

# Good wins for Abahani, Gulshan

**Bat dominated** ball for the second consecutive day of the 1992-93 Navana Premier Division cricket league as last year's runners-up Abahani Krishna Chakra chalked up a convincing five-wicket victory against fancied newcomers Victoria Sporting Club at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

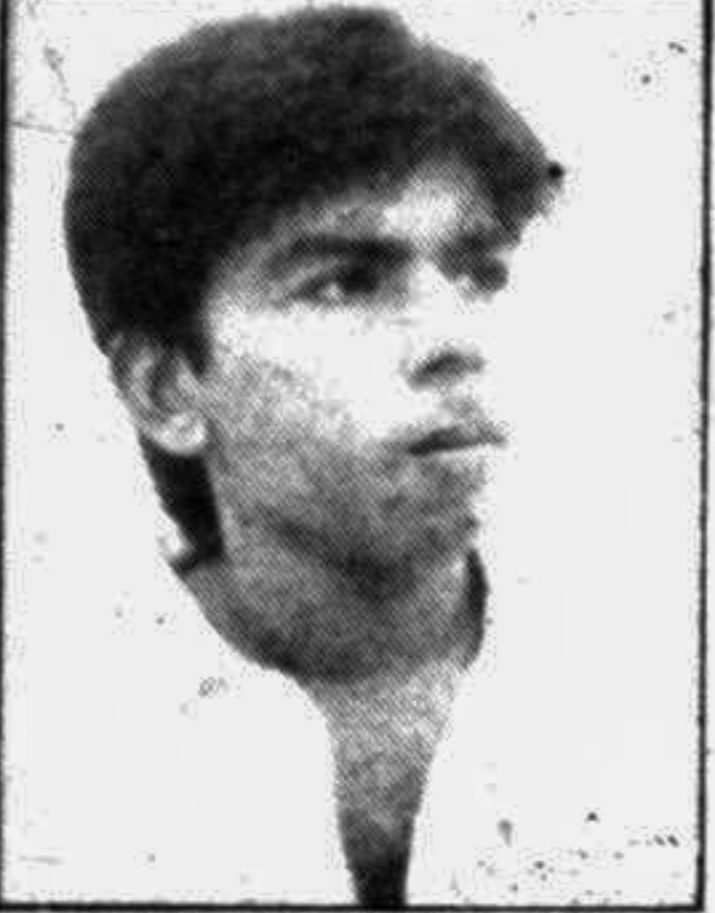
Chasing a victory target of 210 in 45 overs, Abahani knocked up 212 for five wickets in 41.3 overs with Shri Lankan Athula Samarasekara once again leading the charge with a stroke-filled half century. He was ably assisted by Akram Khan, unbeaten with 54 at the kill, while skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, who has made it a wont this year to see his side through, lighted up the faces in the terraces in the approaching darkness with a lusty boundary past the straight country that rang in the season on a winning note.

Earlier in the morning Victoria started disastrously, losing Indian Raja Venkat for nought as Lipu chose to field first after winning the toss. Basically a middle-order batsman from Calcutta, the left-handed Venkat was promoted as an opener by Victoria captain Roqibul but a fast improving Abahani new-ball bowler Khairuzaman Babu clean bowled him for one.

Roqibul's son Sajid then teamed up with one down Selim Shahed and with some watchful batting took the score to 61 before the former

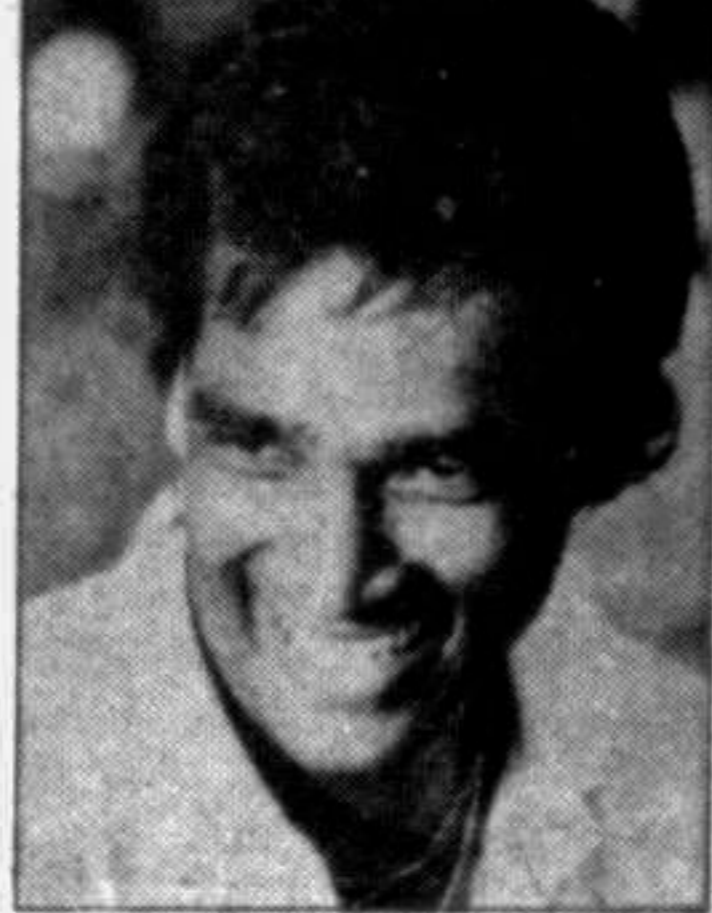
fell leg before to Sujan for 17. Shahed carried on in his typical plighted fashion to top score with 70 which turned out to be the cornerstone of Victoria's eventual total of 209 for seven wickets from their quota of 45 overs.

