

Zimbabwe 155 for six at tea

HARARE, Zimbabwe, Dec 28: Zimbabwe were only one run short of England's first innings total of 156 at tea on the third day of the second Test against England here Saturday, reports AP.

But they lost six wickets in the excruciatingly slow process with England regaining some of the initiative, mainly through fast bowler Darren Gough who took three wickets at a cost of only 17 runs in the session and 30 overall.

Grant Flower, who began a rain shortened day on 33, ground out another 36 in two-and-a-half hours to reach 69 at the interval.

Gough claimed his victims with both outswingers and inswingers and in the process jolted England out of their dol-drams.

He had David Houghton (29) caught behind by Alec Stewart off the full face of the bat, then he trapped Andy Flower (6) leg before and rounded off his act by taking out Guy Whittall's (1) off stump.

The other England victim was Andy Waller, who looked uneasy from the start and was judged by Sri Lankan umpire Krishna Francis to be right in front to Phil Tufnell. He made only four.

The day's play began two hours' late with Zimbabwe on 93 for three because overnight rain had run off the covers, causing a boggy area at a corner of the square. But the umpires were trying to make up time by adding half an hour to each of the afternoon sessions.

Jabbar tennis

Sports Reporter

Shathi Sarkar, Baishakhi and Daisy moved into the semi-finals of the women's singles in the MA Jabbar memorial tennis tournament after winning their respective matches at the Engineers Institute tennis complex yesterday.

Shathi, the winner of women's singles gold in the Bangladesh Games last week had an easy sail over Dnyuti (6-2, 6-1) while in a see-saw engagement, Baishakhi edged past Mithun 2-6, 6-3, 7-6, 9-7.

In the other women's singles Daisy beat Lucky 6-2, 6-3.

Besides, 16 men's singles matches were also held at the same venue on Saturday.

Munich run after Elber

BONN, Dec 28: Bayern Munich have made an offer for Stuttgart's disenchanted Brazilian striker Giovane Elber, a German newspaper reported on Friday, reports Reuters.

Club president Franz Beckenbauer was aware that Elber, whose contract expires at the end of June, had received offers from abroad, Sportbild said.

"We will nevertheless make a renewed offer to (Stuttgart president) Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder," Beckenbauer was quoted as saying.

Bayern offered Stuttgart more than 10 million marks (6.4 million dollars) for Elber a year ago but the bid was rejected.

Beckenbauer said he was confident Elber would move to Munich next season.

Elber wants a big wage increase and said earlier this week he was fed up with the slow progress of negotiations with Stuttgart. He threatened to leave Germany.

Purabi basketball

Sports Reporter

Rangers Club and Angels Club won their respective Purabi Insurance First Division basketball league matches at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday.

Rangers beat the Shaons Club by 74-59 points while Angels recorded a marginal 73-70 win over Josephites Club.



Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim (2nd from left) speaking at a press conference yesterday in connection with the forthcoming Bangabandhu Cup-Silver Jubilee of Independence football tournament scheduled to begin of December 31. — Star photo

Four teams arrive today

Sports Reporter

The Bangabandhu Cup-Silver Jubilee of Independence football tournament, an invitational international meet organised by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) to celebrate the 25th year of independence, will begin in the capital from December 31.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the 11-day competition scheduled to conclude on January 10, the day of Bangabandhu's return to independent Bangladesh from shackles of Pakistani jail in 1972.

The BFF held a press conference at Hotel Sheraton on Saturday evening to brief local journalists about preparations for the Cup.

Post and Tele-Communications Minister Mohammad Nasim, who is also the chairman of the Organising Committee of the tournament, said at the orientation meeting that the Bangabandhu Cup-Silver Jubilee of Independence football tournament has been arranged to honour the Father of the Nation during the silver jubilee of our independence and to develop football in Bangladesh.

The Minister said that due to paucity of time they had to plan and organise the tournament in only two months, and that too, at the club level. But, as the authority has decided to organise the tournament annually, it will be a national level tournament from next year.

Thirteen teams including three local giants — Mohammedan SC, Abahani KC and Muktijoddha Sangsad KC — will participate in the tourney divided into four Groups for the first round with the winners of each round qualifying for the semi-finals.

