

Champs play Victoria today

Sports Reporter

Reigning champions Abahani Limited begin their second round campaign of the 15th Damal Summer cricket tourney today as they take on Victoria Sporting Club at the Dhaka Stadium today.

The popular Dhanmondi Club who had to wait a year to defend the title after winning the violence-marred 14th Damal final against Brothers Union in 1992 since the 15th meet originally scheduled for last year could not be held due to packed international and domestic schedule.

Abahani, who have undergone little nomenclatural change meanwhile having traded Kria Chakra for 'limited', will have to make do with their local collection since their two foreign cricketers — Indian Test discards Raman Lamba and Maninder Singh — missed flight yesterday, according to skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain.

Abahani will also miss the service of the hard-hitting opening batsman Harun ur Rashid Laton, who has not been able to do his white flannels this season owing to a nagging shoulder injury.

Despite these unavailabil-

ties, Abahani on paper at least have enough firepower to snuff out a youthful Victoria, who stormed in the six-team second round Saturday with a massive ten-wicket victory forcing Surja Tarun to eat the humble pie — registering the tournament's lowest total so far — 58 — in a ridiculously short-lived match.

Abahani will play their last group match leading up to the semifinals on December 2 against Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club.

While the passage to the semifinal for Abahani seemed a foregone conclusion from the

N'ganj football

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 27: Mitaiganj Kria Chakra trounced DSS 3-0 in the Hanjin Shipping First Division super league at the Osmani Stadium today.

Mita, Robi and Mithu scored once each for the winners.

Two matches will be played tomorrow. Sonakandi White Club take on DSS Blues while Khanpur Mohsin Club play Shuktara in a tie postponed on November 16.

moment the draws were declared, two former champions Bangladesh Biman and Mohammedans are anything but assured of their places in the last four.

Huddled in Y group along with In-form Brothers Union, Mohammedans, who have the unique distinction of reaching 13 previous finals, will find it difficult to pave the way for a possible 14th entry into the final.

Although two Pakistani players have joined their ranks, Mohammedans are yet to strike the sort of form one would expect from a top team like them.

Mohammedans second round safari begin on the last day of the month against Brothers.

Star-studded Biman appear to be the most balanced team of the teams on display so far let alone the group. The cricketers of the national airline are scheduled to go in action tomorrow against Brothers.

Meanwhile, the authorities have announced the rate of tickets for the final round of the tournament.

VIP Gate No 1 — Taka 50.
VIP Gate No 3 — Taka 30.
West and eastern galleries — Taka 10.

BSJA ceremony held

Sports Reporter

The biennial prize-giving ceremony of the Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association (BSJA) was held at Hotel Sonargaon last evening.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain, chief guest at the ceremony, gave away prizes among the 28 sports personalities and four sponsors for their contribution for the year 1992 and 1993 respectively.

"We will have to overcome the present stalemate in different federations through collective effort," said the state minister in his brief speech. But he remained tight lipped about elections in sports, a commitment he made way back in 1991.

Chaired by BSJA president Masud Ahmed Rumi, the ceremony was attended among others by Nurunnabi Chowdhury, an ace footballer of the yesteryears, and veteran sports organiser Sachindra Kumar Chaki.

Vice-president of Biman Sports and Cultural Club, Raisuddin Ahmed, who spoke on behalf of the sponsors, and Sayed Rumman bin Wali Shabbir the footballer for the year 1993, were the other notable speakers on the occasion.

Recipients for 1992: Rumi Rizvi Karim (football), Akram Khan (cricket), Mohammad Sadek (hockey), IM Ziaur Rahman (chess), Golam Ambia and Jyotsna Afroz (athletics), Karar Mizanur Rahman and Monira Rahman Dalia (swimming), Elina Begum (badminton), Julekha Akhter (table tennis), and National Bank Limited, Green Delta Insurance and Beximco (sponsors).

Recipients of special awards for 1992: Wahidul Gani (cricket), Dewan Nazrul Islam (gymnastics), Jahangir Alam (kabaddi/football/volleyball), Prof Rashiduddin Ahmed (sports medicine), M Nasiruddin (swimming organiser-Pabna) and Aslam Belim (hockey umpire).

