Abahani-MSC tie now on Feb 26

Sports Reporter

The much-awaited Navana Premier Division cricket league tie between title holders Mohammedan Sporting Club and arch rivals Abahani Krira Chakra fell through yesterday owing to unplayable condition of the wicket and outfield at the Dhaka Stadium which was dampened by the rain Thursday night.

A large section of eager spectators returned home disappointed when they saw the skippers of the two teams refusing to play on the wet pitch. The match is expected to be played next Friday at the same

The other match of the day. between Gulshan Youth and Surjo Tarun at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, was also called off due to the same rea-

Both Mohammedans and Abahani have 16 points from nine matches each. Mohammedans suffered their lone defeat in the league at the hands of Bangladesh Biman while Abahani's loss was inflicted by the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club.

The postponement of yesterday's two matches, which were supposed to complete the first phase of the eleventeam league, thus delayed the commencement of the six team super league, scheduled for a February 22 start.

An unconfirmed report quoting the BCCB said the super league is now likely to be gin from the last day of this

BFF warns booters

Sports Reporter

National footballers will face stern disciplinary action if they fail to report to coach Kazi Salahuddin at the Mirpur Stadium by four this afternoon. This was decided at an

emergency meeting of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) with its chief Siddiqur Rahman in the chair. Earlier, on Friday, the

Football Players' Welfare Association (FPWA) at a press conference had declared that the footballers would not participate in any BFF programme including the practice camp for the qualifying round matches of the 1994 World Cup championship until the inter-club transfers for the forthcoming Senior Division leagues were completed.

Only three out of the selected 24 players had reported to the coach on Thursday. They were Kaiser Hamid, Arman and Tutul.

The Bangladesh national team, placed in Group F of Asia, is scheduled to play their two-leg qualifying matches in Japan and the United Arab Emirates next April and May.

Shaikat to lead u-19 cricketers on Nepal tour

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) has Sharifuddoula Ibne Shaikat, Victoria Sporting's left-arm spinner, as the captain of the Bangladesh under-19 cricketers who are to play in the Silver Jubilee tournament in Birganj, Nepal.

Roquibul Hassan and M Osman Khan have been appointed manager and assistant manager respectively to accompany the 19-strong squad.

Shaikat, who was a member of the national side that played in the aborted first SAARC tournament in December last year, will have Sajjad Ahmed Shipon as his deputy.

The other members of the team are: Sajid Hassan, Anup Kumar Biswas, A M Naimur Rahman, Al-Shahriar, Ashigur Rahman, Khaled Masud Pilot, Sajal Ahmed Chowdhury, Ruhul Niyamur Rashid, Neaz Hassan, Tanveer Ahmed, Shartful Hug and Azim Rahman.

Three more players will ac company the team as stand-by They are: Zahid Salaiman. Sajjad Hossain and Shariar

The selected players have been instructed to report to the manager today at the

Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. The team leaves for Nepal on

Hira Lal clinches Jabbar tennis

National champion Hira Lal retained his men's singles title of the Engineer M A Jabbar memorial tennis championships.

Hira Lal beat Faisal 7-6 (7-5), 7-5, 6-2 in the keenly-contested final held at the Engineers Club courts yester-

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar witnessed the final as chief guest and distributed prizes.

State Minister for Textiles Maj (retd) Abdul Mannan was present as a special guest.

Grandmasters' meet begins today

Sports Reporter

thousand dollar as appearance fees. Other players will also be awarded cash allowances. The meet, belonging to Category Eight of the FIDE,

will be of great importance for

first ever

Inited Insurance

chess champi

onship begins

today at 3:00 pm

Grandmasters'

at the Jalsaghar of Hotel

five GMs will compete in the

fortnight-long meet organised

by the Bangladesh Chess

(2520) of Bangladesh,

Dibyendu Barua (2530) of India

and Julian M Hodgeson

(2565), David Norwood (2525)

and Daniel J King (2500)- all

players are International Mas-

ter Zillur Rahman Champak

(2320). Ziaur Rahman (2430)

and Rifat bin-Sattar (2385) of

Bangladesh: IM Arun B Vaidya

(2385), IM Neeral Kumar

Mishra (2365) and Varugeese

known Pakistani IM Mahmood

at a rest house in Gulshan

while the other players are

Insurance Co Ltd will bear the

entire expenses of the meet

will be on offer for the top

eight finishers but the BCF is

GMs is likely to receive one

yet to finalise the break-up.

estimated at seven lakh taka.

