

Arafats rule Day Two

SPORTS REPORTER

Sylhet banked on a huge century by Rajin Saleh against Rangpur but it was the two Arafats, Salahuddin and Sunny, who gave Dhaka Metropolis a huge step forward against Barisal in their National Cricket League match yesterday.

Defending champions Rajshahi lost four wickets in their chase against Chittagong while the Khulna-Dhaka encounter is heading for an early finish with both sides having a chance at victory.

KHULNA-DHAKA

From their overnight 43 for three, Dhaka managed to get into further trouble, especially against Abdur Razzak at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore.

The Tigers' Test discard picked up four wickets, mostly late middle-order ones. Dhaka's Abdur Majid stood firm, hammering 48 off 98 balls with six boundaries and a six. He was the ninth man out on 149 and nine runs later, the Dhaka innings folded 66 runs behind Khulna's.

Later, Khulna took their lead to 224 runs with four wickets in hand and Taposh Ghosh top-scoring with 43. Dhaka's left-arm spinner Nazmul Hossain Apu took three wickets to keep

the division in the game.

CHITTAGONG-RAJSHAHI

Chittagong added 97 to their overnight total for the loss of four wickets as they closed their first innings on 378 runs in 122.4 overs at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong.

Skipper Nazimuddin added 15 to his total before falling to Farhad Hossain's off-break. Kazi Kamrul Islam smacked two sixes in his breezy 40.

Farhad and Sanjamul Islam took three wickets each for Rajshahi, who lost four wickets in their reply as they made 180 runs.

Skipper Farhad Reza got out after 65 off 102 balls while his namesake was unbeaten on 63 runs; they shared a 98-run stand for the fourth wicket.

DHAKA METRO-BARISAL

Arafat Salahuddin's century piled on the misery for Barisal as Dhaka Metro built on their strong overnight score of 274-4 at the Sylhet Stadium.

The portly all-rounder struck ten fours and three sixes in his 143-ball knock, during which he also added 117 for the seventh wicket with Mehrab Hossain, who made 57.

Later Arafat Sunny skittled Barisal from the onset, picking up five quick wickets giving away 10 runs from 13 overs.

RANGPUR-SYLHET

Rajin Saleh hit his first century of the

season as he took Sylhet to a huge first innings lead in their game against Rangpur at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah.

The former national captain batted out nearly six hours as he struck 18 boundaries and a six in his 300-ball essay. He added 164 for the fourth wicket with Alok Kapali, who made 86 with ten boundaries and a six.

For Rangpur, off-spinner Mahmudul Hasan Limon took three wickets.

BRIEF SCORES

KHULNA: First innings 224 all out and second innings 158-6 in 50 overs (Taposh 43; Apu 3-29). **DHAKA:** First innings 158 all out in 53 overs (Majid 48; Razzak 4-44, Dollar 3-49).

CHITTAGONG: First innings 378 all out in 122.4 overs (Nazimuddin 126 not out; Faisal 90; Farhad 3-76, Sanjamul 3-94). **RAJSHAHI:** First innings 180-4 in 60 overs (Farhad 65, Farhad 63 not out; Kamrul 3-28).

DHAKA METRO: First innings 450-8 declared in 138 overs (Arman 114, Arafat 100, Shamsur 94; Towhidul 2-82). **BARISAL:** First innings 75-6 in 35 overs (Islamul 16; Sunny 5-10).

RANGPUR: First innings 138 all out. **SYLHET:** First innings 362-4 in 121 overs (Rajin 132, Nadif 61; Limon 3-74).

Razzak's mother passes away

SPORTS REPORTER

Nigar Sultana, mother of Bangladesh left-arm spin bowler Abdur Razzak, passed away yesterday evening at 7:30pm at the Khulna Medical College, succumbing to cancer at the age of 55. She left behind four sons and a daughter to mourn her death.

Razzak was away at Jessore playing a National Cricket League match for Khulna Division against Dhaka Division while his mother was being treated for cancer at the Khulna Medical College.

The Bagerhat bowler rushed to his mother's side after hearing news of her deteriorating situation.

