

### King's Cup coming home

**Sports Reporter**  
Nepal proved once again a happy hunting ground for Bangladesh footballers when Rahmatganj Mualim Friends Society clinched the King's Birthday Cup title with a convincing 3-0 victory over local NTR in the final at Kathmandu yesterday.

The Dhaka First Division football league champions, who started the tournament with a massive 11-1 win over an U-19 outfit of the hosts, were in fine fettle, racing to a 2-0 lead at the breather.

Striker Towhid gave the Dhaka old town outfit a first minute lead before Shoab doubled the margin with a spectacular goal eight minutes later.

Rahmatganj assault continued in the second half and Ranjan, the fleet-footed national winger with a lethal left foot, sealed the fate of the match with the third in the 23rd minute.

Rahmatganj, who moved into the final with a 3-1 tie-break win over another local outfit, became the third successful Bangladesh team in Nepal following triumphs by Bangladesh Army and Mukti-Joddha Sangsad earlier.

Rahmatganj are expected to return home on Tuesday.

### Wanderers in wilderness

**Sports Reporter**  
Dhaka Wanderers Club were doomed to relegation from the Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey league when Dhaka Ansars beat the traditional outfit in the domestic sports circuit by a lone goal in the relegation play-off at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half of a lack-lustre match, Babul Miah announced Wanderers' doom eleven minutes away from the final whistle.

The outcome of yesterday's match prolonged nightmare at the Wanderers tent, yet to get over the shock following the end of their footballers' tenure in the Senior Division.

### Yamaha cricket

**Sports Reporter**  
The Dhaka Wanderers cricketers dispelled, to some extent, the gloom at the club tent following the hockey side's relegation from the senior division when they thrashed Gopibagh Friends' Association by 50 runs in the Yamaha First Division cricket league match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

# Kenya come to town today

**Sports Reporter**  
Morris Udumbe, whose brilliant batsmanship was one of the features of the ICC Trophy in Kenya last February and considerably huge proportions over Bangladesh's failure to win a place in cricket's next World Cup proper, will lead the Kenyan national cricket team due to arrive today.

One of the associate members of the ICC, Kenya, who along with the United Arab Emirates and Holland, stole a march on the other non-Test playing countries' club, will take on Bangladesh under-19 team tomorrow in the first match of their 15-day tour scheduled to conclude on February 5.

The ICC Trophy runners-up will play eight matches against different selections across the country including a two-day match against the full Bangladesh national team.

Kenya, who profited immensely from an exciting 12-run victory over favourites Bangladesh in the ICC Trophy on the way to clinching one of the two berths thrown open in one-day cricket World Championship, will not be lone visitors here as the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA), a familiar team from South India, are also expected shortly to involve the local side in a two-way contest.

Meanwhile the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board has announced the three selections for the upcoming spree of cricket matches.

Akram Khan will lead the Bangladesh national team which has undergone a few changes from the combination that took part in the recent SAARC cricket tourney.

Stylish right-hander Selim Shahed kept out of consideration for a bout of mumps, has staged a comeback along with paceman Mizanur Rahman, dropped after the disastrous Kenyan safari.

Young pace bowler Sajal Chowdhury, who made his debut into the national side along with Naimur Rahman, has been relegated to the youth team. In fact, Naimur Rahman, who was an abject failure in the SAARC tourney, has been chosen the captain of the youth team, one of the three selections to meet Kenya and the Hyderabad Cricket Association.

However, the most remarkable selection has been the reinstatement or rehabilitation of former national skipper Faruque Ahmed.

Faruque, whose failure as a batsman coupled with Bangladesh's dismal performance in the ICC trophy raged a storm of controversy, has been brought back as the captain of the Bangladesh A team.

**LOCAL SELECTIONS**  
**BANGLADESH:** Akram Khan, Athar Ali Khan, Jahangir Alam, Al-Shahriar, Aminul Islam, Minhazul Abedin, Enamul Haq, Debashis Barua, Mohammad Osman Khan, who was the coach of the youth team on its triumphant tour of Malaysia, has got the managerial job this time.

