

MSC's sixth

Mohammedan Sporting Club recorded their six consecutive victory in the Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey league, trouncing Sadharan Bima 6-0 at the Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

In a one-sided affair, Zahid Biswas and Nixon struck twice and Ehtesham and Ashuk scored once each for Mohammedan Sporting Club.

In the other match Bangladesh Police and Bangladesh Sporting Club split points in a 1-1 draw.

Sabu gave Bangladesh SC the lead after only the 8th minute and Kazi Nasir levelled the score 12 minutes later.

Yamaha cricket

Sports Reporter

Agrani Bank carved out an exciting ten-run victory over Dhaka Wanderers Club in the Yamaha First Division cricket league at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Former national cricketers Dipu Roy and Nuruddin Jalali took three wickets apiece as Wanderers. Chasing 198 in 45 overs for a win, were all out for 44.3 overs.

Dipu captured three for 26 while Nuruddin's haul cost 30 runs from eight overs.

Nuruzzaman and Pakistani Sagir Abbas were the main run-getters for Wanderers with 37 and 31 respectively.

Earlier, the bankers, sent in to bat first, collected 197 for nine from their quota of 45 overs.

Kamrul Huda topscored with 38 followed by opener Sohel Hossain who made 37.

Ismail and Atiq were the other notable contributors with 36 and 30 respectively.

T. Islam Totum was the pick of the Wanderers bowlers with a bag of four for 31.

In the day's other match, hosts City Club failed to utilise the home advantage as Railway beat them by 20 runs.

Fazie Bari made 40 and Rezaul Hassan 33 as Railway, batting first, made 200 seven from 45 overs.

Narayan Chandra bagged three wickets for 45 runs among the City Club bowlers.

Fazie Bari did one better taking two for 33 with his right arm off-spin as City, chasing 201 for victory, closed at 180 for eight when overs ran out.

Skipper Zakir topscored with 46 for the losers.

Besides Bari, N. Kabir also took two for 37 among the Railway bowlers who in general kept a tight leash.

England A win at last

BOMBAY, Jan 6: Dominic Cork and Ian Salisbury bowled the touring England A to an emphatic 96-run victory over an Indian Youth XI in their opening first-class match here Friday, reports AFP.

Derbyshire's medium-pace Cork took four for 46 and Sussex leg-spinner Salisbury three for 93 as the home team chasing a victory target of 289, were shot out for 192 soon after tea on the fourth and final day at the Wankhede Stadium here.

They took their frustrations out on the Indian colts and conjured up a morale-boosting victory for the tourists ahead of three five-day unofficial Tests and as many one-day internationals against India A.

Maradona gets away with it

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 6: Diego Maradona will not go to jail for breaking bail terms set by a court trying him for shooting at journalists with an air rifle, the former Argentina star's lawyer and the case judge said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

"In cases like this bail is normally granted again," Judge Julio Campora told reporters. Maradona must present himself before the court within two weeks to explain why he broke bail by travelling to Cuba and France without court permission.

The prosecution said the 34-year-old hero of Argentina's 1986 World Cup win could get a taste of jail on his return this week while his lawyers renegotiate his bail.

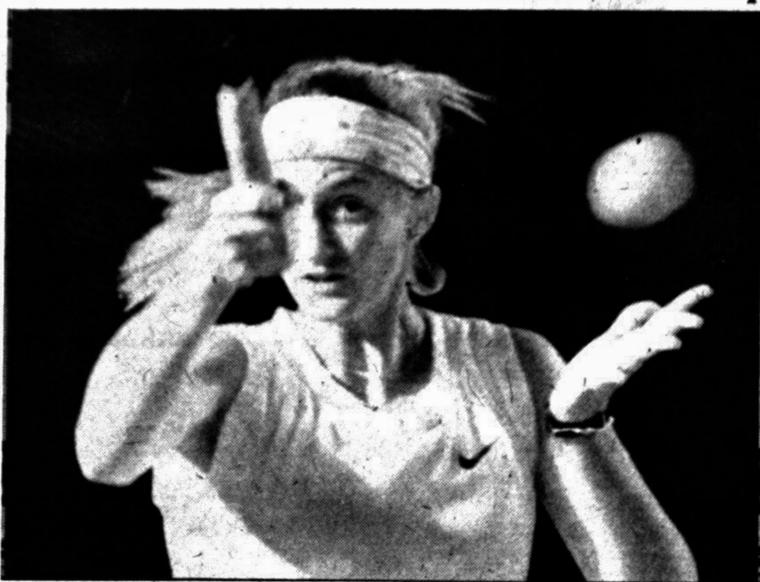
Aga Khan Gold Cup golf

The two-day 23rd Aga Khan Gold Cup golf tournament began yesterday at the Kurmitola Golf Club here, reports BSS.

