

CJKP soccer Abahani beat Mohammedans

Sports Reporter In the clash to traditional rivals... Abahani Kirta Chakra dubbed Mohammedan Sporting Club by 1-0 in their CJKP football league encounter on Friday at the Chittagong Stadium.

Cronje fined

CAPE TOWN, Jan 5: Match referee Clive Lloyd fined South Africa captain Hansie Cronje for dissent after this side won the fifth Test against England here Thursday, reports AFP.

Bannister bites his tongue

CAPE TOWN, Jan 5: Commentator Jack Bannister honoured a promise to eat the paper on which he wrote a column predicting defeat for South Africa in their Test series against England, reports Reuter.

Bannister, a pace bowler with English county Warwickshire in the 1950s and the 1960s, tore up and ate the newspaper page carrying the headline "I'll eat my words" in front of television cameras after South Africa clinched the five-match series by winning the fifth Test in Cape Town on Thursday.

Coca Cola's giant plan

COLOMBO, Jan 5: Coca Cola plans to collect at least one million signatures on a giant cricket bat that will be presented to the Sri Lankan cricket team to coincide with the first World Cup match here next month, reports AFP.

Aga Khan Cup golf

The 24th Aga Khan Gold Cup golf tournament began at the Kurmitola Golf Club here yesterday, says a press release. Vice-president of the club Major Gen M Mahbubur Rahman inaugurated the tournament.

Pereira bewilders Becker

DOHA, Qatar, Jan 5: Boris Becker was knocked out of the 635,000 dollars Qatar Open on Thursday in a three-hour, three-set match with Venezuela's Nicolas Pereira, reports AP.

A rude awakening for Murali Windies whirlwind thru' SL

BRISBANE, Jan 5: The Muttiah Muralitharan controversy resurfaced with the Sri Lankan off-spinner no-balled seven times as this team crashed to a seven-wicket defeat by the West Indies in the World Series Cup one-day cricket tournament here late Friday, reports AFP.

Just when it appeared the 'Murali' chucking affair had subsided, Australian umpire Ross Emerson, officiating in his first one-day international, called Muralitharan seven times in three overs, forcing the Sri Lankans to take him out of the attack.

Emerson, a 41-year-old security consultant, duplicated compatriot Darrell Hair's handling of Muralitharan's quirky wristy bowling action in the second Melbourne Test when hair called the Sri Lankan seven times on Boxing Day.

It was thought that Hair had been isolated by his fellow Australian umpires in the ensuing one-day international in Hobart last Wednesday when Muralitharan came through his 10 overs without penalty... that was, until under lights Friday at the Gabba.

Coach Dav Whatmore installed himself beyond the boundary ropes with a video camera as Muralitharan, 23, came on to bowl. Soon, Whatmore returned to the dressing room, emerged some minutes later for another no-ball call and slapped the gate he was watching from in disgust.

And when Muralitharan was called three times in his first over, Aravinda de Silva, deputising for injured Arjuna Ranatunga, instructed him to bowl leg spin so as not to incur the wrath of Emerson.

In his second over, Muralitharan was called a further two times, although he was bowling wrist spinner in a deliberate attempt to alter his bowling action. Muralitharan was called two more times in his third over, before De Silva acceded to the wishes of the Sri Lankan management and took him out of the attack.

De Silva said later that Emerson's actions, particularly calling Muralitharan's leg-spin action, were "very surprising" and had hit team morale. Emerson was booed by the nearly 14,000-strong crowd each time he called Muralitharan for throwing and both umpires, flanked by security guards, were jeered off the ground.

After four defeats, the form Asanka Gurusinha for three. At one stage the Sri Lankans were wallowing at 34 for six and in danger of getting out under their record lowest one-day score of 55 against the West Indies in Sharjah in 1986-87.

But a fighting 43-run seventh wicket partnership between Hashan Tillekeratne and Chaminda Vaas averted that embarrassment. Left-hander Tillekeratne's 37 not out off 124 balls with two fours took Sri Lanka past the 100 mark before Muralitharan was bowled by Ot-

is Gibson for a duck. Vaas finished with 14 off 67 balls. Wicketkeeper Courtney Browne took five catches. The West Indies reached their modest target of 26.1 overs — just over half of their 50 maximum — scoring 104 for three. Sherwin Campbell top-scored with 34.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard in the World Series limited overs match between West Indies and Sri Lanka at the Gabba today: SRI LANKA: Hathurusinghe c Browne b Ambrose 0

Jayasuriya c Browne b Walsh 3 Gurusinha c Hooper b Ambrose 3 De Silva c Gibson b Bishop 10 Mahanama c Browne b Ambrose 0

Tillekeratne not out 37 Kaluwitharana run out Vaas c Browne b Gibson 14 Munsinghe c Browne b Simmons 8 Wickremasinghe c Harper b Walsh 2

Muralitharan B Gibson 20 Extras: (lb-2, nb-5, w-18) 25 Total: (45.2 overs) 102 Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-12; 3-17; 4-19; 5-33; 6-34; 7-77; 8-95; 9-98.

