

Abahani canter past PWD

Sports Reporter

A fine all-round performance by Ashoka De Silva helped title aspirants Abahani Krita Chakra notch up a comfortable 58-run victory against Public Works Department in the Navana Premier Division cricket super league yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

between the wickets, top-scoring with an enterprising 58 off 65 balls without sending the ball to the fence even once. Zahid Razzak Masum, who batted at number three, scored 32 and prolific run-getter Akram Khan 31.



ASHOKA DE SILVA

Always a team man, Ashoka De Silva then tallied the PWD bowlers to score a quick 29 off 24 balls with the help of two huge sixes and one four.

Not unlikely in one-day cricket, PWD opening batsman Rownakul Islam Tutul turned out to be their most successful bowler with figures of four for

42. Off-spinner Shaheen took two for 41.

PWD got off to the worst possible start losing Tutul for a duck. Morshed then removed Shri Lankan Hamin for 19 and then all hell broke loose as Ashoka De Silva came on to bowl. He clean bowled compatriot and the explosive PWD batsman Ramesh Kaluwithana for 12 with PWD on 97.

De Silva then induced Kamrul to edge one behind to former national stumper Shafiqul Haq Hira two runs later and then completed the demolition act by casting Ehsan for a no-ball.

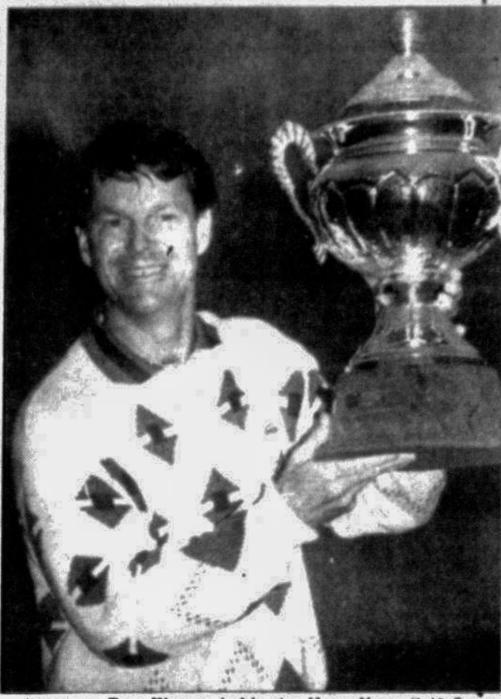
Abir went on to emerge as top scorer with 42. Shaheen batted in a serene way after the dust had settled down to remain not out on 30.

Skipper Jahangir Shah Badshah and Anwar made 15 each as PWD reached 153 for eight wickets from 45 overs.

De Silva bowled seven overs to claim three wickets for only ten runs. Morshed bowled economically to finish with one for 23.

TODAY'S MATCH

OMCC vs B Biman (Dhaka Stadium)



American Tom Watson holds the Hong Kong Golf Open trophy after winning the 2,50,000 US dollar tournament on March 8. It was his first victory in five years. — AFP photo

Graf clinches her 62nd title



BOCA RATON, Fla. Mar 9: Steffi Graf, trying to mount a charge at Monica Seles for the No 1 ranking,

won her first tournament of the year Sunday, overcoming a slow start to beat Conchita Martinez 3-6, 6-2, 6-0 in the Virginia Slims of Florida, reports AP.

Martinez won a set from Graf for the first time in their six matches, but the fourth seeded Spaniard lost her fizz faster than the free champagne served to the crowd at the Polo Club Boca Raton.

Graf, hitting the ball deeper and harder than at the outset, won 14 consecutive points early in the third set to pull away.

"This is a good start for me, because it's only the second time I've played this year," she said. "If you just keep practicing all the time, you don't really know where you stand."

"I haven't been without any injuries or illnesses for some time. It's good to feel that way right now."

The second-ranked Graf, who missed the Australian Open because she had the German measles, last won a tournament in October. Her path to the title was made easier by the absence of Seles



STEFFI GRAF

and the elimination of third-ranked Gabriela Sabatini in a quarterfinal upset.