Over one hundred and fifty golfers are participating in the tournament, the oldest in the country.

Perkins for ban on Sino natants

SYDNEY, Jan 6: Triple world record holder Kieren Perkins of Australia says he wants all Chinese swimmers banned from the sport for four years until the country can prove its athletes are drug-free, reports AP.



Frenchwoman Mary Pierce in action against Hong Kong's Willy Chan during an exhibition tournament in Hong Kong on Jan 5. Pierce cruised to a 6-3, 6-1 victory and will next play Martina Navratilova. — AFP photo

Abahani, Victoria's bane

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Abahani gave a fair trial of their strength when they convincingly beat giant-killers Victoria Sporting Club by 52 runs in the Navana Premier Division cricket league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Dapal Summer winners Abahani owed their second successive Navana league victory to the superlative efforts of skipper Gazi Ashraf and Pakistani Naveed Anjum, both of whom batted purposefully in the morning to lay the foundation of a huge total and Victoria after two magnificent victories against two big teams were made to suffer their first defeat.

Chasing 239 for a victory in 45 overs, Victoria could only muster 186 for eight allowing Abahani to go one up in the three meetings of the two teams this season.

Traditional Victoria had marked a resurgence after having wandered in wilderness for a long time with a surprise three-wicket victory over Abahani in the Damal Summer cricket tourney.

Abahani, however, had the last laugh, putting paid to Victoria's high hopes with a six-wicket win in the final of

the traditional curtain-raiser. Veteran Ashraf seemingly enjoyed his return to the crease from the commentary box conjuring a 121-run partnership for the first wicket with Harun Ur Rashid after his counterpart Azhar Hossain won the toss and chose to field first.

Ashraf was the first to go bowled by Indian slow left-arm Vihshal Singh Yadav, by far the best Victoria bowler on the day.

Ashraf, who had scored a match-winning 92 against Victoria earlier in the Damal final, hit seven fours and a six in his 82-ball 61.

Vishal, who returned distinguished analysis of two for 32 from nine overs under tremendous pressure, snared Harun for 38 seven runs later with the addition of seven runs but runs kept on coming at a fast clip as Pakistani Test-discard Naveed Anjum, better known as a paceman, belted the ball in gay abandon.

Although none of his partners settled down at the other end, Anjum kept enough strike to hammer a 51-ball 66 featuring six fours and two sixes.

Abu Hamid picked up four priceless wickets for 57 runs from seven overs as Abahani, stepping on the gas for quick runs, lost eight batsmen for a

grand total of 238 at the end of 45 overs.

Saddled with an asking rate of over five runs per over, Victoria got off to a spirited start mainly due to the efforts of young opener Mirhab Hossain.

But new ball bowlers Anjum and Zakir wrested Abahani's initiative dealing three quick blows including that of Mirhab who left for a 35-ball 23.

At 38 for three in ten overs, the wind was well and truly out of Victoria's sail and Iqbal Sikander, another former Pakistan international, produced an accurate spell of leg spin to thwart any thrust from the middle order.

Indian Rajinder Singh got his second half century against Abahani making 57 off 82 balls and paceman Iqbal Hossain sought some consolation with the willow in an unbeaten 34 after being really roughed up as a bowler but the pitiable fate of a promising match before a sizeable holiday crowd was never to be altered.

Although there were two wickets each for Jewel, Anjum and Sikander, the leggie for outshone offers for economy finishing with two for 23 from the full quota of nine overs.

TODAY'S MATCH
Biman vs Kalabagan (Dhaka Stadium)

Ma's army disbanded?

BEIJING, Jan 6: China's "Ma family army" of world-beating women's distance runners had been disbanded and will never reunite, team leader and double world champion Wang Junxia told Reuters on Thursday, reports Reuter.

In a telephone interview from the north eastern city of her Shenyang, she said that the team's coach Ma Juren had driven her and her teammates to desperation with what she described as his dictatorial style and mercurial moods.

"We simply couldn't take it any longer," Wang told Reuters from Shenyang where the remnants of the Ma family army are setting up an independent training base.

"We had absolutely no freedom. We were all on the brink of going crazy. The pressure was too intense. We couldn't take it," she said, shouting into the telephone.

"Really, we really couldn't take it," the 21-year-old said. "The Ma family army has been disbanded," she added. "We will never bring the team back together. Impossible."