All the ten foreign teams including three from Calcutta — East Bengal, Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting — and two from Malaysia, will stay in Sheraton Hotel during the meet while the three local teams will arrange their own camps. Each player and official of all the foreign teams will be provided with US dollar five and ten respectively as daily allowance. The local teams will receive taka 50,000 per match.

The first round groupings have been finalised. Premier Division league champions Mohammedan Sporting Club have been placed in Group B along with powerful side East Bengal of Calcutta and unknown factor Malaysia B.

League runners-up Abahani, the other local favourites, have been lodged in Group A along with Calcutta Mohammedan Sporting Club and Friends Club from Nepal.

Muktijoddha Sangsad, who were third in the premier league will play their first round matches in Group D against Cosmos Club of Moscow, Ujung Pandang Football Club of Indonesia and Malaysia A.

Mohun Bagan are placed in Group C along with Bargh Siraj Football Club of Iran and Eastern All-Star Football Club of Thailand.

Initially, all the matches were scheduled at the Dhaka Stadium but as the number of participants increased, three matches will now be played at the Mirpur Stadium.

The winners of the tournament will be awarded taka two lakh as prize money while the runners-up side will be richer by half the amount.

The estimated budget of the tournament is 2,41,94,000 which includes the journey and accommodation expenses of the ten foreign teams.

Teams from Iran, Indonesia, Nepal and Thailand are expected to arrive in the capital today while four teams — East Bengal, Cosmos Club and the two Malaysian outfits will disembark tomorrow. The remaining two teams — Mohammedan Sporting Club and Mohun Bagan of Calcutta will arrive on December 31 and January 2 respectively, presumably because of their involvement in domestic tournaments.

Pipaly, the chairman of the organising committee said that

বঙ্গবন্ধু কাপ
Bangabandhu Cup

he personally tried to bring football legend Pele in Bangladesh during the tournament. But Pele who is also the Sports Minister of Brazil could not manage time because of the Christmas and New Year holidays.

RATE OF TICKETS:

SEASON	Taka
a. VIP (gate no 1)	1,000
b. VIP (gate no 2)	600
c. VIP (gate no 3)	500
d. VIP (gate no 21)	400
e. VIP (gate no 21 for 300 players)	300
f. Vendors (gallery)	250

DAILY TICKETS:

a. Opening ceremony with one match	Taka 20
b. First round (two matches a day)	Taka 20
c. Semifinals	Taka 30
d. Final	Taka 30

Tarun toil under Kalabagan heat

Wari dent Brothers' ego

Sports Reporter

The Premier cricket league, suspended for more than a week as a mark of protest against the arbitrary decision of the National Sports Council (NSC) who in a surprise move drove out cricketers out of the Dhaka Stadium, resumed yesterday with an upset when table leaders Brothers Union suffered their first defeat at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

The Gopibagh outfit, who were jointly sharing the top slot

Brothers, in reply to Wari's fighting 204, at one stage were in need of nine runs from the last six deliveries with one wicket in hand.

But the two tail-enders Mofizur Islam Munna and Saiful Islam Efee could only muster seven runs from off spinner Monirul Islam Montu, for whom the unenviable job of bowling the last would have been more authoritative had not Pakistani Tariq Mehbub dropped a simple catch.

The defeat for Brothers not only ended their unbeaten status but also served a severe blow in their chase for a maiden league title. For skipper Faruque Ahmed it was a day of disappointment as the former national captain and his star-studded batting line-up tumbled in the face of some accurate bowling.

Opener Shahriar Hosain Bidyut, who has been going through a lean patch, departed for one while Pakistani Abid Hanif scored 24. Faruque, who came into bat at number four, wicket brothers limping at 46/2, perished quickly after scoring only five, leaving his side in deep trouble with 62 on the board.

But the real rot started when Jahangir, the national opener, wicketkeeper, followed his captain shortly after contributing 23 off 35 balls.

A doughty Halim Shah and Pakistani Baker Rizvi, however, tried to steady the rocking boat putting on 92 runs for the fifth wicket before both dismissed in a span of three deliveries. Halim Shah scored 39. On the other hand, Baker, who had earlier claimed four wickets, was run out for 41 which included a huge sixer.