Shahed, who owed his life to the Abahani fielders, played



SELIM SHAHED ... 70

from death throes as Babu dropped and helped him to a sixer at long on. The second, this time off Effic, settled the score as he hoisted him straight near the sight screen but the third, an Akramesque heave over midwicket, took the cake. The Abahani fielders were relieved to see his back



A SAMARASEKARA ... 56

when another wild swing off Samarasekara shattered his stumps.

With Roqibul chipping in with a useful 17 off 21 balls Victoria reached 209 for seven at the end of their stipulated quota of 45 overs.

Samarasekara was Abahani's best bowler taking two for 22. Lipu also claimed two but at higher cost, 34 runs, to be precise.

Samarasekara played another entertaining innings of 56 of 58 balls, embellished with nine sure fours before playing on to his stumps off an attempted sweep against off-spinner Rubel.

Faruq, who was shaping well became Rubel's second prey when a wanky sweep swirled high and landed in the safe hands of Sajid, the lad whose friskiness and aim at the stumps warmed the less passionate hearts.

Akram hammered an un-

beaten 54 off 65 balls with four hits to the fence while Lipu remained undefeated on a 28-ball 25, inclusive of three fours as Abahani earned the victory off the third ball of the 42nd over.

Saikat was the pick of the Victoria bowlers, cleverly mixing armers with a left-arm spinners' stock delivery of leg spin to the right handers. However, he could take only one wicket, that of Jahangir, for a cost of 36 runs from eight overs.

The statistically superior Rubel took two for 34.

Shahed took one for 42 while Jahangir Shah Badshah, who managed a mutual clearance from his old club PWD to play for Victoria, took one for 48.

**GULSHAN WIN**

Whether it was the pangs of separation caused by Jahangir Shah Badshah's delayed departure or the inherent weakness, the fact remains that PWD began their league campaign with a 49-run defeat to Gulshan Youth in the day's second Navana Premier engagement at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Put into bat, Gulshan scored 190 for eight wickets from the possible 42 overs in their first match of this year's league. Liton top scored with 60 while former Indian Test cricketer Arun Lal made 34. Arif with a quick 26 was the other notable scorers.

For PWD Fazlu, Imdul and Anwar bagged two apiece.

Although Anwar cracked a carefree 43 not out off 45 balls and Kamrul an unbeaten 23, PWD could muster only 147 for five when the overs ran out.

Asif bowled well for Gulshan taking two for 21 off nine overs.

**TODAY'S MATCH**

GMCC vs Biman (Dhaka Stadium)

## Opi shines for Eskaton Sabuj

A fine allround performance by Opi help Eskaton Sabuj Sangha register an exciting 10-run victory against Bangladesh Railway in the only match of the Milnars First Division cricket league at the Mirpur Pallabi cricket ground.

Asked to bat first by veteran Railway skipper Selim, Eskaton were all out for 127 in 32.5 overs with Opi hitting 44 off 50 balls with the help of five fours. Biplob the other opener scored 29.

Ripon of Railway ripped through the Eskaton batting with figures of four for 28. Sadhan and Rezaul claimed two wickets apiece for Railway.

Opi gave the finishing touch to the demolition act of Shaheen who triggered off Railway's collapse with figures of four wickets for 15. Tariq of Railway stood amid the ruins with an unbeaten 38 as only three of his teammates got into the double figures.

Railway reached 117 in 39.1 overs, leaving Eskaton winners by 10 runs. Opi rounded off a day of success with bowling figures of two for 33.