The GMs have been put up

The sponsors United

Four thousand US dollars

Besides each of the five

Dhaka Division

emerged cham-

pions of the in-

ter-divisional wo-

men's athletics

championships

finishing just a point ahead of

runners up Chittagong Divi-

at the National Women's

Sports Complex, Dhanmondi

yesterday, Dhaka Division col-

lected 43 points. Sohela

Parveen of Chittagong and

Marufa Akhter of the eventual

winners jointly became the in-

dividual champions with 10

points each while Sohela's

teammate Marjina Banu fin-

ished a point behind to win

the individual runner-up tro-

in the middle distance events,

winning the 400 and 800 me-

tres races. She also was a

member of the second place

winning 4x100m relay squad

of Dhaka Division which was

outsprinted by the Chittagong

dominated the discuss and

ships will be worth 5,000

dollar to US winners USA

Track and Field (USATF) said

5,000 dollar, silver medalists

1,500 dollar and bronze

medalists 500 dollar",

prize money at the March 12-

14 championships in Toronto,

Canada, would come from a

31.000 dollar allocation from

the International Amateur

Athletic Federation (IAAF), and

USATF would make up the

difference should US athletes

tive director, told Reuters that

for the first time the US gov-

Ollan Cassell, USATF execu-

exceed the allocation.

begins this afternoon.

spokesman Tom Surber said.

"Gold medalists will receive

Surber said funds for the

on Thursday, reports Reuter.

javelin, winning both events.

Sohela, on the other hand,

RALEIGH, North

Carolina, Feb 19:

A gold medal in

next month's

IAAF World In-

door Champion-

Marufa showed her prowess

In the day-long competition

Dhaka girls top

divisional athletics

Sports Reporter

Koshi (2420) of India and well

Ahmed Lodhi (2430).

staying at a city hotel.

The seven other competing

The GMs are Niaz Morshed

Twelve players including

Purbant in the city.

Federation (BCF)

from England.

the IMs and rated players. Should any of the competing IMs scores eight points from his eleven matches in the robin league competition he will earn the required norm to be honoured as a Grandmaster while if a rated player can score six points he will be awarded the International Master's title, subject to confirmation by the Interna-Chess Federation (FIDE).

Meanwhile, the numberdrawing ceremony for the tournament was held at the playing venue yesterday evening with State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka doing the honours as chief guest.

All the players excluding the lone GM of the country Niaz Morshed attended the ceremony.

BCF vice-president and chief arbiter of the competition Professor AR Khan drew the lots for Niaz Morshed.

Julian Hodgeson, one of the three English GMs in the fray, was the first to try his luck and he drew number 11.

Dibyendu Barua, who followed Hodgeson, drew number seven while the other three GMs-Niaz, Norwood and King-drew numbers two, six and nine respectively.

Asma Akhter was the fastest

woman of the meet winning

the sprint 100m ahead of the

Chittagong duo of Sabina

place winner in the 100m

dash, went on to win two other

events. She won the 200m

sprint and then teamed up

with Shamima Sultana, Kazi

Ayesha Khanam and Sabina to

Ferdousi Begum of Dhaka

won the high jump followed by

teammate Srabani Poddar and

Shamima Sultana o

Chittagong. Shamima later fin-

ished first in the high jump

even ahead of Runa Laila of

Rajshahi and Sultana Parveen

place went to Fatema Khatun

of Dhaka and her namesake

from Chittagong couldn't out-

distance her but enjoyed the

edge over Rajshahi's Farida

of the Bangladesh Women's

Sports Federation - the organ-

isers of the meet - later dis-

tributed prizes among the

Good news for US athletes

erning body would pay prize

money to medalists in this

year's World Championships in

Stuttgart in August. He said

70,000 dollar would be avail-

Surber said no decision had

The absence of prize money

at the World Championships

has been a sore point with a

number of the world's leading

Agents for some competi-

tors said their athletes would

London Marathon

faces problems

between race chairman Chris

Brasher and the British gov-

ernment over money has cast a

shadow over this year's London

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka conducted the number-drawing

for the first United Insurance GM chess championship at a local hotel yesterday. The meet

Marathon, reports Reuter.

