

Big wins for 'boys'

Sports Reporter

Kakrail Boys and Bangladesh Boys recorded emphatic wins in their respective matches of the Second Division cricket league yesterday.

A solid innings of 62 by Shaheen powered Bangladesh Boys to a five wicket win over Young Pegasus 'B' at the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Boys made 139 for five in 33.4 overs after having bowled Pegasus out for 134 in 39.3 overs earlier in the morning.

In the other match played at the Dhanmondi Club Ground Kakrail Boys crushed Azad Sporting by 57 runs in a high scoring encounter.

Kakrail batted first and amassed a huge total of 254 for six from 40 overs with Khokan making an unbeaten 75 and Masud 56.

Kakrail's Raju then ripped through Azad's batting later in the day as the chasers were stalled at 190 for nine at the end of the 40-over quota. Pinku with 41 and Milon with 34 not out were Azad's main scores.

While Raju took four for 29 Moni captured another two for 27 to shape a big win for Kakrail.

Nat'l sub junior chess begins

Sports Reporter

Thirty-one players registered victories on the first day of the 14th national sub-junior chess championship which got underway at the chess room of the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday.

Sixty six participants including experienced players like Abdullah Al Rakib, Hossain Arif, Monwar, Noor, Tipu Sultan, Syed Mahfuzur Rahman, Abu Sufian Dhakeel, Enamul Hossain, Ruhul Islam, Yanur Rahman, Mahmud Riaz and Saiful Kabir are in this nine round Swiss league system fray.

Div II soccer

Sports Reporter

Both the matches on the inaugural day of Sonali Bank Second Division football super league failed to produce results at Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Avijatrik Malibagh drew one all with Muslim Institute in the first match. Rezaul Haq gave Avijatrik the lead with a 45th minute strike. Raja Hossain of Muslim scored the equaliser in the 67th minute.

In the other game held later at the same venue, Lalbagh and BJMC shared points in a 1-1 tie.

Valderrama to the rescue

BOGOTA, Jan 3: Colombia captain Carlos Valderrama scored a late equaliser as his club side, Junior Barranquilla, came from three goals behind to draw with Atletico Nacional in the Colombian Championship at the weekend, reports Reuter.

Two goals from John Jairo Trellez and one from Vitor Aristizabal — his sixth in four games — had put Atletico Nacional three ahead by half-time.

Miguel Guerrero and Ivan Valenciano pulled two goals back before Valderrama completed the recovery to leave Junior top of the four-team final stage on bonus points from Atletico Nacional.

Defending champions America saw their chances slip dramatically when they could only draw 1-1 at home to Medellin.

