

Partex B'ball

Sports Reporter

Greys Club crossed a major hurdle in their championship quest when they inflicted a 108-72 win against last year's champions Azad Boys Club in the Partex First Division basketball league at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Greys, who are still unbeaten in their seven outings, led the first half 49-34.

Anup top scored with 28 while Faisal caged 26 for the winners.

Greys earned 16 points for eight matches while Azad's collection was 10 from six.

In another tie, Winners defeated Dhumketu 66-45.

They led the first half 24-23.

Michael top scored with 42 while Tanu caged 14 for Winners.

Winners gathered 15 points from their eight league matches while Dhumketu 12 from an identical number of games.

Jabbar Memorial tennis results

Sports Reporter

Shamsul Islam and Tutul reached the engineers' doubles final of the MA Jabbar Memorial tennis tournament at the Engineers' club ground yesterday.

They beat Sanaul Hoque and Azizul Hoque 5-7, 6-2, 6-2, in yesterday's semifinal.

In another match, Sabbir and Sarker beat Masudur Rahman and Golam Mowla 7-6, 6-3.

In engineers' singles Sabbir advanced to the final.

In today's men's singles final Rumon faces Jilan. The final matches of other events will also be held today.

BKSP win 13th nat'l youth meet

Sports Reporter

After a lapse of exactly two years Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protishtan (BKSP) have once again become the national youth hockey champions.

They beat Dhaka DSA 3-1 yesterday in the final of the 13th national youth hockey championship at the BKSP ground at Jirani, Savar.

Tipped as the overwhelming favourites for reasons ranging from advantages of familiar conditions to form, the hosts of this year's low-key meet led the first half 1-0 against four-time champions Dhaka.

Sheikh Ramiz Ahmed struck twice in each half for the winners to emerge as the man of the nine-day championship's finale.

Cheered on by partisan crowd, most of whom were the trainees of the national academy for sports, the BKSP boys stepped on the gas right from the word go.

Their opponents who had won four titles before finishing runners-up to champions Faridpur last year, were hardly allowed any leeway in the first half as BKSP, despite the heavy ground conditions, combined well to launch menacing offensives.

The inevitable breakthrough came by Ramiz's hockey when in the 29th minute of the match, exactly six minutes from the short whistle, he scored his first of the two goals on the day from a neat build-up, 1-0.

The match promised a desired following of the ideal course befitting a final when Mahmud Ahmed of Dhaka notched a field goal to restore parity in the very first minute after the break, 1-1.

But it turned out to be a very hollow hint of some absorbing ding-dong hockey as BKSP stung by the reversal started pouring on their opponents from all corners.

Ramiz again put BKSP in the lead with a field goal in the 38th minute and from then onwards there was no looking back for the winners.

Shariful Alam, who registered tournament's one of the two hat-tricks on the inaugural day of the competition completed the tally with a field goal six minutes before the final whistle.

BKSP's dominance was underlined in the six penalty corners they earned as against Dhaka's one only but neither of the two contestants could make any use of them.

The DG of BKSP, Mohammad Ali Hassan gave away the prizes as the chief guest.

Dhaka Education Board (DEB) had confirmed third position beating last year's champions Faridpur Wednesday.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champions	Runners-up
1975	Dhaka DSA	Faridpur DSA
1976	Dhaka DSA	Dhaka Edn Board
1977	Dhaka Edn Board	Dhaka DSA
1978	Not held	
1979	Dhaka Edn Board	Dhaka DSA
1980	Dhaka Metropolitan	Dhaka DSA
1981	Not held	
1982	Not held	
1983	Dhaka DSA and Dhaka Edn Board joint champions	
1984	Not held	
1985	Not held	
1986	Not held	
1987	Faridpur DSA	Jessore DSA
1988	Patuakhali DSA	BKSP
1989	BKSP	Dhaka DSA
1990	BKSP	Dhaka DSA
1991	Dhaka DSA	Faridpur DSA
1992	Faridpur DSA	Dhaka DSA

Familiar WI squad

BRIDGETOWN, Feb 10

West Indies have kept faith with the players who toured Sharjah, India and Sri Lanka late last year for the opening one day matches and the first Test against England, reports Reuter.