Recipients for 1993: Syed Rumman Bin Wali Sabbar (football), Enamul Haq Moni (cricket), Mahboob Haroon (hockey), Bimal Chandra Tarafder (athletics), Atequr Rahman and Saiful Alam Rinki (shooting), Mahtabur Rahman Bulbul (basketball coach) and Sifua Khatoon (athletics coach), Sayed Yousuf Hossain (table tennis-organiser), Shamsul Bari (hockey-organiser) and Hassan Rumi (organiser-Khulna), and Biman Bangladesh Airlines (sponsor).

Special award for 1993: Ibrahim Saber (soccer, cricket and hockey).

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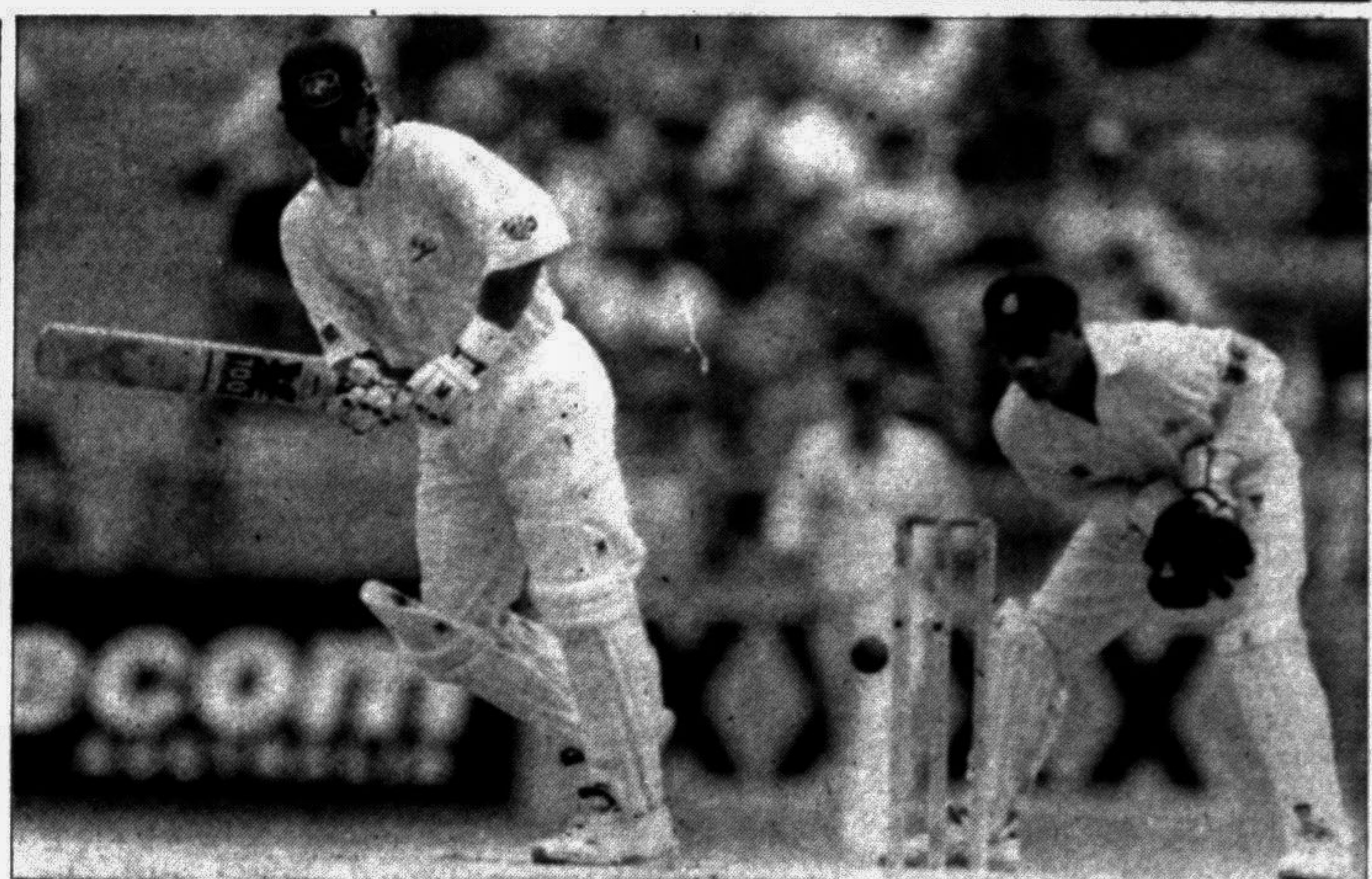
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Aussie batsman Mark Waugh playing one off his pads during the second day's play of the first Test against England at the Gabba in Brisbane yesterday. First innings century-maker Waugh, only made 15 in an Australian total of 194 for seven.

