

# Abahani overcome Tarun

Sports Reporter

Abahani Kriya Chakra overcame a jittery start to post a comfortable seven-wicket victory over Surja Tarun Club in yesterday's Navana Premier Division cricket league match at the Dhaka Stadium.

Put into bat by Abahani skipper Farooque Ahmed, Surja Tarun batted through their stipulated 45 overs to raise a total of 161 for six wickets.

Opener Tito top scored for Tarun with 55. During his 132-ball knock Tito sent the ball to the ropes three times.

Sri Lankan batsman Aruna De Silva batted responsibly to remain unbeaten on 43.

Suppi, in a late flourish, smashed 25 with the help of a six in only 18 balls.

Off-spinner Effece was Abahani's most successful bowler with three for 38.

Tarun opening bowler Mazbee set the alarm bells ringing in the Abahani camp when he sent back Raman Lamba and Zahed Masum — the

point d'appui of Abahani batting — within 25 runs. Farooque, who prompted himself to the role of an opener, could not break the jinx and after playing a few shots nicked one behind the stumps from Suppi for 20.

Khalid Mahmood Sujon and Akram Khan who seemed to have reconciled themselves with their lots as saviours drew their side from the oxygen net.

From 25 for three these two took their side to victory with an unbroken stand of

137 runs for the fourth wicket. Sujon, in his 91-ball knock of 55, hit four fours and one six.

Akram played one ball more than his smaller and younger peer to make 77 with six beefy boundaries.

Although pestered by the marauding Abahani pair Mazbee emerged as the best Tarun bowler with figures of two for 53.

Suppi produced a tight opening spell to finish with one for 15.

## PWD beat Wari easily

Sports Reporter

PWD Club continued their winning march with an emphatic five wicket victory over weak Wari Club in the Navana Premier Division cricket league match yesterday at the Dhanmohi Cricket Stadium.

Electing to bat first, Wari struggled all along to manage 112 for nine wickets from their quota of 45 overs.

Lower-order batsman Kajal was the top scorer for his side with 34, inclusive of three fours.

Zia followed him with 18. Anwar was the pick of the PWD bowlers with figures of three for 18. Chasing an easy

target of 114 PWD made a heavy weather before settling down to cruise home with five wickets to spare.

Sri Lankan wicket-keeper Ramesh Kaluwirathave top scored with 28 with three hits to the fence.

Tutul with 20 and Ehsan with 18 not out were the other notable scorers.

Lalu bowled well for Wari for figures of two for 17.

### TODAY'S MATCHES

Brothers Union vs Kalamati (Dhaka Stadium). Bangladesh Biman vs Lalmita (Dhaka Stadium).

## Wanderers beat Agrani Bank

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Wanderers Club registered a huge seven-wicket victory over Agrani Bank in the Milnars First Division cricket league match at the Mirpur City Club ground, Pallab, yesterday.

Batting first, Agrani Bank were dismissed for 131 with skipper Tow-ri top scoring with 42 with the help of four fours.

Intoo was the other notable scorer with 26, inclusive of two fours.

Extras were the third highest scorer with 22. Imtiaz was the wicket-taker with four for 20.

Halim Babu's leg-spin earned him three wickets for only twelve runs.

The Wanderers opening pair of Babu and Kiron sealed the fate of the match with a fine partnership of 69 runs for the first wicket.

Babu struck five fours in his innings of 58 off 107 balls.

Kiron scored 33 with the help of four boundaries, and Wanderers were home and dry with seven wickets and nearly four overs to spare.

## Hosts Naogaon reach semis

Sports Reporter

Hosts Naogaon DSA moved into the semifinals of the eighth national youth under-19 football championship for the Shurwardy Cup.

They beat Ntrakona DSA by five goals to four in the tie-breaker after the match ended in a 1-1 draw.

After a barren first half, Touhidul Islam Sabu put Naogaon in the lead in the 15th minute of the second half.

But to the dismay of the partisan crowd, Babul Das equalised for Netrokona in the 26th minute of the second session.

In the tie-breaker, Masudur Rahman Rana, Serajul Islam, Badul Hussain Mondol, Abdus Sattar and Belal Hussain scored for the winners while Syed Khan Biplab, Selim (Jr), Ehsanul Haq Tito and Ponce netted for the losers.

Naogaon will now meet Pabna DSA on January 4.

The first semifinal of the tournament, between Khulna and Tangail, will be held this afternoon.

The final of the tournament is scheduled for January 6.

## Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Maniknagar Unnayan Samity, Kalindi Kriya Chakra, Nawab Katra Juba Sangha, Swarup Kriya Chakra and Shatadal Samajik-o-Sangskritik Sangha won their respective matches of the Janata Bank 1991 Pioneer football league yesterday at three different city venues.

