

Abahani win big yet again

Sports Reporter

Title-aspirants Abahani Kri-ra Chakra coasted to yet another convincing 10-wicket victory over hapless Dhaka Wanderers Club to qualify for the Group D final of the thirteenth Damal Summer cricket tournament yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium. Star-studded Abahani, in their inaugural match on November 11, had crushed First Division newcomers Ajax Sports Club by 137 runs, were again in dominating mood yesterday against Wanderers. Dhaka Wanderers mustered only 96 for nine wickets in 40 overs and in reply, Abahani cruised to 97 without loss in only 17 overs. Paltu, the skipper of Dhaka

Wanderers, decided to bat after winning the toss. His decision almost immediately backfired when young left-arm Abahani seamer Anis, generating a fair degree of pace, sent them reeling at 19 for the loss of three wickets. Wanderers never recovered from their early body blow and wickets kept falling at regular intervals. They finished at 96 for the loss of nine wickets in their allotted 40 overs. The match started 45 minutes late due to the ground being wet because of early morning dew, necessitating a curtailment of the originally scheduled 45 overs for each side. Ismail with 25, Asad with 21 and Paltu with 10 were the three Wanderers batsmen to reach double figures. Anis returned figures of three wickets for only eight

runs off his eight overs of which three were maidens. He was ably assisted by Morshed, Selim and Masoom with wicket apiece. Abahani then raced to 97 without loss off only 17 overs. Abahani's Indian Test discard opener Raman Lamba with flamboyant unbeaten 47 off 62 balls and Zahed Razaq Mosoom with an equally punishing 40 not out gave no respite to the harassed Wanderers bowlers. Lamba and Masoom had posted a record 247-run wing stand in their side's first match of the new season against the poor Ajax SC. Abahani will now meet last year's Navana league runners-up Bangladesh Biman in the Group 'D' final on November 19.

Goala, Duminda GMCC heroes

Sports Reporter

Last year's runners-up Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) marched into the group final of the 13th Damal Summer cricket tournament when they registered an emphatic 47-run victory over City Club yesterday at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium. GMCC, put into bat, scored a healthy 199 for the loss of seven wickets in their stipulated overs, reduced to 43 after the match started 15 minutes late due to heavy morning dew. GMCC owed their convincing total thanks to a breezy 62 runs off only 67 ball by their new Sri Lankan signing all-rounder Duminda Pereira. His knock was studded with three fours and one towering six. He was helped by Liton with 27, Saiful and Nashu with 15 each and Zakir with 12 not out. GMCC also benefitted from 43 extra runs conceded by City Club. Shipon, Sohel, Pappa, Al-Amin, Salauddin and Nahid took one GMCC wicket each. In reply, Club were restricted to 152 for the loss of eight wickets in their 43 overs by some responsible bowling and tight fielding. Skipper Gautam with a fine

25 runs was the highest scorer for City. Ujjal, 32, Moni, 12, and Shipar with 10 were the other notable City batsmen. GMCC's veteran, age-less campaigner Ram Chand Goala who last year bagged the highest number of wickets in the Navana league once again spun his magic web with his left-arm spinners to claim four City scalps for 41 runs. Pika and Saiful aided Goala claiming one wicket apiece for 12 and 14 runs respectively. GMCC will now meet Victoria Sporting Club tomorrow, Sunday, in the Group 'B' final at the Dhaka Stadium.

TODAY'S MATCHES Mohammedans vs Udit (Dhaka Stadium) S Bima vs Rupali Bank (DCS)

SA newspapers hail victory

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 15: South Africa's thrilling eight-wicket cricket victory against India in New Delhi Thursday was hailed with banner headlines in all but the most, said South African newspapers Friday, reports AFP.

