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Victoria play like champions

SPORTS REPORTER



Victoria Sporting Club erased memories of a wretched start in the Green Delta Premier Cricket League when the reigning champions handed a 42-run defeat to star-studded Old DOHS at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Chasing 244 to win, DOHS never recovered from an early disaster and a rear-guard action from experienced campaigners like skipper Akram Khan, Enamul Haque and Hasibul Hossain only minimised the margin of loss.

Victoria, who were humbled by Agrani Bank in the league's opener, came back strongly against the fancied team of the league. Having been put in, they prospered on half centuries from Pakistani middle-order batsman Fahadullah Khan and Bangladesh wicket-keeper Khaled Mashud and some erratic bowling to reach 243 for seven.

should feel terribly disappointed by the staggering 44 extras they bowled. The chief perpetrators here were the country's fastest bowler Shahadat Hossain Rajib and the seasoned Hasibul who sent down nine wickets each.

Once the job had been done with the bat, towering left-arm paceman Shafaq Al Jabir came up with a sensational spell for the second match running.

His five-wicket haul against newcomers Agrani Bank could not prevent defeat but here, the youngster pulled the stuffings out of DOHS' vaunted batting line-up with four wickets for 24.

Shafaq, bowling at a lively pace on a pitch that offered encouragement to pace bowlers throughout the game, took the first three wickets to reduce DOHS to 26-3 by the eighth over.

He began with trapping Hannan Sarkar (3) lbw with the first ball of his second over when the Bangladesh opener decided to let go an incoming delivery which thudded on to his pads. It was action-replay of Hannan's ill-fated confrontations with West Indian left-arm fast bowler Pedro Collins during the

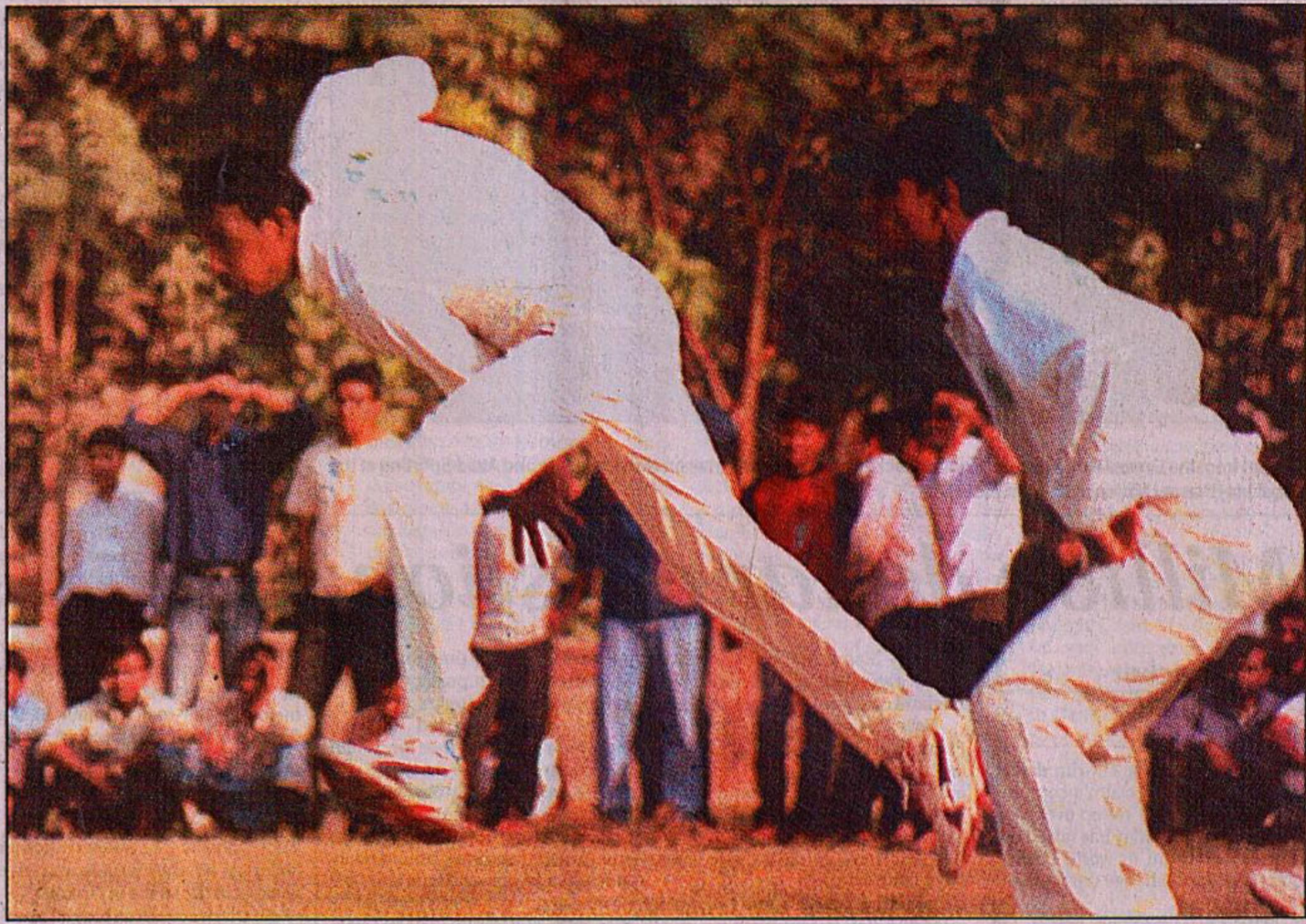
West Indies tour in May-June.

