

Green Delta hockey Mohammedan tame Sonali

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club struggled past Sonali Bank to register their third successive victory in the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Sonali put up a good fight before going down 2-1. All the three goals came in the first session.

Ashiquzzaman put the Mohammedan ahead with a field goal in the fifth minute while Shahidullah Tito doubled the margin from a short corner after five minutes.

Tayeb on the other hand reduced the margin for Sonali Bank at the stroke of the breather.

With that win Mohammedan collected nine points while the bankers tasted their third consecutive defeat.

Earlier, Victoria Sporting Club beat Police Athletics Club 3-1 in a First Division match.

UI IM Chess Reefat joins Johannessen

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Reefat-bin-Sattar joined Norwegian IM Leif Johannessen atop the United Insurance IM Chess Tournament after winning his seventh round game against Fide master Enamul Hossain Rajib at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Reefat raised his tally to 5.5 points.

Johannessen, in yesterday's round, was forced to a draw by Indian Roktim Bandyopadhyay.

The draw helped Roktim to remain in second position with five points.

IM Abdullah Al-Rakib, Nasir Ahmed, FM Taibur Rahman, IM Neeraj Kumar Mishra, IM Neelotpal Das, P.D.S. Girinath and IWM Nisha Mohota of India were in the crowded third place with 4.5 points each.

The eighth round begins at the same venue today at 3 pm.

First Division Cricket Indira Road pip Bima

SPORTS REPORTER

Indira Road Krira Chakra defeated Sadharan Bima by two wickets in a First Division Cricket League affair at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

Chasing 157 in 48 overs, Indira Road reached 158 in 40.4 overs with two wickets in hand.

Omees scored highest 29 while Masud and Bappi added 27 and 20 runs respectively.

Earlier, electing to bat first, Bima scored 157 before being all out in 48.4 overs.

Lower order Kamaluddin scored highest 32 off 44 balls.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Sadharan Bima: 157 all out in 48.4 overs (Kamal 32, Khokon 30, Mallick 4-28)

Indira Road KC: 158 for 8 in 40.4 overs (Omees 29, Masud 27, Bappi 20, dalim 3-21)

Result: Indira Road KC won by two wickets.

StanChart cricket Comilla High in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Comilla High School moved into the semifinals of the Standard Chartered Bank 20th National School Cricket Championship with an easy 51-run win over Barnamala Adarsha High School of Dhaka at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

Batting first, Comilla were all out for 163 in 24.3 overs. Kamal top scored with 29 while Manik added 27.

In reply, Barnamala were shot out for 112 in 22.3 overs with Mashuk hammering highest 33.

Rashed captured four wickets for 11 runs for the winners.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Comilla High School: 163 all out in 24.3 overs (Kamal 29, manik 27, Al-Amin 2-16)

Barnamala Adarsha High School: 112 all out in 22.3 overs (Mashuk 33, rashed 4-11)

Result: Comilla High School won by 51 runs.

What to watch

- FROM PAGE 13**
- Cricket Talk Show Repeat at 8:30 am
 - English Premier Football League Highlights Repeat at 9:30 am &
 - Aston Villa vs Leeds United Taped Version at 1:00 pm
 - Harsha Online Cricket Talk Show Repeat at 3:00 pm
 - Sportslive Tonight** Sport News
 - Live at 8:00 pm** Zimbabwe vs New Zealand
 - Third ODI
 - Highlights Repeat at 11:00 pm

PCB promises top security



REUTERS/AFP, undated

Pakistani authorities have promised "fool proof" security for New Zealand cricketers who arrive here Thursday on a tour postponed following the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

"We have made all-out efforts to make sure the New Zealand team gets the best available security through the best interaction of administration and law enforcing agencies," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) director Brigadier Munawwar Rana told AFP on Wednesday.

Pakistan's assurances convinced New Zealand Cricket (NZC) to reschedule the tour, originally planned for September-October last year.

NZC cricket manager Jeff Crowe visited Pakistan last month to assess security facilities ahead of the tour.

The tourists are due to play three one-day internationals and two Tests.

Rana said local authorities were also looking out for trouble associated with a controversial presidential referendum on April 30.

Major political parties have planned protests against the vote, which will decide whether military ruler General Pervez Musharraf

should stay as president for five years.

"We are conscious of the referendum and security people know what is required during the next 20 to 25 days," Rana said.

Pakistan's blistering summer heat is another factor which has been taken into account, he said.

"As for the heat the tourists made special requests for air conditions in the dressing rooms and ice tubs which are already in place," Rana said.

New Zealand will play its first match in the volatile port city of Karachi on Sunday, where US journalist Daniel Pearl was kidnapped and executed by Islamic extremists earlier this year.