**THE SCHEDULE**  
The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board has announced the itinerary of the teams from Kenya, Hong Kong and Hyderabad Cricket Association beginning January 23.

- Jan 23: Kenya vs Bangladesh Under-19 (Dhaka).
- Jan 26: Kenya vs Bangladesh (Dhaka).
- Jan 27: Kenya vs Bangladesh (Dhaka).
- Jan 28: Kenya vs Bangladesh A (Comilla).
- Jan 29: Hong Kong vs Bangladesh Under-19 (Sylhet).
- Jan 30: Hyderabad vs Bangladesh A (Khulna).
- Jan 30: Kenya vs Bangladesh Under-19 (Sylhet).
- Jan 30: Hong Kong vs Bangladesh (Dhaka).
- Jan 31: Hong Kong vs Bangladesh (Dhaka).
- Feb 1: Kenya vs Bangladesh A (Mymensingh).
- Feb 1: Hyderabad vs Bangladesh Under-19 (Sylhet).
- Feb 2: Hyderabad vs BCCB Eleven (Dhaka).
- Feb 2: Hong Kong vs Bangladesh Under-19 (BKSPI).
- Feb 3: Kenya vs Bangladesh (Dhaka).
- Feb 4: Hyderabad vs Bangladesh A (Mymensingh).
- Feb 4: Hong Kong vs Bangladesh Under-19 (Khulna).
- Feb 4: Kenya vs Bangladesh (Dhaka).
- Feb 5: Hyderabad vs BCCB Eleven (Comilla).

### Biman's smooth flight

**Sports Reporter**  
Pakistani Wasim Haider and Indian Sanjeev Sharma once again played key role as joint holders Bangladesh Biman recorded their third victory in the Navana Premier Division cricket league with a huge 94-run win over Surja Tarun Club at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Sent in to bat first, the airlines team rattled 184 for seven in the stipulated 45 overs and then had Surja Tarun restricted to skittled out for 90 in 37.1 overs for a comprehensive win.

Sharma, the former Indian Test cricketer, was the most successful Biman bowler with three for 15 in 7.1 overs but World Cupper Haider excelled in economical consideration, spending only 13 runs in his nine overs for his two scalps.

All the bowlers used in the Tarun innings were among the wickets with Jahangir Talukder, Anwarul Amin, Ziaur Rashid and skipper Enamul Haq picking one apiece.

In the morning, Biman faced early setbacks when they batted, losing the first three wickets for 50 in 20.2 overs but Shahinawaz Shaheed played anchor to two vital stands, first with Sharma and then with Haider, to ensure Biman garnered a fighting total.

Shahinawaz top-scored with a well-made 58-ball 51, inclusive of three fours and a six, followed by Haider, who hit one four and a six in his run-a-ball 36.

Sharma made 27 off 48 balls with a couple of fours.

### TODAY'S MATCH

Mohammedans vs Sadharan Birna (Dhaka Stadium)

### Acme cricket

**Sports Reporter**  
Akhter's staid 63 proved inconsequential in the end as Evergreen Sporting Club conceded an eight-wicket defeat to Azad Boys Club in yesterday's lone Acme Second Division cricket league match at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Sent in to bat first, Evergreen were undone by a superb spell of new-ball bowler Shipilu, who returned figures of four for 23, and only Akhter's efforts ensured them the reasonable total of 137 in 37.1 overs.

Opening batsman Ishtiaq Hassan hit nine boundaries in an 81-ball 51 as Azad Boys, once a superpower in domestic circuit, raced to 138 for two in 26.5 overs.



Pakistan batsman Aamir Nazir is clean bowled first ball by South African Fanie de Villiers at the Wanderers in Johannesburg yesterday. — AFP photo

# Pakistan in dire straits

**JOHANNESBURG**  
Jan 21: Fanie de Villiers completed a remarkable first innings Saturday by setting his sixth wicket and South Africa surged to a lead of 391 on the third day of the one-off cricket Test against Pakistan, reports AP.

