

Abahani dethrone MSC

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra ended a three-year title drought when they dethroned defending champions Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club by seven runs in yesterday's close final of the Damal Summer cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium.

Put in to bat, Abahani mustered a modest 163 before being all out in the 44th of their 45-overs quota. In reply, Mohammedans finished on 156 before losing their last wicket to the last delivery of their 44th over to leave their arch rivals the winners by the close margin of seven runs.

The more than 25,000 fans who had flocked to the Dhaka Stadium — a record attendance for any domestic match — were treated to a rather anticlimactic finale to the 13th version of the tournament named after former Bangladesh Cricket Control Board vice president and selector Dr Mazharul Islam Damal who died in 1979. The two protagonists on the day — arch-rivals chasing honours in the country's sporting arena — failed to produce any noteworthy performance that the large crowd could savour in days to come. Despite the ideal setting for the game pitting the two strongest club sides of the country, both possessing some outstanding individual performers, neither side appeared to have dominated the proceedings. It was just a question of luck, in the end, with Abahani the luckier of the two teams.

For the cricket connoisseur, there were far too many silly mistakes committed by players on either side. The batting, bowling, fielding lacked the touch of quality that one might have expected from such a crucial and prestige encounter. Running between the wickets, especially by the Abahani batsmen who had five of their men committing harakiri, was atrocious; fielders on either side tended to flounder under pressure, often flooring the easiest of sitters; and the wicket-keepers too didn't always exude confidence behind the stumps.

Mohammedan skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannoo, whose team had achieved a unique distinction of having reached every final of the

suggestion of eager anticipation in the early morning air. Lamba and Masoom promised to repeat their recent good form once again and batted with purpose until the score had reached 38th in the 14th over of the innings when disaster struck. At that score Abahani were dealt a double blow, losing both openers. Masoom played all over one from medium-pace Golam Faruq Chowdhury Suru to be bowled neck and crop for 15. The very next over Lamba, who had reached 18, was given out while responding to a call for a quick single from his skipper Farooque Ahmed. The former Indian Test star wasn't too pleased with the decision

partner. The tall paceman, who later went on to claim the man-of-the-match award for an unbeaten 28 runs and picking up two early Mohammedan wickets before having to retire to the pavilion with a pulled hamstring, batted in a manner that must have shamed the more recognised batsmen in the Abahani camp.

Pappu, too, chanced his arm and fetched 19 vital runs when his side needed them most before losing his head and running himself to doom. Earlier, Akram Khan had made 25 and Mahbubur Rahman Selim 20 off 30 deliveries to be the only redeeming features in an otherwise lack-

of the match, by Khairuzaman Babu who removed two batsmen in one over in his second spell. Babu virtually shattered Mohammedans' morale by having their injured skipper Nannoo caught for nought while hooking, keeper Pappu covering a lot of ground to catch the skier at short fine leg.

Yet Mohammedans still weren't out of the game as long as Rafiqul Alam, who had captained a depleted Abahani last season, was there in the middle. And Rafiq seemed to have realised his role and batted with consummate ease and skill. But just when he looked firmly in command he had a sudden rush of blood to the head and threw it all away.

With the score reading 127 Rafiq refused to respond to Gamage's call for a second run, leaving the Sri Lankan stranded, and Mohammedans reduced to 127 for seven. Soon afterwards he lofted off-spinner Effi for a four but to the next ball Rafiq tried yet another unnecessary heave only to see substitute Anis lapping up the catch gleefully at long-off. Rafiq made 33 off 42 balls.

With Rafiq's departure the writing was on the wall and despite the absence of Prince's services, skipper Farooque handled his limited bowling resources judiciously until the very end. He persevered with De Silva and Masoom and the two didn't let their captain down.

Ninth man Mohammad Ali tried an ambitious heave off De Silva to see his balls flying — 144 for nine — and twelve runs later Masoom, with the last ball of the penultimate over, succeeded in wrapping Dulu's pads for an lbw decision and giving Abahani the coveted trophy.

Abahani, too, had their share of misfields, giving Jahangir as many as three lives.

Skipper Farooque received the champions trophy from chief guest Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman, who is also the chief of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board.

Raman Lamba, who hit three centuries and a fifty in the six innings he batted in the meet, aggregating a massive 462 runs, was naturally named the player of the tournament.

