

Abahani overcome Brothers

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra crossed another hurdle in the Navana Premier Division cricket league on Sunday with a four-wicket win against Brothers Union at the Dhaka Stadium.

Chasing 176 for victory Abahani overcame a minor slump to ensure a four-wicket win with skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu putting up a fine rearguard action.

Lipu won the toss and put Brothers Union in with Shri Lankan Athula Samarasekara sharing the new ball with Khairuzaman Babu.

Brothers coasted along to 20 in six overs before Zahid Razzak Masum fell to Samarasekara's medium pace. Habibul Bashar Sumon left first ball, caught behind by Ziauddin Shovon, off Samarasekara again.

Halim Shah flopped as usual and only a fighting 30 by the tall Athar Ali that gave skipper Nurul Abedin Nobel some time to emerge as the top scorer, helped Brothers get 175 in 44.5 overs.

Nobel fell three short of a half-century when Saidul Anam Eftec, the most miserly of the Abahani bowlers, trapped him leg before. Nobel played 92

balls and hit a sixer and a couple of fours.

Eftec was the pick of the Abahani bowlers taking two for 22 off nine overs. Samarasekara also took two, giving away 29 runs. Khaled Mahmud Sujon bagged two for 39.

On an eventful day Samarasekara, who set the galleries ablaze after a caught behind appeal was disallowed against him, went after T L Fernando, his anguished Shri Lankan compatriot. The tall Shri Lankan hit a sixer and a four before scraping a touch behind the stumps off the same bowler.

Earlier Fernando had kicked down the wickets in a show of dissent. The whole Brothers team walked out after umpire Dulu had turned down the appeal. The unsavoury incident triggered off angry reaction from the western gallery and the match was held up for about 45 minutes.

After Samarasekara's departure in the third over Abahani suffered another setback, losing Faruque for 17. Perhaps taking a cue from Samarasekara, Faruque also showed a rather unbridled passion for stroke-play. He hit a sixer a four before perishing to Athar.

Athar then removed opener Jahangir Alam for 14. The

young right-handed batsman who has been laid up by a lean patch had to play 53 balls before becoming the third Abahani casualty.

Akram left cheaply, in fact departing on the same score with Abahani rather precariously placed on 58 in the 17th over. The twin losses, however, paved the path for a match-winning partnership between Lipu and Sujon for the fifth wicket.

Sujon scored 30 off 58 balls while Lipu remained unbeaten on 41. The veteran skipper outgrew Shri Lankan Ashoka de Silva, who scored a whirlwind 21 off 13 balls with the help of two sixes.

Abahani posted 178 in 44.2 overs for the loss of six wickets.

This was Abahani's seventh victory in eight matches. Last year's runners up, who have suffered only one loss so far — to GMCC by ten wickets — now have 14 points.

Brothers, whose super league aspirations received an earlier jolt following the defeat, have eight points from as many matches.

TODAY'S MATCHES

B Biman vs Kalabagan (Dhaka Stadium)
GMCC vs Victoria SC (DCS).