Next came the biggest blow when Zahoor Elahi, whose unbeaten century had enabled DOHS overcome City Club in their first game, was out for only six when he also became an lbw victim as he tried to play across.

The situation became worse as Shafaq sent Al-Shahriar's stump flying and out of favour Bangladesh left-hander Faisal Hossain Dickens was run out by a brilliant left-handed throw by Sakib Al Hassan from square-leg with the scoreboard reading 49. Without any addition to the total, DOHS lost their fifth wicket when Shafaq relieved opener Mushfiqur Rahim, who faced 42 balls for two, of his miseries as the Bangladesh U-19 batsman gave a tame return catch in the 15th over.

The circumstances were nothing new to Akram. But this wasn't to be his day. The former national captain hit 46 off 78 balls with three fours and one six during two important stands, 42 with Nadif Chowdhury (8 off 39 balls) and 51 with Enamul (37 off 55 balls) before holing out to Alok Kapali at extra-cover off the bowling of left-arm spinner Saqib.

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Victoria paceman Shafaq Al Jabir, who took four Old DOHS wickets, is in his follow through after a delivery during their Green Delta Premier Division Cricket League encounter at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

BFF introduces token system today

SPORTS REPORTER

For the first time the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will hand over tokens from today to footballers taking part in the inter-club transfers.

The BFF has taken the initiative to stop players from taking money from two clubs, which had created a lot of disputes between clubs in the past.

After collecting their tokens from the federation office at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, footballers will submit them to their desired clubs to confirm their registration during the inter-club players' transfer.

The eagerly-anticipated Premier Division Football League is expected to kick off in next March at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. Meanwhile, the BFF plans to celebrate their return to the grand venue with an AFC Cup match on March 9.

The transfer was originally scheduled for December 17-20 but the league committee extended the date by two days to allow Mohammedan Sporting Club to compete in an invitational tournament in Nepal.

Mohammedan have been given

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World Jr Chess Pentala champ, Parag 28th

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national junior champion Mehdi Hasan Parag finished 28th in the 43rd World Junior Chess Championship held at Kochi in Kerala of India yesterday.

Parag drew with IM Poobesh Anand of India in the final 13th round and collected 7 points.

Indian Grand Master Pentala Harikrishna became champion to emulate Viswanathan Anand by winning the coveted title with 10 points. Anand, Harikrishna's idol, had won the title in 1987 in Baguio, Philippines.

In the last round, the 16-year-old Indian drew with top seed GM Ferenc Berkes of Hungary in Catalan defence in 50 moves.

Fourth seed Armenian GM Tigran Petrosian defeated IM Elshan Moradjabadi of Iran in Catalan defence in 37 moves.

Petrosian took the second spot on better progressive score than China's Zhao Jun who had to be content with the third slot after both finished with 9.5 points.

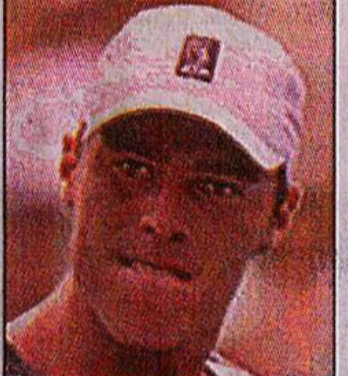
Russia's Ekaterina Korbut, with 10.5 points, won the girls' Under-20 Championship which was held alongside.

