

Action from yesterday's Navana league match between Brothers Union and Wari Club at the Dhaka Stadium. —Star photo

## Nobel savages Wari attack

Reigning champions Brothers Union returned to winning ways after their shock defeat at the hands of newly-promoted PWD in the inaugural match this year's Navana Premier Division league when they crushed Wari Club, another new promotee, by a thumping margin of nine wickets at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Wari batted first and found the going tough in the face of some tight, accurate bowling by the Brothers bowlers.

The predicament of the Wari batsmen is borne out by the fact that only four of them reached double figures while Mr Sundries was the highest scorer with 36.

Opener Raju was the top scorer with the willow for Wari with a pain-staking 19.

Kamran Bhutto and Zia with 12, 16 and 10 were the other three batsmen to reach double digits in the grand total of 124 from 45 overs.

Brothers skipper Athar Ali's one for nine from nine overs gives ample proof of the strangeness of the bowlers on the batsmen.

However, left-arm spinner Shamsul with three for 25 was the most successful bowler for the Gopibagh Club.

Chasing a scant total

Sports Reporter

Brothers suffered an early casualty when wicket keeper-opener Shovan was run out for three.

But Bangladesh opener Nurul Abedin Nobel was not to be bogged down by this setback.

Batting in a manner as if his side was chasing a 200 plus target, Nobel thrashed the in-



N. ABEDIN NOBEL

experienced Wari bowlers all over the ground in his unorthodox, bludgeoning way. His pyrotechnics fetched him 86 runs with the help of eleven fours and two sixes.

Sumon kept the other end up with 22 not out to see their side through with nine wickets

to spare in only 17.3 overs.

Seasoned Belal batted with his usual aplomb and tried to keep the chance of an upset Rupali victory alive.

The burly veteran scored a swash buckling 80 with the help of six fours and four huge sixes before being bowled by Mont.

Left-arm spinner Mont once again appeared in the role of Biman's saviour with three for 21.

Babu with three for 16 was the other prominent sharer of the spoils for Biman.

Shanu, aware of his responsibilities, batted sensibly to stem the rot before falling to the bearded all-rounder Partha with a patient 46 made with the help of four boundaries.

National all-rounder Enamul Haq Mont departed cheaply but young Piyal, who has been showing his batting prowess from the start of this season, took the burden on his young shoulders to score a fighting 34.

Shabbir ably supported him with 22 before being run out.

Biman finally belly-landed on an insecure total of 166 for nine wickets.

Rupali Bank, which had a hair's-breadth escape last season from suffering the ignominy of being relegated to the Milnar's league, badly needed to cash in on this rather unexpected opportunity. But in the

end, the failure of their officials to rope in experienced players took its toll as the side crashed to a second successive defeat in as many outings to date.

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### SCOREBOARD

WARI CLUB				
Sumon c Shovan			1	
b Fernando			19	
Raju lbw Shamsul			6	
Ershad Beg lbw Athar			16	
Kamran b Arup			12	
Bhutto c Shovan b Shamsul			16	
Dipu run out			9	
Rafiqul b Arup			10	
Zia b Shamsul			10	
Lalu not out			4	
Ashim run out			0	
Timir run out			2	
Extras			36	
Total (all out in 45 overs)			124	
Bowling: O M R W				
Fernando	6	1	12	1
Saad	4	1	20	0
Athar Ali	9	3	9	1
Arup	8	1	12	2
Shamsul	9	1	25	3
Salauddin	9	0	28	0
BROTHERS UNION				
Shovan run out			3	
Nobel not out			86	
Sumon not out			22	
Extras			8	
Total (for 1 wkt in 17.3 overs)			125	
Bowling: O M R W				
Ashim	2	0	21	0
Timir	3	0	21	0
Dipu	2	0	10	0
Rafiqul	5	0	36	0
Zia	3	0	14	0
Lalu	1	0	12	0
Kamran	1.3	0	10	0

## BSWA awards today

The prize-giving ceremony of the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) will be held at the Engineers' Institute from this afternoon.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas will be the chief guest at the function while State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain will attend as a special guest.

The BSWA has requested all concerned, specially the BSWA awardees of 1989 and 1990, to attend function in time.

## IOC extends Barcelona deadline

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Dec 7: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) said on Wednesday five nations had yet to reply to their invitations to next year's Barcelona summer Games, reports Reuter.

The IOC last week extended its original November 25 deadline to the end of the year, saying 14 of the 170 Olympic nations had yet to reply because of "postal difficulties".

By Wednesday, there were still five left - Afghanistan, Brunel, Haiti, Panama and Somalia.

