

So close yet so far for BU

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra set a fine example of coincidence yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium when they beat defending champions Brothers Union by six runs in a keenly contested match of the Navana Premier Division cricket league.

With Australia prevailing over India by an identical margin in a cliff-hanger in the World Series Cup finals Down Under, Abahani, having the same alphabetical beginning as the Aussies, carved out a win by the skin of their teeth here in Dhaka.

Farouque Ahmed retained his toss-losing luck and Athar Ali invited him to make the first use of the placid strip.

Abahani got off to a bad start with Tanjeeb Anwar Saad, the Brothers paceman bowling left-handed Ashoka de Silva for five.

Balls again went flying with the score on 21 when Sri Lanka's Fernando sent back Farouque for three.

Raman Lamba, watching the happenings from the other end and storing himself about his own obligations, then found a keen and durable partner in the burly Akram Khan.

The two plugged the holes and pitched in to make things hum again for Abahani.

Lamba, for once, parted with his overmuch professional attitude which at times borders on Maginot-mindedness and played an invaluable knock of 107 off 104 balls with the help of two sixes and eight well-struck fours.

This was the third ton for this handsome, at times temperamental Delhi batsman in the Navana league this year for Abahani.

Lamba's degage batting inspired the other batsman and Akramgrew in confidence to play a stellar innings of 84 off 102 balls.

The modest in-form batsman from Chittagong cracked five beefy boundaries and two huge sixers in his 129-minute tenure at the wicket.

Abahani at the end of the forty-two overs bowled by the Brothers bowlers in the stipulated time made a mockery of their perilous start, with a massive total of 229 for four wickets.

Saad, perhaps needed by the prolonged neglect of his skipper, bowled with venom and accuracy to finish with the excellent figures of nine overs three maidens, nineteen runs and one wicket on a bowler's graveyard.



RAMAN LAMBA...107



H.B. SUMAN...97

bowling provided a vital breakthrough when he snapped up Tomal for 41.

Habibul Bashar Sumon carried on superbly playing shots all around the wicket with pronounced ease.

He was tragically run out in pursuit of quick runs three short of what would have been a most deserving hundred.

Sumon played 102 balls and

hit seven sizzling fours and one six off de Silva over midwicket.

Fernando, in his 26-ball blitzkrieg that brought him 35 runs, gave Abahani enough headaches before de Silva once again appeared in the role of the rescuer by clean bowling his compatriot.

Fernando hit two fours and one almost habitual overboundary off Effece over long on.

Brothers needed 15 runs in the last over bowled by left-arm paceman Golam Nowsheer Prince who proved unusually expensive with his final figure of one for 50 off eight overs, but Shovon and Nadir managed only nine, leaving their side and supporters drowned in a pool of despair.

SCOREBOARD

ABAHANI	
Ashoke De Silva b Saad	5
Lamba c Shovon b Fernando	107
Farouque b Fernando	3
Akram st Tomal b Shovon	84
Selim not out	15
Prince not out	1
Extras	14
Total (for 4 wks in 42 overs)	229

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Fernando	9	3	32	2
Saad	9	3	19	1
Athar Ali	5	3	33	0
Shamsul	2	1	11	0
Nadir Shah	4	2	27	0
Salahuddin	6	3	38	0
Shovon	6	4	41	1
Suman	1	1	17	0

BROTHERS UNION

Tomal c & b AD Silva	41
Nobel c Pappu b Babu	97
Suman run out	7
Athar Ali c Ashif (Sub)	5
b Effece	5
Halim Shah c Farouque b Selim	1
Fernando b AD Silva	35
Shovon not out	6
Saad b Prince	1
Nadir Shah not out	2
Extras	28
Total (for 7 wks in 42 overs)	223

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Prince	8	5	50	1
Babu	5	3	23	1
R Lamba	6	2	22	0
Murshed	2.5	1	15	0
Akram	0.1	0	0	0
Effece	9	3	38	1
AD Silva	9	3	33	2
Selim	2	2	20	2
Umpires:	Asghar and Mahboob			

TODAY'S MATCHES

Lalmatia Club vs Kalabagan KC (Dhaka Stadium)
Gulshan Youth vs Rupali Bank (DCS)

Railway beat Bima

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Railway recorded an impressive 46 run victory against Sadharani Bima Krira Sangstha in the Milnara First Division Cricket league at Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Electing to bat, Bangladesh Railway made 177 for the loss of 8 wickets in their allotted 45 overs.

Azam, top scored with 54, hit two boundaries while Afzal made 33 with the aid of three fours.