In all 72 players, including eight Grand Masters, 14 International Masters and 4 FIDE Masters participated in the boys' event.



Did U Know?

India's lowest total in Test cricket is 42 against England at Lord's in 1974.



Marat Safin

(Russian tennis star)

"Next year, I will try to do my best and try to compete with Roger Federer. That will be quite an effort for me."



What to WATCH

TEN Sports
India vs South Africa
Second Test, Day Four
Live at 9:50 am

ESPN
England vs Zimbabwe
Second ODI
Live at 1:20 pm
Sportscentre
Live at 9:00 pm



Green Delta Premier Hockey League
Ajax SC vs Railway SC (3:00 pm)
Dutch-Bangla Chess League

Q'land move into strong position

AFP, Brisbane

Pace bowlers Andy Bichel and Joe Dawes combined to place Queensland in a commanding position at stumps on the second day of their Sheffield Shield cricket match against Tasmania at the Gabba here

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Another Sharif show in Biman's win

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Biman and Agrani Bank maintained hundred per cent records in the Premier Cricket League winning their respective matches yesterday.

Mohammad Sharif was again on fire with bat and ball steering Biman to a massive 116-run win over last year's runner-up City Club while Agrani Bank coasted to a five-wicket victory against Orient Sporting Club.

BIMAN-CITY

Sharif hammered 28 off just nine balls in a cameo appearance as Biman reached a competitive total of 250-8 in 50 overs after Mohammad Ashraful (43 off 80 balls) and captain Sanwar Hossain (42 off 67 balls) provided the launching pad.

After being sent into bat at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Ashraful and Sanwar came together at 46-3 to repair the early damage during an 84-run stand.

Mushfiqur Rahman and Sajjad Kadir also contributed handsomely but Sharif, who smashed a run-a-ball 68 in their win over Abahani in

the first round, whacked four successive sixes off Saifullah Jem, three in one over and one off the first ball of the left-arm spinner's next over as the national flag-carrier rattled 47 runs in the final five overs.

City Club, still reeling from their loss to Old DOHS in the previous match, had the worst possible start when they slumped to 9-3 and despite Rajin Saleh's sedate 43 off 79 balls, crashed to 134 all out in 47.5 overs.

The national vice-captain, who hit five fours, was run out while Sharif dismissed Tushar Imran (23) and Khaled Mahmud (7) in quick

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

SCORES IN BRIEF

Venue: BNS
BIMAN: 250-8 in 50 overs (Sajjad 20, Ashraful 43, Sanwar 42, Mushfiq 31, Kadir 38 n.o.; Tareq 2-28, Mahmud 2-54).
CITY CLUB: 134 all out in 47.5 overs (Rajin 43, Tushar 23, Mehrab Jr 28, Russell 2-11, Rubel 2-12, Sanwar 2-8).
Result: Biman won by 116 runs.

Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium
VICTORIA: 243-7 in 50 overs (Saqib 17, Fahad 63, Mashud 72, extras 44, Hasibul 3-51, Nazmul 3-47).
OLD DOHS: 201 all out in 49.4 overs (Akram 46, Enamul 37, Hasibul 26, extras 36, Shahzada 3-33, Shafaq 4-24).
Result: Victoria won by 42 runs.

Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
ORIENT: 186-9 in 50 overs (Tamim 47, Masum 50, Rashed 15, Sumon 19, Nayan 18, Shuvra 5-35, Sadat 2-24).
AGRANI: 187-5 in 47.2 overs (Mabud 24, Rakib 51, Bashar 23, Kuntal 37 n.o.; Saju 3-33).
Result: Agrani won by five wickets.



NOW I PLAY WITH YOU: Australia opener Matthew Hayden holds his daughter Grace as they play on the Adelaide Oval field after the end of the second and final Test between Australia and New Zealand yesterday.

Aussies do it in style

AFP, Adelaide

Australia crushed New Zealand by 213 runs on the final day of the second cricket Test to clinch a series clean sweep at Adelaide Oval on Tuesday.

The Australians claimed victory six balls after lunch when No.11 Chris Martin was caught close to the wicket by skipper Ricky Ponting off Shane Warne.

The Kiwis, resumed on the final day at 149 for five, and they resisted through the entire morning session, primarily through the spirited batting of Daniel Vettori, who topscored with 59 in 111 minutes.

Vettori was out in the final over before lunch when he holed out in the deep to Jason Gillespie giving hometown hero Darren Lehmann his second wicket with his left-arm spin.

