

Khokon ploughs in the sands

Sports Reporter
An unbeaten hundred by Khokon proved inconsequential in the end as Kakrail Boys Club conceded an 11-run defeat to Ajax Sporting Club in the lone Second Division cricket league match at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.
It was the second century in this year's league. Tushar of Progoti Sangha achieved the distinction of becoming the first batsman to have garnered the three-digit score when he hit 103 against United Heroes on January 3.
Tushar's ton paved the path for a big Progoti victory that day but Khokon's effort went in vain as Kakrail, set an imposing target of 227 for victory in 40 overs, exhausted their stipulated overs with the score on 215 for seven.
Kakrail's chase, however, did not quite get off to a convincing start as they lost their first four batsmen with only 11 runs on the board. But then Khokon joined forces with Asif to feature a 157-run fifth-wicket partnership to set the Kakrail outfit on the right track.
When Asif left to the penultimate ball of the 33rd over after a responsible 88-ball 60, punctuated by six fours and two sixes, Kakrail needed 59 runs off 43 balls. Although Khokon kept up the charge he could not find enough support from the other end to see his side through.
Khokon remained unbeaten on just 100. He sent ten shots across the fence and one over in his 109-ball stay.
Earlier in the day, Ajax, aided by a superb 87 from their opening bat Rafique, piled up 226 in their quota of 40 overs. Dola followed Rafique with a useful 34.
In the other match of the day, held on the western strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, all-round performance by Krishna helped Rupali Bank record a six-wicket win over Lalbagh Anwar Cricket Club.
Put into bat Lalbagh Anwar were all out for 145 runs in 37.2 overs. Masum, Mamun and Milon with scores of 45, 27 and 22 respectively were the main run-getters for Lalbagh.
Krishna captured five wickets for only six runs.
Rupali Bank posted 146 runs in the 33rd over, losing four wickets.
Krishna, who earlier accounted for five Lalbagh batsmen, did one better with the bat when, Rupali Bank went in to chase the victory target. Krishna made 32 and together with Antu and Nripen, who made 41 and 21 respectively, paved the path for an easy win.
Shaheen claimed two for 13 for the losers.

Biman Cup U-14 nat'l soccer results

Sports Reporter
Three more teams entered the finals of the Biman Cup (under-14) national football championship at different venues across the country yesterday.
At Bandarban, the hosts recorded a 2-0 win over Cox's Bazar to meet Feni in the zonal final on Friday.
Suniti Barua scored the first goal for Bandarban while the second one came from a suicidal goal, courtesy Nazimuddin of Cox's Bazar.
At Gopalganj, the host team beat Manikganj by a similar margin.
Milan and Jewel scored once each for the winners.
Gopalganj will take on Dhaka in the zonal final on Friday.
At Gaibandha, the home side edged past Lalmonirhat 2-1 to face Nilphamari in the zonal final on Friday.
Rubel and Helal netted once each for Gaibandha while Raju pulled back for the losers.
At Satkhira, Khulna outclassed Jhenidha 4-1.
Ohidur Rahman scored twice while Ashiqul and Mozammel scored once each for the winners. Abul Bashar reduced margin for the losers.
Four zonal final matches are scheduled to be held today.
Sunamganj play Sylhet at Sunamganj, Pabna face Rajshahi at Pabna, Mymensingh take on Narayanganj at Mymensingh.

Venue shifted

The matches of the Hatkhola Sporting women's handball club cup championship-94 scheduled to be held at the wooden floor at the gymnasium at the Outer Stadium today have been shifted to Dhanmondi Women's Complex due to unavoidable reasons, a Handball Federation source said here last night, reports BSS.

FAW fined

CARDIFF, Jan 12: The Welsh Football Association (FAW) has been fined 7,055 pounds sterling (10,510 dollars) by FIFA following the death of a spectator at last November's World Cup qualifier against Romania at Cardiff Arms Park, reports Reuter.