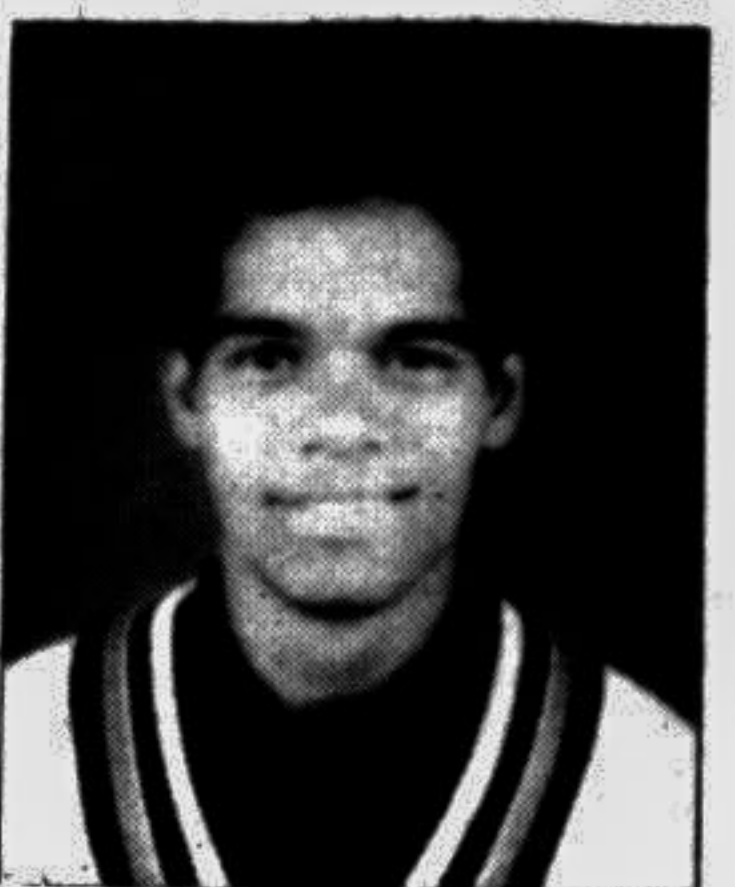
Exciting win for BCCB XI

Sports Reporter



Brimming with confidence after a vain but valiant knock of 78 former national captain Minhazul Abedin, Nannu was once again in the limelight, more than requiting Bangladesh Cricket Control Board XI's victory thirst with a boundary off the last ball.

According to faxed message received at the BCCB office last night Nannu pulled off a concerted effort with cameo innings of 30 not out as the touring BCCB XI beat P & T Gymkhana by six wickets in their second friendly match of the tour of Pakistan at the LCCA ground.



JAHANGIR ... 67

Lahore yesterday.

Chasing 191 for win in 40 overs BCCB XI, the virtual Bangladesh national cricket team out there in Pakistan now to brace for the forthcoming ICC trophy in Kenya a month later required 12 runs from the last over with Pakistan international Amir Nazir bowling the eventual

over of the match. Nannu who had Akram hit the domestic cricket at the wicket during the climax took nine runs off five balls.

Three runs were needed off the last ball with Nannu at the strike. The temperamental but accomplished righthander cracked a boundary off Nazir's sixth and final ball to bring a much needed six-wicket win for his side.

Earlier opener Jahangir Alam and skipper Faruque Ahmed set the tone with some enterprising batting after tall opener Athar Ali Khan departed cheaply.

Jahangir, the wicketkeeper-cum-batsman in fact emerge as the top scorer with a solid knock of 67 off 100 balls including six hits to the fence.

Faruque put his run drought behind him with a timely 67 ball innings of 44 featuring four hits to the fence.

Selim Shahed apart from Athar was the only other batsman who failed to make it to the double figures.

Akram made an unbeaten 21 off as many balls with two fours and Nannu who returned unconquered with his fellow Chittagonian hit four fours in his 28 ball 30.

Shahid Mahmud and Alimi Dar were the only two Gymkhana bowlers to meet with success getting one wicket apiece while Amir Nazir went wicketless for 39 runs from eight overs.

Earlier Enamul Huq Moni's accurate slow left arm bowling restricted experienced Gymkhana to 100 for nine from the stipulated quota of 40 overs.

Moni, the useful allrounder took four wickets for 20 from

eight overs. Gymkhana which had the services of three Pakistan international — opening batsman Shahid Sayeed, wicketkeeper Ashraf Ali and Amir Nazir — got most of the runs from Ali Zia, opener Nadeem Yunus, Tariq Javed, and veteran Ashraf Ali.

Ali Zia who toured Bangladesh with Imran Khan's PIA team few years ago topscored with 46 followed by Tariq who made 31.

Nadeem who scored a punitive 30 with six fours was followed by Ashraf Ali who chipped in with 28, before being bowled by Golam Nawsher Prince.



MONI ... 4 for 20

Prince had final figures of two for 37 from eight overs. His new ball partner Anis took one for 45 and Athar bagged another one for 34 but Moni stole show with superb analysis of four for 20.

BCCB XI tour of Pakistan began disastrously when they lost to Lahore Wapda Sunday by nine wickets.

Litu bowls Railway over

Sports Reporter



Devastating bowling by Litu helped title-aspirants Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha line-up for the five team super league of the Milnars First Division cricket league as the leaders in the points table yesterday.

Bima who completed their nine-match engagement of the first phase of the ten-team fray outplayed powerful Bangladesh Railway at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (DCS) by six wickets and Litu led the winners with a haul of five wickets for only 22 runs.

Sent in to bat first, Railway who too were through with their quota of nine matches yesterday, could manage 150 for nine wickets from the stipulated quota of 45 overs.

Nafis was the top scorer with 36 followed by opener Tareq who made 31. Twenty five extras were tallied by Manna, the other opener who chipped in with 17.

