

Atherton remains at the helm

LONDON, Nov 1: Michael Atherton twice offered to quit as England captain during the recent Ashes series before being persuaded to stay on for the West Indies tour this winter, it was revealed today, reports AFP.

Atherton was first ready to call it a day in August after England lost the fifth Test against Australia at Trent Bridge which ended any chance of regaining the Ashes.

But he was persuaded to stay on by Lord Maclaurin, chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board.

Atherton, quoted in the Times, said: "Ian Maclaurin basically rejected my resignation. He said he wanted to get away from the media pressurising individuals to go. It's true I was very conscious of the press view, that I had very good will and that it was my turn to suffer."

But after the final Test at The Oval, which England won, Atherton was still uncertain about a future as England captain and at the end of August told chairman of selectors David Graveney at a meeting at a London hotel that he felt it was time for a change.

According to the Times report Graveney then called coach David Lloyd to inform him about Atherton's decision.

"He didn't take it too well and insisted I put Atherton on the line," said Graveney.

"I then stood around for the next 20 minutes, while all Atherton seemed to do was nod and mumble to odd yes or no. When he rang off he told me he would like to stay on."

Lloyd later explained: "I told him that if he resigned now, he would be putting at risk everything we had worked for over the past two years. It was an impassioned speech."



Action from yesterday's Premier Division football league encounter between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Farashganj Sporting Club at the Mirpur Stadium. — Star photo

Mohammedans' merry march

Sports Reporter

Holdings Mohammedan Sporting Club brushed aside the feeble challenge of Farashganj Sporting Club with a 4-0 drubbing in one of the two Senior Division matches played at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

In an unequal affair, striker Alfaz, Nigerian midfielder Ladi Baba, Don and substitute Askar Babu struck one goal apiece to record the fourth victory of the black and whites in the Premier Division football league.

The winners led the first

half 1-0. In front of a few hundred supporters at the Mirpur bowl, Alfaz gave Mohammedans an inspiring start opening the account as early as in the 12th minute.

The dark and dapper marksman, being completely unmarked by the Farashganj defenders, stunned the old-town outfit by side-volleying on a Munna (junior) minus from the right flank into the net.

The margin could have been doubled in the 42nd minute had not a Manik powerful shot from the edge of the box denied

by the woodwork.

After the breather, Mohammedans intensified their attack with a series of offensive buses and kept the opponents busy in their own half. The ploy paid back duly as the popular outfit pulled off three more goals in the second session.

Ladi Baba, one of the two Nigerian imports of the Motijheel outfit, opened up the scoring when he converted a penalty in the 55th minute.

Askar Babu, who replaced Alfaz a few minutes into the second half, headed home the third goal from a left side Bode Baba cross in the 66th minute while Don took the fate of the match beyond any doubt with a placing shot in the 89th minute.

Farashganj, who remained on the receiving end for most of the time, had a slice of the luck to reduce the margin when Monir got the ball inside the danger area at the stroke of the final whistle with substitute custodian Nizam at his mercy.

But Nizam, who stepped in for Ponir, made a brilliant save diving to his right.

Mohammedan midfielder Joy will miss his side's next engagement with Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool for receiving his third yellow card of the league yesterday. His teammate Don however escaped the similar fate as referee Golam Mustafaz opted to render a reminder instead of flashing the dreaded card.

With yesterday's win, Mohammedans clinched a transitory one point lead over leaders Muktiyodha 'Sangshad' having raised their collection to 13 points from five matches. Mukti is yet to play their last match and have mustered 12 points so far.

On the other hand, it was the third successive defeat for Farashganj in four matches following their win over Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool in their league opener on October 16.

