

Daily Star in quarters

SPORTS REPORTER

The Daily Star stormed into the quarterfinal of the Walton-DRU Six-a-side Media Cricket with all-wicket win over Jai Jai Din in their last group match at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Chasing a modest target of 67, the former champions The Daily Star, raced to 72 in just 3.4 overs, thanks to a whirlwind innings from opener Fazlur Rahman who remained unbeaten on 35 featuring two sixes and four fours and was adjudged man of the match for the second time in the 34-team tournament.

Opener Rakib Ahammed also played a scintillating innings scoring unbeaten 20 while Wasim Bin Habib struck a massive six in his unbeaten 12-run to take the side home.

In the day's other matches, Shakaler Khabor beat Bhorer Kagoj by nine runs, GTV beat UNB by 62 runs, Naya Diganta beat Shamakal by 16 runs, Amader Arthoniti beat Banglabazar by 38 runs and Diganta TV beat Arthoniti Protidin by 74 runs.

Milan show

FROM PAGE 18

Gokhan Inler was unmarked and over 30 metres from goal when Marek Hamsik's pass arrived but the Swiss midfielder's left-foot strike wrong-footed Abbiati in the Milan net.

Lorenzo Insigne doubled Napoli's lead on the half hour when he swivelled on Christian Maggio's pass from the right to beat Abbiati with a shot which bobbed through the keeper's legs.

Napoli and Milan both went on to waste scoring chances, and the hosts were soon counting the cost when El Shaarawy struck a tremendous ninth league goal of the season in the 44th minute.

Kevin Prince Boateng was given time down the left and sent in a pass which El Shaarawy, lurking on the edge of the area, hit first time from 18 metres to beat a helpless De Sanctis.

It was a lively second half, with Spanish forward Bojan and Christian Maggio missing chances to put their respective sides ahead.

A big-hearted

FROM PAGE 16

brought a sigh of relief for the national selectors who had earlier stated that they were worried about Bangladesh's pace-bowling department.

"There's no doubt about Rubel's ability. He is a very good bowler. I was a little scared for him since he was returning to cricket after an injury. But he performed well in the second innings and it was his wicket that turned the tables for Bangladesh," said BCB chief selector Akram Khan.

With the wicket at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna expected to be another flat deck, Rubel's sporadic bursts on the field will no doubt play a major part in Mushfiquur Rahim's bowling plans for the upcoming Test.

NOTICE

Due to unavoidable circumstances, we could not print the CROSSWORD today. We regret any inconvenience.

-Sports Editor



England skipper Alastair Cook celebrates his century against India on the fourth day of the first Test at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad yesterday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

Captain Cook's fight



PTI, Ahmedabad

Captain Alastair Cook led a remarkable England fightback with a heroic unbeaten 168 as the defiant visitors wiped out India's mammoth first innings lead with a gritty batting display to raise hopes of saving the first cricket Test in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

The 27-year-old Cook displayed immense concentration and skill to not only notch up his 21st Test century under pressure but also keep his team in the game as he steered England to 340 for five at close on the penultimate day which saw the Sardar Patel track ease out quite a bit.

The England captain found an able ally in Matt Prior (84) as the duo put on an unfinished 141-run partnership to leave the Indians frustrated.

The spinners, who were expected to do the bulk of the damage, found it

difficult to get the wickets.

England, who conceded a mammoth 330-run first innings lead and were asked to follow-on, have now taken a lead of 10 runs, setting the stage for an interesting fifth day's play tomorrow with all three results possible.

India will look to claim the remaining five wickets as quickly as possible tomorrow and push for a 1-0 lead in the four-match series.

England, on the other hand, will try to bat as much as possible and may even put pressure on India by taking a substantial lead on a tricky fifth day track.

Resuming at the overnight score of 111 for no loss, England lost the wickets of Nick Compton (37), Jonathan Trott (17), Kevin Pietersen (2), Ian Bell (22) and Samit Patel (0) but it was Cook who stood like a rock to hold the English innings together showing superb endurance.

Cook batted the whole day with exemplary patience, determination

and composure to remain unconquered.

