Yamaha Div One tie tied

Sports Reporter

The Yamaha First Division cricket league witnessed a rare conclusion in the instant version of the game when the match between Ajax Sports Club and Gopibagh Friends Association ended in a tie at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday. '

Four run outs, especially the three in the middle, may have taken its toll in the end for the Gopibagh cricketers. who finished at par on runs with Ajax at 160 when all of the stipulated 40 overs were exhausted.

In the morning, the Ajax innings revolved round a patient 123-ball 71 from opening batsman Rafigul Islam. Rafigul who was the sixth man out in Ajax's eventual collection of 160 in 43.5 overs, sent the ball across the fence on six occa-

Rafiqui apart, only Abdul Karim could garner a doubledigit score.

Mohammed Hira had the batsmen always on the backfoot, claiming four wickets for 29 runs in 8.5 overs.

In reply, the Gopibagh batsmen began well, reaching 56 in 16 overs for the loss of opener Imran Ahmed, who scored a 37-ball 22.

But they lost three wickets in the space of two runs, including two in the 17th over. and from then on struggled to keep up the pace.

Hira, Azimul Haq and Shakeel Khan produced 20plus knocks but couldn't just win the match for Gopibagh Friends.

Away at the Mirpur Pallabi ground, an unbroken 73-run stand for the eighth wicket between Quamruzzaman and Aminul Islam dragged Lalmatia Club from the jaws of a defeat to an improbable win over Dhanmondi Club.

Chasing the Dhanmondi total of 162 for nine in 45 overs for an outright victory Lalmatia were precariously placed at 92 for seven in 25.2 overs before the two teamed up for a gritty rearguard action

Quamruzzaman topscored with 39 while Aminul made 21. In the morning. Dhan mondi managed 162 for nine wickets, mainly due to 20-plus scores from Shabbir Khan (25), M A Baig (25), Tapash Sarker (24) and Sarwar Rahman (21).

Orient's big win in Acme cricket

Sports Reporter Orient Sporting Club registered a massive 80 run win over Gandaria cricketers in one of the three Acme Second Division cricket league fixtures at the Mirpur Outer Stadium vesterday.

Sent in to bat first. Orient piled up 196 runs for the loss of eight wickets in their 40 over quota, thanks to a 91-run partnership for the third wicket between N A Qayyum and M M Ali. Qayyum hit a quickfire 72

ball 71 with five fours and Ali made an equally aggressive 48 ball 44 inclusive of three boundaries.

In reply. Gandaria were all out in 34.5 overs for 116, with only two double-figure individual scores.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Kakrail Boys handed a 23-runs defeat on Public Works Department.

PWD, chasing the Kakrail total of 166 in 40 overs, folded their innings in 38.1 overs for

Just a few blocks away at the Dhanmondi Cricket

Stadium, East End Club posted a five-wicket victory over Mirbur Nabin Sangha in a lowscoring encounter.

Replying to Nabin Sangha's score of 123 in 36 overs, East End raced to 124 for five in 28.1 overs.

Div II football

Igbal and Dipak struck late to lead City Club to a 2-0 victory over Rayerbazar Athletic Club in the Second Division football league at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

After a goalless first half. lqbal put the winners into the lead in the 53rd minute while ten minutes later Dipak sealed the fate of the match.

In the other engagement of the day. Lalmatia Club prevailed over Lalbagh Sporting Club by the odd goal in three.

Swapan Das gave Lalmatia a 34th minute lead before Raja restored parity for Lalbagh seven minutes later. Moniruzzaman's strike in the 58th minute ensured Lalmatia their first win after four draws and a defeat.

Aga Khan Gold Cup golf Sports Reporter

Raiyan Rab and BH Keum won the men's and women's titles respectively in the Aga Khan Gold Cup golf championships at the Kurmitola golf

course yesterday. Jalal Ahmed finished win-

ner in the senior group.

