

Abahani, MSC stroll in style

Sports Reporter

A useful allround performance by Bangladesh international Athar Ali Khan helped Mohammedans to a 117-run cake-walk against Kalabagan Krishna Chakra in one of the two matches of the Navana Premier Division cricket league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The tall player with an interestingly queer accent of Bengali scored a disciplined 68, the top score in the Mohammedan total for 212 for nine wickets, after skipper Aminul Islam Eulbul won his second consecutive toss only to opt for batting this time.

When Kalabagan started their reply or rather, one should say, albeit facetiously, their chase for the formidable victory target of 213 in the stipulated quota of 45 overs, Athar bowled his military medium entangled with accuracy and variation to bag two wickets for only 16 runs from nine overs, the maximum quota for every bowler. More importantly Athar's two scalps included Kalabagan's Pakistani recruit Kaiser Rashid, the man who many thought could give Mohammedans serious headache with the bat in the afternoon as the Mohammedan innings appeared to have lost its way after a couple of middling contributions from the middle order.

None of the Mohammedan batsmen including the redoubtable Athula Samarasekara from Sri Lanka got going yesterday Athar wasted an excellent opportunity of notching seasons first hundred through an exaggerated exhibition of tiredness, unexpected from a player undergoing the grind under a fitness fanatic like Amarnath, now in charge of gearing Bangladesh team for the ICC Trophy in Kenya next year.

Selim Shahed came at number three after Sajjad Mansur Shipon proved himself inadequate to handle a far below-his-par Gamagee, released happily by Mohammedans this year, and played a work-man like innings of 40 off 73 balls before giving Mithu his first of the three wickets. Samarasekara hold out to deep unnecessarily after an unusually sedate 27 and Bulbul, seemingly fixed now, failed to beat a throw from the deep after embarking on a suicidal, miscalculated and unrealised journey to the other end of the wicket.

FH Majumder snooker results

Sixteen matches were decided on the first two days of the 2nd FH Majumder memorial snooker championship 1993, organised by Narayanganj Club, at the billiards room of the club. National champion NC Ghosh of the host club, former champion Reshadul Ameen of Dhaka Club (DC), Anwar Hossain of NC, Mozaffar Hossain of Gulshan Club (GC), GC Shah of NC, Amirullah of DC, Raihan A Jewel of Cg Club and Salek Ahmed of NC won their respective opening-round matches on Nov 6. On Sunday, Jagul Karim of DC, Quamrul Huda of DC, Syed Masood of GC, Frederik Randolph of Cg Catholic Club, Muzammel Haq of DC, Monir Hussain of NC, JK D'Costa of DC and Adrian Gonsalves of Cg Catholic Club won their respective opening ties. Thirty-two participants from six teams are taking part in this knock out tournament, which began Nov 6. The final will be held on Nov 11.

Hero Cup live on Prime Sports

Prime Sports will air the following six matches of the five-nation tournament, now being played in India. LIVE, says a press release. The matches are: November 14: South Africa VS West Indies (9:30 am to 6 pm) 16: India VS West Indies (9:30 am to 6 pm) 22: India VS South Africa (9:30 am to 6 pm) 24: 1st semifinal (3:30 pm to 12 midnight) 25: 2nd semifinal (3:30 pm to 12 midnight) 27: Final (3:30 pm to 12 midnight)

Div II soccer Sports Reporter

Siraj scored twice to help Shantinagar Club trounce Badda Jagoroni Sangsad 3-0 in one of the two Sonali Bank Second Division football league matches at the Outer Stadium yesterday. Sumon scored the other goal for the winners. In the first match of the day, held at the same venue, Lalbagh Sporting Club registered a narrow 1-0 victory over Prantik Krira Chakra. Enamul scored the lone goal for Lalbagh in the ninth minute.

Only Khaled Masud Pilot, son of Shamsu the brilliant footballer of the yester years, saved Mohammedans from a travesty of slog overs. He chipped in with a brisk 21 off 27 balls including roaring straight driven four of a hard-working Gamagee in his second spell.



ATHAR ALI..... 68

Salahuddin with his wonky timing and placing deposited 12 runs to his sides coffers from 11 balls only as Kaiser Rashid made his second successive haul of three wickets to curb any ambition of leather hunt by the batsmen. Kaiser spent 33 runs for his three wickets while Mithu, who too finished with three wickets, gave away 47 runs. Gamagee bowled impressively mainly because of the lack of challenge to bag two for 24.