Litu ran through the Railway middle order with a telling

Tennis course begins

Sports Reporter

A three-week long training course for young tennis players began at the National Tennis Complex in Dhaka yesterday.

James Pyle, an international tennis expert from the United States, is conducting the course, organised by the Bangladesh Tennis Federation with assistance of the International Tennis Federation.

Earlier president of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation Faizur Rahman Chowdhury, general secretary Moazzem Hossain Khan and other officials were present.

burst and none apart from the trio mentioned earlier could stand the racket.

He exhausted the individual ceiling of nine overs giving away 22 runs for the five wickets with excellent support coming from the consistent Ismail who captured another two for 33.

Opening bowler Sajjad and Dear got, one wicket apiece among the other bowlers used on the day.

Bima were jolted by early setbacks when they went after the 151 runs needed for an outright victory. Three wickets were down for 41 but a solid fourth wickets partnership between Kiron and Momin which realised 75 runs put them on course of a rather comfortable win.

Kiron fell one short of his half century while Momin remained unbeaten on 37 when Bima posted 151 for the loss of four wickets in 40.3 overs.

Suman of Railway stirred up Railway's hopes of making match of it with three early wickets that cost him 28 runs from nine overs.

Off-spinner Rubel was the only other bowler among the vanquished to give any support to the new-ball operator. He got one for 25.

Bima lead the table with 14 points from nine matches while Railway trail them by two points having won six of their nine matches.

CITY WIN

Babar's individual brilliance powered City Club to a four-wicket win over fancied Dhaka Wanderers in day's other Milnars encounter played at the Pallabi Cricket Ground.

Babar took three wickets for 29 runs as City after having put Wanderers in to bat first

restricted them to 175 for eight wickets.

Lipu, Shariful Babu and Shafiq were the mainstays of the Wanderers innings with scores of 55, 35 and 28 respectively.

Al Amin ably assisted Babar with figures of two for 29 among the City bowlers. There was one wicket apiece for Wahid and Bappi.

Babar played a stellar role when City started their quest for a victory target of 176 runs in 45 overs.

He made 62 off 91 balls with the help of four boundaries before nicking one to Jahagir off spinner Halim Babu.

With Bappi and Wahid contributing 25 and 18 respectively City recovered in time from a minor slump and got 176 for the loss of six wickets in 43.5 overs.

Despite yesterday's loss Wanderers are better off than City with 12 points from nine matches while the City got closer by virtue of the win taking their tally to ten also from nine matches.

Beenhakker new Saudi coach

RIYADH, Jan 3: Saudi Arabia's Football Federation on Sunday appointed veteran Dutchman Leo Beenhakker as their coach for next year's World Cup finals, reports AFP.

Beenhakker, who was in charge of Holland for the 1990 finals in Italy, replaces Ahmed Al-Kharbi, who was brought in after Brazilian Jose Candido was sacked during the final Asian qualifying competition last month.

But he had been out of work since the Swiss club declined to renew his contract at the end of last season.



Australian batsman Mark Waugh turns to watch the ball after being dismissed leg before from South African bowler P Symcox for 7 on the second day of the second Test between Australia and South Africa in Sydney yesterday.

— AFP photo

Mechanical malaise

PERTH, Australia, Jan 3: Organizers of the Hopman Cup tennis championships threatened Monday to pull the plug on an experimental electronic line-calling system that has been hailed as the high-tech future of the sport, reports AP.

Davis Cup star Wally Masur asked for the malfunctioning system to be turned off during his 7-5, 6-4 victory over Cedric Pioline as Australia defeated France 3-0 in the quarterfinals.

Four points had to be replayed after the Tennis Electronic Lines system, which its creators had described as "foolproof," emitted a high-pitched noise during play for no apparent reason.

The bleep, which is supposed to signal that a ball has landed out, was later found to have been set off by Pioline's racket, which contained magnesium.

Players had complained earlier in the tournament that the system does not have a wide enough range, meaning the umpire still has to make decisions on several close calls in each match.

The bleeping noise also was triggered earlier in the tournament when an umpire inadvertently hit a button on the keypad used for scoring, in conjunction with TEL.