Veeru calls for breaks for pacers

CRICINFO, New Delhi

Virender Sehwag, the India opener, has said the only way to prevent fast bowlers from picking up injuries is by giving them regular breaks. India are currently without their leading fast bowler, Zaheer Khan, who is still recovering from ankle surgery. They have included 24-year-old Umesh Yadav and 22-year-old Varun Aaron in the Test squad to play West Indies, after the pair impressed with their pace in the recent one-day series against England.

"It's important that the team management ensures they don't play too many matches," Sehwag told television channel Aaj Tak. "Fast bowlers are prone to injuries and when they get injured their pace goes. Besides, when you are injured, your comeback becomes very difficult."

Sehwag was picked in the squad for the first Test against West Indies after recovering from a shoulder injury for which he had surgery towards the end of the IPL. He was rushed back to play the last two Tests of India's disastrous series in England earlier this year, but admitted his return was a mistake. "I knew I was needed. I tried my best but I realised I hurried my comeback in England. It was a difficult time in England for the whole team... so many injuries."

India's selectors have rested players for various series and have had distinct teams for Test and limited-overs games in the recent past. Sehwag said a player could therefore ask to be rested if they needed a break. "A cricketer's passion is to play for the country. If somebody says he's tired, he can talk to the team management. [MS] Dhoni was not given rest on his request, because there were too many injuries in the team."

Petra ends year on high

Tennis

APP, Istanbul

Petra Kvitova, the 21-year-old Czech left-hander who caused a sensation by winning Wimbledon as an outsider four months ago, proved she is now a fully fledged member of the sport's elite by winning the WTA (year-end) Championships.

Kvitova did that with a 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 win over Victoria Azarenka, the fourth-seeded Belarusian, which earned her the second most important title of her career and further enhanced her growing reputation.

It also gained her a career-high year-end ranking of world number two -- a tremendous surge from the 30th place at which she began 2011.

Asked how her triumph felt compared with winning Wimbledon, Kvitova replied: "It's a little early to say, but compared with Wimbledon it is different. Both are great tournaments."

"Winning a Grand Slam was a very big step. I don't know how it will be going home this time, but I think it will be similar."

Asked whether she aimed to be world number one next year, she said: "I am not focused on that."

"I will be world number two and next season will be different. I may be the favourite all the time, and we will have to see. I will

be strange for me. It will be something new again."

Azarenka commented: "I think I just didn't really step it up," when she was asked about the important first game of the final set when she almost broke Kvitova's serve.

"You know, she played really well those points, but you know, I could have done better, definitely. But regrets? I don't have regrets. I gave it all."

Kvitova narrowly prevailed in a two-hour 28-minute match because her hard-serving, flat-hitting, all-aggressive style was just about consistent enough to impose itself on Azarenka's more solid, but slightly less potent qualities.

However, had Azarenka converted the two break points she held in the opening game of the final set, she might have added to her already increasing momentum and carried on to victory.

Instead, she had to settle for defeat with honour and a year-end ranking of three, equalling her highest, and suggesting that she too could be a contender for Caroline Wozniacki's number one ranking next year.

In the tense closing stages Kvitova may have been helped by her familiarity with Azarenka's game.

"We know each other very well," she said before the final. "We played twice this year and I won both, so hopefully this final will be better for me mentally."



Czech Petra Kvitova poses with the winner's trophy after beating Victoria Azarenka of Belarus in the Istanbul Masters final on Sunday. Kvitova won 7-5, 4-6, 6-3.

Bravo Windies

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Edwards the rare feat of making a hundred in both innings as the right-hander walked back to the pavilion with a 204-ball 86 that featured seven boundaries and a six.

Edwards missed a flick and the ball went on to hit stumps to bring joy to the faces of the Tigers at the fag end of the day.

His dismissal once again brought nightwatchman Kemar Roach to the crease, but this time Roach survived 13 balls for four runs.

Earlier in the day, the Bangladesh innings was wrapped up within an hour of the morning session with the addition of only 27 runs for the loss of three wickets as they were bundled out for 231 runs after resuming the day on 204 for 7.

Leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo got turn to pick up two wickets while Marlon Samuels took the vital wicket of Nasir Hossain who made a 113-ball 42 before offering a catch to mid-wicket.

At the end of the third day, Bangladesh face a daunting task to save the match.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the second and final Test between Bangladesh and the West Indies on Monday.

WEST INDIES: First innings 355 (K Edwards 121, Powell 72, Brathwaite 50, Shakib 5-63, Nasir 3-52)

BANGLADESH: First innings (overnight 204-7)

Tamim c Bravo b F Edwards 14

Kayes c Brathwaite b F Edwards 29

Nafees c Bravo b F Edwards 7

Rokibul b F Edwards 0

Mushfiqur c Chanderpaul b F Edwards 0

Shuvo c Brathwaite b Bishoo 15

Shahadat b Bishoo 4

Rubel not out 2

Total: (All out in 68 overs) 231

Fall of wks: 1-14, 2-36, 3-46, 4-46, 5-59, 6-143, 7-195, 8-225, 9-225, 10-231.

Bowler O M R W

F Edwards 13 0 63 5

Roach 9 0 52 0

Sammy 10 3 32 0

Bishoo 23 4 62 3

Samuels 13 2 22 1

WEST INDIES: Second innings

Brathwaite run out 0

Powell c Nasir b Shakib 12

K Edwards b Shuvo 86

Bravo not out 100

Roach not out 4

Extras: (lb-2, nb-3) 5

Total: (For three wickets in 71 overs) 207

To bat: Samuels, Chanderpaul, Sammy, Baugh, F Edwards, Bishoo.

Fall of wks: 1-0, 2-33, 3-184.

Bowler O M R W

Rubel 9 2 22 0

Nasir 16 3 49 0

Shakib 17 1 62 1

Naeem 7 2 13 0

Shuvo 15 2 32 1



Industries Minister Dileep Barua hands over the winners' trophy to the Abahani team members after they won the Women's Table Tennis League at the Wooden Floor Stadium yesterday.

Football for deprived children

SPORTS REPORTS

A football competition for the underprivileged children was held at the Army Museum Ground in Bijoy Sarani on Sunday. The competition, organised by the private sector development organisation Oporajeyo Bangladesh working in Bangladesh for the last fifteen years, was attended by a modest number of spectators who cheered on the children during the event.

Ten teams composed from the three organisations -- Oporajeyo Bangladesh, UCEP Bangladesh and Surovi School -- participated in the day-long event. Secretary of the social welfare ministry Suranjit Kumar Biswas was present at the event and distributed prized among the participants.

Abahani get

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Meanwhile, Brothers Union were relegated from the top flight to the First Division with nine points while Destiny TT Club qualified for the Premier Division league by becoming champions in the First Division League.

Eid, exams

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of the West Indies could be another factor but in years gone by, matches against Zimbabwe have also seen full houses. Perhaps the long gap between the last Dhaka Test (in March 2010) and this one may have spoiled the city-dwellers' habit.

Injuries worry Zim

Only Test against NZ from today

Cricket

AFP, Bulawayo

Zimbabwe go into their one-off Test against New Zealand here Tuesday with injury doubts hanging over wicketkeeper-batsman Tatenda Taibu and all-rounder Elton Chigumbura.

Losing either player would throw the balance of the Zimbabwe side out of kilter and so the hosts will wait until Monday to finalise their 15-man squad.

Taibu played as a specialist batsman in Zimbabwe's 2-1 series defeat in the recently concluded one-day series as he battles a long-standing finger problem, while Chigumbura is nursing a knee injury.

Zimbabwe have beaten Bangladesh and lost to Pakistan since returning to Test cricket in August following an absence of more than five years from five-day cricket, and will be hoping to end their home season on a high.

"New Zealand are a quality side but we feel we have a bowling attack that can make inroads into their line-up," said Zimbabwe captain Brendan Taylor.

"Daniel Vettori's arrival is a big boost for them, but we'll look to bat long and if we can take the game deep into day five then anything can happen."

