

Sujon wins it for Beximco XI

Sports Reporter

Khaled Mahmud Sujon produced a devastating spell of gentle medium-pace bowling to lead Beximco XI to a surprisingly big 77-run victory over Gold Leaf XI in the final of the Sponsors' cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Sujon, who played for defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra in the recently concluded Navana Premier Division league, made the most of a damp strip which produced irregular bounce towards the end of rain-reduced 25-overs-a-side day-night affair to end the day with four wickets for only five runs.

The fact that the five runs Sujon conceded came from wides and no-balls endorses the clear domination of the middle-height Abahani cricketer over the hapless Gold Leaf XI batsmen.

The match, originally scheduled for a 2-30 pm start, was delayed as a light drizzle in the afternoon left behind some patches on the wicket and deteriorated the condition of the already rain-soaked outfield. The final eventually began at around 5-30.

Summer tennis

KHAGRACHARI, May 8: Summer Tennis championship began at the tennis ground of the District Police Club here today, reports BNA.

Khagrachari Local Government Council Chairman Samiran Dewan inaugurated the championship this evening. Twenty players are participating in singles and doubles in the championship.

Local garrison commanders and elites attended the opening function.

Rajshahi v'ball

Sports Reporter

City Club emerged champions in the Shatabdi Cup volleyball competition when they overpowered Nabarun Sangha 12-15, 15-13, 15-11, 14-16 and 15-11 in the final in Rajshahi on Thursday.

The mayor of the Rajshahi City Corporation Mizanur Rahman Minu witnessed the final as chief Guest and later distributed prizes among the winners.

Abahani off to a flying start

Sports Reporter

Fazal Mahmud scored three times in four minutes to lead last year's runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra to an enormous 8-0 victory over minnows Bangladesh Railway in their Green Delta First Division hockey league opener at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The league, which began on April 29 with defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club registering a resounding nine-nil win over newcomers Bangladesh Public Works Department Sporting Club, resumed yesterday after a 10-day break owing to inclement weather.

Yesterday's match, originally scheduled for May 1 and again for Friday, was a painfully lop-sided affair with Abahani going all-out from the word go to keep their lowly opponents busy within their own territory.

Success for the renowned team of our sports arena came two minutes into the game when Mamunur Rashid opened the account from a penalty corner (1-0).

But an early goal was not enough to scare Bangladesh Railway into giving in too easily and Abahani forwards realised that when their spirited opponent kept them at bay for the next 39 minutes.

The winners returned to the dressing room in the recess with only a solitary goal lead.

After the breather Abahani doubled up the pace with their forwards attacking the opponents' citadel again and again till Jamil Parvez Lulu found the chink in the 41st minute with a field goal (2-0).

And that just opened the floodgate for the winners as they rocked the Bangladesh Railway for the next few minutes with powerful drives past hapless goalkeeper Arun Kanti.

Lulu scored his second goal five minutes later through another field goal (3-0).

Mahbub Harun's stroke found the net in the 51st minute from close after a well-synchronised Abahani attack left the striker one on one with the Railway goalie (4-0).

One minute later it was Aminul Islam Liton who made his mark with a tremendous hit past Arun Kanti from a penalty corner (5-0).