Kalindi trounced Dhaka Dynamo Club 3-0 at the Outer Stadium.

In the other match at the Outer Stadium, Nawab Katra edged past Chankhar Pool Kishore Sangha 1-0.

Zahirul Islam Jiton netted the match-decider.

At the Dhooiphola ground, Swarup KC beat Mugdpara Samaj Kalyan-o-Kriya Sangsad by a solitary goal.

Apu scored for the winners.

Shatadal Samajik-o-Sangskritik Sangha outplayed Kaligari Palli Unnayan Samity by two goals to nil at the Jagannath University College ground.

Hanif Pradhan slammed both the goals for the winners.

In the other match at the same venue, Maniknagar Samity recorded a 2-0 victory over Pardogari Kriya, Samaj Kalyan Sangha.

## England's winning start

AUCKLAND, Jan 2: England shook off the cobwebs in the first match of their tour of New Zealand today with an exciting five-wicket victory over Auckland achieved off the penultimate ball, reports Reuter.

Set a modest target of 157 by Auckland, England got off to a disastrous start when captain Graham Gooch and vice captain Alec Stewart failed to reach double figures.

Auckland, with seven international players, were severely constrained in their innings by tight English bowling and the inspirational off-spin of Phil Tufnell.

The New Zealanders were 90 for 6 at one stage, but recovered to set England what appeared to be an easy target of 157.

After the openers departed, Lancashire left-hander Neal Fairbrother and Northamptonshire's Allan Lamb settled in to reach the target. Fairbrother was dismissed after scoring 44, and Lamb scored 27.

Graeme Hick, hoping to recover the scoring form that deserted him last year in his debut season for England, took control for the last dozen overs, finishing with 34 not out.

England were given a glimpse of the pace bowling of top New Zealander Danny Morrison, who finished with figures of one for 22 off nine overs. Morrison ensured an exciting finish by bowling a maiden in the penultimate over.

Hong Kong-born all-rounder Dermot Rice was unable to score off the tight bowling, and Hick ended the game with a lucky four off the top edge of his bat from the fifth ball of the last over.

Stewart's quick dismissal today appears likely to arouse controversy over the decision to make him opener alongside Gooch. Stewart, a wicket-keeper, has said he prefers batting lower in the order.

Hick, seen as a more reliable opener, knows New Zealand wickets intimately as he has played here for two seasons and its slow, scanning wickets are his speciality.

Steve Brown was the best of the Auckland bowlers, taking two for 21 from 10 overs.

Earlier, England's bowlers applied themselves well to restrict the Auckland total.

Only Alan Hunt (34 not out) and Test opener John Wright (21) were able to score well enough to give the Auckland total respectability.

Left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell wrecked the Auckland innings, taking four wickets for 25.

England travel to Hamilton overnight for a three-day match against New Zealand Emerging Players beginning on Friday.

England and New Zealand will play three Test matches and three one-day internationals.

## Anand, Gelfand share lead

REGGIO EMILIA, Italy, Jan 2: World chess champion Garry Kasparov was forced to concede a draw on Wednesday after a five-four battle against Boris Gelfand of Belarus, reports Reuter.

The draw meant Gelfand had to share the lead in the tournament with Indian Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand, who caught up with him in Wednesday's fifth round.

Anand, who beat Lev Polugayevsk of Russia, is the only one of the players not to have been born in the former Soviet Union.

Gelfand, the tournament's only remaining undefeated player, used a King's Indian defence against Kasparov.

So far, only three players, including Gelfand, have managed to win when playing black in this tournament. Gelfand will play next against Alexander Khalifman of Russia, who on Wednesday suffered his first defeat in the tournament.

In today's sixth round, Anand plays white against former world champion Anatoly Karpov and is hoping for a revenge after his world championship quarter-final defeat by Karpov in Brussels last August.

## Women getting faster?

LONDON, Jan 2: Women could run the marathon faster than men by 1998, according to two scientists, reports Reuter.

Brian Whipp and Susan Ward of the school of medicine at the University of California said women runners were improving their performance quicker than men and could overtake them in most events by the middle of the next century.

In the marathon, women were expected to start going faster than men by 1998, they said in a letter published by the authoritative science journal Nature on Thursday.

Their conclusions were based on comparative statistics over the last 75 years.

At present the world best time for the men's marathon stands at two hours six minutes 50 seconds. The women's mark is 2:21:06 — a difference of 14 minutes 16 seconds.



