

**Nirman cricket**

Sports Reporter

Dhanmondi Govt High School became the first team to qualify for the Dhaka zonal championship for the eleventh Nirman schools cricket tournament.

They beat Nabakumar Institution by two wickets yesterday at the Golapbagh Ground to clinch the Group A championship.

The Dhaka zonal finals comprising the eight group champions will be held after the completion of the qualifying meet late this month or early February.

The final round of this year's school cricket championship comprising the 20 zonal champions of the country is scheduled for February 10 to 20 in Dhaka.

The Nabakumar skipper Liton won the toss and elected to bat. Whatever his plans were it surely didn't work as his batsmen could muster a paltry 116 in 33 overs, two short of the stipulated 35 overs.

Shipu topscored with 34 runs off 56 balls, an innings inclusive of four shots across the fence while sundries added a healthy 33 to the total.

Munna with 18 and Suman with 12 were the other Nabakumar batsmen to reach the double figures.

Rumman with three wickets for 27 was the pick of Dhanmondi School bowlers while Babu and Tanvir took two wickets apiece.

Chasing a modest total Dhanmondi School lost their opener Tanvir for one in the very first over but eventually cruised past the opponents' total making 118 in 31.1 overs with two wickets in hand.

Skipper Chayan, who made an unbeaten half-century for Dhanmondi School in the semifinals last Monday, once again scored a match-saving 45 from 36 balls, a knock that included seven hits to the fence and one over it.

Babu remained unbeaten on 21 and Dipu scored 16 while extras added 11 runs to the total.

Suman and Rana evenly shared four wickets between them while Liton and Shipu took one wicket each for Nabakumar Institution, the eventual Group A runners-up.

**TODAY'S MATCH**

Lalmatia Boys School vs Graduates School (BUG)

**V'ball results**

Sports Reporter

Defending champion Titus Club registered their third consecutive victory in the NBL First Division volleyball league by beating Brothers Union 14-16, 17-16, 15-3 at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday.

Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation outplayed Dilkusha Sporting Club 15-1, 15-4, 15-9; Azad Sporting Club beat East End Club 16-14, 15-7, 17-15 while Bangladesh Rifles received a walkover against Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation.

**TODAY'S MATCHES**

First Div: PDB vs Wari (3:30 pm)

Police vs BWDB (3:30 pm)

Fire Service vs Madartek (6:00pm)

Sonali Bank vs East End Boys (6:00pm)

Second Div: Victoria vs Srijoni Sangsad (5:00 pm)

**Humiliation for Karpov**

WIJK AAN ZEE, Netherlands, Jan 19: Former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov suffered one of the worst defeats in his career on Monday when he was beaten in only 12 moves by American Larry Christiansen in a Grandmaster tournament, reports Reuter.

Karpov, playing black, blundered on his 11th move and Christiansen responded by moving his queen to attack two of Karpov's pieces simultaneously.

Faced with the unavoidable loss of either a bishop or a knight, Karpov resigned.

Karpov, 41, was world champion for 10 years before losing his title to fellow-Russian Garry Kasparov.

During his reign, Karpov established himself as the most consistently successful world champion with an unrivalled record of first in chess tournaments.

**Barcelona keen to host World Chess Championship tie**

SAN LORENZO DE EL ESCORIAL, Spain, Jan 19: The City of Barcelona was reported on Monday to have offered a prize fund of 4 million dollars to stage the World Chess Championship match between defender Garry Kasparov and challenger Nigel Short or Jan Timman in September, reports Reuter.

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**Team leaves for Qatar today**

Sports Reporter

In a rather unprecedented manner the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) made two conspicuous changes in the 25-member Bangladesh national football squad which leaves the city for Qatar today.

Bangladesh will play Al-Raiyan Club in an exhibition match in Doha on January 22 to mark the retirement of Mohammad Ahmed Al-Suwaidi, a national player of Qatar.

The Qatar Football Association, the organisers of the meet, will bear all the expenses of the Bangladesh national selection.

But the important changes of officials have already triggered a lot of controversy over the sincerity of the BFF.

The BFF, governing body of the country's soccer, quite surprisingly changed the leader of the delegation three times within a couple of days.

The nominated Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, an eminent politician of the country and a

former member of the cabinet, was replaced by Dr Ibrahim Hossain Chowdhury, secretary of the BFF selection committee, who was supposed to join the team as an observer, to make room for Dr Ibrul Hossain Chowdhury, who will now accompany the team as physio.

In the original list of 25 members, there was no room for a doctor.

The inclusion of a doctor in the contingent has surprised observers since Bangladesh will play only one match in Doha and that too an exhibition match.

When asked, the BFF secretary told The Daily Star yesterday that the changes in the squad had been made after consulting all the members of the BFF including Nabi Chowdhury and Abbasuddin Khan.

But sources said that the changes were made as per the reported instructions of one of the most powerful persons of the sporting arena.

