

Brothers thumped in Beirut

INTERNET SOURCE, Beirut

AFC CUP
Al Nijeh opened their 2005 AFC Cup campaign with a comfortable 4-1 win over Bangladesh champions Brothers Union here on Wednesday.

The Lebanese champions were quick off the mark, scoring their first two goals in the first two minutes of the match. Musa Hejeh and Mohammed Qassas were the early goal-scorers.

Qassas then added his side's third and his own second goal in the 13th min.

Brothers closed the margin with a penalty converted by veteran wingback Masud Rana in the 23rd minute. Abbas Atwi then completed the easy win with the game's fifth goal to end the match 4-1 in Nijeh's favour.

Nijeh are now in the driving seat of Group C followed by Nisa of Turkmenistan and Brothers.

Brothers, the defending champions of the Dhaka Premier Division and National Football leagues, have one point in the bag after two matches following their 1-1 draw with Nisa FC at home.

Brothers' next assignment is on May 11 against Nisa at Ashgabat in Turkmenistan.



PHOTO: AFP
CONTRASTING MOODS: Pakistani batsmen Younis Khan (L) and Younus Youhana (C) walk off the ground along with a dejected Indian captain Sourav Ganguly at the tea break on the second day of the second Test in Kolkata yesterday. Younis and Youhana put on 203 runs for the undefeated third wicket.

Ys lift Pakistan

REUTERS, Kolkata



Pakistan vice-captain Younis Khan and Younus Youhana stroked in a significant hundreds to lift their team against India in the second Test on Thursday.

Younis hit an unbeaten 108, his seventh hundred, while the experienced Youhana was 101 not out as Pakistan cruised to 273 for two on a slow Eden Gardens pitch, 134 runs behind India's first-innings 407 all out.

Youhana reached his 13th hundred with a four against off-spinner Harbhajan Singh off the day's final delivery. The unbeaten third-wicket partnership of 203 was a record for Pakistan in India.

The 27-year-old Younis lifted Pakistan from 70 for two with powerful shots to all parts of the ground and ran superbly between the wickets with Youhana in energy-sapping humidity.

Younis has hit 14 fours in his 167-ball innings spanning four hours while Youhana's chanceless knock contained 13 fours.

Youhana needed nine runs to reach his hundred in the final over, but he swept Harbhajan for four and picked up a couple before hitting another four to reach three figures.

Both batsmen kept up an excellent scoring rate to force India captain Sourav Ganguly to spread his field, also showing their command against leg-spinner Anil Kumble and Harbhajan.

Younis had made only one fifty in six innings during the recent 3-0 series rout in Australia and managed just nine and one in the drawn first Test in Mohali.

However, he vindicated captain

Inzamul Haq's decision to retain him at number three with an innings of real authority.

The well-built batsman drove strongly on the off side for his early fours before settling down to play delicate late cuts and drives to frustrate Kumble.

He could have been run out for 68, playing Kumble to short-leg and blindingly taking off, but wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik threw wild with the batsman well short of safety.

Youhana pulled and cut Kumble to move into the 90s before edging a pull against Irfan Pathan over slips for four to complete his hundred.

Youhana showed his class at the other end, lofting both spinners for straight fours before playing his trademark cover drives against Pathan to keep pace with his partner.

Shahid Afridi had lashed a 21-ball 29 with all but one of his runs coming in boundaries and one by slip. Opener Taufiq Umar made a shaky 18 after he was dropped on nought and one by slip. Fielders Rahul Dravid and Virender Sehwag.

India, overnight 344 for six, added 63 runs before being all out 30 minutes before lunch.

Harbhajan (27) and last man Kumble (21 not out) added 44 runs after Pakistan's bowlers made quick inroads into the tail.

Abdul Razzaq trapped Harbhajan leg before to finish with best figures of three for 62 with both leg-spinner Danish Kaneria and Afridi picking up three wickets.

Dravid top-scored with 110, his 19th hundred, and opener Sehwag made an aggressive 81 on Wednesday after Ganguly chose to bat. Sachin Tendulkar added 52, becoming only the fifth batsman to pass 10,000 runs in Test cricket.

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SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the second Test between India and Pakistan at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Thursday:

INDIA: First innings (overnight 344-6)

	O	M	R	W
Sehwag c Inzamam b Afridi	81			
Gambhir lbw b Kaneria	29			
Dravid c Akmal b Kaneria	110			
Tendulkar c Akmal b Afridi	52			
Ganguly c Akmal b Razzaq	12			
Laxman lbw b Razzaq	0			
Karthik run out	28			
Pathan c Younus b Kaneria	8			
Balaji b Afridi	3			
Harbhajan lbw b Razzaq	27			
Kumble not out	21			
Extras: (b-2, lb-12, nb-16, w-6)	36			
Total: (All out in 111.1 overs)	407			

Fall of wickets: 1-80, 2-156, 3-278, 4-298, 5-298, 6-344, 7-345, 8-357, 9-363

Bowler O M R W

Sami 22 3 76 0

Khalil 11 3 39 0

Kaneria 35 1 136 3

Razzaq 22.1 4 62 3

Afridi 21 0 80 3

PAKISTAN: First innings

Umar c Harbhajan b Balaji 18

Afridi c Tendulkar b Pathan 29

Youhana not out 108

Extras: (b-1, lb-8, nb-7, w-1) 17

Total: (For 2 wkt in 66 overs) 273

Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-70

To bat: Inzamam, Kamal, Razzaq, Akmal, Sami, Khalil, Kaneria

Bowler O M R W

Pathan 16 3 73 1

Balaji 13 1 55 1

Kumble 20 2 72 0

Ganguly 2 0 12 0

Harbhajan 15 1 52 0

Ctg's walking wounded

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong's struggle to field a team continued as they prepare for the sixth round of the National Cricket League which starts tomorrow.

Chittagong, who lost pole position after the previous round, had only eight players to bat against Dhaka in a top-of-the-table clash as Azam Iqbal, Nafees Iqbal and Nazimuddin got injured during the match.

All three players will be unavailable as well as Aftab Ahmed, the Test cap who has been suffering from a groin strain, fast bowler Wayaskarani Palash and Tareq Aziz when they travel to Khulna.

Wayaskarani is injured and Tareq, who has returned from India following the tour of BCB XI, is busy for his exams. Akram Khan also has opted out of the first-class competition and will only play in the one-dayers which leaves the side with a very weak squad.

The Chittagong team officials have applied for a substitute player - Arif Ahmed - considering that Azam Iqbal will be out for two more weeks and Nafees Iqbal looks uncertain for the rest of the tournament.

The national selectors who allotted the players to the six teams initially ignored Arif, the elder brother of Aftab who has two centuries in the National League.

Chittagong were yet to get the nod for Arif and will have Wasel Uddin and Dhaman Ghosh back from Zimbabwe.

It was confirmed that the selectors have allowed Sanwar Hossain, who returned home after Bangladesh A team's tour of Zimbabwe, to play for Dhaka.

Sanwar was allotted to Rajshahi but league leaders Dhaka, who have been missing Naimur Rahman, Mohammed Rafiq and Javed Omar due to injury, applied for Sanwar's inclusion.

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