

Nirman cricket results

Sports Reporter

A brilliant all-round performance by Rajibullah guided Mirpur Bangla High School to a comfortable 83-run victory over Ideal High School...

Rajib, who earlier with the willow hammered an unbeaten 72 off 64 balls to help his side to score 136 for eight...

At the Residential Model School ground, Badda Alatanissa High School defeated Mughdipara Kazi Zafar High School by three wickets.

Chasing a paltry Mughdipara total of 90 in 35 overs, the winners lost seven wickets to reach home in 16.4 overs with one down Arefin hammering highest 36.

In the day's other two matches, Baganbari High School beat Armanitola High School by 20 runs at the Mirpur Outer Stadium...

Nat'l snooker results

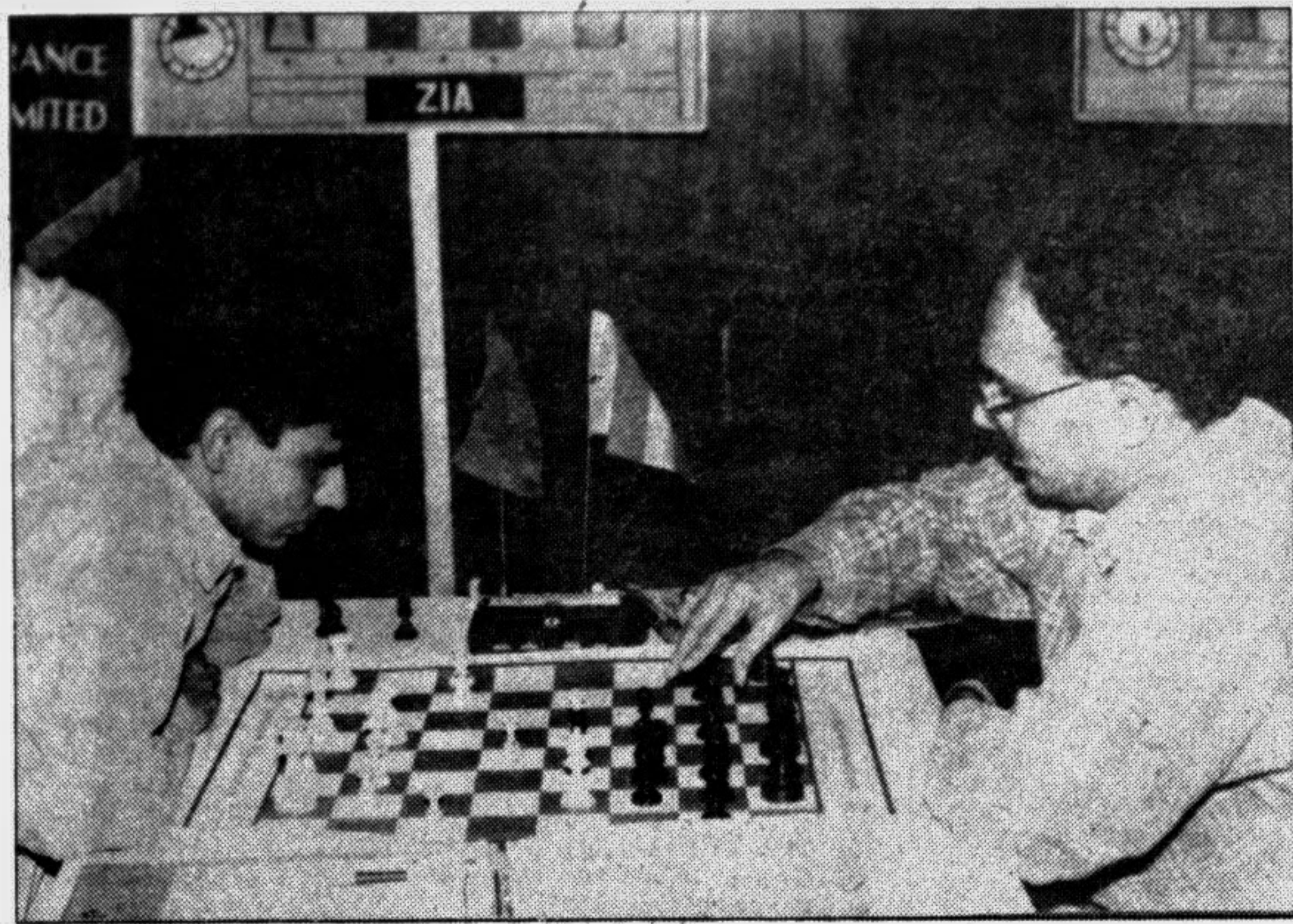
Sports Reporter

Quamrul Huda of Dhaka Club played a patient game of snooker to win 4-3 against clubmate M Haq Babu...

Babu took an early 3-0 lead, but Quamrul rallied to take four frames in a row.

Intiaz Ikram of Chittagong Club also won by the same margin against Dhaka Club's Ziauddin Aslam.

In other matches, there were victories for Monsur Hyder of Comilla Station Club, NC Ghosh of Narayanganj Club and host club's NAT Roof.



A view of Indian IM Praveen Thipsay in action against his local counterpart Ziaur Rahman during the third United Insurance Grand Masters' tournament at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Thipsay ends Zia's quest

Sports Reporter

Local favourite IM Ziaur Rahman's campaign for his first Grand Master norm came to an end when he lost his eleventh round encounter to Indian IM Praveen Thipsay...

Playing with white pieces against the King's Indian defence of Thipsay, Zia, the current national champion, was forced to surrender after a marathon spell of 70 moves.

Zia remained glued to his previous collection of six and a half points from 11 matches which also dashed his last hope for a GM norm.