SCORE BOARD

ABAHANI					
Masoom bowled Suru	15				
R Lamba run out	18				
Farooque run out	2				
Akram std Ramesh b Bulbul	25				
Sujon run out	5				
Selim c Jahangir b Bulbul	20				
Asoka-De-Silva c Md Ali b Bulbul	2				
Pappu run out	19				
Prince not out	26				
Babu c Jahangir b Dulu	7				
Effie run out	0				
Extras (b-6, lb-8, wb-2, nb-2)	24				
Total	163	in 44 overs			
Fall of wicket:	1/38, 2/38, 3/50, 4/73, 5/91, 6/101, 7/107, 8/151, 9/161, 10/163.				
BOWLING	O	M	R	W	
Gamage	7	3	21	0	
Dulu	8	0	34	1	
Nannu	2	0	10	0	
Suru	5	0	15	1	
Shantoo	9	0	22	0	
Bulbul	9	1	24	3	
Wahid	4	0	23	0	

MOHAMMEDANS

Shantoo lbw Prince	2			
Jahangir bowled Babu	36			
Bulbul c Pappu b Prince	0			
Ramesh c b Asoka-De-Silva	33			
Rafiq c Ants (sub) b Effie	33			
Nannu c Pappu b Babu	0			
Suru bowled Effie	9			
Gamage run out	0			
Mohammed Ali bowled Asoka-De-Silva	5			
Dulu lbw Masoom	9			
Wahed not out	4			
Extras (b-6, lb-7, wb 9, nb-3)25				
44 overs, all but for 156				
Fall of wicket: 1/6, 2/10, 3/67, 4/107, 5/107, 6/124, 7/127, 8/131, 9/144, 10/156.				
BOWLING	O	M	R	W
Prince	6	0	15	2
Babu	7	2	21	2
R Lamba	2	0	11	0
Asoka-De-Silva	8	0	24	2
Selim	5	0	20	0

Umpires: Asgar and Milky



G M NOWSHER PRINCE man-of-the-match



RAMAN LAMBA... man-of-the-tourney

and he showed it, though without resorting to any tantrums.

Lamba's unfortunate dismissal did nothing to caution the latter.

Abahani batsmen who gifted away four more wickets to their rivals mainly through some appalling running between the wickets.

Skipper Farooque was run out for two, Khaled Mahmood Sujon for five, wicket-keeper Shahiduzzaman Pappu for 19, and last man Shahidul Alam

ROLL OF HONOUR

Years	Champion	Runners-up
79-80	Biman	Mohammedans
80-81	Abahani	Mohammedans
81-82	Abahani	Mohammedans
82-83	Mohammedans	Abahani
83-84	Mohammedans	Azad Boys
84-85	Abahani	Mohammedans
85-86	Mohammedans	Abahani
86-87	Mohammedans	Young Pegasus
87-88	Abahani	Mohammedans
88-89	Mohammedans	Abahani
89-90	Mohammedans	Brothers Union
90-91	Mohammedans	GMCC
91-92	Abahani	Mohammedans



Abahani skipper Farooque Ahmed (2nd from L) receives the championship trophy from Foreign Minister and BCCB chief ASM Mustafizur Rahman (R) after yesterday's final. —Star photo

meet since its inception in the 1979-80 season and had won the title on seven occasions, the last three seasons on the trot — appeared to have won half the battle by calling correctly during the spin of the coin. And quite expectedly, asked Abahani to bat first on the bald track, hoping no doubt to exploit the moisture in the wicket from the overnight dew.

When Raman Lamba, Abahani's Indian Star, and Zahed Razaq Masoom, the two in-form openers who had shown such staggering form in the matches leading up to the final went out to open the Abahani innings, there was a

Effi for nought. Abahani seemed to have vindicated Nannoo's decision to field first by slumping to five for 91 after 31.4 overs. They slid further when the seventh wicket fell at 107 after 35.1 overs. At that stage Abahani's goose looked well and truly cooked.

Just then, keeping with the glorious uncertainties of the game, Abahani found their men for the crisis in left-arm paceman Golam Nowsher Prince and wicket-keeper Shahiduzzaman Pappu. These two set about repairing the damage by putting on a priceless 44 runs off only 43 balls with Prince playing the senior

keeper's gloves. Jahangir Alam, the other opener in good nick this season, was then joined by Sri Lankan wicket-keeper Ramesh Kaluwirathna and the two furthered the total to 67, their 57-run stand coming in only 12.5 overs, mainly because of the attacking approach of Ramesh.