Wang won the 10,000 metres World Championship in Stuttgart in August 1993, then slashed an astonishing 42 seconds from the world record a month later at China's National Games. She destroyed the 3,000 metres world record the same week. The following month she won the World Cup marathon in Spain.

Wang said she did not know why Qu Yunxia, the 1,500-metre world record holder and 3,000 metres world champion, had decided to remain at the modern training centre Ma built in Dalian with his runners' cash prizes.

"She can make her own decisions," Wang said of Qu.

Saying there were "too many reasons" for her defection, Wang said adding that a major factor was Ma's hoarding of his runner's cash and prizes — including three Mercedes Benz 600 sedans that she, Qu and Liu Dong were awarded for their performances in Stuttgart.

"He said the car was our common property — half his, half mine," Wang said. "Ma smashed one of the cars into a highway barrier en route

from his father's funeral in December. He and his wife both seriously injured, remain in hospital in Liaoning Province.

Ma refused to take Reuters' telephone calls.

Qu visited Ma in hospital and an official newspaper quoted him as praising her as his most senior and loyal runner.

Wang disagreed with recent newspaper accounts that said money was the main factor for her leaving, a decision she and eight others made several weeks before Ma's accident. An official newspaper said on Wednesday 16 runners had defected.

The overriding issue was personal freedom, she said.

"We had no freedom, no freedom at all," she said, her voice shaking. "We had no control over our own futures."

Wang said Ma forbade his runners to speak their minds, and ordered them always to defend his quirky methods, which combined a high-altitude marathon everyday with nutritional cocktails of fresh turtle blood and caterpillar fungus.

"We had no freedom of speech," Wang said. "He was always right. Anything that he said was right was right-even if he was wrong."

She said Ma should share the credit for the team's successes but his iron-fistiness had taken its toll of her health.

"My lungs have suffered" she said. "But when I told him I was in pain, he made me train even harder. He never let me rest. My condition kept getting worse."

Wang said she was no longer confident of posting world class times, saying she had too many ailments. She would not say when she or her colleagues would face world competition.

"We can't plan for the future at all rights now. Too many things remain unsettled."

Wang denied a Chinese reports she was acting temporarily as coach of the defectors.

Wang expressed strong admiration for Liu Dong, the 1,500 metres world champion who Ma kicked off the team in late 1993 for insubordination.

Wang refuted Ma's assertion at the time that he disciplined Liu for refusing to dump her boyfriend or cut her hair. She said the real reason was that Liu ran to win, defying Ma's orders to set the pace for another Ma family runner.

"Liu Dong was the first to act on her feelings," Wang said. "This is what we are all doing now."

Liu had not joined Wang and the others in Shenyang. One newspaper said she planned to sell her World Championship gold medal to raise money for training.

Wang, who received the prestigious Jesse Owens Award in New York in February 1994, said she was not aware of offers to join the many elite US or European track clubs that might covet her talent and make her rich. Neither did she say she would refuse if approached.

Pegasus A win

Sports Reporter

Young Pegasus A registered a 12-run victory over Amarjyoti Club in the lone Acme Second Division cricket league match played yesterday on the western strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

The winners batted first to collect 189 for nine from 40 overs with Sunny and Safil making 33 and 31 respectively.

Zahidul of Amarjyoti bowled well to claim four wickets for 19 runs.

Amarjyoti in their turn were all out for 177 in 38.3 overs.

Pablo and Saikat scored 35 each but to no avail as far as the chasers were concerned.

Kohinoor, Khoka and Marshall collected two wickets apiece.

Natal make life miserable for Pakistan

DURBAN, Jan 6: Pakistan's much-vaunted batting line-up stumbled badly on Thursday as Natal bowled them out for 247 on the second day of their four-day match at Kingsmead, reports Reuter.

Natal took a first innings lead of 144 and despite the early loss of Doug Watson forought to an unplayable delivery from Waqar Younis, when bad light ended play 12 overs early Andrew Hudson (36 not out) and Neville Wright (35 not out) had taken Natal to 73 for one wicket — an overall lead of 217.

It would have been a lot worse for the Pakistanis if Waqar had not come to the rescue earlier in the day as a batsman.

During the morning five wickets had fallen for 112 and by the time Waqar came to the wicket, with Lance Klusener on a hat-trick, Pakistan, had slipped to 159 for eight, still 83 runs away from reaching the follow-on target of 242.

Waqar survived the hat-trick ball despite a confident shout for lbw and went on to smash 55 from 55 balls. He attacked everything and hit seven fours and three towering sixes off off-spinner Derek Crookes as he added 88 from 107 balls for the ninth wicket with Manzoor Elahi who made 37.

After passing his 50 Waqar saved the follow-on with his seventh boundary and both he and Elahi were dismissed shortly after.

