

Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

A superb 93 by Pappu enabled Rupali Bank manage a three-wicket victory over Dhaka Mariners Club in the First Division Cricket League at the City Club ground yesterday.

Mariners rode on a 57 by Rana to score 167 all out in 47 overs while the bankers overhauled the target reaching 173-7 in 28 overs.

At the Dhaka University ground, Aslam smashed 90 and Prinka added 63 as Prantik Krira Chakra (207-6) defeated Lalmitia Club (202-10) by four wickets.

Scholastica rule Day 1

SPORTS REPORTER

Scholastica made a flying start in the Bata 15th school handball tournament when they won both boys and girls' opening day's matches at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Their boys' team outplayed Islambagh Ashraf Ali High 15-0 after dominating the first half 9-0 while the girls' team also outclassed Lalmitia Girls' High 11-0 after leading the first half 8-0.

In the other matches of the boys' event, Bir Sreshtho Munshi Abdur Rauf Rifles School and College defeated Bangladesh International School 11-4 and Sunnydale blanked Islambagh Ashraf Ali High School 12-0.

In the girls' event, Ispahani Girls' High defeated Bangladesh International School 7-1 while Mohammadpur Preparatory High School beat Siddheswari Girls' High School 9-0 and Motijheel Govt. Girls High School beat Dhanmondi Qumrunessa Govt. Girls' High School 2-0.

VVS holds

FROM PAGE 12
Dhoni lbw b Muralitharan 49
Pathan not out 39
Extras: (b-6, lb-9, nb-7)
Total: (For 6 wks in 78 overs) 247
Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-52, 3-88, 4-88, 5-97, 6-183

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Malinga	18	2	62	2
Maharroof	17	6	34	0
Muralitharan	21	3	76	3
Bandara	19	2	52	1
Dilshan	3	0	8	0

To bat: Agarkar, Harbhajan, Kumble
SRI LANKA: Atapattu, Tharanga, Sangakkara, Jayawardene, Dilshan, Samaraweera, Mubarak, Maharroof, Muralitharan, Malinga, Bandara.
Toss: India.
Umpires: Billy Bowden and Nadeem Ghauri.

An autopsy

FROM PAGE 12
Goal, had scored two spectacular goals in the tournament including the equaliser against India while Ujjal's heroic performance helped Bangladesh come back from two goals down to beat hosts Pakistan 3-2 in an under-19 qualifier two years ago in Karachi. The latter, pushed into the ground one minute before the final whistle, also had a good game against India in the group match.

Bangladesh, however, will not get the chance to wait for the dust to settle. They will play the Asia Cup pre-qualifier home-leg match against Pakistan on Thursday and make a return journey for the away-leg on December 26, probably in the freezing cold of capital Islamabad.

But this is for sure that these two games might be the swansong for some old guards as Cruciani had earlier predicted that Bangladesh football needed fresh blood ahead of the AFC Challenge Cup next March.

Liverpool dream dashed
Sao Paulo World Club Champs

Football

AFP, Yokohama

Sao Paulo were Sunday crowned world champions after beating Liverpool 1-0, ending the English club's eight game winning streak and record run of clean sheets.

A 27th minute goal from Mineiro put paid to the European champions dream of hoisting the only piece of silverware to elude them in their distinguished 113-year history.

In front of some 70,000 fans on a bitterly cold night, it could have gone either way in a fast and furious match worthy of a World Club Championship final.

Liverpool will count themselves unlucky after creating chance after chance without finding the net. It was a classic dogfight by Sao Paulo, who repealed wave after wave of attacks before making a deadly strike.

Rafael Benitez made five changes from the team that beat Deportivo Saprissa 3-0 in the semifinals, with the likes of Peter Crouch, Djibril Cisse and John Arne Riise left on the bench.

The Reds had most of the possession, but the Brazilians were dangerous on the break with highly rated right wing back Cicinho, seen as Brazil's successor to Cafu, causing all sorts of problems and Amoroso a handful up front.