"We have made fool proof arrangements for the team and for the match and paramilitary troops will also coordinate with the city police," Karachi police chief Asad Jahangir said.

Troops will patrol the National Stadium during the match and the New Zealanders' hotels will be tightly guarded.

"No one will be allowed on the floor where the tourists will stay," Jahangir said.

Meanwhile, Lou Vincent has recovered from injury and will join the New Zealand team when they move on to Pakistan after the Sharjah triangular tournament, NZC announced on Tuesday.

The batsman sustained a

bruised lung and ruptured his left airway after being struck in the chest by England's Andy Caddick in the third Test between the countries two weeks ago.

"It was always our stated intention to have Lou join the squad as soon as he was fit," said chairman of selectors Richard Hadlee.

Travelling with Vincent to join the squad will be wicketkeeper Robbie Hart, the retired Adam Parore's replacement in the Test team.

One-day wicketkeeper Chris Nevin injured a hamstring in Sharjah and Hart will now be available for the three one-day matches as well as the two Tests in Pakistan.

"Nevin's injury has meant Robbie Hart, who was to join the squad for Test series, will now get to Pakistan earlier and become a wicketkeeping option for the one dayers," Hadlee added.

Batsman Mathew Sinclair has taken over the gloves at Sharjah, where Pakistan and the Kiwis square off on Tuesday night to decide who meets Sri Lanka in the final.

The first match of New Zealand's delayed tour of Pakistan is on April 21 in Karachi.

New Zealand were en route to Pakistan when the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States forced them to return home. The first Test begins on May 1 in Lahore.

Chappell goes at Bangladesh

INTERNET, undated

Sacked Bangladesh coach Trevor Chappell believes the current standard of the first-class game in the country is hampering their development as a Test nation.

Bangladesh became the 10th fully-fledged Test-playing nation in 2000, but has lost 10 of 11 Tests with one draw and won only three limited-overs internationals.

Chappell was replaced by former Pakistan Test player Moshin Kamal last week, who became Bangladesh's fourth coach in five years.

"It's domestic first-class cricket that makes players mentally strong and prepares them for Test cricket," said Chappell.

"But Bangladesh's domestic cricket is very weak."

"In Bangladesh, it's a huge step from local to international cricket. When the players get to Test cricket, they struggle. They are outclassed and out of depth."

"Bangladesh is the number 10 Test nation in international cricket, but there is a huge gap between number nine and number 10."

"It's not the players' fault, it's the system. To close the gap, Bangladesh needs to develop quality first-class cricket at home."

Chappell admitted that he was disappointed to be sacked one year into a two-year contract.

"My contract was supposed to run until the 2003 World Cup. It's difficult to achieve much in one year," he said.

"Bowling, fielding and running between wickets has improved."

"Batsmen have a better idea about what they're trying to do, all they need is to put it into practice."

Chappell has taken a short-term coaching job with Dhaka's City Club.

Sunny slams 'rigid' Sourav



AFP, New Delhi

Cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar on Wednesday criticised Indian captain Sourav Ganguly for not being flexible on the team's tour of the West Indies.

"Being flexible is the key to good captaincy. And for that, the 'Prince of Kolkata' (Calcutta) has to remember that he is the captain of India," Gavaskar wrote in his Wednesday's column of Hindustan Times.

Gavaskar criticised the team management for playing wicket-keeper Deep Dasgupta ahead of Ajay Ratna and was also not happy with the Indian batting order in the drawn first Test of a five-match series.

Hailing vice-captain Rahul Dravid's unbeaten 144 in the Guyana Test as a "courageous, capital knock," Gavaskar suggested that the stylish batsman should be promoted to number three.

Dravid rescued India with a gritty knock at number five after Ganguly had struggled against the West Indies pace attack and contributed just five runs at number three.

"The captain must also have a rethink about his position in the batting order, especially now that Dravid has scored a classy century," Gavaskar wrote from Georgetown, even as Ganguly said he would continue at number three.

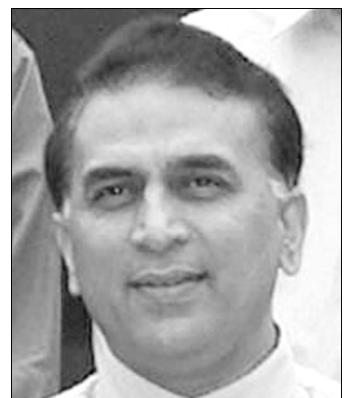
Gavaskar also felt India should have tried out more players in their only practice game before the first Test.

"It may well be that with the next Test starting in three days time, the tour selectors wouldn't want to make changes, since the reserves have

eleven -- not at least till he has played in the three-day game between the second and third Tests."

The former Indian captain said the hosts had more gains from the first Test.