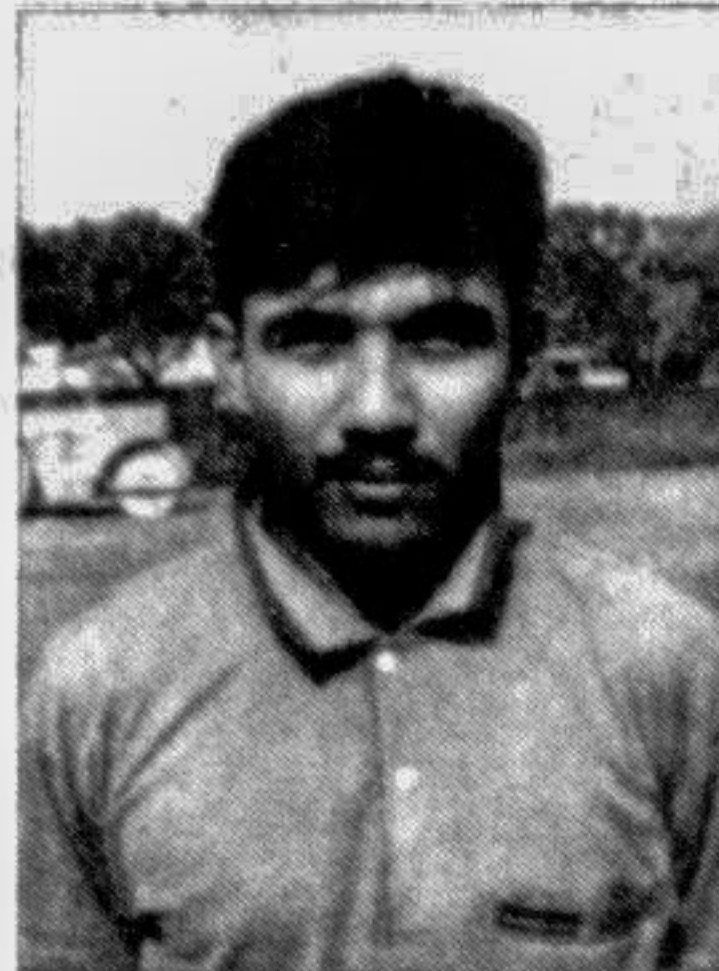
From then on Fazal Mahmud took over.

Fazal scored his first goal of the match in the 53rd minute with a powerful drive (6-0).

He doubled his account in 64th minute with another field

With nearly three hours wasted the organisers had no option but to curtail the match by 20 overs.

Enamul Huq Mont, the Gold Leaf XI captain invited the Beximco XI batsmen to use the strip first after winning the



SUJON... 4 wkts for 5 runs toss possibly with the thought that his bowlers would fare well in the overcast condition and later in the match when his batsmen would come in to bat they would face fewer problems.

Babu vindicated his skipper's decision when he had Jahangir Alam caught by Rahul with his first ball of the innings for two with the Beximco XI on seven.

Skipper Faruq Ahmed, the stylish Abahani batsman, found scoring runs not so easy and after playing 15 balls he returned to the pavilion for seven to leave his side two down for 24 runs.

Rahul, who sent Faruq back, accounted for Selim Shahed eleven runs later when the Victoria Sporting batsman offered a catch to Piyal after scoring only four.

Shanawaz Shaheed Shanu then walked in to join Azhar Hossain Shantu, who opened the innings with Jahangir and together they pushed the score to 86 before Shanu ran himself out for 25. Shanu's 37-ball stay was punctuated by two fours and a six.

Shantu, the bespectacled Mohammedan opening batsman, hung around till the 21st over when he was run out for a 57-ball 36. He hit only one four.

Two runs later on 99 Jahangir Talukder Dulu followed Shantu's tracks in a

similar fashion.

Sujon and Durjoy shared a brief but rapid 21-run partnership for the seventh wicket to pace up the gradually slowing run rate.

At the end of the 25th over Beximco XI reached 132 for eight, leaving a winning target of more than five runs per over for Mont's men.

But when Gold Leaf XI's turn came to bat they were a long way from reaching the target.

Their chase started miserably with the first four batsman back in the pavilion with the score on only 15. When Sujon disarranged the stumps of skipper Mont for two with the score on 27 the match was all but over.

As Sujon continued with his mesmerising spell the Gold Leaf batsmen were seen tracking their way back to the pavilion. When the innings folded Gold Leaf XI were on 55, 77 runs away from the winning target.

Apart from Sujon, Zakir had a wonderful time with the ball taking two wickets for nine runs while Shantu, Dulu, and Durjoy claimed one apiece.

Meanwhile, the players of Navana XI, Beximco XI and Gold Leaf XI have been requested to report at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) office today at 5 pm.

Course for h'ball coaches begins

Sports Reporter

A 16-day handball coaches training course for female coaches, jointly organised by the Bangladesh Handball Federation and Japan International Co-operation Agency, got underway at the Dhanmendi Women's Complex yesterday.

Major General Mahbubur Rahman, Commandant of Bangladesh Army Staff College who is also the president of the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation, inaugurated the course.

Twenty-four women handball coaches, selected from all over the country, are taking part in the course.