Liverpool should have opened the scoring in the first minute when captain Steven Gerrard put a pinpoint cross to Fernando Morientes who steered his header wide.

A pitch invasion by a fan soon after held up play for three minutes but when it resumed Liverpool looked the better side.

Harry Kewell went close in the seventh minute and Gerrard had a glorious opportunity to score but drilled a right foot shot wide of the left upright.

Mineiro made them pay when he stunned the travelling Liverpool fans into silence in the 27th minute.



PHOTO: AFP

Sao Paulo players celebrate the all-important goal of Mineiro against Liverpool in the FIFA World Club Championship final at the Yokohama Stadium on Sunday.

latching onto an Aloiso pass to slide the ball into Jose Manuel Reina's net -- the only man to do so in 12 games.

Luis Garcia hit the crossbar soon after and the Liverpool pressure was relentless in the second half.

Three goals were disallowed and a Gerrard freekick was spectacularly saved by the experienced Rogerino Ceni in the Sao Paulo goal, whose safe pair of hands repeatedly kept the Brazilians in the

game. It wasn't Liverpool's night and Sao Paulo go back to Brazil as the South American and world champions.

Earlier Sunday, CONCACAF champions Deportivo Saprissa beat Asia's Al Itihad 3-2 to seal third place in the tournament.

Mohammedan crash

FROM PAGE 12
For three wickets in 42.4 overs.

BIMAN-ABAHANI
At BKSP, Abahani recovered from a precarious position to post 186 all out in 49.4 overs thanks to a captain's knock of 60 by Neeyamur Rashid Rahul but it was not enough to avoid the embarrassment of a second defeat in a row.

Pakistani Ashraf Ali smashed an unbeaten 75 off 85 balls and young Nazmus Sadat contributed 69-ball 54 as Biman raced to 189-3 in 47.1 overs.

SONARGAON-INDIRA ROAD
In the other match at the BKSP, star batsman Mohammad Ashraf played an uncharacteristically sedate yet productive innings to steer Sonargaon to a comfortable victory against Indira Road.

The right-hander faced 136 balls and hit six boundaries to make unbeaten 71 as Sonargaon scored 195 for six in 45.2 overs in reply to Indira's 193 all out in 49.4 overs.

Wicketkeeper Mohammed Salim smashed a 42-ball 53.

SCORES IN BRIEF
VICTORIA: 183 all out in 48.5 overs (Forhad 24, Sagir 37, Kamrul 18 not out, extras 28; Alamgir 3-40, Monjurul 2-33, Monirul 3-33)

MOHAMMEDAN: 149 all out in 46.4 overs (Bashar 36, Mashud 19, Nadif 20, Sabbir 20, extras 15, Shahnewaz 3-26, Palash 4-41, Jaffar 2-19).

Result: Victoria won by 34 runs.
BROTHERS: 150 all out in 46.2 overs (Rashedul 16, Sunny 16, Ehsanul 36, extras 23; Saiful 2-11, Fahim 2-34, Shakil 34, Mehmood 2-20).

KALABAGAN: 151 for 4 in 32.2

overs (Uttam 86, Nahidul 19, extras 11; Yasin 1-39, Sunny 1-23, Nazmul 1-33, Enamul 1-26).

Result: Kalabagan won by six wickets.
OLD DOHS: 210 for 5 in 50 overs (Rahman 37, Nazimuddin 15, Tikolo 30, Akram 69 not out, Manjarul 24, extras 25; Magsi 3-25).

ORIENT: 117 all out in 39.3 overs (Masum 17, Magsi 33, Firoz 23, extras 14; Reza 3-31, Tikolo 3-15).

Result: Old DOHS won by 93 runs.
AGRANI BANK: 151 all out in 46.4 overs (Towhid 59, Rizwan 45, extras 17; Rabiul 2-26, Kapali 5-30).

CITY CLUB: 152-3 in 42.4 overs (Rajin 78, Taibu 31, extras 12; Sumon 1-44, Rudel 1-20).