West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) named a squad of 13 on Wednesday for the first two limited overs internationals, in Bridgetown on February 16 and Kingston, Jamaica, on February 26.

Richie Richardson captains the squad that will show one change for the first best of the five match series, in Kingston from February 19-24.

Specialist wicketkeeper Junior Murray will replace off-spinner Roger Harper in the Test 13.

This continues West Indies recently introduced practice of using batsman-wicketkeeper Jimmy Adams behind the stumps for one-day internationals and recalling a specialist wicketkeeper for the Tests.

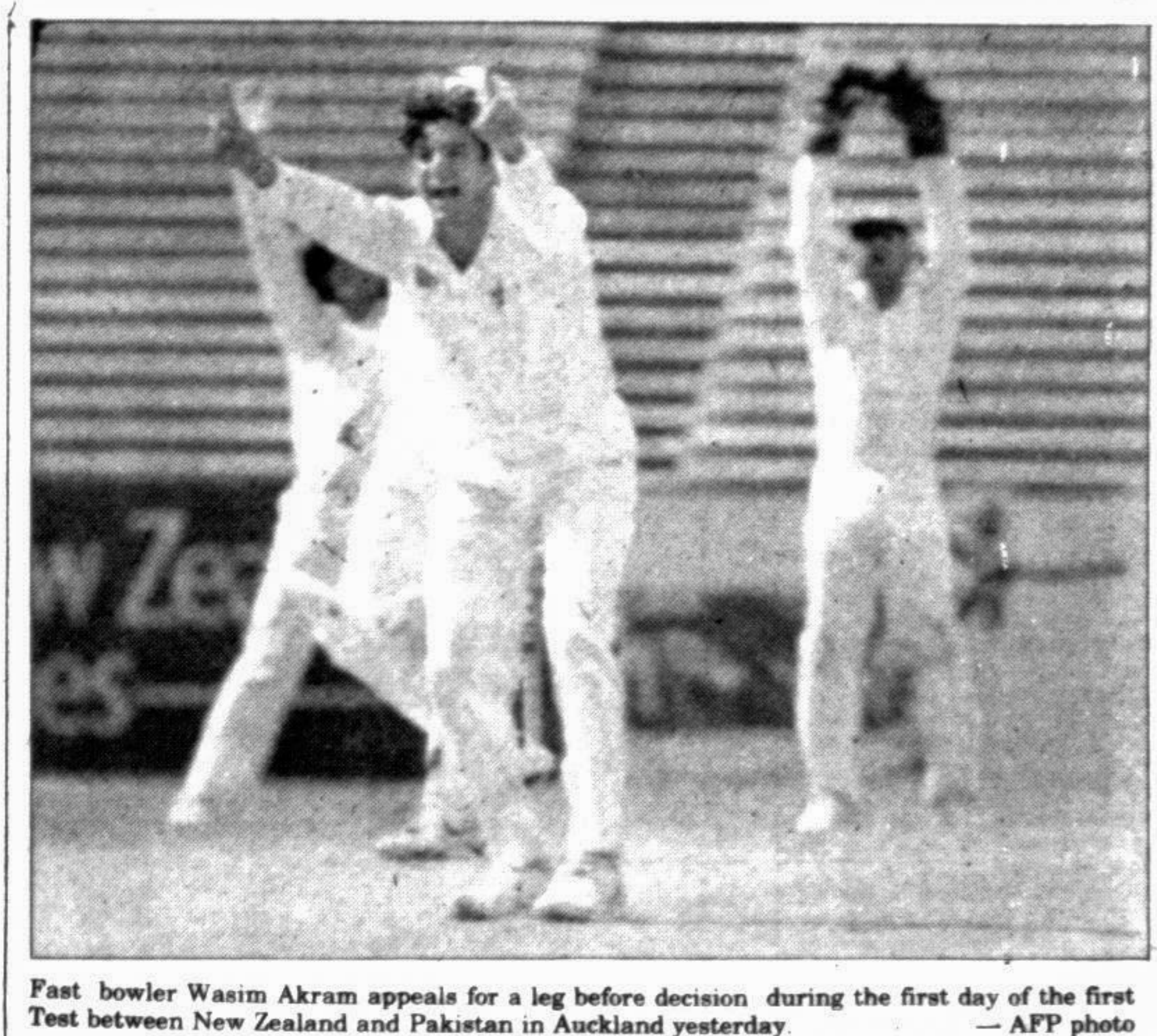
Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh spearhead the new ball attack, with Anderson Cummins, Winston Benjamin and Kenneth Benjamin competing for the other two pace bowling places.