Pitted against the Mohammedan total of 212 for nine off 45 overs, Kalabagan came a cropper early with the enthusiastic Niaz Hassan Majbue and veteran Morshed accounting for four batsmen with 18 runs of the board in the ninth over.

Kaiser Rashid underlined the difference between local and foreign players with an unperturbed innings of 30 off 58 balls in an innings featuring just three double figure knocks against an attack, depleted by the absence of Golam Nowsher Prince, the kingpin of Bangladesh pace attack, side lined presently by a hamstring injury.

Morshed, Majbue, Ather and Shri Lankan Ashoka De Silva took two wickets apiece. Salahuddin's one for 17 off nine overs was second to Athar's excellent two for 16 as

Kalabagan were bowled out for 95 in 43 overs.

ABAHANI WIN Half centuries by Indian G P Singh and Akram Khan were Abahani's capital as the champions walked away with an easy 76-run win against Wari at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium in day's other engagement.

Put into bat, Abahani collected 209 for six from the possible 43 overs with G P Singh topscoring with 58 — his second fifty in a row.

Akram lent the Indian an able hand in repairing the early damage done by Wari paceman Salahuddin, who prised out Liton and Faruque cheaply. The big Chittagonian hit 51 off 82 balls.

Skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, the most experienced player in the team, provided the beef with two mighty sixes in the rush overs to remain unbeaten on 29.

Salahuddin with two for 34 and Mukul with an expensive two for 30 in four overs topped the chart among the Wari bowlers.

With no thoughts of a chase in mind, Wari practised their way to 133 for eight when the umpires took off the balls at the end of the quota of 43 overs.

Carman played a brisk 46 off 51 balls before becoming part time bowler Faruque's lone victim. Halim Shah with 23 and Opi with 19 were the other notable scorers.

Too many Abahani bowlers got a wicket each but Saidul Anam Effe, the off spinner, was the best with an analysis of one for 20 from eight overs.

DEVASTATING JOYDEV

Joydev Basak, the young paceman from Tangail, staked his claim once gain for a serious look-in by the selectors when he fired Gulshan Youth to a comfortable eight-wicket victory over Victoria on Sunday at the DCs.

His devastating display of six for 22, however, went unsung immediately as a general holiday on account of the Solidarity Day sooted the media for a day.

Batting first Victoria, hit hard by the exodus of a few key players, had no answer to Joydev's well-directed inswingers hurled at a lively pace and were shot out for 78 in 32.1 overs.

Kajal was the only man to get into the double figures with

22 while 26 runs came in the form of extras.

With two former Indian Test players — Arun Lal and Ashok Malhotra — in their ranks, Gulshan's win was never in doubt and Arun's unbeaten 30 formed the backbone of the required 79 in 23.3 overs.

But the winners lost two wickets anyway with Rama and Litu dismissing Sajid and Liton of Gulshan respectively.

MASUM IN MOOD

The natural, athletic and glib Zahid Razzak Masum, badly missed in Bangladesh's abortive coup against the visiting Zimbabwe recently, was in mood as Brothers recorded a massive ten-wicket win against lowly Udiya at Mirpur Pallabi ground on the same day.

He cracked an unbeaten 77, studded with ten fours and two sixes in a stormy innings of 93 balls. Nurul Abedin Nobel, another hard-hitting but unorthodox opener, played second fiddle to him with a patient 32 not out as Brothers ambled to 130 in 27.1 overs.

Earlier in the morning, Udiya managed 129 for eight from their quota of 45 overs against a tidy Brothers attack led by Mohammedan discard Azhar Hossain Shantu, who gave away only 13 for one wicket in nine overs.

GMCC WIN

Solid batting by Javed Omar Belim Golla and Indian Raman Lamba gave GMCC an emphatic seven-wicket win against rejuvenated Surja Tarun Club at the Dhaka Stadium in one of the three matches billed for Sunday.

Despite the presence of Indian duo of Sanjeev Sharma, who had a reasonably successful stint with Mohammedans last year, and Rajinder Singh, Tarun could make only 136 in 44.3 overs after being sent in by GMCC skipper Lamba.

Azim was the topscorer with 40 followed by Faisal who made 29.

Left arm paceman Anisur Rahman tore Tarun apart with ripping figures of four for 19.