Tournament referee Peter Bellenger said he was impressed by the system, but not prepared to work with it if it developed further bugs.

"It is excellent technology and will one day be part of tennis," Bellenger said. "But if there are further problems with TEL here, we will shut it down."

Tournament chairman Paul McNamee said he was not prepared for the experimental equipment to compromise the integrity of the event.

The Australian-developed electromagnetic system is being used to call all lines and has replaced eight line judges at the teams event.

"It was far from perfect. In fact, it was ridiculous," Masur said. "It really disrupted the match and had it gone on, it would have been absurd."

Slater steadies Aussie boat



SYDNEY, Australia, Jan 3: Opener Michael Slater batted for more than six hours Monday to help ensure that Australia would have a first-innings lead over South Africa in the second Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground, reports AP.

Slater, who has impressed many with his dashing stroke-play during his brief 11-Test career, disciplined himself to score 92 on the second day after South Africa was bowled out on Sunday with 169.

Slater was bowled off his pads by Allan Donald eight short of his third Test century but his 380 minutes of hard work led Australia to 200-5 by the close — a lead of 31 runs overall on difficult wearing wicket.

At stumps, Damien Martyn was on 15 and wicketkeeper Ian Healy on six.

Slater's innings was the longest of his first-class career.

"It was a very satisfying innings," Slater said. "It was probably the hardest day of Test cricket I have played and I learned a lot batting with Allan Border."

Slater's grit was matched by captain Border. Who contributed 49 of their four-hour liaison of 104 for the fourth wicket.

Border defied a cut over his left eye that required four stitches, courtesy of a sweep shot gone wrong, to grind it out for 242 minutes before he was caught slashing at Fanie de

Villiers. The 38-year-old Border did not depart until his side held a first-innings lead at 179-4. He was given a huge ovation for what may prove to be the last of 17 appearances for Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Along the way, he passed Greg Chappell's record of 1,150 Test runs at the ground when he reached 30. But it is now likely he will never score a century for Australia at the ground where he made his Test debut.

The South Africans gave Australia nothing in the way of gifts and the 90 overs for the day yielded just 180 runs in all, of which Slater contributed 87.

Pacemen Allan Donald, Craig Matthews and de Villiers nagged away at off stump while spinner Pat Symcox was employed to tie the batsmen down by spearing away at leg-stump.

Symcox bowled 33 consecutive overs from the Randwick end in a spell of nearly five hours, and finished the day with 1-56 for his labors.

The animated slow bowler complained to umpire Bill Sheahan about dry ice being thrown at him from the crowd.

Despite that, his sense of humour remained intact. "I was a bit worried about getting hit at one stage but I enjoyed the day," Symcox said. "I don't mind if they call me any names. You have to have some fun with the crowd."

Slater was tied down by Symcox for long periods during the middle session and his last 13 runs took him almost 90 minutes.

South Africa worked hard in

stifling conditions to restrict the home side and gathered the key wickets of David Boon (19) and Mark Waugh (seven) before lunch.

Boon dragged a wide ball from de Villiers on to his stumps while Waugh unwisely played back to Symcox and was trapped lbw.

Late in the day, Martyn and Healy were missed in the space of three deliveries and those two dropped catches could prove vital should the pair build a larger stand on the third day Tuesday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the second Test between Australia and South Africa at the Sydney Cricket Ground today.

SOUTH AFRICA first innings: 169 (G Kirsten 67, S Warne 7-56)

AUSTRALIA first innings: (overnight 20-1)

M Slater b Donald 92
M Taylor c Richardson b Donald 7
D Boon b De Villiers 19
M Waugh lbw b Symcox 7
A Border c Richardson b De Villiers 49
D Martyn not out 15
I Healy not out 6
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-3) 5
Total: (for five wickets) 200

Fall of wickets: 1-10; 2-58; 3-75; 4-179; 5-179

To bat: S Warne, T May, C McDermott, G McGrath.

Bowling (to date) O M R W
Donald 23 4 61 2
De Villiers 21 9 48 2
Matthews 24 10 33 0
Symcox 44 10 56 1

Overton steals the show



HONG KONG, Jan 3: Australia's Elli Overton stole the limelight at the Hong Kong short course world cup on Sunday as her Chinese archrival Dai Guohong took only one gold and suffered a humiliating disqualification, reports Reuter.