There are a total of five one-day internationals, with the remaining three to be played in early March ahead of the second Test.

Former Test batsman Rohan Kanhai is the West Indian manager for the series.

SQUAD

WEST INDIES: Richie Richardson (captain), Desmond Haynes (vice captain), Phil Simmons, Brian Lara, Keith Arthurton, Carl Hooper, Jimmy Adams, Roger Harper (replaced by junior Murray for Test squad), Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Anderson Cummins, Winston Benjamin, Kenneth Benjamin.



Fast bowler Wasim Akram appeals for a leg before decision during the first day of the first Test between New Zealand and Pakistan in Auckland yesterday. — AFP photo

A set back for Bangladesh

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh failed to do any good to their morale prior to the ICC Trophy beginning from tomorrow when they lost their fifth and last prep match to strong Canada by three wickets at the Aga Khan ground in Kenyan capital Nairobi yesterday.

A telephonic message received at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) last night, revealed Bangladesh's second loss in five warm-up matches, designed to brace them for the long campaign of 20 teams for three top places.

Bangladesh skipper Faruque Ahmed who contributed to one of the four ducks suffered by the tourists yesterday won the toss in the morning and elected to bat first.

Although Sajid Hassan one of the two openers left cheaply again, this time for a blip to be precise, Jahangir Alam, his senior partner topscored with 49.

After the fall of the second wicket in no time with

started their quest for those 168 runs for an outright victory cricketers from the North American continent cantered home quite comfortably in 42.2 overs losing seven wickets in the process.

Moni, the left-arm spinner took three wickets for 36 from his quota of ten overs while Nannu bagged another two for 29 from nine overs of slow-medium, nondescript stuff.

However off-spinner Shahed was the pick of the bowlers from the statistical viewpoint of one day cricket taking one wicket for 24 runs from nine overs.

Bangladesh start their ICC Trophy campaign on Saturday against Argentina with a warm-up statistics of three wins as against two defeats. They beat Uganda, Bermuda and Fiji but lost to second team of hosts Kenya and Canada.

Three top finishers of the ICC meet will win the rights of playing in the next world championship of instant cricket alongside nine full members of the ICC.

US go down

HONG KONG, Feb 10: World Cup hosts the United States suffered their first defeat of 1994 when they went down on penalties to a young Denmark team at a lunar new year football tournament here Thursday, reports AFP.

The United States did not look the side who beat England 2-0 last year and have beaten Norway and drawn with Switzerland and Russia so far this year in the build up to the World Cup finals in the summer.

The two teams fought to a 0-0 draw after 90 minutes on a bumpy, sodden pitch. Without extra time it took penalties to decide who went into Sunday's final against hosts Hong Kong, with the Danes clinching the shootout 4-2.

The Americans are relegated to the third place play-off against another World Cup qualifier Romania, who also misfired, losing to Hong Kong on penalties in Thursday's other game.

Two Ws' landmarks clip Kiwis' wings but Pakistan are in the soup too

AUCKLAND, Feb 10: New Zealand rallied impressively after being dismissed for 242 and moved into a strong position at stumps Thursday, opening day of the first cricket Test against Pakistan at Eden Park, reports AP.