Graf's private life has received much attention from European tabloids, but her only distraction last week was the publication of a photograph from a helicopter showing her sunbathing nude in her backyard. She was unidentifiable in the hazy photo printed in a German magazine.

Graf said she's unconcerned about rankings and other numbers, but when a reporter noted that the championship was her 62nd, she was impressed.

"Wow," said Graf, still only 22. "It's always surprising to me how long I've been in the game. Ten years is such a long time. Sixty-two tournaments is a lot. It's a lot."

Graf also won at Boca Raton in 1987 and 1989 and finished second three other times. The rewards for her latest victory: \$110,000 and a boost of confidence.

"I came into this tournament not sure about my game," she said. "I played for 10 days with a new racket, and the day before the tournament started, I changed to my old racket. So I'm happy about it."

Martinez also finished second — to Seles — at the Indian Wells Open a week ago. Ten singles matches in two weeks took their toll Sunday; Martinez became visibly weary in the second set and stopped chasing down Graf's shots in the corners.

"I was tired," Martinez said. "She's tough, but if I wasn't so tired I would have played much better."

"Obviously she was tired," Graf said. "Me too."

Graf said she became more aggressive as the match progressed, even coming to the net occasionally. She won 10 points on volleys against Martinez.

A \$14,000 check and back-to-back runner-up finishes were of some consolation to the eighth-ranked Martinez.

BFF picks 33

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday announced a preliminary selection of 33 booters to form a national squad for the 28th Asian Youth (under-19) Football tournament to be held in the Indian capital New Delhi next month, reports UNB.

Goalkeepers: Lahul (PWD), Totam (Wari), Bijoy (Arambagh), Milton (Rahmatganj), Narayan (Adamjee), Tota (Bima).

Defenders: Pijush, Ataur (Brothers), Barun, Shamim (Mohammedan), Masud Rana, Alamgir (Abahani), Borhan (Farshaganj) and Iqbal (Dhanmondi).

Linkmen: Uttam, Zakir, Roxy (Mohammedan), Swapan, Zakir (Abahani), Rana (Muktijoddha), Hira (Farshaganj), Pappu (Agrani Bank) and Kabir (Wari).

Forwards: Naktb, Riaz (Mohammedan), Tutul (Wari), Jahangir (Arambagh), Zakir (Victoria), Mehdi Masud (Fakriepool), Laboo (Bima), Jahangir and Bakhter (Agrani Bank).

The selected players have been advised to report to S M Shaheeb Ali on March 18 at 9 am with their kits.

Wanderers win

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Wanderers Club registered their third victory in the Green Delta First Division hockey league swamping Dhaka Ansars 5-1 in the second match at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The result left both teams at par on ten points from 12 outings each. Stam scored three goals for Wanderers in the 20th, 36th and 67th minutes while Rashid got the other two in the 28th and 65th minutes.

Abu Bakr Siddique reduced the margin for Ansars in the 41st minute.

Usha Krita Chakra edged past Azad Sporting Club 1-0 in the other match of the day.

Giasuddin Rubel netted the decider for Usha in the very third minute of play.

Meanwhile, defending champions Abahani Krita Chakra meet Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club in a vital match of the league at 3:15 pm today.

Both teams, still unbeaten, have full twenty-four points from twelve engagements each.

Independence Day cricket

Sports Reporter

The nine-day long 1992 Independence Day cricket tournament will begin on March 18 at the Dhaka Stadium, said a BCCB press release.

The six teams of the on-going Navana super league — Mohammedan Sporting Club, Abahani Krita Chakra, Bangladesh Public Works Department, Brothers Union, Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club and Bangladesh Biman — and the champions and runners-up of Milnars First Division cricket league will be taking part in the tourney.

The clubs have been advised to enrol their names with the BCCB office by March 13.

Meanwhile, the 1992 Shaheed Smriti cricket tournament will get under way also on March 18 at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, added the press release.

Clubs of the Milnars First Division league and the qualifiers of the Rank-Xerox Second Division league will play in the tournament.

Interested clubs have been asked to contact the BCCB by March 13.

Meanwhile, national championship will begin from March 22 and the national junior championship will start from April 9.