## Inter-services athletics on

Three inter-service records were improved on the opening day of the annual inter-services athletics competition which got underway at the Bangladesh Army Stadium at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday afternoon, says an ISPR press release.

Lnk Moklesur Rahman of the Army set a new inter-services record in the 800m run clocking 1 m 55.19 seconds. The previous record was 1 m 55.70 seconds.

Hav Jahangir Alam, also of the Army, set another inter-services record in the pole vault. He cleared 3.90 metres. The previous record was 3.65 metres.

The Bangladesh Army team set another new meet record in the 4x100m relay taking 41.85 seconds against the previous record of 42.0 seconds.

Bangladesh Army also got another gold medal through Lnk Md Zakir Hossain in the 5000 m race to raise their tally to four gold, two silver and two bronze medals.

Earlier, A R Naim, leading musician of the Bangladesh Navy, clinched the first gold of the meet in the 400 m hurdles. Bangladesh Navy also bagged two silvers and a bronze.

Bangladesh Air Force earned a silver and two bronzes on the opening day.

Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohaminul Islam declared the three-day meet open by releasing balloons. He took salute at the impressive march past by the participating athletes and lit the torch. He also gave away prizes among the winners of the day.

A display of unarmed combat by a group of trainee soldiers of the Army School of Physical Training and Sports (ASPTS) was an added attraction of the day.

Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohaminul Islam inaugurating the inter-services athletics meet at the Army Stadium yesterday.

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# Aussies can be beaten: Azhar

PERTH, Dec 7: India can beat Australia in Sunday's World Series limited-overs game at the WACA Ground here, captain Mohammad Azharuddin, said today, reports AFP.

"If things fall right for us we can do very well," said Azharuddin, buoyed by Friday night's remarkable tie with the West Indies in which each team made all out totals of 126.

It was only the second tie in the 12-year history of the competition and the fourth tie in the world in one-day internationals.

"The result was as good as a win for our spirits, and now Australia will face a much more confident unit than in the first Test in Brisbane a week ago."

"We are heartened and buoyant and I believe we can beat Australia."

Azharuddin paid glowing tribute to his pace quartet - Kapil Dev, Manoj Prabhakar, Jawagal Srinath and Subroto Banerjee - which captured eight of the nine wickets to fall to bowlers as the West Indies

crumpled in spectacular style. "They were very positive and used a moist wicket wonderfully," he said. "It was the best I have ever seen Banerjee bowl."

"Srinath is also improving."

and seems to get better with every game."

Banerjee captured a wonderful 3-30 in his first senior

international for India, while Srinath took 2-27 in his seventh.

"I rate the match as one of the most exciting in which I have ever played," said Azharuddin.

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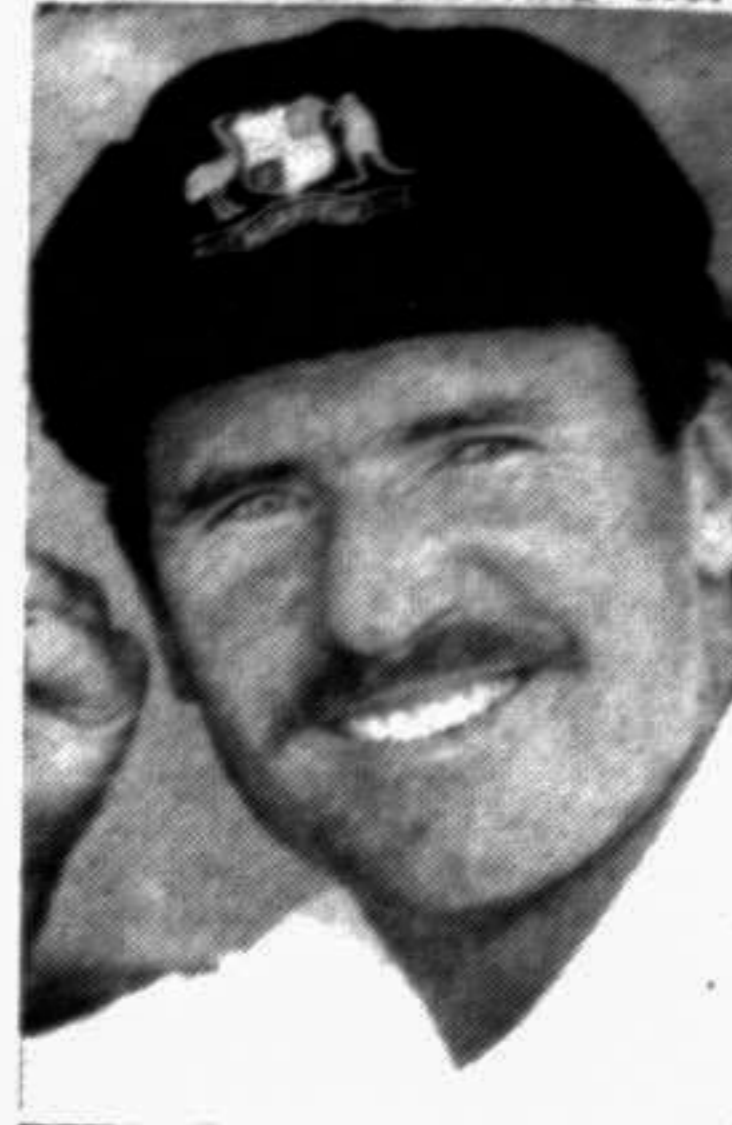
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M. AZHARUDDIN



