

# Final fizzles in fiasco

Sports Reporter

The final of the Victory Day cricket tournament ended in a fiasco after just 13 of the scheduled 80 overs to be bowled on the first day of the two-day long match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Batting first defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra had catered to 55 for one when all hell broke loose. Abahani's Shri Lankan opener Athula Samarasekara swept at a delivery from Mohammedan spinner Azhar Hossain Shantu, the ball eluded the bat ballooned in the air off some part of his body and with wicket-keeper Shahidul Alam Ratan gloving it behind the wicket the Mohammedan fielders burst into a raucous appeal for a catch at the wicket. Umpire Wajed Ali Khan Pontir disallowed the appeal, showing that the ball had gone up off Samarasekara's elbow. The Mohammedan fielders, however, stuck to their guns, insisting on the umpire upholding their appeal. A confused — and Pontir walked down to square leg umpire Manju, a former cricketer, for consultation and raised his finger to announce the death of the match.

Having stood out there with Damocles' sword hanging on him, Samarasekara showed signs of dissent before reluctantly starting the walk back to the pavilion. Any attempt of faith healing as far as the umpires were concerned evaporated when Abahani coach Tamim asked his non-striking batsman Ziauddin Ahmed Shonon to troop back to the pavilion.

An agitated Tamim kicked at the rope encompassing the ground and the fans of the aggrieved team took over to make an already bad situation worse. A cracker was blasted

from the south eastern part of the gallery forcing cricketers and spectators to run pell mell.

Earlier Abahani, who were going merrily along against wayward Mohammedan seamers, lost their first wicket at 50 when Jahangir Alam was



Nothing doing must have been the print on Athula Samarasekara's cerebral screen while dealing with this wayward delivery from Zakir of Mohammedans. The match met a premature death as Abahani refused to continue after Samarasekara had been given out in controversial circumstances. Abahani were then 55 for 2 after 13 overs.

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) has called a meeting at 11 am today to resolve the deadlock.

## Div II cricket

Bowlers dominated in yesterday's second division cricket league matches at different venues around the city.

Sajul and Kamrul were devastating with new ball in Lalbagh USC's 20-run victory over Azad Boys Club at the Dhanmondi Club ground while Bapji and Asad of Shantinagar B engineered a huge 76-run win over Young Pegasus B at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Lalbagh USC had a nightmarish start in their match against the former First Divisioners Azad Boys Club. Sent in to bat, Lalbagh lost both their openers with only nine runs on the board. They lost three more wickets in quick succession to reel at 52 for five.

But then a sensible 64-ball 38 from Yousuf Kabir held the innings together and gave Lalbagh a respectable total of 134 for eight in their stipulated 35 overs.

Kabir got able support from Haider (19) and Moti who stayed at the crease till the end with 21.

Shakil Kasem, Azad Boys' new ball operator, was the most successful bowler with two wickets for 10 runs off seven overs.

Sajul and Kamal made life miserable for the Azad Boys batsmen with the new ball.

They shared the first four wickets to demolish the Azad Boys top order. Yet Azad Boys' total staggered past the 100-run mark, thanks to some sloppy Lalbagh outcries which gave away as many as 32 sundries.

Iqbal Azim scored 21, Shakil Kasem notched up 16 while Shakil Huda hit 15 as the Azad Boys innings folded at 114 in 30.3 overs.

Sajul and Kamal claimed three wickets each for 16 and 18 runs respectively.

## SHANTINAGAR B WIN

In the other match of the day, Shantinagar B decided to bat after winning the toss and despite a fine spell from Jewel, who returned figures of four for 36, managed a not-so-unimpressive 160 in 35 overs.

Raja topscored with 35 followed by Sujun who chipped in with 26. Extras yielded another 31 runs.

Chasing a target of just under 4.5 runs an over the Pegasus B innings crumbled in the face of fiery spells from Bapji and Asad.

Bapji claimed three for 19 and Asad three for 14 to restrict Pegasus to 87 in 27.5 overs. Only three batsmen — Poltu (18), Pappu (16) and Jubair (11) crossed into double digits.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

Ajax SCC vs United Heroes (DCS)  
Orient SC vs Mill Barracks CC (DCC)

## Sports bulletin in Radio Bangladesh

Radio Bangladesh starts a sports news bulletin in its national broadcast from January 1 next, reports BSS.

Information Minister Nazmul Huda is expected to open the first-ever sports bulletin at a function to be held at the National Broadcasting House auditorium at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar here at 6-50 pm on the day.

According to a press release the five-minute bulletin will go on the air at 7 pm daily. It will contain latest information on important sports events at home and abroad.

