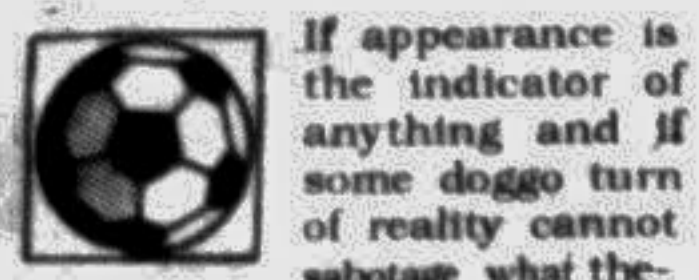


Abahani amerce Wari

Sports Reporter



If appearance is the indicator of anything and if some doggo turn of reality cannot sabotage what the eyes could see, then it can be said without any reservation that Abahani Krira Chakra is the best team in this year's Star First Division football. The reigning champions blanked Wari Club three-nil under the floodlights at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

For Wari, who created a great stir by first snatching a point from Brothers Union and then inflicting a shocking defeat upon Dhaka Mohammedans, it was the end of their 'high trip' as the men from Dhanmondi, led by Russian Sergei Zhukov, simply outplayed the men in red shirts in front of the largest attendance of this season.

Wari, however, showed every intention for the first ten minutes to live up to the promises and great expectations. It was, in fact, Wari who drew the first blood when Liton sent Tutul on hot pursuit with a lovely through down the middle but the tall forward, who has proved himself as the kingpin of the Wari attack, failed to finish as the Abahani custodian rushed out to beat him in the race for the ball.

Minutes later the Wari skipper again threw a spanner in the works of the Abahani defence with a measured through but Tutul, with acres of space in front of him, shot over.

Abahani hailed the duels rather suddenly, and fortuitously, in the 14th minute of the match. Substitute Gaus turned around to let fly a thunderous volley from outside the box; Tutum, the Wari

goalie, was beaten hands down by the sheer velocity and the ball came to Zhukov standing some 23 metres away from the goal and the deceptively quick medio, often appearing languid in his movements, took a shot which entered the net with the Wari custodian, perhaps slightly unsteady by the swarm of players in front of him, beaten all ends up (1-0).

Wari retaliated when Tutul missed from the right but Bobby Hamid, who had a meteoric rise to fame after his goals against the other two 'giants', failed to have a crack at goal from close in the 25th minute.

But Wari received the anaesthetic shot two minutes later when Zakir scored the second goal for Abahani to signal the end of Wari's unbeaten run in this year's league.

Skipper Monem Munna chipped a ball inside the Wari box that caught the defence unawares and Mamun Joardar beautifully set it up for a lurking Zakir who made no mistake (2-0).

Sheikh Mohammad Aslam, who had a thoroughly off day, wasted an absolute sitter six minutes into the second half after Ntra and Mamun had done the spadework.

Midway through the second half, Zhukov failed to treble the margin from close but Mamun soon made amends when he leapt to nod an addressed centre by Zhukov from the right in the 32nd minute of the post-lemon session (3-0).

With Zhukov, Mamun Joardar, and a wee bit selfish Gaus playing superb football, Abahani virtually ran all over their opponents. Tutum flustered away a minus by Gaus and at the flag end of the match the dark, crafty winger had the

mortification of seeing his shot come back off the woodwork.

Alexey Arliev was given the job of a policeman to mark dangerous Bobby Hamid out of the game, and he did his job well, doing away with his aggressive ambitions.

Wari coach's decision to bring Lewis Okerie in Liton's place bore him no apparent dividends as the talented front line of this side faded into oblivion from an acute paucity of supply from the midfield; Liton was at least feeding his peers well.

Abahani's collection goes up to ten from five consecutive victory while Wari after their first taste of defeat, remain at five from same number of outings.

Referee: Nazir Hossain.

