

Abahani too good for Tarun

Sports Reporter

A fine allround performance by Shri Lankan Athula Samarasekara helped Abahani record a comfortable 78-run victory against Surja Tarun Club in a relatively low-scoring match of the Navana Premier Division cricket league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu won the toss in the morning and opted to bat first on a wicket that was supposed

to have regained some freshness because of the two day gap following an untoward incident after the Mohammedan versus GMCC match on February 12.

Samarasekara scored 33 runs in Abahani's grand total of 198 and then took three wickets to clip Tarun's wings that might have aspired to flutter for the elusive target of 199 for an upset win.

Abahani lost their first wicket in the seventh over with the score on 31 when Jahangir Alam, Abahani's wicketkeeper for the day, was run out for 13.

Samarasekara, the other opener, then teamed with Faruque Ahmed to take the score to 78 before Samarasekara was also run out for 33 made with the help of four boundaries.

emerge as the highest scorer in Tarun's 37.2 over innings of 120 all out. He made 34 off 64 balls with the help of four boundaries.

Shoaib with 26 was the other notable scorer followed by lanky skipper Nurul Haidi who made 13.

Samarasekara spent 20 runs for his three scalps. Titu bagged three for 28. However, Shri Lankan leg-spinner Ashoka De Silva was the pick of the Abahani bowlers. Without his magnificent bowling — nine overs, five maidens, five runs and two wickets — did the spadework for the statistical success of his peers.

Abahani now have eighteen points from ten matches while Tarun remain on six from eight matches.

Single wicket cricket from February 22

The three-day 1993 invitational single wicket cricket tournament under the joint auspices of the Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association (BSJA) and Biman Bangladesh Airlines will be held from February 22 to 24 at the Dhaka Stadium.

Thirty-two leading players of the Navana Premier Division cricket league including 17 pool players and some well-known foreigners will play in the meet.

The champion will be awarded a Dhaka-Singapore-Dhaka air ticket while the runner-up will receive a Dhaka-Bangkok-Dhaka ticket.

Meanwhile, the BSJA take on the Inqilab Group of Publications in a friendly cricket match today at the Banani WAPDA ground, says a press release.

Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury will lead the journalists while Partha Tarvir Naved has been elected his deputy.

The other players are Masud Ahmed Rumi, Manzurul Haq, Rouf Hassan, Afzal H Khan, Kishinath Basak, Mustafizur Rahman Mamun, Ajay Barua, Hannan Khan, Nasimul Kabir, Syed Mamun, Ditu Khondaker, Dibakar Nayan, Muhammad Nasim, Mujtaba Danis, Md Kamalul Rahman, Malik Al Inran, Mahfuzur Rahman and Kabir.

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Samarasekara, the other opener, then teamed with Faruque Ahmed to take the score to 78 before Samarasekara was also run out for 33 made with the help of four boundaries.

Faruque batted on in a pleasant manner to top score with 59 compiled off 71 balls. The former Abahani captain hit eight lovely fours before holding out to Majbec off leftarm spinner Gem.

Akram Khan with 32 and skipper Lipu with an unbeaten 24 were the other scorers to stand out amid a string of failures. Four Abahani batsmen were run out in their mad pursuit for runs. Abahani finished on 198 for eight off their quota 45 overs.

Javed Omar Belim Golla was the most successful of the Tarun bowlers with figures of two for 45. Rajinder and Gem claimed one each with the former bowling particularly well for his analysis of one for 28 off nine overs.

Titu was out for four when Surja Tarun began their reply with Jahangir accepting the snick off Samarasekara's bowling. The tall Shri Lankan then removed fellow-Lankan Rodrigo at the same score to make Tarun two down for five.

With the score on 11 Samarasekara drove the last nail in Tarun's coffin by trapping Indian batsman Rajinder leg before for one and the fate of the match was sealed effectively in Abahani's way.

Respectable leg-spinner Titu then took over and Tarun surely and inescapably advanced to their inevitable doom.

Golla, who opened the innings, fought defiantly to

MEETING

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board will hold a joint meeting with all the current national players and captains of all the teams of the Navana and Milnars leagues tomorrow, Wednesday, at 6:30 pm at its office.

In a press release issued yesterday the BCCB said that the meeting has been arranged to ensure a successful completion of the cricketing calendar for this year.

Meanwhile, Sajjadul Alam Bobby, a former BCCB joint secretary, condemned the attack on a BCCB official by a group unruly people on February 12.

Tofazzal will take on Rony in the final of the boys' singles of the M A Jabbar memorial tennis tournament on Thursday.

