

Sport

Windies 130 for two

Sports Reporter
The West Indies were 130 for two half an hour after lunch on the opening day of the fourth and final Test against Australia at the Sabina Park, Kingston, Jamaica.

Arambagh, Farashganj move into group finals



Arambagh Krishna Sangtha and Farashganj Sporting Club moved into the respective group finals in the qualifying round of the Nirma DMFA Cup after eliminating their opponents by the barest of margins at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.



A mid-pitch moment during the Nirma DMFA Cup football tournament match between Farashganj SC and PWD SC at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Farashganj won the match by a solitary goal.

minating their opponents by the barest of margins at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. In the first match of the day, Farashganj, a newly promoted team in the Premier Division, edged past Public Works Department (PWD) Sports Club by a solitary goal to pave the way to the finals from Group B.

After a barren first half in an evenly contested match, striker Shafiqul Qader Munna struck the match-winner in the 50th minute with a spectacular header off a neat floater from medio Ratan. The winners will now take on Wari Club tomorrow to decide who will join the eight-team final leg beginning from May 3. Farashganj could have won by a wider margin had their strikers capitalised upon the chances that came their way in both halves.

In the day's second match, another Premier Division outfit Arambagh KS prevailed over spirited Police Athletic Club by the odd goal in three. Faisal gave Arambagh a 36th minute lead from a goalmouth melee before Mahabubur Rahman Roxy doubled the margin in the 82nd minute. Roxy, who joined Arambagh this year after playing for Mohammedan Sporting Club for the last couple of seasons, found the net with a neatly placed shot after outfoxing a couple of Police defenders. Police, who were demoralised after conceding the second goal quite against the run of play, struck a consolation goal in the dying moments through their substitute Mostafa Kamal, who headed the ball home after a Haridas corner from the left came by his way eluding the Arambagh custodian Shimul. Arambagh will now meet Rahmatganj, the First Division champions, in the Group C final on May 1.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Victoria vs Agrani Bank (DS 4:30 pm)
Fakirerpool YMC vs East End (DS 6:30 pm)

BCCB beat the heat!

Sports Reporter
An under-16 cricket team from the Indian city of Hyderabad arrived in the capital yesterday to play a series of exhibition matches across the country from tomorrow. But many observers feel that summer has not yet come for the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB). Otherwise anyone with a shred of commonsense would not have imagined arranging such matches in the scorching heat. Cricket buffs also were of the opinion that the cosy atmosphere in the air conditioned BCCB office might have made them oblivious of the fact. But the touring Indian side, who are on a ten-day visit here, will certainly feel the heat when they play their first exhibition against the Chittagong Schools' Eleven at the port city tomorrow. The Hyderabad boys will also feature in five exhibition matches against different selections across the country before leaving for home on May 9.

Cullinan carves debut ton

LONDON, Apr 29: South African Test batsman Daryll Cullinan made an instant impression on English county bowlers on Friday as he became the first Derbyshire player to score a century on his championship debut, reports Reuter. Cullinan succeeded where top overseas signings such as Peter Kirsten, John Wright, Eddie Barlow and Lawrence Rowe all failed, contributing 134 as Derbyshire reached 603 for six against Sussex, the second-highest total in their 125-year history. The 28-year-old from Transvaal reached his hundred in just over three hours and hit 21 fours in total during his 207-ball innings. Kim Barnett with 164 and Chris Adams with 111 joined in the fun and Sussex, bowled out for 111 in their first innings, finished the second day a mammoth 424 behind with six wickets left. Another South African, paceman Allan Donald, also struck good early season form, taking six for 56 as Middlesex were reduced to 224 all out in reply to Warwickshire's 282. The defending champions, who have Donald as their overseas player this season in place of Brian Lara, finisher the day on 133 for four, a lead of 191. Hampshire's James Bovill became the first bowler to take more than 10 wickets in a first-class match against Durham as wickets continued to tumble in the match at Stockton. The 23-year-old took six for 29 in Durham's second innings to finish with match figures of 12 for 68. Durham were still able to reach 248 largely thanks to 84 from Manoj Prabhakar, leaving Hampshire to score 232 to win. Former England captain Graham Gooch hit 139 as Essex piled up 404 against Leicestershire, while all-rounder Robert Croft put Glamorgan in command with a career-best 143 against Somerset at Taunton. There were also championship-best scores for Northamptonshire pair Richard Montgomerie and David Capel who scored 192 and 167 to steer their side to 561 for eight declared against Kent. Kent were faced with the task of making 412 to avoid the follow-on and at close had reached 257 for five. Mike Atherton, on the verge of being confirmed England captain for the summer, quite made a point to England chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth by scoring 129 in the non-championship match between Lancashire and Yorkshire.