Cook, who has faced 341 balls and struck 20 fours, was given splendid support by Prior, who was not out on 84 that came off 190 balls and contained 10 fours.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA: First innings 521 for 8 declared (Pujara 206 not out, Sehwa 117, Yuvraj 74, Gambhir 45; Swann 5-144)

ENGLAND: First innings 191 (Prior 48, Cook 41, Broad 25, Bresnan 19, Pietersen 17; Ojha 5-45, Ashwin 3-80)

ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 111-0)

Cook not out	168
Compton lbw b Khan	37
Trott c Dhoni b Ojha	17
Pietersen b Ojha	12
Bell lbw b Yadav	22
Patel lbw b Yadav	0
Prior not out	84
Extras: (b-4, lb-6)	10
Total: (For 5 wkts in 128 overs)	340
Fall of wickets: 1-123, 2-156, 3-160, 4-199, 5-199	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Yadav	19	1	60	2
Ojha	44	13	102	2
Ashwin	41	9	104	0
Sehwag	1	0	1	0
Zaheer	18	3	38	1
Tendulkar	1	0	8	0

Windies name

FROM PAGE 16

Denesh Ramdin. All-rounder Dwayne Bravo misses out again, having failed to recover from a thigh strain that had also ruled him out of the Champions League in October. There was no place for opener Johnson Charles, who played the ODI series at home against New Zealand, as well.

Kieron Pollard takes over as vice-captain in Bravo's absence. In addition to Pollard and Roach, all-rounders Andre Russell and Dwayne Smith, wicket-keeper Devon Thomas and opener Lendl Simmons will join the one-day squad.

SQUAD

Darren Sammy (captain), Kieron Pollard (vice-captain), Tino Best, Darren Bravo, Chris Gayle, Sunil Narine, Veerasammy Permaul, Kieran Powell, Ravi Rampaul, Kemar Roach, Andre Russell, Marlon Samuels, Lendl Simmons, Dwayne Smith, Devon Thomas.

Khulna on

FROM PAGE 16

in the city and they can't wait for the moment to come.

"I am waiting to buy tickets. This is a long-time dream of mine that I, along with my friends, will enjoy the match from the stands," said Sumona Hossain, a second year student of BBA at Khulna University.

Navid Anjum Abir, a third year student of the city's Azam Khan Government Commerce College, said, "I am now waiting for the moment to see with my eyes Shakib, Naeem and Shohag play. I have never seen an international cricket match from the stadium. It would be a unique opportunity for me."

"My family is also interested to see the Test match but when I think about the dilapidated condition of around 20-25 kilometres of road from Jessore to Khulna I become afraid," Mohitul Islam Montu, a businessmen from Jessore, said this correspondent over phone.

Meanwhile, ticket sales for the Test match have begun yesterday at the corporate branch of Social Islami Bank in the city and at the Khulna District Stadium counters. Tickets for the ODIs will be available from November 27.

Long queues were seen at the ticket counters from early in the morning. And Tamim Iqbal, a student of the Khulna University, was over the moon after obtaining two tickets.

"I am very happy because I got the tickets. It was my dream that I would see my favourite stars play at the Abu Naser Stadium," he said.

Players search for clubs



SPORTS REPORTER

With only four days to go to the start of the Premier Division Chess League, some of the top players of the country are yet to find clubs as some of the big clubs have opted to form low-budget sides due to financial crisis.

IM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar, IM Abu Sufian Shakil, FM Debaraj Chatterjee, FM Nasir Ahmed and FM Mohammad Javed are among the top players whose participation in the upcoming 10-team league hangs in the balance as three top outfit -- Biman, Destiny2000 and Air Destiny -- reportedly decided to form mediocre sides.

Biman is reportedly in trouble with its sports wing following allegation of misappropriation of fund while Destiny2000 and Air Destiny are in struggling to maintain its sports wing after the parent company's activities were frozen by the government.

"I never faced such problem before regarding finding clubs. This time I have talked with a couple of clubs but no

assurance from any club yet," said IM Sagar, who last season played for Destiny2000 and was reportedly not paid remuneration of six months.

IM Sagar, FM Javed, FM Debaraj, IM Medhi Hasan Parag and GM Reefat Bin Sattar also played for Destiny2000 last season while IM Shakil played for Biman.

Reefat is set to be a part of new outfit Duranta Rajshahi, which is also set to rope in GM Abdullah Al Rakib, GM Enamul Hossain Razib and FM Taibur Rahman Duranta Rajshahi earned their right to play in the league after buying out premie division side Chittagong Chess Academy.

"The last few seasons had four to five title contenders, but this time it looks like the battle will be between two teams (Mohammed and Duranta Rajshahi) because Biman, Destiny2000 and Air Destiny are not forming strong sides," said Sagar after playing his game of the ongoing national chess championship yesterday.

GM Niaz Murshed and GM Ziaur Rahman are set to be part of holders Mohammedan which is also bringing two Gregorian Grandmasters to defend their title.