Kalabagan beat Biman

Pakistani Zahid Ahmad's sterling all round performance coupled with the twilight touch from vete-

ran Rafidul Alam powered Kalabagan to a sensational three-wieket victory over Bangladesh Biman, one of last year's joint champions who suffered their second successive defeat in the Navana Premier Division cricket league yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

From a seemingly hopeless position of six down for 82, the pair produced .75 runs for the seventh wicket to help Kalabagan cross Biman's collection of 174 éarlier in the morning to the second ball of the last over of the match replete with dramatic fluctua-

Sports Reporter a delightful defiance of age and the dubious tag of being lazy. made 32 off just 29 balls including four firm hits to the

premium.

lier batsmen.

The clusive stability was fi-

nally provided by the experi-

enced Rafique who ran zest-

fully and made nonsense of the

discomfort showed by the ear-

to his partner in maintaining

the flow of runs with spirited

running and judicious probing

of the gaps, Rafique ran him-

self out when victory was just

17 runs away as Kalabagan

overcame the odds of a run-a-

ball equation in the last ten

his resources by skipper

Enamul Huq forced Biman to

fall short of a winning total.

Earlier, poor assessment of

Despite having two sea-

soned and capable one-day

eev Sharma and Pakistani

Wasim Haider, Enam, whose

poor cricketing sense was not

in display for the first time.

continued with conventional

conception of sending

batsmen first and they let him

compiled 50 from 90 balls.

none of his other recognised batsmen, including the pugna-

cious Jahangir Alam, could de-

in seven overs between

Sharma and Haider for the

seventh wicket guided the air

lines team to a fighting total of

174 for nine from a precarious

28 off 24 balls while World

Cupper Haider scored 27 off

28 balls with the help of two

sixes before becoming the

fourth victim of slow left

armer Zahid, who bagged four

for 45 from his nine-over

TODAY'S MATCHES

Gulshan Youth (DS)

Mohammedan SC vs

GMCC vs Surya Tarun (DCS)

Donald back

in SA squad

man Allan Donald, fit after

three months out with a foot

problem, was named on Friday

in South Africa's squad for this

month's best-of-three final of

the Mandela Trophy one-day

international series against

Pakistan, reports Reuter.

CAPE TOWN, Jan 7: Pace-

Test-discard Sharma made

position of 110 for six

Only a 50-run partnership

Although Habibul Bashar

down badly.

liver the goods.

quota

campaigners like Indian San-

Responding magnificently

Poor batting by the upper order batsmen landed Kalabagan in a situation they had earlier found themselves in their first match against Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club before Zahid lugged them to a thrifling victory with an unbeaten half century.

National opener Athar Ali Khan fell leg before to the unfancted spin of Habibul Bashar for 16 to make Kalabagan 29

for two in 11 overs. Skipper Faruque Ahmed killed 48 balls for nine before disgruntingly leaving the crease given caught behind off veteran off spinner Anwarul Amin Arhar by far the best



VIBRANT VETERANS . Rafigul Alam (L) and Pakistani Zahid Ahmad pose together after helping Kalabagan to a three-wicket victory with some enterprising batting in a Navana Premier Division cricket league match at the Dhaka Star photo Stadium vesterday

tions of fortune

Zahid, who had claimed tour wickets in Biman's innings, littingly hit the winning shot in 44.2 overs when he helped compatrigt Wasim Haider to the line leg boundary to bring up Kalabagan's second victory in three matches. Zahid, who was smiled upon

by the lady luck while on 31 as Shahnawaz Shaheed, stationed at short fine leg, badly misjudged a wonky scoop, remained unconquered on 60 nade from 87 balls with the help of six boundaries.

No less important was the contribution former national cricketer Rafigul Alam, who in

Biman bowler with an excellent analysis of one for 18 from nine overs, particularly so after being asked to share the new ball with Jahangir Talukder.

