

Minhaz mans Ctg fort

ISPAHANI MIRZAPURE TEA
3rd National Cricket League

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An unbeaten 69 from former Bangladesh captain Minhazul Abedin and half-century by opener Azam Iqbal gave Chittagong a realistic chance to take a first inning lead against Dhaka on the second day of the four-day match of the Ispahani National Cricket League on Thursday.

Chasing the visitors' first innings 285, the home side ended the day at the MA Aziz Stadium on 198 for five, 87 runs behind.

Minhaz, who has been the mainstay of the port city batting over a decade, will resume the third day with Sabbir Khan, batting on 13.

Earlier, Dhaka, 256 for seven overnight, lasted 45 minute in the morning to score 29 runs more.

The Dhaka innings caved in soon after their overnight batsman Halim Shah was sent back by young paceman Tariq Aziz. He also snapped up the last wicket to finish with a fine five-wicket haul.

Chittagong got off to a fine start with Anisul Hakim and Azam Iqbal producing 69 run for the first wicket. Anis scored 27 with four boundaries before he was adjudged leg before off Saiful Islam in the 32nd over.

One-down Ehsanul Haq fell for two, driving leggie Mossaddeq Hossain straight to Mehrub Hossain at mid-on.

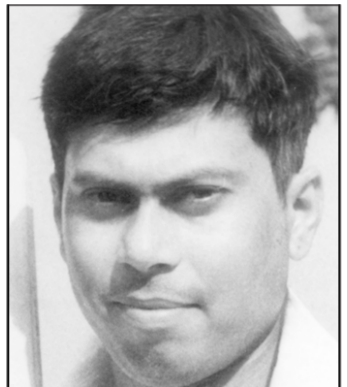
Azam Iqbal added 63 runs for the third wicket with Minhaz to take the total to 145 before the right-hander was caught at silly point by substitute fielder Rashedul off spinner

Naimur Rahman.

Azam scored 63 with the help of eight boundaries from 173 balls. He reached his fifty with an exquisite four through extra-cover off left-arm paceman Bikash.

Chittagong lost two quick wickets after the departure of Azam.

Skipper Akram Khan and Masum Ud Dowla fell within a space of five runs. Akram Khan was trapped lbw



MINHAZUL...69 n.o

for 10 by Mossaddeq while Masum, who scored a brilliant half-century against the visiting Zimbabwe team in a practice match last month, was dismissed for one.

Minhaz, dropped by Mehrab at backward point on six, led the recovery operation with Sabbir. He celebrated his second life with nine boundaries.

Considered as fine craftsman, Minhaz reached his fifty off 97 balls.

Mossaddeq was the most successful Dhaka bowler with two for 33. His captain Naimur also took two wickets for 68 runs. Veteran pacemen Saiful got the other wicket.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the second day of

the four-day National Cricket League match between Chittagong and Dhaka at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on Thursday:

DHAKA: First innings (overnight 256 for 7 in 90 overs)

Mehrab c Ehsanul b Ahsanullah	60			
Shahriar c Sabbir b Tareq	1			
Jahangir c Tareq b Ahsanullah	28			
Sajjad lbw b Tareq	4			
Naimur c Ehsanul b Tareq	24			
Halim Shah c Mortuza b Tareq	57			
Sajjad c Minhazul b Sabbir	22			
Neeyamur c Azam b Ahsanullah	37			
Mosaddek b Shafiuddin	19			
Saiful c Akram b Tareq	14			
Bikash not out	0			
Extras: (b-3, lb-5, nb-10, w-1)	19			
Total: (all out in 99.1 overs)	285			
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-85, 3-94, 4-102, 5-123, 6-163, 7-237, 8-256, 9-277.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Tareq	25.1	5	68	5
Shafiuddin	23	7	69	1
Sabbir	17	3	68	1
Ahsanullah	24	5	69	3
Minhazul	10	7	4	0

CHITTAGONG: First innings

Anisul lbw b Saiful	27			
Azam c sub b Naimur	63			
Ehsanul c Mehrab b Mossaddek	2			
Minhazul batting	69			
Akram lbw b Mossaddek	10			
Masum b Naimur	1			
Sabbir batting	13			
Extras: (b-4, lb-6, nb-3)	13			
Total: (for 5 wks in 78 overs)	198			
Fall of wickets: 1-69, 2-80, 3-145, 4-162, 5-167.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Bikash	8	1	23	0
Saiful	15	3	39	1
Neeyamur	12	3	25	0
Naimur	28	6	68	2
Mosaddek	15	2	33	2

Rainy day at Wellington

REUTERS, Wellington

Play has been abandoned on the second day of the second Test between Bangladesh and New Zealand after it became impossible to dry the Basin Reserve after hours of heavy rain.