Aussies extend lead to an imposing 453

BRISBANE, Nov 27: Australia took their lead over England to 453 in the first Ashes Test today after captain Mark Taylor chose not to enforce the follow-on, reports Reuter.

After routing the tourists for 167, sixty runs shy of the follow-on target, Taylor opted to pile on the runs at the Gabba rather than send the opposition back in.

At the close on the third day, Australia were in an impressive position at 194 for seven, increasing their first innings lead of 259 to a daunting 453.

Australia are expected to declare on Monday morning, leaving England having to bat for almost two days to have the match.

England, resuming on 133 for six, lost their last four weeks cheaply as spinner Shane Warne and fast bowler Craig McDermott took two wickets apiece.

McDermott sparked the collapse when captain Mike Atherton fell for 54 after edging a bouncer to wicketkeeper Ian Healy.

McDermott completed his first five-wicket haul in Test cricket since 1992 when he dismissed wicketkeeper Steven Rhodes. He finished with figures of six for 53.

Slater, who scored 176 in the first innings, hit a rapid 45 in a first-wicket partnership worth 109 before pace bowler Darren Gough trapped him leg before wicket.

Taylor fell for 58 soon after

when he hit a full toss from spinner Phil Tufnell straight to Alec Stewart in the covers.

It was Tufnell's first success during a marathon spell of 31 overs which cost 58 runs.

England then managed to restrict the batsmen with defensive field placings and accurate bowling, and wickets fell regularly.

England team manager Keith Fletcher said his side were surprised by Taylor's decision, adding: "Both our openers had their pads on and were ready to go out again."

"It gives us a chance to get out of the game with a draw, and a day's rain wouldn't go amiss, but we'll have to bat for about five sessions to save the game."

"Someone has to get 200 and someone else must hit a century. Our batting will have to improve an awful lot to have a chance of saving the game."

Australian coach Bobby Simpson justified Taylor's decision to bat again, commenting: "The only things we considered was what we thought was the best way for Australia to win the game."

"We've checked the forecast for the next couple of days and it's beautiful."

"We're in a great position as the ball is spinning and bouncing and there's a lot of rough out there."

"England will have to play very well to save the game."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the end of the England third day of the first Test between England and Australia at the Gabba today.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 426 (M Slater 176, M Waugh 140, M Taylor 59; D Gough 4-107).

ENGLAND: First Innings (over-night 133-6): Atherton c Healy b McDermott 54; Stewart c Healy b McDermott 16; Hick c Healy b McDermott 3; Thorpe c and b Warne 28; Gooch c Healy b May 20; Gatting lbw McDermott 10; McCague b McDermott 1; Rhodes lbw McDermott 4; Defreitas c Healy b Warne 17; Gough not out 7; Tufnell c Taylor b Warne 0; Extras: (lb-1, nb-6) 7.

Total: 167
Fall: 1-22; 2-35; 3-82; 4-105; 5-131; 6-133; 7-140; 8-147; 9-151.

Bowling:
McDermott 19 3 53 6
McGrath 10 2 40 0
May 17 3 34 1
Warne 21 2 7 39 3

AUSTRALIA: Second Innings Taylor c Stewart b Tufnell 58; Slater lbw Gough 45; Boon b Tufnell 28; M Waugh b Tufnell 15; Bevan c Rhodes b Defreitas 21; S Waugh c sub (White) b Tufnell 7; Healy not out 7; Warne c sub (White) b Defreitas 0; McDermott not out 0; Extras: (b-2, lb-8, w-2, nb-1) 13; Total: (for seven wickets) 194; Fall: 1-109; 2-117; 3-139; 4-174; 5-183; 6-190; 7-191; To bat: May, S McGrath.