After being sent in to bat on a grassy strip, New Zealand failed to cope with Pakistan's mix of lively seam-swing bowling and the leg spin of Mushtaq Ahmed.

But when Pakistan started their reply, they crumpled to 61 for four in 15 overs.

At the close, captain Salim Malik was on five and Basit Ali had made eight.

Andrew Jones, who made 66, was the only New Zealand batsman to pass the half-century mark but the runs came at a hectic rate through the middle of the afternoon as left-hander Mark Greatbatch clubbed 48 off just 34 balls.

He took 28 in consecutive Mushtaq overs, but holed out to cover trying to hit the little leg-spinner down the ground. His innings included eight boundaries and a six.

With Jones, he added 75 in 47 minutes from 58 balls for the third wicket, after New Zealand had been struggling at 95 for three.

Greatbatch's dismissal spared a mini-collapse, with Jones and Chris Cairns falling in the space of the next 25 balls.

Jones grafted 212 minutes, faced 144 balls and hit five boundaries.

The second session produced 123 runs and five wickets in 27 overs.

There was a brief revival when Shane Thomson and wicketkeeper Tony Blair added 43 in 53 balls for the seventh wicket but the re-introduction of fast bowler Waqar Younis ended the partnership.

He had Thomson caught by wicketkeeper Rashid Latif, and then caught and bowled Simon Doull with his next delivery.

Richard de Groen survived the hat-trick ball, but popped a catch to third slip off a sharp lifting ball from Wasim Akram in the following over.

Blair, who had hit the first ball after tea from Mushtaq high into the stand at square leg, clubbed Akram for a second six to the same area.

He misused the next ball, however, and skied a catch to third man after hitting 26 off 36 balls.

That gave Akram 200 Test wickets, and earlier Younis had taken his 150th, in only his 27th Test.

Younis finished with 4-46, Akram took 3-50 while Mushtaq, who took some heavy punishment along the way, ended with 3-79 from 17 overs.

Cairns made the initial breakthrough when Pakistan began its first innings. He had Saeed Anwar caught behind for 16, with the score on 17.

Medium-pace swing bowler Doull was successful with his fifth ball as Asif Mubtaza edged the ball to wicketkeeper Blair.

Three overs later, Richard de Groen, with his third ball of the innings, dismissed opener Aamir Sohail, who was caught smartly low down at gully by Jones.

When night watchman Mushtaq edged a ball from Doull to second slip, three wickets had fallen in 23 balls.

Doull had taken 2-16 from three overs, De Groen had 1-5 and Cairns 1-24.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the first Test match between Pakistan and New Zealand today.

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

	B	O	M	R	W
B Pocock c Latif b Akram	0				
B Younis c Latif b Younis	29				
A Jones c Latif b Mushtaq	66				
K Rutherford b Younis	14				
M Greatbatch c Malik b Mushtaq	48				
S Thomson c Latif b Younis	29				
C Cairns c Malik b Mushtaq	6				
T Blair c Mushtaq b Akram	26				
S Doull c Younis	0				
R de Groen c Mushtaq b Akram	2				
M Owens not out	20				
Extras (b-4, lb-8, nb-7, w-1)	2				
Total (68.3 overs)	242				

Fall of wickets: 1-3; 2-67; 3-95; 4-170; 5-175; 6-185; 7-228; 8-228; 9-233.

Bowling:

	O	M	R	W
Akram	22.3	9	50	3
Younis	15	2	46	4
Rehman	14	3	55	0
Mushtaq	17	1	79	3

PAKISTAN: First Innings

	B	O	M	R	W
Anwar c Blair b Cairns	16				
Sohail c Jones b De Groen	16				
Mubtaza c Blair b Doull	8				
Ahmed c Young b Doull	0				
Malik not out	5				
Basit not out	8				
Extras (lb-5, nb-3)	8				
Total (for four wickets)	61				

Fall of wickets: 1-17; 2-36; 3-48; 4-50.

To bat: Inzamamul Haq, Wasim Akram, Rashid Latif, Aamir Sohail, Waqar Younis.