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Nat'l snooker

CHITTAGONG, May 8: Four games of the national snooker championship were decided at the billiard room of Chittagong Club this evening, reports BNA.

A B Chowdhury of Engineers' Club defeated Abrar Alam Anwar of Chittagong Club in 4-1 set. NC Ghosh of Narayanganj Club beat Fredrick Randolph of Catholic Club 4-3. NAT Rouf of Dhaka Club defeated WF Doherty 4-3 and Syed Ali Mansur of Chittagong Club got a walkover from his opponent.

BSWA gets AIPS membership

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) achieved membership of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS).

The application of BSWA was approved on Friday in the 56th congress of AIPS, the world's highest association for sports writers and journalists, held in Istanbul.

BSWA Secretary General Mahmud Hossain Khan Dula represented Bangladesh in the five-day congress.

Samaranch due on May 17

International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch arrives



SAMARANCH

here on May 17 on a two-day visit to Bangladesh, official sources said in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

It will be the first visit to Bangladesh by any IOC chief, Bangladesh Olympic officials told BSS.

They said Samaranch would come here from Singapore and leave Dhaka on May 18 for Bhutan.

A Spanish national Samaranch has become a member of IOC in 1980 and IOC president in 1984.

The last 1992 Olympic Games was held in Barcelona — the home city of the IOC president.

Samaranch calls Berlin visit off

BERLIN, May 8: Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), has cancelled a visit to Berlin in order to avoid confrontation with local anti-Olympic protesters, reports AFP.

A visit in late April by IOC officials had been disrupted by opponents of Berlin's bid to host the Olympics in 2000. Scuffles broke out with police during a demonstration by 10,000 people.

Samaranch was to have attended the 80th birthday celebration of ex-German Olympic president Willi Daume on May 24.

"He didn't want to visit Germany so soon after the IOC delegation, and to give opponents of the Games another chance to protest," said the German Olympic Committee.

BOA meeting today

An emergency meeting of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) will be held today at the BOA office, a press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

BGIC basketball

Sports Reporter

Rising Force and Young Angels registered victories in their respective BGIC Second Division Basketball league matches at the wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Rising Force outplayed Kurmitola Young Star 50-41 after leading the first half 26-19.

Mujib and Aziz caged 18 points each for Rising Force. Atique and Nikkon scored 15 and 14 points respectively for the losers.

In the other match of the day Young Angels recorded a 44-37 win over Josephites Hawks.

The winners led the first half 25-12. Zahidi top scored with 14 points for Young Angels followed by Nizam with eight points.

For Josephites Hawks Caesar was the topscorer with 16 points while Stanly and John caged eight points each.

Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club take on Bakshibazar Club while Victoria Sporting Club meet Mitford Friends Club today.



Action from yesterday's Metropolis Green Delta First Division hockey league match between Abahani Krira Chakra and Bangladesh Railway at the Hockey Stadium. Abahani posted a massive 8-0 victory over their lowly opponents. —Star photo

Stewart tips Australians off

LONDON, May 8: England vice-captain Alec Stewart 'hammered out a warning to Australia with his second successive century in the county championship on Friday, reports AFP.

With the first one-day international just 12 days away, Stewart joined opener Darren Bicknell in a Surrey run feast against Sussex at Hove.

Stewart cracked 127 with a six and 14 fours, while Bicknell slammed an unbeaten 154 with 20 boundaries as Surrey surged to 392 for six — a lead of 179 — on the back of their third-wicket stand of 240 in 68 overs.

Another England player in form was paceman Devon Malcolm, who put Warwickshire on the rack with a quick one-two to leave them struggling to avoid an innings defeat by Derbyshire at Edgbaston.

Malcolm dismissed Andy Moles and Roger Twose in his first two overs to send the visitors sliding to 29 for two at stumps, still needing 158 to make Derbyshire bat again.

Their total of 397 was based on a third-wicket stand of 161 between John Morris (95) and Chris Adams (65) before Tim O'Gorman weighed in with 86.

England's 'forgotten man' of their close-season tour, Mike Atherton, hit an un-

beaten 56 as Lancashire began the long haul to match Durham's mammoth 515 for nine declared at Old Trafford.