Result: City Club won by seven wickets.
ABAHANI: 186 all out in 49.4 overs (Shadab 34, Faisal 30, Neeyamur 60, extras 27; Rasel 2-39, Sharif 4-34, Mosharrarf 3-36).

BIMAN: 189-3 in 47.1 overs (Sadat 54, Ashraf 75 not out, Sanwar 37 not out, extras 17; Alamgir 1-10, Debrabata 1-23).

Result: Biman won by seven wickets.
INDIRA ROAD: 193 all out in 49.4 overs (Arif 41, Junaid 36, Nazmul 27, extras 25; Rafique 3-48, Sunny 3-20).

SONARGAON: 195-6 in 45.2 overs (Ashraf 71 not out, Ijaz 20, Salim 53, extras 25; Siran 3-42, Nazmul 2-34).

Result: Sonargaon Cricketers won by four wickets.

Ronaldinho tipped for another accolade

AFP, Zurich

Brazilian superstar Ronaldinho is the overwhelming favourite to lift the World Footballer of the Year award on Monday for a second successive season.

The Barcelona star has already been voted European Footballer of the Year and is tipped to edge teammate Samuel Eto'o and Chelsea's English international Frank Lampard for the global prize.

The award is based on votes by national team coaches and captains from around the world.

Only France's Zinedine Zidane (1998 and 2003) and fellow Brazilian Ronaldo (1996, 1997 and 2002) have won this award more than once since the vote was introduced in 1991.

Seven players have won both the world and European award in the same year - Marco Van Basten (NED/1992), Roberto Baggio (ITA/1993), George Weah (LBR/1995), Ronaldo (BRA/1997 and 2002), Zidane (FRA/1998) and Rivaldo (BRA/1999).

If Lampard was to win, he would be the first Englishman to take the award while Eto'o would become only the second African player, after Weah, to take the award.

There is also a Women's World Footballer of the Year award with Germany's Birgit Prinz, America's Shannon Boxx and Marta of Brazil in contention.

Aussies in driver's

FROM PAGE 12
For Australia, there were serious injury concerns over opener Justin Langer who strained his left hamstring just before the lunch break.

After the interval he returned with fellow opener Matthew Hayden as his runner but only added four runs to his tally before chopping pace-man Shaun Pollock onto his stumps for 47.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first Test between Australia and South Africa at the Western Australian Cricket Association ground in Perth on Sunday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 258 (Ponting 71, Hodge 41, Langer 37, Ntini 5-64, Nel 3-29)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 296 (De Villiers 68, Boucher 62, Smith 34, Pollock 34; Lee 5-93, Warne 3-92)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 38-1)

Langer b Pollock	47
Hayden c Boucher b Langeveldt	20
Lee lbw b Langeveldt	32
Ponting c Boucher b Ntini	53
Hodge not out	91
Hussey not out	54
Extras: (lb-2, w-1, nb-10)	13
Total: (For 4 wks in 99 overs)	310
Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-86, 3-129, 4-184	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pollock	26	6	60	1
Ntini	23	6	81	1
Langeveldt	21	2	71	2
Nel	21	2	67	0
Rudolph	5	1	20	0
Kemp	3	0	9	0

SERIE A

Juve stutter at Lazio

AFP, Rome

Lazio stalled Juventus' charge towards the Serie A title by holding the league leaders to a 1-1 draw here on Saturday.

A point saw Juve extend their lead at the top of the table to 11 points ahead of Sunday's matches.

Lazio matched Juve tackle for tackle in the early stages of the game and their tenacity was rewarded with the opening goal in the 16th minute.

Di Canio's shot was palmed away by Christian Abbiati and the ball landed close to the touchline near Juve defender Lilian Thuram.

The normally composed France international tried to clear the danger but he was robbed of the ball by Di Canio and the ball broke loose to Christian Manfredini. He cut the ball back for Rocchi who slotted past a helpless Abbiati.

The visitors almost fell further behind three minutes later when Massimo Oddo's rasping shot sailed inches over the bar.

