

Biman run Abahani close

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Biman, relying on their indigenous resources, did extremely well against a strong

Abahani Kriya Chakra but could not pull off what would have been a very creditable victory as lady luck preferred to smile the other way, leaving Abahani victors by 15 runs in the keen Navana Premier Division cricket league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Biman skipper Shahnaz Shanu won the toss and perhaps, inspired by the cosy prospect of batting later on a bland wicket, invited Abahani to bat first.

Farouque Ahmed, the Abahani captain, pushed Sri Lanka Ashoka de Silva up in the order in the absence of an injured Zahid Ruzak Masum.

Khaled Mahmood Sujjan, who failed to make his mark as an opener in the previous match, was held back.

Farouque's decision proved right as rain when Lamba, the regular opener, with the make-shift de Silva flayed the Biman attack as the bowlers ploughed in sands.

The two put on 98 for the first wicket before Lamba left for 32.

Farouque and Akram Khan left cheaply.

Mahbubur Rahman Selim chipped in with a brisk 32 off 35 balls but these were petty, piddling affairs when pitted against the blitzkrieg that the left handed de Silva was unleashing at the other hand.

The unassuming allrounder, better known for his quickies, accurate leg-spin, treated the large holiday crowd with a delightful display of blazing batsmanship.

He collared the Biman bowling hitting four soaring sixes and six fours to score 91 off 93 balls before holing out to Ashar off left-arm spinner Enamul Haq Moni.

Abahani finally rattled up 216 for eight wickets from the 41 overs bowled by the beleaguered Biman bowlers within the stipulated time.

A dead track could not deter Moni from having a creditable haul of four wickets for 35 runs. Anwarul Amin Ashar was on the epitome of economy taking one for 28 from nine overs.

Biman's plan of a sound start in the face of a formidable victory target of 217 at an asking rate of 5.29 suffered an immediate blow when Ahmed

play domestic cricket there and, with Tarquzzaman Munir, the other opener, Shahed pitched in immediately to pave the path for a smooth take off for the airlines team.

But the Biman innings followed the pattern seen in the first half of the day and Shanu, Zakaria and Moni kept on deserting young Shahed at regular intervals in search of quick runs once Munir had left after a solid 33 made with the help of four fours.

Shahed, undaunted by the sight of a debatable decision that saw the back of Moni, batted beautifully to remain unbeaten on 95 off 103 balls embellished with five fours.

Off-spinner Efee made the most of the indiscretions of the Biman batsmen to take three for 34.

Ashoka de Silva, however, acted as a superb foil, bowling tightly to take one for 29 off eight overs.

Ctg Club beat Dhaka Club
Sports Reporter

Chittagong Club beat Dhaka Club in an exciting friendly cricket match at the Bangladesh Tobacco Company (BTC) ground yesterday.

Dhaka Club batted first and scored 224 all out. In reply, the visitors reached 225 with four wickets to spare.

Former Bangladesh skipper Roqibul Hassan and his son Sajid's 128-run partnership almost placed the host team in a winning position but a late flurry of runs by the Chittagong Club batsmen dashed all Dhaka Club hopes.

Nafees with 54 and Sami with 38 were the top scorers for the winners.

SELIM SHAHED...95 not out

Iqbal Bachchu, perhaps still smarting under the pasting that he had received at the hands of the marauding de Silva, was dismissed by an innocuous Lamba delivery for five.

Enter Selim Shahed, the stylish right-hander who had recently won a South African Cricket Board scholarship to

but the motivation of a Test could restore him to his old form.

Phillip Tufnell is looking promising and in his first calls appearances here has taken 12 wickets in two matches.

"He's a quality spin bowler who's capable of getting wickets whether it's turning or not," Gooch said.

With the top five batsmen picking themselves, and the likely inclusion of Jack Russell as specialist wicketkeeper, England are likely to opt for an extra all-rounder.

The form of Mark Ramprakash has been a worry, and in the last couple of days he has been in the nets desperately trying to regain form. He does not look likely to make the Test side, with Dermot Reeve tipped to come in at number six.

