

Navana league resumes today

Sports Reporter
Title aspirants and last year's runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra take on the Orator Mymensingh Cricket Club at the Dhaka Stadium while Gulshan Youth play Victoria Sporting Club at the Dhamonidi Cricket Stadium when the Navana Premier Division 'cricket league' resumes today.
The league programme remained suspended yesterday because of the country-wide half-day strike.
Abahani have full ten points from five matches while GMCC have six points from three outings.
Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club, who also have ten points from five encounters, will play their sixth match on January 30 against Surja Tarun Club.

LEAGUE TABLE

Following is the points table of the Navana Premier Division league as on January 25:

Club	M	W	L	Pts
Mohammedans	5	5	0	10
Abahani	5	5	0	10
Gulshan Youth	6	4	2	8
GMCC	3	3	0	6
Surja Tarun	3	2	1	4
Brothers Union	4	2	2	4
Biman	5	2	3	4
Victoria SC	6	2	4	4
Kalabagan KC	6	2	4	4
Vdity Club	7	2	5	4
PWDC	8	0	8	0

Rajshahi Div I soccer from today

Sports Reporter
The 1993 Bhorer Kagaj Rajshahi First Division football league begins today with Bandhan Krira Chakra taking on Rajshahi Krira Chakra at the local stadium.
Seventeen teams are taking part in this year's league.

V'ball results

Sports Reporter
Nabajagoroni Club and Dhaka Greens won their respective matches of the NBL First Division volleyball league at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday.
Nabajagoroni beat Madartek Club 15-8, 14-16, 15-9 and 15-9 while Dhaka Greens outplayed East End Boys 15-3, 15-2 and 15-5.
The other First Division league encounter between Wari Club and Brothers Union was in progress at the time of filing this report.
Meanwhile, Jiban Bima Krira Sangatha defeated Victoria Sporting Club 15-4, 15-9, 15-4 in the Second Division league.
The other league fixture between Wanderers Club and Shantibagh Club was going on till filing this report at 8 pm.
Meanwhile, the Incontro inter-district men's and women's volleyball championships, earlier scheduled to be held in Jessore, will now be held in Dhaka.
The venue has been shifted to Dhaka due to some "unavoidable reasons" a press release of the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation said yesterday.
Interested teams have been advised to report at the volleyball court, Outer Stadium on February 15 in the afternoon.

Hockey transfers

Sports Reporter
Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club, who finished third in the 1992 First Division hockey league, signed up three players for the forthcoming hockey league yesterday at the Bangladesh Hockey Federation office.
Saidur Rahman Sohel of Public Works Department (PWD), Riaz Ahmed Dipu of Wari Club and Zahid Hassan Bulbul of Victoria Sporting joined Mariner Youngs yesterday.
Fifteen other players sought transfers to raise the number of transfer-seekers to 45 so far.
Following is the list of players who were involved in the inter-club transfer proceedings yesterday:
Shoeb Md Asaduzzaman (PWD) to Wari Club; Shaik Ahmed (Victoria) to Wari; Tutul Kumar Nag (Victoria) to Azad Sporting; Md Masud (Mukta Bihanga) to Azad Sporting; Ashraf Bari (Cantonian SC) to Azad Sporting; Rawshari Ali (Bima) to Wanderers Club; Shamim Ahmed (Azad SC) to Ajax SC; Faisal Ahsanullah (Usha KC) to Ajax SC; Abdul Karim (Bangladesh SC) to Sadharan Bima; Saidur Rahman Sohel (PWD) to Mariner Youngs; Zahid Hassan Bulbul (Victoria) to Mariner Youngs; Shamsuddin Ahmed (S Bima) to Ajax SC; Md Ali Zubair (Udity) to Azad Sporting; Riaz Ahmed Dipu (Wari) to Mariner Youngs; Dina Lusat (PWD) to Wanderers; Salahuddin Ahmed Selim (Mariner Youngs) to Wanderers; and M A S Mahmood (Bima) to Azad Sporting.
The inter-club transfers conclude today.