TEAMS

Mohammedan SC: Ponir (Nizam), Faisal, Nazrul, Munna Senior, Joy, Manik, Munna Junior, Ladi Baba, Bode Baba (Ruhul Amin), Don and Alfaz (Askar Babu)

Farashganj SC: Nowshad, Jahangir, Rajal (Piter), Pintu, Dulal, Monir, Moin (Uttam), Chanchal, Selim, Alamgir (Rabi) and Ritun

EAST END CLUB ATOP ALONE

In the other match of the day, East End Club recorded their third win in the First Division league defeating Dhanmondi Club by a solitary goal.

Munir Hossain scored the match-winner with a powerful 25-yarder in the 15th minute.

The win allowed East End Club to take a solo lead in the ten-team league. They tallied 11 points from five matches.

Dhanmondi Club meanwhile remained glued to their previous position with three points on completion of their fifth outings.

BCB names U-20 team

Bangladesh Cricket Board picked up 18 players to form the under-20 team which will take part in the World Youth Cup qualifiers beginning in Hong Kong on November 30, reports UNB.

Bangladesh have been placed in Group A at the eight-team meet along with Malaysia, Maldives and Nepal. Group B comprises Fiji, Papua New Guinea and the hosts.

The Bangladesh team will play their first group match against Maldives on the opening day, then meet Malaysia on December 1 and Nepal the day after.

The selected players are: Sabbir Khan, Mushfiqur Rahman, Hannan Sarkar, Rafiqul Islam, Touhit Hossain, Sajal Chowdhury, Ridwan Hossain, Golam Murtaza, Ahsanullah Hasan, Tanvir Khan, Rezaul Haq, Tariqul Hasan, Moshed Alam, Tamim Bashir, Rashidul Haq, Saifur Islam, Ashiqur Rahman and Ehsanul Haq.

The players have been instructed to join practice session at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) playground at 9 am on Monday.

Div III cricket qualifiers

Sports Reporter

Annesha Samaj Kalyan Sangha, Agradut Krija Sangha, Sunrise Sporting Club and Rajabazar Krija Chakra won their respective Lotus-Kamal Third Division cricket league qualifying matches held at different city venues yesterday.

Annesha handed Youth Star an eight-wicket defeat at the U-tara Friend's Club ground while Agradut recorded a six-wicket victory over Narayanganj Cricket Association at the Mohammadpur Eidgah ground.

At the Mahakhal T&T ground, Sunrise beat Friend's Cricket Club by nine runs while Rajabazar won the day's remaining match against Matuail Nabachetona Sangsad by five wickets at the Mirpur Outer Stadium.

BRIEF SCORES

YOUTH STAR: 125 for 7 in 35 overs (Sumon 37, Extras 32, Moinin 24 n.o., Ponir 4/31)

ANNESHA SKS: 128 for two in 31.1 overs (Sajib 40 n.o., So-hag 29 n.o., Labu 28)

Result: Annesha SKS won by 8 wickets.

NARAYANGANJ CA: 114 all out in 27 overs (Extras 26, Moshir 25, Biltu 23, Faruque 3/26, Sumon 2/10, Mobarak 2/18)

AGRADUT KS: 117 for four in 29.2 overs (Extras 33, Faisal 24, Alamgir 21, Musabbir 17 n.o., Sumon 16 n.o., Moshir 2/14)

Result: Agradut KS won by 6 wickets.

SUNRISE SC: 167 all out in 34.3 overs (Shakhawat 28, Kamrul 26, Imon 22, Zahid 2/17)

FRIENDS CC: 158 all out in 34 overs (Extras 32, Sohel 30, Panna 20, Zahid 20, Badal 3/27)

Result: Sunrise SC won by 9 runs.

MATUAIL NS: 147 all out in 34.4 overs (Sanjiban 24, Sha-hin 22, Saiful 4/27, Yousof 3/28)

RAJABAZAR KC: 149 for 5 in 20.3 overs (Shakhawat 76 n.o., Atiq 21, Azam 3/20)

Result: Rajabazar KC won by 5 wickets.

