

Manami defeat Aqua Marine

Sports Reporter

AQUA MARINE: 120 for nine in 40 overs (Rubayat 25, Shahed 14; Rana 3/30, Palash 2/9, Mukul 2/23)

MANAMI: 123 for three in 32.5 overs (Nahid 36 n.o., Mukul 27 n.o., Shipon 23; Talha 1/16)

Manami International handed Aqua Marine a seven-wicket defeat in an Office cricket league engagement held at the Diamond Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Chasing a paltry Aqua Marine total of 120 in 40 overs, the winners reached 123 in 32.5 overs with seven wickets in hand.

Middle-order bat Nurul Alam Nahid top scored with an unbeaten 36 off 55 balls followed by Mukul who added a run-a-ball 27.

Earlier, put into bat first, Aqua Marine were restricted to 120 for nine in the stipulated 40 overs with Rubayat contributing highest 25.

Rana was the most successful Manami bowler taking three wickets for 30 while he was given a good support by Palash and Mukul who shared four wickets.

BTF committee named

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Tennis Federation named a 19-member tournament committee yesterday, headed by A K M Rezaul Islam Bir Bikram, for the forthcoming Weekend Tennis Classic-97, scheduled to begin at the Ramna Tennis Complex from June 27.

Rezaul apart, the committee includes Kamrul Islam Siddique, Ishtiaq Ahmed, Sanaul Haque, Bayezidur Rahman, Ahsan Habib and A T M Hayatuz-zaman as coordinators while Prof Dr. Rashiduddin Ahmed, M A Osman Chowdhury, Brig Tareq Ahmed Siddique, Mobadul Islam, Nurul Alam, Atiqur Rahman, Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Mahtabur Rahman, Syed Mansoor Hyder, Azizul Haque and Rezaul Hossain as members.

Lord's awaiting a draw



LONDON, June 23: Openers Mark Butcher and Michael Atherton survived 29 testing overs in the pre-lunch session as England battled to save the second Test against Australia at Lord's Monday, reports AP.

After Australia declared on their overnight total of 213 for seven — a first-innings lead of 136 — Butcher and England captain Atherton took the home side to 70 without loss at lunch on the fifth and final day.

Butcher was let off the hook in the sixth over of the morning when, having scored just two runs, Australian captain Mark Taylor grassed a regulation catch at first slip as Butcher tentatively played forward to medium paceman Paul Reiffel.

England still require 66 runs to wipe out their first innings deficit and avoid the ignominy of an innings defeat.

Butcher, who has scores of eight, 14 and five in his three previous Test innings, has progressed to 24 while Atherton was unbeaten on 32 at the break.

The missed catch may prove to be crucial after Taylor had given his bowlers a minimum 90 overs to bowl out England on an unpredictable pitch which is still providing encouragement for the seam bowlers.

The uncertain bounce on the recently relaid Lord's pitch is a cause of concern for the England batsmen, who still have to survive the two remaining sessions in this waterlogged but still highly-charged Test.

The two days, four hours and 53 minutes lost over the first four days could ultimately stand between Australia and a series-equalling Test win.

Australia, which haven't been defeated at Lord's since 1934, have won their three previous encounters here and was hoping to make it four in-a-row in this six-match Ashes series.