"The West Indians gained more



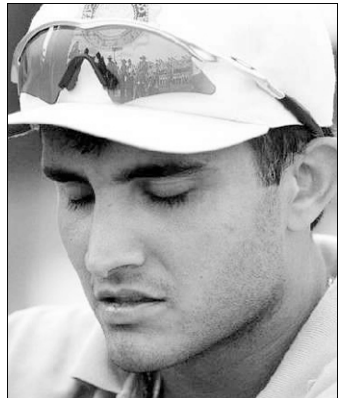
SUNIL GAVASKAR

hardly had a feel of the pitches.

"It is here that the folly of playing a full strength side against a depleted Guyana team becomes evident," said Gavaskar, who felt opener Wasim Jaffer should have been tried in the match.

"If Wasim Jaffer had been played, the selectors would have had some idea of how he was adjusting to the pitches and conditions."

"Now of course, it will be tough for them to pitchfork him into the



SOURAV GANGULY

from this drawn game than the Indians, for they were down in the dumps and way short on confidence before the game began.

"They had been hammered in Tests in Sri Lanka and by Pakistan on the flat pitches at Sharjah and their confidence was very low in spite of the return of Brian Lara to the ranks."

"Lara didn't score a run and that the West Indies still got 500 is what will add to their confidence," Gavaskar said.

Mahmud Abahani's agony

FROM PAGE 13

Abahani KC v Biman
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium.

ABAHANI KC
Nafis lbw b Aminul jr 10
Mehrab b K Mahmud 23
Moniruzzaman b K Mahmud 23
Naimur c Faruque b S Mehmud 48
Akram c Aminul sr b S Mehmud 3
Hossain c Sajjad b S Mehmud 24
Neeyamur b K Mahmud 46
Ahsanullah run out 12
Alamgir c Sajjad b K Mahmud 9
Mukhter c Aminul sr b Anis 1
Arman not out 7
Extras: (b-2, lb-8, nb-2, w-13) 25
Total: (All out in 49.5 overs) 231
Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-65, 3-66, 4-88, 5-143, 6-151, 7-191, 8-218, 9-222.

Bowler O M R W
Aminul jr 10 0 46 1
Anis 9 1 35 1
K Mahmud 9.5 1 35 4
S Mehmud 10 0 40 3
Razzak 5 0 43 0
Aminul sr 6 0 22 0

BIMAN
Javed st Mukhter b Hossain 49
Faruque b Neeyamur 12
Aftab lbw b Alamgir 11
Aminul sr st Mukhter b Hossain 48
Hasanuzzaman st Mukhter b Ahsanullah 18
K Mahmud not out 56
S Mehmud c Mukhter b Hossain 0
Sajjad not out 19
Extras: (lb-3, nb-5, w-11) 19
Total: (For 6 wickets in 48 overs) 232
Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-57, 3-110, 4-140, 5-175, 6-175.

Bowler O M R W
Neeyamur 3 0 23 1
Alamgir 7 0 43 1
Arman 9 1 42 0
Hossain 9 0 28 3
Ahsanullah 10 0 36 1
Naimur 10 0 57 0

Result: Biman won by four wickets.

Victoria SC v Young Pegasus
Venue: BKSP.

VICTORIA SC
Parvez b Saifullah 37
Al-Shahriar b Rana 60
Jahangir c Russell b Mahbub 16
R Hanif c Russell b Rana 57
K Mashud c Saifullah b Wahid 30
Kapali c mahbub b Majed 18

Enamul not out 5
Saiful retired 1
Masud c Hasan b Rana 1
Sajjad not out 10
Extras: (b-5, lb-3, nb-3, w-8) 19
Total: (For 7 wickets in 50 overs) 256
Fall of wickets: 1-103, 2-105, 3-137, 4-195, 5-228, 6-232, 7-241.

Bowler O M R W
Wahid 9 1 47 1
Jamal 5 1 31 1
Majed 10 0 39 1
Saifullah 10 1 58 1
Rana 10 0 43 3
Mahbub 6 0 30 1

YOUNG PEGASUS
Jamal b Monjurul 12
Nahid c sub b Masud 39
Shamim b Kapali 39
Hasan b Kapali 40
Majed run out 2
Tanvir b Kapali 28
Mahbub b R Hanif 6
Tariqul run out 2
Rana run out 12
Saifullah st K Mashud b Enamul 1
Wahid not out 0
Extras: (b-1, nb-4, lb-1, w-6) 12
Total: (All out in 49.4 overs) 193
Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-91, 3-112, 4-120, 5-167, 6-175, 7-178, 8-192, 9-193.

Bowler O M R W
Monjurul 8 2 22 1
Parvez 6 0 25 0
R Hanif 7.5 0 37 1
Enamul 8.4 2 21 1
Sajjad 0.1 0 1 0
Masud 9 0 47 1
Kapali 10 0 35 3

Result: Victoria SC won by 63 runs.