"Howzat for a victory," said a headline in the Johannesburg star over a report proclaiming that with the win, South African cricketers had regained their pride after 21 years of apartheid-enforced isolation. Africans-language newspaper headlined its report "Classic Springbok," saying that South Africa's batsmen had shown the style of the Springboks of old. The newspaper attributed the victory to the fact that for the first time in the three-match tour, the South Africans had chosen the right team and had perfected their batting order. While they lost the limited-overs series 1-2, the South Africans had gained an important morale-boost ahead of next February's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, it added. Business Day financial daily ran a front page report in which it said that South Africa had sent a signal to the cricket world that they are back in business, adding that the respectability their win had achieved was not limited only to cricket. World number one Wiranata easily overcame the challenge of Chinese qualifier Dong Jiong to win 15-1, 15-12. The 21-year-old Wiranata, who is seeking to win his sixth title this year, will meet Norway's Eric Lia in the second round. His main rival in the men's singles event, China's world number three Wu, did not even have to step on court, receiving a walkover from his Thai opponent Vacharapan Kumthong. Wu, the defending champion, will now face Indonesian Heriyanto Arbi in the second round. All the seeded players in the men's singles easily won their first round matches Thursday. Among them were joint third seeds Poul Larson of Denmark and China's Lu Jun. In the women's singles, top-seeded Chinese Duo Huang Hua and Tang Jihong received byes.

Wiranata, Wenkai in second round

HONG KONG, Nov 15: Top seeded Indonesian Ardy Wiranata and second seed Wu Wenkai of China breezed through Thursday's first round of the 60000 US dollars Hong Kong open, reports Reuter. World number one Wiranata easily overcame the challenge of Chinese qualifier Dong Jiong to win 15-1, 15-12. The 21-year-old Wiranata, who is seeking to win his sixth title this year, will meet Norway's Eric Lia in the second round. His main rival in the men's singles event, China's world number three Wu, did not even have to step on court, receiving a walkover from his Thai opponent Vacharapan Kumthong. Wu, the defending champion, will now face Indonesian Heriyanto Arbi in the second round. All the seeded players in the men's singles easily won their first round matches Thursday. Among them were joint third seeds Poul Larson of Denmark and China's Lu Jun. In the women's singles, top-seeded Chinese Duo Huang Hua and Tang Jihong received byes.



Man of the match Peter Kirsten (L) and man of the series Kepler Wessels hold their trophies after defeating India by eight wickets at Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on Nov 14. India won the series 2-1. —AFP photo

Mohammedan hold Bagan goalless

BOMBAY, Nov 15: Mohammedan Sporting held Mohun Bagan to a goalless draw and the rivals entered the semi-finals in the last quarter-finals league match of the Rovers Cup football tournament here yesterday, reports PTI. The salient feature of the match was a yellow card shown to Bagan striker Chima Okeri in the 31st minute of the second stanza of the game. This was the second yellow card for Chima who had received the same punishment against Titanium, Kerala, on Tuesday. The notable fact is that Chima will miss the semifinal match. With yesterday's match, Mohun Bagan topped the pool with 5 points from three games—two wins and a draw—while Sporting has three points from three games—1 win, 1 draw and a loss to be runners-up. Earlier, Salgaokar defeated Titanium, Kerala, by a 3 goals to nil in the same pool after taking a 2-0 lead at the break. Taylor expects miracle from Gazza

LONDON, Nov 15: England team manager Graham Taylor said Thursday that injured midfielder Paul Gascoigne will have to produce a miracle to make the England team for the European Championship finals next June, reports AFP. The Tottenham star is battling to meet a May 31 deadline to complete his move to Lazio of Italy. But he will have to make a come back well before then to force his way into Taylor's squad for the tournament in Sweden. He has this May 31 date but then we will have already gathered. We have a game against Finland on June 3 and it's my intention to establish a training base in Finland and we will probably go away around May 28. "It's so much up in the air from Gascoigne's point of view and from mine. Passing a medical test does not mean you are at international match fitness when you've been out for the best part of a year." Gascoigne has played in only three of Taylor's 15 games as manager.

Hockey results

NEW DELHI, Nov 15: Results on the opening day of the Indra Gandhi Gold Cup Women's hockey tournament in Chandigarh on Thursday, reports Reuter. India beat Singapore 7-1 (halftime 4-0). Soviet Union beat Malaysia 9-9 (7-0). Korea beat Japan 14-0 (8-0).