ESKATON'S FIRST WIN

Earlier in the first match of the day, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha recorded their maiden win in Senior Division football league when the beat the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation by a solitary goal.

Striker Shahjahan scored the decider in the 28th minute of the first half with a sudden, powerful right-footer from inside the box following a move engineered by captain Akku.

Eskaton deserved more goals with effervescent Arman presenting delightful, coordinated soccer in association with Rinku and Akku.

Eskaton collected fourth point from five matches while luckless BJMC are yet to open their account.

Referee: Abdul Aziz

TODAY'S MATCHES

Dhaka Wanderers vs Police AC (3 pm)

Mohammedan SC vs Arambagh (5 pm)

Bima beat City in Milnars league

Sports Reporter

Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha outplayed City Club by six wickets in the Milnars First Division cricket league yesterday at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Bima now have six points while City Club have eight points from seven games each.

Electing to bat, City scored a paltry 113 all out in 42 overs.

Opener Zakir top scored with 46 hitting six boundaries off 92 deliveries. Salahuddin made 17 with the help of a six while no other City batsman reached the double figures.

Nakib, Babu and Ripon claimed two wickets apiece for the insurance.

In their turn, Bima coasted to 117 for four in 31.2 overs.

Skipper Rizvi made 26 with the help of three fours while Obayed, Shaheen and Towab scored 20, 18 and 16 runs respectively for the winners.

Salahuddin, the most successful City bowler, bagged two wickets for 40 runs.

TODAY'S MATCH

Wanderers Club vs Ajax Club (Pallabi)

Bangladesh to play SEA Cup

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh national cricket team will take part in the third South-East Asian cricket championship to be held in Singapore sometime between June and July this year.

Bangladesh, who won the previous two competitions, will try to make a hat-trick in the presence of less fancied opponents, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and hosts Singapore.

However, Papua New Guinea's participation has not been confirmed yet.

Shaheen College meet

Sports Reporter

The annual inter-house athletic championship of BAF Shaheen College concluded yesterday, according to an ISPR press release.

Issa Khan House with 324 points clinched the championship followed by Titumeer House with 267 in the two-day meet.

Mahin Noor emerged individual champion in the Degree group. Wasiuddin of Senior group and Moniruzzaman of Intermediate group from Sher-e-Bangla House clinched individual championships while Anupama Hoque of Titumeer House from the Senior group and Anjuman Ara of Issa Khan House from the girls' section emerged individual champions.

Minhazuddin of Nazrul House from the boys' section and Rubia Zel of Issa Khan House were adjudged the individual champions in the Junior High group. Murad Siddique of Titumeer House and Sabera Khatun of Issa Khan House clinched the individual championships in the Junior groups.

Educational Minister Jamiruddin Sircar witnessed the concluding day's events as the chief guest and gave away the prizes.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Choudhury also witnessed the meet.

Arun Lal licks Lalmatia

Sports Reporter

Gulshan Youth Club aided by vintage batsmanship of Indian Arun Lal and Ashok Malhotra cattered past Lalmatia Club by 63 runs in the Navana Premier Division cricket league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.



ARUN LAL... 131 n. o.

Put into bat first Gulshan piled up a huge score of 256 for two in 40 overs with Arun hitting a scintillating unbeaten 131 and Malhotra an undefeated 70.

Arun hit 12 fours and two

sixes in his 94 ball knock while Malhotra, a classic example in building an innings with ones and twos hit only four boundaries in his 59 ball innings.

Rome with one for 21 and Atiq with one for 48 were the successful bowlers for Lalmatia.

Lalmatia began their reply disastrously recovered a little as Shahid and Anwar played useful knocks of 69 and 40 respectively but turned in tamely in the end in the face of an impossible challenge.

Shahid played 80 balls and struck six fours and a sixer while stumper Anwar sent the ball to the fence twice.

Lalmatia finally managed 193 for nine from their quota of 40 overs.

