

Brothers dash Abahani hopes

Sports Reporter

Reigning champions Abahani Krita 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.

feat in seven games, one less than arch rivals Mohammedan 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 T.L. Fernando was the Brothers' man of the match. He rescued his team from a disastrous start on Sunday with a splen-

did, quick fire 50 runs off only 69 balls and then claimed two vital wickets for 41 runs off 14 overs. The first prize scalp for Fernando was that of ex-Sri Lankan Test Skipper Duleep Mendis, who was hurriedly drafted by Abahani KC to shore up their brittle batting line-up in a bid to retain the title. The

of practice Mendis was out for eight, falling leg before to as the ball cut back and kept considerably low, allowing him no chance to bring his bat down. 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, Effic, 1, Pappu, 6, Sohel, 11, and Golla, 2, were the Abahani batsmen who failed to get going.

G.M. Nawsher 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.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Lalmatia vs Biman - (D Stadium)

Surja Tarun vs Gulshan Youth - (DCS)



Abahani batsmen Zakir (1) 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-

start that had them reeling at 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.

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

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 T.L. Fernando was the Brothers' man of the match. He rescued his team from a disastrous start on Sunday with a splen-

Rain robs the Aussies

PORT OF SPAIN (Trinidad), March 11: The Australians will always be sure rain robbed them of victory in the third one-day international against West Indies here Sunday, reports APP.

There was a two-hour delay due to heavy rain after the Australian innings in which they made 245, which appeared to be a winning total.

The West Indies target was reduced to 181 from 36 overs and they won with seven wickets in hand thanks to a marvellous 90 at a run a ball by number three batsman Richie Richardson who hit a century in the first Test in Jamaica last month.

The result kept the series alive at a time when it appeared that the Australians were going to be the first side to win a one-day series in the West Indies and to complete a record run of six defeats for the home team.

Afterwards Viv Richards, the West Indies captain, said: "This series is still alive. Richie played a wonderful knock. We really needed some one to bat through our innings."

Richardson, whose 50 took only 59 balls, made his 90 out of 132 runs and was named

man-of-the-match. Geoff Marsh, playing in his 100th one-day international, made 81 runs in the solid bedrock of the Australian innings.



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.

More than a million local dollar came in at the gate in the two week-end games which were both watched by capacity crowd of more than 30,000.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the third one-day cricket international between West Indies and Australia at the Queen's Park Oval on Sunday:

AUSTRALIA

Marsh b Gray 81

Taylor c Haynes b Ambrose 3

Jones c Richards b Gray 36

M. Waugh b Simmons 17

Border c Dujon b Patterson 22

S. Waugh b Ambrose 23

Healy not out 33

P. Taylor b Ambrose 2

McDermott not out 25

Extras (b-2 lb-10 nb-4 w-9)

Total (for seven wickets-49 overs)

245

Fall of wickets: 1-13; 2-82; 3-116; 4-165; 5-191; 6-225; 7-239.

Did not bat: M. Whitney, B. Reid

BOWLING: O M R W

Ambrose 10 1 37 3

Patterson 9 0 52 1

Gray 10 0 59 2
Simmons 10 0 35 1
Hooper 10 0 50 0

WEST INDIES

Simmons c

Healy b Reid 0

Haynes b S. Waugh 16

Richardson c

Border b M. Waugh 90

Greenidge not out 40

Logie not out 24

Extras (b-1 lb-5 w-3 nb-2)

Total (for three wickets-33.3 overs)

181

Fall of wickets: 1-3; 2-72; 3-132.

Did not bat: V. Richards, C. Hooper, J. Dujon, C. Ambrose, T. Gray, P. Patterson.

BOWLING: O M R W

Reid 7 0 28 1

McDermott 5 0 1 0

S. Waugh 7 0 39 1

P. Taylor 2 0 17 0

Whitney 7 0 38 0

M. Waugh 5.3 0 32 1

Result: West Indies won on a faster scoring rate

First match: Kingston, Feb 26

- Australia won by 35 runs

Second match: Port of Spain, March 9 - Australia won by 45 runs

Fourth match: Bridgetown, March 13

Fifth match: Georgetown, March 20

Ottey exacts sweet revenge



SEVILLE, Mar 11: Kenyan Paul Ereng 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 final straight with Tanui strong enough to hold off Ereng'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 Ottey of Jamaica exacted revenge for her defeat by Irina Sergeyeva 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.

Ottey stormed out of the blocks to triumph in 22.24 seconds, the same time as she set in Sindelfingen, Germany, just seven days ago. Sergeyeva was second in 22.41 seconds and Grit Breuer of Germany third in 22.58.