Indian squad off to Australia

NEW DELHI, Nov 15: Hours after an eight-wicket whipping at the hands of South Africa, Mohammad Azharuddin's squad flew to Singapore en route to Australia on Friday for a four-month tour, reports AFP. The defeat Thursday night after victories in Calcutta and Gwalior did nothing to hurt the confidence of Azharuddin, who skipped the last match with a pulled stomach muscle. "We will play to win," the 28-year-old right-hander,

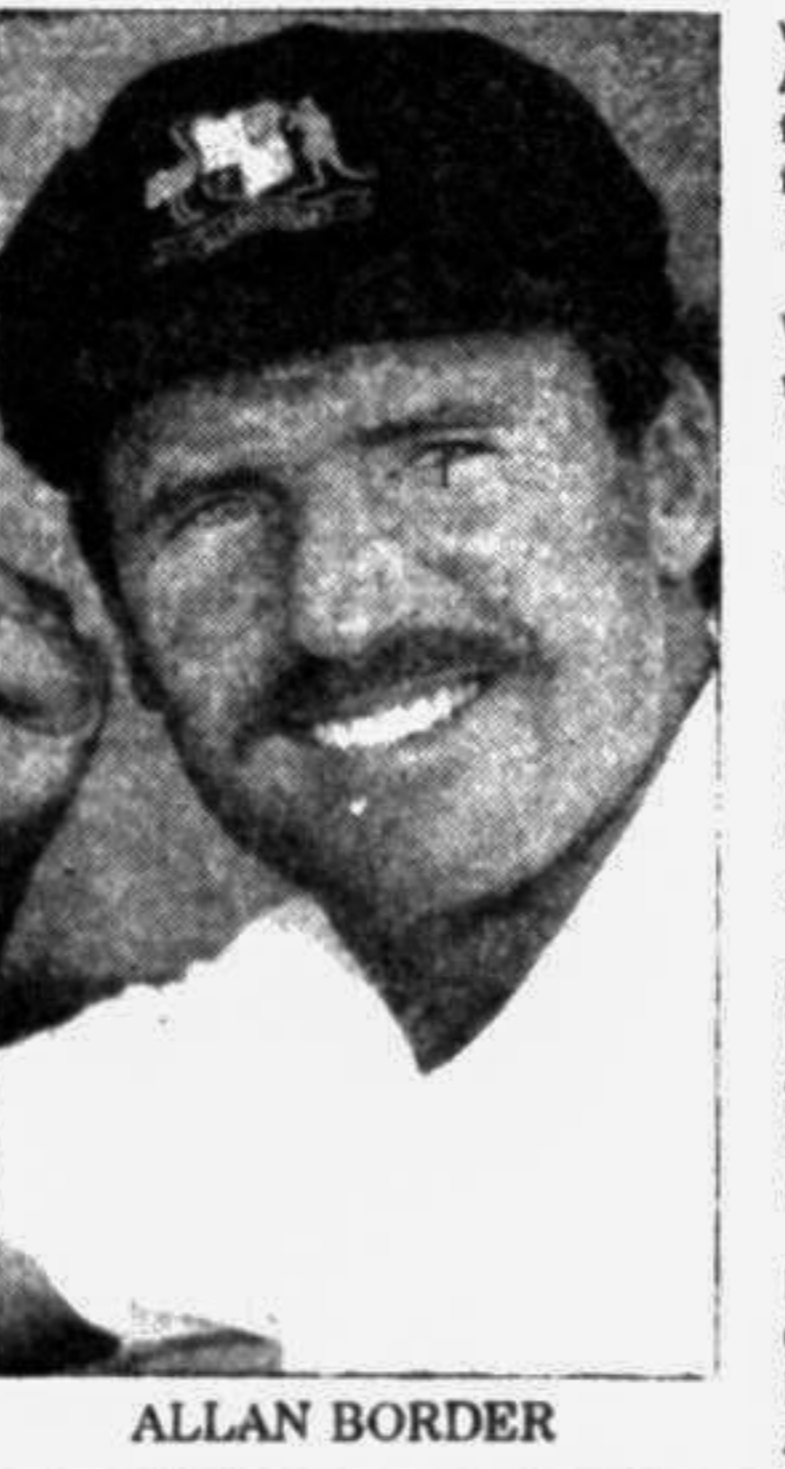
rated among the world's top 10 batsmen, said before departure. "We are a well-balanced side with a good blend of youth and experience and I expect us to perform well." Team manager Ranbir Singh said the Indians would strive to play positive cricket on the tour which starts Sunday with a carnival game against an Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI at Guildford near Perth. "We hope the Australians will play in the same spirit," Singh said. India are due to play five Tests, the first starting in

Brisbane, on November 29, and take part in a triangular one-day series with Australia and the West Indies to be followed by the World Cup. The team: Mohammad Azharuddin (Captain), Ravi Shastri, Krishnamachari Srikkanth, Sanjay Manjrekar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Sachin Tendulkar, Pravin Amre, Kapil Dev, Kiran More, Chandrakant Pandit, Manoj Prabhakar, Jagavajri Sriniath, Subroto Banerjee, Narendra Hirwani, Venkatapathy Raju, Saurav Ganguly. Cricket manager: Abbas Ali Baig. Team manager: Ranbir Singh.

