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Brothers' misery mounts

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union extended their miserable run in the Premier Cricket League when they crashed to a 95-run defeat at the hands of newcomers Young Cricketers at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

The Gopibagh outfit, who finished fifth last year, saw nothing go their way right from the start. Eventually they suffered their third defeat on the trot from four games. Chasing an impressive Young Cricketers total of 286 for 8 in the stipulated 50 overs, they were bundled out for 191 in 45.3 overs.

Only skipper Jahangir Alam stood among the ruins with a fighting 60.

Earlier, the Uttara-based club rode on a solid performance by their top-order to amass an imposing total.

Opener Tinku and Pakistani Suleman gave them a flying start putting on 121 runs for first wicket in 19.3 overs. Tinku scored a breezy 76 off 62 balls; it included thirteen boundaries. His partner fell for 46.

Saifullah Magsi, another Pakistani in the Young Cricketers line-up, smashed 64 off 57 balls with the help of half dozen fours.

Brothers, in their chase, lost wickets in regular intervals after their Indian opener Aranna Dev departed in an unlikely way.

The left-hander was on 28 when he was ruled out for obstructing the field while chasing a sharp run.

Sohail Islam was the wrecker-in-chief for Young Cricketers. The off-spinner took four wickets giving away only 19 runs.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the Premier Cricket League match between Young Cricketers and Brothers Union at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Saturday:

YOUNG CRICKETERS		BROTHERS UNION	
Suleman run out	46	Aranna obstructing the field	28
Tinku c Aranna b Sohail	76	Imran c Tinku b Shahnewaz	25
Sajid c Sohail b Aranna	39	Mashroor c Sohail b Magsi	21
Magsi c Aranna b J Talukder	64	Jahangir c Towhid b Sohail	60
Jewel run out	1	Mahabubur c Towhid b Magsi	13
Towhid c Jahangir b Lalu	10	Sadik c Al-Amin b Suleman	1
Adil b J Talukder	0	Sohagh c Tinku b Sohail	1
Shahnewaz not out	20	J Talukder b Sohail	3
Sohail b J Talukder	7	Al-Amin not out	9
Shamsul not out	17	Sohail b Shamsul	8
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, nb-4, w-10)	16	Lalu c Magsi b Sohail	3
Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs)	286	Extras: (b-4, lb-6, nb-1, w-9)	20
Fall of wickets: 1/121, 2/145,		Total: (All out in 45.3 overs)	191
		Fall of wickets: 1/42, 2/68,	
		3/90, 4/128, 5/139, 6/158, 7/167,	
		8/169, 9/188	
		Bowler	O M R W
		Al-Amin	7 0 41 0
		Shahnewaz	8 0 36 1
		Shamsul	7 0 25 1
		Magsi	6 0 17 2
		Suleman	9 0 43 1
		Sohail Islam	8.3 1 19 4
		Result: Young Cricketers won by 95 runs.	

Exhibition game Indian opening pair for int'l XI

SPORTS REPORTER

Indian Test Openers Shiv Sunder Das and Sadagopan Romesh are all set to entertain the Dhaka crowd after playing their part in India's fabulous 2-1 win against Australia in the just concluded three-match Test series at home.

Young right-hander Das and left-handed Romesh are among the five cricketers the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced available for an international selection that will take on the Bangladesh national team in a day-night limited overs match to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on March 27 in celebration of the 30th Independence Day of the country.

The list also included young batsmen Yuvraj Singh, Hrishikesh Kanitkar and upcoming all-rounder Reetinder Singh Sodhi.

The international eleven will also feature players from Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The Pakistan Cricket Board have already sent the names of three cricketers. They are -- dashing openers Shahid Afridi and Imran Nazir and paceman Sabir Ahmed.

Experienced Hassain Tilekeratne will represent Sri Lanka. The southpaw might also lead the International Eleven against Naimur Rahman's national team.