Gulshan Youth march on

Sports Reporter

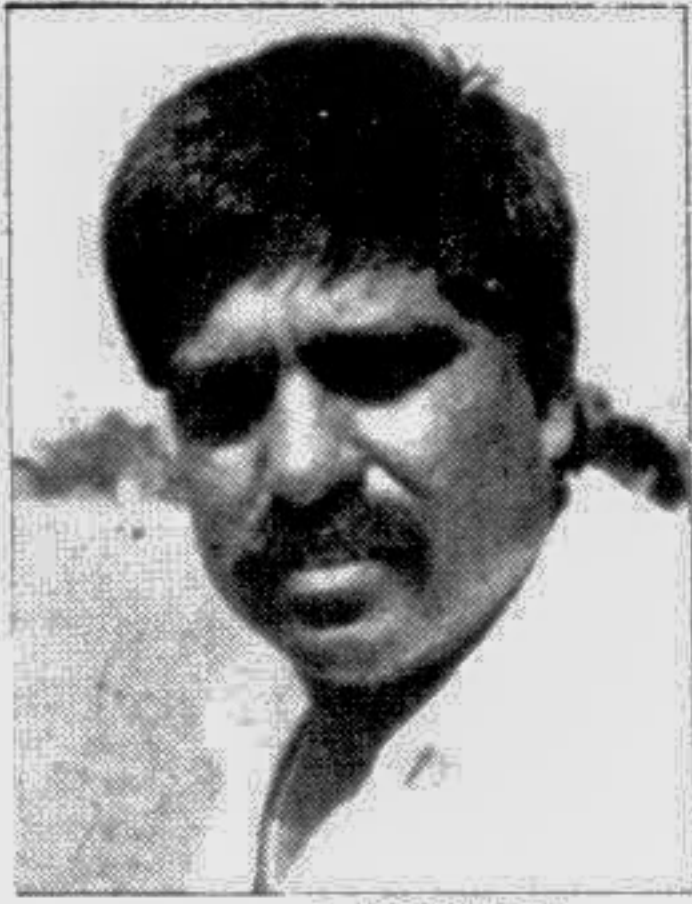
Gulshan Youth's dream run went on unabated as they recorded their seventh consecutive win in the Navana Premier Division cricket league with a facile seven wicket victory against Kalabagan Krira Chakra at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

Once again Ashok Malhotra, Gulshan's Indian recruit, played a major role in the victory as the podgy former Indian Test batsman weighed in with a breezy 57 off just 54 balls to help his side overhaul Kalabagan's meagre score of 158.

Asked to bat first Kalabagan, who had only four points in their kitty before this match, found the going tough against the accurate Gulshan bowling. Shri Lankan Sujith Pereira did not fail to discharge his duties as an opener scoring 37 with the help of five fours.

But the other batsmen struggled against the varied Gulshan attack. Only veteran Sha-

hid showed some resilience, knocking up 24. Shaon with 13 and Ali with 15 were the other notable scorers. Extras amounted to 23 as Kalabagan were booked for 158.



ASHOK MALHOTRA

Left-arm spinner Asif, who seems to have formed the healthy habit of getting wickets, featured as the major Gulshan wicket-taker claiming

three for 27. Joydev took two for 32. Ehsan and Malhotra had one each with the latter giving away only 21 runs off his nine overs.

Gulshan were never in trouble with Liton sticking to his plan of taking the scruff of the neck off the opposition attack. His belligerent 33 contained five fours and a sixer and the right-hander was the first casualty in the 48-run opening partnership.

Mamun and Sohel were run out in quick succession only to hasten to Kalabagan's doom.

In came Ashok Malhotra and together with Shabbir Chowdhury, the little right-hander once labelled as the 'Vishwanath of north', wrapped up the match in 33 overs.

Malhotra hit five exquisite fours in his innings of 57 not out while Shabbir Chowdhury sent the ball twice across the fence in his unconquered knock of 38.

Mohammad Ali with one for 38 was the only successful Kalabagan bowler.

Short rekindles British hopes

LONDON, Feb 8: Nigel Short, the first Briton to challenge for a world chess title in more than 100 years, has revived his country's hopes of once again dominating the ancient game, reports Reuter.

Short, 27, beat Dutchman Jan Timman in playoffs in Spain last month to give him the right to challenge Garri Kasparov for the World Chess Championship.

His victory sparked a revival of public interest in the game in Britain which last reigned supreme in the chess world 150 years ago.

In an 1843 match between Britain and France, then considered the major chess powers, Shakespearean scholar

is scheduled to open sealed bids in Lucerne, Switzerland for sponsors for the title match.

The highest bidder will host the match at the beginning of September if neither player objects.

Short, who left school at 17 to concentrate on chess, is the first player from outside the former Soviet Union to contest the finals since American Bobby Fischer beat Boris Spassky in 1972.

Czech-born Grandmaster Lubosh Kovalev, who emigrated to the United States after the 1968 Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia, is credited with helping Short develop his tough exterior and hone his game.