BCCB XI plight continues

Sports Reporter
One Abdullah Khan bulldozed the touring Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) Eleven's hopes of turning around as the itinerants suffered their fifth defeat on a trot, losing to Karachi Electric Supply Corporation (KSEC) by 26 runs in a friendly one-dayer in Karachi yesterday — a faxed message received at the BCCB office last night divulged the doleful story.
BCCB XI, who played their eighth of the ten friendly matches in the current tour of Pakistan, arranged in order to perfect the temperament of the Bangladeshi cricketers who would go to Kenya next month for the forthcoming ICC Trophy, could yesterday muster 166 for seven after being set a victory target of 193 by the home team.
KSEC's opening bowler Abdullah ripped through the upper order of the BCCB batting, prising out three batsmen — openers Jahangir Alam, Sajid Hassan and Selim Shahed — cheaply and then returned to remove two more batsmen including topscorer Habibul Bashar Suman to finish with excellent figures of five for 32.
Suman made 46 off 83 balls, sending the ball across the fence twice. He was followed by stop-gap skipper Akram Khan who kept up his superb form with a blazing 38 not out off just 34 balls including a four and a sixer.
Akram, who as in the saddle for the third consecutive match

A real day for allrounders

Sports Reporter
A brilliant all-round performance by Nuruddin that sparkled like a jewel in the crown for Agran Bank tail-enders helped the bankers open their Milnars First Division relegation league campaign with a 25-run win against lowly Public Works Department (PWD) at the Pallabi cricket ground yesterday.
In a scintillating display of lustrous slogging, Nuruddin, the number ten batsman, collected 38 runs from just eight balls. Nuruddin, who later produced a superb spell of two wickets for 23 runs from nine overs, remained unbeaten after adding 75 undefeated runs for the eighth wicket with Rabbu. His fireworks with the willow conjured up four sixes and three fours.
It was a day for Agran Bank's tail-enders, who showed intangible determination to do something for their team after the upper order batsmen ran into trouble against the inspired bowling of PWD captain Kallol.
Kallol, who bagged four wickets for 14 runs only, had hardly any idea about the late resurgence exemplified by

Krabbe hits another snag

BONN, Jan 12: A German court on Tuesday rejected an attempt by banned sprinter Katrin Krabbe to win a temporary injunction enabling her to run at regional indoor championships later this month, reports Reuter.
The district court in the eastern town of Neubrandenburg, home of Krabbe's athletics club, turned down her plea out of consideration for other athletes planning to compete in the January 22 event in the Port City of Rostock.
A similar motion by Krabbe's teammates Grit Breuer and Manuela Derr was also defeated. Krabbe's lawyer Michael Zimmermann told reporters after the evening hearing.
"The court took the interests of 60 registered athletes from the Neubrandenburg Club into consideration and opted for the majority just as the club had already done," he said.
Under rules of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) any athlete competing against a banned athlete is automatically suspended for the same period.
Krabbe, banned until August 1995 by the IAAF for doping, on Monday had her request to be registered for the Rostock event denied by her club.
Her coach Thomas Springstein had also asked the club to put forward the names of Breuer and Derr who were banned for the same period after the trio admitted to taking Clenbuterol in 1992.
But the club's board on Monday agreed not to register world sprint champion Krabbe, Breuer and Derr to ensure the participation of the 60 other athletes it planned to send to the Rostock event.
The banned athletes, who claim the IAAF ban is illegal under German law, needed the backing of the club or the court to be able to compete at

DU sports

Md Mahfuzur Rahman, 3rd year Honours student of Political Science, became champion with 15 points while Md Jamaluddin, 1st year Honours student of History, the runners-up with 11 points in the annual sports meet of Dhaka University's A F Rahman Hall yesterday, reports UNB.
Earlier, Vice-Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmad inaugurated the day-long competition at the DU central playground.
The inaugural function was presided over by Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad, Provost of A F Rahman Hall.
FIFA's ultimatum
NEW YORK, Jan 12: World Football governing body FIFA has given World Cup finalists until Friday to select training sites and hotels for this year's championship tournament, reports AFP.



Maradona reappears

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 12: Diego Maradona has restarted training after a 40-day lay-off caused by a leg injury, reports Reuter.
Maradona completed his first training session with his club Newell's Old Boys without problems and told reporters: "The injury is fine but the team doctor told me to take care because I'm not 20 years old."
Newell's do not have an official match until the Argentine Championship restarts at the end of February but Maradona said he hoped to play in Club friendlies before then.
He was also hoping to be recalled by Argentina coach Alfio Basile. "I want to be picked for Argentina's next friendlies," he said.
Newell's are near the bottom of the Argentina league table and fighting to stave off the threat of relegation. "I hope we can fulfil the dream of saving Newell's from the drop," he said.