India, S Korea split points



MADRAS, Apr 29: India shared four goals with South Korea on the first day of the three-day four-nation hockey tournament that commenced at Huerth in Germany yesterday, according to a fax message received here from Deepak Khanolker, coordinator of the Indian team, reports PTI. According to Khanolker, the Indian forward line put up a poor show and it will be tough for the coach to decide his strategies on this form. If the forward line continues like this, Anil Aldrin and K Ponnacha in the deep defence were the outstanding players. If India are to get somewhere, the boys have to make an effort. Today, the effort was not there. To try and lose is acceptable but to give up without effort is not what is expected from such talented boys. The match began on a very 'furious note' and the pace could not last long. India, who played well, scored a brace of goals during the first half. Mukesh Kumar sounded the boards in the fourth minute from the right flank from zero angle. Three minutes later, Anil Aldrin increased the tally following a penalty corner conversion

from a direct hit. India continued their supremacy and their sustained attack enabled them to beat the defence and the goalkeeper but three goal scoring chances were missed — two went over and the third missed the mark narrowly. The Koreans switched players and started attacking from the middle which is 'unusual' from them, while the Indian players started losing easy balls. In one of their raids, the Koreans found the mark following their first penalty corner, though they were able to get into the 25-yard area only twice in the first-half. The second-half was a different story as Indians with two-one first half advantage controlled the game well and were rather unlucky in not finding the target in the fifteenth minute after beating the defence following a long scoop pass. On the other hand, the Koreans found the equaliser in the 44th minute from rebound off a penalty corner. India play Germany today.

GERMANY BLANKED SA

In the other match, Germany defeated South Africa 3-0. The game was marked with a brilliant display by both the teams and each goal that was scored by Germany was a team effort. It was rather unfortunate that South Africa, who put up an excellent performance, went without scoring. They should have got at least two goals, the message said. Germany played with five new players and these players played with abundant confidence that they never looked like newcomers. Two of their three goals came from penalty corner conversions and the third was scored in the second half from a good run down the left flank by the German forward Kurtza Oliver.

Atherton safe

LONDON, Apr 29: Mike Atherton looks certain to be reappointed as England cricket captain at the weekend, reports AFP. Chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth, who also took on the job of team manager last month, has done nothing to stop speculation over the post. But Atherton is the clear front-runner — although the appointment could be for half a summer or even less, which would mean the selectors could switch skippers during the summer six-Test series with West Indies.

Abahani beat Brothers

Sports Reporter
Abahani Krishna Chakra defeated Brothers Union by a lone goal in a friendly football match at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday. In the lack-lustre 80-minute encounter played in a true spirit of friendliness, defender Biplob struck the match-winner after a penalty taken by medio Mizan came by his way slipping the grip of Brothers custodian Milon. The spot-kick was awarded in the 46th minute when a Brothers' defender brought down Abahani's Russian midfielder Alexi in the danger-zone. The match was a sheer disappointment for the several thousand expectant fans, who curiously witnessed a change of 18 players in a slow-paced engagement with all the booters crowding in the middle.

Indo-Pak meet in May to restore cricket series

ISLAMABAD, Apr 29: Pakistani and Indian cricket officials are to hold further talks next month on reviving a series of matches between the countries after a lapse of six years, a cricket official said Saturday, reports AFP. The issue will be discussed when a joint management committee for the 1996 World Cup comprising Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka meets in India May 11-13, said Arif Ali Khan Abbas. Earlier, the matter was discussed when the committee held a meeting in the Pakistani city of Lahore this month. The cricket boards of the two countries favour resumption and have approached their respective governments in this connection, said Abbas, who is chief executive of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). "We hope something will come out of the negotiations," the official said, adding that it was "our turn to play in India as an Indian national team had toured Pakistan in 1989."

Argentines silence the sambas



DOHA, Apr 29: Argentina won the World Youth Championship for the second time when they beat Brazil 2-0 in the final on Friday — spoiling the favourites' hopes of emulating their senior side with a fourth title, reports Reuter. Striker Leonardo Biagini and substitute Francisco Guerrero scored the goals that gave Argentina an upset victory over the holders, who beat them by the same score when they met in the South American Youth Championship final in Bolivia in January. Brazil, who were disappointed in an ill-tempered final, had defender Cesar sent off in the 78th minute. Brazil had five players booked, Argentina three.