Overton, a 19-year-old student from Sydney, won the 400 metres and 100 metres individual medleys to take her total of gold for the two-day event to four.

Dai, who set four individual

NSW win a thriller

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 3: Reigning champions New South Wales pulled off a stunning recovery to upset South Australia with a resounding 109-run outright win and go top of the standings in a thrilling climax to their Sheffield Shield cricket match here on Monday, reports AFP.

Chasing 268 for victory after NSW were bowled out for 337 in their second innings, South Australia collapsed in the final two sessions to be all out for 158.

Off spinner Gavin Robertson sparked the slide finishing with 5-43 off 26.5 overs, bowling unchanged after his captain Steve Waugh used him to open the attack on a bouncy hard pitch.

Jamie Siddons top scored with 31 while Darren Webber finished with 30.

In Brisbane, Tasmania hung on for a draw which could have disastrous effects on Queensland's Shield hopes this season.

The Tasmanians batted out the final session losing just one wicket to finish the day at 329 for seven in their chase for 395 to win.

Last season's finalists Queensland took first innings points but remain on eight points at the half way mark of the season.

world records and won three individual titles at the short course world championships last month, had a bad day by her standards.

She recorded her second victory of the meeting, the first in a seven-round series, in the 200 metres breaststroke and also took a silver and a bronze. But disaster struck in the 100 metres medley when she made a false start.

Under short course rules, a false start means instant disqualification. At first Dai seemed not to realise she had been disqualified, but with the crowd whistling she was ushered away by an official.

The 16-year-old came to Hong Kong looking for six gold medals but came away with only two.

Angela Kennedy notched a fifth win for Australia in the 50 metres butterfly but the team still fell short of the mighty Chinese who collected eight despite Dai's relatively lackluster performance.

Apart from Dai's win, world record holder Le Jingyi took the 100 metres freestyle and in the 50 metres breaststroke Lou Xia led a Chinese sweep of the medals. The Chinese women also won five golds on Saturday.

Russia dominated the men's events, adding another three golds to their overnight tally of four. But Alexander Popov, who broke the 100 metres freestyle world record on Saturday, had a quieter day.

Popov, a double gold medalist at the Barcelona Olympics, failed to win any events on Sunday but took silver in the 50 metres freestyle and bronze in the 50 metres backstroke. Germany's Christian Keller finished the meeting with three gold medals.

In the overall standings, China and Russia both took eight gold medals followed by Australia with six. The world cup circus moves to Beijing for the next round on January 5

and 6 and then to Europe for five meetings in March.

MEDAL TABLE
Medal table at the Epsom short-course swimming meet held Sunday in Hong Kong:

	G	S	B	Total
China	8	10	11	29
Russia	8	9	5	22
Australia	6	3	5	14
Germany	5	1	5	11
Britain	3	1	1	5
Holland	2	0	1	3
Lithuania	1	1	0	2
Denmark	1	0	2	3
Sweden	0	4	2	6
Italy	0	4	1	5
South Korea	0	1	1	2

Rominger's third

GENEVA, Jan 3: Tony Rominger was voted Swiss sportsman-of-the-year for the third time in a poll of Swiss sports' writers published on Monday, reports Reuter.

Rominger, winner of the Tour of Spain and second in the Tour de France this year, comfortably headed three times world shot champion Werner Guntthor.

Steven pleased

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 3: New Zealand's eighth seed Brett Steven ousted Zimbabwe's Byrron Black 6-3, 6-2 at the Australian men's hardcourt tennis championship here Monday, reports AFP.

Rain delays meant that only four of the scheduled eight singles matches for the opening day were completed on the two available courts.

A quarterfinalist at last year's Australian Open, 43rd ranked Steven was pleased with his performance in difficult conditions.

Steven is drawn to face Australian Patrick Rafter, who knocked out Czech Martin Damm in two sets.

Rafter's fellow Queenslander Peter Tramacchi did well to qualify for the event but lost in Monday's first round to Canadian lefthander Greg Rusedski 6-4, 6-4.



American tennis coach James Pyle giving tips to a group of eager looking youngsters during a training camp at the National Tennis Complex yesterday.

— Star photo