Aussies eagerly await Azhar's men

PERTH, Australia, Nov 15: Australian cricketers failed in their mission to topple the West Indies and claim Test cricket's unofficial world title in the Caribbean earlier this year, reports AFP. But the tourists gave Viv Richard's champions a close enough run in a 1-2 series defeat to suggest that India will have their work cut out in the five-Test series starting in Brisbane (Queensland) on November 29. The Indian side, led by Mohammad Azharuddin, is scheduled to arrive in Perth early Saturday. They will play an Australian Cricket Board Chairman's in a carnival game at Guildford near here on Sunday, and a day-night limited overs match against the powerful Western Australian side on Monday. The party will then fly to Australia's east coast for two four-day first-class games and two one-day fixtures before the opening Test. With the Australian season just over a month old, most players likely to line up in the Test are firing. A left-handed Border, de-

spite his 36 years, has made a superb start in the inter state Sheffield Shield competition, with knocks of 196 (run out) and 39 not out. Dean Jones, sometimes regarded as a one-day specialist, is in even better touch, having made 243 not out, 68 and 144 for an average of 227.5 after the first two Shield matches. Opening batsman Geoff Marsh has clobbered 43 and 98 in his only first-class outing. His opening partner in the West Indies, Mark Taylor, has made a modest start, with initial scores of 39 and two. Australia's regular number three, little Tasmanian David Boon (who became a favourite with Indian crowds during Australia's World Cup triumph in 1987-88), has been quickly into stride with his 35 and 130. The highly talented Mark Waugh, Australia's start batsman in the West Indies, with an average of 61.16, has stroked a quick silver 136 and 19, while twin brother Steve has fared even better with 115 and 88. Even all-rounder Gred Matthews has sailed past the three-figure barrier, making first innings 139 against the strong Victorian attack. Matthews has also been the outstanding early-season slow bowler, capturing eight wickets at 27.62 — an achievement for the off-spinner in two high scoring games. The most impressive strike bowler in early games has been Queensland's Craig McDermott, who was the top Australian wicket-taker in the West Indies. He captured a marvellous 6-150 South Australian in a match dominated by batsman, and then helped to rout New South Wales for a first innings 119 when he took 5-54 in a Shield match in Brisbane on Friday. He looms as a big threat to the Indian batsmen. Big Mery Hughes, known as a fast bowler with heart to match his gaint moustache, has picked up four wickets at an average of 47.75, and Western Australia's veteran swing bowler Terry Alderman has made a marvellous recovery from a right ankle injury to be in excellent form for the tourists arrival. Now 35, Alderman snared 4-101 in his comeback match and despite an unhappy West Indies tour he will press strongly for a Test berth. Left-arm paceman Michael Whitney failed to take a wicket in two Tests in the Caribbean, but has started the season well enough to re-emerge as Test contender. Fit and fiery, he has snapped up eight wickets at 29.37 in two games. Australia's potentially most destructive bowler, left-arm paceman Bruce Reid, has been sidelined for the Shield competition with a stomach upset. However the beanpole who spearheaded Australia's 3-0 triumph over England last summer was in excellent form during the inter-state one-day series preceding the Shield games. The Indians will have their first taste of Reid and Alderman in Monday's day-night limited overs match here. This game replaces a scheduled three-day match against Western Australia, called off after India announced they would be arriving here later after meeting South Africa in the three historic, hurriedly arranged one-day matches just completed. This game replaces a scheduled three-day match against Western Australia, called off after India announced they would be arriving here later after meeting South Africa in the three historic, hurriedly arranged one-day matches just completed. This game replaces a scheduled three-day match against Western Australia, called off after India announced they would be arriving here later after meeting South Africa in the three historic, hurriedly arranged one-day matches just completed.