Zahid Razzak, another extremely talented wastrel, did not last long and when Golam Farugue Chowdhury tailed to reproduce a rearguard action that conjured Kalabagan's great escape act in the opener, it looked all very bleak for the

Having thrived in similar circumstances, it was not really quite unexpected to see Zahid keeping his cool in a panic situation with support from the other end at a Abahani edge past Ajax

Sports Reporter

Abu Zafar struck a spectacular field goal against his former club to give defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra a lone goal win over Ajax Sporting Club in one of the two Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey league mat ches at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half, inside forward Zafar sounded the board with a powerful hit ten minutes away from the final whistle, inflicting Ajax their maiden defeat in the league. However, apart from the

prestige involved in the match. the result had little signifi cance as both Abahani and Ajax moved into the super league from Group A with one match to spare.

According to the new format of the league, six teams three each from both groups will qualify for the super

In the other match of the day, two giants of the past. Azad Sporting Club and Dhaka Wanderers, earned their first points in a goalless draw.

of savvy fans of British soccer reaped hundreds of thousands of dollars in winnings after a Canadian sports lottery ac cepted bets on games already completed, a lottery spokeeman eaid on Friday, reports Reuter

Ontario Pro-line Sports Lottery paid out some 571,428 dollars (800.000 Cartadian) in winnings by accepting bets for 90 minutes after the games in Britain were completed.

'It's a serious situation. we're treating it that way," said Don Pister, a spokesman for government-run Ontario Lottery Corp

Pister said the lottery was caught by surprise when the games on January 2 kicked off earlier than expected because of the New Year's Day holiday As a consequence, tickets were still being sold after the results of the matches were Known

The lottery sold 1,940 tickets, with 1,690 turning out to be winners. Normally, the lottery would pay out less than 150,000 dollars in winnings Pister said.

We are honouring all the winning tickets," Pister said.

on Sunday in the second



Mexico's Joaquin Del Olmo (L) and Jorge Rodriguez (R) go for the ball against Saudi Arabia's Ramiz Mossa in the opening match of the Intercontinental Cup soccer tournament in Riyadh - AFP photo on Jan 6. Mexico won the match 2-0.

Six-nation Intercontinental Cup begins

Mexico, Nigeria saunter



RIVADH. Jan 7 Two goals from second-half substitute Luis Garcia gave Mexico a 2-0 win over hosts

Saudi Arabia in the opening match of the Intercontinental Cup in Riyadh on Friday, reports Reuter.

The result put the CON CACAF champions in top place in Group A in the six-nation tournament featuring the champions of FIFA's continental federations. Garcia, who went on at the

start of the second period. brought some life to a tedious encounter that provided little in the way of goalscoring opportunities. Slack marking allowed the

former Atletico Madrid striker, now playing back in Mexico, his first goal after an hour. He stole in at the back post to strike home a cross headed on by Marcelino Ber

A finely crafted passing movement saw Garcia score a second eight minutes from

Denmark face Saudi Arabia

match of Group A. An early strike by Samson Siasia and two second half goals gave Nigeria a comfort

Maradona drama

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 7: Diego Maradona, the scandal prone Argentine soccer star accused of shooting at reporters with an air rifle, was formally arrested on Friday for violating his ball conditions by travelling abroad. He was then immediately released again. reports Reuter.

In characteristic Maradona style, he got into a slanging match with journalists mobbing him for a comment outside the courtroom, shouting: You are a bunch of crooks, I'm not going to talk, I'm not going to talk

Maradona returned to Argentina from an award ceremony in France and a holiday in Cuba to face the court before officially taking over as coach of Racing Club, a once great team that has not won a championship for 28 years.

able 3-0 win over Japan in the opening game in Group B. which also includes Argentina. A defensive error gave the

African champions the early initiative over their Asian counterparts with Siasia scoring after just five minutes. An attempted clearance

from a corner was struck straight at the Nantes midfielder, who deftly touched the ball into the net. Nigeria, who gave Wimbledon striker Efan Ekoku his first match in the starting lineup had to wait until nine

minutes into the second half for their second goal. Mutiu Adepoju outjumped the Japanese defence to head home a free kick from Sunday Olisch. The Africans, who sauntered through most of the

match against inferior opposition, saved the best for last. Everton discard Daniel Amokachi dribbled through

the defence before slotting an inch-perfect shot at a tight angle between goalkeeper Shigetatsu Matsunaga and the upright for the third goal. Argentina make their entry

on Sunday when they play

June 1996 but coach Johan

Cruyff has said he would be

willing to part with the 28-

year-old forward if the price

Doping duo banned for life devised a method for detecting

DHT, which appears to have

The latest cases bring to 13

become the latest thrug of

choice - particularly in China.



