

## Double crowns for Zakir, Momo

**Sports Reporter**  
Zakir and Momo won double crowns, emerging as the sub-junior boys' and girls' singles and doubles champions respectively in the 1992 Beklimco national junior and sub-junior badminton championships at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.



MOMO



ZAKIR

In the boys' under-14 final, Zakir of Rajshahi outplayed Emdad of Rajshahi 15-1, 15-2 while in the girls' under-14 final Momo of Air Force beat Nuri of Ansars 11-1, 11-4 in yet another dull encounter.

Besides, Suman and Tarek of Air Force clinched the boys' under-18 doubles title beating Morshead and Shubir of Chittagong 15-7, 15-12 in the final.

In the boys' under-14 doubles, Zakir and Enran of Rajshahi and Sayem and Parimal of Moulvibazar finished as champions and runners-up respectively.

In the one-sided final, Zakir and Enran beat Sayem and Parimal 15-1, 15-5.

In the girls' under-14 doubles, Momo and Farnaz of Air Force became the champions beating Nuri and Asheda of Ansars 17-14, 15-5 in the final.

Today is the concluding day of the week-long competition that began on February 10 under the aegis of the Ban.

Suman of Air Force will take on Afzar of Chittagong at 4 pm today to decide the champion of the boys' under-18 singles.

Sadeque Hossain, State Minister for Youth and Sports, will witness the concluding day's proceedings as the chief guest and give away awards among the winners.

## Milnars cricket from tomorrow

**Sports Reporter**

The five-team super league and the relegation league also consisting of five teams of the Milnars First division cricket tournament will begin from tomorrow and February 19 respectively.

Teams qualified for the super league are Uditia Club, Victoria Sporting Club, City Club, Eskaton Sabuj Sanghu and Agrani Bank while Bangladesh Railway, Sadharan Bima, Ajax Club, Young Pegasus and Wanderers Club will play in the relegation league.

The top two teams from the super league will be promoted into the next year's Navana Premier cricket league while the three bottom teams from the relegation league will find themselves in the Second Division league next year.

Tomorrow, Uditia Club will face Agrani Bank in the super league encounter at the Mirpur Pallabi ground while Bangladesh Railway will take on Wanderers Club in the relegation league opener at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on February 19.

## Nirman cricket

**Sports Reporter**

The Dhaka zonal championship of the ninth Nirman Schools cricket tournament will begin tomorrow.

On the inaugural day, Tejaan Govt Boys Club will clash with Kakali High School at the Dhanmondi Club ground (East) while Rayer Bazar High School will take on Ali Ahmad High School at the Dhanmondi Club ground (West) in the Group A ties.

Twenty-eight schools split into six groups—are taking part in the knockout basis league. Only the champions of each group will move into the next round.

## Lucky BU down Adamjee

Federation Cup champions Brothers Union were lucky to get away with full points in the Star First Division football league when they beat Adamjee Sports Club by a solitary goal yesterday at the Mirpur Stadium in a scrappy match.

Defender Rouf Babul scored the goal from a penalty 15 minutes before the final whistle. The Gopibagh boys who have collected eleven points from six matches, owed their victory to a great degree to the controversial supervision of referee Badruddin.

Brothers Union enjoyed the better of the exchanges with Adamjee stubbornly resisting the forays of the men in orange. With time ticking away the Brothers players became impatient and show of temper

seriously threatened the late of the match. Rupu and Moon were locked in a scuffle with Adamjee player Shaheen and the felling of the Adamjee player by Moon earned him a red card from the referee.

Ahmed, the speedy Brothers forward, wasted a fine chance in the 70th minute by shooting wide. Earlier, Adamjee's Hossain had saved a shot by Uttam from the goal-line.

But a doubtful decision by the referee spoiled Adamjee's chance of snatching a point from their fancied opponents when Mantik, sandwiched between two Adamjee defenders Jamirul and Hossain, lost control and Hossain, who cleared the ball to safety, looked bewildered when the referee pointed his finger to the dreaded spot. That was in the 75th minute and Rouf Babul, the tall Brothers de-

fender, coolly converted the spot kick much to the relief of the Brothers supporters.

Adamjee thus suffered second defeat and now have six points from six games.