Steffi Graf looks dejected during a break in her match against Julie Harald of France at the Hopman Cup tennis tournament in Perth on Dec 30. Graf, suffering from the effects of flu, still managed to beat her French opponent in straight sets 6-0, 6-4. — AFP photo

## Graf's flu aids Czechs

PERTH, Jan 2: Boris Becker and a visibly ill Steffi Graf fought tooth and nail Wednesday before they were tipped out of the Hopman Cup mixed teams tournament by Czechoslovakia, reports AFP.

The Czech team of Karol Novacek and Helena Sukova won the first semifinal by two rubbers to one to advance to Friday's final, in which they meet the winner of today's other semifinal between Switzerland and Spain.

Graf, 22, who has been running a temperature since arriving in Perth, was forced to concede the women's singles to Sukova after becoming giddy on court at the end of the second set.

But, after Becker had beaten Novacek in the men's singles, Graf pluckily returned to the court to partner Becker in the deciding mixed doubles.

It was the first time the two Germans who have six Wimbledon singles titles between them had ever played alongside each other in a doubles match.

The Germans lost an unequal battle, but won the hearts of a sellout crowd of 8,300 at Burswood Superdome and television audiences in 23 countries.

With Graf often showing signs of distress, the Czechs won 6-4, 6-4 in 66 minutes.

"Steffi was not too well on court. It was not the normal Steffi Graf. But despite her sickness she played and tried," Becker said after the match.

"And it was nice that we finally played a match together. I would like to play with her again when she is better."

Becker said he did not know the exact nature of Graf's sickness, but she had a fever, weakness in her legs and was not hearing well.

Graf was unable to talk to the press because of her sickness.

During the doubles Graf repeatedly placed a hand near her left ear, suggesting she had pain there.

To add to the Germans' problems, Becker slipped on the court twice, slightly injuring a toe on his left foot and his right knee.

Novacek said he believed Czechoslovakia deserved to be in the final. The secret of mixed doubles is to have a good partner, and I have that."

In the women's singles, Graf took the opening set 6-2 but with her legs becoming increasingly rubbery, she dropped the second 1-6 before pulling out.

## No place for Russell

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 2: Jack Russell, one of the best wicketkeepers in county cricket, is already a firm favourite to miss the World Cup after just four days of England's tour here, reports AFP.

Russell has been left out of today's one-day match against Auckland and England are preparing Neil Fairbrother for the role of Emergency World Cup stumper, planning ahead for when they name their 14-man squad on February 19.

Alec Stewart, normally Russell's Test deputy, will keep wicket against Auckland as well as opening the batting with Graham Gooch in this first game of the tour.

That leaves Russell knowing he must somehow force his way into the three limited-over internationals against New Zealand if he is to have any chance of keeping his World Cup dream alive.

With each country allowed to select just 14 players for that competition, the Gloucestershire keeper has always looked a World Cup outsider. And the sight of Fairbrother having a go with

the gloves during Wednesday's practice session reinforced that view.

Four years ago, when the tournament was held in India and Pakistan, England included only one recognised wicketkeeper. Bill Athey would have gone behind the stumps had Paul Downton been injured — I and he almost did after Downton was cut above the eye during training.

Fairbrother, a magnificent outfielder, has never kept regularly at senior level. "I do the job for Lancaster in an emergency," he said. "I've got a few first-class dismissals and I quite enjoy the job because you are always involved in the game."

Fairbrother's main task today is to justify a number four batting position—two places ahead of Graeme Hick. A repeat of his last England one-day performance, when he scored 113 against West Indies at Lords in May, would do nicely.

The team to face Auckland certainly has a World Cup look about it — apart from the absence of Ian Botham.

The three men missing this England team — Russell, Mark Ramprakash and David Lawrence — are all included in a squad for the second match, against New Zealand Emerging Players at Hamilton, starting on Friday.

Alec Stewart will captain that team, even though Gooch is also included. "As Alec is vice-captain we wanted to give him an early opportunity to lead the side, just in case Graham picks up an injury along the way," said tour manager Bob Bennett.

## SAF Games squad returns

The Bangladesh contingent to the 10-day fifth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games in Colombo returned home yesterday, reports BSS.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Saadeq Hossain received the team at the Zia International Airport and congratulated the medal winners.

Bangladesh finished fourth in the Games securing 41 medals, including four golds.

# Banerjee's impressive debut

SYDNEY, Jan 2: Subroto Banerjee burst out of the shadows of India's grim tour of Australia to bring new life to his country's fading challenge today, reports Reuter.

Banerjee, making a shock Test debut, grabbed three wickets for 36 runs in an impressive day's pace bowling as Australia were held to 234 for four wickets at the close of the first day of the third cricket Test.

Such is India's low level of performance on this tour that the scoreline indicates a good day for them although Australia, for whom David Boon made a staunch, unbeaten 89, had the upper hand after being put into bat. Captain Allan Border is at the crease with Boon, on 14 not out.

