



Abahani call all the shots Inter-club transfer

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra enjoyed a successful harvest on the first day of the four-day inter-club hockey players' transfer at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium vesterday.

Abahani are determined to defend the crown, which they snatched from biter-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club last season after a barren spell of five vears.

And the popular Dhanmondi outfit made their intentions clear by luring two key players from Mohammedan

Titu and Tuhin, who formed the core of Mohammedan defence last year, joined Abahani along with

4 new marks established

SPORTS REPORTER

Four new records were set on the opening day of the Keya Cosmetics 20th National Age-Group Swimming competition at the National Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

Dolly Akhter set a new mark in the girl's 100m breaststroke (18-20 age-group) when the natant from Rajbari clocked 1 minute 26.38 seconds. She bettered the previous mark by 4.35 seconds.

Dolly however faced little in the way of a challenge as rival Sabura Khatun, had to drop out following protest from BJMC.

The Kathmandu SAF silver medallist in 100m breaststroke, has continued to face the legal complications since the Bangladesh Games last year.

BJMC claimed that Sabura was a registered player but the talented swimmer from Kushtia herself said she was reluctant to swim for the team.

Apart from the Sabura episode,

е

Shahjahan Ali of BKSP won the boys 100m breaststroke (18-20 а r

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Did U Know? SPORTS REPORTER Dhaka University (DU) and

England's Bob Taylor was the first Comilla won their respective matches in the 26th National wicketkeeper to take 10 dismissals in a Test match. He achieved this feat against India at Bombav in 1980



TEN Sports French Open Live at 4:00 pm

ESPN Football Focus Repeat at 10:00 am Sportscentre Hind Sport News

Live at 8:30 pm **UEFA Champions League** Final

DU toil, Comilla No room for canter

Cricket They had earlier lost to defending champions Bangladesh Biman by 32 runs

Cricket Cham-pionship yesterday.

the Comilla Stadium yesterday.

Ahkamullah notching highest 38 off 70 balls. Opener Mossraf and

one-down Anisul Hakim with 25

and 27 were the other notable

Nilphamari confirmed their exit

from the championship after being

bowled out for 139 in 48.1 overs.

contributors.

AFP, Paris

Dhaka University will now take on Biman in the final Group A match tomorrow with the winners advancing into the semifinals.

THE HEAT IS ON! (1) Mohammedan officials hustle away Tabib-e-Noor (x) while their Mariners counterparts try in vain to resist the move. Central defender Tabib, who played for Mariners last year, later signed

for Mohammedan. (2) Abahani were the happiest team after transfers yesterday as they roped in three key players (L-R) Tuhin (from Mohammedan), Habul (from Usha) and Titu (from Mohammedan).

While DU were made to sweat, Comilla registered a convincing six-wicket win against Barisal at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong.

An unimpressive Dhaka University team, which has been missing big name players for quite Set to score 152 for win, Comilla some time, struggled to post a 10reached the mark in 42.4 overs with run victory against Nilphamari at Faisal hammering a swashbuckling 54 off 75 balls

Batting first on a difficult wicket The middle-order batsman that produced uneven bounce, struck five boundaries Dhaka University scored 149 for seven in their share of 50 overs with Earlier, Monirul Hag claimed

four wickets for 25 runs as Barisal were shot out for 151 in 48.2 overs. The victory opened up Comilla's prospect of moving into the last four from Group C. They

will take on Faridpur in the last group league match on Thursday. SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

or Russia's Nikolay Davydenko.

breeze compared with the

Inzamam yet

Cricket

Inzamam, dumped along with seven other senior players after Pakistan's poor World Cup performance, was excluded from a 16-strong squad named by selectors here on Tuesday.

Pakistan chief selector Aamir Sohail said the 33-year-old veteran -- who scored just 19 runs in six innings during the World Cup --still had a future in the international game

"Inzamam was not considered for selection because he has not played cricket recently," Sohail said.

