

# W Bengal meet Abahani today

Sports Reporter

The 15-member West Bengal cricket team arrived in the city last night to play matches against two popular local clubs and Bangladesh Cricket Control Board selections at the Dhaka Stadium during their week-long tour.

The side, led by Indian test discard Ashok Malhotra, plays Damal Summer tournament champions Abahani Krita

Navana league table. Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club tomorrow in a similar over-limit contest. After a day's rest they will face a BCCB selection a two-day match with each team playing a maximum of 80 overs. The tourists will play their last match, another one day contest, against a BCCB selection before leaving for home on Feb 16.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, who is also

The West Bengal team has an ideal balance of youth and experience with players like Ashok Malhotra, Sharadindu Mukherjee and Saurav Ganguly having enough international exposure. Malhotra, who plays for Gulshan Youth Club in the local Navana league, will be the mainstay of the West Bengal batting along with hard-hitting Shrikant Kalyani and left-handed Raja Venkat.

Malhotra, Raja Venkat, Indu Bhusan Roy, the left-handed

Star left-arm pace bowler Golam Nowsar Prince will miss today's match because of a sprained leg. Abahani will have the services of young pacerman Saiful from the GMCC and left-arm spinner and all-rounder Enamul Huq Mont from Himan. The full side is Raman Lamba, Selim Farouque (skipper), Akram Khan, Ashoka D'Silva, Sujun, Mont, Pappu, Zehad, Saiful, Effe, Babu and Moshed.

BCCB officials received the



The West Bengal cricket team seen on arrival at Zia airport last night.

Chakra today at the Dhaka Stadium. The match, a fifty-overs one-day, begins at 9.15, and will go on till 5.05 pm with a 40-minute lunch break from 12.50.

The side batting later will face the same number of overs bowled by the side fielding first within the stipulated time of 12.50.

The visitors will meet Damal Summer runners-up and current leaders of the

chief of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, will formally inaugurate today's match.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda is likely to do the honours tomorrow.

National cricket coach and the man in charge of the wicket preparation Shawkatul Rahman Chinu yesterday evening told newsmen that the wicket was "okay" and should facilitate good batting.

opener, have the experience of playing here. Rajiv Seth and Jayanta Dastidar, the two youngsters, will be in charge of the Bengal pace attack while slow left-arm bowler Anup Das and offspinners Snehasish Ganguly and Sharadindu Mukherjee will handle the spin department.

Meanwhile, Abahani Krita Chakra have named the probable side to play against the visitors at the airport. The side has checked into Purbani Hotel.

Former BCCB secretary Reza-e-Karim is the match referee for the four-game series.

visitors at the airport. The side has checked into Purbani Hotel.

Meanwhile, the BCCB has appointed ex-Abahani skipper Altul Islam as the adjudicator for today's match while former Bangladesh and Mohammedans skipper Roquibul Hassan will decide the man-of-the-match tomorrow.

Former BCCB secretary Reza-e-Karim is the match referee for the four-game series.

## Henkel's world record

KARLSRUHE, Germany, Feb 9: World champion Heike Henkel set an indoor world record in the women's high jump at the German Championships on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The 27-year-old German's leap of 2.07 metres eclipsed the mark of 2.06 set by Bulgaria's Stefka Kostadinova, still the outdoor world record holder, in Athens in February 1988.

"I'm already thinking of 2.10 metres. Perhaps we'll have to jump even higher in the Barcelona Olympics," said Henkel, voted woman athlete-of-the-year last month after winning the world indoor and outdoor titles in 1991.

Grit Breuer, 400 metres silver medalist at last year's outdoor World Championships in Tokyo, set the year's best indoor time of 23.03 seconds in a 200 metres heat.

Breuer won an injunction against an indefinite suspension from all competition by the German Athletics Federation (DLV) to take part in the championships.

The DLV on Friday imposed the ban on three female athletes, double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe, Breuer and Silke Moeller. After an irregularity in a dope test.

Results of a second analysis of urine samples taken last month at a South African training camp will be announced on Sunday, the DLV said.

## Malhotra is optimistic

Star Special

Ashok Malhotra, the stockily-built captain of the West Bengal Cricket team, sounded optimistic about his side's chances against the local sides.

Talking to The Daily Star last night at the team hotel about the absence of Saurav Ganguly from the squad, Malhotra said that Saurav, who had gone to Australia with the Indian team, returned only the day before yesterday from Down Under. He will be joining the side soon and play in the two matches against the BCCB selections.