Div II hockey

Sports Reporter

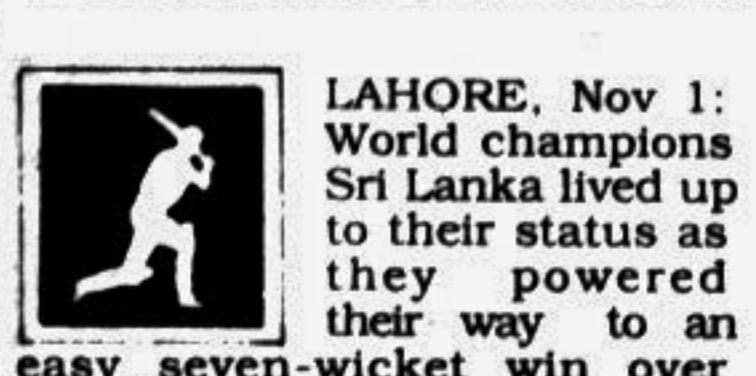
Combined Sporting Club recorded a solitary goal victory over Shantinaray Club in the Second Division super league at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Sabbir struck the all-important goal converting a penalty corner in the 10th minute.

The day's other match between Dhaka Wanderers Club and Barnak Samaj ended in a 1-1 draw.

Maruf put Wanderers ahead with a field goal in the 21st minute while Sun on levelled the margin through a penalty corner after 12 minutes.

Lankans begin in style

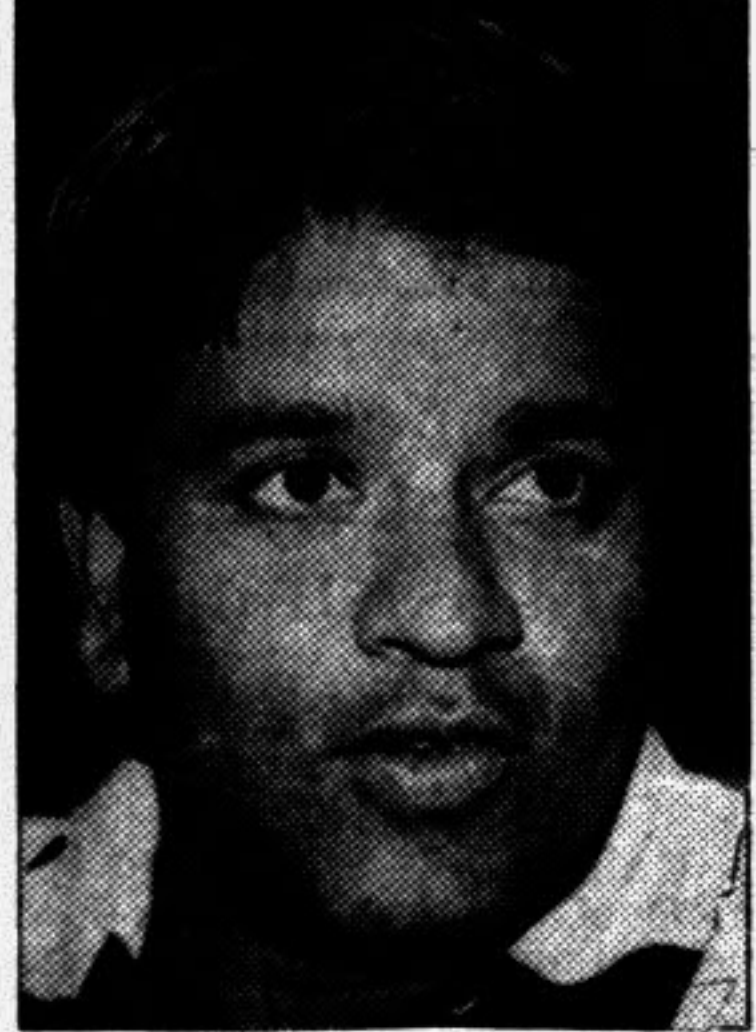


LAHORE, Nov 1: World champions Sri Lanka lived up to their status as they powered their way to an easy seven-wicket win over West Indies in the opening day-night match of the quadrangular cricket tournament here today, reports AFP.