The rain stopped at about 2pm, two hours after the scheduled start, but damp patches at both ends of the pitch meant the drying time was too much to expect play.

In an unusually wet early summer, three complete days have been lost to rain out of a possible five in the series against Bangladesh. The first two days of the first Test in Hamilton were lost, as well as the day in Wellington.

New Zealand dominated the first day on Wednesday, dismissing the tourists for 132, with Aminul Islam the top scorer with 42. Chris Cairns (two for 24), Chris Drum two for 26 and Daniel Vettori two for 57 the chief wicket-takers.

At stumps, New Zealand were 72 without loss, with Mark Richardson on 38 and Matt Horne, who survived a slip catch on seven, was 30.

Parvez named Sylhet skipper

SPORTS REPORTER

Opening batsman Parvez Ahmed will skipper Sylhet in the Ispahani Mirzapur Tea Third National Cricket League. The Sylhet Divisional Sports Association (SDSA) on Thursday finally announced an 18-member team to play in the first-class competition.

Other notable players in the list include brothers Nasirul Alam and Rajin Saleh Alam, left-arm spinner Imran Rahim and left-arm seamer Taposh Baishya.

Sylhet take on Khulna in their opening match at the Sylhet Stadium from January 2.

However, Khulna have yet to name their roster.

SYLHET: Syed Parvez Ahmed (captain), Syed Takrimul Hadi, Alok Kapali, Rajin Saleh, Nasirul Alam, Mohammad Rana, Golam Mowla Chowdhury, Imtiaz Hossain Tanna, Joy Kumar Roy, Rezaul Haq Naim, Mintu Das, Enamul Haq, Digboj Roy, Golam Mabud Chowdhury, Imran Rahim, Taposh Kumar Baishya, Rintu Roy and Kabir Ahmed.

Rajshahi cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Padma Garden Cricket School and Al-Rashid Cricket Academy (A) won their respective matches of the seventh Bir Sresththa Shaheed Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Smriti Gold Cup cricket tournament at the local Railway playground yesterday.

In the first match of the day, Padma defeated Dishery Sangha by five runs.

Winning the toss, Padma decided to bat first and collected 157 runs for seven in the stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Dishery went all out making 152 in 14.1 overs.

A1-RASHID defeated Hossainiganj, Challenger Sangha by four wickets in the other match of the day played at the same venue.

Hossainiganj won the toss and collected 164 runs losing five cricketers in the stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Al-Rashid reached the target (166 runs) conceding six wickets in 24.4 overs.

Rahul to stay out of England ODIs

AFP, Bombay

Star Indian middle-order batsman Rahul Dravid on Thursday opted out of the upcoming one-day series against England because of a shoulder injury.

"He (Dravid) will not be available as he is planning to go to South Africa for treatment," said Indian board executive secretary Sharad Diwadkar.

England, who lost the recent three-Test series against India 1-0, are due to arrive here on January 12 to play six one-dayers.

The matches are scheduled to be played at Calcutta (January 22), Madras (January 25), Bombay (January 28), Delhi (January 31) and Kanpur (February 3).

The date and venue of the sixth match are yet to be announced.

Pabna soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Sarkar and Sons Chatmohor defeated Agrani (Red) in the Radhuni Second Division Football League at the local stadium yesterday.

Rajib netted twice for the winners.



A groundstaff at the Basin Reserve in Wellington drains water from a super-sopper on the second day of the second Test between Bangladesh and New Zealand on Thursday.

BCB, BCCI join hands

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has assured the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) of more cooperation between the two neighbours.

As part of the programme BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya said that India would be taking part in a triangular series after the 2003 World Cup in South Africa.

The Indian team might tour Bangladesh for a full series either in January or February, 2005.

