

Agrani Bank outplay Lalmatia
Sports Reporter

Azam anchored two brilliant partnerships to ensure Agrani Bank a huge 80-run victory over Lalmatia Club in the Milnars First Division super league at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Azam, who has played some wonderful knocks this season, first paired with Atique for a 77-run partnership and then shared a breezy 92 in 80 balls for the next wicket to help Agrani Bank amass an imposing 234 for six wickets in 41 overs which Lalmatia found too much, managing just 154 for four in reply.

Sent in to bat the bankers experienced an early setback losing both their openers with only ten runs on the board. But Azam and Atique made sure for the next 19.5 overs that no more wickets fell, cautiously building the base for a big total with a third wicket stand of 77 runs. Atique went with the total on 87 after staying at the crease for 67 balls for his 43 including four shots across the fence.

Kaiser walked in with the Bank innings comfortably placed and started his fire-works from the first ball he faced. Together with Azam he made the total race to 179 in 13.2 overs before Aminul had his wickets rattled for 66. Kaiser had eight fours and a six in his 50-ball knock.

Azam stayed at the wicket for another 5.2 overs and he walked off after being caught by Aminul from a Khokon delivery. When he left for a 94-ball 75 the Bank total was 215 with 12 balls remaining of the possible 41 overs. Those two overs had a 1:19 wicket-run ratio.

Khokon bowled superbly in an innings where batsmen dominated throughout to return figures of four for 32. Just over five and a half runs per over was never the target the Lalmatia batsmen wanted to chase and instead of going after the big Bank total they preferred cautious batting practice. As a result when the 41st over was bowled Lalmatia lost only four wickets but were 80 runs adrift.

Rome hit three fours and a six for his 46 — the highest individual score in the Lalmatia innings. Hassan made 46 with four boundaries and an over-the-fence stroke while Fahim hit 23. Both of them were run out.

Raja and Pappu shared the other two wickets. Sadharan Bima take on Bangladesh Railway today.

3 share lead in women's chess
Sports Reporter

After the completion of the fifth round matches of the final round of the 14th national women's championship at the NSC chess room yesterday three players shared the top position but one for at least one of them the euphoria will be short-lived.

Former national champions Tanima Parveen and Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa, along with a comparative newcomer Zakia Sultana, led the points table with four points but both Nipa and Zakia have a game in hand and that against each other. In case of a decision in that tie either of them will go atop while a draw will have them sharing the spot.

The Nipa-Zakia tie couldn't be held earlier last week due to the former's preoccupation with her studies.

Tanima, Nipa and Zakia won their respective fifth round fixtures yesterday. Nipa needed 35 moves to checkmate Selina Banu Tuhin but her younger sister Syeda Afsana Parveen Nira had no such luck, going down to Zakia in 30 moves.

Tanima Parveen had a comparatively difficult time in taking care of Masuda Begum in a Queen's pawn opening tie. She needed 43 moves.

Defending champion International Woman Master Rani Hamid got back on the winning track when she beat Zebunnesa Rina in 31 moves. Rani Hamid now has two and a half points.

The adjourned third round match between Nira and Rani Hamid were declared drawn after both players agreed the tie was getting nowhere.

Hamida Rahman and Afroza Khanam Babi were still playing when this report was filed night.

Aga Khan golf ends today

The 20th Aga Khan Golf Club golf tournament commenced yesterday at the Kurmitola Golf Club course, says a press release.

The two-day event, sponsored by the Aga Khan, is the oldest and one of the most prestigious golf tournaments in the country.

About 164 golfers from the Kurmitola and Bhatiari Golf Club of Chittagong are participating in the tournament.

The event concludes today with the prize-distribution ceremony at the club in the evening.

Brothers buckle again
Sports Reporter



An excellent exhibition of medium-pace bowling by new-ball pair Joydev and Shabbir, later backed up by solid batting helped Gulshan Youth pull off a surprise, again at Brothers Union's cost, at the Dhaka stadium yesterday.

Brothers, who hit the headlines a few days back by going down to babes Udit, yesterday suffered a humiliating eight wicket Navana league defeat to Gulshan Youth who overhauled Brothers' modest collection of 193 for the loss of two wickets only with Indian Test discard Arun Lal hitting a sound, unbeaten 70.