Golla paved the path for GMCC's win with an unbeaten stone walling 62 before Lamba walked in to hit a breezy 51.

Indian Test reject Sanjeev Sharma held his own amidst GMCC's victory charge giving way 23 runs in nine overs for one of the three wickets that fell during the 39-over innings.

Indian girls race to semis

HIROSHIMA, Nov 8: India blanked Singapore 6-0 here Monday to secure a semifinal berth alongside South Korea in the women's competition at the Asia Cup hockey tournament, reports AFP.

With the win the Indian and Korean women stand with one win each in the three-team Group A preliminary, with Singapore into bottom place after two defeats.

Nine men's and seven women's teams were divided into two groups in the preliminary, and the top two from each group will advance to the knock-out semifinals.

Rajinder Kaur was the heroine of the day, completing a hat-trick with goals in the 11th, 47th and 58th minutes, while captain Rajbir Kaur (17th), BM Seetha (8th) and Sandeep Kaur (43rd) were also on target. The Indian men's team also scored their first win when they overwhelmed Bangladesh 4-0 after drawing the first two games with South Korea and Kazakhstan in the Group B event.

Sabu Varkey put India one up with a field goal in the 17th minute. Arif Mohammed added two more, from penalty corners in the 25th and 51st, and Varkey completed the scoring in the 64th minute. Captain Park Shin-Heum

struck home a game-deciding shot in the 50th minute to give South Korea a 2-1 victory over hosts Japan after Kang Keon-Woo and Yamanaka Manabu split the match.

South Korea have now one win and a draw, Japan one win against a defeat, Bangladesh one win against two defeats and Kazakhstan one draw and a loss in Group B.

Earlier on Sunday, defending women's champions China continued their winning form with a humiliating 14-0 victory over Thailand.

Cai Donghong scored five goals, all from penalty corners, to lead the Chinese squad.

Div II hockey Sports Reporter

Victoria Sporting Club and Tejgaon Agragami Club won their respective matches of the Green Delta Second Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In the day's first match, Victoria beat Combined Sporting Club 1-0, through a field goal from Mohammad Hussain three minutes from the final whistle.

In the second match of the day, Tejgaon Agragami Club outplayed East End Green Club by two goals to nil.

Biplob scored the first in the 23rd minute while Walid doubled the margin in the 37th minute.

while Yang Huiping, who fired seven goals in beating Uzbekistan on Friday, also hit home twice with Liu Yung and Qin Limei.

China stood atop the four-team Group B competition with their two consecutive wins, followed by Japan with one win and a draw, Uzbekistan with one draw and a loss, and winless Thailand.

Japan and Uzbekistan struggled for 70 minutes without finding the net Sunday.

In the men's event, Malaysia, the winners over Thailand 20-0 on Friday, coasted to their second straight win when they ran out 5-0 winners over China to lead Group A which includes defending champions Pakistan.

Haider Alam cracked home a decider in the 57th minute as Kazakhstan 2-1, giving his side its first win against one defeat in the men's Group B, while India, South Korea and Japan had a rest day.

STANDINGS

Standings after fourth-day's play in Group B of the Asia Cup hockey tournament here Monday.

(Tabulate under played, win, loss, draw, goals for, goals against and points)

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| India | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| South Korea | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Japan | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Bangladesh | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 2 |
| Kazakhstan | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 |



Construction of a modern indoor stadium at Mirpur, to be used during next month's 6th SAF Games December 20-27, is going on in full swing. —Star photo

Maradona smells something fishy

BUENOS AIRES, Nov 8: Argentina skipper Diego Maradona said on local radio here on Sunday he was convinced of a campaign to oust coach Alfio Basile from his post, reports AFP.

Maradona's comments, which he did not elaborate on, fuelled speculation that Friday's meeting of Carlos Menem, Argentina's President and football enthusiast, with former manager Cesar Luis Menotti, was more than a social encounter.

Menotti became a national hero in 1978 when Argentina won their first ever World Cup on home soil. Though Argentina won the South American football championships under Basile this year many believed the event was a mere warm up for the World Cup qualifiers.

And the play off with Australia has been a slight embarrassment for a team accustomed to World Cup success.

H'ball results Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansar beat Brothers Union 18-12 in the 1993 handball competition at the Outer Stadium court yesterday.

Badshah with seven goals and Akram with five were the top scorers for Ansars.

Helal scored seven and Babu four for Brothers Union.