The new programme aimed at meeting the information needs of sportsmen and women and sports-fans is part of the broadcasting organisation's plan to render special community-wise service to the listeners. The central news organisation of Radio Bangladesh also started broadcasting at 12 noon everyday a commercial news bulletin for traders, businessmen and exporters from October 16 last.

## Kiwis clinch one-day series

# Batsmen let Pakistan down again

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Dec 30: New Zealand beat world champions Pakistan by six wickets in a one-day cricket international on Wednesday and won the three-match series 2-1, reports Reuter.

The win in the sunshine at Eden Park was sweet revenge for New Zealand, who were beaten by Pakistan in the World Cup semifinal on the same ground in March after seemingly having that game sewn up.

As in the previous two matches in this series, Pakistan's batsmen failed, being bowled out for 139 in the 48th over after being sent in again by home captain Martin Crowe.

They scored only 158 and 136 in the other games.

Pakistan's vaunted bowling attack led by Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis but minus the suspended Anqib Javed were unable to save the champions despite some fiery fast bowling.

New Zealand, at one stage in a little trouble at 45 for three, were steered to victory by the secure bat of Crowe, who scored 57 not out and aided by Ken Rutherford, with 28.

The win was set up by New Zealand's steady but tight bowling attack led by Willie Watson. Watson bowled a career best of four for 27 which included removing two top order batsmen in two balls plus securing the vital wicket of Pakistani captain Javed Miandad.

Third umpire Dave Gustedt marked his appearance with a controversial decision to give Pakistani opener Shahid Saeed out with the television replay showing the batsman's bat on the crease when Dipak Patel's throw shattered the stumps.

On Monday in the second match, Shahid was the first

batsman in New Zealand to be given out by the third umpire, who views replays on television.

But the crowd of 15,000 roared approval when Shahid was given the dreaded red light. Gustedt later also gave Inzamam-ul-Haq the red light but that decision was far more clear-cut.

Shahid's dismissal signalled the start of a steady stream of wickets from the ill-disciplined Pakistani batsmen.

Watson bowled anchorman Rameez Raja for 23 and then had Saeed Anwar taken by wicket-keeper Adam Parore first ball.



M CROWE... 57 not out

out but fell for 24, including two sixes, when Akram got one to climb on him and he popped a catch up to Mushtaq Ahmed at point.

When the out-of-form Andrew Jones was trapped lbw for nine by all-rounder Naveed Anjum, Pakistan had a glimmer of hope. However, Rutherford and Crowe dug in to ensure the win with a partnership of 60.

Gradually, the New Zealand pair established control, even laming Younis, and each unleashed a number of attractive cuts and drives.

In the latter part of his innings Crowe was at his majestic best, driving with immense



W WATSON... 27

power and exquisite timing. He hit five fours in his 98-ball innings and received the man-of-the-match award.

Anjum was included in Pakistan's line-up in place of Anqib, who was suspended for one match for abusing the umpire in the Napier game on Monday.

The two teams next meet in Hamilton on Saturday for a five-day Test match before Pakistan return to Australia for the triangular competition against Australia and the West Indies.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the third and

final one-day cricket international between Pakistan and New Zealand on Wednesday:

PAKISTAN:				
R Raja b Watson				23
S Saeed run out				17
S Malik c Crowe b Larsen				23
S Anwar b Watson				0
J Miandad c Parore				0
b Watson				30
Inzamam run out				2
W Akram c Jarriss				0
b Morrison				21
N Anjum st Parore b Harris				0
Rashed not out				9
W Younis c Crowe b Morrison				0
Mushtaq c Greatbatch				6
Watson				6
Extras: (lb-5, nb-3)				8
Total: (47.4 overs)				139
Fall of wickets: 1-35; 2-43; 3-47; 4-75; 5-77; 6-123; 7-123; 8-127; 9-128.				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Morrison	10	1	27	2
Patel	10	2	25	0
Watson	8.4	1	27	4
Larsen	10	2	20	1
Harris	6	1	22	1
Jones	2	0	6	0
Latham	1	0	7	0

## NEW ZEALAND:

M Greatbatch c Mushtaq				
b Akram				24
R Latham c Inzamam				0
b Younis				0
A Jones lbw b Anjum				9
M Crowe not out				57
K Rutherford b Mushtaq				28
C Harris not out				11
Extras: (lb-3, nb-3, w-5)				11
Total: (For four wickets, 42.4 overs)				140
Did not bat: D Patel, A Parore, G Larsen, D Morrison, W Watson.				
Fall of wickets: 1-10; 2-34; 3-35; 4-105.				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Akram	9	2	28	1
Younis	10	2	27	1
Anjum	10	1	30	1
Mushtaq	9.4	1	34	1
Malik	1	0	4	0
Shahid	3	0	14	0

Result: New Zealand won by six wickets. New Zealand won the series 2-1.