The decision came during a meeting between Dalmiya and his Bangladesh counterpart Ali Asghar in Kolkata on Wednesday. BCB director Syed Ashrafu Huq was also present.

The Indian cricket chief agreed to send the national team to make up for not fulfilling their earlier commitment owing to a busy international schedule.

Besides, both boards will undertake an extensive exchange programme at A, Under-19, Under-17 and Under-15 levels respectively.

India will allow more Bangladesh cricketers to attend their academies.

Besides, Dalmiya, who is also chairman of the Asian Cricket Foundation, also approved Bangladesh's eligibility for its various development programmes.

Sultan visits SAFF camp

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president SA Sultan visited the national football camp for the forthcoming SAFF Championship at the Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protisthan (BKSP) on Thursday.

Sultan was accompanied by BFF vice-president Zakaria Pintoo, assistant general secretary Sayeed Hasan Kanan and members Kazi Salahuddin, Golam Rabbani Helal, Fazlur Rahman Babul.

During his visit, Sultan had a meeting with BKSP director general Brig Gen Ansan Habib, coach George Kottan and the players.

During his meeting with the players, Sultan doubled their daily allowances and hoped they performed well in the seven-nation meet which begins in the capital from January 26.



Did U Know?

Pittsburgh is the only city where all major sports teams have the same colours: black and gold.



SET Max

Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe

First Test, Day Two

Live at 9:30 am

ESPN

Serie A

Highlights at 12:00 pm

World Cup Soccer Mix

9:00 pm

Sportscentre Hindi

Sport News

Live at 8:30 am

Cricket Programming

Super Selector

12:00 am (Saturday)

STAR Sports

South Africa vs Australia

Second Test, Day Three

Live at 5:57 am

Sportline Today

Sport News

8:00 am

English Premier Football League

Man United vs Everton

1:30 pm

Cricket Programming

Super Selector

7:00 pm

Sportline Tonight

Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm

Football Asia

9:00 pm

South Africa vs Australia

Second Test, Day Three

Highlights at 11:00 pm



Zinedine Zidane

(Real Madrid's French super star)

"No player in the world is worth that money, but that's just the way things are. It's important to me now that I show on the pitch why the club spent that money on me. I have four years to give back everything."

On his world record move to Spanish giants from Italian side Juventus.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 163

Tick the Correct Answers Post to **The Daily Star** Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm Jan 4, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who became FIFA's World Player of the Year?	Beckham	Figo	Raul
2. Which team scored the lowest one-day international total?	Bangladesh/Zimbabwe/West Indies		
3. How many wickets did Chaminda Vaas take in a one-day match to set a new world record?	Seven	Eight	Nine
4. In how many Test did Anil Kumble take 300 wickets?	88	6676	
5. Who won the Sri Lanka tri-series?	West Indies/Sri Lanka/Zimbabwe		
Name			
Class	Roll No.		
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			

CDSA upset

Cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Divisional Sports Association (CDSA) expressed its dissatisfaction at the non-availability of three young cricketers for their opening match of the Ispahani Third National League against Dhaka that commenced at the MA Aziz Stadium on Wednesday.

The port city outfit included Nafis Iqbal, Wassel Ahmed and Aftab Hossain in the playing eleven of the crucial four-day match hoping that the trio would be released from the under-19 residential camp at the BKSP.

But Nafis, who would lead Bangladesh Youth team in the ICC Youth World Cup in New Zealand in January, could not turn up along with his teammates -- Wassel and

Aftab, for lack of clearance.

They were asked by the BCB (Bangladesh Cricket Board) to join the BKSP camp after enjoying weekly holiday on Wednesday.

Some CDSA officials alleged that the three players were kept in Dhaka for a suspicious reason.

General secretary of CDSA Selim Abedin Chowdhury told this correspondent after the first day's play that it was a design to weaken the Chittagong team.

"I have obtained their clearance from the person concerned at the BCB so that they can play for Chittagong. But some other directors barred them from coming here," said Selim.

"I came to know later that Ashrafu Huq and Mahabubul Anam have instructed the coach of the youth team not to release them," he said bitterly. Ashrafu is the chairman of the Cricket Committee of BCB while Mahabub

heads the development committee.

"I do not know why they have refused to give permission. It is always better for a cricketer to play competitive cricket rather than training," said Salim.