**TODAY'S MATCH**

Lalmatia Club vs Sadharan Bima KS (Mirpur Pallabi ground)

## Shastri to lead as Azhar rests

DURBAN, Nov 19: Skipper Azharuddin, all-rounder Kapil Dev, paceman Manoj Prabhakar and wicket-keeper Kiran More have been rested to provide others an opportunity to display their form in the four-day match against a South Africa invitation XI beginning at Sprinbok Stadium tomorrow, reports PTI.

The Indian team will be led by vice-captain Ravi Shastri, an opener and left-arm spinner. Two other openers, Ajay Jadhava and V V Raman will also be on view. But with Shastri opening from one end, Raman in all likelihood will bat at number three.

The better performer between Jadhava and Raman will probably get the nod for the second Test.

Chetan Sharma was running fever last night but has been declared fit by doctors.

## Div I chess from today

The 1992 First Division chess league under the aegis of the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) begins today at the National Sports Council chess room.

The number-drawing and inaugural ceremony was held at the chess room yesterday.

Fifteen teams including defending champions Bangladesh Biman will compete in the round robin league.

## Judo, karate meet

The Ambia Khatun memorial judo and karate competition will be held from December 1 to 5 at the National Sports Council gymnasium under the auspices of the Dhaka Metropolitan Judo and Karate Sangha (DMJKS), says a press release.

## Nat'l jr wrestling meet begins

The three-day ninth national junior wrestling championships under the aegis of the Bangladesh Amateur Wrestling Federation (BAWF) got under way at the National Sports Council gymnasium yesterday.

The BAWF president Capt (ret) Siddique Ahmed inaugurated the meet.

Seventy-five wrestlers representing 12 teams are taking part in the competition. The teams are defending champions Khulna, last year's runners-up, Dhaka, Chittagong, Jessore, Bogra, Gazipur, Munshiganj, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Narail, Comilla and Kushtia.

On the opening day, first-round matches of eight different weight categories were held.

Finals of all events will be held tomorrow, Saturday, the concluding day of the meet.

## BFF short-lists 60 for President Cup

The selection committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has made a preliminary selection of 60 players to form two teams for the 1993 President Gold Cup tournament, to be held in the city from January 8 to 20, according to sources.

Six foreign teams and two teams from Bangladesh will participate in the meet in two groups.

The list of the selected footballers will be published after the approval of the executive committee meeting of the BFF to be held next Sunday, November 22.

The coaching camp for the players will start from December 1.

Meanwhile, the BFF has decided to train the district coaches at eight different venues across the country.

## Indian swimmers rule the pool

Hosts India annexed the inaugural South Asian swimming championship yesterday, the second-day of the three-day meet now being held at the Subhash Sarobar in Calcutta, according to All India Radio monitored in Dhaka yesterday afternoon.

India secured 10 of the swimming golds to clinch the title while Bangladesh and Sri Lanka managed one gold each.

Pakistan and the Maldives, the other two participating nations, are yet to bag a gold medal.

Four more swimming events, along with the water-polo final, will be held today, the concluding day.

## Sixth-place finish by Dhaka XI

Bangladesh national hockey team, which played under the guise of Dhaka XI, finished sixth in the nine-team All India Surjeet Singh memorial hockey championship held from November 3 to 13 in Jalandhar, Punjab, India.

Punjab and Sindh Bank emerged as champions while Air India finished as runners-up.

## Finance DU b'ball champs

Department of Finance emerged as champions in the Dhaka University inter-department basketball tournament trouncing Department of Marketing by 53 to 29 points at the university gymnasium yesterday.

Acting Vice Chancellor of the University Prof Emazuddin Ahmed distributed the prizes as chief guest.

# Kiwis call up Wright, 3 others

WELLINGTON, Nov 19: Former captain John Wright was among four New Zealanders named on Thursday as replacements for players who have withdrawn from the tour of Sri Lanka because of Monday's bomb blast, reports Reuter.

Wright, one of the country's most capped players, was joined by uncapped pace bowler Michael Owens, all-rounder Justin Vaughan and off-spinner Grant Bradburn, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said.

The quartet replace five players — batsmen Mark Greatbatch and Rod Latham, all-rounder Gavin Larsen, spinner Dipak Patel and fast bowler Willie Watson — who pulled out after the bomb attack outside their hotel which killed five people.

Wright initially made himself unavailable for the tour and was reported to be considering retiring. The left-handed opener led New Zealand from 1988 until 1990 and is their highest Test run-marker.