Man-of-the-match: Martin Crowe.

# President Cup fixture announced

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday announced the schedule for the seventh President Cup international football tournament to be held

## Indian booters disciplined

BANGALORE, Dec 30: Eight football players, who reported yesterday for the national camp in connection with the Nehru Cup which is underway at the south centre of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in the outskirts here, were asked to go back on "disciplinary" grounds, reports PTI.

The players who reported to the camp late were Tarun Dey, Tushar Rakshit, Ilyas Pasha, Alok Mukherjee, Satyajit Chatterjee, Sukanta Laha, Achinta Beel and Atanu Battacharya.

The camp which started here on December 1, will be shifted to Madras on Jan 9.

Priyaranjan Das Munshi and PP Lakshmanan, president and secretary respectively of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) told newsmen after the working committee meeting of the AIFF here tonight, Bruno Coutinho, Roy Baretto and Tauseef Jamal, who failed to report for the camp were suspended from today.

Gauranga Pal and Abdul Khalique were invited by AIFF to join the camp, they added.

Lakshmanan said eight teams for the Nehru Cup were finalised. They are: Bolivia, Cameroon, DPR Korea, Russia, Finland, Romania, Algeria and India. The tournament would start at Madras on Jan 19 and the final was slated for February 4, he added.

He said the under-21 team from each state were permitted to participate in the national games and the national football championship for the Santosh Trophy would be held as scheduled from February 1 to 21 at Kochin.

He said five-a-side football championship will be held from next year in which state teams would participate. This would be held at Calcutta, he said.

India would take part in the pre-World Cup football tournament in Lebanon and would meet Lebanon in the first match on May 9 next year, he added.

## Boxer in trouble

PHOENIX, Dec 30: Football star-turned-boxer Mark Gastineau was returned to Arizona from New York on Tuesday to face a drug charge, reports AP.

Gastineau, the former New York Jets defensive end who grew up in Springerville, Arizona, was booked into the Maricopa County Jail shortly after midnight Tuesday. Sheriff's spokesman Sgt Jay Ellison said.

in the city from January 6 to 16.

According to the fixture, the senior of the two Bangladesh selections — the Reds — who had won the tournament when it was last held three years ago, will meet the Polish club side Polonia Warszawa in the opening match on Wednesday, January 6.

The tournament's first match is scheduled for a 5:30 pm kick-off after Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, who is the chairman of the organising committee, performs the inauguration ceremony as chief guest.

Eight teams, split into two groups, will be vying for the glittering gold cup. Other than the two local selections — the Reds and the Greens — there are four east European club sides, a South Korean team and the national under-23 Olympic squad of Malaysia. These contenders have been grouped as under:

**Group A** — Bangladesh Reds, Krylia Sovetov (Russia), Polonia Warszawa and the national Olympic team (Malaysia).

**Group B** — Bangladesh

Greens, FC Tatran Presov (Czechoslovakia), FC Ploesti (former Patrol of Romania) and Housing Bank FC (South Korea).

Two league matches will be played daily — at 4 pm and 6 pm everyday — except on January 6, 7 and 12.

The semifinals, scheduled for January 13 and 14, will feature the top two teams from each group while the final is billed for a 4 pm start on January 16. The losing semifinalist will play for the third place on January 15 at 3:30 in the afternoon.

The Czechoslovak, Polish, Russian and Malaysian teams are all due in the city on January 4 while the Romanian and South Korean sides are expected to arrive on the day of the tournament starts.

Four referees — one each from Russia, Poland, Malaysia and South Korea — will accompany their respective teams to conduct matches of the tournament.

The rate of gallery tickets for double matches during the league has been fixed at Tk 15, for the semi-final at Tk 20 and the final at Tk 25.

## FIXTURE

Following is the fixture of the 7th President Gold Cup football tournament.

Jan 6 (Wednesday)	Bangladesh Reds	Vs Poland	5.30 pm
Jan 7 (Thursday)	Russia	Vs Malaysia	5.30 pm
Jan 8 (Friday)	Romania	Vs South Korea	4.00 pm
	Bangladesh Green	Vs Czechoslovakia	6.00 pm
Jan 9 (Saturday)	Russia	Vs Poland	4.00 pm
	Bangladesh Red	Vs Malaysia	6.00 pm
Jan 10 (Sunday)	Romania	Vs Czechoslovakia	4.00 pm
	Bangladesh Green	Vs South Korea	6.00 pm
Jan 11 (Monday)	Malaysia	Vs Poland	4.00 pm
	Bangladesh Red	Vs Russia	6.00 pm
Jan 12 (Tuesday)	South Korea	Vs Czechoslovakia	3.00 pm
	Bangladesh Green	Vs Romania	5.00 pm