Chittagong skipper Akram Khan refrained from making any comment on the matter. The experienced right-hander however admitted that their presence would have strengthened the team.

An angry local organiser even alleged that it was plot to help Dhaka win over Chittagong that clinched the title of the first edition and finished second to Bangladesh Biman last season.

He also opined that such restrictions would not only dishearten the local organisers to form better teams but also lessen the attraction of the competition. Besides, it will also discourage the sponsors in the long run.

Advantage Australia

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, Melbourne

Australia moved confidently to 126 without loss at the close of play in reply to South Africa's 277 on the second day of the second Test against Australia on Thursday.

Justin Langer, boasting four centuries in Australia's past five Tests, was unbeaten on 67 and Matthew Hayden, who passed the milestone of 1,300 runs in Tests for 2001 during his innings, was 55 not out.

Allan Donald, playing his first Test for eight months and returning after stomach and foot injuries, took the new ball for South Africa and had 0-34 from nine overs.

Andrew Bichel (3-44) took two wickets in successive balls, dismissing Jacques Kallis for 38 and Lance Klusener for a duck, and Brett Lee took 3-77 as Australia dismissed South Africa for 277 after the Proteas had resumed at their overnight score of 89 for three.

Neil McKenzie batted for almost four hours in a defiant innings of 67 for South Africa and shared partnerships of 72 for the fourth wicket with Kallis and 67 for the sixth wicket with wicketkeeper Mark Boucher (43).

South Africa captain Shaun Pollock (42 not out) and Hayward (14) added 44 in 53 minutes for the

G'bandha cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The Gaibandha Second Division Cricket League began at the Government High School ground here on Wednesday.

Noted sports organiser advocate Shah Jahangir Kabir inaugurated the 32-team meet.

In the opening match, Kisholoy Kirira Chakra defeated Patorin Kirira Chakra.

The league has been organised by Gaibandha District Sports Association.

10th wicket.

The touring side, trailing 1-0 in the three-Test series, went to lunch at 190 for five and were all out at tea.

Boucher, who came to the crease at 131 for five, survived an enthusiastic attempt at a hat-trick ball from Bichel but his 66-ball innings, which included six boundaries, ended when he spooned a catch to Bichel

at mid-off from off-spinner Mark Waugh at 198 for six.

Lee removed McKenzie lbw for 67 in the third over with the second new ball at 220 for seven and tail-enders Claude Henderson (five) and Donald (0) soon followed for the addition of 13 runs.

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PHOTO: AFP

South Africa's Neil McKenzie takes the road to the dressing room after being trapped leg before by Australia fast bowler Brett Lee (L) on the second day of the second Test in Melbourne on Thursday. McKenzie was South Africa's top scorer with 67.

Big guns stay away

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

The second day of the inter-club hockey players transfer witnessed a dull day as none of the two big sports houses turned up to register new players.

Mohammedan, who remained absent on Wednesday, however, retained the services of four players from last year's title-winning squad.

The quartet were hard-working midfielder Ashiq, captain Sharafat, Tuhin and Tito.

Rivals Abahani took the day off.

It was not the case with Mariner Young's Club and Usha Kirira Chakra.

Usha managed to attract in all seven stick-wielders. Among them are Hasan Rony from Abahani. Mariners registered four new players

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(L-R) Ashiq, Sharafat, Tuhin and Tito maintain their allegiance with Mohammedan.

Jayasuriya leads the way

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Skipper Sanath Jayasuriya slammed an impressive 92 to strengthen Sri Lanka's position on the opening day of the first cricket Test against Zimbabwe here on Thursday.

The left-hander rattled off 16 fours in his 164-ball knock as Sri Lanka went to stumps at 211-3 after being put in to bat.

Wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara was batting on 62 and Russel Arnold on four when bad light and rain stopped play with 16.4 overs left.

Sri Lanka were indebted to Jayasuriya and Sangakkara for posting a respectable total against a disciplined Zimbabwean attack on a day when batting was slow in the first two sessions, which produced 142 runs.

Zimbabwe, playing with four seamers and taking just one wicket before tea, had to rely on part-time spinner Trevor Gripper to restrict Sri Lanka after a 78-run stand between openers Jayasuri