Besides, Kenyan master batsman Steve Tikolo, who is now in Dhaka playing for Mohammedan Sporting Club in the Premier League, and Rohan Gavaskar, son of legendary Indian batsman Sunil Gavaskar, might also feature in the International Eleven. Rohan is playing for Surjo Tarun.

27th National Chess Rakib finishes atop

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Abdullah Al Rakib clinched the top spot in the preliminary phase of the Professor Abdul Razzak 27th National Chess Championship at Bangladesh Chess Federation Auditorium on Saturday.

Rakib earned highest nine points. In the final round, the Biman contender drew with Taibur Rahman Sumon of Leonine Chess Club.

Three players earned 8.5 points but in the progressive score of Tie-breaking system Aminul Islam of Anar finished second, Fide Master Enamul Hossain Razib took the third place and Nasir Ahmed of Anar fourth.

Besides, half a dozen players ended with eight points each. They are Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon, Abu Sufian Sakil, IWM Rani Hamid, Taibur Rahman Sumon, Abdul Maleque and Enayet Hossain of Dhaka University.

Top nine players from the qualifying round will play in the final phase.

GM Niaz Murshed, IM Reefat Bin Sattar and IM Ziaur Rahman are the three automatic qualifiers in the final phase.

Nat'l shooting DRC become champs

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka Rifle Club (DRC) emerged champions in the 17th National Shooting Competitions grabbing four gold, two silver and three bronze medals at the end of the meet at the National Shooting Complex at Gulshan yesterday.

Gulshan Shooting Club (GSC) became runners-up with three gold, two silver and three bronze medals.

Sabrina Sultana of DRC set a new national record and earned gold medal in the women's sport rifle with 561 points.

Sabrina Rahman Sagar of Chittagong Rifle Club (CRC) and Fouzia Karim of DRC bagged the silver and bronze medals with 534 and 532 points respectively.

Commonwealth gold medalist Sabrina also earned gold in the 22

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Premier Division Cricket League Abahani v City Club (BKSJ) Kalabagan v Victoria (Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

Did you know?

That cricket and... linked together? Take the Liverpool David... toured Australia with... team in 1996/97 and... made a superb 113 at Melbourne... Test to guide England... catching on the tour... and the ball seemed to... where he fielded a lot of missed catches.

A young... emigrated from... first baby, watching... excellent. David... have it (the bat)... Sheppard. Not... band, he'd be... Then there's... Bernard... Miles, a cricketer... of each prayer... 'Amen'.

Similar... have not yet... been established... cricket in Bangladesh... these days the holy... to have caught the... would be... maulanas can be... doing themselves in... matches of... madrasas across the country.

TALK KEY



Kapil De... (Legendary... I don't... again. I have... and said good...

What to watch

UEFA... High... Asian...

Short ID

Comp... 146... Tick the... Post... Win at... April 6... shortly...

1. Who... basketball... India... Nepal... Series in... Agassi... nikov... Madhesh... Gold Cup... ment?

2. Who won... Indian... Agassi... nikov... Madhesh... Gold Cup... ment?

3. What... capture... Gold Cup... ment?

4. Who... Gold Cup... India... Madhesh... Gold Cup... ment?

5. Whom... award in... between... Harbhajan... Singh...

Name:

Class:

School Add:

Phone: (If

D'mondi outplay Agrani

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

A century partnership between Sajjad and Anis throttled Dhanmondi Club to an eight-wicket win over Agrani Bank at the BKSP in Savar on Saturday.

Sajjad and Anis put on 150 runs for the first wicket as Dhanmondi, chasing Agrani Bank's 234, rattled up 236 for two wickets in 43 overs.

Sajjad hammered a swash-buckling 89 off 92 balls that included 13 fours. It was his third half-century from four games.

Anis scored an unbeaten 83 off 119 balls. He struck six fours and an over boundary.

