

# City surprise Abahani

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani Krira Chakra tasted their first defeat in the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League when City Club handed them a four-wicket defeat at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

One-down Moniruzzaman scored a patient half-century to help the Mirpur club, chasing 205 in 50 overs, reach home in the 47th over with four wickets in hand.

Monir, a product of BKSP, scored 63 off 100 balls with five boundaries.

Opener Faruque Ahmed gave good support with a 73-ball 49 that included seven fours.

Earlier, in-form Mehrab Hossain top-scored with 69 off 95 balls as

Abahani were restricted to 205 for eight in 50 overs after being put in.

Right-arm seamer Tareq Aziz Khan and Pakistani left-arm slow bowler Mohammad Hussain captured two wickets each for City.

City Club increased their tally to 18 points and joined Abahani, Mohammedan and Uttara Sporting Club in the second spot in the league standings.

## YOUNG PEGASUS

### V KALABAGAN KC

Away at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, Young Pegasus posted their first win with a 31-run victory over Kalabagan Krira Chakra.

Batting first, Pegasus scored 247-9 in the allotted 50 overs with one-down Murad Khan hammering highest 76 off 98 balls.

Kalabagan were bowled out for 216 in 46.2 overs. Opener Ziaur Rahman scored 50 off 82 balls.

It was Kalabagan's fourth straight defeat.

## DEV SQUAD

### V ORIENT SC

Elsewhere, the Development Squad (Under-19) of Bangladesh Cricket Board shocked Orient Sporting Club by 51 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Put into bat, the youngsters put on a fighting 234 in 49.3 overs.

In reply, Orient, who stole the limelight after defeating Biman and Mohammedan in their first two outings, were restricted to 183 for nine in 50 overs.

It was Orient's second defeat in four matches.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboards of the three GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League matches played at different city venues yesterday:

**Abahani v City Club**  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium.

ABAHANI				
Sajjadul c Tareq b Saifullah	10			
Mehrab lbw b Hussain	69			
T Mahmud c Kadir b Tareq	35			
Akram run out	32			
Asadullah lbw b Hussain	28			
Neeyamur c Jamaluddin b Alamgir	1			
Mukhter run out	4			
Arman b Tareq	12			
Russell not out	1			
Extras: (lb-4, nb-2, w-7)	13			
Total: (For 8 wks in 50 overs)	205			
Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-114, 3-128, 4-186, 5-188, 6-188, 7-204, 8-205.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Tareq	10	2	43	2
Alamgir	10	0	35	1
Saifullah	10	1	35	1
Rezaul	2	0	22	0
Hussain	10	3	24	2
Jamaluddin	8	0	42	0

CITY CLUB				
Faruque b Mehrab	49			
Hussain c Tareq b Russell	13			
Moniruzzaman c Mukhter b Arman	63			
Mazharul c Alamgir b Arman	23			
Rajin run out	11			
Kadir not out	23			
Jamaluddin lbw b Russell	6			
Alamgir not out	0			
Extras: (lb-9, nb-1, w-10)	20			
Total: (For 6 wks in 46.4 overs)	208			
Fall of wickets: 1-32, 2-96, 3-148, 4-159, 5-179, 6-200.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Alamgir	9.4	0	43	0
Russell	7	0	37	2
Suja	8	0	33	0
Neeyamur	2	0	14	0
Arman	10	1	38	2
Mehrab	2	0	8	1
Tareq	8	0	26	0

### Result: City Club won by four wickets.

### Kalabagan KC v Young Pegasus

Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

YOUNG PEGASUS				
Imroz b Robin	8			
Sumon c Imran b Robin	14			
Murad b Tanna	76			
Fahad c Ziaur b Zakir	38			
Nirala c Rahman b Tanna	28			
Tanveer b Robin	41			
Rezwan c Nahidul b Tanna	10			
Rashed lbw b Sharfuddowla	3			
Kumar not out	3			
Shahjada st Rahman b Sharfuddowla	1			
Extras: (For 9 wks in 50 overs)	247			
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-57, 3-143, 4-172, 5-186, 6-225, 7-241, 8-243, 9-247.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Zakir	10	0	42	1
Robin	10	0	42	3
Sharfuddowla	9	0	46	2
Imran	7	0	22	0
Tanna	9	1	58	3
Khairul	5	0	25	0