Bowling:
DeFreitas 20 1 61 2
Gough 18 2 59 1
Tufnell 31 9 58 4
Gooch 3 2 5 0
Hick 2 1 1 0

DU cricket

Sports Reporter

Faisal scored a sparkling unbeaten half century as the Department of Geography cruised home with a 38-run win over the Department of Mathematics in the Dhaka University inter-department cricket championship at Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Sent into bat first, Geography compiled a huge 162 for four in the allotted 30 overs with Faisal notching a quickfire 72 while Nadir Ali, the other notable scorer, chipped in with 33.

Tomal with three for 34 was the most successful bowler for Mathematics.

Chasing over five runs an over for victory, Mathematics could muster 124 for seven when the stipulated overs were exhausted.

Meanwhile, in the inter-department football championship the Department of Applied Physics posted a thumping 6-0 victory over Computer Science at the university ground adjacent to the central gymnasium.

The winners led the breather 2-0.

WI-Bombay tie cancelled

CALICUT, India, Nov 27: The West Indies today called off their disrupted three-day cricket match against Indian champions Bombay, saying a sometimes violent strike surrounding the venue made play unwise, reports Reuter.

"We regret to inform you that we are in no mental state to resume the match on Sunday," tour manager David Holford told the local organisers in a letter.

The organisers had previously called off play on the second-day of the match on Saturday because of a state-wide strike led by communist students in the southern state of Kerala in which at least nine people have been reported killed.

The first day of play on Friday, when the West Indies were bowled out for 176 and Bombay had scored 53 for two, was marred by the strike.

"The West Indies team remain apprehensive, particularly after being forced to remain in the stadium for about two hours at the end of play on Friday because of the disturbance in the neighbourhood of the team's hotel," Holford wrote.

"The further cancellation of the second day's play and events witnessed by the players standing outside the hotel have done nothing to reassure us that the situation is normal."

"As a professional team of sportsmen who take pride in their performance, the players, in their understandable state of anxiety, feel unable to give their best in these circumstances."

Team sources said the West Indian decision appeared to have been made after Carl Hooper and Jimmy Adams wandered out of the hotel, encountered a violent mob and had to run back.

Bombay manager Suru Nayak criticised the West Indian decision. "I must say we are greatly disappointed that the match had to be abandoned on account of their refusal to play," he said.

With the West Indies defeated 4-1 in the one-day series and one down with two Test matches to play, this has not been a happy tour for Holford.

He had said before leaving the West Indies that it would be a tough tour, with India's slow wickets far from suiting the West Indian pace attack.

But the team has also had to cope with a very tight travel schedule, baggage going astray, come poor hotels, a couple of worse pitches and now political violence.

De Villiers devastates NZ

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 27: New Zealand, 132 runs ahead of South Africa on first innings, were 81 for five in their second innings at the close on the third day of the first cricket Test at the Wanderers today, reports Reuter.

Earlier on Saturday, New Zealand pacemen Dion Nash and Richard de Groen combined to force South Africa on to the back foot on the second day of the first Test.

After New Zealand had taken their overnight total of 242 for four to 411 all out, Nash and De Groen took two wickets each as South Africa lurched to 109 for four in reply at the close.

Unfortunately for the New Zealanders, though, their good work in the field was tinged with controversy over the dismissal of Andrew Hudson, caught behind by wicket-keeper Adam Parore for 10 off Nash in the seventh over.

It looked a brilliant catch as he dived one-handed in front

of first slip but television replays appeared to show Parore had scooped it up on the bounce.

Neither New Zealand captain Ken Rutherford nor Parore was permitted to comment but coach Geoff Howarth said: "I talked to our players and they were all of the opinion that it carried."

When South Africa went in to bat, Hudson was the first to go and he was quickly followed by his opening partner Gary Kirsten picked up in the gallery by Crowe for nine and Brian McMillan, elevated to the number three slot, caught by Darrin Murray at short leg after misrouting Nash for five.

Darryl Cullinan then joined Hanse Cronje in a steady partnership of 35 before the captain was adjudged lbw to De Groen for 20. Cullinan was the only batsman to look at home, scoring 35 not out by the close.

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The last-wicket pair of Simon Doull and Richard de Groen then added 57 for the final wicket, a New Zealand record against South Africa, with Doull hitting left-arm spinner Clive Eksteen for two straight sixes in one over and striking another four boundaries to finish with 31 not out from 30 balls.

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Barisal soccer

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 27: Abahani Kria Chakra exacted a sweet revenge when they beat Fifth Armed Battalion