Had Mark Taylor, who made 56, not been dropped on 13, and had Kapil Dev been successful in a strong appeal for leg before in the final overs against Boon, India might, for the first time in the series, be in charge.

While all the attention was focused on Australia's debutant, leg-spinner Shane Warne, Banerjee crept almost unnoticed on to the team sheet.

But it did not take long for the 22-year-old from Bihar, in India's east, to go from chorus line to lead as he fooled Geoff Marsh with his tenth ball in Test cricket.

The opener moved inside only to hear the rattle of the stumps behind his legs. Having taken 28 minutes to get off the mark and been bemused for the last 21, it was not an impressive stay.

Partner Taylor should have been dismissed in the previous over when Manoj Prabhakar made two clumsy grabs at a comfortable chance given off Jawagal Srinath.

Taylor went on to bat with growing assurance and it was a surprise when on 56, he edged Banerjee to Pandit who was standing in behind the stumps for Kiran More, suffering from

a hamstring injury. It was the first of two wickets with a new 'old' ball, the Indians having succeeded in a change at the fourth attempt.

Mark Waugh, having celebrated his promotion to number four with a classical boundary, was the second victim, prodding a catch to a relieved Prabhakar at gully.

Boon chugged along untroubled, building a second 90-plus partnership before, in a rare misjudgment, he ran out partner Dean Jones.

Facing Shastri, Boon, 83, drove a fierce return catch then called Jones for a sharp single when the bowler failed to hold it. But Jones, off balance, was unable to beat

the ball popped at him and ballooned off the edge of the bat to Manoj Prabhakar in the gully.

Boon has played many fine innings at the Sydney Cricket Ground, including three centuries and a 97 against England last season.

He is on target for his 11th Test hundred after smashing nine fours and playing some intelligent, patient cricket.

The Test continues through Monday. Australia holds a 2-0 lead in the five-Test series.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard on the first day of the third Test between Australia and India today:

**Australia:**  
C Marsh b Banerjee 8  
M Taylor c Pandit 35  
D Boon not out 89  
D Jones run out 35  
A Border not out 14  
Extras (b-4 lb-6 nb-14 w-1) 27  
Total (for 4 wickets) 234

To bat: I. Healy, M. Hughes, C. McDermott, S. Warne, B. Reid.

Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-117; 3-127, 4-210

**Bowling** O M R W  
Kapil Dev 22 6 38 0  
Prabhakar 22 6 45 0  
Banerjee 16 4 36 3  
Srinath 17 3 66 0  
Shastri 13 1 37 0

**Subroto Banerjee**  
Sachin Tendulkar's throw to the striker's end and was out for 35.

Boon was fortunate to survive a very good appeal for leg before when 84 in Dev's first over with the new ball. Umpire Steve Randall's negative reaction did little to improve Indian confidence in Australian officials.

Banerjee's selection was at the expense of left-arm spinner Venkat Raju. It leaves India without a front-line spinner on a wicket generally regarded as friendly to the slow men.

India's third change to the team that lost both the first two tests in four days was the inclusion of Navjot Sidhu for Kriah Srikanth.

## Pak quickies restrict Lankans

FAISALABAD, Jan 2: Pakistani bowlers restricted Sri Lanka to 206 for the loss of nine wickets in their first innings on the opening day of the third and last Test here today, reports AFP.

Pakistan captain Imran Khan won the toss and put Sri Lanka into bat on a clear, sunny day in contrast to the two previous weather-plagued Tests that had both ended in a draw.

Chandika Hathurasinghe and Roshan Mahanama got the Sri Lankan innings off to a good start, sharing an opening partnership of 81 with Hathurasinghe notching up a stylish 49 that included 10 boundaries.

But the tourists ran into trouble after Hathurasinghe was bowled by Waqar Younis and new batsman Asanka Gurusinha was caught at slip by Zahid Fazal for only three, leaving them on 89 for two at lunch.

After the interval, Sri Lanka took their total to 150, before captain Aravinda De Silva was caught by wicket-keeper Moin Khan of Salim Jaffer for 12.

Jaffer then had Arjuna Ranatunga trapped leg before with his next delivery.

Five more wickets fell to the Pakistani pace attack in the final session after tea with only Sanath Jayasuria standing out with an unbeaten 50, despite being struck on the head by a bouncer from Aaqib Javed.

Waqaar Younis delivered three successive outswingers before catching Hathurasinghe on the hop with a sudden inswinger, which the batsman misjudged, leaving him to walk back to the pavilion one short of his half century.

Jayasuria had also defied the Pakistani bowlers in the first Test at Stalkot, scoring 77 and 35 not out in his two innings.

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