Key BFF meet tomorrow

Sports Reporter
The fate of Bangladesh's participation in the qualifying meet for the 1994 World Cup soccer championship will be decided at a meeting of the executive committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) tomorrow evening, a senior BFF official told The Daily Star yesterday.
Bangladesh, placed in Group F of Asia, are scheduled to play their two-leg qualifying fixtures in Japan and the United Arab Emirates next April and May.
Tomorrow's meeting will be of great importance since some BFF members, disappointed with the dismal performances of the two national selections — the Reds and Greens — in the recently concluded seventh President Gold Cup soccer championship, op-

DMFA forms new league committee

Sports Reporter
The Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) announced the league committee for the 1993 Premier and First Division football leagues in a meeting of its executive committee yesterday.
Shahidul Islam, DIG Police, will head the 29-member committee as the president. Nabi Chowdhury, a retired police official, is the vice-president.
Shahiduzzaman of Wari Club and Hafizur Rahman Munshi Tipu of Public Works Department (PWD) SC have been chosen as the secretary and joint secretary respectively.
The five DMFA members along with 20 club representatives — one each from the participating clubs — will complete the 29-member nascent committee.
However, yesterday's meeting, earlier adjourned on January 24 because of a reported row among the members, saw no major decision on the players' transfer issue. The committee is now expected to set a date for the transfer of players on February 1.
A hardline stance adopted by the club officials pitted against the time-biding attitude of the DMFA has jeopardised the future of this year's league football.
In a meeting held yesterday

Short takes comfortable lead

SAN LORENZO DE EL ESCORIAL, Spain, Jan 26: Britain's Nigel Short defeated Dutchman Jan Timman in the 10th game of their 200,000 million dollars World Chess championship final eliminator match on Monday, opening a 6-4 lead in the series, reports Reuter.
Timman conceded defeat on the 40th move after Short pressed home a winning attack to reach an end game two pawns ahead. Rather than play on in a hopeless position, the Dutch champion resigned.
Short, 27, needs only one and a half more points to clinch victory in the 14-game series.
Although Short playing white, changed course from the second match game when he advanced a central pawn in a blocking manoeuvre on his 12th move, the opening play continued for some time along well trodden paths.
The game was a replica of an encounter between Russian Grandmasters Teshkovsky and Timoshenko in 1987 until Timman, playing black, produced a novel wing pawn advance on his 15th move.
Top chess players prepare for serious encounters with the help of sophisticated computer databases which store thousands of historical games.
Two and a half hours into the session Timman was running short of thinking time with only 20 minutes remaining of his clock to complete 16 moves. Failure to make the required 40 moves in the allotted time results in a loss by time forfeit.
After 25 moves, expert opinion was divided. Dutchman Hans Ree favoured Timman's prospects because of the poor position of one of Short's knights.
"If I were a supporter of Chess results
Sports Reporter
Instead of the ninth and the final round matches of the 14th national women's chess championship only the adjourned ties were decided yesterday at the national Sports Council chess room.
Zakia Sultana went atop when last year's runner-up Tanima Parveen failed to show up to finish the adjourned tie, giving Zakia a full point. In her other unfinished encounter with former national champion Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa, Zakia settled for a draw after the 32nd move to take her tally to six and half points from eight matches.
But Zakia is not the only one at the top of the table.
Nipa shares the spot with her. Nipa, however, had a winless day yesterday. She drew with Afroza Khanam Babli in her second unfinished match of the day.
Defending champion Rani Hamid and runner-up Tanima Parveen are trailing the two with five and half points each.
The meet is expected to conclude today.



NIGEL SHORT

The winner of the match will challenge Garri Kasparov for the World Championships later this year and will join a small elite of chess millionaires.
Short arrived five minutes early for Monday's showdown and strode on stage in an ebullient mood, having seized the lead with an impressive win in the ninth game on Saturday.
He had on the same bright red shirt he wore for his devastating victory in the fourth game.
Despite Saturday's defeat, Timman, 41, arrived looking relaxed and smiled broadly as he shook the British champion's hand.
Monday's game began with the same type of Ruy Lopez opening as the second game of the match, the players choosing a variation invented by Russian Grandmaster Igor Zaitsev, a trainer of former world champion Anatoly Karpov.