Roshan Mahanama with a determined 94 and captain Arjuna Ranatunga with a swash-buckling 87 took the islanders to their deserved win with a 171-run undefeated fourth wicket partnership with 10.2 overs to spare.

After Ranatunga had put West Indies into bat, Lara (80) and Hooper (68) provided West Indies innings the needed fillip, the Caribbean lost six wickets with the addition of 65 runs, finishing with 237-8.

A disappointingly small



crowd watched the first encounter of the tournament which is being organised to mark the golden jubilee of Pakistan's independence.

Sri Lanka had an unusual slow start with the 50 coming up in the 13th over but they were never in trouble. Marvan Atapattu (1) and Sanath Jayasuriya (24) were back with the total at 56. Aravinda de Silva hit three consecutive fours off Franklyn Rose before falling for 13.

Ranatunga and Mahanama then steadied the run-chase. They joined at 69 for three and completed the hundred of their partnership in 108 balls as both played with consummate authority. Mahanama consumed 77 balls for his fifty, hitting a four and a six while Ranatunga's 50 came off 61 balls and had two boundaries.

"It's always good to have a winning start and I am happy that we did well to beat West Indies here. It will help us in the coming matches," Ranatunga said, who was adjudged the

man-of-the-match.

Mahanama and Ranatunga registered a new fourth wicket partnership for Sri Lanka erasing the 143-run mark set by Aravinda de Silva and Ranatunga against Zimbabwe at Harare in 1994-95.

Ranatunga hit eight boundaries in his 90-ball innings. Mahanama who remained six short of his century, faced 112 balls and hit five fours and a six.

West Indian pacers bowled short with Curtly Ambrose giving away 19 runs in his 11-ball fifth over.

"It was difficult to bowl as the ball remained wet because of dew but Arjuna and Mahanama batted excellently," West Indian captain Courtney Walsh said.

Earlier in the day West Indies lost their first wicket in the third over with Stuart Williams departing after making only 5.

Lara added 82 runs for the second wicket with Shivnarine Chanderpaul.

Mid-way through the West Indies were 85-1. Chanderpaul was given lbw after making 42 off 86 balls.

Lara found good support from Carl Hooper as both added 74 runs for the third wicket. Jayasuriya picked Lara in the 41st over. Lara's 80 came off 108 balls studded with seven hits to the ropes.

Phil Simmons hit some good shots in his brief innings of 20 but once he and Hooper departed the West Indian innings fell apart. Hooper made 68 off 61 balls with five fours and a six.

Chaminda Vaas and Sajewva de Silva took two wickets each. Vaas completed his 100 wickets in his 78th one-day when he had Simmons. He along with Sanath Jayasuriya and Muttiah Muralitharan is the third Sri Lankan to cross this milestone.

Hosts Pakistan take on South Africa on Sunday. A prize money of 25,000 dollars is on offer in the tournament along with a glittering cup.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecards of the first match of the quadrangular cricket tournament between West Indies and Sri Lanka at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore Saturday:

WEST INDIES

Table with 2 columns: Player Name, Score. Includes Williams, Chanderpaul, Lara, Hooper, Simmons, Ambrose, Rose, Holder, de Silva, Jayasuriya.

Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-98; 3-172; 4-221; 5-228; 6-229; 7-232;

Table with 4 columns: Player Name, O, M, R, W. Includes Vaas, Sanjeeva, Dharmasena, Muralitharan, Jayasuriya, De Silva.

SRI LANKA

Table with 2 columns: Player Name, Score. Includes Jayasuriya, Lewis, Hooper, Atapattu, Muralitharan, de Silva, Ranatunga, Chanderpaul, Shivnarine.