Two female Chinese weightlifters caught using performance enhan-

been banned for life, reports

lifting Federation (IWF) confirmed the bans Friday on Li-Dan Wang Shen, both of whom won gold medals at November's World Championships in Istanbul Turkey.

They are the latest among several Chinese athletes to fail drug tests, causing further damage to the credibility of China's powerful sports programme IWF secretary general Ta-

mas Ajan said Li and Wang both tested positive for dihydrotestosterone, a banned steroid commonly known as DHT. It is the same substance found in the urine samples of the 11 Chinese athletes — including seven swimmers - who failed drug tests at the Asian Games in Japan in October. Drug testers only recently

cing drugs won't the number of Chinese athletes

get a second chance. They've recently caught for drug use According to figures provided by Chinese officials, 38 Chi-The International Weightnese athletes in various sports failed drug tests during 1994 Ajan said China needs to increase its drug-testing pro-

> "In many countries where sport is practiced on a high level, they have their own doping control programme he said. "But I was surprised to hear in my discussions with the Chinese that they don't

gramme in order to clear its

have this type of programme. With everything that ha ppened in 1994 in all these sports. I am sure China's sports leadership will elaborate a very strict control programme

in the future. At the weightlifting championships. Li set world records in the snatch in the 182.8 pound (82-kilogram) class and Wang shared first place in the

118 8-pound (54-kilogram)

Ajan said both lifters have been stripped of their medals and Lis world record will be thrown out. Under the federation's strict anti-doping rules, any athlete testing positive for steroids receives an automatic lifetime ban.

Ajan said he had discussed the cases with officials of the Chinese Olympic Committee and the Chinese national weightlifting federation.

They completely support our anti-doping policy." Ajan said in a telephone interview from IWF offices in Budapest Hungary. They accepted all our decisions, including the life suspensions."

Ajan said the IWF is the only federation which imposes automatic life bans for a first steroid offence. Other federations have first suspensions of two or four years, with a possible life ban for a second

Ajan said he does not beli eve there is any systematic. state supported doping programme in China.

BKSP win in Mayor Gold Cup CHITTAGONG. Jan 7: Ba-

ngladesh Krira Shiksha Pratisthan (BKSP) earned full points in the robin league of Mayor Gold Cup football tournament beating Land Customs at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

The first half was scoreless. Arif and Tutul scored one goal

BKSP, comprising mostly young players. played superbly against local Land Customs players.

BKSP took the lead in the 47th minute through Arif. who made no mistake to send the ball home off a cross from Monowar. Three minutes later BKSP scored the second goal when Tutul beat Land Customs custodian Taher with a spectacular grounder.

Div III soccer Sports Reporter

Moghbazar Kishalaya Sangha recorded their second successive win in the Pragoti Insurance Third Division football league when they edged past Aminbazar Krira Sangha by a solitary in one of the two matches played at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Gautam Halder notched up the match-decider for the winners in the 19th minute of the proceedings.

In the other match of the day. Sunrise Sporting Club picked up their first win scraping past Matuail Jubo Sangha 2-1.

The S duo of Shawnewaz and Shah Alam scored one goal apiece for the winners while Ashraful made it for the losers.

First time in

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 7: Sixteen soccer players will be placed under restricted residence, police said Friday, the first time such action has been taken against players in the growing Malaysian bribery and match-fixing scandal, reports AP Under Malaysia's Restricted Residence Act, police can limit the movement of people to a small area, town or street. Three suspected bookies were placed under restricted residence last year. Police Criminal Investiga-

tion Director Mohamad Said Awang told the national news agency Bernama that most of the players were veterans who were involved in the annual Malaysia Premier League, the major tournament in Malaysia. They were among 47 who

had admitted accepting bribes and fixing matches in written statements to police, he said.