On a now familiar chilly morning, Gulshan skipper Nasir Ahmed Nasu went the toss and invited his counterpart to make the first use of a wicket that promised to offer encouragement to the medium-pacers. Shabbir Chowdhury and Joydev, who featured prominently in Gulshan's victory against Biman in the previous match, started from where they had left off. Both bowled beautifully with Joydev in particular getting some extra assistance off the slightly damp wicket.

Tomal, the wicketkeeper-opening batsman of Brothers, was first to go, nicking one behind the stumps to Nasu off Shabbir for 11 with the score on 30 in the seventh over Joydev, the dark medium-pace, than ripped through the heart of the Brothers batting in a telling spell in which he removed Habibul Bashar Suman and Zahid Razzak Masum, the man on whom Brothers have been depending most of late. Suman was clean bowled for a duck while Masum got a tinkle to be

caught at the wicket for six. With Brothers perilously placed at 53 for four within



ARUN LAL... 70 n.o.

two overs Halim Shah aggravated the slide by running himself out and half the side of the Gopibagh team was back in pavilion for 57.

Shri Lankan paceman T L Fernando and later Golam Faruq Suru then paired with an extremely fortunate Nobel to conjure up two useful partnerships of 82 and 48 respectively to restore some respectability for this year's Damal tourney runners-up. Fernando used his down-the-wicket technique to good effect scoring 43 before being bowled by slow left armer Asif. Suru made 23 while skipper Nurul Abcdin Nobel rode his luck to emerge as the top scorer of the innings. His 85 off 114 balls made with the help of seven fours and a six and four lives came to an end when Joydev came back in his second spell, shattered his stumps.

Brother's grand total reached 193 for the loss of nine wickets at the end of the

stipulated time for the team batting at first. The Gulshan bowlers could bowl 44 overs with Joydev finishing with the best figures of three for 35. Shabbir was not unwilling to prove that pacemen love to hunt in pairs with figures of two for 31. Spinner Asif claimed two for 34.

Gulshan were not too far ahead of their fancied opponents at the onset of the innings with the opening pair of Lison and Mamun putting on 38 in 10.3 overs. Lison, the more aggressive of the two with a rapid 27 studded with five fours, was run out for 27.

One drop Arun Lal then joined Mamun and with the Brothers bowlers appearing short of penetration on a dried wicket, the set was stage for giant killing. The bearded Arun Lal went on to steer Gulshan to a creditable eight wicket victory with a breezy innings of 70. His 81-ball innings which featured some lovely square-cuts and pulls against the spinners, contained six boundaries.

Together with his compatriot Ashok Malhotra Lal added 72 runs off 14.5 overs. Malhotra, who sported an unfamiliar beard, remained at the kill with 47 not out of 56 balls as Gulshan posted 194 for two in 39.3 overs.

On a day of resounding success for the Gulshan batsmen Mamun with 34 was the other willow welder needed to square up to the Brothers challenge.

Salahuddin, the offspinner, was the only successful Brothers bowler capturing one wicket for 34 runs.

TODAY'S MATCH
Mohammedan SC vs Kalabagan KC (Dhaka Stadium)

Nirman cricket
Sports Reporter

Saint Joseph's High School and Lalmatia High School have moved into their respective group finals of the Dhaka zonal qualifying meet for the eleventh Nirman schools cricket tournament at two city venues yesterday.

At the Brothers Union ground an inspired all-round performance by skipper Aziz powered Lalmatia High School to a convincing 132-run victory against Prabhati Biddya Niketon.

Sent into bat Lalmatia School amassed 202 losing all wickets in 30.2 overs, 4.4 overs short of the stipulated quota of 35 overs.

Skipper Aziz topscored with 88 from 78 balls, an innings inclusive of as many as 16 fours.

Sharif, Mont and Tushar made 20, 17 and 16 runs respectively.

Shaheen bagged three wickets conceding 33 runs and Tarvir and Faruk took two wickets apiece for Prabhati Niketon.

Prabhati Biddya Niketon were shot out for a poor 70 in 20.4 overs with extras adding the highest 16 to the total.

Shihab and Maurice scored 14 and 13 respectively. Skipper Aziz with three wickets for only seven runs from five overs was the pick of the Lalmatia School bowlers while Jewel captured two for eight.