Nakib took two wickets for 17 while Ripon bagged another two for 21 for the insurance men.

In their turn, Bima were all out for 131 in 39.4 overs.

Towab, hitting four fours, scored the highest 43.

Irfan with 16 and Rizvi with 13 were the other notable scorers for Bima.

Titu, the most successful bowler, bagged four wickets for just 10 runs.

Azam, who took two wickets, conceding only two runs, supported him well.

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Australians clinch World Series Cup



SYDNEY, Jan 20:

A brilliant 69 by Sachin Tendulkar was in vain as Australia beat India by just six runs to win the World Series cricket title in dramatic style here Monday, reports AFP.

After being restricted to a meagre 208 for nine in the second of the best-of-three finals at the Sydney Cricket Ground, Australia halted India at 202 for seven in a nerve-racking finish. The reigning world champions, who had won the first match in Melbourne on Saturday, were presented the winner's cheque of 32,000 Australian dollars (24,000 US).

India received half that amount but were given warm applause by the 34,490 spectators who watched the pulsating day-night game for their gallant bid for victory.

Tendulkar, the 18-year-old batting sensation, single-handedly carried India's quest for runs despite wickets falling at the other end.

The little master stroked his way to a fourth half-century in the series but was out in the 48th over when 19 remained for victory.

He was well caught at mid-on by Mike Whitney to end a 36-run stand with Praveen Amre that had fired India to a potentially winning position after being 154 for five in the 43rd over.

But India's challenge faded when Amre went in the next over for 22, leaving Chandrakant Pandit and Manoj Prabhakar the difficult task of getting 14 in 10 balls.

Craig McDermott conceded just four runs in the last over to give his team an exciting but well deserved win ahead of next month's World Cup.

Casing a winning target of just over four runs an over, India suffered an early blow when chief striker Krish Srikkanth fell in the sixth over at the score of 19.

Srikkanth who made 11,

slashed at left-arm seamer Whitney to be caught one-handed by Mark Waugh in the lone slip position.

Sanjay Manjrekar ran himself out for 10 when Geoff Marsh threw down the striker's wicket from point to make India 45 for two.

Ravi Shastri and Tendulkar, who put on 76 for the third wicket, found runs difficult to come by against the steady Australian attack.

India were 91 for two after 30 overs, still needing 118 to win in the final 20 overs.

Shastri, who batted with a runner after spraining his ankle while running between the wickets, fell in the 38th over in trying to step up the slow run rate.

The Indian vice-captain made 61, his 17th half-century, when he top-edged a drive off Tom Moody to be caught at Mid-on by Whitney.

India slipped to 146 for four in the 42nd over when skipper Mohammad Azharuddin skied rival captain Allan Border to Whitney at Long-off after making 11.

In the next over, Kapil Dev was run out for two when Tendulkar turned down his call for a single at the last moment after first responding to it.

That brought Tendulkar and Amre to the crease and India's hopes rose and fell with them as Australia made a spirited recovery in the end overs.

Earlier, opener Geoff Marsh was Australia's top-scorer with a defiant 78, his 21st half century in 112 one-day internationals.

Steady bowling by the Indians allowed Australia just 99 runs in 30 overs despite a start of 47 runs by Marsh and David Boon, later named joint men-of-the-finals.

The in-form Boon, who began the match with the top aggregate of 412 in nine matches, had made 20 when seamer Manoj Prabhakar uprooted his centre stump in the

16th over.

Dean Jones, who scored 73 in the first final, managed just nine before being stumped off left-arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju to make Australia 74 for two in the 23rd over.

Marsh and Tom Moody added 40 for the third wicket to carry the score to 114 when Raju set Australia back with two wickets in the 35th over.

He had Moody caught on the midwicket fence by Sachin Tendulkar for 15 and four de-

livered later deceived new man Mark Waugh in the air for wicket-keeper Chandrakant Pandit to bring off an easy stumping.

Raju, who played the match despite an injured left elbow, finished with three for 32 in an unchanged spell of 10 steady overs.

Marsh and skipper Allan Border repaired the damage with a breezy 51-run stand for the fifth wicket before India fought back again by removing both batsmen in the 45th over.

Marsh holed out Javagal Srinath's first delivery to mid-on while Border, who struck 38 off 39 balls, while run out in attempting a second run three balls later.

Prabhakar, who removed Steve Waugh and Craig McDermott in the slog overs, returned figures of three for 31.

Result: Australia won by six runs.

Result of first match: Australia won by 88 runs.

Australia won World Series 2-0.

Scoreboard in the second one-day international World Series final match between Australia and India today.