**Semifinals**  
Jan 13 (Wednesday) Group A champion Vs group B runners-up 7 pm  
Jan 14 (Thursday) Group B Champion Vs Group A runners-up 6 pm  
Jan 15 (Friday) Third place deciding match 3.30 pm  
Jan 16 (Saturday) Final 4.00 pm



Action from yesterday's Sunball Second Division handball league at the Outer Stadium handball court. — Star photo

# Easy wins for Agrani, Bima

Sports Reporter

Sadharan Bima skimmed off an easy four-wicket victory against Bangladesh Railway in one of the two matches of the Milnara First Division cricket league at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Put in to bat Railway could muster only a lowly 142 in 42 overs. Rezaul was the top-scorer with 32 as extras featured as the next highest contributor with 28. Tareq with 21, Afzal with 19 and Sajjad with 16 were the other notable scorers.

David underscored economy and success in his eight-over stint which fetched him two wickets for 11 runs.

Ismael also took two wickets for 32 runs. Babu, Jewel and Halim Babu took one wicket apiece.

Bima, too, ran into trouble with half of their side back in the pavilion for 70 with opener Shaheen showing any semblance of defiance with 23.

But a late revival by the hands of Babu and lefty Halim Babu saw Bima reach their target of 142 for victory rather easily.

Babu, in fact, remained unbeaten on 36 as Bima romped home by four wickets. Halim Babu scored 32 off 35 balls with the help of two sixes.

Ripon bowled very well for Railway capturing two for 22.

Suman took one for 29 in another economic spell of bowling. Afzal and Rezaul took one apiece.

**AGRANI BANK WIN**

Meanwhile, a sound knock of 71 not out by Atiq paved the path for a huge eight-wicket win for Agrani Bank in the other Milnara league tie of the day at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Atiq, along with Azam who made 30, remained unbeaten as Agrani Bank chasing 177 for victory posted 178 for two wickets to hand Evergreen Club yet another defeat.

Earlier in the morning veteran Jogesh, skipping the bank outfit, won the toss and promptly asked his counterpart to bat.

Jogesh justified his decision in the fifth over of the Evergreen innings when he bowled opener Shahed for one with the score on seven. Evergreen kept on struggling and lost their second wicket at 41 when Tutan, the other opener, was sent back for 14.

A couple of batsmen got into the twenties but did not last long to help Evergreen come out of the rut. Mashuq and Momin scored 29 and 20 respectively.

Mithu slogged 30 quick runs off 29 balls before perishing in search of quick runs. Afzal was the other lower-order bat to shine with the

willow hitting a 21-ball 28.

With extras amounting to 22 Evergreen finally closed shop at 177 for nine off 42 overs.

Sajul with 2 for 18, Kaiser with two for 39 and Nadim with 2 for 23 were the main wicket takers.

Agrani Bank gradually built on a fine opening stand of 33 between Niaz and Anwar. The former left for 13 but seasoned campaigner Anwar went on to score 40. However, things could have gone awry for Agrani even from that stage had of course Atiq not come up with a bright innings of 71, embellished with eight fours and a sixer. The one-down batsman played only 80 balls, Azam was at the kill with a fine innings of 30 off 54 balls.

Tutan with one for 21 and Momin with one for 20 were the scarce bowling successes for Evergreen.

## TODAY'S MATCH

Lalmatia Club vs City Club (DCS)

## Perag Socks badminton from today

Sports Reporter

The twelfth Pallima Perag Socks badminton championships begin today at Khilgaon.

The six-day long meet will feature three events — men's singles and doubles and mixed doubles.

In a press conference convened at the Pallima Sangsad auditorium yesterday the organisers revealed that the cost of arranging the meet has been estimated at 60,000 taka of which Tk 30,000 will be provided by the sponsors. The meet offers a total sum of Taka 13,000 as prizemoney.



Jahangir Alam, sports secretary of Pallima Sangsad, seen addressing a press conference at the Sangsad auditorium yesterday in connection with the Perag Socks badminton tournament. — Star photo

## BOA AID FOR SHIRIN

In an off the field development Gias Kamal Chowdhury, president of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) handed Taka 10,000 to Shirin Akhtar, of Rangpur DSA, who got seriously injured in a road accident during the recently concluded Bangladesh Games.

Earlier, National Sports Council gave the ill-starred female handballer Taka 5,000.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

Progoti Boys Club	vs	Anirban Sangsad
		Old Ideals
		Purbachal Parishad
		West Jatrabari Kishore Sangha
		Dipali Juba Sangha
		Arunayatan
		Bhatri Sangha