However, Kazi Salahuddin, the coach of the national squad seemed quite happy with the team.

"All the players are fit and we will definitely display an attacking brand of soccer in

the first place only to replace him with the BFF treasurer Abbasuddin Khan for the reported inability of Manik.

In a dramatic turn around yesterday, the BFF selected Golam Rasul Mollah, another BFF member who was the manager of the Bangladesh Reds for the recently concluded seventh President Cup, once again because of Abbasuddin Khan's inability to join the squad.

The story of indecision did not end there as the BFF at the eleventh hour dropped Nabi Chowdhury, secretary of the BFF selection committee, who was supposed to join the team as an observer, to make room for Dr Ibrul Hossain Chowdhury, who will now accompany the team as physio.

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SALAHUDDIN... coach

Doha, Salahuddin told The Daily Star yesterday.

Team manager Md Shafiguzaman also expressed optimism about the performance of the team in a foreign land.

Syed Rumman bin Wali Shabbir has been made the captain of the team.

Following is the list of players and officials of the squad: Goalkeepers - Sayeed Hassan Khan and Md Ponir.

Defenders: Kaiser Ilamid, Monem Munna, Ataur Rahman Khan, Jewel Rana, Masud Rana, Pjush Nandi and Barun Dewan.

Medios: Syed Rumman bin Wali Shabbir (Cap), Md Arman,



SHABBIR... captain

Zakir Hossain, Saiful Bari Tito, Suttayajit Das Rupu and Mahub Hossain Roxy.

Forwards: Rizvi Karim Rumi, Golam Ghaus, Mamun Joarder, Imtiaz Ahmed Naqib and Rakib Hossain.

Officials: Golam Rasul Mollah, (chef-de-mission), Md Shafiguzaman (manager), MA Azim Badal (asst manager), Kazi Salahuddin (coach) and Dr Ibrul Hossain Chowdhury (physio).

**Navana Premier resumes today**

Sports Reporter

The Navana Premier Division cricket league resumes today after a day's break with the top two teams—defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club and their arch-rivals Damal Summer title-holders Abahani Krira Chakra—returning to action after a fortnight lay-off.

Reigning champions Mohammedana, who have won all the three matches they have played so far, will take on minnows Public Works Department (PWD) at the Dhaka Stadium while Abahani, now leading the points table with four straight victories, meet newcomers Uddy Club, who upset Damal Summer runners-up Brothers Union in their previous game, at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

The first leg is scheduled for a February 9 finish with the traditional rivals facing each other. The super league, comprising the top six teams of the first leg and the relegation play-off series featuring the five bottom finishers will be held later on.

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Richie Richardson, the West Indian skipper, holds the World Series Cup high after his side registered a four-wicket win over Australia in the second match of the best-of-three series at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Monday. Windies won the series 2-0. — AFP photo

**Border denies WSC hang-over**

ADELAIDE, Jan 19: Australian cricket captain Allan Border said Tuesday that the West Indies' emphatic sweep of the one-day series will have no bearing when the next Test match begins Saturday in Adelaide, reports AP.

Nipa, playing with the black pieces, forced J-bunnessa Rina to resign after 43 moves while Zakia needed 40 moves to take care of Masuda Begum.

Earlier on Monday, Nipa upset national women's champion and International Women Master (IWM) Rani Ilamid in her first round tie.

Rani Ilamid put the bitter memory of the unexpected loss behind to beat Afroza Khanam Babli in her second round engagement.

Playing with the white pieces Rani Ilamid adopted the French Defence system to take care of Babli in 44 moves.

Tanima Parveen settled for a draw against Syeda Afzana Parveen, the younger sister of Nipa. Tanima now has one and a half points.

Strike bowler Curtly Ambrose led the way to victory, taking eight wickets in the two matches. But Border said the one-day results have little relevance in the Test arena.

"It will be a great confidence boost for the West

Indies going into Adelaide but from our point of view we are able to separate the two games," border said. "Now, we just have to concentrate on winning the Test series."

Off-spinner Tim May and all-rounder Tony Dodemaide have been recalled to the 1988-89 series.

The West Indians dealt harshly with Dodemaide four years ago when he lost his outswinger and the Victorian state bowler said he was hoping to even the score against Richardson's side.

"It's something I've been working towards for the last four years — to get another Test on home soil — especially against these blokes because they cost me my spot the last time they were here," he said.

"I was disappointed the way things went against them last time so I'm really happy and really looking forward to it."

May played the last of his seven Test matches against the West Indies at the Adelaide Oval four years ago.

Opening Australian batsman David Boon is believed to have suffered a slight hamstring strain during Monday's World Series final. But on arrival in Adelaide on Tuesday he said he was fit and not in doubt for the Test match.

Whitney broke his foot during a one-day match in Brisbane last week and will not play for up to eight weeks.

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