As a result of a brewery sponsorship, New Zealand's cricketers are into the second season of being known as "the young guns." The label is proving an embarrassment.

Crowe knows he has problems and in training Thursday was seen to explode at his players, demanding they concentrate to produce quality play.

"I guess I did rip into them a bit, although I was training hard and so were they," he said.

But he also believes England is beatable, even by the Kiwis.

words of advice Friday from Sir Richard Hadlee on the eve of the team's first cricket Test with England, reports AP.

Hadlee, the country's greatest cricketer and one of the world's best all-rounders, spent some time in the nets with Danny Morrison and Chris Cairns as the side prepared for Saturday's match at Lancaster Park. Hadlee retired from competitive cricket last year.

Although both bowlers are novices with Morrison having played 22 Tests and Cairns into his third, Hadlee said he is confident the pair will do the job.

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Mrs. Miyawaki drives during yesterday's Japan Cup golf tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club course. —Star photo

Milnars cricket

There was no Milnars fixture yesterday.

Esaton Sabuj Sangha will take on City Club in today's First Division cricket league match at the Mirpur Pallabi

Nirman, Nabin post easy wins

Sports Reporter

Nirman Schools Eleven, like the proverbial rolling stone, after two shortlived stints in the bigger Navana and Milnars leagues began their campaign in this year's Rank Xerox Second Division cricket league with a narrow two-wicket victory against Dhaka Friends Union at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

Put into bat, Friends Union made 194 for eight from the stipulated 35 overs with Simon hitting washbuckling 75.

Nirman reached the target in 32 overs with majority of their batsmen pulling their weight with Apon top scoring with 35.

In the other match of the day, at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (West), Nabin Sangha outplayed Shaantnagar A by six wickets.

Sent in to bat Shaantnagar managed a meagre 123 for nine in the stipulated 35 overs.

Nabin Sangha overhauled the unchallenging target in 21.3 overs for the loss of four wickets.

Shabbir led the chase with a fine 54.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Dhanmondi Club vs Three Star Boys Club (DCS west)

Amarjyoti vs United Heroes (Dhanmondi Club ground)

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Govt Printing Press trounced Anwesha Samaj Kalyan Sangha 5-1 in the Janata Bank Pioneer football league yesterday at the Mohakhali T & T ground.

Chanchal slammed home two goals while Zafar, Farhad and Abu Sayeed netted one goal a piece for the winners.

Khalil reduced the margin for Anwesha.

In the other match at the venue, Beraid XI outplayed Dipali Juba Sangha by three goals (Tushar, Nadim, Kajal) to nil.

At the Dhoopkhola ground, Abakash Tarun Sangha beat Muradpur Ekota Sangha 2-0. Faisal and Mushataque scored for the winners.

Aganagar PMS beat Railway Blues 2-1 at the same venue.

Shatadal Sangha swamped Pardogair Sangha 3-0 at the Jagannath College ground. Mamun, Dulal and Hanif slotted home once each for the winners.

The other match at the venue, between Mokim Bazar KC and Kaliganj Palli Unnyan Sangha, ended goalless.

At the Dhanmondi ground, Kahlidi KC edged past Fire Service (Jr) one nil. Malek being the scorer.

India would prefer to chase

MELBOURNE, Jan 17: Buoyant India will follow a familiar path in their bid to overcome favourites Australia in the opening match of the World Series cricket finals here tomorrow, reports AFP.

They want to chase a target, instead of setting one, just as they did Thursday in their five-wicket win over the West Indies, which put them into the best-of-three finals.

India will also continue to use leg spinner Narendra Hirwani, who claimed two for 34 Thursday, despite Australia's reputation as skillful players of spin.

Manager Abbas Ali Baig said the playing eleven will be selected Saturday morning, but he did not anticipate any changes in the winning combination.

"We are playing on the same wicket where we beat the West Indies, so the conditions are going to be similar," Baig said.

"I see no reason to make any changes and that includes retaining Hirwani, although seamer Subroto Banerjee would be a strong contender."