**BROTHERS UNION:** Pontir, Pizush, Rouf Babul, Moon Pervez, Ataur, Uttam, Rupu, Mantik (Iqbal), Amin Khan (Ahmed) and Wasim.

**ADAMJEE SSC:** Alam, Jamirul, Shaheen, Hossain, Dilip, Rakhal, Yusuf, Maruf, Barshah (Ripon), Mithu (Lipu) and Akhter.

**Referee:** Sheikh Badruddin Agrani Bank earned full points in yesterday's first match by recording their third successive win, beating newly-promoted Bangladesh Police by two goals to nil.

The winners led the first half one-nil.

BKSP product Bakhtiar scored the first goal with a neat grounder twelve minutes into the first half (1-0).

Striker Jamal sealed the fate of the match five minutes after the short whistle when he beat the Police custodian after midfielder Mongol had done the spadework (2-0).

Agrani Bank raised their points collection to nine from six matches while police remain at a poor one from as many matches.

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Muktijodha vs Victoria SC (3 pm)  
PWD vs Faraahgan SC (5 pm)

**Morale boost for Lankans**  
SYDNEY, Feb 16: Sri Lanka began its preparations for the World Cup with an impressive eight-wicket victory over a President's XI in a limited-overs cricket match played Sunday at Manly Oval, sports AP.

After restricting the local team to 130 all out from 48.5 overs on an awkward pitch, Sri Lanka raced past the target in only 28.1 overs for the loss of only two batsmen.

The tourists fielded smartly and bowled a controlled line and length.

Paceman Kapila Wijegunawardene took three for 39 from eight overs and removed former England Test players Chris Broad (14) and David Capel (29) as well as President's XI captain Bill Marks (7).

The President's XI slumped to 74 for seven in the 30th over until former Australian wicketkeeper Greg Dyer (24) and promising junior Shawn Bradstreet (17) built up the total.

Sri Lankan opener Athula Samarasekera blasted 30 runs in even time to put his team on the road to victory.

When Asanka Gurusinghe fell for 18 at 90 for two, it was left to opener Roshan Mahanama, who made a patient 39 not out, and captain Aravinda de Silva (28 not out) to hammer the winning runs.

De Silva was in particularly good form. His 28 came from only 20 balls and included three fours and a huge six.

Sri Lanka continues its World Cup preparations with a 50-over match against Pakistan at North Sydney Oval on Monday.

Sri Lanka plays its first game of the World Cup on Feb 23 against Zimbabwe in New Plymouth in New Zealand.

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Despite his performance, Perkins said the pool was a slow one.

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Sonali Bank vs Police AC (1:45 pm)  
Abahani KC vs Wari Club (3:15 pm)

**Mariners beat Ajax**  
**Sports Reporter**

Dhaka Mariners Young Club recorded their eighth consecutive victory in the Green Delta First Division hockey league beating Bangladesh Railway Sporting Club by three goals to one at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Mariner Youngs, with full 16 points from eight outings, now top the points table while title aspirants Ajax Sports Club with 15 points, also from eight games are second in the league.

Reigning champions Abahani Krishna Chakra and Mohammed Sporting Club are joint third in the table with full 14 points from seven encounters each. These four are the only unbeaten sides till now.

Bangladesh Railway, by contrast, have only four points from eight engagements.

Mariner Youngs led the first session of the match 2-0.

Veteran Jamil Parvez, Lulu put the side from Arambagh ahead in the 16th minute by striking home a penalty stroke (1-0).

Mukti doubled the margin.

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**Fine act of charity**  
History was made Friday at the Kurmitola Golf Club when K Takeya made a hole-in-one and won a 1992 Toyota Starlet Car.

Takeya was playing in the 14th annual American Cup Golf tournament sponsored by the American embassy — Dhaka in association with the American business community of Bangladesh. The car was offered by Navana Limited for the first person in the tournament to score a hole-in-one on the 185-yard 10th hole. The estimated odds against Takeya's feat were 18,000 to one.

In a most admirable gesture of generosity Takeya donated his prize to CARE — Bangladesh. CARE-International is a relief and development organization that has worked in Bangladesh for 30 years.

The presentation of the



K Takeya (4th from left) last Friday won a Toyota Starlet at the 14th annual American Cup tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club course. He then donated the car to CARE — Bangladesh as a fine act of charity. —USIS photo

## Vital tie for Biman today

**Sports Reporter**  
The vital Navana Premier Division cricket first league tie between last years Champions Brothers Union and runners-up Bangladesh Biman will be played today at the Dhaka Stadium.