On Sunday, Bangladesh Rifles outclassed Frogoti Boys Club by thirty three goals to ten.

Rokon-uddin top-scored with eight, followed by Jahangir with seven and Solaiman with six for BDR.

Apu scored thrice and Rafiq, Jewel, Kajal netted twice each for the losers.

Satellite tennis in Dhaka from November 23

The Masters' leg of the Gold Leaf ITF Men's Satellite Circuit tennis tournament begins at the National Tennis Complex, Ramna on November 23, officials said yesterday, reports BSS.

Speaking at a news conference, vice president of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation, Professor Rashiduddin Ahmed, also revealed the third leg of the circuit would be held in Rajshahi from November 15 to 21.

The first two legs of the four-leg circuit is now being held in Bangkok as Bangladesh and Thailand are jointly organising the men's professional circuit.

One hundred and seventy-five players from 38 countries are taking part in the circuit. The top 24 of the first three circuits will qualify for the Masters' leg in Dhaka.

Laurence D'Walls from the Netherlands will conduct the circuit as chair umpire. He arrives in the city on November 12.

Peter Malik from India will work as a referee. He is expected on November 13.

Bangladesh earlier organised the circuit in 1991 and 1992 with Pakistan. But this year Pakistan has arranged a complete circuit and ITF allotted the Bangladesh's circuit with Thailand.

The countries, participating in the tournament, are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Benin, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Spain, France, Great Britain, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mauritius, Malaysia, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Slovak, Swazeland, USA, Uzbekistan, Thailand and Bangladesh.

Golden Bengal without gold

By Tawfiq Aziz Khan

The title may sound a misnomer. We are not without gold. In fact the airport customs and their colleagues at the seaports occasionally come up with big hauls of pure gold. Biscuits as they are lovingly called because of their shape are then tasted stowed in the vaults of Bangladesh Bank. The news printed in superbold letters and spread across the front pages makes headlines in the newspapers. Generally a big achievement for the gold catchers. Sometimes they are rewarded and on less fortunate occasions the vigilantes are 'punished' for their 'sins' against powerful enemies. To the ordinary and law-abiding citizen, the saga of honesty, dutifulness and above all patriotism is unfolded. To a handful of crooks a signal to be more crafty and alert is relayed.

But the biscuits never satisfy the hunger for gold to a large multitude of people known as the lovers of sports. They would rather like to see a round shaped gold coin pendant dangling from the neck of an athlete or a swimmer, blinding everyone with its glare in the afternoon sun on the podium.

Yes, we have had our small share of golds in SAF Games in the past. We produced the 'Fastest Man in South Asia' for a couple of years, an incredible feat for a country like ours where jacks are more powerful than the Masters. None the less a gold in football remains the elusive carrot. Yet football is considered, and very rightly so, the most popular of the games played in this country. Perhaps this is the only team game which has the longest history (apart from indigenous games played in the countryside) and tradition.

We have stars who earn millions during their playing days. We have patrons who spend millions to maintain a team and we have millions who pay millions to see their favourite stars and teams in action. Yet they only bring disgrace to the nation in international games.

Well, is it only Bangladesh? Look around and you can see for yourself the pathetic condition of this highly thrilling

game. For the '94 World Cup qualifier recently concluded in Doha, almost two thirds of world population was unrepresented. China, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Thailand, Indonesia and so many others could not make it to Doha. On the other hand countries like Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, North and South Korea and Japan fought it out. Add the populations of these countries you will get the population of Bangla-speaking areas only.

One may take some consolation from the above picture but all are talking about a much smaller area and fewer countries. With our footballing background we have not been able to win the gold in the last five SAF Games. It's a stupendous failure on the part of the players and a host of braggadocios running the game.

We have sportingly waited for a little too long.

We all believe it is time that the waiting game was over.

Parma add to Juventus' woe

ROME, Nov 8: Two goals in the final seven minutes brought Parma a 2-0 win over a backluster Juventus on Sunday night lifting the unfancied club to the top of table together with champions Milan, reports Reuter.

A well-placed freekick from Gianfranco Zola in the 83rd minute and a penalty four minutes later from Swede Tomas Brodin were the only highlights of an otherwise dull match in which an ultradefensive Juventus rarely threatened the Parma goal.

The result left Juventus joint leaders with Sampdoria at the start of the day with a dismal away record of just three points in five matches.