BU drub Victoria

Sports Reporter

Federation Cup champions Brothers Union beat Victoria Sporting Club by four goals to one to record their seventh victory in the First Division football league at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Brothers now have 17 points from ten encounters while Victoria have 11 from equal number of matches.

Victoria, who for some mysterious reasons did not field seven of their regular players.

Satyajit Das Rupu found the net for the Gopibagh boys in the 19th minute with a powerful left-footer from outside the Victoria box (1-0).

Ilias doubled the margin for Brothers in the 67th minute dodging past the Victoria goalie Chandan (2-0).

Ripon netted the third goal for Brothers in the 72nd minute with a fine grounder (3-0).

In the 81st minute, referee R Alam awarded Brothers a penalty.

Ilias made no mistake in converting the spot kick (4-0). Riazuddin of Victoria reduced the margin four minutes

from the time with an angular shot (4-1).

Earlier, Arambagh Krita Saugstha and Wari Club shared points in a drawn match.

Sunny put Arambagh ahead in the eleventh minute with a strong right footer from inside the Wari box (1-0) while Tutul restored parity for Wari in the 34th minute.

FRG donation

Sports Reporter

The Federal German ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Karl-Heinz Scholtyssek will hand over a donation of sports equipment worth DM 4,000, equivalent to one lakh taka, to the Bangladesh Football Federation at the National Institute of Sports in Savar tomorrow, Wednesday.

The donation is part of a programme carried out under the well-known German football coach and TV commentator Holger Obermann who arrived in the city March 1 in connection with a seminar for Bangladesh football coaches which is now being held under the joint auspices of the Bangladesh Football Federation and the Federal German Embassy in Dhaka.

Chang lifts Champions Cup



INDIAN WELLS, California, Mar 9: Twelfth-seeded American Michael Chang beat unseeded Andre

Chesnokov of the CIS 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 in the singles final on Sunday to cap an unusual week at the one-million-dollar Champions Cup tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

Chang did not face a seeded player en route to his seventh career title, his second of 1992, while Chesnokov, who had to drink some beer before Saturday's semifinal to overcome a hangover, beat three players ranked in the world's top ten just to reach the final.

On his way, to the final, Chesnokov, 36th in the world, eliminated top seed and defending champion Jim Courier of the United States, third-seeded Michael Stich of Germany in the semifinals, seventh-seeded Emilio Sanchez of Spain and 15th-seeded Wayne Ferreira of South Africa.

Because of their performances this week, Chang, who earned 132,000 dollars, will move from number 15 to ninth when the ATP tour world rankings are released today

and come in on a few points," Chang said. "The courts are slow, which favoured both of us, so I knew I had to do something different."

Chesnokov injured his stomachs stretching for a shot in the first set and at the end of the set took a three-minute injury timeout to have his stomach bandaged. He had to play more cautiously than usual in the remaining sets but would not blame the injury for his loss.

"Always it was a little hard to breathe and move around," Chesnokov said. "I think I'm OK. I still can play tennis with this injury. That's the reason I don't want to talk about it."

Larsson's title

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Mar 9: Manguus Larsson, coming off first-round setbacks in his five tournaments this year, beat fourth-seeded seed Anders Jarryd 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) to win Sunday's All-Swedish final in the \$155,000 Copenhagen Open, reports AP.

It was the second ATP Tour Singles title for the eighth-seeded Larsson. Ranked 79th in the world, he won his first title on clay two years ago in Florence, Italy.

Larsson, 21, later teamed with fellow Swede Nicklas Kulti to defeat Henrik-Jan Davids of Holland and Libor Pimek of Belgium 6-3, 6-4 in the doubles final. Only two other players, Boris Becker in Brussels and Goran Ivanisevic in Adelaide, were double winners this year.

Kasparov closer to Linares title

LINARES, Spain, Mar 9: World champion Garry Kasparov was on course for victory at the Linares international chess tournament after beating Spain's Miguel Illescas on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The result gave Kasparov, the only unbeaten player so far, a 1-1/2 point advantage over fellow Russians Anatoly Karpov and Alexander Belyavsky. With three rounds still to play, he can draw all his games and still win Belyavsky lost his first game of the tournament against Artur Yusupov, a Russian playing under the German flag.