Paceman Shamin with two for 29 and Rupom with figures of two for 31 put the spoke in Lalmatia's wheel. Arun Lal did one better with the leather taking two for 44.

Gulshan Youth now have ten points from ten outings while Lalmatia have six points from a similar number of games.

TODAY'S MATCH

Bangladesh Bitan vs GMCC (Dhaka Stadium)

Cason's world mark

Sports Reporter

GHENT, Belgium, Jan 30: American Andre Cason set a world indoor 60 metres record when he clocked 6.45 seconds on Wednesday after an earlier false start fiasco, reports Reuter.

Cason's mark at an international meeting here beat the previous record of 6.48 set by compatriot Leroy Burrell in Madrid in February last year.

The mercurial world 60 metres indoor champion coasted home 0.10 of a second ahead of disappointed Namibian Frankie Fredericks.

Fredericks had won the first 'race' thanks to a false start and crossed the line in 6.45 — seemingly world record time.

The recall gun had failed to go off and Fredericks raced on. Cason, who had slowed down after 20 metres, came last.

"The second starter's (recall) gun blocked. It was a technical problem," said organiser Wilfried Meert.

Fredericks laughed and waved after crossing the line but the crowd responded with jeers and whistles.

Cason meanwhile rushed back to the start to complain

loudly to an official.

"You could say the false start was a blessing in disguise. It opened my eyes and proved that anyone could break the world record," Cason said.

He said Fredericks had looked a bit disappointed after learning the race had to be rerun.

Cason said he discovered he was in top condition when he clocked 6.49 in the heats.

"I'm in outstanding form," he said. But he felt he had made some minor mistakes in his record race. "We're going to iron these mistakes out," he said.

"My main goal this year is to win the Olympic gold medal," the 23-year-old said.

Jamaican Merlene Ottey won the women's 60 metres in 7.09, just 0.09 of a second off the world record of Dutchwoman Nellie Fiere Cooiman.

Irina Privalova of the Commonwealth of Independent States disappointed in her attempt to break Ottey's world 200 metres record.

The Russian, who ran 22.26 to set a European record in Lievin, France, last week, had to settle for a more modest 22.47.

N'ganj jr cricket

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 30: Shitalakhyia Cricket Club moved into the final of the Golam Rabhani junior cricket tournament by beating Creative Sporting Club by 37 runs in the first semifinal at the Narayanganj Osmani Stadium today.

Organised by the Narayanganj District Sports Association and sponsored by Rainbow Athletic Club, six teams — split into two groups — contested in the tournament which began in the first week of this month.

Cute handball

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Police and Bangladesh Ansars won their respective matches in the Cute First Division handball league at Outer Stadium handball ground yesterday.

Bangladesh Police crushed Tarun Sangsad 38-8 while Ansars outplayed Dhaka Wanderers Club 30-20.

TODAY'S MATCHES

BDR vs Mariner Youngs (2:15 pm)

Surjodoy Boys vs S Matshundi KC (3:30 pm)

MSC wap Wari

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club, the only unbeaten side in this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league, defeated Wari Club eight wickets in the other match of the day, played at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Sent in to bat first Wari were shot out for 83 in 42.3 overs. Kajal was the only batsman to reach double figure with an unbeaten 17 apart from the 21 extras.

Shantoo was the pick of the Mohammedan bowlers with figures of three for 15.

Sri Lankan pace man Gama-gama took two for 15 while leggie Waheed claimed two for 17.

Mohammedans overhauled the paltry score in 16 overs with left handed Sri Lankan batsman Guruges scoring an unbeaten 36 with five fours.

Opener Jehangir scored 26. Kajal and Zia of Wari were the wicket takers taking one apiece at the cost of 18 and 13 runs.

Mohammedans after yesterday's win collected 20 points from ten outings while Wari locked in the grim struggle to stay in the Navana league finished their first phase campaign with only two points from eleven matches.

Wari now will play relegation league along with five other teams.