Biman's chances of an outright entry into the super league depend on this match as they have to win it willy-nilly.

Brothers Union have already made it to the super league.

In the event of a Biman defeat the fate of the last team of the six-team super league will be decided through play-off matches.

Meanwhile, the Rank Xerox Second Division cricket league begins today after a day's gap.

Rainbow AC take on Young Pegasus 'B' at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while Lalbagh

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# Make haste slowly

**Star Special**  
One must not forget that our batsmen that in reality the touring team had a weaker spin attack than us and even a worse kind of pace attack. This is not to belittle the success of our batsmen but to put things in proper perspective.

The CAB team that toured in 1992-93 had Dilip Doshi and although our players were caught on the hip on a turning wicket, still they had the hang of world class spin. This time around, there was no such thing and the CAB attack was perhaps the weakest among the three West Bengal cricket teams that came here. To not put too fine a point on, we have better finger-spinners than guys like Sharadindu Mukherjee, Anup Das and Snehasish Ganguly. Their fielding was also ordinary and it never posed any serious challenge to the local batsmen.

But the experienced West Bengal batting line-up, bolstered further by the late arrival of talented Saurav Ganguly, has really lighted the miles that we have to cross in the departments of bowling and fielding. Our catching and ground fielding was atrocious and a country that has the ICC championship on its priority list, cannot afford to take that lightly with the excuse of 'exhibition matches'. Bowling is one department where one cannot hope for any overnight improvement. To some extent, it is a matter of luck. India has been trying to find fast bowlers with the aid of foreign coaches and a project but they have not met with any significant success. Our untoured, raw samples like Saiful and Zakir did well from that view point and that is one of the redeeming aspects of the tour. But fielding, as Zimbabwe showed in the 1987 World Cup, can be improved and that can make even an ordinary attack look good. For this our Cricket Control Board could have arranged coaching camps of longer duration to brush up and hone the fielding of the local side. Unfortunately, so hastily was the tour arranged that local players and officials were left with hardly any time for conditioning.

The selection of the local side left a lot to be desired. It was marked with a glaring fail-

ure to understand the practical purpose of inviting foreign teams. The selectors should realise that future of our cricket lay in giving exposure to new talents who can serve the national cause for long.

There is no point in playing played out players because they cannot be reckoned as future investment. It is time our selectors learnt to draw the line of demarcation between real prospects and 'big names'. No one can deny Jahangir Shah Badshah's contribution to the national side but one must not forget the age of this ever-green all-rounder.

But it is preposterous to pick a player well into his forties simply because his days are numbered as a player. The pity reaches its pinnacle when one has the mortification of seeing young players like Habbibul Bashar Suman, Saikat and Bilu left in the cold in preference to aged players. Talents if not given exposure at the proper time wither and we cannot let the pipe line desiccate like that.

The selectors could have widened the gamut of selection by taking talented players like Durjoy, Rokon, Mukul who play in the Milnars league. The fact that our selectors always concentrate on choosing players from the big league or as it has been called Navana league this time is detrimental to the larger interest of the game in this country.

One feels there was no point in playing the two day match, because our prime objective is to get as much exposure as possible in 50 or 60 overs a side game. Eighty overs type one is afraid will not serve any purpose because it is not wise to be on two boats at the same time.

Crickit officials could have done better to arrange three or four one-day matches instead with the two sides a full national squad and a Under-19 selection preferably, meeting the CAB side. Thought should be given to the idea of inviting superior and powerful sides to acquaint our cricketers with the 'scorching heat' of the highest level. If our players are synged there is no harm in it because only that way lie the chance of getting pure gold.

**Miandad slams Cup rules**  
There are 16 players to choose from in hockey, and 22 in the case of football. And both these games have a shorter duration than cricket.

With 14 players, most teams cannot afford a reserve

**Miandad slams Cup rules**  
Malcolm Gray, chief organizer of the fifth World Cup which begins in Australia and New Zealand on February 22, said last week a replacement will be permitted in only exceptional circumstances.

Miandad's outburst comes as the highly-rated Pakistanis, concerned at a back injury to strike bowler Waqar Younis, struggle to finalise their playing squad from the 17 currently touring Australia.