The diminutive Sri Lankan scored a bright 33 off only 44 deliveries with two crisp fours and a towering six over long on off Raman Lamba's medium-pace, before giving a hot return catch to his compatriot Asoka De Silva.

Jahangir was bowled all ends up, for 36, the top score

exhibition tournament in Canada. Those defeats spurred Norwegian coach Even Pellerud to revise his training methods.

"We got a shock last year with their speed, so we worked very hard to close that gap," Pellerud said. "We have developed by training with men and playing with men, when our teams are together, once a week. And we had to develop out playing ability, under pressure because the speed in the Norwegian league is bad."

Norway started out the FIFA tournament with a 4-0 loss to China before rebounding with four straight victories, including a 4-1 decision over Sweden in the semifinals Wednesday.

US, Norway in W. Cup final

CANTON, China, Nov 29: For two nations, differing widely in style, history and location, the

women's soccer teams of the United States and Norway know each other well, reports AP.

That familiarity, as well as those differences, take the stage Saturday night when the United States plays Norway in the final game of the first FIFIA world women's championship.

"They know us very well, and we know them very well," said Norway midfielder Brithe Hegstad, who played collegiately at North Carolina. "I think we have an advantage in

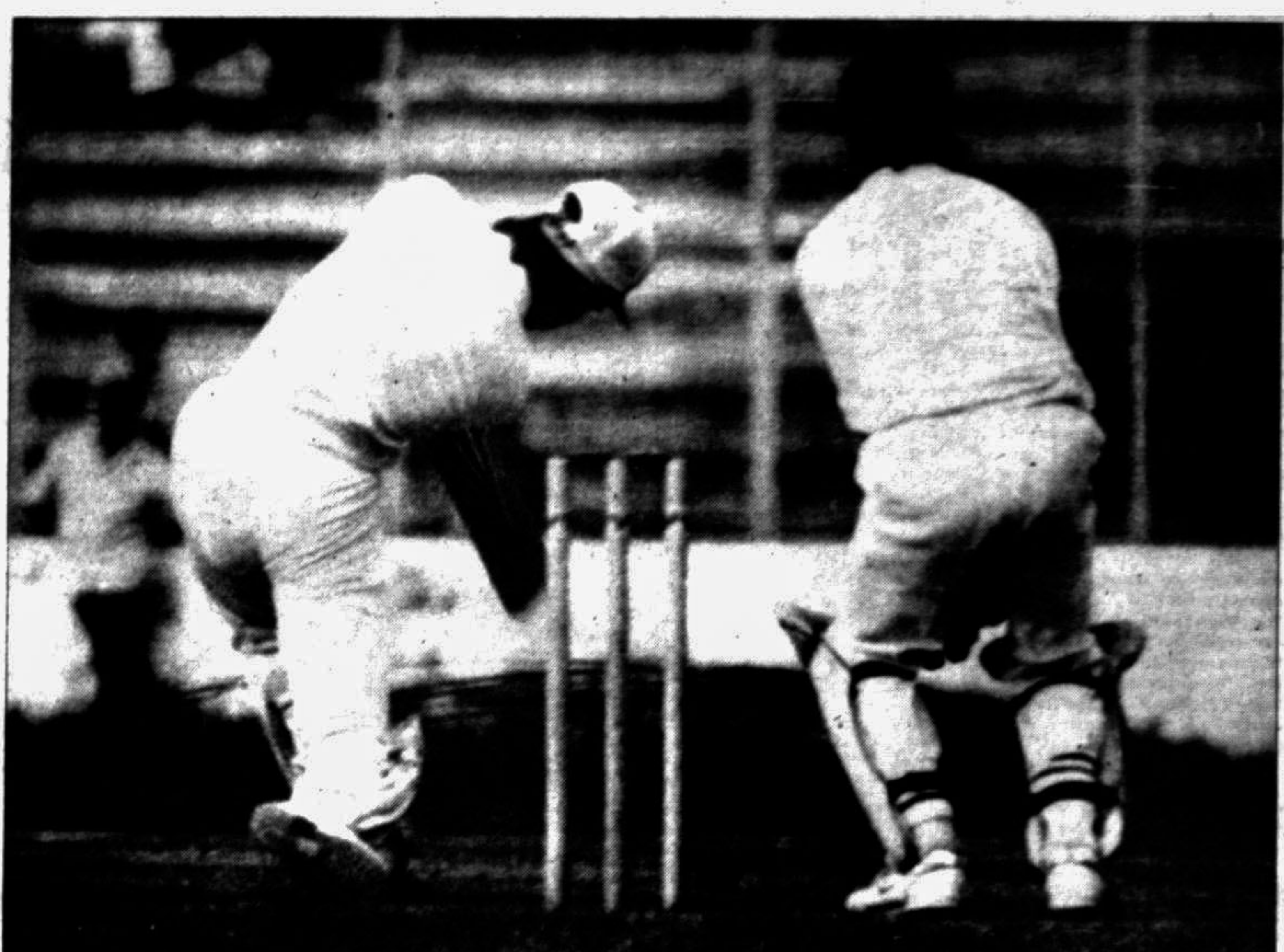
Victoria Sporting's platinum jubilee

Sports Reporter Victoria Sporting Club, one of the leading sports clubs of the country, yesterday celebrated its platinum jubilee at an impressive function at a local hotel in the evening.

Once a leading force in the country's football and cricket and hockey leagues, the club which can no longer afford to compete in the title-races because of the ever-mounting costs, was founded in Dhaka 75 years ago.

Chief guest Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman stressed the need for professionalism in sports, particularly in football in the country.

He said professionalism is a must for the betterment of sports.



Mohammedan Sporting opener Jahangir Alam is clean bowled by Abahani medium-pace Khairuzaman Babu for 36 in yesterday's Damal Summer final. —Star photo

Hosts Pabna win nat'l clay pigeon shooting title

PABNA, Nov 29: Mubarak Hossain Ratan of Pabna Rifle Club emerged the champion in the fourth national clay pigeon championships which concluded here today, reports UNB.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas distributed prizes among the winners of the three day competition held at the Mansurabad shooting range this afternoon.