Bowling O M R W Ambrose 10 3 20 3 Walsh 9 2 19 2 Gibson 8.2 2 15 2 Bishop 7 1 18 1 Simmons 9 2 19 1 Harper 2 0 9 0.

WEST INDIES: Simmons lbw b Vaas 6 Campbell c Muralitharan b Vaas 34 Chanderpaul run out 19 Richardson not out 10 Hooper not out 18

Extras: (lb-2, w-8, nb-7) 17 Total: (for three, 26.1 overs) 104 Fall of wickets: 1-6; 2-46; 3-68

Did not bat: R. Harper, O. Gibson, C. Browne, C. Ambrose, I. Bishop, C. Walsh. Bowling: O M R W Vaas 10 2 24 2 Munsinghe 7 1 34 0

Wickremasinghe 6 0 24 0 Muralitharan 3 0 16 0 Tillekeratne 0 1 0 4 Match result: West Indies won by seven wickets. Note: Four of Muralitharan's No-balls do not appear in his bowling figures as the batsman scored runs off those deliveries.

STANDINGS Standings in the World Series limited overs competition today (tabulate under played, won, lost, points): Australia 4 4 0 8 West Indies 6 2 4 4 Sri Lanka 4 1 3 2



AMBROSE... m-o-m

Sports writers felicitate SAF winners

Sports Reporter Seven Bangladesh sportsmen, who earned gold medals in the seventh South Asian Federation Games held in Madras last month, were given a warm ovation by the Bangladesh Sports Writers Association (BSWA) at the NSC conference room last evening.

In a well-organised programme which also celebrated the silver jubilee of our independence, the seven sons of the soil were cordially felicitated by BSWA members. ASM Hannan Shah, minister for jute and president of Bangladesh Shooting Federation, attended the reception as chief guest while M A Majid, the MD of National Bank which sponsored the programme, was the special guest.

Among others, noted footballer Zakaria Pintu, BSWA president Raqibul Hasan also spoke on the occasion. The seven sportsmen who were honoured yesterday are: Nasiruddin Johny (shooting), Saiful Alam Chowdhury Rinki (shooting), Firoyze Hossain (shooting), Syed Asbab Ali (shooting), GM Haider (shooting), Mahbub Hossain (athletics) and Karar Mizanur Rahman (swimming).

SA squad for one-day international

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Jan 5: South Africa's victorious fifth Test side were all named in a 15-man squad on Friday for the first four limited overs matches against England, reports Reuter. The seven-match series begins at Newlands, Cape Town, on Tuesday.

South Africa clinched the Test series 1-0 on Thursday when they routed England by 10 wickets. Spinners Nicky Boje and Pat Symcox, all-rounder Richard Snell and seamer Craig Matthews make up the rest of the squad.

A surprise absentee was Boland captain Adrian Kuiper who performed effectively in South Africa's last one-day series against Zimbabwe. United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) managing director Ali Bacher said that depending on form there could be "a few changes" for the remaining three matches.

SQUAD Hansie Cronje (captain), Gary Kirsten, Andrew Hudson, Daryll Cullinan, Jonty Rhodes, Brian McMillan, Jacques Kallis, Dave Richardson, Richard Snell, Shaun Pollock, Nicky Boje, Pat Symcox, Craig Matthews, Allan Donald, Paul Adams.

Barcelona move up

MADRID, Jan 5: An injury-time goal by Oscar Garcia clinched a vital 2-1 victory for Barcelona over arch-rivals Espanyol in a hard-fought Catalan derby game on Thursday, reports Reuter. The result left both teams on 38 points, seven behind leaders Atletico Madrid, but Barcelona climbed to second place ahead of Espanyol on goal difference.

Miguel Angel Nadal put Barcelona ahead after 15 minutes as his side had the best of the first half, but Espanyol came out strongly after the break and equalised through a superb individual goal from Goran Bogdanovic. Espanyol deserved to go ahead, but wasted several chances towards the end of the game.