About the omission of star batsman Arun Lal, Malhotra said Arun is busy playing office cricket in Bombay. Otherwise he should have been definitely here.

Known as the 'Vishwanath of the North' Malhotra said among the local players, Akram Khan, Zakaria, Rupam, Enamul Haq Mont and Effe have impressed him.

Asked about the more celebrated and adulated players, the unassuming stylish batsman said that he has not seen players like Nannu, Farouque and others in action. About our pace bowlers, Malhotra uttered Prince's name as one who has impressed him most although he has not had the chance to play against the left-arm bowler.

About his compatriot Raman Lamba, another Indian discard who has been playing so well for Abahani, Malhotra said that the Dhaka cricket enthusiasts are yet to see the best of Lamba who can tear apart any attack under the sun on his day. Adding that Lamba could have proved handy for the Indian side in Australia, Malhotra quipped that the Dhaka crowd has seen only a 'professional, careful' Lamba.

Originally from Haryana, Malhotra, who has married Ishita, a Bengali girl, now plays the dual role of 'Jamat' and a player of Bengal.

Throwing light on the prospect of today's match, Malhotra said his side would prefer to chase and he will be expecting a tough fight from the local teams.



ASHOKE MALHOTRA

## Victoria beat India

BENALLA, Australia, Feb 9: India's World Cup cricket aspirations suffered a setback Sunday when it suffered a 33-run defeat to Victoria state in a limited-overs match, reports AP.

Set 205 for victory, India managed just 171 with teenage batting star Sachin Tendulkar scoring 59. Chasing Victoria's 204-9, India's chances nosedived when it lost three wickets in the space of nine deliveries.

Openers Krish Srikanth and Manoj Prabhakar put on 26-0 after six overs but when Tendulkar came to the crease, India was 30-3. The middle order batsman put on 25 runs with Vinod Kambl and 55 runs with Praveen Amre.

Tendulkar took a liking to the bowling of Victorian captain Simon O'Donnell and medium pacer Tony Dodem-

side. He had Dodemalde banished from the attack after taking 17 runs off his sixth over and scored 20 of his first 24 runs off O'Donnell.

However, the Indian tail end failed to score and the tourists lost their last three wickets in the space of just six deliveries to hand Victoria an easy victory.

Batsman Darren Lehmann saved Victoria from an embarrassing total when he came to the crease with the score at 60-2. Victoria stumbled on to 137-6 before Lehmann struck 71 off 87 balls, including six fours.

Opening batsman Paul Nobes was Victoria's second-highest scorer with 29 off 53 deliveries, while Australian one-day specialist Dean Jones made just 13 before he was stumped by keeper Kiran More off the bowling of Venkataphy Raja.

Indian captain Mohammed Azharuddin spent the day carrying the drinks after bruising his knee in practice on Saturday. But he is expected to fit for Thursday's one-day game against Shri Lanka.

More sent a scare through the Indian camp when he was struck in the face by a ball and had to leave the ground. The Indian keeper returned soon after with plaster over his left eyebrow.

India next plays an Australian County XI on Tuesday in Melbourne.

Scores: Victoria 204 for nine (Darren Lehmann 71, Paul Nobes 29; Krish Srikanth 38-2); India 171 (Sachin Tendulkar 59, Sanjay Manjrekar 34 not out, Mery Hughes 22-3). Victoria state won by 33 runs.

In the boys' singles (under-18), Ronny, Asif, Arjan and Fayaz qualified for the semifinals while in the boys' under-14 group, Tofazal, Omar, Saifullah and Johnny confirmed their passage to the last four stage.

In the engineers' doubles, Sanaul Haq and KA Sarker beat Glasuddin and his partner in the quarter-finals.

In the men's doubles (45-yrs and above) Dr Rashiduddin and Dr Zahir moved into the quarter-final beating Dr Shamsul Islam and DK Anwar.

One hundred and seventy-five players are contesting in the week-long tournament, the prize-giving ceremony of which will be held on February 14.

## Pitch may prove United's bane

LONDON, Feb 9: If Manchester United fail to lift the English League title for the first time in 25 years at the end of this season, it will probably be because of the terrible state of the Old Trafford pitch, reports AFP.

That was the considered view of Sheffield Wednesday manager Tremor Francis, after Saturday's 1-1 draw on the ground frequently compared to a cabbage patch.

It was enough to see United move back to the top of the league, a point ahead of Leeds, and Francis said: "I have to be satisfied with the result, specially on that pitch."

That could be their biggest handicap on the run-in. They have technically gifted players but its so difficult for them to get the ball down and control it.

