scoring chances.

Toursounidis almost added a second after 35 minutes when he surged past a string of Scottish defenders but shot wide of advancing keeper Andy Goram, who made several superb saves in the second half.

John McGinlay came close to equalising in the 57th minute with a shot on the turn but hit the ball just wide of the post.

Scotland manager Craig Brown said he was disappointed about the two penalty decisions.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

CRYPTOQUIP
HQOR UQLLONG VQMMODR
PSFLND: WSM ESJU SW
FH, WQVONOQMOJG
EMDDRH PSZJZJ
Saturday's Cryptoquip: MARINE BIOLOGIST'S GOOD MEMORY CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO TURTLE RECALL.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: V equals M
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.