Vaughan, a middle-order batsman and slow-medium change bowler, was tipped to figure in New Zealand's World Cup squad, but after being named 12th man for a one-day international against England last season, dropped out of the reckoning.

He spent the last English season with Gloucestershire, mainly in their second team.

Bradburn, an off-spinner and useful batsman, toured Pakistan in 1990 and played in the one-day series in Australia the following year.

The five returning players have left Sri Lanka with team coach Warren Lees, saying they could not concentrate on playing cricket after the bombing.

from Colombo said Sri Lanka Cricket Board president Tyrone Fernando, angry at a statement by an English cricket official over a bomb blast here on Monday, wants the next International Cricket Conference meeting held outside London.

"I would be requesting chairman Colin Cowdrey to hold the ICC's next meeting in



JOHN WRIGHT

some other place and not in London," he told Thursday's Daily News.

The visiting New Zealand cricket squad on Wednesday reversed an earlier decision to call off its Sri Lanka tour after Monday's explosion, which killed four people including the navy commander just outside the team hotel.

Fernando, who is also a government minister, was angered by a comment by Allan Smith, chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board, saying the Colombo bomb would have implications for the England tour of Sri Lanka in March.

Smith also said the board would consult Britain's envoy in Colombo before embarking on the tour.

"I am surprised at this statement, especially as it has been made from far-away London where bomb attacks and threats are more frequent," Fernando said.

## Crowe's complaint

AUCKLAND, Nov 19: An angry New Zealand cricket captain Martin Crowe made it clear Thursday that he had been directed against his own wishes to continue the troubled Sri Lanka tour, reports AFP.

The tour hit a crisis Monday when a bomb exploded outside the Colombo hotel where the New Zealand team was staying. Five people were killed.

Initially the tour was called off when a vote found the party evenly split on staying or going.

After New Zealand Cricket chairman Peter McDermott flew to Sri Lanka the tour was resumed but with the coach and five players returning home. Four replacements leave here Friday.

A plainly upset Crowe told the TV3 network Thursday that he would sooner go home.

He said after McDermott's arrival he said there were no more votes among the touring party.

Asked if he had been directed to continue, he replied: "That's right."

He said there was no doubt the mood of the team had been affected by the bomb.

Asked if the departing players had been important he replied: "Absolutely, they're vital players."

The replacements will come over and do their best but if they were good enough they would have been here in the first place," Crowe said.

# 'Fight fire with fire', says Lillee

PERTH, Nov 19: Australia's legendary former fast bowler Dennis Lillee has called on Australia to "fight fire with fire" in the five-match Test series against the West Indies, starting in Brisbane on Friday this week, reports AFP.

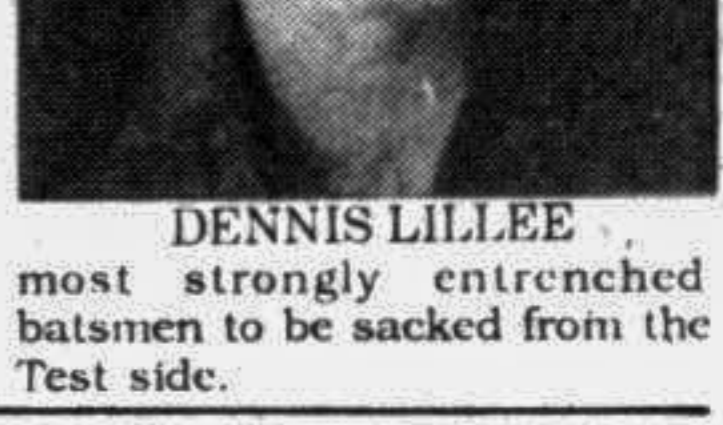
"They have used the shorter-length ball very well over the years and there is no doubt our fast bowlers, especially Craig McDermott, Mery Hughes and Bruce Reid have the firepower to match it with them," Lillee wrote in a column in the West Australian Daily.

"We've simply got to fight fire with fire."

Favouring the inclusion of those three speedsters, plus Mike Whitney, to form a pace quartet, Lillee wrote: "Selective shortpitched bowling can do the trick, but it's got to be selective because I can hark back to when we

overdid it and got thrashed in the second Test against them in Perth in the 1975-76 series."

Lillee, so often controversial, has called for Dean Jones, considered one of Australia's



DENNIS LILLEE

most strongly entrenched batsmen to be sacked from the Test side.

## Waugh's chance to make the mark

SYDNEY, Nov 19: Mark Waugh has a last chance to secure his Australian Test position when New South Wales play a four-day match against the West Indies starting Friday at the Sydney Cricket Ground, reports AP.