He hoped that the shooters of the country would be able to show better performance in international shooting.

Justice Minister and President of National Shooting Federation Brig (Retd) ASM Hannan Shah, and Group Captain (Retd) Saiful Azam, MP, also spoke on the occasion.

Organised by the National Shooting Federation, 60 shooters of 33 clubs from all over the country took part in the competition.

Eleven shooters participated in today's final round.

Mubarak Hossain Ratan of Pabna Rifle Club scored 138 points, Haji Abdul Berek of Dhaka Rifle Club 110 and Iftekhar Hossain of Gulshan Shooting Club with 109 points to finish first, second and third respectively.

Pabna Rifle Club, Dhaka Rifle Club and Gulshan Club also got three special prizes.

Other prize winners, according to the points were: Nuruddin Selim — Chittagong Rifle Club (105), Altamas Kabir — Dhaka Rifle Club (104), MA Gaffar — Gulshan Shooting Club (103), Ashrafuul Alam — Patia Shooting Club, Chittagong (101), Naimul Haq Chand — Rajshahi Shooting Club (95), Iqbal Islam — Comilla Shooting Club (94), Tariqul Islam — Pabna Shooting Club (91) and Helal Uddin — Dhaka Rifle Club (85).

Biman maintain lead

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Bangladesh Biman maintained their smooth flight at the top of the points

table with 30.5 points after the completion of the tenth round matches of the First Division chess league yesterday at the National Sports Council chess room.

The reigning champions, employing the services of national champion Riffat-bjn Sattar, International Master Zillur Rahman Champak, Ziaur Rahman and Rezaul Haque — all had no difficulty in outplaying Anushilan Daba Krira Chakra by 4-0 points in yesterday's encounters.

Last year's runners-up Bangladesh Ansars remained close on Biman's heels with 28 points.

Ansars were forced to struggle to for a 2.5 to 1.5 points victory over Chalanika Krira Chakra yesterday.

BTMC are way behind in the third position with 24.5 points after a hard-fought 2.5 to 1.5 points win over Pony Electronics.

Brothers Union, Free Birds International and Pony

Jhenidah soccer JHENIDAH, Nov 29: Abahani Krira Chakra will face Mukul Smriti Sangha of Jhenidah today in the final match of Shaheed Sergeant Enayet Karim football league, reports UNB.

Organised by Zila Krira Sangstha, a total of eight teams participated in the league.

Six-a-side meet from today

Sports Reporter

The second R V six-a-side cricket tournament organised by the Dhaka Cricket Players' Association (DCPA) will begin today simultaneously at the Dhaka Stadium and Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Seventeen teams will be taking part, divided into four groups.