"It's a little easier for the away side because the emphasis is on United to create."

"Wednesday midfielder Carlton Palmer also laid into the pitch. If anything's going to stop Manchester United winning the championship it's that pitch," he said.

"They have to play on it week in week out and it must be tiring. I've only played on it once and I feel drained."

United manager Alex Ferguson has not been sharing his thoughts with anyone since Wednesday's midweek FA Cup defeat by Southampton and maintained that silence today — despite wring his pro-

gramme notes.... "If we are going to lose our sense of humor and satisfaction at our involvement, we are missing out on a lot of what football is all about."

Leeds boss Howard Wilkinson was an unhappy man after watching his side capitulate 2-0 at Oldham. They never gave us a kick he moaned. "Oldham played very well. I've been here three times with Leeds and I don't think we had a kick."

"They looked like they were at the top of the league and we looked like we were where they are."

Wilkinsin played French international Eric Cantona in the second half, his first appearance in the English League, but he couldn't provide enough of a spark to turn the game for Leeds.

Oldham boss Joe Royle, for whom the win was his team's first in five games, said "People should not be surprised. A lot of this result, but I always fancied us."

He added: "Leeds will come back from this. To have lost only twice in 28 games is a tremendous record."

Cantona said: "It was very frustrating and I didn't enjoy it much. I was disappointed with the result."

Liverpool manager Graeme Souness saw his side miss two late chances at Coventry manager Don Howe said: "You can talk about injured players but Liverpool are always able to produce damn good team."

Sheffield United manager Dave Bassett was bubbling after watching his side end Manchester City's 16 — match unbeaten run with a 4-2 win.

Bassett, whose team have now scored 12 goals in their last three games after a miserable start to the season, said: "A lot of it is to do with confidence. If we had played Manchester City four games ago we would have gone under but now the lands have started to believe in themselves."

Luton manager David Pleat was happy man after his side picked up their first win in six games and climbed off the bottom of Division One.



Action from the Jabbar memorial tennis tournament at the Engineers' Club yesterday.

## Nat'l jr badminton from today

Sports Reporter

The week-long Beximco national junior and sub-junior badminton championships under the aegis of the Bangladesh Badminton Federation begin today at the outer Stadium wooden-floor gymnasium in the city.

A Sohel F Rahman, Chairman of the Beximco Group of Industries, will inaugurate the meet at four this afternoon.

One hundred and forty-one shuttlers including eleven girls will vie in three categories of competition. The boys' under-18 group has 75 participants, the boys' under-14 category 55 and the girls' under-14 eleven. The events offer both the singles and doubles titles.

Although the organisers expect 31 teams to take part only fourteen had confirmed their participation this year's meet until yesterday evening. They are: Comilla DSA, Chittagong Zila Krita Parishad, Comilla Education Board, Chuadanga, Panchagarh, Brahmanbaria, Feni, Lalmonirhat, Pabna, Jessore, Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh Ansars, Bangladesh Biman and Dhaka.

A budget of Taka one lakh fifty thousand has been drawn up for the championships of which Beximco will provide Taka one lakh.

The meet is scheduled to conclude on Feb 16.

The organisers held a press conference yesterday at the National Coaching Centre which was attended, among others, by BBF officials including its president Shah Mohammad Farid.

## Castella retires

TOKYO, Feb 9: Former world champion Robert de Castella of Australia pulled out of the Tokyo International Marathon on Sunday after eight kilometers (4.96 miles), reports AP.

## Mumtaz powers MSC

Sports Reporter



Title aspirants Mohammed Sporting Club recorded their sixth consecutive victory in the

Green Delta First Division hockey league when they beat underdogs Bangla-desh Railway SC by five goals to nil yesterday at the Hockey Stadium.

Mohammedans led 1-0 at the breather.

Mohammedans fielding their two new Pakistani recruits — Mumtaz Haider and Zahid Makbul — dominated the entire proceedings but though Mumtaz got four of their five goals the overall performances of these two Pakistani stars were not worth writing home about.

Railway, who suffered an 8-1 defeat in their previous match against champions Abahani Krita Chakra, naturally adopted an ultra-defensive strategy and succeeded in holding their mighty opponents at bay until the 27th minute of play. But once they had conceded the first goal, the railwaymen knew very little about what followed.

Mumtaz put the black-and-

whites ahead in the 27th minute with a placing shot (1-0).

He doubled the margin in the 40th minute with another field goal (2-0).

Soon afterwards, Elias banged home the third for Mohammedans with a powerful hit (3-0).