"I knew I had to get out fast", Ottey 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."

Christie beaten

Nikolai Antonov of Bulgaria produced the upset of the day by beating Briton Linford Christie in the men's 200 metres with a thundering surge in the final straight.

Christie, relegated to silver as he was by American Andre Cason in the 60 metres, was fastest away and opened up a gap on the back straight.

But the Bulgarian moved up a gear at the 100-metre mark and zipped down the home straight to edge Christie on the line, clocking 20.67 seconds to the Briton's 20.72.

Ade Mafe of Britain captured the bronze in 20.92. Mikhail Schennikov of the Soviet Union set a world record of 18 minutes 23.55 seconds in the men's five-km walk, his third gold with a world record in three world indoor championships.

Christine Wachtel, formerly of East Germany but now of the united German team, also emerged as a triple winner. She repeated her 1987 and 1989 triumphs in the 800 metres, beating Romanians Violeta Beclea and Ella Kovacs into the other medal positions.

There were world records

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

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

Sui Xinmei won with a fifth throw of 20.54 metres from the better known Huang Zhihong, 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 disatisfied with his second defeat.

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

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



Jamaican Marlene Ottey (1) runs ahead of Soviet Irina Sergeyeva, equalling her own previous 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. Sergeyeva had beaten Ottey in the 60-m race a day earlier.

ago in Paris.

The Soviet team clocked 3:27.95, also within their Paris time of 3:28.80.

Thomas Schoenlebe repeated the feat in the men's race, making up a big deficit to beat American Antonio McKay on the finish line.

The Germans' time of 3:05.05 and the Americans' time of 3:03.24 were both inside the old record of 3:05.21 set by the US in 1989.

Four-lap champion Ereng, who stayed will at the back of the field before moving up after the bell, said he was not disappointed to have won because of Tanui's disqualification.

"It's what the sport is all about," he said, adding that he had watched a film of the race which showed that Tanui had three times stepped over the line before the break of lanes.

"I'm just happy to have come back to be the champion again," he said. "I haven't run a lot of races this year."

There was a lot of bunching which made passing difficult. I had to go round them so I had to run more of a distance."

Chinese feat

China broke new ground by producing not just their first

American Hollis Coway became only the seventh high jumper ever to clear 2.40 metres, indoors or outdoors, as he won gold.

The American had three unsuccessful attempts at a world indoor record of 2.44 metres, one centimetre higher than Cuban Javier Sotomayor's best mark.

Sotomayor shared bronze with Alexei Yemelin of the Soviet Union after jumping 2.31 metres. Artur Partyka of Poland took silver with 2.37 metres.

The 1987 world indoor champion, 30-year-old Irishman Frank O' Mara, produced a scintillating run to win the men's 3,000 metres in a championship record time of seven minutes 41.14 seconds.

O' Mara shocked race favourite and front-runner Hammou Boutayeb by surging past him with more than two laps to go and produced a blistering burst up the final back straight to leave the Moroccan trailing well behind.

The Irishman waved to the crowd as he came out of the final bend and raised his arms in triumph before crossing the line.

Antonov was overjoyed at his victory in the men's 200 metres.

But I'm greedy. In Tokyo (venue for August's outdoor world championships), I'll go for 100 and 200 metres. Being greedy is a sign of ambition."

MEDAL TABLE

Final medals table at the world indoor athletics championships which ended on Sunday:

	G	S	B
Soviet Union	7	6	4
Germany	6	1	2
United States	4	1	2
Jamaica	2	1	0
France	1	1	1
China	1	1	0
Kenya	1	1	0
Switzerland	1	0	1
Algeria	1	0	0
Bulgaria	1	0	0
Ireland	1	0	0
Spain	0	3	1
Romania	0	2	3
Britain	0	2	2
Cuba	0	1	3
Italy	0	1	3
Austria	0	1	0
Australia	0	1	0
Czechoslovakia	0	1	0
Morocco	0	1	0
Poland	0	1	0
Canada	0	0	2
Nigeria	0	0	1
Portugal	0	0	1
Sweden	0	0	1

(Note: Two bronze medals were awarded in the men's high jump)

Sabatini outplays Graf



BOCA RATON (Florida), Mar 11: Gabriela Sabatini put all elements of her now well-rounded game together to beat top-seeded Steffi Graf 6-4, 7-6 on Sunday to repeat as champion of the 500,000-dollar Virginia Slims of Florida women's tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

"I think I have everything," said Sabatini, who earned 100,000 dollars for her victory. "I've started to use everything and I feel very comfortable with many shots."