Romario may leave Barcas MADRID, Jan 7 Brazilian World Cup striker Ro-

mario may soon leave Barcelona and sign for Flamengo of Rio de Janeiro, Spanish newspapers reported on Friday, reports Reuter. Romario is unhappy in

> Spain and wants to return home for personal reasons. papers said, quoting Flamengo president Kleber Leite who had talks with Nou Camp officials on Thursday. "Romario has personal, family and sentimental problems

and we would like to solve them ... he's not the same person we used to know. He's not as happy." leading daily El Pais quoted Lette as saying. The Catalan club were not

available for comment on Friday, a national holiday in Spain. El Pais and Spain's top

sports newspapers said Flamengo, in a precarious fi nancial situation, can only offer 4 million dollars well below Romario's estimated value. But Leite said money was not the



ROMARIO

'A club could come along right now and offer 40 million dollars for Romario but he wouldn't accept because he wants to return to Rio," he

"Barcelona's directors should understand Flamengo do not want to make trouble but to find solutions."

Romario has a contract with the Spanish champions until

was right. "Here we listen to anyone who makes a serious offer." Cruyff said on Thursday after Lette talked with Romario and Barcelona vice-president Joan

Gaspart. Gaspart was dismayed that Leite, a former journalist who only took up the reins at Flamengo five days ago, has decided to talk to reporters

about Romario's future. "I have told him this is not the time to talk about it. Not when we are hours away from a very important match," Gas-

part said. Barcelona face league leaders and arch-rivals Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium today in the biggest

clash of the season so far. Flamengo made a tentative bid to sign Romario before the start of the present season after his devastating World Cup form when he helped Brazil

win the competition.

Graf to skip Aussie Open



7: In four weeks the world's No. 1-ranked women's tennis player Steffi Graf, will not be the reigning champion

tournaments, reports AP. On Friday, Graf said she had withdrawn from the Australian Open, which begins a twoweek run Jan. 16, because of the latest in a series of injuries

- a strained calf muscle in her

of any of the four Grand Slam

right leg. "I'm very disappointed about not going to the Australian Open," Graf said in a telephone conference call. It's not the way I wanted to start 1995.

Graf spent most of 1994 in pain from inflammation in her back. The Australian Open was her only Grand Slam tournament triumph last year, al though, while playing with a back brace, she did reach the final of the U.S. Open in September where she lost to Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicarlo. She lost to Mary Pierce in the French Open semifinals and was upset in the opening round at Wimbledon by Lori McNeil

Since she won't be defending her title at Melbourne, it means 1995 will be the first time since 1987 when she won't be a reigning Grand

Slam tournament champion. She won her first major title in 1987, capturing the French Open.

Admitting she was "a little

scared" by her severe and constant back pain, she said. "Now that I found a way to fix it, I feel very good."

Graf said a treatment programme of massage, spinal



STEFFI GRAF

manipulation and stretching that cured her back pain may have, ironically been responsible for her latest injury "I haven't been able to

practice hard for the last four

five months," Graf said of the

time before she got rid of the

pain. Im back on the court

very frustrating. I was happy my back has been going very well. I got rid of my back pain. "Then this. It happened during practice while I was

now and ... obviously it's been

running for a shot. I do a lot of

stretching. Maybe I tried to do a little too much." "She's been practising twice a day very hard." her agent. Phil de Picciotto, said. The reason she pulled a

muscle was because her back was so good." "I had to take off for nine days until the pain in the leg