Nadim plundered 43 runs off only 27 balls that included five fours and a sixer.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the Premier Cricket League match between Dhanmondi Club and Agrani Bank at the BKSP ground in Savar on Saturday:

AGRANI BANK		DHANMONDI	
Imranullah c Anis b Tarek	26	Mominul	10 1 53 1
Uzzal c Nadim b S Mehmd	17	Mominul	10 0 40 1
S Shahed c Setu b Nayem	41	Anisul not out	83
Sajjad lbw b Dickens	10	Sajjad lbw b Sentu	89
Shaheen b Momin	27	Tushar lbw b Sentu	12
Sohel not out	42	Nadim not out	43
Shovon run out	22	Extras: (lb-2, w-7)	9
Moni not out	35	Total: (For 2 wickets in 43 overs)	236
Extras: (b-1, lb-5, nb-4, w-4)	14	Fall of wickets: 1/150, 2/171	
Total: (For 6 wickets in 50 overs)	234		
Fall of wickets: 1/39, 2/57, 3/71, 4/119, 5/127, 6/173			
Bowler	O M R W		
Tarek	9 1 38 1		
Nayem	9 1 39 1		
Sumon	6 0 17 0		
Dickens	6 0 41 1		

S MEHMUD		BOWLER	
Mominul	10 1 53 1	Bappi	5 0 34 0
Mominul	10 0 40 1	Imranullah	9 0 40 0
Anisul not out	83	Sohel	1 0 4 0
Sajjad lbw b Sentu	89	Sentu	10 0 50 2
Tushar lbw b Sentu	12	Moni	4 0 26 0
Nadim not out	43	Russel Khan	7 0 37 0
Extras: (lb-2, w-7)	9	Shaheen Malik	7 0 43 0
Total: (For 2 wickets in 43 overs)	236	Result: Dhanmondi Club won by 8 wickets.	
Fall of wickets: 1/150, 2/171			



Sabrina Sultana (R) and Fouzia Karim of Dhaka Rifles Club who won gold and silver respectively in the women's sports rifle event on the concluding day of the National Shooting Championship yesterday.

Allott quits cricket

INTERNET REPORT, Undated

New Zealand left-arm pace bowler Geoff Allott has finally given in to injury and retired from the game, it was announced on Friday.

Allott's retirement has resulted from a stress fracture to his lower back, which has refused to heal sufficiently for him to continue bowling.

He has had a history of lower back stress fractures over the past five years. He was forced to entirely rebuild his bowling action in 1998 so that he was delivering more front-on and therefore putting less pressure on his back.

He fought his way back to fitness for a second time for the tour to Zimbabwe and South Africa late last year. His workload was managed through both of those one-day series but on his return to New Zealand he was again diagnosed with a stress fracture to the lower back. It was the sixth of his career.

"No player has worked harder to fight his way back to fitness than Geoff Allott," said New Zealand Cricket chief executive Christopher Doig.

"He has always been 100 percent committed to New Zealand cricket and to his career and it is a testament to his courage and determination that he has played as long as he has and achieved significant success."

"Geoff Allott was a talented bowler," said New Zealand convener of selectors and former fast-bowling great Sir Richard Hadlee. "He was particularly dangerous in the one-day game. Being a left-arter gave him an advantage and he had an ability to move the ball

away and across the right-handed batsman, which he did with devastating effect in the World Cup taking 20 wickets. He was an asset with the new ball and also later in the innings when he had an ability to reverse swing the ball and take wickets."

Even in the first class arena, he played just 31 matches, taking 102 wickets at 30.36.

Allott debuted for Canterbury as a 23-year-old medium-fast strike bowler in 1994/95 and, after only two games for Canterbury and two games for a New Zealand Selection XI, he made his debut in the first Test against Zimbabwe in January 1996.

His final Test was New Zealand's historic first-ever victory over England at Lord's in July 1999. In the deciding final innings he took a crucial 3-36. New Zealand went on to win the series 2-1.