Bowling:

	O	M	R	W
Cairns	6	1	24	1
Owens	4	1	11	0
Doull	3	0	16	2
De Groen	2	0	5	1

Nat'l youth cricket

The 14th BEXIMCO national youth cricket championship began yesterday at different zonal venues with Sylhet, Kushtia and Dinajpur winning their opening matches to reach the zonal semifinals, reports UNB.

At Sunamganj, Sylhet DSA eliminated Kishoreganj by six wickets to qualify for zone B semifinal scheduled for Monday.

Kishoreganj DSA: 99 runs for nine in 20 overs. Maksud 21, Rana 20, Sohag 13, extras 13, Nahid 3/17 and Rupu 2/16.

Sylhet DSA: 100 for 4 in 18.3 overs. Emdad 32, Nahid 21, Arman 1/12 and Rana 1/14.

At Jessore, Kushtia DSA defeated Magura by six wickets and will take on Jhenidah DSA in the zone D semifinal on Saturday.

Magura DSA: 142 all out in 44 overs. Uttam 41, Alamgir 25, Firoz 13, Sajjad 3/23 and Rawnak 3/26.

Kushtia DSA: 143 for 4 in 32 overs. Raju 41, Novel 30, Tito 20, Rawhak not out 27, Selim 1/11 and Paplu 1/39.

At Pabna, Dinajpur DSA got walkover against Natore DSA and moved into the semifinal of zone E. Dinajpur will face Thakurgaon in zonal semifinals on Saturday.

Office cricket on

Sports Reporter

Former national skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu gave the first ever office cricket league a sensational start when he notched a hat-trick as his side Acme Laboratories recorded a ludicrously thumping 198-run win against Banque Indosuez at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Star-studded Acme battled first and with unbeaten centuries from national discards Nurul Abedin Nobel and Zahid Razzak Masum piled up 243 without loss from 20 possible overs. Masum was unbeaten exactly on 100 while Nobel kept him company on the way to the pavilion with 103.

Indosuez were all out for 45 with Lipu taking three wickets for six runs.

In day's other match Tech Valley beat ANZ Grindlays Bank by the narrow margin of eight runs in an exciting and competitive match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (DCS).

Saidul Anam Effe, another national reject mesmerised Grindlays with magical figures of six for 20 churned by the help of his off-spinners.

Chasing a victory target of 197 Grindlays were all out for 186.

Earlier Tech Valley battled first and made 196.

Nirman cricket

Sports Reporter

Shahed's unbeaten 100 helped Prohati Bidyaniketan trounce Dr Md Shahidullah Adarsha school by 93 runs in the 12th Nirman schools cricket championship yesterday.

Prohati scored 213 for five in the stipulated 35 overs.

Shahed hit 12 boundaries and one sixer in his century.

Shahidullah were all out on 120 in 30.2 overs.

All set for a snowy revelry

LILLEHAMMER, Feb 10: Tiny Lillehammer promises a giant extravaganza when the biggest Winter Olympics open on Saturday for 16 days of world-class competition in snow-clad, sports-mad Norway, reports Reuter.

Some 2,000 athletes from a record 66 nations, including Israel and post-Apartheid South Africa for the first time, have descended on the 10 new arenas in Lillehammer and nearby venues along a scenic lake and valley a couple of hours north of Oslo.

"I am confident that we are ready to meet this enormous challenge," said Lillehammer Olympic Organising Committee (LOOC) operations chief Petter Roenningsen.

"We are prepared for just about everything and conditions should be optimal for the competitors, the media and visitors."

Norway's King Harald V opens the 17th Winter Games at a ceremony starting at 1500 GMT on Saturday, but all eyes will be on ski jumper Ole Gunnar Fidjestøl as he hurtles into the arena bearing the Olympic torch in one hand.

It will be 70 years since the first Winter Games in Chamonix, France when just 16 nations and 294 athletes attended.