Last three teams of the Navana league standing will be relegated to Milnars First Division league.

Win for Azad Boys

Sports Reporter

Azad Boys Club recorded their third consecutive win in the Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket league when they blanked Mill Barracks Cricket Club by six wickets yesterday at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (West).

Batting first, Mill Barracks made a slender 110 all out in 31.3 overs with Pappu making 23 and Apu 15.

Azim and Murtaza bagged three wickets apiece for Azad Boys.

Azad Boys reached safely home in 23.5 overs for the loss of four wickets with Liton scoring 25 and Nayan 18.

Jahangir took three wickets for 33.

Azad Boys now have six points from three outings while Mill Barracks have none from two games.

In the other match of the day, Gandaria Cricketers trounced Eastern Sporting Club by a massive 183 runs at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Electing to bat, Gandaria made a huge 285 for 8 wks in their stipulated 35 overs. Nadim scoring 54 with the help of ten fours off just 25 balls.

Biplab with 51 and Debu with 47 lent him good support. Shaheed, Dulu, Bappi and Swapan got a wicket each for Eastern Club.

In their turn, Eastern were all out for only 102 runs in 23.3 overs.

Md Ali and Shaheed made 38 and 15 runs respectively for Eastern.

Titu took two wickets for 31 runs while Debu, Nadim, Nasir, Biplab and Zakir claimed a wicket apiece for the winners.

JU hall sports

Sports Reporter

The annual sports meets of Fazilatunnesa Hall and Al-Beruni Hall of Jahangirnagar University were held yesterday at the Al-Beruni Hall playground.

Nasim Ahmed won the championship trophy while Mostafa Kamal and Mostafizur Rahman became joint runners-up in the Al-Beruni Hall meet.

Asma Akhter and Roksan Begum Rita finished as champion and runners-up in the Fazilatunnesa Hall meet.

Kiwi quickies skittle England

Sports Reporter

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 30: A revitalised New Zealand attack had England in deep trouble at the end of the rain-shortened first day of the second cricket Test today, reports Reuter.

Captain Martin Crowe crucially won the toss on a green wicket at Eden Park and had no hesitation putting England in to bat.

His bowlers fully vindicated the decision by ripping through a top order which had slaughtered the Kiwi attack in the first Test at Christchurch.

England ended the day at 146 for seven wickets with Jack Russell on 23 and Derek Pringle on eight.

New Zealand, playing one of the fastest attacks it has used, soon had England in trouble after the first session was lost to torrential rain.

Opening bowler Danny Morrison accounted for Graham Gooch in the third over, as he did in Christchurch, edging a catch to young wicketkeeper Adam Parore.

England, then on nine, lost

too more wickets in the next over bowled the in-form Robin Smith went wicketed a catch to Parore and the in-form Robin Smith went first ball to a brilliant one-handed diving catch, also by Parore.

They could have been deeper in the mire but Graeme Hick was dropped on a simple chance on eight and a more difficult one on 22.

However, debutante pace man Murphy Su'a in his third over got the dangerous Allan Lamb on 13, to edge onto his stumps with the total on just 34. Su'a waved his arms high in triumph as he collected his first Test scalp.

Hick never looked comfortable. But playing a mixture of classic and streaky shots, he attempted to pull the innings around with Dermot Reeve, who made a dogged 22.

After tea Cairns came back for his second spell. He had one lbw appeal turned down but finally got Hick lbw for 30.

Medium-pace Willie Watson, who worried all the batsmen, then induced Reeve to give Parore his fourth catch

from a ball which left him, and England were reduced to 91 for six.

All-rounder Chris Lewis, who had a fine game in Christchurch, and Russell continued England's brief revival, living dangerously but playing aggressive strokes.

The 37-run partnership was broken when Cairns took a diving catch in the gully to dismiss Lewis for 33 off Watson.

New Zealand's attack, tame in Christchurch, was far more menacing with the addition of the left-armed Su'a and the replacement of Watson for Chris Pringle.