Baig said his team may be the underdogs against the reigning world champions, but expressed confidence that

India would give Australia a run for their money.

"It is pointless in one-day cricket to predict the winner since everything depends on how well a team plays on a particular day," he said.

"If we get our act together like we did against the West Indies, Australia could be in for a surprise."

Baig's main worry, however, is the dismal form of skipper Mohammad Azharuddin, who scored just 112 runs in the eight league matches of the triangular competition.

"Azhar is too good a batsman to keep failing every time he comes to the crease. Maybe the law of averages will help him this time," he said.

India's unexpected entry into the finals over the fancied West Indies does not ease Australian skipper Allan Border's task in any way.

Border said he never underestimated the Indians, despite their 0-2 record in the five-Test series on the current tour.

"Many people may have written the Indians off, but I have not, because they have some very good players in their side," he said.

The Australians, who won five of their eight league matches—three against India—are, however, confident of

Lankans salvage some pride

MULTAN, Pakistan, Jan 17: Sri Lanka salvaged some pride in their five-match one-day series with Pakistan, winning the fourth encounter by four wickets at the Qasim Bagh Stadium here today, reports AFP.

Captain Aravinda De Silva put Pakistan into bat and the home side notched up a respectable 206 for five in their allotted 40 overs, thanks to Inzamamul Haq's magnificent knock of 101 and a polished 52 from Rameez Raja.

But Sri Lanka's batsmen responded in kind and their innings was given a solid foundation by the second wicket partnership of 157 from Athula Samrasekera and Asanka Gurusinha, who scored 74 and 76 respectively.

Their departure in quick succession raised hopes in Pakistani camp, but skipper De Silva contained the slide and runs continued to pour in.

In the end it was a close-run thing, with Sri Lanka losing six wickets and then claiming the winning runs with only two deliveries to spare.

Pakistan had already wrapped up the series by winning the first three matches.

Opener Inzamamul Haq was declared man-of-the-match for his maiden century, while Rameez Raja was adjudged man-of-the-series for Pakistan and S Jayasuriya for Sri Lanka.

Completing his century with a boundary, Inzamamul received a standing ovation from his hometown crowd, but the celebrations proved short-lived as he was brilliantly caught at deep midwicket by Duan Kalpage off the bowling of all-rounder Jayasuriya.

His first wicket stand with Rameez Raja had produced 149 runs.

Raja completed his 23rd half-century in one-day cricket before he was stumped by Hashan Tillekeratne for 52.

The successive solid starts in the four one-day matches suggest that skipper Imran Khan has solved the problem of opening partners.

Imran, whose efforts are focused on the World Cup, changed the batting order, bringing in Ejaz Ahmed to replace veteran Javed Miandad, whose unbeaten 115 in the Hyderabad match removed doubts about his recurring back injury.

Ejaz made 31 runs off as many balls, including a lofty six.

The tourists play their last match at Rawalpindi on Sunday.

INZAMAMUL HAQ...101

Match at Rawalpindi on Sunday.

SCORE BOARD

Scoreboard in the fourth one-day cricket international between Sri Lanka and Pakistan today:

Bowling: O M R W
Rameez Raja 8 1 30 2
Wijegunawardena 6 1 37 1
Gurusinha 2 0 14 0
Madurasinghe 8 1 36 0
Anurastr 8 0 42 0
Jayasuriya 8 0 41 2

Sri Lanka: Samarasekera c Inzamam b Mushataq 76
Hathurusinghe c Moyn b Younis 2
Gurusinha st Moyn Khan b Mushataq 74
Aravinda de Silva c Inzamamul b Aaqib 18
Tillekeratne run out 10
Jayasuriya lbw b Aaqib 5
Alapattu not out 5
Ramanayake not out 0
Extras: (lb-4, b-1, w-5, nb-6) 16
Total: (6 wkts in 39.4 overs) 206
Fall: 1-4; 2-161; 3-161; 4-183; 5-192; 6-203.