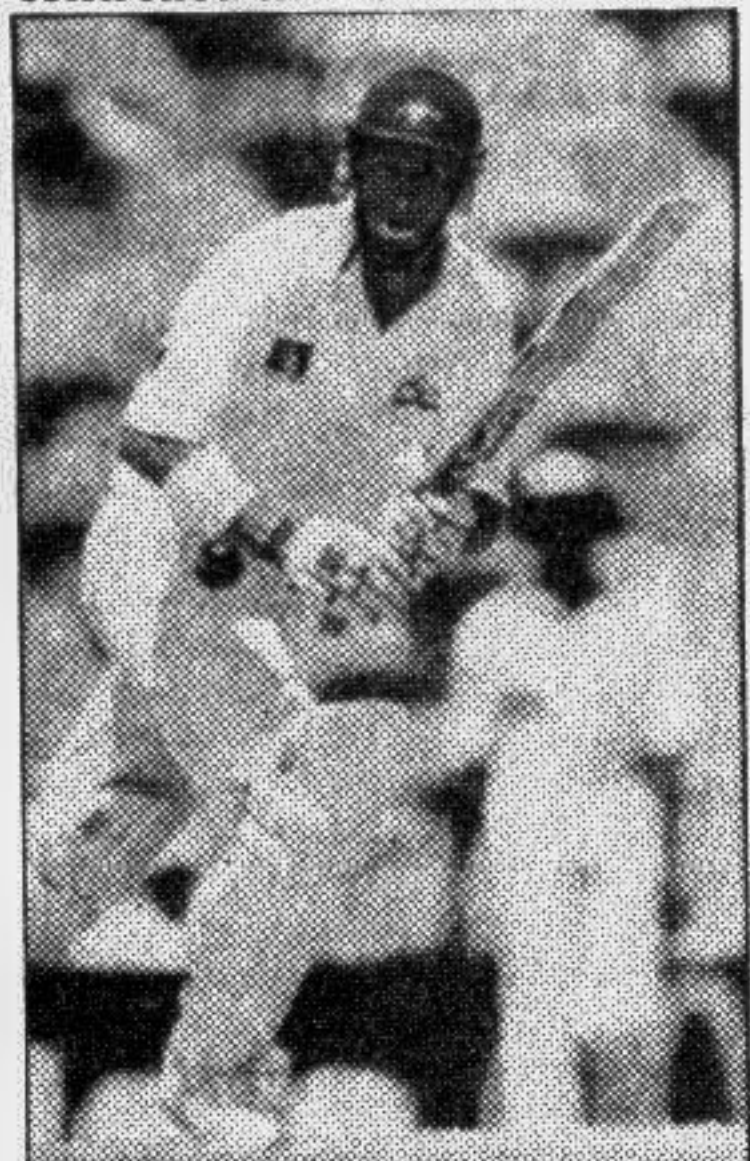
England lead the series 1-0 after their nine-wicket win in the first Test at Edgbaston two weeks ago.

Fast bowler Glenn McGrath, who helped rout England for 77 in their first innings with the

second-best figures by any bowler at Lord's — eight for 38 — was less menacing on the fifth morning.

He was removed from the attack after eight overs. In the England first innings he bowled unchanged.

The left-handed Butcher, having played and missed for most of the morning, grew in confidence to hit two boundaries while Atherton was more controlled in his 98-ball knock.



ELLIOTT ... 112 which has included three boundaries.

Leg-spinner Shane Warne, introduced before lunch, sent down three overs which troubled Butcher.

Earlier Elliott, resuming on 55 not out, went on a boundary frenzy hitting 45 runs in 45 balls to help Australia to 213 for seven and an overall lead of 136 on the penultimate day.

A constant drizzle delayed the start of play for six hours and forty minutes. Australia finally resumed at 131 for two but slumped to 159 for six before a further 15-minute rain delay broke England's momentum.

When play resumed again, Elliott pulled, hooked and drove brilliantly before reaching the coveted three figures with a single off spinner Robert Croft.

He was out while hooking medium paceman Andrew Cadick in the second last over of the day.

"I was very lucky in this innings and had a few chances," said Elliott.

"It was pretty exciting. The

Lord's package — the crowd, the atmosphere, the history — makes it so exciting to perform well here."

He acknowledged the standing ovation of the sporadic crowd which braved the weather to witness a masterful and entertaining left-handed innings in the 75 minutes of play possible on the fourth day.

Elliott's 242-minute effort eclipsed his 85 against South Africa at Johannesburg in February this year. He made his debut against West Indies at Brisbane in November 1996.

After routing England for 77 and gaining a 64-run lead overnight, Australia were hoping to pile up quick runs Sunday and build a match-winning lead in the 20.4 overs set down for the evening session.