"We are aware of his talent and experience and it will only be a

matter of time before he is back in the side," he added. Sohail, in a statement, said he was delighted with the progress the young team was making. "In the

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

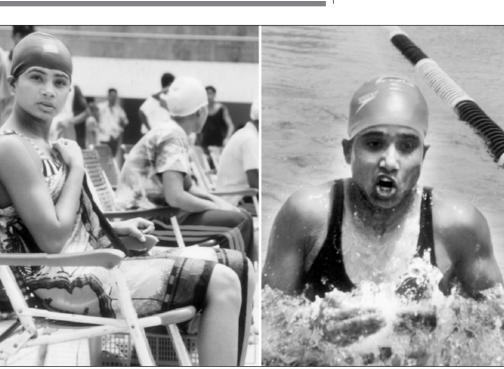
rebuilding phase, consistency has to be the key and I think we have more or less stuck to the select group of players. "The tour to England will be a grueling and testing one for the youngsters but I am sure that it will be a great learning experience for them as well. The conditions there test your abilities to the limits and

the England team has also done well in the recent months," Sohail added. Meanwhile all-rounder Abdul Razzaq and opener Taufiq Umer were both axed while Azhar

ITINERARY

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

June 17: First ODI, Old Trafford June 20: Second ODI, The Oval



Usha's prolific centre-forward Maksudul Alam Habul, the

league's top-score last season with 18 goals.

Apart from the three star signings Abahani also acquired the services of Wari's Babu as a reserve

for their regular custodian Bappi. Besides, Railway forward Zahedul

Islam and Sonali Bank's Abdur Rahman took big steps in their young careers by joining the sky

They however had to off-load

right-half Meraj, who joined Mohammedan in an otherwise

The striking feature of this year's league will be the non-availability of Indian and Pakistani

players as both teams have a busy

ahead of the Athens Olympic

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schedule of build-up tournaments

imposing attacking line-up.

Games in 2004.

blues

ONE'S PLIGHT IS ANOTHER'S DELIGHT: (L) A visibly baffled swimming prodigy Sabura Khatun sits by the poolside after she was barred from participating in the hundred metre breaststroke event of the National Age-Group competition yesterday. Sabura, who is appearing in the meet for the Ansars, could not swim as BJMC lodged a protest to the Bangladesh Swimming Federation claiming that she is officially their athlete. Sabura had faced the same plight during last year's Bangladesh Games when BJMC opposed her participation for home district Kushtia. With the absence of favourite Sabura, teammate Dolly Akhter (R) went on to win the event.

Marvan skipper

FINAL: AC Milan v Juventus

AFP, Lahore

Out-of-favour Pakistan cricket star Inzamanul Haq has failed to win back his place for next month's one-dayseries with England.

Juventus vs AC Milar Live at 12:00 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports

Harsha Online Cricket Talk Show Repeat at 8:30 am Primera Liga Celta De Vigo vs Deportivo Repeat at 10:30 am Sportsline Tonight Sport News Live at 8:00 pm





Wasim Akram

(Pakistan cricket legend) "I am thankful to all my colleagues coaches and fans around the world for their support throughout my career and want to tell them that my decision to quit is final,"

BCCI propounds Indo-Pak series

INTERNET, undated

The tournament, organised by Makhan Chess Sports Club, is being held Nepalese capital of Kathmandi Undeterred by the Indian govern ment's repeated snubs, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has proposed a full-fledged series against Pakistan early next Kathmandu All of the three were having earned 4.5 points each. In the fifth round, Shakil drew with Rahul. year.

According to a report in The Indian Express, the series is being planned for February-March in 2004, immediately after the Indian team's tour of Australia, and will Medhi Hasan Parag and Debaraj Chatterjee of India were in the second place with 4 points each. Sawkat Hossain Pallab and Arman Monir have earned 3.5 points each include three Tests and five onedavinternationals.