Total: (for 3 wickets in 39.4 overs) 240

Table with 4 columns: Player Name, O, M, R, W. Includes Ambrose, Walsh, Rose, Hooper.

Fall of wickets: 1-17; 2-56; 3-69.

Man-of-the-match: Arjuna Ranatunga.

Result: Sri Lanka won by seven wickets.

Dale may win Test cap

SYDNEY, Nov 1: Queensland bowler Adam Dale has been tipped to win a call-up for Australia's Test cricket team to play New Zealand in Brisbane from Nov. 7, reports AP.

Dale, 28, had a dream first-class debut season last summer with 42 wickets at an average of 22.07 as Queensland won their second Sheffield Shield title in three years.

Dale made an immediate impact when rushed to South Africa for the one-day series in April and was just pipped by Test-hardened Paul Reiffel when a replacement was needed during the Ashes tour in England.

NEW ZEALAND: First innings

Table with 2 columns: Player Name, Score. Includes Young, Emery, Pocock, Astle, Fleming, Slater, Matthews, McMillan, Harris, Vettori, McMillan.

Total: (for six wickets declared) 469

Fall of wickets: 1-28; 2-45; 3-178; 4-286; 5-293; 6-459.

Did not bat: A Stuart, S Macgill.

Bowling: O M R W

Table with 4 columns: Player Name, O, M, R, W. Includes Doull, O'Connor, Davis, Harris, Astle, Vettori, McMillan.

Total: (for four wickets) 57

Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-5; 3-19; 4-35.

Bat to bat: A Parore, D Vettori, S Doull, S O'Connor, H Davis.

Bowling: O M R W

Table with 4 columns: Player Name, O, M, R, W. Includes Stuart, Cook, Taylor, Slater, Doull.

Kiwis in dire straits



The New Zealanders failed to make an impression against New South Wales, whose discarded Test batsman Michael Slater (137) and Michael Bevan (143) contributed to a massive declaration of 469 for six off 159 overs.

Wickets then fell as the Kiwis reached a shakily 57 for four off 29 overs at the close of the second day, with a result likely before the final two days are out.

The second day belonged to Bevan, who shared in a sixth-wicket stand of 167 with Veteran Greg Matthews, who made 71 not out.

First day century-maker Slater, who resumed on 136, added only one more run before being the first victim of the variable bounce which is playing an increasing part in this game.

So ineffective were the Kiwi bowlers that they could take only three wickets in five ses-

sions with the remaining three batsmen being run out.

When the Kiwi batsmen began their innings after tea, they were immediately on the defensive with opener Bryan Young caught behind in a disputed decision off the fifth ball of the innings.

Fast bowler Simon Cook chipped in with two wickets and Matthews completed an excellent day for sharing captain Steve Fleming to a catch by Slater at short mid-wicket for three.

New Zealand's preparation for next Friday's first Test against Australia in Brisbane is now in tatters, with both batsman and bowlers horribly out of form.

Last week the Kiwis suffered two huge defeats to Queensland and they will take another heavy beating here unless their form improves sharply Sunday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the second day of the four-day match between New South Wales and New Zealand Saturday:

NEW SOUTH WALES: First innings (overnight 281 for three)

Table with 2 columns: Player Name, Score. Includes Taylor, Slater, Doull.

Richards b Vettori 21

M Waugh st Parore b Astle 44

Bevan run out 143

Lee run out 4

Matthews not out 71

Emery not out 4

Extras: 28

Total: (for six wickets declared) 469

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Advertisement for A.K. Khan & Co. Ltd. Telecom Division, located at HBFC Building, 1st Floor, 22 Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000. Includes contact information and a map.

The Daily Star TV Guide listing various television programs across different channels (BBC, Channel V, Star Movies, Star Sports, Star Plus, PTV, ZEE TV, ZEE CINEMA, ESPN) with their respective start and end times.