Left-arm spinner Vettori skipped the limited overs matches after announcing that he would take a break from the shorter forms of the game.

Taylor scored 310 runs in the one-day

series -- a record aggregate for a three-match series -- and will hope to produce the same form in the Test match.

The hosts could hand a Test debut to Malcolm Waller, whose 99 not out in the third one-day international allowed Zimbabwe to complete their highest ever run chase, as they achieved a target of 329 in a dramatic finale.

New Zealand will be playing their first Test since January, and will see the match as a perfect build-up to their two-Test series against Australia which starts on December 1.

The Black Caps will be without batsman Jesse Ryder, who suffered a calf strain after sending down just three deliveries in the drawn warm-up match against Zimbabwe A.

Fast bowler Kyle Mills has already returned home after a scan picked up a slight tear to his abductor muscle following New Zealand's victory in the first one-day international in Harare.

TEAMS

ZIMBABWE (from): Brendan Taylor (captain), Regis Chakabva, Chamu Chibhabha, Elton Chigumbura, Kyle Jarvis, Hamilton Masakadza, Tino Mawoyo, Keegan Meth, Christopher Mpofu, Forster Mutizwa, Njabulo Ncube, Raymond Price, Vusi Sibanda, Tatenda Taibu, Prosper Utseya, Malcolm Waller.

NEW ZEALAND (from): Ross Taylor (captain), Graeme Aldridge, Doug Bracewell, Dean Brownlie, Martin Guptill, Chris Martin, Brendon McCullum, Andy McKay, Jeetan Patel, Daniel Vettori, Kane Williamson, BJ Watling, Reece Young.

Saudi Arabia, Iraq through

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when Iraq scored the fourth from a collective move as Ali Qasim side-volleyed home a backheader from Al Naaimi in the 77th minute.

Three minutes later, both sides were reduced to ten men, but that hardly disturbed the scoreline.

In the day's first match, Saudi Arabia made light work of their qualification by putting 11 past hapless Maldives, who had already conceded 16 in their three previous

matches.

The eleven goals the Saudis scored, not only gave them a thumping victory, but also took them above Iraqis on the points table, thanks to a superior goal difference, before the two heavyweights face off on Wednesday.

The Saudis found the back of Maldives net five times in the first half before adding six in the second to take their goal-tally to 19 in three outings.

Apart from Shehri's first

international treble, defender Ali Faraj, Jaber and Alolayan struck two goals each while Almuwallad and Asiri netted one apiece to complete the rout.

Two-time champions Saudi Arabia took just three minutes to open the scoring through defender Ali Faraj before taking a comfortable 5-0 lead in the first 45. They came harder on the Maldivians in the second half scoring six goals within the first 13 minutes.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "A pox upon thee!"

4 Wound reminder

8 Part of MSG

12 Dine

13 Fashion magazine

14 In the thick of

15 Id counterpart

16 British pound

17 Missile shelter

18 "Peter Piper picked a peck..."

21 "Fine"

22 Indivisible

23 Oyster's prize

26 Moo goo gai pan

27 Moving truck

30 Red Muppet

31 Blue

32 Medal earner

33 Speed along

DOWN

1 Poetic measures

2 Othello foe

3 007's alma mater

4 Second story?

5 This list down

6 Settled down

7 California's —

8 National Park

8 Billiards maneuver

9 Skip over

10 Cleo's water

11 Bloodhound's trail

19 Pita sandwich

20 Squid squirt

23 Candy known for its dispensers

24 Yale student

25 Pump up the volume

26 Method

27 Irritate

28 Is pluralized

29 Affirmative action

31 Ancient city of Cyprus

32 Lofty

34 Roscoe

35 Shellfish

36 "Non-sense!"

37 Farewell

38 "Jabberwocky" starter

39 Volition

40 Ratio phrase

41 Houston acronym

42 Last write-up

43 Bear up there

44 Pack down

Solution time: 27 mins.

LAV CAP COLDS

ALT OLE OASIS

PIX BLEVAUFUSE

ABE BEVEL

ZING GEL TARO

HOE LAWYER

BABAR PIECE