Morrison bowled quickly and with fire while Cairns was equally quick and achieved disconcerting lift. All the bowlers extracted movement from the seaming wicket.

The bowlers were backed by good ground fielding but three slip catches were spilled.

England kept the same team which won by an innings in Christchurch. They left out fast bowler David Lawrence, who was not considered match-fit although recovered

from injury.

New Zealand left out Rod Latham from their 12.

Score: England first innings 146 for seven, C. Lewis 33; C. Cairns three for 34, W. Watson two for 26.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the first day of the second Test between England and New Zealand today.

ENGLAND: First Innings
Gooch c Parore b Morrison 4
Stewart c Parore b Cairns 4
Hick lbw b Cairns 30
Smith c Parore b Cairns 0
Lamb b Su'a 13
Reeve c Parore b Watson 22
Lewis c Cairns b Watson 33
Russell not out 23
Pringle not out 8
Extras: (nb-3, lb-6) 9
Total: (for seven wickets) 146
To bat: P. DeFreitas, P. Tufnell

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-9, 3-9, 4-34, 5-72, 6-91, 7-128.

Bowling: O M R W
Morrison 12 1 42 1
Cairns 13 2 34 3
Watson 19 10 28 2
Su'a 15 4 36 1

Low on experience, high on fighting spirit,

Imran's men off to Australia

Sports Reporter

ISLAMABAD, Jan 30: Celebrated all-rounder Imran Khan and his Pakistan squad left today for the cricket World Cup, low on experience but high on talent and fighting spirit, reports AP.

The 15-member squad led by Imran left Karachi for Singapore, en route to Australia.

Injured master batsman Javed Miandad was left behind but Imran said he hoped the star would join the squad before February 19, the last day for naming the 14 for the World Cup.

Miandad has said the nature of his injury is not serious. However, he has thought of avoiding long travel and preferred to bed rest, Imran said before leaving.

On Pakistan's World Cup prospects, he said several players lacked international experience but were highly talented.

"Above all the team has a fighting spirit which can overcome the lapse of experience," he said.

He said that Pakistan may face the same fate as India, whose batting has failed them in the current series against Australia.

"Poor wickets back home and lack of preparation have left the side lacking in rigorous batting practice," he said.

"If we lose the tournament, it will be just because of our limited resources," he added.

Meanwhile, Miandad said he was optimistic about regaining fitness within "four days."

Miandad, 34, is currently under treatment for the injury which occurred during the training camp at Dhore last week.

An earlier Reuter report said: Pakistan captain Imran Khan said on Wednesday he hoped Javed Miandad would recover from a back injury in time to play in the cricket World Cup starting on February 22.

Imran, in an interview on

Young Maleeva scalps Capriati

Sports Reporter

TOKYO, Jan 30: Magdalena Maleeva, almost as young as her 15-year-old opponent, upset fourth-seeded Jennifer Capriati 6-1, 6-2, Thursday in her first victory ever against a top ranked player, reports AP.

Top-seeded Gabriela Sabatini outlasted Japanese qualifier Mana Endo 6-2, 7-5, advancing into the quarterfinals of the Toray Pan Pacific Open Tennis Tournament. The match lasted 100 minutes.

But sixth-seeded Lori McNeil was another upset victim, losing to fellow American Pam Shriver 6-4, 6-1.

"Everything went well, I served well and returned well. It's my first victory over a player ranked among the world's top 10," said the 16-year-old Maleeva, youngest of the three tennis-playing Maleeva sisters from Bulgaria.

She is ranked 33rd in the world to Capriati's sixth.

"She [Capriati] made a slow start as usual and she was unable to get her rhythm until the end," Maleeva added.

Capriati said Maleeva made few mistakes in the 65-minute match on the artificial surface at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium.

"I lacked concentration and everything went wrong. I tried to break her pace but she shot back very strong ground strokes," said Capriati.