The top teams in each of the groups will play for the R V Cup while the bottom two teams of each group will play for the R V Plate.

All the Cup and Plate matches will be played on a knock-out basis.

Matches will be played between two teams of six players each consisting of a maximum of five six ball overs to be bowled by each side.

Each member of the fielding side shall bowl one over with the exception of the wicket-keeper. A wide shall count as four extras to the batting side and an extra ball shall be bowled.

The three-day tourney will start at 8.30 am everyday and only old balls will be used. There will be no lunch break and matches may even be played at night under floodlights if required.

The clubs will have to field their own registered local players.

The champions and runners-up of both the R V Cup and Plate will receive trophies. There will also be prizes for highest six-hitter, highest run-scorer, highest wicket-taker, best all-rounder and the man of the match in both R V Cup and Plate categories.

The teams in different groups are:

Group A: Biman, PWD, Wari Club, Ajax and Young Pegasus.

Group B: Wanderers, Victoria, Lalmatia and Kalabagan.

Group C: Brothers, GMCC, Rupali Bank and BKSP.

Group D: Mohammedans, Victoria, Lalmatia and Kalabagan.

The Group A and D matches will be held at the Dhaka Stadium and Group B and C will play at DCS.

The organisers have made a few changes to normal cricketing laws for the purpose of making the tournament more exciting.

Under the by-laws framed for the meet, there will be no leg before dismissals, nor shall a batsman be dismissed hit-wicket. Again, instead of eleven players only six will field throughout the course of each five-overs innings.

Following is the schedule for the three-day tournament:

FIXTURE

Matches of Groups A and D

Venue: Dhaka Stadium

SL	Time	Group	Game
1	8-30 to 8-50		
	9-10 to 9-30	A	Biman vs Young Pegasus
2	8-50 to 9-10		
	9-30 to 9-50	D	Victoria vs Kalabagan
3	9-50 to 10-10		
	10-30 to 10-50	A	PWD vs Ajax SC
4	10-10 to 10-30		
	10-50 to 11-10	A	Biman vs Wari Club
5	11-10 to 11-30		
	11-50 to 12-10	D	Mohammedan vs Lalmatia
6	11-30 to 11-50		
	12-10 to 12-30	A	Young Pegasus vs Ajax SC
7	12-30 to 12-50		
	1-10 to 1-30	D	Victoria vs Lalmatia
8	12-50 to 1-10		
	1-30 to 1-50	A	PWD vs Wari Club
9	1-50 to 2-10		
	2-30 to 2-50	D	Mohammedan vs Kalabagan
10	2-10 to 2-30		
	2-50 to 3-10	A	Biman vs Ajax SC
11	3-10 to 3-30		
	3-50 to 4-10	D	Lalmatia vs Kalabagan
12	3-30 to 3-50		
	4-10 to 4-30	A	PWD vs Young Pegasus
13	4-30 to 4-50		
	5-10 to 5-30	D	Mohammedan vs Victoria
14	4-50 to 5-10		
	5-30 to 5-50	A	Wari Club vs Ajax SC
15	5-50 to 6-10		
	6-30 to 6-50	A	Biman vs PWD SC
16	6-10 to 6-30		
	6-50 to 7-10	A	Wari Club vs Young Pegasus

Matches of Groups B and C

Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

SL	Time	Group	Game
1	8-30 to 8-50		
	9-10 to 9-30	B	Surjo Tarun vs Wanderers
2	8-50 to 9-10		
	9-30 to 9-50	C	Brothers Union vs Rupali Bank
3	9-50 to 10-10		
	10-30 to 10-50	B	Abahani KC vs Uditi Club
4	10-10 to 10-30		
	10-50 to 11-10	C	GMCC vs BKSP
5	11-10 to 11-30		
	11-50 to 12-10	B	Wanderers vs Uditi Club
6	11-30 to 11-50		
	12-10 to 12-30	C	Brothers Union vs BKSP
7	12-30 to 12-50		
	1-10 to 1-30	B	Abahani KC vs Surjo Tarun
8	12-50 to 1-10		
	1-30 to 1-50	C	GMCC vs Rupali Bank
9	1-50 to 2-10		
	2-30 to 2-50	B	Surjo Tarun vs Uditi Club
10	2-10 to 2-30		
	2-50 to 3-10	C	Rupali Bank vs BKSP
11	3-10 to 3-30		
	3-50 to 4-10	B	Wanderers vs Abahani KC
12	3		