Juventus restored parity against the run of play in the 26th minute when Mauro Camoranesi won a free-kick out on the right.

The pony-tailed Italy international took the set-piece himself and sent the ball to the backpost to Pavel Nedved whose downward header hit the ground and looped goalwards.

French striker Trezeguet made sure the ball crossed the line by applying a final touch with his head from a yard out.

Trezeguet's half volley was tipped over by Peruzzi midway through the second half before a last-ditch intervention from Oddo denied Zlatan Ibrahimovic from putting Juve ahead.

Despite coming under intense pressure, Lazio went agonisingly close from restoring their lead in the 74th minute when Iglit Tare, a substitute for Rocchi, headed Oddo's cross a fraction wide.

Triestino won 2-1 at home to relegation rivals Lecce in Saturday's early match to move off the bottom of the table.

Squash league from Tuesday

BDNEW, Dhaka

The first ever Dhaka squash league will begin Tuesday with GMG Airlines facing Sac-Nas Group in the inaugural match at the Gulshan Club.

The participating teams are GMG Airlines, Partex Group, AP Group, Basundhara Group, Accesstel BD Ltd, BlueStar Services, Aqua Paints and Sac-Nas Group.

Top two teams will play in the cup final while the number three and number four teams will play in the plate final.

The league will be completed on February 1 and the plate and cup finals will take place on February 7.

PRIMERA LIGA

Barca's record 12th

Football

AFP, undated

League leaders Barcelona romped to a club record 12th successive victory in all competitions with a comfortable 3-1 win over struggling Cadiz on Saturday.

Even the absence of World Player of the Year Ronaldinho, who was suffering from flu, couldn't hinder the progress of the reigning Spanish champions, who now have 37 points from 16 games after nine consecutive La Liga wins.

Cadiz had three clear cut chances in the opening half hour but were made to regret their failure to finish after 31 minutes when Ludovic Giuly opened the scoring for the visitors.

The French winger connected from close range with a neat pass from Andres Iniesta and Barca never looked back.

Samuel Eto'o put the Catalan club further ahead from the spot two minutes into injury time at the end of the first half.

Barca were awarded a questionable penalty, despite protests from

the Cadiz players and fans alike, after an apparent dive by Rafa Marquez.

Eto'o then wasted little time in getting his 15th goal of the season barely three minutes after the break.

Barcelona could have added several more late in the game with second half substitute Henrik Larsson having two good opportunities.

However, the agility of Cadiz keeper Armando Riveiro de Aguiar saved the hosts from more suffering and Nenad Mirosavijevic got a consolation for Cadiz a minute into injury time.

Deportivo La Coruna ran out comfortable 3-0 winners in local derby at Celta Vigo, with all the goals coming in the first half.

The victory takes Deportivo up to third ahead of Sunday's games.

Diego Tristan got Deportivo's first from the penalty spot after 26 minutes, following a rash challenge by Celta goalkeeper Jose Manuel Pinto on Pedro Munitis.

Pinto was also sent off and Celta never recovered from being reduced to 10 men.

Juan Carlos Valeron fired home an angled shot two minutes before

the break and shortly afterwards Joan Capdevila added Deportivo's third with a left foot lob from 25 metres.

Tristan could have got a second goal from the spot after 66 minutes in the second half, after Munitis was felled with a flying double-footed tackle by Matias Lequi, but he sent his penalty wide.

Athletic Bilbao continued their revival under new coach and local icon Javier Clemente when they beat bottom club Real Betis 2-0.

Ismael Urzaiz opened the scoring after 21 minutes, the former Spanish international striker heading home from the edge of the six yard box.

Seven minutes later, Athletic's 19 year-old midfielder Mikel Danobellia, who was starting just his second first team game, got a debut goal to remember with a spectacular right foot effort from 20 metres.

Betis had to play the last 10 minutes with 10 men after Oscar Lopez was dismissed for a dangerous challenge on Tiko Martinez.