Tofazzal beat Bijoy 6-2, 6-0 while Rony registered a hard-earned 6-3, 6-7, 6-3 victory against Dipu in their respective semifinal matches at the Engineers' Club courts yesterday.

Rina outplayed Lipi 6-2, 6-1 to move into the women's singles final. Rina will meet Saathi in the final tomorrow.

Today, Hira Lal takes on Jhulan while Fayaz plays Faisal in the two semifinals of the men's singles.

TODAYS MATCHES

Mohammedan vs Brothers (Dhaka Stadium)
GMCC vs Udit Club (DCS)
Jabbar tennis
Sports Reporter

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Olympic truce!

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb 15

Plans for a world wide ceasefire during the Olympic Games — a return to the practice of ancient Greece — has been handed to the United Nations by the Olympic movement's head Juan Antonio Samaranch, it was revealed Sunday, reports AFP.

Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said he had outlined the idea to UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali during a meeting in New York on Tuesday.

He revealed the plan at a press conference during the world beach volleyball finals here.

The idea would help keep the Olympics faithful to its original goal, "namely to contribute to peace," according to the text of the IOC plan submitted to the world body.

The scheme calls for a ceasefire in all conflicts around the world during an "Olympic truce", starting seven days before the opening of the Summer Games and ending seven days after their closure.

"During the Olympic truce, dedicated, as in ancient Greece to the spirit of brotherhood and understanding between people, all initiatives shall be taken to achieve by peaceful means the settlement of conflicts," said the text.

"During the same period, all armed conflicts, and any acts related to, inspired by or akin to such conflicts, shall cease, whatever the reason, cause or means of perpetration thereof," it concluded.

Samaranch said he also had talks with UN sports specialists, UNESCO, the World Health Organisation and a meeting with James Grant, director of UNICEF, the UN Children's organisation.

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Akram, Miandad Pak heroes

EAST LONDON, South Africa, Feb 15

South Africa lost their last seven wickets for just 11 runs as Pakistan pulled off a dramatic last-over victory in a rain-curtailed one-day international here today, reports AFP.

Skipper Wasim Akram led with five for 16 in 6.1 overs as South Africa went to pieces for the second match in a row against Pakistan.

In reply to Pakistan's 214 for six from their full quota of 50 overs, the home side were given a revised victory target of 172 runs from 31 overs following a long stoppage through rain.

Ironically, for much of the South African innings, the panic seemed to be on the Pakistani side, but after the top order succumbed, it was the South

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Aussies keen to start anew

NEW PLYMOUTH, Feb 15

Allan Border's Australian cricket team tried to forget their 2-1 Test series loss to the West Indies as they prepared Monday for a tour match against New Zealand, reports AP.

In the tiny picturesque Pukekura Park, the Australians looked refreshed and relaxed after a lighthearted session. Australia open their three-Test tour of New Zealand on Tuesday with a three-day match against a strong New Zealand Board XI side.

Border believes his team is in the right frame of mind to begin a comeback.

"It's just the tonic the team needs," he said.

Pukekura park played host to the record-breaking World Cup match last year, which saw Shri Lanka successfully reach 313-7 in reply to Zimbabwe's

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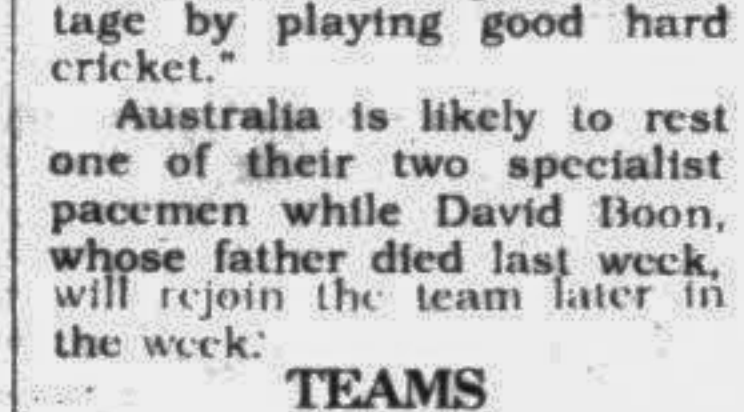
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ALLAN BORDER

total of 312-4.

This game was originally listed as an emerging New Zealand XI but Test regulars Martin Crowe, Andrew Jones and Mark Greatbatch have all been included to get extra match practice.

Crowe and Jones will carry much of the responsibility for the batting in the Test series and Border said he relished the chance to gain an early advantage.

"I don't know if we should go out and target blokes but if we can get one up on Martin Crowe and Andrew Jones, it goes a long way toward causing some problems in the New Zealand camp," Border said.