Bowling: O M R W
Akram 8 0 31 0
Younis 8 1 36 1
Aaqib 7.4 1 42 2
Imran 6 0 41 0
Mushataq 8 0 37 2
Inzamam 2 0 14 0

England overwhelming favourites

CHRISTCHURCH, Jan 17: England, in form, motivated and loaded with talent, are the strong favourites to win the first cricket Test against a confused New Zealand here starting Saturday, reports AFP.

Even the most dedicated Kiwi fan knows New Zealand is a bit like England was last season—in a mess amidst big renovations.

Most telling on the Kiwis will be their almost year-long spell away from first class cricket.

For the playing spectators this current English side offers much—two or three predecessors, usually arriving after lengthy Australian tours, looked more interested in going home than winning matches.

England captain Graham Gooch has some problems, but nothing like New Zealand's Martin Crowe.

Gooch's biggest problem has been the plight of paceman David Lawrence, now out of the Test side suffering from strained rib muscles.

Lawrence's injury now puts the light onto Phillip DeFrettas, the Lancashire medium-fast bowler who took 30 wickets in six Tests last year.

So far on tour he has not showed quite the same fire.

Mike Powell wins Jesse Owens award

NEW YORK, Jan 17: American Mike Powell, who shattered Bob Beamon's record in the long jump last year, was named the 1992 recipient of the Jesse Owens international trophy award, reports AP.

Powell, who won the silver medal at the Seoul Olympics, jumped 8.49 metres at the World Championships at Tokyo last August, breaking a record that had stood for 23 years.

Carl Lewis, who won the award in 1985, shared second place in the voting with Ukrainian pole vaulter Sergei Bubka. Hungarian swimmer Tamás Darnyi was fourth.

The award is presented annually by an international panel to the athlete who best personifies excellence in athletics and promotes cooperation and understanding among people of all nations.

Hadlee says he's hopeful

CHRISTCHURCH, Jan 17: Two of New Zealand's least experienced bowlers received some reassuring

words of advice Friday from Sir Richard Hadlee on the eve of the team's first cricket Test with England, reports AP.

Hadlee, the country's greatest cricketer and one of the world's best all-rounders, spent some time in the nets with Danny Morrison and Chris Cairns as the side prepared for Saturday's match at Lancaster Park. Hadlee retired from competitive cricket last year.

Although both bowlers are novices with Morrison having played 22 Tests and Cairns into his third, Hadlee said he is confident the pair will do the job.

"They're looking pretty good. There's a bit of hate and a bit of fire which is good,"

said Hadlee. "It gives us a new dimension in our bowling attack."

Hadlee said they will need support from New Zealand's batsmen.

"It's very difficult to expect a bowling attack as inexperienced as this, even though it's got a lot of potential and talent, to bowl a side out twice if there aren't any runs on the board," said Hadlee. "If we can get 350-400 we're in with a royal chance. But 180 or 220 makes it very much harder because no doubt England have some fine batsmen."

England will go into the match without fast bowler David Lawrence, who is still recovering from a pulled side muscle. Lawrence and Neil Fairbrother were omitted from the test 12 named Friday by England team officials.

Goalless draw

Sports Reporter

Agan Bank Sporting Club shared points with Farashganj Sporting Club in a goalless encounter of the Star First Division football league yesterday at the Mirpur Stadium.

The tie got underway before a meagre crowd at 3.8 pm, eight minutes behind schedule.

Both sides, underdogs of the league, preferred to maintain the status quo in the barren first half, often content to keep the ball confined in mid-pitch. Neither side looked too keen to carry out any threatening raids inside the other's territory.

couple of defenders to lay the ball on the path of a stalking Ata but the latter's shot sailed over.

Four minutes later, the speedy but unimaginative Ahmed wasted a fine chance after Manik set him free with a fine through.

Brothers, however, got their second goal three minutes from the final whistle when Ata, after getting a fine minus from Rupu, placed the ball wide of the BJMC custodian 2-0.

Ahmed of Brothers and Hassan of BJMC were shown the yellow card.

Brothers win despite bland display

Sports Reporter

Brothers Union earned full points in their second encounter of the Star First Division football league when they posted a comfortable two nil victory over Bangladesh Nile Mills corporation at the Mirpur Stadium, yesterday.