The key to the game at Rome's Olympic Stadium may be Portuguese midfielder Rui Costa. He coordinates the Fiorentina offence, and when he is in form, the whole club tends to be. He'll have to maneuver amidst Roma's packed midfield, which includes Swedish international Jonas Thern and Italian international Francesco Statuto.

Fiorentina's task will be made easier by the suspensions of Roma left-side backs Marco Lanna and Amedeo Carboni. Bari are at home in the night match with Inter, who routed Cagliari 4-0 last round to move up to eighth place.



THE SEVEN JEWELS... Gold winners of the seventh SAF Games pose with Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association officials at a ceremony yesterday.

Anything's possible in FA Cup

LONDON, Jan 5: The records suggest mismatches. But history has shown otherwise. Such is the charm of England's FA Cup, which is down this weekend to the 32-game stage — historically where a few rich clubs are fleeced by the poor.

The punters love these odds. "This is the weekend where the big clubs come into play against the small ones with upsets very possible," said Ian Wassell, spokesman for bookmakers Ladbrokes. "We expect about 10 million pounds (15.5 million dollars) bet, which is as much as the FA final draws."

Saturday's match between Premier league club Tottenham Hotspur and Third-Division Hereford United is a classic David vs. Goliath, reports AP. Tottenham are tied for third behind league-leaders Newcastle and fresh off an impressive 4-1 thumping this week of Eric Cantona and Manchester United. Spurs have won the FA Cup a record eight times and are wealthy enough to have paid 4.5 mil-

lion pounds (7 million dollars) explosive forward Chris Armstrong. Hereford United's claim to fame is advancing for one season in the mid-1970s to the Second Division. The club is tied for 15th in the Third Division and the most it has ever paid for a player is 80,000 pounds (124,000 dollars) defender Dean Smith.

That's 1/55th of what Tottenham splashed out for Armstrong. In over their heads? You bet. And manager Graham Turner and his players seem to like it that way. The club is preparing for the home match before a 9,000-sellout by doing water aerobics and relaxing in the steam baths and jacuzzis at a remote lodge. The club turned down about 100,000 pounds (155,000 dollars) to play at Tottenham's pitch.

"I wanted them to relax, not to be uptight," Turner said. "They will need to be if they are to play above themselves." With an element of luck, a few individual inspired performances and a hope that Tottenham will be below their best gives us belief we can pull it off," Turner added. "Spurs won't fancy coming

'Super strikers' hold the key

ROME, Jan 5: It's a classic confrontation: prolific scorer vs. Stungy defence. That will be the case twice in Sunday's 16th round: Fiorentina's Gabriel Batistuta vs. AS Roma and Bari's Igor Protti vs. Inter Milan, reports AP.

Argentine international Batistuta and Protti are tied for the Serie A scoring lead with 10 goals, while Roma and Inter each have allowed just 11, the league's lowest total. Batistuta — who led the Italian First Division with 26 goals last season — has Fiorentina in second place, just one point behind leader AC Milan.

He and Francesco Baiano form a solid attack duo that will try to slow resurgent Roma's run through the table. The Romans, coming off a 2-0 win at defending league champions Juventus, have climbed from 13th up to fifth in the 18-team league.

While their own striker Tandem of Argentine Abel Balbo and Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca has been struggling, Roma have relied on their strong backline — the same unit that allowed the fewest goals in Italy a year ago. The key to the game at Rome's Olympic Stadium may be Portuguese midfielder Rui Costa.

He coordinates the Fiorentina offence, and when he is in form, the whole club tends to be. He'll have to maneuver amidst Roma's packed midfield, which includes Swedish international Jonas Thern and Italian international Francesco Statuto. Fiorentina's task will be made easier by the suspensions of Roma left-side backs Marco Lanna and Amedeo Carboni.

Bari are at home in the night match with Inter, who routed Cagliari 4-0 last round to move up to eighth place. While Protti has been one of the season's surprises, he basically had had to work alone. Bari have only scored 10 goals and have allowed a league-worst 35 goals.

But the club did beat Udinese 2-1 last that they may be able to pull themselves out of the relegation zone. Inter, who started poorly, have opened up their attack under new coach Roy Hodgson, with Maurizio Ganz and Marco Branca — acquired from Roma in November — finding the net consistently.

Brazilian defender Roberto Carlos has solidified the backfield while remaining a threat to launch attack. He must be watched Sunday. Inter won't have suspended English midfielder Paul Ince.

Milan put their 10-match undefeated streak on the line against visiting Sampdoria of Genoa and red-hot winger Enrico Chiesa. The leaders drew 2-2 at Fiorentina last round in a

spirited match. This will be Golden ball winner George Weah's last match in January. He departs next week for South Africa, where he'll lead Liberia in the Africa Cup. Montenegro playmaker Dejan Savicevic (right thigh injury) is out. Samp has been depleted by injuries — eight potential starters have been sidelined of late — but still managed to stay in the hunt for a UEFA Cup slot.