Maleeva broke Capriati's serve in the first and third games, jumping to a 3-0 lead before Capriati won her only game of the first set with a break in the fourth.

At the end, leading 40-0, Maleeva wasted two match points before wrapping up the battle with a forehand passing shot.

"I think everything was the key today. I was serving better, I was returning better and I anticipated better," Maleeva said.

Sabatini, the tournament's defending champion, said of

Banerjee to play in Perth

Sports Reporter

PERTH, Jan 30: India will use a four-man pace attack in a bid to regain its confidence during the fifth cricket Test against Australia, which begins Saturday at the WACA Ground, reports AP.

Team manager Abbas Ali Baig said India believed fast bowlers held the key to victory on the bouncy Perth wicket.

Strike bowler Manoj Prabhakar still is suffering from a back injury incurred during the fourth Test in Adelaide earlier this week, but is expected to be fit to play.

"We didn't give Prabhakar a work-out today because we want him to have time to recuperate," Baig said Thursday.

"He has been carrying the problem for a while and it should be fine after some rest."

Subroto Banerjee is expected to replace spinner Venkatapathy Raju as the Indians try to hit back from a 0-3 series deficit.

We have tried to follow a horses-for-courses selection policy and Banerjee bowled well here earlier on the tour," said Baig.

"On the Perth wicket we will need four seamers and he would be one of those."

Baig said he and India captain Mohammad Azharuddin would meet the officiating umpires before Saturday to discuss the interpretation of particular rules.

The Indians were perplexed by a number of decisions during the fourth Test.

"There was no consistency in the application of whatever rules they were following," said Baig.

"If you have rules they should apply in all cases, there shouldn't be differences in the case of Mr Border to the case of Mr Venkataratnam."

Imran's men off to Australia

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Touts profit from trial tickets

Sports Reporter

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, Jan 30: There is no marquee advertising the big fight, but tickets to get a glimpse of Mike Tyson here this week are going for top dollar prices, reports AP.

Tyson went on trial here Monday, accused of raping an 18-year-old beauty pageant contestant, and the number of seats in the Marion County Court house available to the public is extremely limited, creating an opportunity for scalpers to make big profits.

One man, 18-year-old Greg O'Dell, made a quick 150 dollar profit selling one ticket. He received legitimately and one he bought for 50 dollars and then resold for 100 dollars.

"I will be back everyday," he said. "If I get 100 dollars and I work seven days a week, that's 1750 dollars an hour — not bad."

A total of 17 tickets were distributed to the public on a first come, first served basis, and people began lining up seven hours before the court house opened Wednesday at 8:00 am (1300 GMT).

Not everyone in line is a scalper, however, some people just want to sit in on the proceedings.

"This is a big deal for us," said Rodney Blake, who drove here from Kentucky with friends John Grant and Jamie Hale. Grant, here, is a major Mike Tyson fan.

"I just wanted to get inside," said John Toms, who bought one of the pricey tickets from O'Dell.

Hundreds of people have gathered outside the court house each day, hoping to see Tyson entering the building. He arrived Wednesday accompanied by Camille Eeald, who served as his surrogate mother while living in Catskill, New York.

Hockey results

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Railway beat Victoria Sporting Club 2-0 in the Green Delta hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday afternoon.

Ayaz and Selim scored for the winners in the 26th and 56th minutes of play.

Sonali Bank and Wari Club drew 2-2 in the other match of the day.

Ashrafal Huq scored both goals for the bankers while Setu and Tayeb got one each for the Wari.

Today, Friday, is a rest day in the league programme.

Simcic dominates

Sports Reporter

MILAN, Jan 30: Japan's Yoko and New Zealand's Anna Simcic dominated their specialty events at the World Cup swim meet in Milan on Wednesday, winning the butterfly and backstroke events by wide margins, reports AP.



Action from yesterday's Cute handball league encounter between Police and Tarun Sangsad at the Outer Stadium. — Star photo