Shafiq Ahmed was following them with 3 points and Masuda Begumearned 2.5 points. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has suggested a neutral n

The tournament started on May 24 and will run until May 30. u SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

points each.

Biggies move on

Tulyaganova. Hewitt wasn't quite the speed

🕽 French Open

Paris in the springtime puts a spring in the step of young lovers. And the French Open is no different given the speed with which former finalist Kim Clijsters and Lleyton Hewitt dispatched their first-round rivals on Tuesday. Belgian second seed Clijsters

raced through a 6-2, 6-0 win in just 45min over Amy Frazier of the United States.

She then promptly saw two of her chief rivals turn in similarly impressive performances.

US seventh seed Jennifer Capriati, who downed Cliisters 12-10 in the third set of an epic 2001 final, swamped South Africa's Joannette Kruger 6-2, 6-1 to set up an encounter with either Paraguayan Rossana Neffa-De los Rios or Marion Bartoli of France.

And US sixth seed Lindsay Davenport was too strong for Indonesia's Wynne Prasuka, romping through 6-2, 6-0 to book a clash with Uzbekistan's Iroda

Shakil joint

and Rahul Shetty at the end of the fifth round yesterday.

leader

SPORTS REPORTER

KIM CLIJSTERS

week claimed Hewitt did not have the game to win on clay

merchant as he had to overcome The ninth-seeded Spaniard, an attack of third-set jitters to send without a tournament win since American Brian Vahaly packing 6last year's final triumph over Juan 4, 6-1, 6-7, 6-3 despite 100 unforced errors by the Adelaider, who next Carlos Ferrero, had to come from two sets down to edge out faces either Britain's Greg Rusedski Argentine nobody Sergio Roitman.

Grand Slam debutant Roitman, But Hewitt's day's work was a a 24-year-old lucky loser from the qualifiers and playing only the laboured showing of defending fourth Tour match of his career, SEE PAGE 14 COL 6

for ODIs in WI

REUTERS, Colombo

Batsman Marvan Atapattu has been retained as Sri Lanka captain for the three-match one-day series in the West Indies next month.

Atapattu, who took over the one-day captaincy from Sanath Jayasuriya in early May, has kept the job despite Sri Lanka's failure this month to qualify for a home triseries final for the first time.

"You can't judge a man on one series alone," said Lalith Kaluperu-ma, the chairman of selectors, when the 15-man squad was named on Tuesday.

"It was the batting that lost us the trophy. The top order just needs to regain its form."

The selectors made two changes, axing middle-order batsman Russel Arnold and allrounder Kaushalya Weereratne. SQUAD Marvan Atapattu (captain), Sanath

Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene (vicecaptain), Romesh Kaluwitharana, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Naveed Nawaz, Upul Chandana, Chaminda Vaas, Dharshana Gamage, Prabath Nissanka, Kaushal Lokuarachchi, Kumar Dharmasena, Muttiah Muralitharan, Dinusha Fernando.

Bracing for el grande

* UEFA ČHAMPS LEAGUE

AFP, Manchester

Nobody can dispute that Italian clubs have rediscovered the ability to win this season.

Wednesday's meeting of Juventus and AC Milan in the first all-Italian Champions League final represents the perfect response to ose who had suggested that Serie A's finest were no longer a force to reckon with.

What is less certain is whether the two clubs have either the ability or the will to put on a display worthy of what is certainly the biggest game in club football and arguably an occasion to rank alongside the World Cup final.

In terms of entertainment, the last European night at Old Trafford has set the bar pretty high.

If the 190th meeting between Juve and Milan produces even half the drama of the seven-goal extrav-aganza served up by Manchester

show Italian football in a good light." United and Real Madrid in their quarter-final second leg, any neu-trals in the crowds will head home

happy But among even the most ardent admirers of the two finalists, there is a lingering fear that the safety-first mindset engrained in the Italian game could produce a defensive stalemate.