Meteorologists forecast temperatures around -9 Celsius (16 Fahrenheit) in Lillehammer on the first day, and more importantly for Fidjestøl, just a light north-easterly breeze.

Record snowfalls have blanketed the region but road-clearing is under control meaning the weather does not look likely to being a problem, as it was at Albertville two years ago.

The major challenges for the organisers, who have spent 7.3 billion Norwegian Crowns (970 million dollars) on the Games since they were awarded them in 1988, are transport and elk.

More than 100,000 visitors are expected to travel into the Olympic region each day by train and bus to watch athletes compete in 61 events at outdoor venues, state-of-the-art arenas and an ice hockey stadium hollowed out inside a mountain.

Most private vehicles are being barred for the February 12-27 Games. Normally, just 23, 700 people live in Lillehammer.

Trains using the Oslo-Lillehammer line have been fitted with Wild West-style cow-catches to protect them from collisions with elk, and a helicopter will spot the moose-like animals using infra-red rays to avoid delays in the peak travel periods.

Thirteen elk were killed in January alone compared with six throughout 1993 on the line.

Lillehammer's concern for elk underscores its image as the environmentally friendly Games.

Caterers are using plates and cutlery made from potato starch, and builders who constructed the bob and luge tracks, hidden in a forest outside the town, were threatened with a 50,000 crown (16,650 dollars) fine for every tree unnecessarily felled.

Most of the buildings in the Olympic athletes' and media villages will be dismantled after the Games and used as permanent accommodation elsewhere in Norway.

Security will be tight, given Norway's mediator role in last year's Israeli-Palestinian peace accord, but low-key.

The 3,000 police will be unarmed as usual in Norway, a peaceful country of just four million people which has already staged a Winter Games before — in Oslo in 1952.

Norway, where Nordic sport is a religion and many people are expected to camp out to watch the cross-country skiing, topped the medals table above the United States and Finland.

The Norwegians may come top again in Lillehammer but the cost to each taxpayer will have been 2,000 crowns (dollars 265), the Games will make a loss, which the state will underwrite.

Amid the celebrations at the world's premier winter sports festival, competitors and organisers will spare a thought for Sarajevo, which staged the Games 10 years ago but is now besieged and bloodied after a 22-month civil war.

BSJWC reception

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Sports Journalists and Writers Community (BSJWC) recorded a reception and prize giving ceremony for the top scorers and best players of 1993 Premier and First Division football leagues at the conference room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

State Minister for Youth and Sport Sadek Hossain attended the meet as the chief guest and gave away the prizes.

President of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) Glas Kamal Chowdhury was also present on the occasion as a special guest. The meeting was presided over by the community president Monowar Hoque.

The recipients were —

Best player of the Premier football league — Sayed Rummon-bin-Wal Sabbir and top scorer Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib; Zulfikar Mahmud Mintu and Mahmudul Hoque Liton respectively the best player and the top scorer of the First Division football league.

SL schuss slowly, surely

AMMADABAD, India, Feb 10: Sri Lanka, faced with an uphill struggle for survival in the third Test against India here, waged a grim battle Thursday to salvage their soiled cricketing reputation, reports AFP.

Trailing 0-2 in the three-match series after being crushed by an innings in the first two Tests, the Sri Lankan batsmen did not give in without a fight against the rampaging Indian spinners.

Faced with a first innings deficit of 139 runs, the tourists groped to 154 for five in their second knock by close of the third day's play at the Motera Stadium here.

They still need 85 runs to avoid a third successive innings defeat when play resumes on Saturday after Friday's rest day, but a loss here will not be for want of effort.

Shot out for 119 in their first innings, the Sri Lankans were given a hard lesson on how to play the turning ball from the Indians who piled up 358 in reply.

Playing mostly on the front foot instead of going back, the Sri Lankans kept the dreaded spinners at bay for the first time in the series after starting their second innings an hour after the start.

They were to a healthy 149 for two, before India struck back with three wickets in the space of four runs in the final 30 minutes to underline their domination in the series.