LONDON, Feb 19: A dispute

been made yet on how that

money would be allocated.

able to US athletes.

athletes.

Tahmeena Khan, president

In the shotput the first

win the 4x100m relay.

of Dhaka

Marjina Banu, the third

Akhter and Marjina Banu.

Interestingly, Champak-the last person to appear on the stage yesterday-drew number

Zia and Rifat called number four and five respectively.

In his speech, the chief guest thanked the BCF for arranging such a prestigious tournament and said that the government would do everything necessary for the development of chess in the coun-

The BCF president and Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed, who presided over the function, hoped that the competition, the biggest and strongest ever in the country. would provide a unique opportunity to the local players to have a first-hand knowledge of international standard chess.

The BCF secretary Mujibur Rahman delivered the address of welcome.

However, poor English pronunciation on the part of the announcers, particularly by the male announcer, embarrassed the organisers.

Observers felt that the BCF should have picked someone with a better pronunciation for the occasion. Meanwhile, Julean Hodge-

son, the top ranked GM in the meet, expressed optimism regarding his chances of winning the title.

Dibyendu Barua, the wellknown Indian GM, also sounded optimistic of his own chances.

showdown likely to be in Europe

WSHINGTON, Feb 19: The much awaited showdown between Olympic 100 metre champion Linford Christic and world record holder Carl Lewis will probably be in Europe, reports AFP.

Lewis's manager Joe Douglas said offers from Britain and France had topped those made in America.

pany HBO has made an offer for the Christie-Lewis race and a long jump competition between Lewis, the Olympic champion, and world record holder mike powell.

come from Europe.

Christie, 32, has said he wants to face Lewis, 31, before retiring from athletics next year.

Dublin may bid for 2004 Summer Games

DUBLIN, Feb 19: Dublin may bid for the 2004 Summer Olympics-but first it plans to spend 1.5 million dollar deciding if the dream can be fulfilled, reports Reuter.

boycott the Stuttgart champi-

onships unless the prize

money was paid by the IAAF.

But Cassell said he believed

refused to grant prize money

to athletes, but last month de-

cided instead to offer each na-

tional federation 1,000 dollar

for each athlete it sent to the

two World Championships. The

US prize money will come

Nebiolo said on Thursday he

was "very pleased" with the US

line with the decisions of the

IAAF council ... to increase the

IAAF's support of national fed-

erations and that any money

for the athletes should be

channelled through the na-

tional athletic federations,

Nebiolo said in a statement is-

sued in London.

IAAF president Primo

This announcement is in

from that allocation.

decision.

The IAAF has steadfastly

most athletes would attend.

Christie-Lewis

US cable television com-

Douglas said he would prefer the contest in American, but plans have been upset because the higher offers have

Zimbabwe's 1st overseas Test to be against India

NEW DELIII, Feb 19 Zimbabwe will play their first overseas Test against India in New Delhi during their 15-day tour next month, Indian ericket officials said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Zimbabwe, who had their Test baptism in Harare last October when the Indians played a one off game, will also contest three one day internationals. Zimbabwe last played in

India in 1987 during the World Cup. ITINERARY: March 13-17-Test, New

March 20-1st one-day in ternational, Faridabad

March 22-2nd one-day in ternational, Guwahati. March 25-3rd one-day in ternational, Pune.

Wright back in Kiwi squad

WELLINGTON, Feb 19: Veteran opener John Wright and promising allrounder Chris Cairns return to New Zealand's cricket team next week for the first of three Test matches against Australia, starting on Thursday in Christchurch, reports Reuter.

Wright, 38, has been called up to bring some stability to New Zealand's top order batting. He will open with fellow left-hander Mark Greathbatch.

Wright, who will be playing his 80th Test, is New Zealand's record Test run scorer, with 5,097.