The two quick dismissals inflicted a mini collapse as Brothers lost their last four wickets with the addition of only 16 runs to the total. Seamer Mofizur Rahman

BRIEF SCORES

WARI CLUB: 204 all out in 48.1 overs (Mehrab Hossain Opi 64, Aamir Wasim 43, Mona 26; Baker Rizvi 4/51, Saifulah Gem 4/33, Moni 2/39)

BROTHERS UNION: 203 for nine in 50 over (Baker Rizvi 41, Halim Shah 39, Mofizur Rahman Munna 33 n.o.; Babu 3/20, Montu 2/43)

SURJO TARUN CLUB: 65 all out in 23.3 overs (Talha 15; Anisur Rahman 5/14, Saiful 2/7, Zakir 2/32)

KALABAGAN KC: 68 for three in 17.2 overs (Moniruzzaman 28, Selim Shahed 16 n.o.; Rehman Faruque 2/43)

with defending champions Mohammedans and Abahani — all having five wins from as many matches before the recess of league on December 21, became the latest cropper in the top-tury first phase when Wari Club handed the runners-up a sensational one-run defeat.

Their praise-worthy win of Wari Club marked the second giant-slaying act of the mediocre Motijheel outfit after their triumph over Kalabagan Krira Chakra, another former runner in the elite group of 12. In the exciting encounter,

Pakistan ride on Ijaz

SYDNEY, Dec 28: A hard-hitting 123 by Ijaz Ahmed lifted Pakistan to a last-over win against Australia A in their limited-over match Saturday at the Sydney Cricket Ground, reports AP.

Slamming nine fours and two sixes from 129 balls, Ijaz set up the three-wicket triumph.

Five other batsmen were involved in chasing the remainder of the 293-run target, with three further wickets falling as Pakistan scored a run a ball.

With two overs remaining, seven runs were required. Three were needed off the last over bowled by Victorian state all-rounder Ian Harvey, who kept Pakistan scoreless off the first three balls.

Youngster Mohammed Wasim hit one over the top of midwicket for two and with one run needed off two balls, Mush-taq Ahmed caused a controversy by appearing to kick the ball on his way through.

Earlier Michael Di Venuto, Stuart Law and Darren Lehmann were the stars for the Australians, each scoring half-centuries.

Scores:
PAKISTAN: 293-7 (Ijaz Ahmed 123, Inzamam 59; Geoff Foley 2-56).
AUSTRALIA A: 292-7 (Stuart Law 76, Darren Lehmann 69, Michael Di Venuto 63, Shahid Afridi 3-39, Waqar Younis 2-64).
Pakistan won by three wickets.

Badminton camp

Sports Reporter

A badminton coaching course, organised by the Bangladesh Olympic Association in co-operation with IOC solidarity commission, will begin in the capital today. State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader will inaugurate the course this afternoon at the NSC conference room.

Total 30 coaches selected by the Bangladesh Badminton Federation, will participate in the course scheduled to conclude on January 11.

Russian booter beaten up

BRUSSELS, Dec 28: A young Russian soccer player was badly beaten by burglars who raided the home of Belgian goalkeeper legend Jean-Marie Pfaff. Belgian newspapers reported Saturday, says AP.

Kyrl Varaksin, 22, was hit in the face with brass knuckles by intruders who broke into Pfaff's house in the early hours of Friday morning.

"Kyril's soccer career is hanging in the balance," Pfaff told the Daily Het Belang van Limburg newspaper. The Russian player, also a goalkeeper, suffered a broken nose and shattered cheek.

Varaksin was staying as Pfaff's guest while preparing his transfer from CSKA Moscow to Belgian First Division side Germinal Ekeren.

Pfaff was not at home when the five masked raiders broke into his house in northern town of Brasschaat. His daughter Debbie, 21, and her boyfriend were tied up by the burglars and threatened with a knife, but not otherwise harmed.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier Division cricket league:
Abahani vs Lalmatia Club (BKSP, 1 am)
Agrani Bank SC vs Gulshan Youth Club (Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, 9 am)

Gullit bucks up England

LONDON, Dec 28: Chelsea's Dutch player-manager Ruud Gullit has given stamp of approval to English football, insisting: "It is improving fast," reports Reuters.