Div II soccer

Sports Reporter
Lalbagh Sporting Club and Bangladesh Police split points as they drew goalless in the lone match of the Sonali Bank Second Division football super league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Div III soccer

Sports Reporter
Basabo Torun Sangha defeated Fire Service 2-0 in one of two matches in the Pragati Insurance Third Division football league at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

TT freshers' course Jan 15

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTFF) has arranged a month-long training programme for the freshers which is scheduled to begin at 3 pm on January 15 at the Dhanmondi wooden floor gymnasium, said a BTTFF press release yesterday.

Friendly soccer

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Scandinavians' right at home

KRANJSKA GORA, Slovenia, Jan 12: Although thousands of kilometers (miles) further south, Slovenia seems to be a second home for Scandinavians, reports AP.

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Edberg still great for gripes

ADELAIDE, Jan 12: Sweden's Stefan Edberg has been an Australian Open finalist for the past two years, but that doesn't mean he has to like the Rebound Ace court surface that the tournament is played on, reports AP.
Fresh from a long-awaited tournament victory on Rebound Ace at the Qatar open last weekend, Edberg said Wednesday that the rubberized hard-court surface had been unkind to him over the years.
Edberg said the surface, used only in Australia and at the Qatar ATP event, could be responsible for back problems he has suffered at times at the Open since it moved to Melbourne's National Tennis Centre in 1988.
Edberg was beaten by Jim Courier in the last two Australian finals, and retired from his quarterfinal match against Ivan Lendl in 1989 due to a back complaint.
"You have to look at the history on the Rebound Ace," said Edberg, who won the Australian open twice when the event was held on Kooyong's grass courts. "I played six years on Rebound Ace and I've had problems five out of six years."
"So I'm starting to think it could be the surface. When it starts happening year after year you start getting a little bit suspicious."
Edberg, who turns 28 next week, said he has never been able to figure out why the surface aggravates his back.
The former world top-ranked player is in Adelaide for this week's Rio Challenge exhibition series at Memorial Drive, played on Rebound Ace. The two-week Australian Open begins next Monday.
Buoyed by his first tournament triumph in nine months at Qatar, the fifth-ranked Edberg said that back worries aside, he was finding form at the right time.
"I feel good and I played well in the last couple of months of the year," said the two-time Wimbledon and US Open winner. "I didn't have a good 1993, but I'm finding the rhythm again and starting to enjoy the game a bit more."
Edberg has been a travelling dad, with wife Annette and 6-month-old daughter Emilie globe-trotting with him.
"It obviously changes things, but it's a pretty good change," Edberg said. "I still play tennis much the same way as I did before and I still have to put down the hours that I need to stay on top."
"But it's just that life outside a tennis court has become very different. Looking after a family is an important part of your life, but it's a nice change and I like it."
Edberg plays his first Rio match on Thursday night against Australia's Wally Masur.

Murdoch on everyone's lips

NEW YORK, Jan 12: Rupert Murdoch, who won American football television rights with a 1.58 billion-dollar bid, will be a major factor in next week's bidding for US television rights to the 1998 Winter Olympics, reports AP.
The winning bid for US broadcast rights from Nagano, Japan, is expected to range from 350 to 400 million dollars. When offers are made here January 19, Australian-born Murdoch's greatest challenge will be from CBS, the network he outbid for American football.
As with his National Football League victory, Murdoch must outbid rivals in a large way to offset a lack of experience at such telecasts.
"Fox is the new guy on the block. If they want in, they have to buy their way in," International Olympic Committee negotiator Dick Pound of Canada said. "They don't have the track record. We will have to be satisfied Fox can do the job. Rupert Murdoch understands that and has assured us he is very interested."
Australian David Hill, former president of Murdoch's British Sky Sports operation, has started work on technical details of Fox's football coverage.
Murdoch wants Fox to be taken seriously in the Nagano bidding to lay the groundwork for an even more expensive future battle for rights to the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney, Australia.
CBS spent 243 million dollars for the US television rights to the 1992 Winter Olympics in Albertville, France, and 295 million dollars for rights to next month's Winter Games at Lillehammer, Norway.
Fears of Murdoch driving up the price of Nagano television

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