Cairns, who underwent a kidney operation after returning from English county side Nottinghamshire five months ago, has been called in as a fourth seam bowler. Offspinner Dipak Patel has recovered from an injured knee and will

Rod Latham, who opened in New Zealand's last Test side against Pakistan last month, has been dropped.

Australia, who have brought only 13-strong squad to New Zealand for the 10 match tour, will announce their team after a three-day match against a New Zealand President's XI, which starts on Saturday.

New Zealand: John Wright, Mark Greathbatch, Andrew Jones, Martin Crowe (captain), Ken Rutherford, Chris Cairns, Dipak Patel, Adam Parore, Murphy Su'a Danny Morrison, Michael Cwens, Chris Harris.

Inter-district. volleyball

Sports Reporter

Pabna, Kushtia, Dinaipur and Jessore DSAs won their respective matches in the men's group of the Incontrad inter-district volleyball championship at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday.

Pabna polished off their encounter against Meherpur in 60 minutes 15-9, 15-10, 15-8; Kushtia overcame a one-set deficit to beat Bogra 10-15, 16-14, 15-10 and 15-8. But they were kept on the court 15 minutes less than the Pabna spikers.

Dinajpur needed three minutes more but one set less to take care of Noakhali 15-5. 15-4 and 15-8 while Jessore came out winners without a fight as their opponents Satkhira failed to show up.

Four more matches were in progress when this report was

In the women's group, six matches were settled on the second day of the meet with Jaipurhat, Rajbari, Tangail, Narayanganj and Rangpur managing straight-sets victories.

The Rajbari spikers must have been elated after winning both their matches of the day. First they outplayed Chittagong 15-1, 15-7, 15-5 in the morning and then took care of Dinajpur 17-16, 15-1 and 15-7 in the afternoon.

Jaipurhat snuffed Sylhet 15-15-13, 16-14 in their first encounter but then were downed by the Tangail spikers 15-2, 15-0, 15-6.

Rangpur routed Chittagong 15-1, 15-4 and 15-7 while Sylhet again found the winners' luck elusive in the afternoon when they were nipped by the Narayangani girls 15-4, 15-3 and 15-1.