The game between Dutch Grandmaster Jan Timman and Britain's Jonathan Speelman was adjourned after 56 moves and six hours' play. Timman was slightly ahead but the match was likely to end in a draw.

Tanima beats Rani Hamid

Sports Reporter

Reigning champion Tanima Parveen shook off her indifferent form by beating former champion Rani Hamid on the second day of the thirteenth national women's championship at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

Rani Hamid, playing with black, conceded defeat to her opponent playing white in the 46th move.

In another match, Jahanara Huq Runu (white) beat Hamida Rahman (black) after 77 moves.

Last year's runner up Shabana Parveen Nipa, playing with white defeated Zakia Sultana. The match was decided in the 64th move.

The match between Roksana Sultana Nikkon and Afsana Parveen was adjourned after 64 moves. The other match, between Afroza Khanam and Masuda Begum, was not held. The postponed match will be held on any off day on the basis of mutual understanding between the two contestants.

Liverpool in FA Cup semis



LONDON, Mar 9: Michael Thomas combined with England star John Barnes to give Liverpool a 1-0 win over Aston Villa and a place in the English Football Association (FA) Cup semifinals against Second Division Portsmouth on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Thomas, who hit a dramatic championship-winning goal for Arsenal at Anfield in 1989, struck in the 66th minute of the quarter-final with his most important goal for Liverpool and his first at home since joining them from the league champions in December.

Barnes, making a rare appearance in an injury-wrecked season, beat the Villa offside trap with a perfectly timed

through-ball from the right. Thomas struck it first time from the edge of the box, beating goalkeeper Nigel Spink as he advanced on the Liverpool midfielder.

Garry Parker brought a brilliant diving reflex save from Bruce Grobbelaar in the Liverpool goal in the 73rd minute as Villa, who eliminated holders Tottenham in a third round replay, launched an all-out offensive in search of an equaliser.

The match was finely poised throughout with Grobbelaar saving first half shots by Kevin Richardson and Dalian Atkinson and Liverpool's Welsh striker Dean Saunders shooting over the bar after a neat turn left two defenders going the wrong way.

Portsmouth reached the semifinals with an upset 1-0 win over Nottingham Forest, losing finalists last year, at home on Saturday.

Sunday's semifinal draw also pitted the winners of Today's fourth quarter-final between Chelsea and Second Division Sunderland against Norwich City or Southampton, who will replay on March 18 after drawing 0-0 on Saturday.

Both semifinals will be played on April 5.

The draw for the Scottish Cup semifinals paired Glasgow arch-rivals Celtic and Rangers, with Hearts and Airdrieonians making up the other tie. Both will be played on April 4.

Hearts scored twice in the opening eight minutes to beat Falkirk 3-1 in their Sunday quarter-final.

Letters drown Tyson judge



INDIANAPOLIS, Mar 9: More than 400 letters from all over the world have been sent to the judge who will sentence Mike Tyson for his conviction on rape and deviate conduct charges, reports AP.

They have come from England, Spain, Japan, Puerto Rico and Canada, as well as the United States. A few are in Spanish. Some urge probation and others urged tough sentences.

But Marion County judges say the letters and names on petitions probably won't carry much weight with Superior Court Judge Patricia Gifford, who is scheduled to sentence Tyson on Mar 26.

"I don't think any judge would be persuaded by the number of petitions or people in the courtroom because it would be like the old Roman forum," said Superior Court Judge Webster L Brewer.

A jury convicted the former heavyweight boxing champion Feb 10 of rape and deviate conduct in an attack last July on Desiree Washington, an 18-year-old contestant in the Miss Black America pageant.

from Coventry, R.I. Tyson faces up to 60 years in prison. Based on past sentencing patterns, he likely will receive 12 years or less.

Judges say letters are read and petitions are noted.

But while pleas from family and friends are considered, judges say that the length of a prison sentence is determined more by the criminal's past, the victim's suffering, the nature of the crime, and the need to protect society from future crimes.

"It's an absolute balancing situation that's unique in every case," said Judge Gary L Miller.