LOCAL snippets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

The 2nd Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup Football Tournament was inaugurated at the Shaheed Mohammad Ali Stadium in Thakurgaon on Sunday.

In the first match Thakurgaon Municipality team thrashed Baliadangi Upazila Sports Association 3-0. Pervez netted two goals while Rubel scored one for the winning side. A total of six teams of the district are taking part in the tournament.

Services kabaddi

Bangladesh Police registered a facile 29-11 point victory over Bangladesh Air Force with one creditable Iona in the Walton Motorcycle Super Seven Services Kabaddi League at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

In the day's other match, Bangladesh Navy outplayed Bangladesh Prison by 29-14 points with two Ionas at the venue.

Div I football

Dhaka Wanderers Club earned a 1-0 win over T&T Club in the Popular Life Insurance Senior Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamlapur on Sunday.

Alex Bishwas scored the match-winning goal in the 54th minute.

Razzak on a roll

FROM PAGE 16

Rangpur for only 153 in the second innings.

Away at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, Khulna skipper Abdur Razzak took seven wickets to ensure a 35-run lead over Dhaka Metro before Khulna raced to 361 for nine to set Metro a touch 397-run target.

At the Abdur Rab Serniabat Stadium in Barisal, Sylhet were in the driver's seat after setting the home team a target of 315. Barisal were batting on 81 for three at the close.

RAJSHAHI v CHITTAGONG

Rajshahi's reply was doomed from the start with Mohammad Younus dispatching opener Maisuqur Rahman in the second over. Yasir Arafat and Noor Hossain then got among the wickets to leave Rajshahi reeling, 207 in arrears with only four wickets in hand.

Earlier, Mominul hit 114, and shared in a 136-run fifth wicket stand with Faisal Hossain who scored 111 off 190 . All-rounder Farhad took six for 143.

DHAKA v RANGPUR

Dhaka need only 78 more runs to win on the final day after their bowlers made short work of Rangpur's second innings.

Resuming the day on 271 for four, Dhaka got off to a bad start with Mosharrar Hossain and skipper Rokibul Hasan going early. Nazmul Hossain took over with a 52-ball 43 to give Dhaka the crucial first-innings buffer. Sohrawardi Shuvo took five

for 151 for Rangpur.

Then Mosharrar Hossain and Mohammad Sharif combined to blow away Rangpur for 153 with only Dhiman Ghosh putting up any resistance with 44. Shuvo picked up first innings centurio Majid off the third ball of the chase, but it seems only a miracle can stop Dhaka from notching their second win of the season.

KHULNA v DHAKA METRO

Metro could only add fifteen to their overnight score, with last man Talha Zubair becoming Khulna skipper Abdur Razzak's seventh victim, giving Khulna a 35-run first innings lead. Khulna, the league leaders, then declared at 361 for nine setting Metro a winning target of 397. Mithun Ali scored 95 off 108 balls with eight fours and two sixes, and was ably supported by 92 from Ziaur Rahman.

In chase of their improbable target, Metro scored 14 for the loss of one wicket, that of Tasamul Haque.

BARISAL v SYLHET

Sylhet added 84 without loss to their overnight score, Barisal's Monir Hossain and Fariduddin initiated a collapse of four wickets for two runs to leave Sylhet at 146 for six. Sylhet, who led by 75 in the first innings, recovered somewhat through a 40 from Ezaz Ahmed to post 239 and set Barisal a target of 315.

Barisal had reached 81 for three by the close.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJSHAH: First innings 239 all out and second innings 64 for six in 27 overs (Jahurul Islam 27 not out; Younus 3-21, Noor 2-6)	Mosharrar 4-50, Sharif 3-61)	out in 96.1 overs (Marshall 93 not out, Mehra 55; Razzak 7-122) and second innings 14 for 1 in five overs
CHITTAGONG: First innings 510 all out in 152.1 overs.	DHAKA: First innings 355 all out in 110.4 overs and second innings 4 for one in 3 overs	SYLHET: First innings 206 all out in 93.1 overs (Sayem 82; Rabbi 3-32) and second innings 239 all out in 74.1 overs (Sayem 84, Imtiaz 50; Monir 3-62, Fariduddin 3-53)
RANGPUR: First innings 283 all out in 85.4 overs and second innings 153 all out in 55.2 overs (Dhiman 44;	KHULNA: First innings 355 all out in 90.2 overs and second innings 361 for nine in 76.2 overs (Mithun 95, Ziaur 92, Tushar 74; Arafat 4-69, Ashraf 3-99)	BARISAL: First innings 131 all out in