KALABAGAN KC				
Tanna b Kumar	13			
Ziaur b Rashed	50			
Sohag c Kumar b Shahjada	19			
Nahidul c b Kamal	47			
Shaid st Niral b Murad	4			
Khairul b Rezwan	2			
Zakir b Murad	13			
Imran run out	20			
Rahman c Nirala b Shahjada	14			
Sharfuddowla c Nirala b Shahjada	4			

ROBIN NOT OUT				
Kumar	8			
Lucky	9	0	37	0
Kamal	5	0	25	1
Saju	8.3	2	26	1
Jewel	10	0	60	5
R Hanif	10	0	45	0
Topu	7	0	38	1

### ORIENT SC

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hossain c Sagir b Ziaur	4			
Masroor c Nayeem b Ziaur	5			
Jewel c Nayeem b Arafat	11			
Sajjad c Sagir b Tariqul	1			
R Hanif st Sagir b Ashiq	73			
Nadeem c Enamul b Ashiq	37			



City Club captain Faruque Ahmed in action against Abahani during their GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

31 RUNS				
Mithu run out	6			
Kamal run out	0			
Topu not out	22			
Saju run out	6			
Lucky not out	1			
Sagir run out	21			
Nayeem lbw b Kamal	0			
Ziaur run out	70			
Nazimuddin c Nadeem b Jewel	70			
Ashiq b Jewel	35			
Riyad lbw b Topu	19			
Kafi c Sajjad b Jewel	16			
Arafat run out	23			
Bashar b Jewel	20			
Rahman c b Jewel	2			
Enamul c R Hanif b Saju	7			
Tariqul not out	0			
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, w-18)	21			
Total: (All out in 49.3 overs)	234			
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-69, 3-140, 4-146, 5-172, 6-183, 7-225, 8-225, 9-230.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lucky	9	0	37	0
Kamal	5	0	25	1
Saju	8.3	2	26	1
Jewel	10	0	60	5
R Hanif	10	0	45	0
Topu	7	0	38	1

### Result: Young Pegasus won by 4 wickets.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
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## Rating chess

SPORTS REPORTER

IM Enamul Hossain Rajib of Biman and Khandakar Aminul Islam of Ansars were jointly leading the points table with 4.5 points each at the end of the fifth round of the Shahjalal Bank international rating chess tournament at the NSC Chess Room yesterday.

Shafiq Ahmed of Sonali Bank, Moniruzzaman Khan of Anushilan and Ranodev Dasgupta were in the second place with 4 points each.

In the round, Rajib checkedmate Amir Hossain, Amin beat Saifuddin Lavlu, Shafiq outwitted Golam Mostafa, Monir overcame SA Zaker and Ranodev beat Aminul Islam.

The sixth round starts today at 3:00 pm at the same venue.

## Seles to defend Qatar title

AFP, Doha

American Monica Seles was itching to launch her campaign for a second successive WTA Qatar Open title this week in this highly strung city which hosts one of the biggest American airbases in the Persian Gulf.

Al-Udeid air base - just a few kilometres away from the Khalifa Tennis Complex - is likely to be the nerve centre of any American-led attack on Iraq.

But short of a war, nothing seems to have the potential to deter the top seeded Seles, ranked No 9 in the world, from strutting her stuff in the 170,000-dollar event which also features another American great, Martina Navratilova, in the doubles.

Seles was an early bird in Doha after a small break in Dubai following her recent three-set loss to compatriot Lindsay Davenport in the final of the Tokyo Pan-Pacific Open.

"I'm not worried about the war. I'm here to play tennis and defend my title," said Seles.

Navratilova was expected to fly in early Sunday. Importantly, the US embassy in Doha has already issued an advisory appealing to all Americans here to be ready to leave at short notice.

Standing between the business-like Seles and an encore are the likes of second seed Russian Anastasia Myskina, Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria and last year's runner-up Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand.

Fading stars Frenchwoman Mary Pierce, a two-time Grand Slam winner, and 1994 Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez of Spain will also be trying their luck in what happens to be the third edition of the tournament. The now-retired Martina Hingis lifted the maiden trophy in 2001.

### Result: Development Squad won by 51 runs.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Ziaur	9	0	28	2
Tariqul	6	0	30	1
Bashar	8	0	44	0
Arafat	10	1	28	1
Enamul	10	0	26	0
Ashiq	7	0	23	2

## Band of brothers

FROM PAGE 16

They qualified for the World Cup by reaching the final of the ICC Trophy in Canada two years ago.