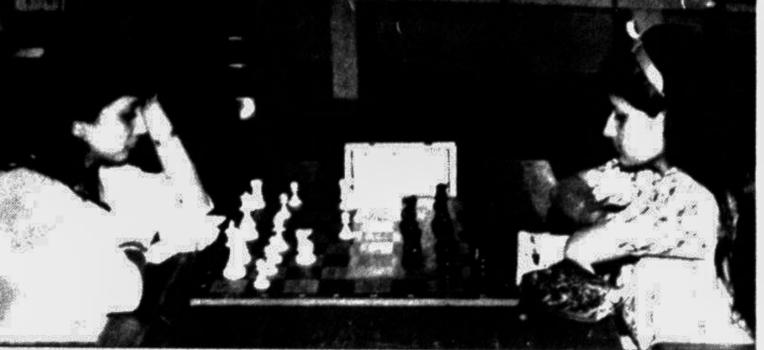
Jahangir to miss British Open

KARACHI, Mar 9: A visibly dejected Jahangir Khan, world number one and ten-time winner of squash's British Open said Sunday he would be unable to defend his title because of a back problem, reports AFP.

Addressing a news conference here, a day before the deadline for entering the April tournament, Jahangir said he was not fully recovered from the pain due to a gap in the lumbar spine, and have therefore decided not to defend the title.

"Doctors have advised me (to take) a complete three weeks rest," he said.

Asked who might win in London in his absence, he said he could not tell.



Roksana Sultana Nikkon (L) in action against Afsana Parveen in the 13th national women's chess championship at the National Sports Council yesterday. — Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Twangy

6 Mas' mates

9 Crude

12 "A View to —"

13 " — Blue?"

14 U-turn from WSW

15 Gibbs or Maples

16 Hypodermic device

18 Boundaries

20 Can't forgo

21 Author Umberto

23 Honest politician

24 Schreiber or Brundage

25 Three-piecer, e.g.

27 Skier's place

29 Washington hundred

31 Ship

35 Chop finely

37 Actress Garr

DOWN

1 "China Beach" locale

2 Alias: Abbr.

3 Steak type

4 " — want for Christ-mas..."

5 Camel's cousin

6 Light shade

7 Irving and Grant

8 Captain, to private

9 Actress Taylor

10 Wrath

11 Ill-kept, as

17 Buy stocks

19 "Ghosts" playwright

21 Incomplete 8?

22 "The Color of Money" prop

24 Mimic

26 Pet-ruchio's job

28 Pizzeria equipment

30 Father's Day gift

32 Eden villain

33 Pitching stat.

34 Backtalk

36 State division

38 Founded (on)

39 Small egg

40 Rife with night crawlers

42 Pare

45 Indigent

46 "The Haj" author

48 Polar employee

50 Born

51 Chowder-head

Solution time: 26 mins.

G	A	L	A	S	I	M	S	H	U	T
A	L	A	S	O	C	A	P	A	R	E
G	E	M	S	F	I	T	I	N	G	A
E	X	P	E	C	T	H	E	R	D	E
R	I	B	M	A	B					
H	E	F	T	A	M	B	U	L	A	T
O	R	O	L	O	A	L	O	W		
P	R	O	F	I	L	E	S	G	L	E
T	A	R	E	A	R					
W	E	B	B	E	D	B	L	I	G	H
O	V	A	L	E	R	A	E	L	I	E
V	I	L	E	A	I	L	V	E	N	D
E	L	L	S	D	O	L	E	N	D	S

Yesterday's answer 9-6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12					13				14			
15					16			17				
		18			19			20				
21	22			23				24				
25			26		27		28					
29				30			31		32	33	34	
				35			36			37		
38	39	40				41		42		43		
44						45			46			
47						48			49		50	51
52						53			54			
55						56			57			

9-6 CRYPTOQUIP

YJVAA YPLR'A MEAZQLYZCQA

YFPPVH DCQ F JVDZN

FYQCAA-ZJV-RCFQH AFPPQN

MEYQVFAV

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A CHURCH MINISTER OFTEN FOUND HIMSELF AT CROSS PURPOSES.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Y equals C

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.