Victory Day badminton

SPORTS REPORTER

An all Biman final was set up in the doubles event of the Fahami Group Victory Day open badminton tournament yesterday.

The national airliner's Sumon-Parash pair blanked Saifuddin-Raju 2-0 while Hannan-Mahbub duo beat Moktar and Palash of Gulshan Club 2-1 in the semis at the Woodfloor gymnasium to confirm their places in the final.

Meanwhile, Parash, Enayet of Biman, Moktar and Palash moved into the semifinals of the men's single.

Konika, Shapla and Dulali of Biman and Tuhin moved into the semifinals in the women's singles.

4th Pak-Eng

FROM PAGE 12
Poorly in the second -- with both matches played at Lahore.

England conceded their highest-ever total -- 353-6 in 50 overs -- and were bowled out for 188, equalling their worst-ever defeat in all one-day cricket.

TEAMS
PAKISTAN (from): Kamran Akmal, Salman Butt, Younis Khan, Mohammad Yousuf, Inzamamul Haq (captain), Shahid Afridi, Abdul Razaq, Shoaib Malik, Navedul Hasan, Shoaib Akhtar, Danish Kaneria, Mohammad Sami, Arshad Khan.
ENGLAND (from): Markus Trescothick (captain), Matt Prior, Andrew Strauss, Vikram Solanki, Paul Collingwood, Andrew Flintoff, Geraint Jones, Ian Blackwell, Liam Plunkett, James Anderson, Steve Harmison, Ian Bell.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 37 Take the wheel 58 Pigpen 20 Mexican War president 38 Metal 59 Harvest 22 Sported 23 Whimsical 39 Grant's house ate 1 Silcom set in Asia 25 Past 5 Omega 2 Eastern 26 Intimidate 41 Plumbing problem 27 Reinvest 8 Not up yet 43 Sam --- 3 Observe 29 Pinnacle 12 Screen-writer 2/29? 31 Meadow 46 Pictorial 4 Mormon church 32 Follow relentlessly 13 Took off 50 Jeans-maker 6 Pouch 34 "Big Brother" host Julie 14 Challenge 51 Strauss supply 38 Split in the 15 St. Patrick's Day 51 Saturday Evening Post cover 8 Legend-ary 40 "Dallas" surname 17 Sigmund Freud's daughter 54 Arabiab gulf 9 Wad 42 Actress 18 Pleased 55 --- 10 Sea flier 43 Spill the 19 Added alcohol 56 Sicilian play 16 End of a 44 Start over 25 Estate measure 57 McEnroe competitor title 45 Piccadilly statue 30 Exam format 30 Of long standing 33 Moo --- gai pan 34 Bunch of nonsense 35 DiCaprio, to fans 36 Pussy-cat's partner

DOWN 22 Sported 23 Whimsical 25 Past 26 Intimidate 27 Reinvest 29 Pinnacle 31 Meadow 32 Follow relentlessly 34 "Big Brother" host Julie 38 Split in the 40 "Dallas" surname 42 Actress 43 Spill the 44 Start over 45 Piccadilly statue 47 --- noire (bugaboo) 48 Radius's neighbor 49 Rebuff a 52 Chic no more 53 Turn on the water-works

Solution time: 21 mins.

AGIED BUS STOP
ROLE EST POGO
COMEOVER RARE
PLAY BIDEEM
GEEK SPIT
RIN GOPOSTIAL
URN SEWER ACE
GOGGETTER DIRE
MOLD BALEES
BUREAU XYZ
AFR COMINTO
BONG KEAT NOEL
ANTIE YRS GRAD

CRYPTOQUIP
HB PGN XGUD MV M XHZEGX
X MV QFU, H YNFVV PGN'E
BHZE PGNUVFOB GZ LQF
GNLVHEF OGGDHY HZ
Yesterday's Cryptquip: LATELY, THE FARMER IS WORRYING A LOT MORE OFTEN. HE HAS MANY GROWING CONCERNS.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: N equals U

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.