Kotze's men went to Canada as rank outsiders, and returned to a hero's welcome from 1,000 jubilant fans at Windhoek airport after narrowly losing out in the final to the Netherlands.

World Cup boss Ali Bacher of South Africa said then the Namibian cricketers were the biggest thing to happen to that country since Olympic sprinter Frankie Fredericks.

Captain Kotze, however, stressed his team was not here at the World Cup just to make up the numbers.

"Every time we step onto the field we are going out there to win," he said.

"We went to Canada as massive underdogs, but came through due to our commitment. If we have one strength, it's our team spirit and togetherness."

It was no empty boast as Namibia warmed up for their biggest cricket test by winning both their practice matches against South African provincial teams.

That is more than what both India and Pakistan achieved in the run-up to cricket's showpiece, which opens later on Saturday.

"It's a big moment for the team as most of us have only seen the World Cup on television," team manager Francois Erasmus said.

"We have really been encouraged by the support of people back home. We have nothing to lose, so the boys will just go out there, enjoy themselves and play good cricket."

Win or lose, Namibia are set for a memorable World Cup debut.

## Enemy No. 1

FROM PAGE 16

Pakistan and Craig McMillan of New Zealand.

Warne also has a lot of praise for South African cricketers. He rates Jacques Kallis as the world's best all-rounder, says the South's best match Australia in aggression and reckons Brian McMillan is the best sledger he has ever heard.

Warne, who will quit one-day cricket after the World Cup, still hopes South African fans will give him a rousing farewell.

"Hopefully they will be a bit more thoughtful and a bit nicer to me," he says.

"Wherever my last game is - hopefully the final - they will clap and not heckle me.

# Bring on Pakistan

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Australia coach John Buchanan has played down the significance of his side's recent successes against Pakistan as the two teams prepare for their World Cup opener at The Wanderers on Tuesday.

After losing a three-match series of one-day internationals to Pakistan last June, Australia went unbeaten through a limited-overs series against Waqar Younis' side in Kenya and then won 3-0 in the test series that followed.

Those Test victories included two by an innings, one of them inside two days, but despite those wins, Buchanan said there would be no complacency among his players in what is a re-run of the 1999 World Cup final, which Australia won by eight wickets.

"Yes, our record against them recently is good, but past or even current form counts for very little when you play Pakistan," Buchanan told the news agency on Sunday.

"They have one or two individuals who can turn it on with other

players then feeding of them, and that can make them a formidable side."

Buchanan believes the Johannesburg showdown between the two sides could hold significance for the Super Six stage of the tournament which follows the group matches.

"If we can win this match and both sides qualify for the Super Sixes, then we will take the four points we would get through with us, so a win is pretty important," he said.

"The game is also a chance to see where we are at in terms of our preparations and, while I am hoping to win, it would also be nice to get a good hard game under our belts early in the tournament too," he added.

Pakistan coach Richard Pybus echoed Buchanan's thoughts when he said Australia's dominance in recent head-to-head matches meant little coming into the Group A encounter.

"When we played them late last year, we were without Inzamamul Haq, Yousuf Youhana, Saeed Anwar and Wasim Akram, but now this is pretty much the strongest squad Pakistan can put out," said Pybus.

"Also the World Cup is unique

and that can mean past form doesn't really count."

Both sides have injury problems, though, with Pakistan opener Anwar still to practise since sustaining a blow to his left elbow from a Shoaib Akhtar delivery in the nets last Tuesday.

Australia, already without suspended batsman Darren Lehmann who is serving the last match of a five-game ban, will also be monitoring the progress of fellow middle-order batsman Michael Bevan as he recovers from a torn groin muscle.

Ian Harvey, a very effective 'bits-and-pieces' player, has a slight back strain, although it is not serious.

Another poser for both line-ups on Tuesday will be which bowlers should take the new ball.

Pakistan have four options in Shoaib, Wasim, Waqar and young fast bowler Mohammad Sami while Australia, with Jason Gillespie and Glenn McGrath both fit again, have to decide whether to retain Brett Lee as their opening bowler.

Lee was hugely impressive when spearheading Australia's attack in the recent triangular one-day series against England and Sri Lanka, ending up as the player of the series.

# India doesn't spook him

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

INTERNET, Cape Town

Pakistan wicketkeeper Rashid Latif says it does not matter if