Manchester drops its bid

MANCHESTER, England, Feb 8: The city of Manchester on Sunday dropped out of the bidding to hold the World Chess Championship in which Britain's Nigel Short will challenge titleholder Garri Kasparov, reports Reuter.

A spokesman for the northern English city said it had been unable to raise the necessary sponsorship money. Zagreb, Berlin, Jakarta and Santiago, Spain, also want to stage the contest.

The International Chess Federation is due to open sealed bids in Lucerne, Switzerland, today for sponsors for the title match starting in September.

But British Chess Federation said it would ask for a three-week extension to the deadline to allow British sponsors time to put together a proper bid.

The British are especially keen to old the match in Britain because Short, 27, is the first Englishman to get so close to the world title in more than a century. He beat Dutchman Jan Timman in playoffs in Spain last month.

Short, arriving back in Britain from Spain on Sunday, said he would soon start physical training for the eight-week match but made clear that personalities would dominate the contest.

Of Kasparov, he said: "He is incredibly arrogant, he's power hungry, he's a very nasty guy."

He added: "There will be a lot of pleasure in beating him. He's probably one of the most unpleasant people in the chess world ... The sooner he gets beaten the better."



NIGEL SHORT

Howard Staunton defeated Pierre de Saint Amant.

These days, winners earn more than fame. Sponsors of chess tournaments put up big prizes, and today the International Chess Federation

Seminar in N'ganj

Sports Reporter

A seminar on the role of sports in resisting terrorism was held yesterday at Narayanganj under the aegis of the district branch of the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA), says a press release.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka attended the function as chief guest.

The keynote paper was presented by Md Khorshed Alam Nasir, secretary of the branch office.

Those who took part in the discussion were Kazi Shamsul Islam, Abdul Hamid, Abdul Towhid, Mohammad Musa, Rezaur Rahman Shohag, Md Abdul Mannan and Mahabubur Rahman Masum.

Dexter defends Phil Tufnell

LAUNCESTON, Tasmania, Feb 8: Ted Dexter, chairman of the England cricket selectors, rallied to the defence of Phil Tufnell today after the left-arm spinner was fined and warned for ungentlemanly conduct in India, reports Reuter.

Dexter, speaking on his arrival in Tasmania to join up with the England A tour party said: "I know Phil well. He is a first class guy with plenty of character."

"It is not as if he did anything criminal. He was out of line, got fined for it, and that is the end of it."

Tufnell was fined 500 pounds sterling (718 dollars) and warned about his conduct after heated exchanges with an umpire during a three-day tour match last week.

"He is very much a star turn for England. He has actually won three Test matches for England. He has a whole career ahead of him at the highest level."

Dexter, who watched England lose the first Test against India in Calcutta last week, added: "Cricket is a warm-blooded game. You are a cold fish if you don't get emotional about it."

"What is important is that a proper code of behaviour is established."

Dexter is spending four days in Launceston with England A before flying home after an assignment which has taken in the full England and England Under-19 tours in India and England A's tour to Australia.



Sadek Hossain, State Minister for Youth and Sports is taking a look at the pictures put on display in the two-day long exhibition of sports photographs at the National Press Club on Monday. The conjurers of this show are lined up to his right. A K M Mohsin, Gen Secy of the Bangladesh Sports Photo Journalists' Association (BSPJA), Habib Sattar Marketing Manager of the sponsors BTC and Kamruzzaman president of BSPJA (left to right). — Star photo

World champs won't mind, if ...

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 8: Pakistan have set aside misgivings over the use of a third umpire in the forthcoming triangular series against South Africa and the West Indies, reports Reuter.

Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said on Saturday that after discussions with team manager Khalid Mahmood, Pakistan had dropped opposition.

With the help of television replay facilities the third official can determine close decisions in run-outs and stumpings.

They wanted to make sure that the technology used is good and we assured them of that," said Bacher.

"They also don't want a situation where players on the field can control its use. We agreed that only the pitch umpires can request the use of television replay."

