

# Bagan batter Brothers

Sports Reporter



Kalabagan set a record of sorts in domestic cricket when their four top order batsmen scored half-centuries to guide the star-studded outfit to a facile 44-run win over Brothers Union in the solitary Navana Premier Division cricket super league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

On a placid wicket, openers Athar Ali Khan and Masum put on a century partnership for the first wicket followed by another undefeated 134-run stand between skipper Faruque Ahmed and Pakistani all-rounder Zahid Ahmed for the third wicket as Kalabagan, sent in to bat, compiled a mammoth total of 298 for two in the allotted 45 overs, so far the highest score in an innings in this year's Navana Premier cricket league.

In reply, Brothers Union, who are sorely missing the services of Amir Hanif, could muster 254 for six before they exhausted their share of 45 overs.

Amir Hanif, the elder of the Hanif brothers, earlier left for Pakistan where he is expecting a call to the Pakistan national squad.

However, the outcome of yesterday's match brought double delight for Kalabagan who not only took a sweet revenge against their first phase conquerors but also regained the top slot, along with defending joint-holders Abahani Krita Chakra, both collecting 22 points with Abahani playing one match less.

It was Brothers' second successive defeat in the six-team super league though they beat Kalabagan by two wickets in the first phase.

Athar Ali Khan and Zahid Razzak Masum made the most of an easy wicket once Brothers skipper Al Shahrar Rokan invited Kalabagan to bat first.

The two openers laid the foundation of a huge score, sharing 131 runs in 26.3 overs before the former national

player Masum departed for a 74-ball 61 embellished with six firmly hits to the fence.

The in-form Athar Ali Khan,



**ATHAR ... leading scorer**

who needed a runner after completing his half-century, scored a brilliant 76 off 106 balls before being clean bowled by spinner Saifullah Gem in the last ball of the 33rd over with the scoreboard reading

**Friendly cricket**

A friendly cricket match between the Jatiya Press Club and Dhaka University Teachers' Eleven will be held at the Jagannath Hall ground here on March 24, reports BSS.

The players of the Press Club team have been requested to report to captain Partha Tanvir Naved at the ground by 9-15 am on the day.

## TEAM

Partha Tanvir Naved (captain), Fazul Karim, Mohammad Qamruzzaman, Rouful Hasan, Ajoy Barua, Hannan Khan, Mostafizur Rahman Mamun, Afzal Khan, BD Mukherjee, Mujtaba Danish, SM Mamun, Dilu Khondakar, Arifur Rahman Babu, Rafhan Mahmud, Shahriar Ferdous Shuva, Saldur Rahman Shamim, Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury, Qamrul Islam Chowdhury (manager) and Kamalur Rahman (assistant manager).

164.

The tall national opener, so far the highest individual scorer in the league with more than 500 runs, hit five fours in his enterprising innings.

Zahid Ahmed took charge once Athar left, plundering 134 runs in the last 72 balls along with skipper Faruque Ahmed, who played a good innings after a long time.

They set the field afire with the aggressive Zahid scoring a hurricane unbeaten 75 off only 39 balls.

The Pakistani all-rounder needed only 29 balls to reach his 50 and fittingly finished the Kalabagan innings with a massive sixer off seamer Khairuzaman Babu over mid-wicket.

Zahid, who also shone with the leather, claiming three Brothers wickets, clubbed nine fours in his blazing knock.

Skipper Faruque, who started rather cautiously, also played an equally aggressive 55-ball 72 which featured four hits to the rope and a towering six off spinner Shoab in the penultimate over. Faruque also scored 18 runs off paceman Sajal Chowdhury, who was the most expensive among the Brothers bowlers, conceding 57 runs in his six overs.

The Brothers innings was built around a defiant century partnership between Sajal and Shoab, who put on 104 runs for the fifth wicket after the Gopbagh outfit lost their first four wickets for 127 in 27.2 overs.

Openers Sajid Hassan and Abid Hanif, the younger brother of Aamir Hanif, with 38 and 23 respectively, were the other notable run-getters for the losers.

Sajal's obdurate unbeaten 60-ball 58, though too little too late, included three hits to the fence while Shoab's quick-fire 43-ball 59 featured six fours and two sixes.

## TODAY'S MATCH

Abahani vs Biman (D Stadium)

Beximco youth cricket

## Rajshahi, Pabna Manikganj in final round

Three district teams — Rajshahi, Pabna and Manikganj — emerged zonal champions yesterday to qualify for the final round of the 15th Beximco national youth cricket championship, reports UNB.

The eight-team final phase with six zonal champions, defending champions BKSP and runners-up Dhaka DSA will be held in Dhaka, possibly from April 5.