Allott's name will likely remain in the record books for some time to come but, even though he was the archetypal tailender, it was for his contribution with bat rather than ball. In the drawn first Test between New Zealand and South Africa at Eden Park in March 1999, Allott batted for 101 minutes without scoring, passing the 97-minute record of England's Godfrey Evans.

He was eventually caught out for nought but, for an hour and a half, he had successfully fed the strike to his partner Chris Harris, who ended on 68 not out.

Harris had batted for five hours and along with Allott, the pair effectively denied South Africa the likelihood of winning. When he was out, Allott held his bat aloft and acknowledged the applause of the crowd, much akin to a batsman reaching his century.



GEOFF ALLOTT



Australian cricketers Shane Warne and Mark Waugh (L) wait as an attendant helps their teammate Andrew Symonds put his bag into the golf cart after their arrival in Bangalore yesterday.

First ODI today

Cricket

AFP, Bangalore

India and Australia begin a grueling one-day series on Sunday barely recovered from a remarkable Test battle that ended just two days ago.

The edge-of-the-seat thrillers in the heat and dust of Calcutta and Madras, which India won to take the series 2-1, left the physically and emotionally drained players yearning for a longer break.

But recovery time is at a premium as the first one-dayer, a day-night affair, begins at M.Chinnaswamy Stadium here followed by day matches at Pune (March 28), Indore (March 31), Visakhapatnam (April 3) and Goa (April 6). "It's not going to be easy to get over the 10 days of hard Test cricket over the last fortnight," said Indian captain Sourav Ganguly, suffering from stiffness in his right hand. "A longer gap would have been ideal, but such is modern cricket. You've got to play and play."

Australia, the reigning world one-day champions, have already made moves to prevent the players from breaking down.

Fast bowler Jason Gillespie, one of the successes for the tourists in the Tests, has been told to drop out of the one-dayers to

reover for the tour of England later this summer.

Gillespie, who will be replaced by Michael Kasprovicz, leaves for home on Sunday with three other Test stars, Justin Langer, Michael Slater and Colin Miller, who were not considered for the one-dayers.

"I don't believe I've got any serious problems and I could have played, but the team management have decided on a safety first approach to make sure I'm alright for the Ashes tour," Gillespie said. "This means I'm missing more cricket and that's upsetting, particularly as I'm feeling good about my form."

Australia's policy to pick separate Test and one-day squads gives the tourists at least five fresh players to choose from. One-day specialists Andrew Symonds, Darren Lehmann, Ian Harvey, Michael Bevan and Nathan Bracken arrived during the Madras Test to adjust to the conditions.

Skipper Steve Waugh said the one-dayers gave him a chance to avenge their failure to win Australia's first Test series on Indian soil in 32 years. "It may not be the same thing as winning the Test series, but we have a reputation to maintain in the one-dayers," Waugh said.

Opener Matthew Hayden returns to the one-day squad after emerging the highest scorer in the Test series -- 549 runs in six in-

nings. The left-hander, who was not in the original one-day team, was asked to stay on as the 15th member of the touring team to bolster the batting that has faltered against India's spinners.

The hosts have recalled Venkatsai Laxman and Harbhajan Singh, the heroes of the Test wins, after keeping them out of one-day internationals for the past two years.

Harbhajan bagged 32 of the 50 Australian wickets in the Tests, while Laxman compiled 503 runs that included a record Indian score of 281 at Calcutta which turned the series India's way.

The groundstaff has prepared a flat, grassless wicket, which promises a feast of runs.

TEAMS
AUSTRALIA (from): Steve Waugh (capt), Adam Gilchrist, Michael Bevan, Nathan Bracken, Damien Fleming, Michael Kasprovicz, Matthew Hayden, Ian Harvey, Darren Lehmann, Damien Martyn, Glenn McGrath, Ricky Ponting, Andrew Symonds, Shane Warne, Mark Waugh.