Mumtaz got his third goal of the match in the 46th minute, scoring another five field goal (4-0).

Mumtaz went on to complete the tally for the title aspirants in the 53rd minute with yet another field goal (5-0).

Mohammedans now have twelve points while Railway have four from six encounters each.

Earlier in the afternoon, Police Athletic Club shared points with Bachelors SC in a goalless draw.

Bachelors now have four points from six outings while Police have three from six games.

**TODAY'S MATCHES**  
Mariner Youngs vs Azad SC (1:45 pm)  
Sonali Bank vs Usha KC (3:15 pm)

## Mumtaz — A star in the Hassan Sardar mould

Star Special by Ashish Das

Mumtaz Haider, the tall, good looking Pakistani centre-forward is the cynosure of the Pakistani quartet that has arrived to strengthen the Mohammedan hockey team. The other three are Zahid Maqbool, Athar Ahmed Khan and Ashar Karim Qataul.

Mumtaz and Zahid are no strangers as both of them took part in the local league for the Black-and-Whites in 1990. Athar, who plays in the defence, and Ashar, the forward, are yet to take the field for the Mohammedans.

Mumtaz, once hailed as the protégé of the mercurial centre-forward and goal-getter of the Pakistan hockey team, Hassan Sardar, is an interviewer's delight with his amicable disposition and a felt sense of 'mehmandari'. Born in 1965 on April 3 in Karachi, Mumtaz first made it to the Pakistan national team in 1985 in the Champion's Trophy held in Karachi.

Mumtaz made his mark in Malaysia a year later when he emerged as the top scorer with 15 goals in the qualifying round of the Junior World Cup. He then spearheaded the offence of the Pakistan team in the Junior World Cup in Vancouver, Canada. Mumtaz, who played for Pakistan in the BMW Cup in Holland, again visited that country in 1987 when he was called to replace an indisposed Hassan Sardar in the Pakistani squad in the Champion's Trophy.

Mumtaz, who plays for the Pakistan International Airlines in the national league, was in the Pakistan team that went to India in 1988 to play the Indira Gandhi international hockey tournament. He also toured India with the PIA team which became champions beating Indian Airlines in the final and was instrumental for PIA's success in the Aga Khan Gold Cup.

Mumtaz, whose last represented the Pakistan national team way back in 1989 in the Lada Cup, was in the training camp for the 1990 World Cup.

Bitterly criticising Islahuddin, the former Pakistani national player and the man behind the selection of the Pakistani team, Mumtaz called his deep-rooted bias for his exclusion from the national side. Islahuddin, according to Mumtaz, has got a pronounced weakness for the players from Pakistan Customs. An ardent admirer of compatriot Hassan Sardar and Hanif Khan, Mumtaz, however, was optimistic about the future of Pakistani hockey.

Termining the standard of hockey in Bangladesh as 'improving' Mumtaz insisted on a quick switch over to astro-turf surfaces. One reason, Mumtaz observed, players from the BKSP are coming good is due to their exposure to the fast astro-turf pitch. He picked out teammate Nixon and Akhtar of Abahani as promising among the local players.

The Pakistani was critical of the standard of umpiring here, saying they lack in guts to take action against the off-fencing players. He was, however, happy over the ground conditions.

Inside-right Zahid Maqbool was born on May 13 in 1963 in Karachi. A regular player for Habib Bank, Zahid represented the junior Pakistan national team in 1982.

The match against Malaysia is etched in Zahid's memory for his contribution in helping his side in earning a face-saving draw. Trailblazing by a goal, Pakistan drew level in the last second of the match when the equaliser was scored from Zahid's cross from the right.



MUMTAZ HAIDER

## BDR matmen top

Sports Reporter

Grapplers from the Bangladesh Rifles took the honours in the two-day wrestling competition organised by the Iranian Cultural Centre and the Bangladesh Amateur Wrestling Federation in connection with the 13th founding anniversary of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka gave away the trophies among the winners at the concluding function held at the National Sports Council gymnasium yesterday evening. Iranian ambassador in Dhaka Mohammed Ganji Doost was also present.

Thirty-two matmen including three Iranians took part in the various events of the two-day meet which was inaugurated Saturday by the Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mirza Abbas.

## Women's athletics ends in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Feb 9: Dhaka Divisional Zonal women athletic sports competition was held at Jamalpur stadium on Saturday, reports UNB.

Jamalpur Zila Mahila Krita Sangstha organised the competition.

Hosts Jamalpur district emerged as champion while Tangail district became runners-up.