Union represented the country in the last Club Cup championship while runners-up Mohammedan Sporting Club, nominated for the Cup Winners' Cup, withdrew at the eleventh hour, an act for which they were fined two thousand dollars by the Asian Football Confederation.
In a conversation with The Daily Star last week the BFF secretary Shaikh Akmal Hossain had hinted that the 1992 First Division football league champions Abahani Krira Chakra and runners-up Mohammedans might participate in the two Asian club competitions.
However, the BFF secretary had emphasized that the selected teams would have to confirm their participation beforehand.
Meanwhile, the Pakistan Football Federation has postponed the proposed SAARC football tournament until next April.
No reason was given.

Soccer call

Sports Reporter
Rising Star Club will form a football squad for the forthcoming Pioneer league, says a press release.
Interested footballers under 16 years of age have been asked to contact coach Ratan Talukder at the Dhupkhola Jagannath College ground either on Thursday or Friday at 9 am.
WDB sports
The two-day annual inter-office athletic meet of the Bangladesh Water Development Board will be held on January 28 and 29 at the Rajarbag Police ground, says a press release.
Mosharrar Hossain Shahjahan, Minister of State for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control will inaugurate the meet at nine in the morning tomorrow (Thursday) as chief guest.
Alhaj M A Razzak, Chairman, WDB will distribute prizes among the winners at 4-30 pm the following day.

Nat'l karate on February 17-18

Sports Reporter
The two-day tenth national karate championships will be held on February 17 and 18 in the city, says a press release.
Interested sports organisations have been asked to complete the registration formalities by February 14.

Akram engaged

KARACHI, Jan 26: The newly appointed skipper of Pakistan cricket team Waseem Akram, 26, has announced his engagement, reports AFP.
It was a lucky Monday for the left arm all-rounder because on the same day he was appointed as captain of Pakistan cricket team that would tour Sharjah, South Africa and West Indies.
After the news of his engagement with Huma, 22, Akram said, "What else you can expect on this day when you are named to lead Pakistan for the coming tours and getting engaged to one who is so special."
Akram disclosed that he was planning to get married by November "if cricket permits."
Akram replaces Javed Miandad as skipper after he unsuccessfully led the world champions to Australia and New Zealand recently.

Englishmen reach Calcutta, tired

CALCUTTA, Jan 26: England's weary cricketers arrived in Calcutta with the dawn on Tuesday after a gruelling overnight train journey from Bhubaneswar, nearly 500 kms and 10 hours away down India's east coast, reports Reuter.
The journey was the latest obstacle in a crowded itinerary thrown into uncertainty by Hindu-Muslim riots and a domestic Indian Airlines strike.
It was hardly the ideal preparation for the first Test against India, which opens on Friday, and did little to help the recovery of players suffering from a viral infection.
England's Test team is likely to be dictated as much by physiotherapist Dave Roberts as the four tour selectors.
Phil DeFreitas remains the biggest doubt with his groin injury but four other bowlers also have problems.
Off-spinner John Emburey is suffering from gastro-enteritis and Devon Malcolm, Paul Taylor and Dermot Reeve are afflicted, to varying degrees, by the virus.
Taylor's temperature soared on Monday and he had to visit a doctor in Bhubaneswar.
After two days in bed, Malcolm recovered enough to take three wickets in four balls on the last day of the drawn match with India Under-25s — England's final pre-Test warm-up.
He took part in a net session with bowling coach Geoff Arnold on arrival in Calcutta.
Reeve, who is not expected to play in the Test, also has an eye infection.

Handball results

Sports Reporter
Dipali Juba Sangha registered a hard-earned 12-10 victory against Kurmitola Apollo Club in one of the two matches of the Suncrest Second Division handball super league at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.
Both teams were locked 5-5 at half time.
Ripon netted four goals while Rumel, Khokon, Hlassan and Zaman got two each for Dipali Sangha. Robin scored three goals and Enam, Mahbub and Khalequzzaman got two apiece for Kurmitola Apollo.
Pragati Boys Club beat Arunaytan Cultural and Krira Sangha by seventeen goals to seven in the other match of the day.