Those two players are experienced enough and good enough not to be too fussed by any of thought of that. It's a matter of us getting an advantage by playing good hard cricket.

Australia is likely to rest one of their two specialist pacemen while David Boon, whose father died last week, will rejoin the team later in the week.

TEAMS

Australia: Allan Border (captain), Mark Taylor, Ian Healy, Merv Hughes, Justin Langer, Craig McDermott, Damien Martyn, Tim May, Paul Reffel, Shane Warne, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh.

New Zealand Board XI: Martin Crowe (captain), Mark Greatbatch, Chris Harris, Blair Hartland, Mark Haslam, Andrew Jones, Dion Nash, Michael Owens, Adam Parore, Chris Pringle, Shane Thomson, Chris man to be added.

Javed of Armanitola School scored the all-important goal in the second half.

Armanitola School hockey champs

CHITTAGONG, Feb 15: Armanitola School of Dhaka Division won the hockey championship of the national schools and madrasah games and sports competition beating Jessore Polerhat High School by a solitary goal at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Javed of Armanitola School scored the all-important goal in the second half.

Moore's stunning revelation

LONDON, Feb 15

Bobby Moore, who captained England's soccer team to win the 1966 World Cup and become a football legend, revealed on Sunday night he had cancer and said he "had a battle to win" sports Reuter.

Moore, 51, stunned the soccer world by issuing a statement saying an operation was carried out on his colon in April 1991 and cancer was discovered in his liver.

"I have a battle to win and would ask only that I am given the chance to do so without intrusion in my private life," Moore, a former player with the West Ham team, said after media inquiries about his health.

"I appreciate everyone's concern and above all the loving care and support of my family," said Moore, adding.

"Bulletins about my progress will be issued in due course but neither my wife nor myself will be making any further statements of any kind with regard to my medical condition."

Econo Open TT

Sports Reporter

Wari Club clinched the boy's team title of the third Econo Open table tennis tournament, by defeating Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) 3-1 in the final yesterday at the National Sports Council gymnasium.

Wari's Mahboob won the first set beating Sagar 21-15, 21-17 but Manash drew level for BTMC beating Shaon in the second set 23-21, 12-21 and 21-12. Mahid of Wari beat Tanmay 21-17, 21-18 while Mahboob took the fourth set beating Manash 21-19, 21-13.

Earlier, BTMC outplayed Bangladesh Ansars 3-0 and Wari trounced Armanitola Club by a similar margin in their respective semifinal encounters.

Thirty matches of the boys' singles, 12 outings of men's singles and seven ties of women's singles were held yesterday.

The men's team final will be held this afternoon at the same venue.

Rajshahi cricket

Sports Reporter

Rajshahi Town Club and Bandhan Krira Chakra won their respective matches of the Rajshahi Bhorer Kagaj First Division cricket league yesterday.

At the district stadium Town Club registered an easy 84-run victory against Sultanabad Club.

Electing to bat Town Club amassed 178 losing seven wickets with Diplu, Bibhash and Fachu making 35, 31 and 27 runs respectively.

Tarique and Asad claimed three and two wickets respectively.

Sultanabad Club were skittled out for a paltry 94.

Azad of Town Club ripped through the opponents' batting claiming five wickets for 23 while Babar and Bibhash with two scalps each lent him able support.

At the divisional stadium, Bandhan Krira Chakra beat Prohati Sangha by 37 runs.

Changpai cricket

Sports Reporter

Orient Club trounced Winners' Club by 147 runs in the Changpai Cup cricket tournament at the Golapbagh ground yesterday, says a press release.

Batting first Orient Club made 222 losing eight wickets in 30 overs with Pappu top-scoring with 62 and Zahid, Matin and Masud scoring 37, 24 and 23 respectively.

Sena took three wickets and Masum and Momin two each for Winners' Club.

In their turn, Winners' Club were shot out for a poor 75.

Zahid claimed five wickets for only 18 runs for Orient Club.

Zahid was adjudged the man-of-the-match for his all-round efforts.



Victorious Willes Little Flower High School which regained the Nirman Schools cricket championship for the Dhaka zone outplaying Saint Joseph's High School by eight wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Willes lift Nirman title

Sports Reporter

A devastating spell from Turjo enabled former champions Willes Little Flower to clinch the Dhaka zonal championship of the 11th Nirman schools cricket tournament.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday Turjo's deadly spell restricted St Joseph's High School, at one stage cruising on 71 for two, to 122 to pave the path for an easy eight-wicket victory for the eventual champions.

