

Premier Div v'ball

Bangladesh Rifles registered their third successive victory in the National Bank Premier Division Volleyball league when they defeated Sonali Bank Club at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday, reports UNB.

In the one-sided match, Rifles outplayed Sonali Bank 15-4, 15-3, 15-5. It was the third consecutive defeat for the Bank Club.

In the day's other match, Water Development Board defeated Bangladesh Bank Club 15-4, 15-6, 15-10.

In the Second Division league, Sicily Club Chand Textile won their respective matches by straight sets at the same venues on Sunday.

Sicily Club beat Patners Club and Chand Textile defeated Madartek Mitali Sangha.

Meanwhile, the National Bank First Division league begins today.

Nine teams will participate in the single league basis tournament. They are: East End Club, Diluksha SC, Fire Service, East End Boys, Nabagarani Sangha, Nababatake Mojils, Jibon Bima Corporation, Shantibagh Welfare Association and Brothers Union.

On the inaugural day, East End Club will take on Brothers Union at 2:30 pm while Diluksha SC meet Shantibagh Welfare at 3:30 pm.

Tuesday's Premier Division matches: Titas Club vs Azad SC at 2:30 pm, Biddiyut Unnyon Board vs Wari Club at 4 pm.

K'lautern keep on winning

KAISERSLAUTERN, Nov 30: FC Kaiserslautern blasted Schalke 4-1 Sunday to stretch their victory streak to six matches while jumping to third in the Bundesliga, reports AP.

Kaiserslautern, now four points back of Bayern Munich, broke open a 1-1 match with a fierce second-half attack that produced three goals in seven minutes.

Uwe Rosler scored in the 67th minute, Janos Hrutka in the 71st and Olaf Marschall in the 74th.

Kaiserslautern joined second-place Bayer Leverkusen in hot pursuit of Bayern Munich while spoiling the 45th birthday of Schalke's Dutch coach, Huub Stevens.

His struggling club, UEFA Cup champions just two years ago, tumbled into 16th place and the demotion zone.

Munich, despite playing well, keeps losing ground to red-hot Kaiserslautern and Leverkusen, who have claimed to within two points riding a wave of 12 matches without a loss.

Visiting Schalke's lone bright spot came when oft-injured striker Martin Max equalized in the 34th after Marian Hristov's ninth-minute goal.

"I think the seeds were sown when we beat India in the one-

Cronje being cautious



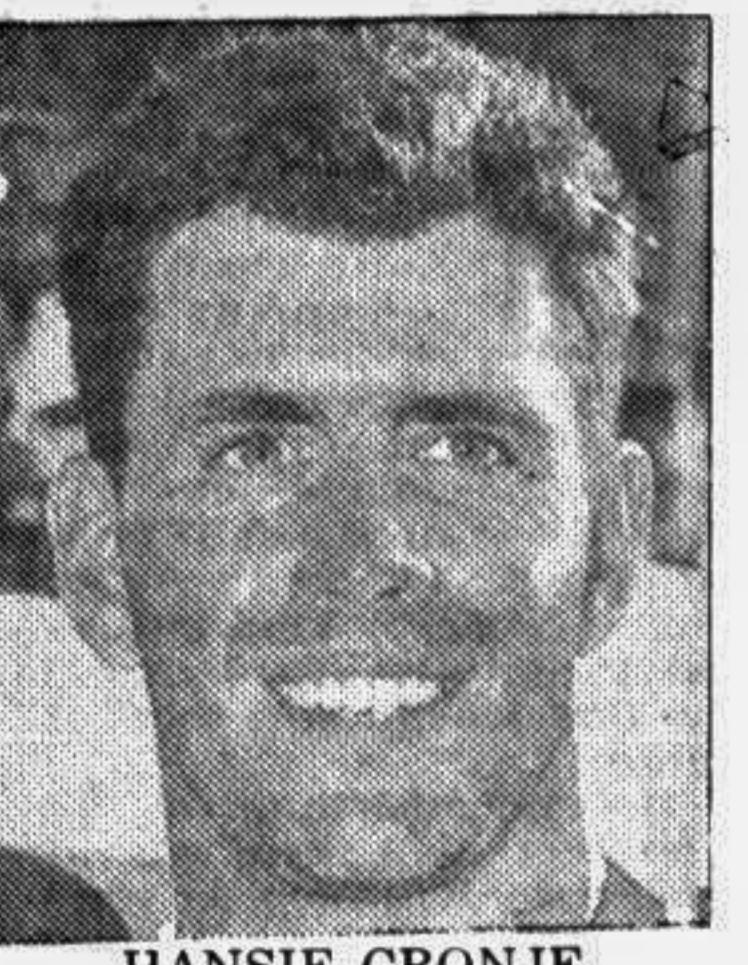
JOHANNESBURG, Nov 30 (Reuters/Internet): South Africa's captain Hansie Cronje expects West Indies to bounce back hard from their defeat by four wickets in the first Test at the Wanderers on Monday.

Cronje, as always, guarded against premature celebrations after South Africa had beaten West Indies in a Test for the first time.

"...there is still a very long way to go in this (five-Test) series. The West Indies are a great side and we must fully expect them to bounce back hard," Cronje said.

"We learned a lot from the way they bowled in our first innings, not only taking wickets but keeping the runs down and applying pressure in that way. We then bowled particularly well to restrict them to 170 in the second innings."

With South Africa 77 for three at lunch on Monday's fifth and final day, in their pursuit of a victory target of 164, the match may have seemed evenly poised.



HANSIE CRONJE

does never give you easy runs, so you have to take every chance

and make things happen for yourself," Cronje said.

West Indies captain Brian Lara did not offer excuses for his side's defeat.

"We always knew how important it was to be positive. You can get into the wrong frame of mind trying to chase 164 in 105 overs. The West Indies began to attack."

"They played better cricket than us and deserved to win. Shaun Pollock had a very good Test match and performances like that can sometimes be the difference between two teams," Lara said.

"We only have one three-day game to prepare for the second Test but the bowlers are performing well so it's important that the batsmen get a good knock; then there's no reason we shouldn't have a good chance of bouncing back in Port Elizabeth," Lara said.

Asked whether the absence of Carl Hooper for much of the match had affected West Indies' performance, Lara acknowledged that his vice-captain's groin strain had disrupted the balance of the side.

"It was a shame it happened so early in the match. A fully fit Hooper can be a match-winner with the bat and he only bowled four overs -- usually he would get through about 30 overs for us in a Test."

"Subconsciously, Shane has set himself for Boxing Day (the fourth Ashes Test) and the Australian selectors, even though they haven't said anything, probably have as well, but I think the next month will tell whether that's possible."

"We've got two Shield games plus a game against England before that and if you see Shane back taking wickets then you will know he is ready."

Graf said the biggest bonus for Warne over the weekend was the chance to again bowl in match conditions.

While Warne suffered at the hands of Lehmann, who scored 171 and 78 not out against Victoria, the South Australian captain praised Warne's performance.

"I thought he bowled well," Lehmann said. "He started giving it more of a rip and I don't think he is far off."

Earlier this month, Warne suffered at the hands of Lehmann, who scored 171 and 78 not out against Victoria, the South Australian captain praised Warne's performance.

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