Brothers Union v City Club
Venue: KOACS, Fatullah.

CITY CLUB
Shahriar lbw b Morshed 0
Salim c sajjad b Athar 29
Raja st Moin b Imran 55
Tushar b Imran 64
Azam c & b Mustadir 16
Halim not out 35
Sajib c sub b Morshed 8
Tareq b Morshed 7
Jamaluddin run out 2
Extras: (w-5) 5
Total: (for 8 wickets in 46 overs) 221
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-52, 3-148, 4-155, 5-184, 6-204, 7-218, 8-221.

Bowler O M R W
Morshed 8 1 26 1
Shamsul 6 0 22 0
Athar 7 1 30 1

Mustadir 9 0 53 1
Imran 10 0 55 2
Aslam 6 0 35 0

BROTHERS UNION
Sajjadul b Jamaluddin 33
Harun c Jamaluddin b Tareq 2
Athar st salim b Raja 44
Mahbub c Raja b Tareq 78
Moin not out 35
Mustadir not out 9
Extras: (b-1, lb-6, nb-2, w-7) 16
Total: (For 4 wickets in 40.4 overs) 222
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-60, 3-124, 4-201.

Bowler O M R W
Tareq 8.4 0 43 2
Nayeem 6 0 38 0
Sujya 9 0 45 0
Jamaluddin 6 1 20 1
Sajib 6 0 36 0
Raja 5 0 33 1

Result: Brothers Union won by six wickets.

Youhana smites

FROM PAGE 13

a boundary.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Pakistan innings against Sri Lanka in the Sharjah Cup final on Wednesday:

PAKISTAN
Nasir b Chandana 63
Afzidi c Buddhika b Zoysa 14
Latif c Jayawardena b Vaas 0
Youhana c Buddhika b Zoysa 129
Inzamam run out 12
Younis c Atapattu b Zoysa 66
Razzaq not out 4
Akram not out 0
Extras: (lb-3, w-2, nb-2) 7
Total: (For 6 wickets in 50 overs) 295
Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-33, 3-118, 4-136, 5-291, 6-291

Bowler O M R W
Vaas 10 1 58 1
Zoysa 10 0 63 3
Buddhika 9 0 61 0
Dharmasena 8 0 48 0
Chandana 10 1 47 1
Jayasuriya 3 0 15 0

SRI LANKA: Sanath Jayasuriya, Marvan Atapattu, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardena, Russel Arnold, Kumar Dharmasena, Muttiah Muralitharan, Chaminda Vaas, Charitha Buddhika, Nuwan Zoysa, Upul Chandana.

Umpires: David Shepherd (England) and Russel Tiffin (Zimbabwe).

Windies caution to wind



REUTERS, Georgetown

West Indies captain Carl Hooper has dismissed suggestions that his team are a poor side, saying they were ready to take on anyone in the world.

"A lot of people seem to think we are a very poor team," Hooper told reporters after the rain-hit first Test against India ended in a draw.

"That is not true at all. We have a lot of very talented players and we're not scared of any team in the world."

Hooper smashed 233 for his maiden Test century as the West Indies amassed 501 in their first innings. India were 395 for seven before rain brought the match to an early end on Monday.

The 35-year-old Guyanese said his team had proved their worth in the first game of the five-match series and said he expected a

regular improvement as the days went by.

"We played pretty well here. Our middle-order batted their hearts out and the bowlers were quite impressive," he said.

The West Indies, who had lost five straight Test matches coming into this series, have been criticised by a number of former cricketers, including former captain Viv Richards who said earlier this year that the team had hit "rock bottom".

But Hooper said, although there were still a few areas on which the team should work, the side should not be underestimated.

"What was disappointing in this Test was that we were still struggling in finishing off the opposition," he said.

"Cameron Cuffy bowled really well, good line and length, and Mervyn Dillon did well coming back from a knee injury. He may not have bowled as many overs as we would have liked but we can do better."

The West Indians had India on

the mat at 275 for seven, still needing 27 to avoid following-on, before Rahul Dravid hammered an unbeaten 144 and shared in a record 120-run eighth wicket partnership with Sarandeep Singh (39 not out) to dig India out of trouble.

"I still don't think our attack is good enough to get the opposition out twice on that sort of a batting surface," Hooper said.

But he said the team would have a better chance in Trinidad.

"The wicket in Trinidad is known to be more friendly towards fast bowlers. I think we'll stand a much better chance of closing out a Test match there," he said.

Coach Roger Harper said there were a lot of positives for the West Indies to take to the second Test starting in Port of Spain on Friday.

"We did not start very well but our middle-order showed the grit that is needed in Test cricket to prop us up to a total that we haven't got very often for the past few years," he said.