ALEC STEWART... 127

Paul Parker completed his 54th First-class ton with 123 for the visitors, but Atherton saw Lancashire to 118 for two in reply by the close.

"England hopeful, left-arm paceman" Mark Elliott, took

three for five in 14 balls as champions Essex came off the ropes against Yorkshire at Chelmsford.

Illott's burst left the Tykes reeling at 11 for three, a lead of 158, after they had dismissed Essex for 250, just three runs past the follow-on target, with Mike Garnham top-scoring on 53.

Meanwhile, Northamptonshire youngster Mal Loye was the home hero against Gloucestershire with a stylish maiden century.

The 20-year-old stroked 11 fours in his 139-ball 105 to guide Northants to 293 — a lead of 186 — and, with Paul Taylor striking twice at the start of their second knock, Gloucestershire scrambled to 56 for two.

Leicestershire off-spinner Laurie Potter also snapped up a career-best, with the ball, although his five for 45 failed to stop Nottinghamshire gaining a first innings lead of 61 at Leicester.

A captain's knock of 70 from Tim Robinson saw Notts to 280 after they lost Derek Randall second ball, followed by a mini-collapse after lunch when three wickets went down for 13 runs.

Acting captain John Carr boosted Middlesex with an unbeaten 100 as they moved to 291 for nine against Kent at Lords — a lead of 26.

Dexter promises a new-look side against Aussies

LONDON, May 8: England cricket chairman Ted Dexter promised on Saturday a new-look side for the forthcoming three one-day internationals and six Tests against Australia, reports AFP.

After the disastrous tour to India and Sri Lanka, where England lost all four Tests and five of the eight one-dayers, Dexter stated that only five players were sure of their places.

"The key run-makers — Graham Gooch, Alec Stewart and Robin Smith — can write their names in," he said.

"Graeme Hick and Chris Lewis were the players who definitely took a step forward in the winter, so I'd be surprised if they were not there or thereabouts."

"Of the bowlers, though, none can write their names in and there are places for a couple of batsmen, so it will be a bit of a new-look side."

"For the one-dayers fielding will be the key element, because our fielding went backwards in the winter."

Dexter admitted that veteran all-rounder Ian Botham and batsman David Gower, controversially omitted from the tour to India and Sri Lanka, were in his thoughts.

"Both are in with a chance, but I have to say that neither of them are automatic picks any more," he stressed.

However, Dexter emphasised that the England Selection Committee would not be pitting a team of youngsters against the Aussies.

"You can't throw them all to the wolves," he pointed out. "You have to get the balance right of new and experienced players."

Dexter believes that England can put up a better showing this summer than their dismal efforts in India and Sri Lanka.

"It's at fresh start and we're definitely having a good start to the season weather-wise," he reasoned.

"With the new structure, players are having a better opportunity to get going and batsmen to get into form. The sickness and difficulties of the winter are over."

Security concerns officials

WASHINGTON, May 8: The knife attack on Monica Seles on a court in Hamburg last week has prompted tennis officials to study tournament security, but so far they have come up with few new measures, reports AFP.

Steve Devoe, tournament director of the US Open Grand Slam and of this week's ATP tournament in Tampa, Florida, said the attack, in which Seles was stabbed in the back by a spectator during a changeover, was "shocking."

"Every tournament situation is different, and you have to evaluate and make judgements at each tournament," Devoe said from Tampa.

"With respect to the US Open, we have an excellent security system for both players and fans."

"In light of what happened, like everyone else we are going to review it and see if there is any way to improve what we're doing."

Obituary

Sports Reporter

The father of national cricketer Aminul Islam Bulbul Khadem Ali passed away yesterday at his Gandaria residence. He was 85.

The namaz-e-janaza of the deceased will be held today at the Jamalul Quran Madrasa and Mosque at Gandaria after Zohr prayers.

Everyone has been requested to attend the janaza.

Meanwhile the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) expressed sympathy for members of the bereaved family.

S Waugh earns it for Aussies

WORCESTER, May 8: Australian all-rounder Steve Waugh crashed a six over extra cover off the penultimate ball to clinch a dramatic five-wicket victory over Worcestershire here on Friday, reports AFP.