But as the visitors tried to force the pace, Cadick, the chief wrecker of the Australian first innings at Edgbaston, picked up four wickets while the inspirational Darren Gough removed pinch-hitter Shane Warne who was promoted up the order to boost the run rate.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on Monday, at lunch on the fifth day of the second cricket Test between Australia and England at Lord's:

ENGLAND: First Innings 77 (McGrath 8/38)

AUSTRALIA: First Innings (overnight 131/2)

Taylor b Gough 1

Elliott c Crawley b Cadick 112

Blewett c Hussain b Croft 45

M Waugh c Malcolm b Cadick 33

Warne c Hussain b Gough 0

S Waugh lbw b Cadick 0

Bevan c Stewart b Cadick 4

Healy not out 13

Reiffel not out 1

Extras: (b-1, lb-3) 4

Total: (for 7 wts declared) 213

Fall of wickets: 1-4; 2-73; 3-147; 4-147; 5-147; 6-159; 7-212.

Did not bat: Michael Kasprovic and Glenn McGrath.

Bowling: O M R W

Gough 20 4 82 2

Cadick 22 6 71 4

Malcolm 7 1 26 0

Croft 12 5 30 1

ENGLAND: Second Innings 24

Butcher not out 32

Atherton not out 32

Extras: (lb-10, nb-4) 14

Total (for no loss) 70

Bowling: O M R W

McGrath 8 3 10 0

Reiffel 9 2 28 0

Kasprovic 9 3 19 0

Warne 3 2 3 0

Eighth SAF Games in '99

Sports Reporter

The eighth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, scheduled to be held at Kathmandu in September this year, has been deferred till 1999.

The decision came after the executive committee meeting of the SAF in the Nepalese capital on Sunday with all the seven SAARC member-nations representatives attending the extraordinary conference.

The postponement of the biennial regional sporting extravaganza was due to the lack of infrastructural facilities to accommodate such a mega event in the Himalayan nation.

Earlier, the Nepal National Olympic Committee (NOC) had requested to shift the date to April 1998. But in a recent development, the Nepalese Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand had appealed the members of the executive committee "to give his country a chance to build the necessary sports infrastructure and considering the sentiments of his people, not to take the Games flag away from them", said a faxed message received by the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) on Sunday night.

Two delegates of BOA — vice-president Mohammed Faruque Khan, MP and secretary general Golam Quddus Chowdhury attended the meeting.

Asia Cup cricket

SL-Pakistan opener

COLOMBO, June 23: Pakistan will meet world champions Sri Lanka in the first match of the Asia Cup cricket tournament in July. Sri Lanka's cricket board said Monday, reports AP.

The four-nation tournament will also feature India and Bangladesh.

FIXTURES

July 14: Sri Lanka vs Pakistan at the R Premadasa Stadium.

July 16: Pakistan vs Bangladesh (D/N) at the R Premadasa Stadium.

July 18: Sri Lanka vs India (D/N) at the R Premadasa Stadium.

July 20: Pakistan vs India at the Sinhalese Sports Club.

July 22: Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh at the Sinhalese Sports Club.

July 24: India vs Bangladesh at the Sinhalese Sports Club.

July 26: Final at the Premadasa Stadium.

Pioneer football

Sports Reporter

Gulistan Club recorded a thumping 5-0, via over Chaitail, Club in one of the thirteen Pioneer Division football league matches, held at different city venues yesterday.

At the Mohakhali T&T ground Shihab and Manik evened shared four goals in Gulistan's smooth sail over Chaitail in the lone North Zonal engagement of the day.

At the Rajuk ground adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium Badsha Smriti Sangsad blanked Arambagh Krira Chakra (Junior) 2-0 with Mahidul and Shaiful notching one goal apiece in the first half. While the other match, West Zone A, at the same venue, Rainbow Athletic shared honours with Lalbagh Tarun Sangha in a one-all draw. Parvel gave Rainbow a 29th minute lead before Selim struck the equaliser midway through the second session.

Away at the Bashaboo ground, Suritola Right Brothers Club came from behind to beat Goran Barnali 3-1 in one of the three Central Zone engagements.

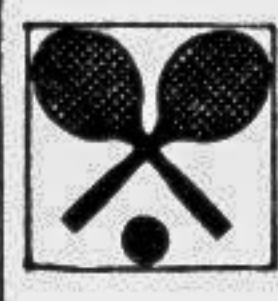
At the Dhupkhola ground, Paragadair Samaj Kalyan Sangha posted a 2-0 win against Nawabpur Sporting with Jamal and Lathif scoring for the winners. Red Star and Mukti Khelash Ashar split points in a 1-1 draw in the other match at the same venue.