Earlier Milan emerged from a hard fought derby against Internazionale with a 2-1 victory to return to the top as Sampdoria slumped to a surprise home defeat against Cagliari.

Parma and Milan are now tied on 16 points from 11 matches, a point ahead of

Juventus and Sampdoria. Parma and Juventus looked like settling for a 0-0 draw until two fouls cost the Turin side both points.

First Dino Baggio pulled down Parma's Assimo Crippa on the edge of the penalty area allowing Zola to curl his free-kick round a defensive wall and beyond the reach of helpless goalkeeper Michelangelo Rampulla.

Then German defender Juergen Kohler fouled Faustino Asprilla inside the penalty area and Brodin sealed victory for Parma with his spot kick.

Going into the match with only three points from their last four league games champions Milan badly needed a victory to boost this season's assault on the championship.

Young defender Christian Panucci helped them on their way when he headed his side into a 35th minute lead from a Roberto Donadoni corner.

After the interval an embarrassing mix-up between defender Sergio Battistini and his goalkeeper Walter Zenga presented Jean-Pierre Papin with a

simple chance to put Milan 2-0 up. It was the Frenchman's fourth goal of the season.

A defiant Inter pushed the champions on to the defensive and in the 63rd minute Milan's Filippo Galli brought down Dennis Bergkamp inside the penalty area.

The Dutchman perhaps in his best game since joining Inter picked himself up to strike the penalty beyond the reach of goalkeeper Sebastiano Rossi.

The goal set the match up for a thrilling finish as Inter surged forward in search of a late equaliser.

Inter's other Dutchman Wim Jonk, had a great chance to level but lobbed wide with Rossi out of his goal.

Sampdoria looked set to maintain their place at the top of the table when defender Mauro Bertarelli put them ahead in the third minute against Cagliari.

But the home side was left to rue missed chances by David Platt and Ruud Gullit as midway through the second half Cagliari turned the result round with two goals in two minutes.

Holyfield makes Bowe bow

LAS VEGAS, Nov 8: Evander Holyfield, fighting a smart fight by limiting toe-toe exchanges and constantly beating Riddick Bowe to the punch, regained two of his world heavyweight titles by winning a majority decision on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The fight, a year after Holyfield lost a 12-round unanimous decision to Bowe, was interrupted for about 20 minutes one minute into the seventh round when a parachutist landed on the ring apron and fell back into the crowd.

A spokesman for Spencer Promotions, which staged the fight, said the parachutist had broken his neck. "I guess I was wrong saying you're second best," said Bowe to Holyfield after the decision was announced. "Now I'm second best."

Judge Chuck Giampa had the fight 114-114. Patricia Jarman scored it 115-114 and Jerry Roth 115-113, giving Holyfield the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation heavyweight titles.

Holyfield won two of the last three rounds on two of the three judges scorecards to regain his crown.

The crowd of about 10,000 were rooting for Holyfield, 31,

shouting 'Holy, Holy'. Bowe's wife, Judy, who is three months pregnant, was taken to hospital for observation after the skydiver landed near her at ringside, said Spencer Promotions spokesman Dave Goldman.

Judy Bowe, upset by the incident, appeared to have fainted and was taken away on a stretcher.

When the skydiver fell backward into the seats several fans at ringside leapt up and began punching him before he was pulled out of the crowd.

Shortly after the decision was announced Bowe's trainer 82-year-old Eddie Futch dropped to one knee after feeling weak.

Bowe was cut on the bridge of his nose in the fifth round and toward the end of the fight he was bleeding from a cut over his left eye.

Bowe, 26, opened the fight very quickly with a ferocious flurry of punches that jarred Holyfield, who came back with clubbing rights and lefts.

Neither fighter was knocked down but both men were rocked several times. The two men threw about 10 punches each after the bell sounded ending the fourth round. Holyfield had landed a solid right-left to Bowe's head just before the bell.

Holyfield did get into a toe-toe exchange in the fourth round and held his own against Bowe, who outweighed Holyfield by 29 pounds (13.1 kg) and is three inches (7.6 cm) taller.

"Bowe was so strong I had to box a little, I had to bang. At times I had to go inside with him to get a little respect", Holyfield said.

GOLD LEAF
ITF MEN'S SATELLITE CIRCUIT 93

Professor Rashiduddin Ahmed, vice president of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation addressing a press conference yesterday in connection with the Gold Leaf ITF Men's Satellite Circuit tennis tournament. —Star photo