Portugal, also former champions, took third place, coming from two goals down with 21 minutes remaining to beat Spain 3-2. Argentina won their first youth title in 1979 when Diego Maradona captained them to victory over the Soviet Union. Biagini, who was 18 just two weeks ago and made his First Division debut for Newell's Old Boys at 16 in February 1994, gave Argentina the lead in the 25th minute. He and midfielder Walter Coyette swapped a succession of passes that cut through the Brazilian defence, allowing Biagini to direct an accurate left foot shot past Fabio in goal. Guerrero wrapped the game up seven minutes from the end, three minutes after coming on for Biagini, when he scored with a deft lob over the advancing Fabio from a pass by fellow substitute Carlos Arango. Brazil were horribly out of sorts and short on ideas. Even when they did manage to penetrate the Argentine defence, they were unable to score. Their star striker Reinaldo wasted a golden opportunity after 38 minutes when he casually looped the ball over the bar from six metres with only the goale to beat. Caio had the best opening for Brazil in the second half but goalkeeper Joaquin Irigoytia saved well. Argentina, quick on the counter-attack and a constant menace to Brazil weakened by the suspension of Marcelo, could have added to their tally. Fabio pulled off some fine saves, especially a double stop from Coyette from close range. Aranjio had a goal ruled out for offside after 80 minutes. Argentine coach Jose Pékerman said: "Today we challenged a giant and won. We are happy for the whole country. Argentina hoped for this and we have fulfilled the wish. "We have grown as a side throughout the tournament and today we showed how much we have progressed." Brazil's coach Jairo Leal said his team never recovered from conceding the first goal. "They (Argentina) played an excellent tactical game and we couldn't find a way through," he said. "Instead of thinking about the match, we let our emotions get the better of us."

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S V Hamburg's Bulgarian midfielder Yordan Letchkov (C) tries some magical footwork after being challenged by Duisburg's Joachim Hoop (L) and Ferenc Schmidt during their Bundesliga match in Hamburg on April 28. Hamburg beat Duisburg 3-0. — AFP/UNB photo

BGIC v'ball

The BGIC national volleyball championships began at the volleyball court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday, reports BSS. Some 12 teams are taking part in the men's group while seven teams are participating in the women's event. Bangladesh Ansars routed Tegal 15-3, 15-0, 15-2 while BJMC outplayed Rajbari 15-7, 15-8, 15-3 in the two inaugural encounters of the women's group. President of the Volleyball Federation Mahbubur Rahman inaugurated the tournament.



Scene from yesterday's BGIC tournament match between BJMC and Rajbari DSA held at the volleyball court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium. BJMC won 15-7, 15-8, 15-3. — Star photo

Frete leads

BEIJING, Apr 29: Paraguayan Raul Fretes finished the third day of competition of the Volvo China Open Saturday with a 54-hole total of 209, reports AP. That put him one stroke ahead of Chinese-Taipei's Lai Ying-juh. Australian Tony Malony was third with 211. Fretes was four shots off the pace going into Saturday's round but defied swirling winds to storm to the top. He attributed his success to a smooth putting stroke and a new driver that is 9 degrees of left rather than the 10-degree one he had been using. Overnight leader Lin Keng-chi of Chinese-Taipei never recovered from a bogey at the first and a double-bogey at the short sixth where he found water with his tee shot. Lin eventually limped home with a six-over-par 77 to drop into a tie for sixth place. Scotland's Sandy Lyle, the former British Open and US Masters champion, had a disappointing day. His four-over-par 76 left him among a group of players in 40th place with 222. Altogether, 102 players are taking part in the four-round tournament, the final leg of the 1995 Asian Golf Tour. The champion gets dir 72,000 in prize money.

Barisal cricket camp

BARISAL, Apr 29: A fortnight-long coaching camp for cricketers under 16-year started at the Barisal Stadium recently, reports BSS. Organised jointly by the Barisal Divisional Krishna Sangtha and the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, the camp is being conducted by coaches from Bakerganj District Krishna Sangtha.

Hall takes over

CARDIFF, Apr 6: Winger Ieuan Evans, who has led his country a record 28 times, was replaced as Wales captain Thursday for this summer's rugby union World Cup in South Africa, reports AP.

SAM's concern

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 29: Malaysia's main environmental group urged the government today to reject applications for new golf courses, reports Reuter. "In this era of increasing awareness, there is no more room on earth to destroy nature for the sake of a mere game," Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) said in a statement. It alleged that golf courses unbalanced ecosystems and took valuable land away from rural people. It said Malaysian hill forests, agricultural land, mangrove forests and coastal environments had been replaced with imported grass and fertilisers and chemical products used on it contributed to the pollution and degradation of the environment. SAM also said golf created a gap between the rich and the poor and encouraged an over-consuming and arrogant lifestyle that clashed with Malaysian tradition.