The winners led one nil in the first half of an uninspiring match.

Although never stretched by the unfancied BJMC, comprising largely BKSP players, Brothers played a poor brand

of soccer with none of their players doing justice to their reputations.

Brothers midfielder Utam gave the Gopbagh side an early lead in the fifth minute of the match when he found the net following a defensive lapse 1-0.

While BJMC, playing in green, did not have the resource to retaliate against the orange-jerseyed Brothers, the Union players looked blasé with their slender lead.

In the 30th minute combined with Ahmed to initiate a move but the BJMC defence succeeded in keeping their

post from harm's way.

Manik shot wide 13 minutes later from a free-kick.

The Brothers skipper weaved his way through a maze of BJMC defenders in the second minute after the breather but custodian Selim rushed out in time to save his side from a sure goal.

Manik was again in the action in the 22nd minute when he got the ball from a free kick but the midfielder blasted the ball over the bar.

Wasem floated the ball in the BJMC goalmouth in the 26th minute, Manik dodged a

Windies may be first Test hosts for SA

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 17: West Indies, long time opponents of South Africa's involvement in international cricket, look like being the first country to host a Test match against the republic since it revoked apartheid, reports Reuter.

South African cricket authorities on Thursday announced plans for their first ever tour of West Indies, depending on sufficient sponsorship.

The United Cricket Board of South Africa said the tour, in April would include a five day Test and three one-day internationals.

But a board statement said India would be the first non-white cricketing country to visit South Africa with a four month tour starting in October.

The statement also said a West Indies' tour of South Africa, comprising a series of one day internationals, was tentatively planned for February next year.

"India's will be the first tour ever into South Africa by a black cricketing country, and the first foreign tour here since our readmittance into the international cricket conference" board managing direc-

tor Ali Bacher said interview.

Some officials admitted they were nervous about meeting the formidable West Indies after 20 years of isolation caused by apartheid.

Board spokesman Chris Day said: "It's not going to be very pleasant, with us being out of international cricket for so long. The guys are all polishing their helmets. West Indies still produce fast bowlers like they have a factory."

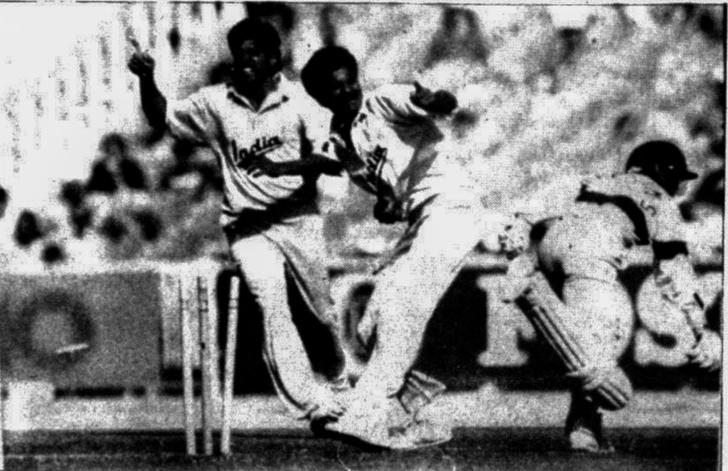
But Bacher said: "This will be a great opportunity for our players and will also be another step in establishing goodwill with the major cricketing nations of the world."

Bacher met Clyde Walcott and Steve Camacho, president and executive secretary of the West Indian Cricket Board of Control, on Thursday during the first official visit to South Africa by West Indian Cricket authorities.

Day said South Africa would also send an under-19 side to West Indies.

The last official tour of South Africa by a foreign team was by Australia in 1970.

A South African team visited India for a series of one-day matches in November and they will compete in the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand in February and March.



Indian pace bowler Javagal Srinath sends the balls flying and is supported by team-mate Kapil Dev in appealing as David Williams of the West Indies is run out during the World Series match in Melbourne on Jan 16. India won with 5 wickets to spare and now meet Australia in the 3-match final series. —AFP photo