Mitali Vidyapith's annual sports held

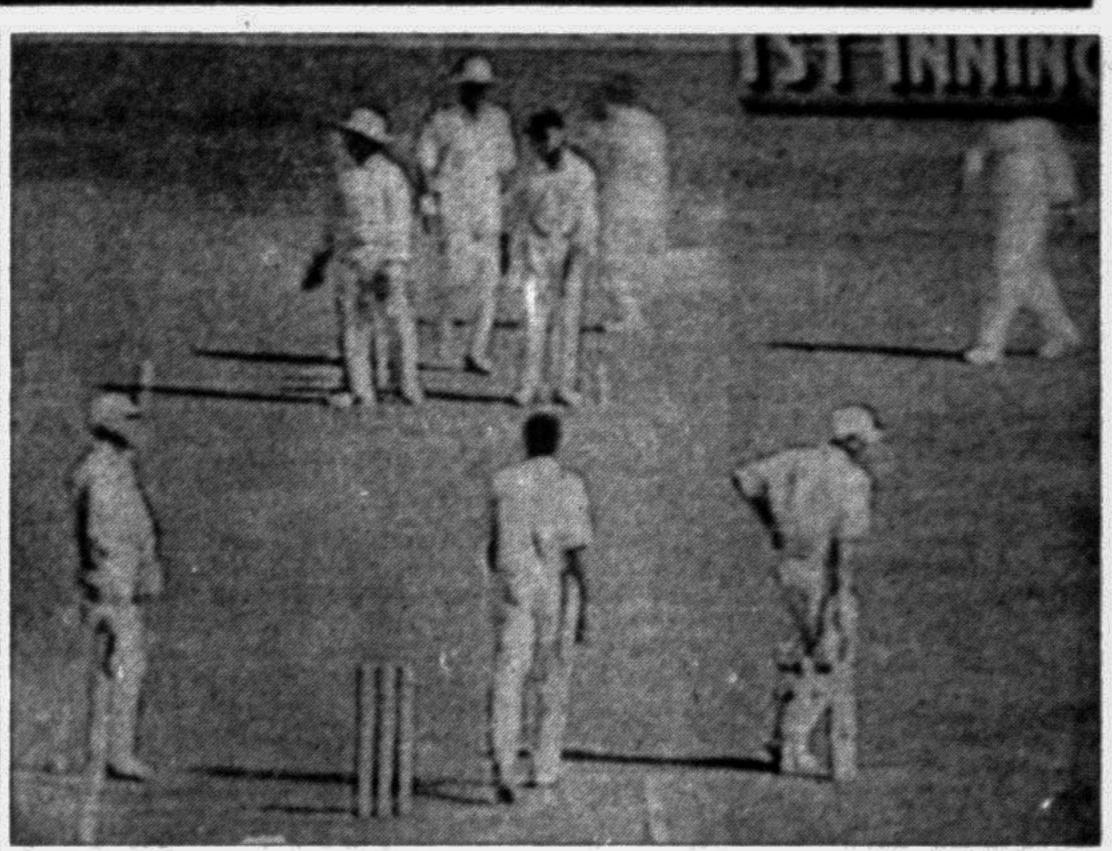
Sports Reporter

The annual sports competition of Mitali Vidyapith was held yesterday at the school playground.

A K Fayezul Huq, the President of the Gopibagh Neighbours' Association—the organisers of the meet, inaugurated the competition. State Minister for Youth and

Sports Sadek Hossain, who is the president of Mitali Vidyapith, was present as chief guest.

Afroza Begum, a deputy director of the Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board (Dhaka zone), gave away prizes among the winners as a -Star photo special guest.



ENDING UP AT THE SAME END: England's vice captain Alec Stewart (L) and one-down batsman Mike Atherton stranded at the bowler's end after a terrible mix-up during the first day's play of the third and final Test in Bombay yesterday. Stewart was given -Star TV photo

Hick spares England blushes BOMBAY, Feb 19: Fairbrother pulled out with a leg before for one to make

Graeme compiled a classy unbeaten Friday to save England another hiding by the Indian

Test at the Wankhede Stadium here, reports AFP. England appeared to be in the doldrums at 118 for six midway through the postlunch session after electing to bat first on a wicket that aided

spinners in the third and final

turn from the start. But the 26-year-old Zimbabwean-born Hich played the best knock of his 14-Test career to spare England the blushes and carry them to 239 for seven by close of the eventful opening day's play.

liick, whose previous best Test score was 64 made in the second Test in Madras last week, defied the Indian spinners for four hours to hit 10 boundaries during his 189-ball Cheered by some 35,000

spectators, Hick took three runs in the days last over to move to 99, but partner John Emburey played out the last two balls to deny Hick an early celebration. Till Hick appeared on the

scene, England were reliving the nightmares of the crushing defeats in the first two Tests which saw the Indian spinners claim 34 of the 40 wickets. Captain Graham Gooch's de-

light at winning the toss for the first time in the series was short-lived as India ripped through the top order in the morning session to make the tourists 58 for four. Hick and Mike Atherton re-

trieved the situation by adding 58 for the fifth wicket, but England remained in deep trouble when they were reduced to 118 for six. All-rounder Chris Lewis, who struck a brilliant century

in the Madras Test, continued

the good form to help Hick

wrest the initiative in a brisk 93-run stand in 115 minutes for the seventh wicket. Lewis fell one run short of his fourth Test half century when a ball from leg-spinner Anil Kumble kept low to trap

England 211 for seven. England's innings followed a familiar tale despite the tourists overhauling their team with four changes from the Madras Test.

the batsman leg before, an

hour before close which made

, Gooch, Atherton, seamer Phil Defreitas and off-spinner John Embury replaced the indisposed Neil Fairbrother spinner lan Salisbury and seamers Devon Malcolm and Paul Jarvis.