Storms in the area caused bad light to halt play early for the second straight day, but South Africa appeared in a commanding position, batting in their second innings with seven wickets in hand and two days of play remaining.

South Africa, coming off a 2-0 victory over Pakistan in the finals of the Benson and Hedges quadrangular limited overs series, were 161 for 3 in the second innings, led by captain Hanif Khan's 48 and opener Garry Kirsten's 42.

Pakistan scored 230 runs all out in their first innings, leaving the visitors 230 behind. South Africa's first innings score of 400 South Africa then chose to bat instead of forcing Pakistan to carry on, mostly to rest de Villiers and fellow pacemen Allan Donald and Brian McMillan.

Those three accounted for all 10 Pakistani wickets, with Donald ending the only serious challenge by getting Salim Malik caught in the gully one run short of a century. Malik finished at 99 runs with 16 fours off 154 balls to lead the Pakistani batting.

De Villiers then bowled Wasim Akram (41) and Aamir Nazir (0) to end the innings and finish with six wickets in 20.5 overs that yielded 81 runs. He also scored 66 runs off 68 deliveries batting 10th in South Africa's first innings.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings 460 (B McMillan 113, F de Villiers 66 not out, G Kirsten 62)

**PAKISTAN:** First innings (overnight 177-6)  
Aamir Sohail c Richardson b De Villiers 23  
Saeed Anwar c Cullinan b De Villiers 2  
Asif Mujtaba c Richardson b De Villiers 0  
Salim Malik c Eksteen d Donald 99  
Ijaz Ahmed b De Villiers 19  
Inzamam-ul-Haq b McMillan 19  
Moin Khan c De Villiers b McMillan 9  
Wasim Akram b De Villiers 41  
Kabir Khan c Richardson b Donald 4  
Aaqib Javed not out 0  
Aamir Nazir b De Villiers 0  
Extras: (nb-9, lb-5) 14  
Total 230

Fall of wickets: 1-20; 2-20; 3-44; 4-106; 5-134; 6-158; 7-193; 8-207; 9-230.

**Bowling:** O M R W  
A Donald 17 2 63 2  
F de Villiers 20.5 4 81 6  
B McMillan 12 3 46 2  
C Eksteen 7 1 16 0  
H Cronje 9 5 19 0

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Second innings  
G Kirsten b Wasim Akram 42  
R Steyn c Moin Khan b Aamir Nazir 17  
H Cronje c Aamir Sohail b Aaqib Javed 46  
D Cullinan not out 23  
J Rhodes not out 2  
Extras: (lb-5, lb-4, w-15, nb-5) 29  
Total: (for 3 wickets) 164  
Fall of wickets: 1-69; 2-96; 3-155

**Bowling (to date):** O M R W  
Wasim Akram 15 4 33 1  
Aaqib Javed 15 2 34 1  
Aamir Nazir 11 1 46 1  
Kabir Khan 12 0 39 0

### England ride well on Hick

**BENDIGO,** Australia, Jan 21: Garry Hick, given a first-ball let-off, plundered a century to guide England to a first innings lead against Victoria today, reports Reuter.

Hick, dropped at gully before he scored and missed again on 13, made the home side pay for their generosity as he scored 143.

It was the Worcestershire batsman's third first-class century of the tour and the 80th of his career, and it helped England reach 288 for five by the close of play on the second day of the four-day match — good for a lead of 42 over Victoria's 246.

Hick hit 17 fours and three sixes in an increasingly confident display, but luck was on his side at the start of his innings.

Arriving at the crease after captain Michael Atherton had fallen to the fourth ball he faced, caught low down at first slip by his opposite number Dean Jones without scoring, Hick edged his first delivery from seamer Rohan Ruffell into the gully. Rohan Larkin spilled the chance.

Seven overs later, Hick sparred at pace bowler Simon Cook, but a diving Dave Emerson at gully could not cling onto the catch.

Hick celebrated his good fortune by reaching three-figures in 143 balls with 13 fours and a six, and shared in useful stands with Graham Thorpe and John Crawley.