Rajshahi DSA clinched the Zone B title defeating Bogra DSA by five wickets in the final at the Rangpur Stadium.

Bogra DSA: 101 all out in 41.4 overs. Momin 39, Arif 10, Imran 4/13 and Parvez 2/12.

Rajshahi DSA: 102 for 5 in 26.1 overs. Rafiqul 46, Tore 20, Muklesh 2/6 and Shipar 2/31.

In a Zone D final at Dinajpur, Pabna DSA beat Rajshahi Education Board by 16 runs.

Pabna DSA: 161 all out in 43.5 overs. Shakil 27, Badsha 21, Jahangir 26, Roman 3/23, Sabbu 2/21, Liton 2/29.

Rajshahi Education Board: 135 all out in 42.5 overs. Bachchu 30, Tapan 24, Babu 24, Rasheed 3/29 and Tuhin 3/25.

Manikganj DSA registered a 25-run victory over Narayanganj DSA at BSKP in Savar to become Zone F champions.

## Sher-e-Bangla Cup soccer

Sports Reporter

Nilphamari moved into the next round of the 19th Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football championship with a lone goal win over Kishoreganj at the Naogaon Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first-half, marked by two sending-offs with both sides reduced to ten-men, Selim notched the all-important goal from a spot-kick awarded in the 66th minute.

Nilphamari will now take on Sylhet in the quarter-finals on Thursday.



Sayedra Aisana Nira (L), pushes one of her pawns up against Jahanara Huq during their third round engagement of the 16th national women's championship at the NSC chess room yesterday.

# Gurusinha steers SL clear

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, Mar 21: Sri Lanka handed a lesson to New Zealand on how to graft out an innings on the fourth day of the second Test at Carisbrook on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Sri Lanka, who were 74 behind when starting their second innings, were 210 for three wickets at the close for an overall lead of 136 runs going into the final day.

Sri Lanka resumed their innings at night without loss and suffered a couple of early hiccups by lunch to be 71 for two and still three runs in arrears.

They lost the wickets of Dulip Samaraweera for five when the total was 11 and Sanjeeva Ranatunga for 23 at 63.

But Asanka Gurusinha steered the innings with a slow and patient hand to guide his side out of the woods and towards a position of some security.

Gurusinha batted for a minute over six hours to be 92 not out at stumps but he was fortunate to still be at the crease as stumps when former wicket-keeper Bryan Young dropped the easiest of offerings at slip when he was on 73.

New Zealand claimed only one wicket in the second session, that of Aravinda de Silva, who made 13 and left with the score at 81.

But with measured and controlled batting, something New Zealand have failed to display in their century summer, Gurusinha and Hashan Tillekeratne took command

and steadied the innings. At tea Sri Lanka were 138 for three with Gurusinha having brought up his seventh Test half-century in 185 minutes and off 184 balls including five boundaries.

Tillekeratne, who went to tea on 31, continued building his score in the final session to bring up his 11th Test 50, off 150 balls in 184 minutes and with seven boundaries.

New Zealand coach John Reid indicated at the end of the day that his team would consider chasing a victory if the remaining Sri Lankan wickets could be taken for a further 100 runs.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard at the close of play on the fourth day on Tuesday in the second Test between New Zealand and Sri Lanka at Carisbrook:

**SRI LANKA:** First innings 233 (C. Vaas 51)

**NEW ZEALAND:** Second innings 207 (B Young 84, S Fleming 66, D Patel 52; C Vaas 6-87)

**SRI LANKA:** Second innings (overnight 0-0)

A. Gurusinha not out 92  
D Samaraweera lbw b Su'a 5  
S Ranatunga c Parore b Patel 23  
A De Silva c Murray b Patel 13  
H Tillekeratne not out 68  
Extras: (b-6, lb-2, nb-1) 9  
Total: (for three wickets) 210  
Fall of wickets: 1-11; 2-63; 3-81

To bat: A Ranatunga, C Dunusinghe, C Vaas, P Wickremasinghe, M Muralidharan, R Pushpakumar.

**Bowling:**

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Walmsley	21	7	53	0
Patel	33	15	45	2
Sua	16	1	59	1
Pringle	10	2	32	0
Larsen	16	10	13	0

To bat: A Ranatunga, C Dunusinghe, C Vaas, P Wickremasinghe, M Muralidharan, R Pushpakumar.

Asked whether he would work again with the "Ma family army," Ma said: "They left me, I didn't leave them, so it's not a question of me being willing or not, it's a question of whether or not they want to come back."

"In retrospect, there was some rudeness," Ma conceded, responding to criticism of his brutal training style. "But the aim of my strictness and fierceness was good."

Calls for a reconciliation grew louder after a disastrous showing by the former squad members at a Beijing international road race last month.