Lalmatia School will play the winners of the match between Scholastica and Sultan Mollah Ideal School in the Group D final on January 25.

JOSEPHITES WIN

Saint Joseph's High School qualified for the Group C final outplaying Tejkunipara High School by a facile margin of 142 runs at the latter's ground in the other match of the day.

Put into bat St Joseph's made a massive 284 losing all wickets in 34.4 overs. Ishtiaq topscored with a quick fire 47-ball 64, a knock embellished with eleven boundaries and a six.

Shezan also made a whirlwind 51-ball 60 with the help of a dozen fours and a six. The fifth-wicket partnership between Ishtiaq and Shezan realised an invaluable 105 runs in 13.3 overs.

Noman, Iqbal and skipper Pappu chipped in with 32, 23 and 21 respectively as the Josephites reached 284 runs.

Dhruvo, Lokman, Monju and Suman (Jr) bagged two wickets apiece for Tejkunipara School.

Chasing a huge total Tejkunipara School were booked for 142 in 30.2 overs.

Lokman topscored with 50 with the help of seven fours and a six while extras brought another 34 runs.

Saint Joseph's High School will take on Segunbagicha High School to decide the Group C championship tomorrow at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Ali Ahmed School vs Gulshan School (St Joseph's ground)
Shahnoori School vs Ahmed Bawan Academy (DC G)
Scholastica vs Sultan M School (B U G)
Muradpur School vs Aranantulla School (Gopibagh ground)

Gulshan top Biman shooting
Sports Reporter

Gulshan Shooting Club clinched the inaugural Bangladesh Biman inter-club shooting championship totalling 929 points at the Gulshan range yesterday.

Rajdhani Shooting Club became runners-up with 910 points while Chittagong Rifle Club finished third with a score of 901 points.

In the .177 air rifle contest, Firoz Hossain of Gulshan Shooting Club placed first scoring 254 out of a possible 300 points while his clubmate Umme Taslima Arzoo and Zubaida Jannat of Tangail Rifle Club got the second and third positions collecting 246 and 241 points respectively.

Farzana Hossain of Narayanjan Rifle Club secured the first position with a tally of 250 out of a possible 300 points in the .22 bore rifle event. The second and third places went to Afzal Hossain of Metropolitan Shooting Club and Shafayat Hossain of Gulshan Shooting Club, both collecting 248 points each.

As many as 264 shooters from 44 shooting clubs of the country took part in the three-day competition which began Wednesday.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan attended the concluding function as chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners.

Joint Minister and president of the National Shooting Federation ASM Hannan Shah, Managing Director of Bangladesh Biman and vice president of the shooting federation Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury and other organisers were present.

The federation also gave away special prizes to the participating teams.



A contented Ashok Malhotra caresses the spine of his bat with his Newgate frill on the way back to the pavilion along with compatriot Arun Lal after having helped Gulshan Youth complete an eight-wicket demolition of Brothers Union at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

It'd be Aussie spin vs Windies pace



ADELAIDE, Jan 22: The scene is set for a classic battle between the pace attack of the West Indies

and the spin of Australia in the fourth cricket Test starting on Saturday, reports Reuter.

"There'll be something in it for everyone," said head groundsman Les Burdett of the Adelaide Oval where a hard pitch with an even covering of grass will suit the pacemen on the first two days before it begins to crumble and take spin.

The West Indies, 1-0 down with two Tests drawn, are expected to field four pacemen for the first time since the first Test in Brisbane, where they were lucky to force a draw.

However, although losing

the second Test in Melbourne the West Indies returned there this week to clinch a 2-0 win against Australia in the finals of a World Series Cup one-day competition.

Patterson and Kenneth Benjamin, who is suffering from a sore left knee, are competing for the fourth spot, the choice to be disclosed when the team is named just before the match.

To exploit the pitch, Australia, without injured paceman Bruce Reid and Mike Whitney, have brought in South Australian off spinner Tim May for his first Test in four years.

May, on his home pitch, will partner leg spinner Shane Warne, who practically won the Melbourne Test single handed by taking seven West Indies second innings wickets for 52 runs.

Australian opening batsman David Boon, struggling with a thigh strain, has been declared fit to play.

Officials from both sides are playing down suggestions that tempers are again rising, as they did in Australia's tour in 1991 when players feuded on and off the field.