The team management has said they will name their 14 just a few hours before the deadline expires on Wednesday to allow Younis, one of the game's fastest bowlers-sufficient time to recover.

But Miandad is certain to be in the team which will make him and captain Imran Khan the only cricketers to take part in all the World Cups.

Miandad said he had recovered from a back injury which forced him to stay home when Pakistan flew in here with 15 players earlier this month.

Miandad, who joined the team in Canberra on Friday along with leg-spinner Iqbal Sikander, will play his first warm-up match on the tour against Sri Lanka.

**Windies confident of success**  
fielding," Murray said.

"He also has an important role in the team as vice-captain and he's a personality—we need people like him around."

Logie's return will bolster the West Indies top-order, which often looked brittle in the World Series Cup and relied excessively on experienced Desmond Haynes.

Murray said key batsmen like captain Richie Richardson, Benjamin, Logie and Keith Arthurton had found form in the domestic Red Stripe competition.

"The players who are (here) are very experienced, they've played tests and one-day internationals and they've been performing," Murray said.

"Going back to the West Indies after the World Series was the right decision. It gave us a chance to regroup and for the players to play in the Red Stripe."

"They could put things they learned in Australia into practice before coming back."

The West Indies team, which arrived in Sydney late on Saturday night, plays the New South Wales state team on Thursday in its only warmup match before the World Cup begins on Saturday.

The West Indies faces Pakistan in its tournament opener in Melbourne on Feb 23.

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arm recovered from a broken arm suffered in a car accident and comes into the team along with allrounder Benjamin, batsman Phil Simmons and spinner Harper.

"Gus Logie was missed in terms of his batting and his Zimbabweans win

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CAMBRIDGE, New Zealand, Feb 16: Zimbabwe boosted its World Cup hopes Sunday when it won two matches against New Zealand provincial team Northern Districts reports AP.

The African nation cruised to a seven — wicket victory in a 50-over match, dismissing Northern Districts for 81 and racing to 82 for three in reply.

That left enough time for a 25-over match to be hastily scheduled and Zimbabwe won Zimbabwe made 179 for six in its 25 overs with Andy Walker contributing 59 and Eddo Brandes 38. Northern Districts could only manage 146 for nine in reply, with Mark Burmester taking four wickets for 30.

Kevin Duers took four for 10 in the official match and Ian Butchart three for 10.

Wayne James then top-scored for Zimbabwe with 26.

Zimbabwe continues its World Cup preparations when it faces New Zealand in a 50-over match at Rotorua on Monday.

**Windies confident of success**  
The two-time winners of the Cup have recalled Gus Logie, Winston Benjamin and Roger Harper to add experience for the nine-nation championships.

Murray said he believed the team would bounce back from disappointing performances in the World Series Cup triangular tournament against Australia and India, in which the Caribbean squad failed to make the final.

"This is the West Indies team. There will be no more experiments and no more excuses," Murray said.

"We will be judged now on how we go."

"The failure at the Sharjah tournament (last year) and in the World Series Cup in all behind us. It's past history."

The West Indies, which has been rebuilding after the retirement of opener Gordon Greenidge and veteran captain Viv Richards, has made four changes to its World Series Cup squad.

Middle-order batsman Logie

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wicketkeeper in their squad. What does a team do if their main keeper is injured?" Miandad asked.

"I know this rule has applied for all the previous tournaments as well, but it is not too late to change something which is illogical."

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Cup, has criticised rules which limit each team to just three reserves for the entire competition, reports AFP.

The outspoken 33-year-old batsman, a veteran of 185 one-day internationals, said the reserves bench needed to be increased for the month-long tournament.

"There should be at least 16 players in each team, instead of 14, for the most important tournament in world cricket," Miandad told AFP soon after the Pakistanis arrived here for a practice match against Sri Lanka on Monday.

In case of a serious injury, it will take a replacement at least three days to be flown in and adjust himself to the new conditions. That could cost a team a match.

"It also gives the home team an unfair advantage because they can call on players at an hour's notice," he said.

Miandad gave the examples of similar tournaments in hockey and football to illustrate his point.

**Windies confident of success**  
SYDNEY, Feb 16: A revamped West Indies team in confident of success in the upcoming World Cup limited-overs cricket tournament, team manager Deryk Murray said Sunday, reports AP.

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