ALLAN BORDER

## Dakin, Bacher to mend fences

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 7: South African cricket bosses who fell out during last month's landmark tour of India in a controversy over ball-scuttling seek to patch up their relations at a meeting this weekend, reports Reuter.

The United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) meeting on Sunday should have been an unremarkable affair to discuss domestic issues and plot further foreign campaigns now that South Africa is back in world cricket.

But an acrimonious row during the Indian tour, South African cricket's first official international foray since being given a post-apartheid clean bill of health, is likely to dominate the agenda at the UCBSA meeting.

The two men at the centre of the dispute are UCBSA president Geoff Dakin and his managing director, former Springbok captain Ali Bacher.

In a crusading bid to clean up the practice of roughing up one side of the ball to aid the swing of pace bowlers, Bacher agreed with Indian officials halfway through the three-match tour that neither side should adopt the practice.

But Dakin saw the well-meaning intervention as an insult to their hosts and publicly

cast Bacher out in the cold, disassociating the UCBSA from his managing director's comments.

"I only did what I thought was best for World cricket," Bacher said at the time.

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the Indian series, which South Africa lost by two matches to one.

The tour was considered an overwhelming diplomatic and sporting success except for the ball-scuttling incident and officials said privately they now

want to stop any further damage being caused by what is essentially a side issue.

They said it was unlikely that either Bacher or Dakin would have to step down. At a time when South African cricket is coming out of the cold, a split would send the wrong message to the world, they said.

Bacher refuses to comment further on the wrangle, and said he hoped Sunday's talks would once again show the new-found spirit of unity and co-operation among officials.

"I hope Sunday will result in a totally united local cricket scene ready to face the exciting challenges of international competition," Bacher said.

The issue of foreign tours may also provide a further rift between the two best-known faces of South African cricket.

Dakin wants to host Pakistan for a pre-World Cup tour of South Africa, while Bacher wants to keep a promise to the Indians that they would be the first to tour the republic, probably at the end of the year.

Officials say Bacher is likely to win that argument, to show a gesture of appreciation to India for helping South Africa in its successful bid to be re-admitted this year to the International Cricket Council (ICC), the sport's world ruling body.



Geoff Dakin (L) and Ali Bacher in happier times.

## Soviet sports relieved of 'Big Brother'

MOSCOW, Dec 7: The Soviet Union's sports system was stunned Friday by the abolition of GosSport, the government agency that funded, controlled and pumped Communist ideology into generations of champion athletes, reports AP.

The agency ceased operating by order of the State Council, the interim body that has been ruling the country since the failed August coup, as part of efforts to shrink the bloated Soviet bureaucracy.

"Without GosSport, Soviet sports will simply disintegrate," said Leonid Drachevsky, the agency's first deputy chairman and the man ordered to supervise its liquidation.

The demise of GosSport, which funded and coordinated the training of national teams, cast doubt on the Soviet Union's chances at next year's Olympic Games. The order cut off funding to Olympic training camps and sports contests and eliminated salaries for 25,000 athletes and 1,200 coaches.

The move was not entirely unexpected. Government subsidies had all but dried up in recent years due to the country's economic crisis, forcing GosSport to rely solely on a national sports lottery to meet rising costs.

Athletes and coaches also criticized GosSport for exerting undue control over their lives. But they admit that government officials no longer pressure them to win just to prove Communism's superiority.

The Soviet Union has finished first or second in the gold medal count at both the Winter and Summer Olympics since 1956, except for the 1984 Summer Games in Los Angeles, when it boycotted the event.

"I can't even imagine what will happen," Drachevsky said, speaking by telephone from GosSport's drab, four-story headquarters next to Moscow's Lenin Stadium. "This is simply the end."

The remaining 12 Soviet republics agreed last month to