Apart from those two there was little to recommend the Pakistan batting.

Aamir Sohail made an un-complicated 43 during the morning and Shakeel Ahmed (31) and Rashid Latif (26) tried to rebuild during the afternoon in a partnership of 53 but the damage was done in a 29-ball spell in mid-morning when four wickets fell for just 13 runs.

All the Natal seamers bowled well although the 23-year-old Zululander, Klusener, with four for 63, deservedly took the honours for some hostile and pacy bowling.

He received good support from left-arm seamer Ross Veenstra (three for 39) and Shaun Pollock (one for 47).

Rutherford fined for dissent

CAPE TOWN, Jan 6: New Zealand captain Ken Rutherford was fined 75 per cent of his match fee for giving a two-Test suspension ban for using "abusive language" after being given the third Test against South Africa on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Match referee Peter Burge told the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) that the ban would be put into effect if he offended again in his next two Test appearances.

Rutherford's punishment, one of the heaviest in international cricket, came after he showed dissent when given out leg before by umpire Barry Lambson.

Rutherford shouldered arms to an inswinger from Brian McMillan and then produced a barrage of obscenities when Lambson raised his finger.

His dismissal shortly before the close of the fourth day left New Zealand, 152 behind on first innings, in dire straits. They were 121 for four at the close.

Pakistan medium fast bowler Aaqib Javed is the only player to have missed an international match through suspension under the International Cricket Council (ICC) code of conduct.

Burge banned him from a limited overs game against New Zealand in 1993 for abusive language towards umpire Brian Aldridge.

Rutherford fined 50 per cent of his match fee by Burge after an incident in a one day match against Sri Lanka in East London last month, is free to play in his country's two-Test home series against West Indies beginning next month.

Chinese female lifters test positive

BEIJING, Jan 6: Two Chinese women's world weightlifting champions have tested positive for taking banned substances, a Chinese sports official confirmed today, reports Reuter.

He said rumours that Li Dan, gold medalist in the 82 kg snatch, and her team-mate Wang Sheng, who shared gold in the 54 kg class at the championships in Istanbul, Turkey, in November were found to have used performance-enhancing substances at the tournament.

The official of the state sports commission weightlifting section declined to say whether China had been formally notified by the International Weightlifting Federation.

S Africa create history

CAPE TOWN, Jan 6: South Africa became the first team this century to come back from a one-down to win a three-match Test series on Friday when they posted a seven-wicket victory over New Zealand, reports AFP.

The home team scored 89 for three in their second innings, easily surpassing the 88 runs necessary for victory.

Earlier South Africa bowled out New Zealand out for 239 in their second innings.

South Africa made 440 in their first innings, which included centuries from captain Hansie Cronje and wicket-keeper Dave Richardson while New Zealand made 288 all out in their first innings.

South Africa became the first team since England against Australia in 1888 to achieve a three-match Test series victory after losing the opening game.

New Zealand had won the first Test in Johannesburg by 137, but lost the second in Durban by eight wickets prior to the deciding match at Newlands in Cape Town.

South Africa's commanding victory was set up by paceman Fanie de Villiers, who claimed the last three New Zealand wickets in 11 balls for two runs to return innings figures of five wickets for 61.

De Villiers was ably supported by all-rounder Brian McMillan, who took three wickets for 52 runs in his 25 overs.

New Zealand, who started the day still 31 runs behind South Africa's first innings total but with four second innings wickets already down, needed to bat through the day to salvage a draw and the series.

However, the Kiwis lost wickets steadily and only Stephen Fleming (53) and Simon



DAVE RICHARDSON Doull (25) showed resistance. New Zealand captain Ken Rutherford was fined 75 per cent of his match fee after verbally abusing the umpires when he was given out leg before wicket to McMillan for 26.

Richardson, whose 109 allowed South Africa to post their impressive first innings total, was named man-of-the-match and man-of-the-series for his efforts, which included a 93 in the first Test and 16 dismissals.

Scoreboard on the final day of the third and final cricket Test between South Africa and New Zealand at Newlands on Friday.

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 288 (Stephen Fleming 79, Ken Rutherford 56; Brian

McMillan 4-65, Steven Jack 4-69)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings: 440 (Hansie Cronje 112, Dave Richardson 109, Gary Kirsten 64)

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings (overnight 121-4)

H. Young c Kirsten b McMillan 51
D. Murray lbw b De Villiers 3
A. Parore c Eksteen 34
B. De Villiers 34
M. Crowe c Richardson 5
K. Rutherford lbw b McMillan 26
S. Thomson run out 16
S. Fleming c Richardson b De Villiers 53
M. Hart c Eksteen b Jack 7
S. Doull c Rhodes b De Villiers 25
D. Morrison lbw b De Villiers 1
C. Pringle not out 0
Extras: (lb-6; b-5; w-1; nb-6) 18
Total: 239

Fall of wickets: 1-19; 2-63; 3-73; 4-115; 5-131; 6-154; 7-173; 8-224; 9-230.