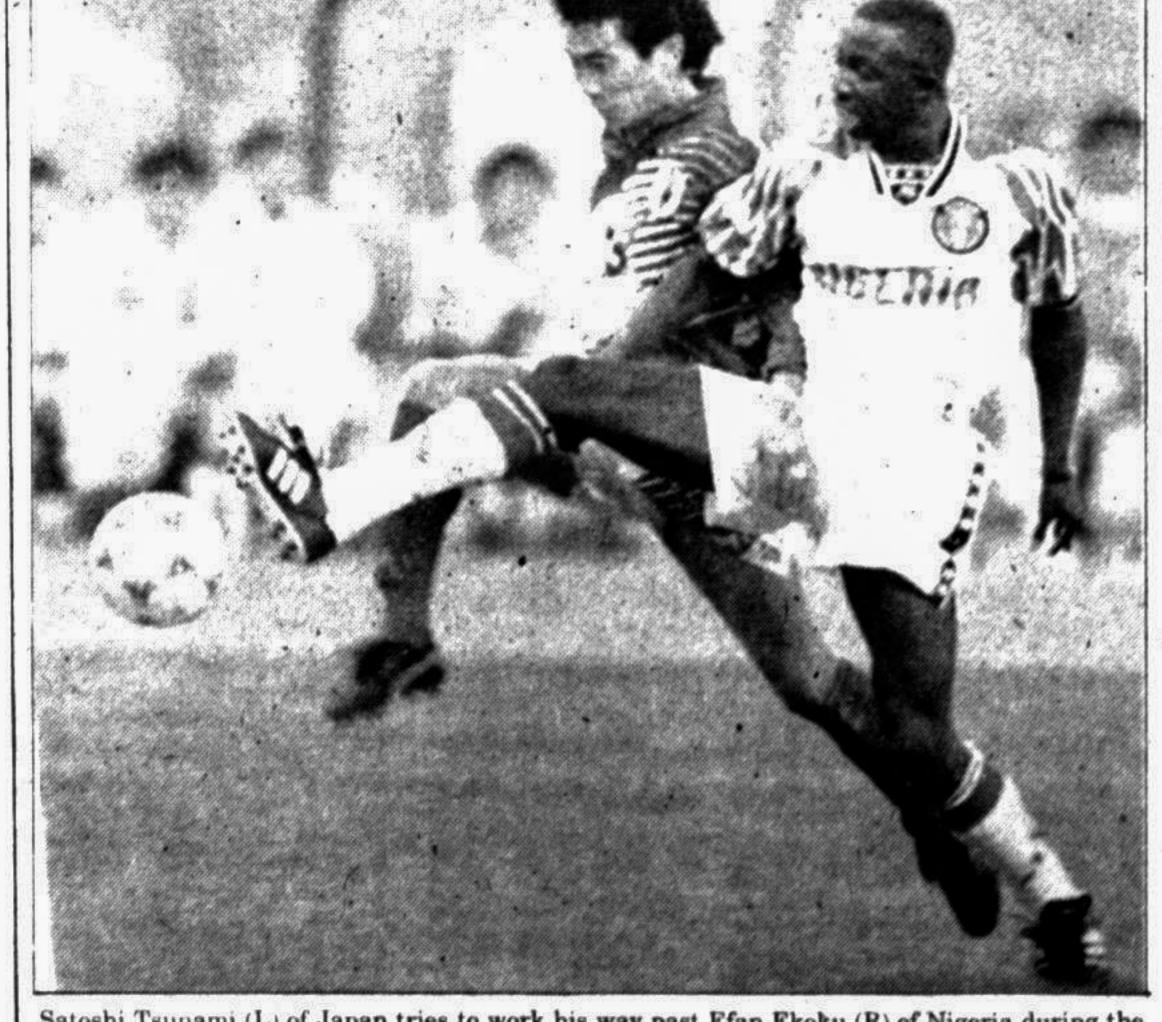
went away totally," Graf said "Totally" is the key word. Graf thinks she rushed back too soon last year, returning before her back was completely healed. In 1993, a foot injury bothered her if not her

Graf has played only two

matches since the U.S. Open. both at the year ending Virginia Slims Championships in New York in November. After the Slims tournament, Graf went to her residence at

Boca Raton, Florida, rather than returning home to Ger-I'm very eager about returning to the court, she said.

That's why I'm down here. Isually Christmas and New Year's I'm home in Germany. That's why I stayed here - to get ready for the year



Satoshi Tsunami (L) of Japan tries to work his way past Efan Ekoku (R) of Nigeria during the Intercontinental Cup soccer tournament in Riyedh on Jan 6. Nigeria defeated Japan 3-0.

- AFP photo