Having won the toss Pappu, the St Joseph's School skipper, decided his batsmen would fare well batting first but he was in for a big shock. Ferdous, the opening batsman, went back for nought after attempting a suicidal single with the soccer on three. Tahseen, the other opener, and Natmul, who shone with the ball in his school's semifinal, joined together for an invaluable 69-run partnership. But one run later Pappu went for nought, leaving his side on a shaky 72 for three.

Pappu was Turjo's first victim and the gateway for four more to come. In his 7.2 over spell Turjo virtually tore the batting line apart and his five-

Opee, the Willes Little Flower High skipper, then joined Manna to polish it off in 18 overs. Manna made 50 while his captain contributed 33.

Twenty-three teams, including four semifinalists of the Dhaka zone, will play in the final round of the country-wide competition scheduled for an early March start.

K Z Islam, a former president of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board and the Managing Director of Nirman International Limited, the sponsors, distributed the prizes among the winners as chief guest.

Turjo rightly won the man-of-the-match award.



TURJO...Willes' hero

wicket haul cut short the St Joseph's High total, which at one stage seemed to be heading for formidable.

Natmul played a defiant knock of 64 to be the highest individual scorer for St Joseph's. Tahseen followed with 13. They were the only two to make it to double digits.

Turjo's five-wickets cost him only 18 runs. Opee took two.

The openers gave Willes Little Flower School a flamboyant start racing to 20 in 2.5 overs before Mushfiq went for 11. Manna and Faisal took the total to 59 in 12 overs when the last wicket of the innings fell, that of Faisal, for 12.

DMCA meeting

Sports Reporter

An emergency meeting of the Dhaka Metropolis Clubs' Association will be held today at 5:00 pm at the Dhaka Metropolis Football Association (DMFA) office, says a press release.

All members of the association have been asked to be present on time.

Seles nips Navratilova again

CHICAGO, Feb 15

Monica Seles beat Martina Navratilova 3-6, 6-2, 6-1 on Sunday to win the Chicago Slims, her eighth straight match victory of the year without a loss and overcoming a hold the Czech native has on the Windy City, reports AP.

"I want to know what Monica had for breakfast because I didn't play that badly and got whooped in the last two sets," said Navratilova, who has won 12 of 14 finals in her 17 Chicago appearances.

"The first time I played here, Monica wasn't even born," the 36-year-old Czech native said.

With frequent shouts of "Go, Martina," the crowd at the Illinois-Chicago Pavilion was clearly behind Navratilova.

Seles said she wasn't bothered by her opponent's fan support.

In the first set, Martina just played well," said Seles. "In the second set, I said to myself, 'Come on. I can play better.'"

The \$75,000 first prize brings Seles' 1993 earnings to \$3,907,000, including her purse from the Australian Open. Navratilova pocketed \$3,370,000 for second. Both women now head for Paris and the Open Gaz de France, which begins Monday.

Seles, 19, has a 10-6 edge against Navratilova, including five victories in the last six meetings between the two left-handers.

The Yugoslav native, famous for her grunting while hitting the ball, was making her first stop in Chicago since 1989 when she lost a first-round match as a 15-year-old.

"I wanted to erase the bad memories of Chicago, losing my first match here four years ago," said Seles.

Navratilova's short game and powerful backhand stymied her opponent early, but Navratilova quickly fell victim to Seles' unrelenting corner shots.

"Once she gets going she is hard to stop," Navratilova said. "I lost a lot of deuce games, especially on my serve."

In the deciding set, Seles broke in the opening, third and final games, while yielding only three points on her own service.

The middle set featured five breaks. Navratilova battled back from 0-40 in the first game before losing service, starting a run of eight straight points for Seles. Breaks also came in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth games.

Navratilova broke serve in the match's opening game but was broken right back, although she managed to rally from 0-40 to deuce. Seles lost service in the fifth game of the first set.

Navratilova was down 0-30 in the next game but came back to take a 4-2 lead. Navratilova ended the set by breaking Seles.

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

The inaugural ceremony of the 1993 Pioneer football league will be held on February 20 at the Dhaka Stadium at 3:30 pm, says a press release.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will attend the occasion as chief guest.

Eighty-two participating teams will take part in a colourful march past which will be followed by an exhibition match between two selected teams of the league.

Meanwhile, the selected players, who played in the pioneer league, have been asked to report to Enayetur Rahman Khan, chief coordinator for the Pioneer coaching camp, on February 18 at 3:00 pm at the Mirpur Stadium.



YES, NOT QUITE CRICKET: Indian cricketers led by team physio Ali Irani is on a merry ride after having registered a flattering victory by an innings and 22 runs against England in Madras yesterday. — Star TV photo