Tshwete told a news conference the one-day summit would consider a business plan for the management of the city's bid and select a chief executive officer with international respect and proven business experience to manage it.

He said public wrangling over control of the bid process had dented confidence in South Africa's ability to stage the Games, adding:

"The bid must be put back on track. Things cannot get worse... but you get to a point where you sober up, where you realise that more is at stake than you yourself or your own particular interest."

Tshwete said supermarket magnate Raymond Ackerman, who headed Cape Town's campaign against Johannesburg and Durban to bid for the Games, had agreed to "take a back seat."

"He has changed his position," Tshwete said on Monday. "He is not interested in the job. He has said that to me specifically."

Tshwete said the bid sum-

mit would have to decide whether Ackerman was owed money for the work he had already done and whether or how that should be repaid.

Sam Ramsamy, president of the National Olympic Committee of South Africa (NOCSA) and Ackerman's rival for control of the bid process, said his public fight with Ackerman

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# Tyson reborn, reformed

NEW YORK, Mar 21: Mike Tyson is due to be paroled Saturday and, if reports about his three years in prison are accurate, he has become a scholar of the classics, found peace as a Muslim, expanded his expertise in the genetics of pigeons and sculpted a Mr Universe body, reports Reuter.

It would seem then, that prison may have been the best thing for him, giving the former heavyweight champion a chance to observe life from the slow lane, instead of seeing only blurred, distorted glimpses of the world as it whizzed past him on his roller-coaster ride through celebrityville.

But really, Homer? Mao Tse Tung? an Arnold Schwarzenegger clone?

The guy is in awesome shape. I'm telling you — he is well-muscled, he's cut, he's rippling with muscles, he's insisted boxing promoter-manager Rocky Newman last week after a recent visit to Tyson at the Indiana penitentiary where he has served half of a six-year sentence for rape.

Of course, Newman is beginning the drum-roll for his ticket-selling hype of a bout he wants to stage between Tyson and Newman's fighter, former champion Riddick Bowe.

Others, also perhaps with vested interests, have spread the image of a Tyson transformation into a renaissance man. Jay Bright, a long-time friend of Tyson's and a cornerman, said about a year into Tyson's term: "He reads a lot. We sent him a lot of books. Some on Mao Tse Tung, different books on Indians, different Indian chiefs."

Bright says one of Tyson's biggest laments about prison life is that the boxer — who

once boasted that his goal in a fight was to punch his opponent's nose into his brain — is not able to spend time with his beloved pigeons in the backyard of the upstate New York house where he used to live.

Bright, who hired a caretaker for the fighter's birds, says Tyson "likes to see the results" of the mating.

"I have sent him, like, 3,000 pictures of his birds — baby birds, birds flying and also pictures around the house," Bright said. "He likes to see if you mate a Lahore bird and a Homer bird, you know, to see what the mixture came out, a Birmingham roller with a magpie and see what comes out. He likes all different kinds. He loves his birds."

Tyson also has become so enamoured of Mao Tse Tung, Newman says that he has a tattoo of the likeness of the late Chinese leader on one of his biceps. On the other bicep are the words "days of grace" — the title of the late Arthur Ashe's book.

Tyson says he has broadened his literary horizons. "I read a guy by the name of Homer, and he wrote about a guy, Achilles and Hector, and he wrote about that war," Tyson said in a television interview from prison.

"Even though it was so many years ahead of his time, it's been passed down, and he's told the story... he says, like, as if he was there. And I just like reading."

Tyson has also been busy making telephone calls. "Just a couple of weeks ago he called collect to ask about (old-time) boxer Mickey Walker," said Bert Sugar, editor of Boxing Illustrated. "He also wanted to know all about who fixed the 1919 World Series. He's always been a boxing historian, and he's fas-

cinated by gangsters."

At one point, prisoner 922335 had so many visitors he dropped out of classes and failed his high school equivalency.

He attends classes from 8 am to about 3 pm and then "We go to rec (recreation). And it's just very, I mean, mundane-type situation every day," Tyson says.

Before lights out around 11 pm, Tyson says he finds time to run, both outside and in the gym.

Getting risk-free food apparently has been a big concern for Tyson since he was first imprisoned for raping a beauty pageant contestant in an Indianapolis hotel room in 1991.

Tyson has been taking no chances on inmate-prepared food, opting instead to buy his meals, with an emphasis on canned tuna fish, from the prison commissary, Bright said.

"You don't know who's cooking your food. You might have [a] Jeffrey Dahmer cooking your dinner," Bright said.

Tyson, baptised a Christian not long before entering prison, said in a television interview that prison "put me in a situation to understand Islam, to become a Muslim."

Tyson, who was disciplined for threatening a guard shortly after entering prison, says the system "doesn't rehabilitate you, more so debilitates you."