Seventy-five athletes from Tangail, Sherpur and Jamalpur districts took part in eight events of the competition.

Deputy Commissioner of the district Jalal Ahmed distributed the prizes as chief guest.

## BDR, Police handballers win

Sports Reporter

Reigning champions Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and title aspirants Bangladesh Police posted matter-of-fact victories in their respective matches of the Cite First Division handball league at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.

BDR, who have already amply demonstrated their awesome strength and firm resolve to retain the title which they have won every year since the league's inception in 1984, made short work of the opposition provided by Dhaka Wanderers Club yesterday, winning 38-22. The riflemen led 18-8 at the breather.

Shah Alam and Jahangir netted nine goals each for BDR followed by six from Rokon and four from Mustafa while Abul led the Wanderers' challenge almost single-handedly, putting 13 goals past the BDR goaltender. Azad and Mahbur got three each but these weren't enough to deny the champions.

The other match of the day saw police outplay last year's runners-up Brothers Union 31-12 after enjoying a 13-5 half-time lead.

## Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

The ninety-team first league of the Janata Bank Pioneer football championship was completed yesterday at the Outer Stadium.

In the second match of the day, Mirpur MS & PCC outplayed Surja Shikha Sangsad by two goals to one.

Kibria and Wastuddin scored for the winners while Jainal reduced the margin for the vanquished.

Earlier in the afternoon, Pragoti Sangha and Rising Star shared points in a goalless affair.

The ten-team super league, with the top two teams from each of the five zones, will begin very soon.

## Tyson inconsistent under grilling



INDIANAPOLIS, Feb 9: A 70-minute cross-examination of Mike Tyson on Saturday turned up memory lapses and inconsistencies in the former world heavyweight champion's version of events surrounding his alleged rape of a beauty contestant, reports Reuter.

But despite chief prosecutor Greg Garrison's relentless attack, he could not get the fighter to lose his temper or hand the prosecution a smoking gun.

Prosecutors said they will likely retry Tyson if this jury is unable to reach a verdict.

Prosecution spokesman Rob Smith told Reuters on Saturday that if the jury fails to reach a 12-0 verdict on the charges and the defence does not agree to a plea bargain, the state will try the fighter again.

The ex-champion, who appears to be about 40 pounds (18 kg) over his normal fighting weight of 220 pounds (100 kg), left the Marion County Superior Court building on Saturday smiling but looking tired after what may have been the test of his life attempting to convince the jury that he did not rape the 18-year-old woman last summer.

Tyson, who faces a possible 60 years in prison if convicted of all charges against him, denied the accusation, saying the woman agreed to have sex with him last July.

The major prosecution victory on Saturday came when Garrison showed that Tyson told a different version of his first meeting with the alleged victim at a rehearsal

for the Miss Black America pageant in which she was a contestant.

Tyson said he asked the woman out and then told her he wanted to f... (have sex with her).

But on Saturday Garrison got Tyson to admit he had not told the grand jury last September or the interrogator at his deposition for the prosecution that he had used the "f" word.

"There were kids in the room and the guy cut me off," explained Tyson. "I didn't feel comfortable using the word."

But Tyson, 25, said that he felt pressure to use the word in his testimony on Friday.

Singer Johnny Gill testified for the defence that he heard Tyson use the word to his alleged victim. But Gill, like Tyson, had not mentioned it in a sworn statement.

Tyson appeared to come closest to losing his temper after he said he did not remember having had sex with a friend of his, singer B. Angie B. for two hours the day he met the alleged victim for the first time at a rehearsal for the pageant.

"He remembered it very well," Garrison said.

"Well, she must have enjoyed it very well," Tyson replied.

Garrison asked how many

times he reached orgasm with the singer and was incredulous when the fighter couldn't remember.

Garrison asked rhetorically how the fighter could not remember having sex for two hours but could remember having sex that lasted about 15 minutes with the alleged victim.

Garrison also brought out the differences in his description of what his accuser was wearing the night of the alleged rape and her outfit as introduced into testimony.

The jury of eight men and four women was expected to begin deliberations on Monday.

## Nissan tennis

Sports Reporter

The fifth Nissan Cup tennis tournament begins at the Gulshan Club from Feb 22, says a press release.

Five events will be played in the tournament, organised by the Gulshan Club Limited, and restricted to the Bangladeshi players only. The events are: Boys' singles (under-12), Boys' singles (under-16), Men's singles, Men's doubles and Women's singles. Interested players have been requested to send their entries by 6:00 pm February 17 at the Gulshan Club Limited. The entry fee is Taka 30.