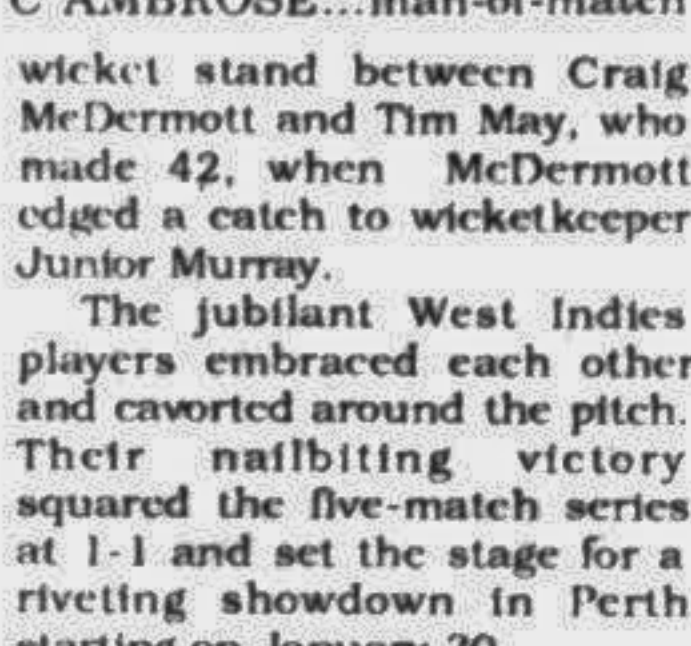


Zakia Sultana during her adjourned tie against former national champion Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa at the NSC chess room yesterday. Zakia is leading the points table with Nipa. — Star photo

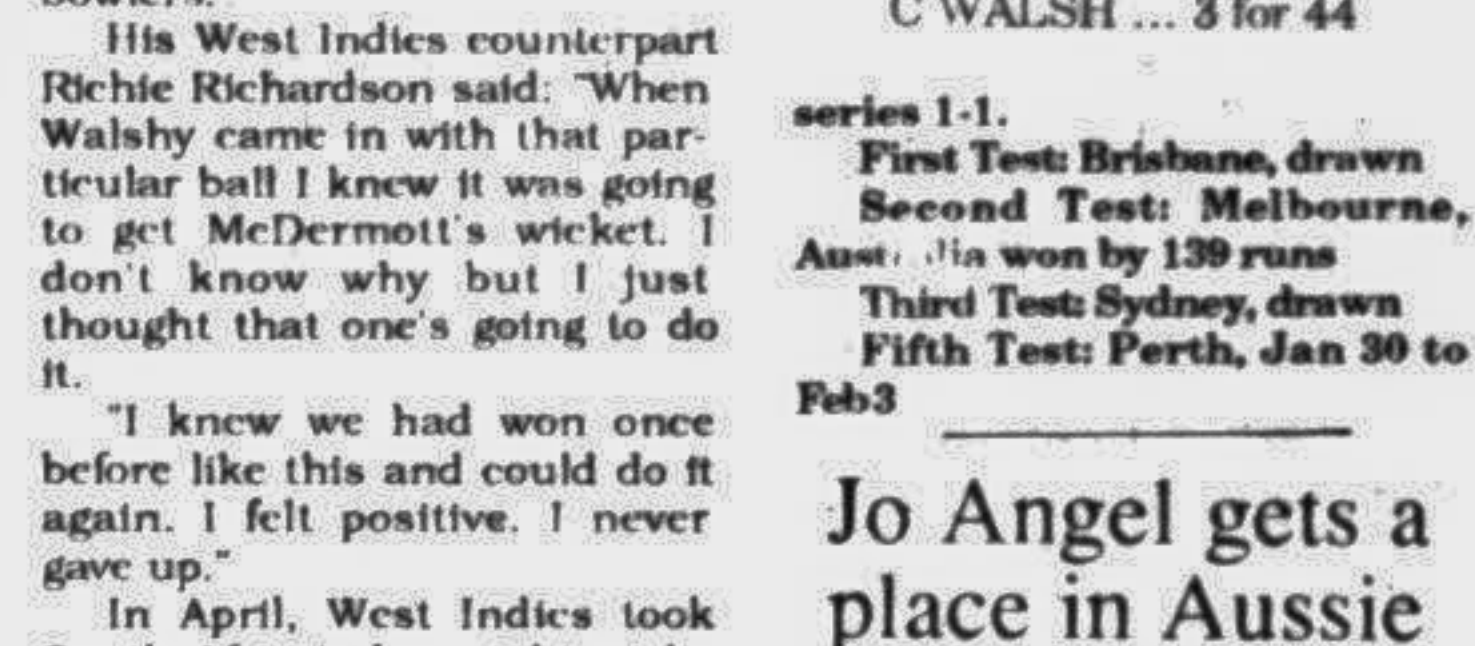
Historic one-run win puts Windies at par