Olympian dead

KAMPALA, June 23: Uganda's only Olympic gold medalist, John Akii Bua, has died in a Kampala hospital, reports Reuters.

Akii Bua, a policeman, won the 400 metres hurdles at the 1972 Munich Olympics in 47.82 seconds — a record which stood for the following four years.

Goran grinds Dinu down



WIMBLEDON, June 23: Second-seeded Goran Ivanisevic raced to a straight-set victory in just over an hour Monday as Wimbledon started on time before the first rain delay sent players scurrying off the courts, reports AP.

The left-handed Croat served 24 aces in a 6-1, 6-3, 6-3 triumph over Dinu Pescariu, finishing his match in 64 minutes on Court 2 before play started on the two stadium courts, Centre and No. 1.

Other early winners were women's No. 12 Irina Spirlea of Romania, who scored a 6-1, 6-0 victory over Henrieta Nagyova of Slovakia in 46 minutes; and Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva, who downed Britain's Julie Pullin 6-1, 6-3.

They were the first results before rain arrived just 15 minutes before the opening ceremony for the new No. 1 Court, an 11,000 capacity arena built over the past two years to replace the 7,000-seater No. 1 court which is in the process of demolition.

The first shower lasted only 15 minutes and didn't hold up the ceremony, which was attended by 10 players who had won Wimbledon titles three times or more.

The men's champions were Rod Laver, John Newcombe, John McEnroe, Boris Becker and Pete Sampras. The women's titlists were Louise Brough, Margaret Court, Billie Jean King, Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova.

Later in the day Aussie bomber Mark Philippoussis and local hero Greg Rusedski were set to face each other on Centre Court in what would shape up as a spectacular shootout on grass.

Line judges, ball boys and ball girls were braced to duck and dive to avoid their missiles which have been timed at around 140 mph.

The 6-foot-3 (1.92-metre)

Rusedski had the record fastest serve before 6-foot-4 (1.94 metre) Philippoussis took it from him. Now the British left-hander has the chance to get the mark back in front of a home town crowd on Centre Court, as well as knock the No. 7 seed out of the championship.

Both were in title-winning form going into Wimbledon. Rusedski won the Nottingham Open on Saturday, six days after Philippoussis triumphed in

Krajicek, who became the first Dutchman to win a Grand Slam when he triumphed last year, went into the championship after a victory at another grass court event at Rosmalen Sunday, when he beat Guillaume Raoux of France in straight sets.

The bad news for his Wimbledon rivals was that Krajicek didn't drop his serve once in the Rosmalen tournament. At Wimbledon last year he only

lost one set and he's a dangerous opponent when he is consistent.

He also thought he was better on grass this year.

I have much more confidence playing on grass and just feel much better on this surface," he said. "Last year, before going to Wimbledon, I just didn't feel good on grass and this year I feel very happy, very loose and really enjoying playing on grass."

Sampras, who lost to Krajicek in last year's quarterfinal after winning the title three years in a row, is not in action until Tuesday when the No. 1 seed faces Mikael Tillstrom of Sweden.

With Steffi Graf absent through injury, the women's competition didn't have a defending champion. Top seed Martina Hingis, beaten only once this year, faces qualifier Anne Kremer of Luxembourg on Tuesday while No. 2 seed Monica Seles was in action Monday against Australia's Rachel McQuillan.

French Open champion Iva Majoli met Mariana Diaz Oliva of Argentina.

The opening match on the 11,000-capacity No. 1 court featured Britain's first seeded player in 15 years, 14th seed Tim Henman.

The 22-year-old Englishman zoomed from 99 to 25 in last year's rankings and continued his improvement early this year until a wrist surgery halted his climb.

He was under the pressure of an adoring British public Monday when he faced Canada's Daniel Nestor, who lost in the first round last year but has beaten Philippoussis on grass.

Following them on court were 1991 Wimbledon champion Michael Stich and 1993 runner-up Jim Courier, both undefeated this time.

Gustavo Kuerten, surprise winner of the French Open two weeks ago and seeded 11 here, met American Justin Gimelstob, a promising product of the USTA Development program.

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