ALLAN BORDER

India to tour S. African late '92

NEW DELHI, Nov 15: India's cricketers will tour South African towards the end of next year, Indian cricket Chief Madhavrao Scindia confirmed on Thursday, reports Reuter. "I can say now we will be going to South African at some time towards the end of 1992," he told Reuters during the third and final match of the one-day series between the two countries marking South Africa's return from 21 year's cricket isolation. "From the programme as it stands today, I think we will probably be the first touring side in South Africa," said Scindia, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). South African officials, who

asked not to be identified, said that certainly would be the case. They said South African would probably go to Pakistan ahead of the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand starting next February. Pakistan officials had been talking of their team going to South African before the World Cup. Scindia said India's programme for their tour of South Africa was still being worked out, but would probably involve five one-day games and three Tests. He said that with England due in India in January, 1993, there would not be time to play a full five-Test series in South Africa. Scindia, who is also a cabinet Minister, said there would be no problem getting gov-

ernment approval for the tour of South Africa following the meeting of Commonwealth leaders in Harare last month. "The Harare declaration is extremely clear," he said. "The Commonwealth heads of government summit resolved to greatly increased people-to-people contact and also to increase sporting contact with South Africa. In that spirit, the government will have no objection at all to an Indian team touring South Africa," he said. Confirmation of the tour, completes a remarkable two weeks for cricketing relations between the two countries. They had previously barely existed. India was the first country to impose sanctions on South Africa for its apartheid policies

of racial separation in 1948. The two countries had never played each other. South Africa, in fact, had never played an official international against a non-white team. All that changed when Pakistan withdrew from a five-match tour of one-day games against India after militant Hindus threatened to disrupt it. United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) managing director Ali Bacher was in India at the time building new relations, his country having been re-admitted to the International Cricket Conference (ICC) last July. A three-match tour of one-day games was hurriedly arranged and days later the Indian bastion of communism for its return to the cricketing world.

Platini impressed

PARIS, Nov 15: French national coach Michel Platini is pleased to see England in next year's European Championship finals in Sweden, reports AFP. "I have always admired English football and they might sometimes seem to lack a bit of imagination but I'm glad they qualified," he said after returning from Poznan where he saw Gary Lineker's equaliser book England's Passage. They struggled a bit at times but showed they have guts and a proven goalscorer is essential to any team," he added. France who rely heavily on free scoring Jean Pierre Papin won 5-1 in Poznan in a friendly in August. England, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia joined France and hosts Sweden in next June's finals. Scotland will join the party if Romania do not beat Bulgaria by more than two goals in Sofia next Wednesday. Germany who travel to Belgium next week before receiving Luxembourg, should overhaul Wales from Group five. Holland, the defending champions are favourites to take the last place now that Ruud Gullit, Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard are back together. They face a key match in Greece on December 4.

S Africans expose Indian limitations

NEW DELHI, Nov 15: Kepler Wessels, with his third consecutive half-century, led a spirited batting display as South Africa beat India by eight wickets on Thursday to record their first win in an official one-day cricket international, reports agencies. It was a remarkable victory, that prevented a whitewash in the three-match series and one that had looked impossible after some glorious Indian batting piled up a formidable 287 for four in their 50 overs. But South Africa, after unimpressive batting in the first two games which India won with ease, finally showed their full potential to snatch their first victory on returning to international competition after 21 years as outcasts. Undaunted by the large Indian score, South Africa made full use of the easy batting conditions to reach 288 for two with 20 balls to spare. Throughout the day-and-night match, the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium resounded with a constant rumble or roars by more than 80,000 cricket fans. The cheers reached a crescendo when Peter Kirsten hit the winning stroke

in the 46th over. For the first time in the three-match series, the South Africans played as a one-day match should be—taking shrewd singles and twos to keep the scoreboard moving and hitting loose balls for big strokes. The Indians paid the price of lax fielding. The match rung down the curtain on South Africa's first official competition since 1970 when it was banned from playing international sports because of its official policy of apartheid. The country was readmitted to the International Cricket Council as a full member on July 10 after the Commonwealth Summit found Pretoria was moving fast enough to dismantle its policy of racial segregation. On Thursday, a victory seemed almost impossible after India scored 287 in 50 overs, demanding a run rate of 5.7 per over. It climbed to seven at one stage. But brilliant strokes by opener Kepler Wessels, who scored 90 with 10 boundaries, and one-down Peter Kirsten, who made 86 not out, brought down the run rate to 4.4 in the 41st over. After Wessels' departure Kirsten was joined by Kuiper. Both were like men possessed, hitting the white ball all over