It just wasn't Australia's day

ADELAIDE, Jan 26: West Indies snatched the narrowest win in Test cricket history when they beat Australia by one run in the fourth Test today, reports Reuter.
Courtney Walsh was their hero. He broke a 40-run last wicket stand between Craig McDermott and Tim May, who made 42, when McDermott edged a catch to wicketkeeper Junior Murray.
The jubilant West Indies players embraced each other and cavorted around the pitch. Their nailbiting victory squared the five-match series at 1-1 and set the stage for a riveting showdown in Perth starting on January 30.
Earlier, the touring team had looked set for a comfortable victory when Australia, chasing 186 for victory, were reduced to 74 for seven, Curtly Ambrose taking four wickets.
But a gritty half century by Test debutant Justin Langer and heroic efforts by May and McDermott almost took the Australians to their first Test series win over West Indies since 1975-76.
The two previous closest Test wins, of three runs, were both between Australia and England, in the 1902-3 and 1982-83 series.
Australia looked to be on target for victory as they reached 51 for two before Curtly Ambrose and Walsh wrecked the middle order with five wickets for just 20 runs.
At one stage man-of-the-match Ambrose had taken four wickets for just 11 runs, finishing with match figures of 10 for 120.
When pace bowler McDermott and spinner Tim May — who took five for nine in the second innings — linked up at 144 for nine the task looked beyond them.
But the pair batted superbly and the 15,000 crowd counted off the runs towards victory.
With two runs needed, Walsh charged in to McDermott and found the top edge of his bat. Murray gleefully accepted the catch.
The crowd were stunned into silence. The West Indies players hugged each other and danced with joy.
Despite losing their first two wickets — David Boon (0) and Mark Taylor (7) — for 16, new boy Langer revived the innings in a 38-run partnership