Wasim Akram, captain of world champions Pakistan said on arrival on Friday they disliked the use of an electronic eye.

It was used for the first time in Test matches during India's recent tour of South Africa and hailed a success.

"We assured them (Pakistan) that whenever it was asked for, the right decision was made," Bacher said.

Mahmood said: "We are here to play cricket and the intentions are to get the maximum decisions right. With that intention we are prepared

to play with a third umpire."

Pakistan had expressed reluctance after some unhappy experiences recently in New Zealand.

The West Indies, who have never played under a third umpire, have said they support the experiment.

On Saturday, they attended the opening of a sports centre in Alexandria, one of South Africa's most squalid black townships.

Pakistan meet South Africa in Durban on Tuesday in only their third encounter ever. Both the previous one-day matches in Australia last year were won by South Africa.

Unchanged South African squad

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 8: South Africa have kept faith with the players who won recent home series against India for the triangular one-day cricket tournament against Pakistan and West Indies starting on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

There were no surprises in the 13-man squad announced on Saturday, the players all having appeared against India during the tour that ended last month with South Africa winning the four-Test rubber 1-0 and the one day series 5-2.

Nine of the squad also took part in last year's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, where South Africa reached the semifinals.

The triangular competition opens in Durban on Tuesday when South Africa play Pakistan.

Booters threaten a boycott

SOUTH AFRICA SQUAD: Kepler Wessels (captain), Andrew Hudson, Peter Kirsten, Hansie Cronje, Darryl Cullinan, Dave Callaghan, Jonty Rhodes, Brian McMillan, Dave Richardson, Craig Matthews, Allan Donald, Fanie de Villiers, Meyrick Pringle.

The first match of the triangular one-day series pits South Africa against Pakistan in Durban on Tuesday. West Indies will play South Africa at Port Elizabeth on Thursday.

Cowan's advice for Martin Crowe

AUCKLAND, Feb 8: New Zealand cricket captain Martin Crowe needs reminding he is a role model for younger players and should act on the field in a manner beyond reproach, a top domestic umpire said here today, reports AFP.

Auckland umpire Graham Cowan quit his umpiring post after criticism of his handling of a Shell trophy match between Auckland and Wellington last month.

It was inferred that Cowan, a paid official of the Auckland Cricket Association who is also president of New Zealand cricket umpires, showed bias in several lbw decisions that went against Wellington.

Crowe was given out lbw by Cowan on 95 and with Wellington on course for victory. The team was ultimately lucky to hold on for a draw.

Crowe let his displeasure be known within earshot of Cowan as he left the field.

"There is that concept of the role model that you'd expect would apply to the captain of the New Zealand team," said Cowan, who has umpired for 20 years.

"It's something that's understood — that a player should accept an umpire's decision without showing dissent or displeasure."

"Some of these top players should take time out to remember that they are being watched and followed by a lot of young players around the country who look up to them as heroes."

Cowan said he was quitting umpiring because of the media reaction that questioned his integrity.

"I've always prided myself on my integrity and what hurt more than anything was the inferences that basically I was biased."

Kiwi hopefuls given a chance

WELLINGTON, Feb 8: New Zealand's extended cricket tour squad to Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka last year are being given another chance to establish themselves, convener of selectors Don Neely said Monday, reports AFP.

He named a Board XI to meet Australia in New Plymouth next week, reviving the old policy of naming frontline batsmen partnered by a second string bowling attack.

New Zealand captain Martin Crowe will lead the Board XI for their three day game starting February 16.

New Zealand's Board XI team: Martin Crowe (captain), Mark Greatbatch, John Wright, Andrew Jones, Chris Harris, Dion Nash, Dipak Patel, Adam Parore, Chris Pringle, Michael Owens, Mark Haslam.

Biman squash begins

Sports Reporter

The first Biman Open Squash tournament began yesterday at the Dhaka Club squash complex under the aegis of the Bangladesh Squash Rackets Federation (BSRF).