And the people in prison, "come from hillbilly towns (and) don't have any televisions so they don't have any connection with someone of my calibre," the convicted rapist said.

He said in another interview, "You never adjust to this."

"I mean this is a form of ... a circus, an animal-taming like environment. And we have to adjust in order to survive."

# Seeds tumble at Lipton

KEY BISCAINE, Florida, Mar 21: Top-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and former men's champions Michael Chang and Jim Courier were all toppled Monday in an up set-filled day at the 4.1 million dollars Lipton Championships, reports Reuter.

Sanchez was defeated by American Marianne Werdel Witmeyner 6-2, 7-5 in the day's bid surprise on the women's side. The sting of defeat, however, was softened for the Spaniard with word that Sanchez was safe as world number one regardless of how rival Steffi Graf fared the rest of the tournament.

Lisa Raymond added another upset during the day when she sent the distance to defeat fellow-American Zina Garrison Jackson, the 16th seed, 6-2, 1-6, 6-1.

Joining Sanchez on the sidelines on a breezy day were third-seeded Michael Change, the 1992 men's champion, and seventh-seeded Jim Courier, who won this event in 1991.

Change lost to Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands, ranked 51st in the world, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, while Courier could not cope with left handed Australian Mark Woodforde, who prevailed by 6-3, 6-4 in their third-round match.

"It was just a case that I didn't play very well and it is going to be tough for me to beat a player that is clever like Mark," Courier said of the Australian, who is ranked 34th.

Woodforde and Courier now stand 4-4 in career meetings.

Top seed Pete Sampras avoided the upset bug by beating fellow-American Jared Palmer 6-4, 6-4 and former world number one Mats Wilander of Sweden ousted 14th seed Patrick Rafter of Australia, a semifinalist here last year, 6-2, 6-2.



A 22-member Bangladesh national team is seen with Sheikh Akmol Hossain, the general secretary of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), at the Zia International Airport prior to their departure for the Bristol SAARC Gold Cup tournament, scheduled to begin in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo from March 25.



SHANGHAI, Mar 21: Chinese super-coach Ma Junren has defended himself against accusations by track stars who walked out on him that he grabbed their winnings, including Mercedes luxury cars, reports Reuter.

Amid public calls for reconciliation between feuding members of the "Ma family army," Ma was quoted as saying that his world-beating distance runners had received all the money due to them.

In interviews with Shanghai's Xinmin Evening News, Ma suggested that world 10,000 metres champion Wang Junxia and two teammates, Qu Yunxia and Liu Dong, might be entitled to the luxury cars they won at a World Track and Field Championship.

Ma said an unnamed senior Chinese leader had instructed him to look after the winnings of his athletes and hand them over when the runners retired.

"According to the leader's instructions I deposited the money in the bank," he said.

"Later, I gave Wang Junxia and the others all the money plus interest, without one cent difference. Not one cent was missing," he said. "I was not confiscating. I was looking after it on their behalf."

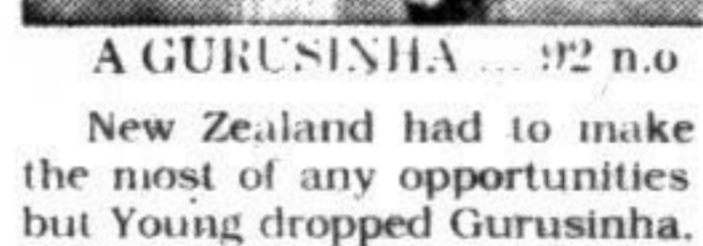
The interviews were published on Monday and Tuesday. Ma said that in addition to their winnings, the rebel athletes who quit his training camp in Dalian last year were given 800,000 yuan (94,000 dollars) as a "nutrition fee" to split among themselves.

"What more can I do?" he said.

Asked about a one million yuan (118,000 dollars) payment from China's state council, plus corporate sponsorship, Ma argued that this money was given to the team to build sports facilities and was not for individuals.

"I can't satisfy the desire of some members who want to divide the money and become 'ten thousand yuan families,'" Ma said, referring to China's newly rich entrepreneurs.

As for the cars, Ma said Chinese authorities had agreed before the World Championships to reverse long-standing policy and let athletes keep any prizes they won. He was now keeping two of the



A GURUSINHA ... 92 not out

New Zealand had to make the most of any opportunities but Young dropped Gurusinha, and any chance of putting pressure on the Sri Lankans disappeared.

To add to their woes, New Zealand lost their second captain of the match for part of the last session.

Gavin Larsen was struck in the face and sustained cuts on the bridge of his nose when he attempted to field a ball. Mark Greatbatch led the side to stumps.

# Ma Junren goes on record

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