He added 57 for the third wicket with Thorpe (22), and then 111 with Crawley (32).  
Hick's form was good news for England with the fourth Test against Australia in Adelaide just five days away.



G HICK ... 143

### Asian Cup Winners' Cup final today

# Ignominious exit for hosts

**SHARJAH** Jan 21: Ugly scenes after a 90th minute equaliser by host club Al Shaab from Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates married its Asian Cup Winners' Cup semifinal clash with Saudi Arabia's Al Ittihad Friday, reports AFP.

Police had to protect the South Korean referee from furious Saudi officials protesting his handling of the game which ended in a 1-1 draw.

The host club went on to win with a 4-3 penalty shoot out after extra time failed to produce a result and will play Japan's Yokohama Flugels in the final on Sunday.

Flugels triumphed 4-2 over the Telephone Organisation of Thailand from Bangkok in their semifinal encounter.

Ittihad took the lead in the clash with Al Shaab with a 27th minute header from striker Abdullah Fawal but had left back Ahmed Eesa sent off in 59th minute for his second bookable offence.

With the match seven minutes into injury time, Al Shaab won a corner on the right wing from which Jasim Mohammed Al Doukhi turned in the equaliser.

Ittihad only had time to kick-off before Korean referee Kim Kwang-Taek signalled the end of the 90 minutes — but the start of extra time was delayed for 15 minutes as police and stadium security staff formed a human barricade around Kim and his linesmen.

### Div II football

**Sports Reporter**  
Bangladesh Police Athletic Club maintained their solo lead at the top of the Second Division football league prints table when they edged past Abhijatrik Malibagh by a solitary goal in one of the two matches played at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Mustafa Kamal struck the match-decider for the servicemen, who are now leading the points table with 23 points from ten matches, in the 34th minute.

In the other match of the day, Adamjee SCC and City Club shared points in a one-all draw.

Iqbal gave city a 19th-minute lead before Anisur Rahman restored parity for Adamjee seven minutes later.

### Div III football

**Sports Reporter**  
Mushtaq notched up the all-important goal as East End Boys earned a lone goal win over Aminbazar KC in one of the two Pragati Insurance Third Division football league matches played at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Apart from the goal, the sending off of two players, one from each team for a second bookable offence, highlighted the otherwise drab affair.



Action from yesterday's Green Delta Insurance First Division league encounter between Dhaka Wanderers Club and Dhaka Ansars at the Hockey Stadium. Ansars won the match by a solitary goal. — Star photo

### Stoichkov's plea turned down

**MADRID,** Jan 21: Barcelona's Bulgarian international Hristo Stoichkov lost his appeal here Friday against a two-match suspension after he was sent off during a league match earlier this month, reports AFP.

The Spanish Football Federation rejected a plea that the ban should be reduced to only one game.

Stoichkov was given his marching orders shortly before half-time after hacking down Real Madrid's Sanchez Flores. Ten-man Barcelona went on to lose the match 5-0.

Although the Telephone Organisation reduced the deficit to 3-2 with a header from Saychon Panfak 10 minutes later, Flugels sealed a 4-2 victory with a late breakaway goal from substitute Yoshiyuki Sakamoto.

The Thai's took the lead with a header from skipper Pongtorn Thitubthong in the 14th minute but the Japanese gained control after the break.

Centre forward Hiroki Hattori scored with neat headers in the 50th and 58th minutes and left-winger Hindeaki Kaetsu made it 3-1 in the 62nd minute.

Although the Telephone Organisation reduced the deficit to 3-2 with a header from Saychon Panfak 10 minutes later, Flugels sealed a 4-2 victory with a late breakaway goal from substitute Yoshiyuki Sakamoto.



C M Koyes Sami, a senior vice-president of the sponsors, Arab Bangladesh Bank Limited, handing over the Siraj memorial cricket trophy to the manager of the Sylhet Mohammedan team at the Sylhet Stadium on January 19. Mohammedans won the title defeating Sylhet Gymkhana by five wickets in the final. — Star photo