Paul Wiseman remained 15 not out off 37 balls.

Australia proved far superior to the Kiwis and smashed them by an innings and 156 runs in the first Brisbane Test inside four days.

Moreover, every Australian player, with the exception of Kasprovic, scored at least 50 in the two Tests, even No.11 McGrath for the first time.

Opening batsman Justin Langer was named man-of-the-match for his 215 in the first innings and fast bowler Glenn McGrath was announced as man-of-the-series in a tightly-contested vote.

New Zealand have now lost six of their last eight Tests with their two wins coming against win-less Bangladesh last month.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6

Niaz draws yet Leonine atop

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Niaz Murshed shared point but aspirants Leonine Chess Club still maintained their all-win record in the Dutch-Bangla First Division Chess League at the end of Round Six at the federation hall room yesterday.

The country's first GM was held by Jamal Ahmed of Uttaradikar Sangad. However, his three other GM mates -- Dao Thein Hai, GM Iuldashev Saidali and Nguyen Anh Dung -- came out winners to give the leaders a 3.5-0.5 points victory.

The day's outcome raised their collection to 22 points, 1.5 points more than second placed Bangladesh Biman. The national flag carrier outplayed Bangladesh Ansar 4-0 while and Muktiyoddha, who are third with 20 points, beat Friends Chess Power 3.5-0.5.

In other matches, Narayanganj City Chess Club blanked Rajshahi Daba Unmayon Sangsha 4-0, Destiny 2000 checkmated Anushillan Daba Kriira Chakra 3.5-0.5, Dhaka University Chess Team beat Mohakhali Prodeep Sangha 2.5-1.5 and Farashganj Sporting Club drew with Titas Club 2-2 while Star Vision Chess Team also split points with Sonali Bank.

ODIs against NZ Australia call Katich back

AFP, Adelaide

Axed Test batsman Simon Katich was Tuesday selected in a 14-man Australian squad for the Chappell-Hadlee one-day series against New Zealand starting in Melbourne on Sunday.

Selectors preferred Katich to all-rounder Ian Harvey in the only change from the squad that lost to England in the semi-final of the ICC Champions Trophy in September.

Harvey is returning to state cricket following a groin injury while Katich has scored heavily for New South Wales in recent domestic games.

"Despite the disappointing outcome at the ICC Champions Trophy a few months ago, we felt that at this stage there wasn't a great need to make major changes to the one-day group," chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said in a statement.

"With Ian Harvey on his way back from injury, we felt it was important to give him some more time at state level before considering him for international duties.

"We'll certainly be keeping close watch on him during his comeback for Victoria.

The Chappell-Hadlee Trophy begins at Melbourne's Docklands stadium on Sunday and moves to the Sydney Cricket Ground on December 8 before winding up at Brisbane's Gabba ground on December 10.

SQUAD
Ricky Ponting (captain), Adam Gilchrist, Michael Clarke, Jason Gillespie, Matthew Hayden, Brad Hogg, Michael Kasprovic, Simon Katich, Brett Lee, Darren Lehmann, Damien Martyn, Glenn McGrath, Andrew Symonds, Shane Watson.

Mohammedan toil for victory

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club laboured for the second match in a row before they eked out a victory over lowly Azad Sporting Club in the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League yesterday.

The title-contenders' forwards were found wanting in front of goal as they could manage a 2-1 win at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

Just as they did against Wari Club, which the popular Motijheel outfit won 3-2, Mohammedan squandered half dozen chances before two second-half goals from captain Ariful Haque Prince and Ashraful Hossain Shishu cancelled out Azad's Mominul Tamjid strike.

Apart from two chances that fell to striker Maksud Alam Hablu, the Black and Whites hardly imposed themselves in a goalless first 35 minutes.

Hablu wasted a golden opportunity midway through the half when

he failed to put the ball into the net from a Zahidul Islam pass with the Azad goalkeeper Mehrab Hossain completely beaten.

And moments later he fired his shot wide of the target after another counter-attack.

After the breather Prince put the last year's runners-up ahead from a penalty-corner in the 54th minute while his partner Shishu doubled it five minutes later from a brilliant solo effort.

Azad then began launching a wave of attacks and that resulted in Mominul scoring in the 62nd minute after Mohammedan keeper Shakil failed to clear an easy shot.

Inspired by the goal, Azad piled on the pressure for the remaining minutes but the Mohammedan defence withstood each assault to ensure full points.