INDIA (from): Sourav Ganguly (capt), Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Venkatsai Laxman, Hemang Badani, Dinesh Mongia, Vijay Dahiya, Sunil Joshi, Zaheer Khan, Jaggal Srinath, Ajit Agarkar, Harbhajan Singh, Robin Singh, Virender Sehwag.

Back with a bang

Cricket

REUTERS, New Delhi

He's the original comeback kid of Indian cricket.

In 1999, off-spinner Harbhajan Singh was heading towards oblivion, with a suspect bowling action and a bad attitude.

Barely two years later, he has bounced back with a 32-wicket series haul and a Test hat-trick, the first ever by an Indian, against Australia.

His success has surprised the 20-year-old from Jalandhar, in the northern state of Punjab, as much as anyone.

Not only did he lift India's sagging cricketing fortunes but his man-of-the-series effort also helped end Australia's world-record run of 16 straight test wins.

"I did not think I'd do this well and get 32 wickets in the series but I guess it's my hard work and support from my family that has made it possible," he said after India clinched the series 2-1 against Steve Waugh's side on Thursday.

Singh, the fifth youngest Indian to play test cricket, made his debut over three years ago against Australia in Bangalore.

It wasn't sensational, but cricket pundits saw Singh helping to fill a vacuum after the retirement of India's 1970s spin quartet

-- Bishan Singh Bedi, Erapalli Prasanna, Srinivas Venkatraghavan and Bhagwat Chandrasekhar.

They also saw him as an ideal foil for leg-spinner Anil Kumble, a proven match-winner on slow pitches at home.

But it didn't take long for the dream to turn sour.

In 1998, Singh was suspended for one match in the Sharjah one-day tournament after he clashed with Australian batsman Ricky Ponting.

Two years and eight tests after his debut, Singh was reported for a suspect action and, last year, expelled from the National Cricket Academy because of indiscipline.

His career nosedived. Many felt the early adulation had gone to Singh's head.

Corrective action on his bowling followed under former England off-spinner Fred Titmus but it was until his father's death last year that Singh's attitude changed.

"My father's death shattered me and my family. It was then that I realised I had to work hard and achieve the goal I had set for myself," he said.

With Kumble ruled out because of a shoulder injury and the spin cupboard almost bare, Singh was recalled against Australia.

Having worked on his action and his variations in domestic cricket, he took four Australian

first-innings wickets in the Bombay first test before Adam Gilchrist set up victory with a counter-attacking century.

Singh, however, provided a huge boost to his struggling teammates when he took a hat-trick -- including Gilchrist's wicket for a duck -- in Australia's first innings in the Calcutta second Test.

Bowling fast off-breaks to an unrelenting off-stump line and extracting bounce from slow pitches, he finished with a match-winning haul of 13 for 196 in Calcutta before improving it to 15 for 217 in the Madras decider.

To cap his change in fortune, he also hit the winning runs to clinch the series.

While Singh thanked Kumble and coach John Wright for guiding him back, the plaudits rained in.

"It is a stupendous performance. It is also remarkable because he has taken three successive seven-wicket hauls," said former Test off-spinner Prasanna.

Prasanna said he had suggested Singh work on a more side-on action.

"For a good off-spinner, length is mandatory and the line is optional. He has done that well and mixed his straighter and turning deliveries."

Rajshahi cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Battola Kriha Chakra recorded a five wickets win over Mainul Smriti Sangha in the second match of the Hasan Imam-Ali Imam Pintu Smriti cricket tournament at Rajshahi Medical College Hostel playground yesterday.

Winning, the toss, Mainul Smriti made 154 for five in allotted 25 overs.

In reply, Battola reached the target losing five wickets in 23.3 overs.

In the first match of the day, Uttara Kriha Chakra received walkover against Sopura Sporting Club.



TWEAKERS TALK