Gullit, who has done as much as anyone to change the face of the Premier league by importing foreign stars and continental tactical thinking, said: "It is becoming better and more teams challenging for the title. It's very open."

"Perhaps it's because there are more foreigners now, maybe because of the way England



South African Allan Donald (L) gets Indian Venkatesh Prasad (not in the picture) caught by Andre Hudson to wrap up the first Test on the third day in Durban yesterday. Hudson was named man-of-the-match. —Star TV photo

Prasad ploughs the sands

Donald stuff stuns India

DURBAN, South Africa, Dec 28: South Africa crushed India by 328 runs in the first Test at Kingsmead on Saturday.

While relative rookie Shaun Pollock might still be learning the trade, Donald is definitely up there with the best.

"I think Allan only emerged as a great talent against England last year," said former South African paceman Neil Adcock. "He started hitting batsmen. I'm not saying a fast bowler has to be a headhunter, but he has to be nasty."

partnership was vital to us." Even so, any attack which can restrict an internationally renowned batting lineup to innings of 100 and 66 has to be world class.

A touch of Tendulkar or Azharuddin brilliance might have helped stave off the inevitable but a brilliant catch at backward point by Gary Kirsten saw off Tendulkar and a simple one to Klusener snuffed out the Azhar threat.

Pollock was the bowler on both occasions and he also picked up Johnson's wicket to finish with a very satisfying 3 for 25 from his 12 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecard at the conclusion of the first Test between South Africa and India on the third day at Kingsmead on Saturday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 235 (A Hudson 80; V Prasad 5-60)

INDIA: First innings 100 (A Donald 5-40; S Pollock 2-18)

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Hudson c Tendulkar b Kumble	52			
Kirsten c David b Prasad	2			
Bacher c Tendulkar b Kumble	55			
Cullinan c Mongia b Prasad	3			
Cronje c Mongia b Prasad	17			
Gibbs lbw b Srinath	25			
McMillan not out	51			
Pollock c Rathore b Prasad	2			
Richardson b Srinath	4			
Klusener c Mongia b Srinath	4			
Donald c Rathore b Prasad	26			
Extras: (b-7, lb-6, nb-5)	18			
Total: (all out in 70 overs)	256			
Fall of wickets: 1-4: 2-115; 3-120; 4-120; 5-164; 6-164; 7-171; 8-181; 9-166.				

INDIA: Second innings

Rathore c Richardson b Donald	2
Raman b Donald	1
Ganguly b Donald	0
Tendulkar c Kirsten b Pollock	4
Azharuddin c Klusener b Pollock	8
David not out	27
Mongia c Cronje b Klusener	4
Kumble c Hudson b Klusener	2
Srinath run out (Bacher)	7
Johnson c Klusener b Pollock	5
Prasad c Hudson b Donald	1
Extras: (b-2, nb-3)	5
Total: (all out in 34.1 overs)	66
Fall of wickets: 1-2: 2-2; 3-7; 4-15; 5-20; 6-25; 7-40; 8-51; 9-59	

Result: South Africa won by 328 runs and head the series 1-0.

Man-of-match: Andrew Hudson.



BACK TO CRICKET: Brothers Union's Pakistani batsman Baker Rizvi tries to sweep Bappi of Wari Club during yesterday's Premier Division cricket league match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Cricketers returned to the wickets yesterday after several days of agitation protesting the handing over of Dhaka Stadium to football. — Star photo

played in Euro '96.

"But whatever the reason there's a great deal more attention on the Premier league from abroad now. The standard is certainly better, clubs are spending money to try to get results, and that's got to be good."

Gullit looks to have made one of the best investments with the 4.5 million pounds (7.425 million dollars) spent on Gianfranco Zola, who faces Sheffield Wednesday at Stamford Bridge today with four goals to his name from his last four games.

After being beaten twice by the little Italian magician on Thursday, Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich declared: "He's so sharp, an object lesson to English players with his movement and skill."

Gullit adds: "It wasn't easy for Franco at the start, because he was living in a hotel rather than his own home, and couldn't get his own rhythm."

Now he is at home, feels appreciated and that the team appreciates him, and that's what he needs."

Gullit has Frenchman Frank Leboeuf and Dennis Wise available again and Gianluca Vialli is close to fitness after his hamstring problem.