SONALI BANK-SADHARAN BIMA

In the other match, fresh from a goalless draw against giant Mariner Youngs Club in the first match, Sonali Bank shared points with

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

Dravid gives India lead

Cricket

AFP, Kolkata

Rahul Dravid's patient knock of 80 helped India take a useful first innings lead against South Africa in the second and final Test at Eden Gardens on Tuesday.

India reached 359-6 at stumps on the third day in reply to South Africa's 305.

Dravid's laborious five-hour knock, in which he faced 217 deliveries and hit eight boundaries, was a good sheet-anchor role while others came up with cameo knocks to boost the total.

Sourav Ganguly (40), Venkatsai Laxman (38) and Dinesh Karthik (35 not out) chipped in to give the home side the advantage after a hard day's batting on a dry pitch.

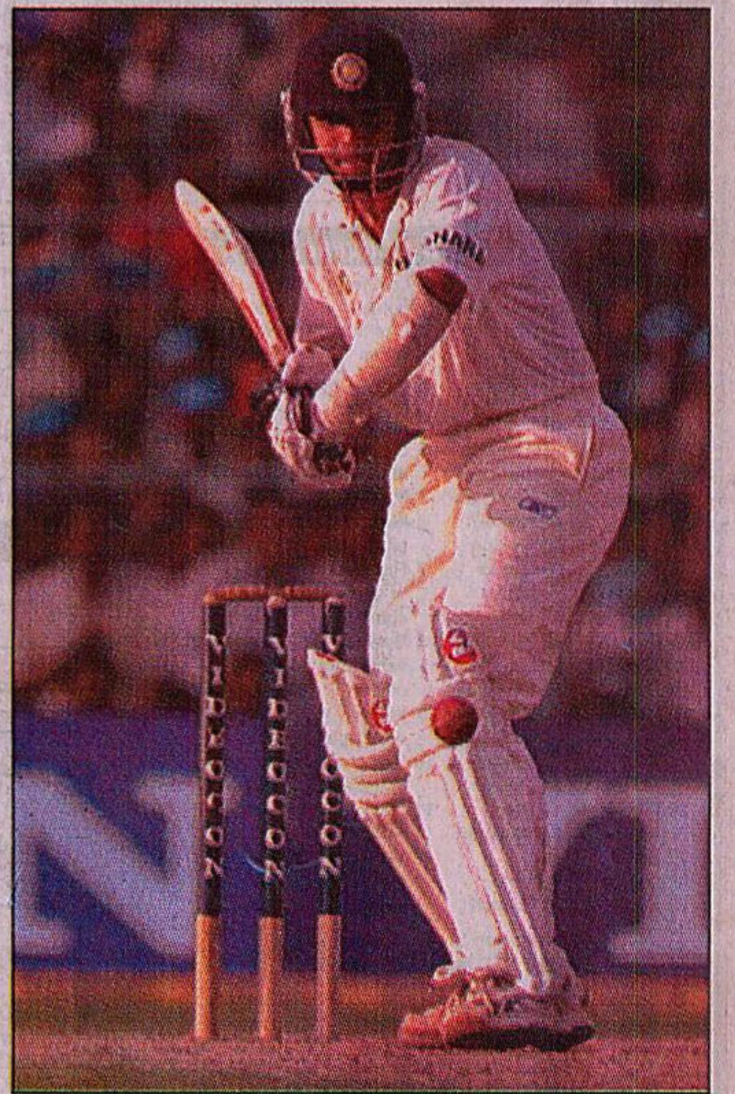
Irfan Pathan (21) was partnering Karthik when play ended early because of bad light. India had added 230 runs off 86.2 overs after starting the day on 129-1.

Dravid, 33 overnight, played some fine shots early in the morning but went back into his shell after the fall of opener Virender Sehwag.

The Indian vice-captain though felt the team had not been subdued. "We haven't lost the momentum and I thought things were pretty even as regards the pace of the match. Ideally, we should have scored 40 to 50 runs more and lost a couple of wickets fewer," said Dravid.

He was out trying to cut a ball from seamer Andrew Hall which he dragged back onto the stumps.

Captain Ganguly went a little later when umpire Simon Taufel ruled him out lbw to seamer Zander de Bruyn -- even as replays clearly showed the ball had pitched outside



ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL: Master India batsman Rahul Dravid is all ready to play a delivery on the way to scoring a diligent 80 in the first innings of the Kolkata Test against South Africa yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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