There was a non-filed slanging match between West Indian Brian Lara and local hero Mark Waugh when the West Indies clinched the one-day final on Monday.

Australian captain Allan Border told reporters this week that the exchange was of no significance and he was happy with the atmosphere between the two sides.

Richardson said: "It's nothing major and nothing much to talk about."

Martyn's tragedy is Langer's good fortune



ADELAIDE, Jan 22: A training mishap Friday left the Australian cricket team with a late injury replacement on the eve of their fourth Test match with the West Indies, reports AP.

Promising batsman Justin

the left eye with his thumb.

Australia holds a 1-0 lead in the series and captain Allan Border said both spinners, May and Shane Warne, were certain to play to try and exploit any turn in the wicket.

"Tim has really shown that he's bowling well and he's back to his best," border said.

Richardson said: "It's nothing major and nothing much to talk about."

Justin Langer... in

the West Indies will take four fast bowlers into the match with the last spot to be decided between Patrick Patterson and Kenneth Benjamin.

Friendly cricket
Sports Reporter

The Inqulab Group of Publications beat the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) in a friendly cricket match at the Banani WAPDA Colony ground yesterday, says a press release.

Batting first Inqulab Group made 192 losing four wickets in the stipulated 30 overs with Asif remaining unbeaten on 69 and Rabbi making 30.

Shishir, Pintu, Milki and Sayeed took one wicket apiece for BSWA.

In reply, BSWA were bundled out for 162 in 30 overs with Sarwar topscoring with 34 while Shishir Sayeed and Tito made 28, 22 and 31 respectively.

Asif who topscored for Inqulab Group, went one better with the ball claiming four wickets for 16 while Bahauddin and Musa took two wickets apiece.

Asif was adjudged the man-of-the-match for his all-round performance.

Irrigation secretary M Asafud-Dowlah gave away the prizes as chief guest.

Changpai cricket
Sports Reporter

Dhaka Wanderers Club outplayed Japan Electronics by a flattering margin of 134 runs in the inaugural match of the second Changpai Cup cricket tournament at a city venue yesterday, says a press release.

Babi, who scored 81 runs for Wanderers Club and later took three Japan Electronics wickets, was adjudged the man-of-the match.

Lewis' lure of lucre for Foreman



NEW YORK, Jan 22: World Boxing Council (WBC) champion Lennox Lewis has offered to fight George

Foreman for at least 8 million dollars Lewis promoter said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Foreman for at least 8 million dollars Lewis promoter said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Lewis' promoter, main events, on Thursday released Maloney's offer letter to reporters.

Maloney said his deadline

was to prevent his offer from becoming a pawn in negotiations for a Foreman-Tommy Morrison or a Foreman-Riddick Bowe fight.

Bob Arum, who has promoted some of Foreman's fights, and Foreman's advisor, Ron Weathers, replied to Maloney, saying Foreman was interested in fighting Lewis but that the 44-year-old Foreman was committed to fighting Morrison in April.

Foreman, the heavyweight champion from 1973-74 came back to the ring after a 10-year retirement. After a string of victories against mostly unthreatening fighters, Foreman lost a title bout to former undisputed heavyweight

Akram ton powers Abahani
Sports Reporter



A typically aggressive 123 by Akram Khan, his first ton of the season, proved the cornerstone of Abahani Krija Chakra's massive 190-run victory against hapless Public Works Department (PWD) in one of the day's two Navana Premier Division cricket league matches, at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Akram hammered ten fours and two mighty sixes in his 90-ball blitzkrieg that enabled the Damal champions to rattle up their second 300-plus total in consecutive matches— 302 for seven wickets in 43 overs.

Having decided to bat first, Abahani seemed to have slackened off somewhat, losing three wickets for 75 runs in 15.4 overs. Then came Akram and with Khaled Mahmud Sujon giving him good support the pair plundered the P.W.D bowling to take the score to 200 in 31.4 overs.

Sujan made a quickfire 44 off 46 balls. Ziauddin Shovon threw his bat around at the late stage to score 34 off 23 balls.