Opener Roshan Mahanama, the only successful Sri Lankan batsman in the series, top scored with a defiant 63 inclusive of seven boundaries.

Mahanama and Dulip Samarawera (20) put on an opening stand of 70 and looked good for many more when India earned a lucky break midway through the second session.

Mahanama played Anil Kumble to backward point and took off for a sharp single, but Samarawera was unable to beat Vinod Kambli's accurate throw to the wicketkeeper and was run out.

Mahanama himself fell at the score of 98 when he made the mistake of playing back to a shooter from left-arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju and was leg before.

The tall, elegant batsman walked away even as umpire V K Ramaswamy raised his finger.

Hashan Tillekeratne and Aravinda de Silva added 51 for the third wicket before falling in successive overs to brilliant catches at silly point by Indian captain Mohamad Azharuddin.

Azhar, who made a monumental 152 in India's first innings, dived to his right to pick up a one-handed catch from Tillekeratne's pad and bat off Raju, the batsman made 40.

In the next over, Azhar removed de Silva for 14, taking an easy catch off the bowling of off-spinner Rajesh Chauhan.

Chauhan then gave Marvan Atapattu a pair in the match by having him caught behind by wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia to make Sri Lanka 153 for five.

Atapattu, who replaced Sanath Jayasuriya for this match, had also bagged a pair during his only other appearance against India at Chandigarh in 1990.

At stumps, skipper Arjuna Ranatunga was batting on five while Ruwan Kalpage had yet to score.

Earlier, India added 29 runs to their overnight score of 329 for eight before being all out an hour after the start.

Azharuddin carried his score from 134 to 152 before being bowled by off-spinner Muttiah Muralidharan with a ball that rolled after pitching.

Azharuddin batted for six hours, faced 260 balls and hit 16 boundaries and a six.

Muralidharan terminated India's innings by bowling Rajesh Chauhan for nine. Chauhan, who batted for 76 minutes on Wednesday without scoring a run, added 67 for the ninth wicket.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the third and final Test between India and Sri Lanka today.

SRI LANKA: first innings: 119

INDIA:

	B	O	M	R	W
M Prabhakar b Anurastri	14				
N Sidhu c Kalpage b Muralidharan	43				
V Kambl c Ranatunga b Wickremasinghe	57				
S Tendulkar b Wickremasinghe	6				
M Azharuddin b Muralidharan	152				
S Manjrekar c Ranatunga b De Silva	16				
Kapil Dev lbw b De Silva	4				
N Mongia lbw b Anurastri	14				
A Kumble c Kalpage b De Silva	15				
R Chauhan b Muralidharan	9				
V Raju not out	1				
Extras (b-17, lb-5, nb-5)	27				
Total	358				

Fall of wickets: 1-27; 2-110; 3-123; 4-123; 5-169; 6-203; 7-249; 8-288; 9-355.

Bowling:

	O	M	R	W
Wickremasinghe	36	9	108	2
Ranatunga	8	1	15	0
Anurastri	28	3	75	2
Muralidharan	36.3	6	79	3
Kalpage	7	2	9	0
De Silva	23	5	50	3

SRI LANKA: second innings:

	B	O	M	R	W
R S Mahanama lbw b Raju	63				
D Samarawera run out	20				
H P Tillekeratne c Azharuddin b Raju	40				
P de Silva c Azharuddin b Chauhan	14				
A Ranatunga not out	5				
M Atapattu c Mongia b Chauhan	0				
R S Kalpage not out	0				
Extras (b-4, lb-7, nb-1)	12				
Total (5 wks)	154				

Fall of wickets: 1-70; 2-98; 3-149; 4-149; 5-153.

Bowling:

	O	M	R	W
Prabhakar	5	2	11	0
Kapil	5	1	12	0
Raju	22	6	43	2
Kumble	26	8	40	0
Chauhan	21	9	30	2
Tendulkar	4	1	7	0



The newly crowned national youth hockey champions BKSP who beat Dhaka DSA 3-1 in the final at the BKSP ground at Savar yesterday. — Star photo