Wicket-keeper Richard Blakey who made his Test debut in Madras, was retained at the last minute as left hander

viral infection. Gooch, returning to the

team after being forced out of the second Test with an upset stomach, was the first to go at the score of 11 when he was caught behind off Kapil Dev for It was the 34-year-old all-

rounder's 417th Test wicket which makes him just 14 short of equalling Richard Hadlee's world record of 431. Vice-captain Alec Stewart



G HICK ... 99 striker Mike Atherton failed to respond to his call for a quick single and both batsmen were

stranded at the bowler's end. From 25 for two it became 30 for three as wicket-keeper Kiran More dived infront to remove Robin Smith (two) with a bat-pad catch off leftarm spinner Venkatapathy

Atherton and Mike Gatting carried the score to 58 when Raju made one delivery turn and jump sharply and the edge off Gatting's tentative bat was easily held by Kapil Dev at first

Gatting scored 23 with

three boundaries. Atherton and Hick, who came together before lunch at 58-4, doubled the score in a defiant fifth-wicket partnership before Kumble broke

through with two wickets in

seven balls. The 24-year-old Atherton, playing his first Test in the series, had made a spirited 37 before he played early at a topspinner from Kumble to spoon an easy catch to Manoj Prabhakar at mid-on. Richard Blakey, a last minute inclusion in the team in place of the indisposed Neil Fairbrother, misread a googly to be trapped

Mr and Mrs Alfred Gooch, the parents of the England

skipper Graham Gooch, watching the opening day's proceedings of the third and final Test between India and England in Bombay yesterday. They must have been disappointed to see their son managing only four before edging a Kapil Dev delivery behind the -Star TV photo stumps.

England 118 for six in the afternoon session. Lewis and Hick prevented

any further damage till tea which was taken at 176 for six, the pair having added a brisk 58 in 52 minutes before the second interval.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the third and final cricket Test between India and England on Friday:

ENGLAND: First innings G Gooch c More b Kapil A Stewart run out M Atherton c Prabhakar b Kumble R Smith c More b Raju M Gatting c Kapil Dev b G Hick not out

R Blakey lbw b Kumble

C Lewis Ibw b Kumble

Kapil Dev

Prabhakar

J Emburey not out Extras: (b-3, lb-2, nb-1) Total: (seven wickets) Fall of wickets: 1-11; 2-25;

3-30; 4-58; 5-116;: 6-118; 7-To bat: P DeFreitas, P Tufnell Bowling:

10

14 0

77 3 2 Kumble 53 Chauhan INDIA: Manøj Prabhakar, Navjot Sidhu, Vinod Kambli,

Sachin Tendulkar, Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), Praveen Amre, Kapil Dev, Kiran More, Anil Kumble, Rajesh Chauhan, Venkat Raju.

Aussies rest Hughes, S Waugh

NELSON, New Zealand, Feb 19: Australia will rest pace bowler Merv Hughes and batsman Steve Waugh when they face a New Zealand President's XI in a three-day cricket match starting Saturday at Trafalgar Park, reports AP.

Opener David Boon rejoined the team Friday night after attending his father's funeral, while spinner Tim May will play for the first time on tour. The Australians made an

impressive start to their tour with a nine-wicket victory over a New Zealand Cricket Board XI in New Plymouth on Thursday. Several of the New Zealand

President's XI are on the verge

of Test selection and have

plenty to prove, said captain Ken Rutherford. Only four have played Test cricket-batsmen Rod Latham, Shane Thomson and Rutherford and fast-medium bowler

Chris Pringle. . "Everyone will be wanting to further their claims in the eyes of the New Zealand selec-

tors," Rutherford said. Rutherford is a member of the Kiwi team to face Australia in the first Test starting Feb. 25 in Christchurch and welcomes the change to get a look

at the Australian attack "From a purely personal point of view there is the chance to get quality time at the crease," he said.

Bhola, Sohel in Biman Open final

Sports Reporter

National champion Bhola Lal Chouhan takes on Sohel Hamid in the final of the inaugural Biman squash championship today at 5:00 pm at the Dhaka Club squash court. Bhola moved into the final

9-3, 9-6 while Sohel Hamid made it to the final defeating Ramjagadish 9-3, 9-0, 9-6 in their respective semifinals held at the same venue yester-State Minister for Civil

beating Shahjahan Sikder 9-4,

Aviation and Tourism A Mannan will witness the final as chief guest and give away the prizes.

February 24. Sports Reporter