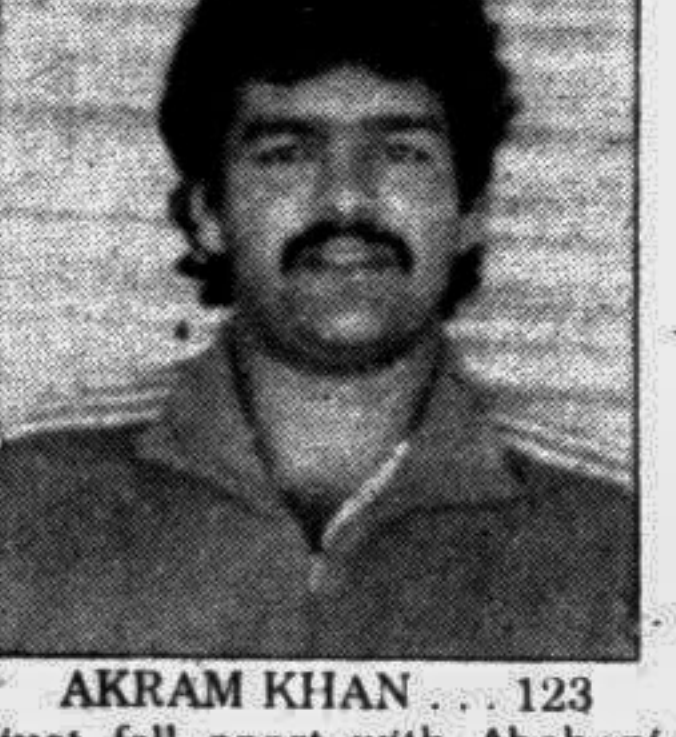
Sajjad of PWD withstood the Abahani assault to finish with three for 43. Anwar bought another three wickets but at too dear a cost — giving away 46 runs off five overs.

Khairuzzaman Babu, Abahani's paceman, had P.W.D backpedalling from the very first ball of the innings, with

Jahangir picking up a low snick behind the wicket to send back opener Azad for nought.

Wicketkeeper Zakir then teamed up with opener Towhid to race to 50 in 10.5 overs before Sujan, who went on to pick up two more wickets, accounted for an ambitious Zakir for 28, embellished with five fours.

The rest of the PWD batting



AKRAM KHAN... 123 just fell apart with Abahani gradually assuming control over the proceedings.

Towhid, however, carried on gamely, hitting an audacious

53. Untroubled by any thoughts of any stakes of any form, he took on all the Abahani bowlers barring the impeccable Ashoka de Silva. His 77-ball innings included nine hits to the fence.

Kollol was the only other batsman to reach the double figures as 12 extras shone brightly in the long line of one-digit scores.

P.W.D were all out for 112 in 36.1 overs when Sautdul Anam Effece bowled Anwar for one.

Shri Lankan spinner Ashoka de Silva was an epitome of economy among the Abahani bowlers. He had enough time to bowl seven overs of spot-on fastish leg spinners; three of which were maidens and the soft-spoken Lankan spent just seven runs for his own wicket.

Effece chipped in late to finish with figures of two for two off three overs. Opening bowlers Anis and Babu came under some stick to claim one wicket apiece while the best statistical analysis of the day belonged to Khaled Mahmud Sujan who claimed three P.W.D wickets for 25 runs.

Juvenile soccer
Sports Reporter

Mansur Sporting Club defeated Dragon Krija Chakra by three goals to nil in the Jadakar Samad memorial juvenile soccer tournament at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Chinu netted twice and Jahangir once for Mansur Sporting.

Diamond Sporting Club shared points with Cholormi Khelaghar Asar in the other match of the day.

Meanwhile, an emergency meeting of the juvenile soccer tournament committee will be held today at 6:00 pm at the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association office.

All the managers of the quarter finalist teams have been asked to attend.



Action on yesterday's NBL First Division volleyball league engagement between Bangladesh Police and Eastern Club at the Outer Stadium volleyball court. Police won 15-10, 15-4 and 15-11. — Star photo

Volleyball results
Sports Reporter

Wari Club and Bangladesh Police won their respective matches of the NBL First Division volleyball league at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday.

Wari registered a hard-earned 15-3, 13-15, 15-0, 12-15 and 9-15 victory over Nabajagaroni Club while Police eliminated East End Club 15-10, 15-4, 15-11.

Meanwhile, Nabajatak Majlis received a walk-over against Bashabo Tarun Sangha in the only match of the Second Division league at the same venue yesterday.