Waugh has been under pressure to retain his spot since scoring four successive ducks in the last two Tests against Sri Lanka earlier this year.

He is competing against his twin brother, Steve, and impressive young West Australian batsman Damien Martyn for one middle-order spot in the Australian team to face the tourists in the first Test starting in Brisbane on Nov 27.

West Indies captain Richie Richardson said Thursday that he expected Mark Waugh to retain his Test spot.

"I think he's a good player and an exciting player," Richardson said.

"He plays some good shots and even though I'm on the other side, you like to see things like that."

"He's a very competitive cricketer and I like playing against people like that."

Since returning from Sri Lanka, Waugh has gradually found form.

The elegant right-hander scored 88 in the opening Sheffield Shield match against Victoria and felt he was batting well after making 46 and 35 in two innings against Western Australia in Perth.

"I want to play for Australia and it is at the back of my mind," Waugh said.

"I've got my fingers crossed that I'll be (in the team for) the first Test, but you try not to think about it too much."

"If I don't get any runs for New South Wales here, I don't have to worry about thinking of the Test team because I won't be in it."

The Australian team for the first Test will be named on Monday — before the New South Wales-West Indies match is scheduled to finish.

## Gazza's goals for England

LONDON, Nov 19: A resurgent Paul Gascoigne breathed life into an ailing England side with two goals in an emphatic 4-0 victory over Turkey in a World Cup qualifier on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Gascoigne, playing only his second international since a 15-month lay-off with a serious knee injury, orchestrated England's first win in six games with a goal in each half.

It set England's World Cup campaign firmly on track after a 1-1 home draw with Norway in their opening Group Two game last month.

Alan Shearer, Britain's most expensive player at 3.2 million pounds sterling, launched his bid to claim the striking mantle of the retired Gary Lineker with his second international goal in six appearances and captain Stuart Pearce blasted in a free-kick.

After Gascoigne and Shearer had given England a 2-0 halftime lead, Turkey, who have never beaten England nor scored a goal against them in six previous matches, were killed off with two goals in two minutes on the hour.

England, desperate for a victory after their draw with Norway, finally threw off the hangover of their poor European championship finals in June.

Lazio midfielder Gascoigne, revelling in the vast space Turkey gave him, drove England forward to crush a side which had restricted them to a 1-0 win at Wembley in their last meeting a year ago.

England had two chances of an early goal. Full back Lee Dixon hit the post in the fourth minute and Shearer was denied by a defender's foot after Ian Wright's powerful shot was only partly by goalkeeper Hyrettin Demirbas.

Turkey almost took a shock

## No surprises at New York

NEW YORK, Nov 19: A night after the No 2 seed was bumped out of the tournament, the Virginia Slims Championships ran true to form Wednesday night, reports AP.

Third-seeded Gabriela Sabatini, No 5 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and No 7 Jennifer Capriati posted straight-set victories to move into the quarterfinals of this season-ending event.

In what was rapidly becoming a fad in the dirs 3 million tournament, Capriati and Sanchez Vicario had to win first-set tiebreakers en route to victory. Not so Sabatini, who crushed Amy Frazier 6-0, 6-2 in the night's final match.

Capriati defeated Helena Sukova 7-6 (7-3), 6-1 after Sanchez Vicario upended Zina Garrison 7-6 (7-0) 6-1. On Tuesday, Lori McNeil shocked No 2 seed Steffi Graf 7-6 (7-1), 6-4 and Jana Novotna eliminated No 6 Mary Joe Fernandez 7-6 (7-3), 6-2.

With the crowd cheering her on in both English and

Spanish, Sabatini had little trouble handing Frazier a lopsided loss in her first appearance in the tournament.

The Argentinian's ground strokes were deep and heavy, her serves powerful and well-placed, her volleys crisp.

Frazier was, in a way, the perfect foil as Sabatini began what she hopes will end in her second Slims title. She won in 1988.

Frazier drew a big round of applause when she held serve in the second game of the second set, winning her first game of the match. Her second — and last — came three games later when she broke Sabatini's service.

It also took a while for Sanchez Vicario to find a groove. The Spaniard trailed Garrison 5-2 in the opening set before grabbing a quarter-final spot against fourth-seeded Martina Navratilova in the next round of this dirs 3 million tournament. Garrison continued her lackluster play at Madison Square Garden, losing for the 11th time in 13 matches.



Seventh-seed Jennifer Capriati of the United States returns a shot to Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia in the first round match of the Virginia Slims Championships in New York on Wednesday. Capriati won 7-6 (7-3), 6-1. - AFP photo