Eighty players including 16 foreigners in two groups are participating in the meet sponsored by Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

Ten first-round matches were held on the opening day. BSRF resident Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, who is also the Managing Director of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, inaugurated the tourney as chief guest.

Holford not amused

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 8: West Indies manager David Holford said he was unhappy with the quality of his team's opponents in a charity match that opened their cricket tour of South Africa yesterday, reports Reuter.

The West Indians, in South Africa for a triangular series including Pakistan, drew with billionaire Nicky Oppenheimer's Invitation XI at the family's private cricket ground at Randjesfontein, north of Johannesburg.

"It simply wasn't a match. We would never play this sort of game back home. You wouldn't draw two people if you did," said Holford.

"We are an international side and would like to meet top-class, serious opposition. Today's game meant nothing and achieved nothing."

The Invitation XI was captained by mining magnate Nicky Oppenheimer who, with his son Jonathan, was the only non-provincial player in the



President of the Bangladesh Squash Rackets Federation Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, who is also the Managing Director of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, inaugurated the 12-day first Biman Open Squash tournament at the Dhaka Club squash complex yesterday.

Tenku wins sports photo contest

Sports Reporter

Shamsul Huq Tenku of Bhorer Kagal won the top prize in the inaugural Gold Leaf sports photo competition and exhibition which began at the National Press Club yesterday.

The works of Khaled Hader of Dainik Dinkal and Mahboob Hossain Nabin of Dainik Sangbad finished second and third respectively among the 99 photographs submitted by 25 sports photographers.

All the photos on display were taken during the seventh President Gold Cup football tournament held in the city last month.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka inaugurated the two-day exhibition organised by the newly-formed Bangladesh Sports Photo Journalists' Association.

The prize-giving ceremony will be held today at 11:00 am with the Sports Minister again doing the honours as chief guest.

Malcolm Fry, Managing Director of Bangladesh Tobacco Co Ltd, the sponsors, will be present as a special guest.

It's Jani Sievinen again

PARIS, Feb 8: Jani Sievinen, feeling unwell in the morning, recovered spectacularly to break his own 200 metres individual medley short-course swimming world record on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The 18-year-old Finn shaved 0.22 of a second from the mark he set in Helsinki last month, clocking one minute 56.62 seconds on the second day of a World Cup meeting.

Sievinen, who won the 100 and 400 individual medley events on Saturday, said he had not felt well earlier in the day.

"I felt a bit ill this morning but then I slept a few hours after the heats," Sievinen, 19 next month, said. "I had hoped maybe to get the time under 1:56, but not this time."

He said he would be looking for another fast time, and perhaps a record, in the 400 metres individual medley at the World Cup meeting in Malmö, Sweden, later this week.

His effort on Sunday was the second world record of the two-day meeting.

New Zealand's Danyon Loader, 17, broke the 200 metres butterfly short-course world mark on Saturday.

Sievinen said Loader's fast first 50 metres spurred him on for the butterfly first leg in Sunday's individual medley.

"I think he's the best butterfly in the world at the moment," Sievinen said. "I like to see the younger generation making the heroes fall."

England draw

VISHAKHAPATNAM, India, Feb 8: England and the Rest of India XI drew their three-day cricket tour match on the final day on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Scores: England 253 for six declared and 150 for two; Rest of India 345 for nine declared.

Willes reach Nirman final

Sports Reporter

Favourites Willes Little Flower High School moved into the Dhaka zone final in the 11th Nirman schools cricket tournament when they recorded a convincing 50-run win over Scholastica High in the first semifinal at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

They will meet the winners of the second semifinal between St Gregory's High and St Joseph's High scheduled for today.

Nat'l jr athletics

Sports Reporter

The two-day eleventh national junior athletics championships will begin on February 12 at the Dhaka Hockey Stadium, instead of February 11 as was originally scheduled, says a press release.

The Bangladesh Amateur Athletic Federation organisers of the meet, asked all the participating teams to report to the federation office on February 11 at 5:00 pm.