Graf, who will lose her number one ranking today to Monica Seles after a reign of more than three years, did not have control of her vaunted forehand as once again she fell to the Florida jinx which seems to doom her against Sabatini.

The fourth-ranked Argent-

ine, who trails 20-7 in their career match-up, has beaten Graf all four times they have played in Florida.

"It's disappointing," said Graf, who settled for 40,000 dollars. "I played so well the other days, but I wasn't able to do it today. I wish I could've, but she played well."

Sabatini has gone from being just a force from the baseline to a player who can dominate all over the court.

Not long ago it was something special to see Sabatini at the net. Since gaining confidence with her volley Sabatini's game has soared and brought her first Grand Slam title at last year's US Open.

Against Graf, the Argentine won 23 of 36 points she contested at the net.

"I'm the more aggressive on court," Sabatini said when asked to explain her recent success against Graf, whom

she has beaten four of the last seven times they played. "I'm attacking more, probably I'm the more complete player."

Graf's forehand, which was looking sharp all week, let their down in the finals. She made 25 unforced forehand errors in the one-hour 59-minute match.

National tennis

Sports Reporter

Twenty-six matches were held on the second-day of the qualifying round of the national tennis championships yesterday at the National Tennis Complex, Ramna.

Eighty-six players including 12 women from eight teams from the four divisions are taking part in the six-day meet.

Nine second round matches of the men's singles selection were held in the morning.

Sixteen men's singles (main draw) matches of the first round and one men's doubles first round match were also held yesterday in the afternoon.

All the qualifying matches will start today 8 am.

Khulna top jr wrestling

Sports Reporter

Khulna District Sports Association emerged champions winning six gold, seven silver and one bronze medal on the concluding day of the tenth national mini-cadet wrestling competition organised by the Bangladesh Amateur Wrestling Federation yesterday at the National Coaching Centre.

Seventy-five junior wrestlers from eight teams took part in the three-day meet.

Major General Mahbubur Rahman, Chairman of the National Sports Council, gave away the prizes among the winners.

Neither player could hold serve in the opening three games before Sabatini held for a 3-1 lead.

The Argentine had two set points on Graf's serve in the ninth game, but the German made her wait. Graf, however, could not convert two break points she had in the 10th game and Sabatini held for the set.

"I had chances but I wasn't ready," Graf said. "The one thing that really annoyed me was the break points. Even in the second set, a chance to go up 4-2."

After exchanging early breaks in the second set, Graf had a chance to break Sabatini three times in the sixth game but failed to capitalise.

There were no more breaks of serve although Sabatini had five chances to break in the 11th game.

Angels fly high

Sports Reporter

Angels Club continued their winning spree with their fourth straight win beating Dhaka Wanderers Club 86-71 in the super league match of the Partex First Division basketball league yesterday at the wooden-floor basketball gymnasium.

Angels led comfortably 51-37 at the breather. Dulal with 26 points, and Mamoun and Ami with 14 each were the leading scorers for Angels Club while Dhaka Wanderers, led by their old campaigner Zillur with 23 points kept the Angels defenders busy.

Vega sports and Angels have 28 points each but Vega have played one match more than Angels.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Gregs vs Wanderers - (3:00 pm)

Angels vs Winners - (4:30 pm)

Gascoigne offered 12 million dollars

ROME, Mar 11: Italian First Division soccer club Lazio confirmed they had made a 12-million-dollar offer for Tottenham and England midfielder Paul Gascoigne, reports Reuter.

Club president Gian Marco Calleri confirmed the offer but said he feared the news leak might provoke a public auction for the player, causing the purchase price to rise.

Speaking this weekend before Lazio's game against Bari, Calleri said the Rome Club would abandon the attempt to sign Gascoigne if other clubs became involved and there were delays in reaching an agreement.

Calleri had a six-hour meeting with Gascoigne's agent Leonard Lazarus and lawyer Mel Stein in Rome on Thursday.

Pioneer soccer final today

Sports Reporter

The final match of the Pioneer football league will be held today between Bashaboo Tarun Sangha and Gandaria Famous SC at the Outer Stadium.

The match will kick-off at 2:45 pm.

Major General Mahbubur Rahman, Chairman of the National Sports Council will be the chief guest.

Courier caps a fine week

INDIAN WELLS, Mar 11: Jim Courier had pulled upsets all week at the Champions Cup. His last one was the longest, hardest and sweetest, reports AP.

Courier captured only the second singles title of his career Sunday by defeated France's Guy Forget 4-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (7-4).

"This is the best tennis I've played, there's no question about that," said Courier, of Dade City, Florida.