China aim to end title drought

TIANJIN, China, Apr 29: A resurgent Chinese men's table tennis team, with the bonus of home advantage in this northern city of seven million people, are aiming to end an eight-year barren spell at the World Championships, which start on Tuesday, reports Reuter. China, for decades almost invincible in the sport, have not lifted the team title or the blue ribbon singles crown since 1987, but the recent form of their top players suggests the drought will come to an end here. Defending team champions Sweden, winners at the last three championships, will be looking for a big effort from ageing stars Jan-Ove Waldner and Jorgen Persson but their coach admits that China are favourites. A record 89 men's and 78 women's teams from 115 countries are expected to compete in the two-week event although North Korea, one of the strongest Asian nations, will not. China's women are confident of winning the team title for the 11th time but in the individual competition Olympic champions Deng Yaping and world number two Qiao Hong will be playing of former teammates now playing overseas. Both suffered embarrassing defeats by ex-Chinese nationals at the 1993 World Championships in Goteborg and the 1994 Hiroshima Asian Games and have vowed to avenge the losses. Their chief target is 1987 World champions He Zhenli, now competing for Japan as Chire Koyama. The 30-year-old beat both Qiao and Deng on her way to the Asian Games gold, a triumph that triggered scathing attacks on her by the Chinese media. In the men's team event, China's quartet of world number two Wang Tao, seventh-ranked Ma Wenge, Ding Song and Liu Guoliang, who have mastered the once dominant but now unfashionable penhold-grip, are feared by the other leading contenders, Sweden, Belgium and France. "China are the favourites because they are playing at home and their top players are performing well," said Swedish coach Soren Ahlen. "But our preparations have gone well and if everybody plays their best we have a chance of holding onto the title," he added. "France and Belgium are also strong — it has been a long time since so many countries had a chance of winning, it will make for a very interesting tournament." The French defeated Sweden in last year's European championship final and their bid for glory will be spearheaded by reigning world singles champion Jean-Philippe Gatien. World number one and European champion Jean-Michel Saive and his brother Philippe have turned Belgium into a powerhouse and their Chinese coach Wang Dayong is happy with their form. Jean-Michel Saive lost to Gatien in the last World championship singles final, a result Wang predicted would not be repeated this time. "If Jean-Michel has the chance to meet Gatien again in the final, he will win for sure," Wang said. "Like the team competition, the individual event is quite open with eight players in with a chance, the four leading Chinese players Jean-Michel, Gatierr, Jan-Ove Waldner and Zoran Primorac."

Demery — killer of Jordan Sr?

LUMBERTON, North Carolina, Apr 29: A 19-year-old man pleaded guilty Thursday to first-degree murder in the death of basketball superstar Michael Jordan's father and agreed to testify against his co-defendant, reports AP. Larry Martin Demery, who still could be sentenced to death, also pleaded guilty to robbery, weapons violations and other charges in two other robberies. Demery agreed to testify against 20-year-old Daniel Green in the death of James Jordan. Demery faces a minimum sentence of life in prison on the first-degree murder charge. In entering the plea, he said understood that the maximum penalty was death. Judge Gregory Weeks agreed that Demery's sentencing will be delayed until after Green's trial. Demery was charged with

first-degree murder, armed robbery and conspiracy in the July 23, 1993, slaying of Jordan. Jordan was shot as he napped in his car on the shoulder of an isolated highway south of town. He had been travelling from Wilmington, where the Jordans once lived, to Charlotte where they made their home. The plea came as Michael Jordan was in Charlotte preparing to lead the Chicago Bulls into the National Basketball Association playoffs just a few weeks after his return to basketball. When he walked away at the pinnacle of his career in October 1993, he spoke of an "overwhelming feeling of grief and loss" after the death of the man he considered his greatest influence and closest friend. James Jordan died just a month after watching his son

lead the Bulls to a third NBA title. Michael Jordan said his decision to retire had been in the making before his father's murder. "But I think what it made me realize is how short life is." After a brief stint in minor league baseball, he rejoined the team earlier this year. He left his No 23 jersey hanging in the rafters at the Bulls' home arena, saying it was the last number his father had seen him wear. Instead, he wears the No 45 he wore as an outfielder for the Double-A Birmingham Barons. The plea from Demery came just a few weeks before he had been scheduled for trial on charges of first-degree murder, robbery and conspiracy. Demery and Green were charged in August 1993 after a body found in a South Carolina swamp was identified as the elder Jordan.