AUSTRALIA

Marsh c Amre b Srinath	78
Boon b Prabhakar	20
Jones st Pandit b Raju	9
Moody c Tendulkar b Raju	15
M Waugh st Pandit b Raju	0
Border run out	38
S Waugh b Prabhakar	5
Healy run out	11
P Taylor not out	8
McDermott b Prabhakar	5
Whitney not out	0
Extras: (lb-9 nb-7 w-3)	19
Total: (for nine wickets, 50 overs)	208

Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-74, 3-114, 4-117, 5-168, 6-175, 7-192, 8-200, 9-208.

Bowling: O M R W

Kapil Dev	10	0	42	0
Prabhakar	9	0	31	3
Srinath	7	1	30	1
Tendulkar	4	0	18	0
Shastri	10	1	46	0
Raju	10	1	32	3

INDIA

Shastri c Whitney b Moody	61
Srikkanth c M Waugh b Whitney	11
Manjrekar run out	10
Tendulkar c Whitney b S Waugh	69
Azharuddin c Whitney b Border	11
Kapil Dev lbw b McDermott	11
Amre c Jones b McDermott	22
Pandit not out	5
Prabhakar not out	4
Extras: (lb-3 nb-3 w-1)	7
Total: (for seven wickets, 50 overs)	202

Did not bat: Srinath, Raju.

Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-45, 3-121, 4-146, 5-154, 6-190, 7-195.

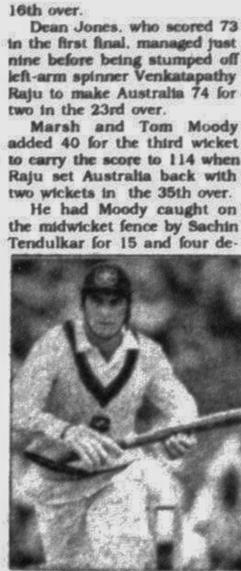
Bowling: O M R W

McDermott	9	1	37	2
Whitney	10	0	32	1
S Waugh	10	1	40	1
Moody	10	1	31	1
Taylor	9	0	44	0
Border	2	0	15	1

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GEOFF MARSH

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Tufnell sends Kiwis on a spin



CHRISTCHURCH, Jan 20:

Left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell took four wickets to bowl England firmly into control of the first cricket Test against New Zealand at Lancaster Park, reports AP.

At stumps on the third day, shortened one hour and 20 minutes by early morning rain, New Zealand was 169-6, still 411 runs behind England's 580-9 declared and 212 runs from avoiding the follow-on.

Dipak Patel, the only New Zealander to shine on another depressing day, was unbeaten on 55 and Chris Cairns was three.

Tufnell had been tipped as a major threat to New Zealand's batting, and he proved just that by taking his four wickets for 74 runs from 25 overs.

Only Patel played the jaunty slow bowler with any confidence.

New Zealand showed few signs of the impending collapse when John Wright and Test newcomer Blair Hartland resumed at 3-0 after rain prevented play until 1.30 p.m.

The pair put on 51 against a far-from-menacing attack, resisting temptations to hit out in a bid to preserve their wickets. However, with English fieldsers crowding the bat, Tufnell lured Wright into an attempted drive with a looping ball that was edged to Allan Lamb at first slip.

Wright had made 28 and Tufnell, brought into the attack after only 25 overs, had 1-

2 in his fourth over. In his next over, with only run added, the spinner had Hartland for 22 as his forward defensive stroke popped the ball to Robin Smith at silly point.

At tea Tufnell had 2-6 from eight overs and New Zealand was teetering at 63-2, with Andrew Jones on eight and Mark Greatbatch on two.

The home side's anxiety turned to despair within 30 minutes of the resumption when Chris Lewis trapped Jones lbw for 16 with the score at 73. Next to go was the out-of-form Greatbatch, who struggled to 11 runs in 66 minutes before Tufnell turned a ball out of the rough that the New Zealand left-hander shot into the hands of Alec Stewart at short leg.

Shane Thomson was bowled by Tufnell for five, and New Zealand had crumbled to 91-5. In Tufnell's 17th and 18th overs Patel plundered 21 of the 22 runs taken, including three boundaries and a straight drive for six.

In an eight-ball spell Tufnell, the 25-year-old Londoner, removed Wright and Hartland with gently flighted balls which, according to New Zealand captain Martin Crowe, "wobbled and dipped in the air."

The England team sensed Tufnell's left-arm spin had the batsmen puzzled.

Kenyan-born Patel and captain Martin Crowe - batting low down the order because of an injured finger - staged a minor recovery.

Crowe, however, departed