

Brothers dash Abahani hopes

Sports Reporter

Reigning champions Abahani Krira Chakra's grip on the Navana Premier Division cricket league title loosened considerably following their defeat yesterday at the hands of Brothers Union at the Dhaka Stadium.



Abahani batsmen Zakir (l) and skipper Rafiqul Alam walk back to the pavilion after losing the Navana Premier Division cricket league match to Brothers Union by 45 runs at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The win, by 45 runs, left Brothers Union level with former champions Bangladesh Biman at the top of the points table, both sides having lost a match each.

For Abahani, their strength depleted this year following mass desertion of some regular players, it was the second de-

feat in seven games, one less than arch rivals Mohammmedan Sporting Club who have had to abandon their title hopes following three defeats already.

Yet this was a match Abahani needn't have lost. Atrocious fielding, even by their skipper Rafiqul Alam, let the Gopibagh boys back into the game after a most disastrous

overs. But the target proved beyond Abahani's reach and the champions fell behind by 45 runs, managing only 184 runs before being all out in 65.5 of the stipulated 75 overs.

Sri Lankan all-rounder TL Fernando was the Brothers' man of the match. He rescued his team from a disastrous start on Sunday with a splen-

did 50 runs off 36 overs. But the target proved beyond Abahani's reach and the champions fell behind by 45 runs, managing only 184 runs before being all out in 65.5 of the stipulated 75 overs.

Fernando's other victim was Asif who was playing quite well and providing good support to his skipper Rafiq. As long as these two were there, Abahani looked likely to reach their target. But Fernando tricked Asif to so for a hook shot, the ball came late and the youngster popped an easy return easy catch to the waiting hands of the gleeful Fernando. Asif made 24 runs.

Earlier in the Abahani innings Nadir Shah, who was playing positively, deliberately padded up to Prince's incoming delivery and was adjudged leg before wicket for a well-made 35.

Rafiq and Asif added 64 runs for the sixth wicket. Once the partnership was broken, the Abahani tail did not wag for long.

Rafiq top scored with 45 before being clean bowled by his counterpart Atahar Ali. Ehsan, 9, Nishanta, 8, Elzee, 1, Pappu, 6, Sohel, 11, and Golla, 2, were the Abahani batsmen who failed to get going.

G.M. Nawshir Prince claimed three wickets for 46 runs, Salahuddin got two for 12 runs off 10 overs, Arup Bhattacharya got two for 18 and Fernando picked up two for 41.

Brothers, who last to Biman last month after scoring 295 runs, thus crossed a major hurdle in their quest for the championship by beating Abahani.

Abahani resumed yesterday on 49 for two wickets after 14 overs, needing another 181 runs in their remaining 61

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did, quick fine 50 runs off only 26 for four on Sunday. The dropped catches allowed Brothers to repair the early damage and post a respectable 229 all out in 66.5 overs.

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—Star photo

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Otley exacts sweet revenge



SEVILLE, Mar 11: Kenyan Paul Erenge retained his men's 800 metres title at the world indoor athletics championships on Sunday when his compatriot William Tanui was disqualified after finishing first, reports Reuter.

The two Kenyans engaged in a thrilling tussle up the flin straight with Tanui strong enough to hold off Erenge's customary late challenge.

Tanui went off on a lap of honour and shook hands with many fans in the Seville crowd but was shocked to discover later he had been disqualified for cutting in too early after the staggered lane start.

Merlene Otley of Jamaica exacted revenge for her defeat by Irina Sergejeva of the Soviet Union in the 60 metres final on Friday. She comprehensively won the 200 metres equalled her own world record in doing so.

Otley stormed out of the blocks to triumph in 22.24 seconds, the same time as she set in Sindelfingen, Germany, just seven days ago.

Sergejeva was second in 22.41 seconds and Grit Breuer of Germany third in 22.58.

"I knew I had to get out fast", Otley said. "I don't like the turns, they're my hardest point."

"I just wanted to win and if there had been a world record, I would have been very happy. But I'm very satisfied with the gold.

"I wanted to win the 60 metres too but the way I started it was impossible."

Otley had been a world record holder for 10 years.

—Star photo

too for the combined German team in both the 4x400 metres men's and women's relays.

A phenomenal last leg by Grit Breuer helped the women snatch victory from the Soviet Union in a time of three minutes 27.22 seconds, more than a second quicker than the previous record set by the same Soviet quartet two weeks

ago.

gold medallist at a world championships but the silver medallist too in the women's shot.

Sui Xinmei won with a fifth

throw of 20.54 meters from the better known Huang Zhichong, the 1989 World Student Games and World Cup champion, who had led earlier with 20.33 metres.

"It was my dream to beat Christie. He's a great sprinter", he said.

The Briton was clearly dis-

satisfied with his second de-

feat.

"I set high standards. If you settle for a silver, you've got no fresh."

"This defeat hurts. I got beaten by a guy who was fresh."



Jamaican Marlene Otley (l) runs ahead of Soviet Irina Sergejeva, equaling her own world record in the women's 200-m by timing 22.24 seconds during the 3rd World Indoor Championships which concluded in Seville, Spain Sunday. Sergejeva had beaten Otley in the 60-m race a day earlier.

—AFP photo

Rain robs the Aussies

PORT OF SPAIN (Trinidad), March 11: The Australians will always be sure rain robs them of victory in the third one-day international between West Indies and Australia at the Queen's Park Oval on Sunday.



RICHIE RICHARDSON

The coach Bobby Simpson praised Marsh's innings afterwards but added: "It's simple. We would have won but for the rain."

The two sides meet again in Barbados on Wednesday and the final game of the five-match series is in Guyana on March 20.

Australia won the first

match in Jamaica by 35 runs

and the second here on Saturday by 45 runs.

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