Bowling O M R W
De Villiers 28.1 9 61 5
Jack 19 7 50 1
McMillan 25 9 52 3
Cronje 7 3 15 0
Eksteen 31 16 46 0
Kirsten 1 0 4 0

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings
C. Kirsten lbw b Hart 25
R. Steyn c Doull b Thomson 12
J. Commins not out 10
D. Cullinan hit wkt b Hart 28
H. Cronje not out 14
Extras: 0
Total (for three wickets) 89

Fall of wickets: 1-37; 2-37; 3-69.

Bowling O M R W
Morrison 4 1 5 0
Hart 15.2 2 51 2
S. Thomson 12 3 33 1

Result: South Africa win by seven wickets.

First Test: Johannesburg - New Zealand won by 137 runs.

Second Test: Durban - South Africa won by eight wickets.

South Africa win series 2-1.

Flower banks on fielding

BRISBANE, Jan 6: Zimbabwe cricket captain Andy Flower rates his team "20 or 30 runs" better in the field than his English opponents in the oneday World Series match scheduled for Saturday at the Gabba, reports AP.

And Flower says it is an aspect of the game which he thinks will be critical.

Zimbabwe are clinging to an outside hope of reaching the World Series finals but must beat England convincingly in their last preliminary game and then await the outcome of the three remaining matches.

Flower believes Zimbabwe's enthusiasm in the field is an edge they must utilize.

"Our guys have fielded really well throughout the tour," Flower said Friday. "It's an aspect

where we better England and could turn around 20 or 30 runs in the game."

Flower said the confidence gained from Zimbabwe's 1991 World Cup win over eventual finalists England and their 13-run win in Sydney last month did not mean they had the advantage over England.

The most important thing about that 2-0 record, if you could call it that, is the knowledge that we can beat England," Flower said. "It gives us confidence."

Zimbabwe were given a boost when Heath Streak and Stephen Peall, bothered by injuries, both bowled full sessions in the nets on Friday.

Strike bowler Streak (thigh) and spinner Peall (shoulder) were declared fit for selection with a side to be named on Saturday.

The pair was rested from

Zimbabwe's last tour game against Queensland state on Wednesday as a precaution.

Peall first suffered the injury two months before the 1991 World Cup in a car accident and was forced to miss Zimbabwe's first major step onto the international stage.

Flower is considering playing himself down the order as he has done in the four matches even though it would break up the successful opening combination he has built up with brother Grant.

England will also delay naming a side until Saturday morning. Australia lead the World Series standings with four wins in four matches, followed by Australia A at 2-2. England are 1-2 in their three matches, while Zimbabwe, who have played five matches, are 1-4.

Australia and Australia A play Sunday in Brisbane.

Germany, Ukraine in final

PERTH, Jan 6: Germany will meet Ukraine in Saturday's final of the Hopman Cup after Boris Becker overcame a rash of double faults to complete a comfortable semifinal victory over France today, reports Reuter.

World number three Becker served four double faults in a row at one stage before disposing of Jean-Philippe Fleurian 7-6, 7-6, reserving his best form for the tiebreaks where he won 14 of the 15 points played.

Anke Huber's 6-2, 6-1 thrashing of Julie Halard meant the second seeds have yet to drop a set in their respective singles rubbers.

The pair are now favourites to emulate Steffi Graf and Michael Stich who secured Germany's only previous success at the mixed team tournament two years ago.

Becker, who served 15 aces against Austria on Wednesday, unleashed another 11 against Fleurian, but agreed his serve had been erratic.

Becker's extraordinary lapses came in the sixth game

of the second set when he was leading 3-2 and 15-0, only to present Fleurian with a break without having to hit a ball.

Becker now has to face world number 15 Andrei Medvedev in a potentially enthralling final which is likely to cause conflicting emotions for Huber.

Her close companion Andrei Medvedev is gleefully awaiting a mixed doubles encounter with the 20-year-old and a blushing Huber confessed she was praying for an outright German victory in the singles.

Judging by her form against Halard in a one-sided contest lasting just one hour, that is more than a possibility, although Becker is wary of Medvedev.

"I think it will be tougher tomorrow," Becker said. "I know he is capable of beating me