That's thanks to Chiesa, with eight goals in four matches. Milan's tough defence, anchored by veterans Paolo Maldini and Franco Baresi, should be able to slow him. AC Parma, in third place, play at 15th-place Torino, trying to rebound from their first loss in 12 matches — 1-0 to Vicenza.

Parma will have Italian international Luca Bucci back between the posts, but lose defender Fabio Cannavaro and midfielder Massimo Crippa to suspension. Coach Nevio Scala has such depth of talent at this disposal that they'll likely be replaced by internationals. Torino, undefeated under new coach Franco Scoglio (1-2-0), have no similar luxury and will be hurt by the disqualifications of Ghanian midfielder Abedi Pele and defender Mauro Milanese. Other matches Sunday: Atalanta of Bergamo-Juventus; Cagliari-Padova; Napoli-Lazio; Piacenza-Udinese; and Vicenza-Cremonese.

Monica's race against time

SYDNEY, Jan 5: Monica Seles said today that she hoped to be back at the peak of her considerable tennis-playing powers in time for the start of this year's French Open in May, reports Reuter.

Seles, in Sydney to take part in next week's Peters international, formerly the NSW Open, told a news conference that she was happy with her progress, despite injury and illness since making a triumphant return to tennis at the Canadian Open last August.

Seles, 22, had spent nearly two and a half years of the game after being stabbed by an obsessed Steffi Graf fan at a tournament in Hamburg in April, 1993. Undefeated in 21 matches in Australia, Seles will make the next big step of her comeback at the Australian Open in Melbourne on January 15, a Grand Slam tournament she won three times between 1991 and 1993.

Jointly ranked number one in the world with German's Graf, Seles went on from the Canadian Open to lose an emotional US Open final to Graf early in September. She was prevented from playing more tournaments after the US Open by knee and ankle injuries and a virus. Asked when she hoped to be back to her best, Seles said: "Hopefully by the French Open, or maybe even the Lipton championships (in Florida from February 18)."

"I was hoping it would be by the Australian Open but all those things came up unexpectedly and it was a pretty disappointing way to end the year. Earlier, third seeded Switzerland beat the Netherlands 2-1 and now need to beat champions Germany today to top Group B and meet Croatia in Saturday's final. Switzerland, who beat Australia 2-1 on the first day, took an unbeatable lead against the second seeded Dutch with victories in both singles.

Tenager Martina Hingis kept her nerves and returned well to down big-serving Brenda Schultz McCarthy 6-3, 7-5 while Marc Rosset also scored a straight sets win, upsetting world number 11 Richard Krajcek 6-4, 6-4. Schultz McCarthy hammered 12 aces but failed to unsettle the broad smiling Hingis, who at 15 is playing in her first Hopman Cup. "Why shouldn't I smile. I am playing well and I have all the more reason to be happy," she said.

She described her Australian Open win over Graf in January, 1993, as one of the highlights of her career. "I came to Australia and played some great tennis, and then had a great few weeks playing in Chicago and Paris," she said. "I was finally able to find a balance, where you can practice hard but still have a life outside tennis. I'd have to say it was among the best few months of my life."

Life change dramatically for Seles three months later and she also spoke today of treatment she has had from sports psychologists since the stabbing. "I go through different mental rehearsals to get comfortable," Seles said. "But one thing I don't want is to be talking about him (her attacker) after two and a half years. What happened was not fair, but I'm at peace with that," she said.

Goran guides Croatia Perth, Jan 5: Goran Ivanisevic won his crucial singles against Wayne Ferreira as top-seeds Croatia booked a place in the Hopman Cup final on Thursday night despite losing to South Africa 2-1 in their last Group A match, reports Reuter.

Only the United States had a chance of overtaking Croatia but when Richey Reneberg lost his singles to France's Arnaud Boetsch 6-4, 4-6, 1-6 in the other Group A game the US could take only five as opposed to Croatia's six rubbers.

Although the US went on to beat France 2-1 it was too late to thwart the Croats. Ivanisevic outplayed Ferreira 6-4, 6-3 after his doubles partner Iva Majoli had lost to Amanda Coetzer 4-6, 6-3, 1-6. In the doubles, with both teams playing what tournament director Paul McNamee described as "Mickey Mouse tennis," Ferreira and Coetzer won the sudden death tie-break 7-5.

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— AFP/UNB photo