It is a concern both coaches are

Catch the final Live on ESPN at 12:00 am today.

aware of. Carlo Ancelotti, Milan's manager since he was sacked by Juventus in 2001, expects a tight battle, but insists that will not prevent the two teams from shoulder-charging" their critics.

"The two teams know each other so well, and this is a cup match, so it will be very even," he said

"But especially after the national team's failure at the World Cup last year, it's important to

Milan are chasing their sixth European Cup title. But having secured their second straight

Italian league title, it is Juventus who go into the match with the backing of most pundits, including Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson.

The Scot masterminded backto-back victories over Juventus in the second group stage of this year's competition, but he is well aware that his side were fortunate enough to catch Juve at a time when they were severely depleted by the combined ravages of injury and a flu

"I suppose as the host I should be neutral but I'd have to go for Juventus," Ferguson said. "I've fancied them right from the start."

A key factor in Ferguson's admiration for this Juventus team is his respect for the tactical acumen of Marcello Lippi, who has guided the Turin club to back-to-back Italian titles since beginning his second SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

PHOTO: INTERNET

India play Pakistan today

Hockey

FIDE Master Abu Sufian Shakil was leading the board in the first International Rating Chess Tournament along with Indian International Masters Atanu Lahiri AFP, Perth

Top hockey rivals India and Pakistan clash for the first time this year in a three-nation men's tournament starting at Perth Hockey Stadium here Wednesday night.

Political tensions between the neighbouring nations would again guarantee a strong focus on the match, Pakistan coach Tahir Zaman said Tuesday

The two teams join Australia and Australia A in a lead-up event to August's Champions' Trophy in the Netherlands and then next year's Athens Olympics.

India's withdrawal, for political reasons, from the March Azlan Shah Cup, in which Pakistan defeated World Cup holders has heightened interest in the Perth tournament.

Saturday.

would be experimenting with new players, the feelings between the combatants was always bubbling

Indian coach Rijander Singh played down the rivalry, referring to "little problems with our govern which stopped the sides ments" competing more regularly

for the fifth time in less than 12 months -- with India holding a 3-1 advantage from the four completed matches.

India take on Australia A.

AUSTRALIA: Mark Hickman, Stephen Mowlam, Matthew Wells, Bevan George, Aaron Hopkins, Dean Butler, Brent Livermore, Paul Gaudoin, Liam De Young, Troy Elder, Scott Webster, Travis Brooks, Jamie Dwyer, Michael McCann, Craig Victory, Tristram Woodhouse, Nathan Eglington. INDIA: Devesh Chauhan,

Kamaldeep Singh, Dilip Tirkey, Kanwalpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh, Ignace Tirkey, Bimal Lakra, Vikram Pillay, Viren Rasquinha, Prabodh Tirkey, Baljit Singh Saini, Dhanraj Pillay, Baljit Singh Dhilon, Gagan Ajit Singh, Prabhjot Singh, Tejbir Singh, Tushar Khandekar.

PAKISTAN: Ahmed Alam, Ali Raza, Tarik Imran, Ghazanfar Ali, Mahammad Saqlain, Dilawar Hussain, Rehan Butt, Mudassar Ali Khan, Kashif Jawad, Mahammad Shabbir, Saleem Khalid, Salman Akbar, Zeeshan Ashraf, Adnan Masqood, Aqeel Khan, Shakeel Abbasi, Imran Rasool.



THE WAR PLANNERS! (L) AC Milan's coach Carlo Ancelotti at a media conference at Old Trafford Stadium yesterday. (R) Juventus' manager Marcello Lippi arrives at Manchester International Airport on May 26.

Germany in the final in Malaysia,

Pakistan and India lock horns

Zaman said while both sides under the surface.

In Perth, the two sides will clash

In the Perth tournament's opening clash, Australia play Pakistan Wednesday night before

Provisional national squads chosen for Perth tournament:

LLEYTON HEWITT

champion Albert Costa, who last