C AMBROSE...man-of-match



C WALSH...3 for 44

with Mark Waugh (26).
But the first ball after lunch Steve Waugh (4) popped up a catch to Keith Arthurton at point, then captain Allan Border went for one, Ian Healy for nought and Merv Hughes one in the space of three runs.
Langer gave Australia renewed hope, sharing a 28-run partnership with Shane Warne and 42 with May.
But the lifeline snapped when Langer bottom edged a catch to keeper Murray off pacerman Ian Bishop. His 54 had spanned four hours.
The match closely mirrored the historic Test between the two sides in Brisbane in 1960 which finished in a tie.
Border, dejected in his dressing room, said: "What can you say — one run? It's very disappointing."
Australian captain said Ambrose, named man of the match, was the key to the West Indian victory.
"I was very confident of getting 186 at the start of the day but it was a couple of brilliant spells by Ambrose that made the difference," Border said.
"Everyone is down at the moment but I think everyone has a good resolve about the way we hung in there going into the next Test."
"I think the final Test can go either way. Ambrose has got to be one of their best ever bowlers."
His West Indies counterpart Richie Richardson said: "When Walshy came in with that particular ball I knew it was going to get McDermott's wicket. I don't know why but I just thought that one's going to do it."
"I knew we had won once before like this and could do it again. I felt positive. I never gave up."
In April, West Indies took South Africa's last eight wickets for 26 when they needed only 79 to win a one-off Test.
"We convinced ourselves we could bowl Australia out and I felt we were going to win. We had done it before and you have to believe in yourself," he said.
Ambrose has now increased his tally of wickets to 24 in the series.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the fourth day of the fourth cricket Test between Australia and the West Indies today:
WEST INDIES: First innings 252 (B Lara 52, M Hughes five for 64)
AUSTRALIA: First innings 213 (M Hughes 43, C Ambrose six for 74)
WEST INDIES: Second innings 146 (R Richardson 72, T May five for nine).
AUSTRALIA: Second innings
M Taylor c Murray b Benjamin 7
D Boon lbw b Ambrose 0
J Langer c Murray b Bishop 54
M Waugh c Hooper b Walsh 26
S Waugh c Arthurton b Ambrose 4
A Border c Haynes b Ambrose 1
I Healy b Walsh 0
M Hughes lbw b Ambrose 1
S Warne lbw b Bishop 9
T May not out 42
C McDermott c Murray b Walsh 18
Extras (b-1, lb-8, nb-13) 22
Total 184
Fall of wickets: 1-5; 2-16;

Marathon doubles upsets applecart

MELBOURNE, Jan 26: Thousands of tennis fans were locked out of Centre Court and international television schedules went awry because of a marathon men's doubles match Tuesday at the Australian Open, reports AP.
Australian Laurie Warder and South African Danie Visser beat Americans Jim Grabb and Richey Reneberg 6-3, 6-4, 4-6, 4-6, 22-20 in a 5-hour, 12-minute quarterfinal that started on court one but moved to Centre Court after a rain delay.
It was moved during the final set's 16th game, but continued for almost two more hours, keeping women's quarterfinalists waiting in the locker room and leaving locked-out fans fuming.
Women's Tennis Association tour director Pam Whyte twice asked for the match to be moved back outside, but tournament referee Peter Bellenger refused.
Bellenger later admitted his gamble had backfired.
"At 8-7 in the fifth it could have been finished in 10 minutes," Bellenger said. "I felt it was a fair bet. History proved I was wrong."
The doubles restarted under the Centre Court roof in front of just officials and stadium cleaners. People attending the day session already had left.
Later, the fans who held tickets for the evening session were allowed into the stadium, cheering wildly as the match went on and on.
Warder and Visser led by two sets to love and 3-1 before the second-seeded Americans began to rally.
"We should already have been having a beer," Warder said. Instead, he and Visser had to stave off a half-dozen match points before finally clinching victory.
It was just 17 minutes short of the longest doubles match in Australian Open history, which also involved Visser.
He and fellow South African Pieter Aldrich defeated Americans Scott Davis and Robert Van't Hof 23-21 in the fifth set in 1990.
"I was thinking we may break the record again," Visser said.
The players had no regrets about keeping defending champion Monica Seles and French player Julie Halard waiting for more than an hour.
Asked if the doubles players were worried about delaying the women, Warder replied: "Who cares?"
Seles was not impressed.
"I thought it was ridiculous to put the men's doubles match on," she said. She said it was even worse for Gabriela Sabatini and Mary Pierce, who had to play the final women's match of the evening.
The late finish meant international broadcasters who had booked satellites expecting the scheduled 7:30 pm (0830 GMT) start to the night session had to rearrange their schedules.
Gazza in a mess
ROME, Jan 26: An Italian neo-fascist MP wants England midfielder Paul Gascoigne fined by the Italian soccer authorities for belching into a television microphone, reports Reuter.
Gascoigne belched when asked by a reporter to comment on his exclusion from the Lazio team on Sunday, an incident later broadcast on national television.
"There are rules of ethics for sportsmen and the Italian Soccer Federation should fine him," Movimento Sociale Italiano (MSI) deputy Giulio Macerati said on Monday.
He has asked Margherita Boniver, the minister responsible for sport, to give her "valuation of this episode of civil courtesy from albino" and to recommend what action the federation should take.