The English county set the tourists a stiff target of 287 in 55 overs, but man-of-the-match David Boon inspired them to a fourth successive win with his second century of the game.

He was ably assisted by Test prospect Matthew Hayden, who hit a high-quality 96 in a second-wicket stand of 181 in 32 overs.

However, mild panic set in when Boon was stumped for 106 after facing only 101 balls and the tourists found themselves needing 12 off Richard Illingworth's final over.

The target was still six when spinner Illingworth sent down his fifth ball, but Waugh settled all arguments with one blow to land a 2,000-pound cheque for the tourists.

Such a nail-biting conclusion never looked even remotely possible on Thursday lunchtime, with Worcestershire following on after making just 90 in their first innings.

However, England batsman Graeme Hick guaranteed the

thrilling finish and on Friday added 26 in 15 deliveries to his overnight 161 before falling lbw to Wayne Holdsworth.

Before he went, Hick slammed leg-spinner Shane Warne for four more sixes, including a majestic straight drive which soared out of the ground. Of the 122 runs Warne conceded from 23 overs, Hick



DAVID BOON... 106

was responsible for 96 of them.

With Hick gone, Adam Seymour (54) and Stuart Lampitt (68) put together an unbroken fifth wicket stand of 121, taking Worcestershire to their record total against Australia of 458 for four declared.

SCOREBOARD
Overnight: AUSTRALIA 262 (DC Boon 108). WORCESTERSHIRE 90 and 311-3 (GA Hick 161 not out, TS Curtis 67).

WORCESTERSHIRE: 2nd innings (continued)
Hick lbw b Holdsworth 187
Seymour not out 54
Lampitt not out 68
Extras (lb 10, w 1, nb 28) 39
Total (4 wks dec) 458
Fall of wickets: cent 4-337

Bowling: O M R W
Holdsworth 23 3 96 2
Reffel 26 7 68 0
Julian 19 1 96 1
Warne 23 6 122 1
M Waugh 15 2 59 0
Martyn 2 1 7 0

AUSTRALIA: 2nd innings
M Taylor c Lampitt 40
b Radford 40
Hayden c Hick b Newport 96
Boon st Rhodes 106
b Illingworth 15
M Waugh run out 15
Martyn c Newport 3
b Illingworth 12
S Waugh not out 1
Ileally not out 1
Extras (lb 4, w 8, nb 2) 14
(Incomplete)

Cubans dance all over the ring

TAMPERE, Finland, May 8: Cuba started the amateur boxing World Championships here in the same way they left off at the Barcelona Olympics — triumphant, report agencies.

The Cubans, who are expected to dominate the 10-day event, drew first blood when the referee stopped Enrique Carrion's fight with Makhamat Kadir Abdullaev of Uzbekistan in the very first round.

The featherweight bout very quickly turned into a non-contest as the Cuban rained down punches from all sides.

Carrion, a bantamweight gold medalist at the 1989 World Championships and a silver medalist in 1991, was both stronger and more agile than his opponent. He was 6-1 up on the judges cards after two minutes, before the Uzbek fighter was given a standing count. The Cuban immediately piled in again and with 24 sec-

onds left on the clock, the referee had seen enough.

The victory was the high point of an otherwise lacklustre opening day.

The only super heavyweight bout produced the sole upset.

Zourab Sarsania, 20, a promising Georgian, was the loser on disqualification against former Soviet Union countryman Oleg Mascalev of Uzbekistan.

Other early winners were heavyweight (91 kg, 201 pounds) Fikret Gunes of Turkey against Ukraine's Aleksandre Gounov, and Andreas Bredler of Sweden, who scored the only knockout of the day against Frenchman Jean-Paul Mendy at mid-dleweight (75 kg, 165 pounds).

Akin Kuloglu, a Georgian who received Turkish nationality less than two months ago, decided to represent Kest Dzardaravičius 3-1 in another middleweight bout.

Only two months ago when

fighting for Georgia, Kuloglu, then named Akaki Kakauridze, beat last year's Olympic gold medalist, Ariel Hernandez of Cuba, in a tournament in Turkey.

The United States' relatively inexperienced team sends its first two members into the ring Saturday.

Heavyweight Derrell Dixon will have the formidable task of trying to