the artificially-lighted stadium. The score climbed from 200 to 256 in just 34 balls. From there to victory was a short road. Kuiper finished with 63 not out. The pitch did not help the bowlers. In the first half of the match, South African pace bowler Allan Donald failed to make an impact, taking only one wicket. He had taken five wickets in the first match in Calcutta and three in Gwalior. Wessels shared a 720-run opening partnership with Jimmy Cook (35) and then he and Peter Kirsten smashed 111 off the next 114 balls for the second wicket. But when he had reached 90 and looked certain to reach a well-deserved century, Wessels attempted to sweep young leg spinner Venkatapathy Raju and was lbw. Adrian Kuiper joined Kirsten and proceeded to thrash the modest Indian attack to all parts of the field. He ended unbeaten on 63 from just 41 balls. Kirsten, declared man of the day-night match, also treated the bowlers with disdain, flicking and driving his way to an unbeaten 86 off 92 balls on an easy-paced pitch nearly all the batsmen enjoyed. That was particularly true of

Indian opener Ravi Shastri, captain for the day in the absence of the injured Muhammad Azharuddin, and Sanjay Manjrekar, who both scored centuries after India had won the toss and opted to bat. Shastri scored 109 from 149 balls and Manjrekar, who hit eight boundaries and two sixes in his sparkling 105 off just 82 deliveries, was out off the last ball of the innings. Shastri's opening partner, Krishnamachari Srikkanth, had earlier hit a swashbuckling 53 and was stumped while trying a cheeky reverse sweep off occasional spinner Peter Kirsten. Shastri won the toss and decided to bat first. India's regular captain, Mohammad Azharuddin, was indisposed because of abdomen muscle pain. South Africa's last victory in an official cricket competition was in 1970 against Australia in a Test series, which was played just before South Africa's isolation began. Although South Africa lost the series, team officials said the tour was mostly a goodwill visit. Before the match began, an Indian army pipe band played "by the Rivers of Babylon" and multicoloured balloons soaring

in the sky lent a carnival air to the South Africans' farewell match. The South Africans' tour was soured by an off-the-cuff remark by team manager Ali Bacher that the Indians had roughened up the ball in the first match to give advantage to their bowlers. The remark was disowned by Geoff Dakin, president of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, giving rise to speculations that differences were cropping up in the fledgling organization formed June 29 with white and black members. India denied they had tampered with the ball and Bacher later said his remark was not meant to cast aspersions on the Indian side. Manjrekar shared the man-of-the-series title with Wessels. "This time we stuck to the target, our batsmen clicked," captain Clive Rice said afterwards. But while India headed to the airport and a tour of Australia after the game, Rice was left to wonder how he would prepare his side for the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand next February and March. "Our game still needs a lot of improvement," he said. "We

have no international games before the World Cup whereas India has 14 games lined up. This is going to be our major problem." Despite losing the series 2-1, there was no deep dismay in the South African camp and manager Ali Bacher said the brief tour had been a major education for the squad. BACHER'S PRAISE "There is no question India was the right place to come to return to international cricket. The reception has been overwhelming," Bacher said. "It's given us an opportunity to see what world cricket is about and it's given us something to learn." "I think we need to go back and plan strategy for the World Cup. We need about three months of very extensive hard work so when we get to Australia we can really compete with a great cricket country like India." He was full of praise for the Indian side. "I think the team is underrated in world cricket," he said. "The Indian team is a very exciting team. The fielding is truly brilliant and it has some very attacking and scintillating batsmen."

Jamalpur soccer

JAMALPUR, Nov 15: Niphamari Sports Association beat Dinajpur Mohammedan Sporting club by 3-1 in the Shaheed Smriti Gold Cup Tournament played at Dewanganj upazila, reports UNB. Mazed-Babul Smriti eleven of Narayanpur will face Madhumita Eleven of Tongi tomorrow. A total of 23 teams from 17 districts are participating in the tournament organized by Dewanganj Mukti Joddha Sangsad. Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Haq inaugurated the tournament on October 31 at Dewanganj