On the other hand, the vic-

tory pulled Thipsay almost near to his second GM norm as he raised to his tally to 8.5 points and will be needing only



one point from his remaining two engagements. Moreover, the win also enabled the Indian to earn a joint occupation at the top alongside British GM Jim Plaskett...

fence and checkmated Prasad after 34 moves.

Besides, top seed GM Sergei Tiviakov of Russia, Hungarian GM Peter Szekely and local IM Reefat-bin-Sattar also won their respective boards.

Tiviakov, the highest rated (2600) player in the meet, edged past IM Iulduchev Saidali of Uzbekistan while Szekely, who drew his previous ten rounds in a row, registered his maiden victory in the tournament...

The other two matches of the day - GM Niaz Murshed against Kayes Hasan and IM Nguyen Anh Dung of Vietnam against GM Malisaukas of Lithuania, ended in draws.

STANDINGS

(After eleventh round): 8.5 points - Plaskett, Thipsay, 7 points - Tiviakov, 6.5 points - Zia, Prasad, 6 points - Reefat, Malisaukas, Szekely, Dung, 5.5 points - Niaz, 4.5 points - Saidali, 3.5 points - Kayes and 2.5 Kaiumov.

Today's matches: Saidali vs Kayes, Malisaukas vs Niaz, Thipsay vs Dung, Plaskett vs Zia, Szekely vs Prasad, Lovlu vs Kaiumov and Tiviakov vs Reefat.

Acme Div II cricket Milan powers Rupali Bank Sports Reporter

An unbeaten 54 by lower middle order Milan steered Rupali Bank to an exciting two-wicket victory over Kakrali Boys' Club in one of three Acme Second Division cricket super league matches held at the City Club ground yesterday.

Chasing a handsome Kakrali total of 205 in 45 overs, Milan, who came to the crease with his side at 94 for five in 11.3 overs, played a match-winning knock and enabled his side to reach the summit with more than six overs to spare and two wickets in hand.

With the win, Rupali Bank joined Spread Eagles in the second position of the Group E super league table having six points each, two points adrift of leaders Orient Sporting Club. Both Orient and Spread Eagles who have a superior run rate over Rupali Bank, confirmed their berth in the semifinals from this group.

In the day's other matches, Dhanmondi Club handed Lancashire Cricket Club a seven-wicket defeat at the Jagannath hall ground while Azad Boys Club recorded an impressive 125-run victory over Orient Sporting Club.

Kabaddi result COMILLA: Mar 3: Bangladesh national kabaddi team earned a 30-14 points victory over the visiting Japanese team in an exhibition match at the local stadium, reports UNB. The home side, which led the first half by a 11-8 margin, got two lonas in the match.

Strong Karachi Electricity team arrives today

Sports Reporter

A 14-member Karachi Electricity team are scheduled to arrive in the capital today to feature in a series of exhibition matches against the Bangladesh national team.

The strong Pakistan outfit, who will play their first exhibition match against Bangladesh at the BKSP in Savar tomorrow, boast stars like Shahid Afridi who hammered the quickest century against Sri Lanka in a triangular one-day tourney in Kenya last year.

Bangladesh, who are preparing for the forth-coming ICC Trophy scheduled to begin in Malaysia from March 19, will play their second warm-up match against the visitors on Friday at the Dhaka Stadium.

Although, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) arranged the tour, it has yet to decide where and when the other matches will be played.

SQUAD

Zafar Ahmed (captain), Shahid Khan Afridi, Shadab Kabir, Mansoor Khan, Arif Mehmood, Jaffer Qureshi, Zafar Nazeeb, Baqar Rizvi, Abdullah Khan, Zafar Ali, Ejaz Farooqi, Asif Ghouri, Fahim Zaidi and Kamil Khan.

17th Nat'l youth cricket begins tomorrow

Sports Reporter

The Gazi Tanks 17th national youth cricket championship kicks off at different venues across the country from tomorrow. Forty-five districts, split into six zones - Dhaka, Comilla, Chandpur, Tangail, Pabna and Dinajpur - will feature in the first phase.

The championship, an annual event of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) calendar, gets underway in Tangail, Pabna and Dinajpur from tomorrow. On the other hand, matches of Dhaka and Comilla zones will commence from March 7 while the Chandpur zone opener will start on March 8.

Six zonal champions from the first phase will play in the eight-team final round along with defending champions Narayanganj and runners-up Khulna. But unlike the previous editions, the Board, in a welcome change, has decided to hold a couple of two-day and three-day matches instead of the 45-over-a-side affair.

This was disclosed by the organising committee in a press briefing at the BCB office yesterday. Mahmudul Haq Manu, the organising secretary, told the press that the final of six zones would be a two-day affair or an 80-over-a-side match. While the final of the championship will be a three-day match with both teams playing two innings each.

Besides, the championship offers quite attractive cash awards for the winners. The winners will receive Taka 10,000 while the runners-up will be richer by Taka 7000. Moreover, there is also allocations for the winners of every match, men-of-the-matches. The budget for holding of the meet has been earmarked Taka 8.73,000; out of which the sponsors Gazi Rubber and Plastic Industries have provided Taka 4,00,000.

Age-group tennis from March 10

Sports Reporter

The first leg of the Elite Paint national age-group tennis circuit will begin at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex from March 10.

According to a press release issued yesterday, interested organisations and clubs are asked to complete their entry formalities by March seven at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex office. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Tennis Federation yesterday also announced the schedules of four-leg Sadharan Bima national tennis circuit '97.

The first leg will be held in Rangpur from March 16 while the second one will be held in Rajshahi Tennis Complex from May 3. The third and final legs will be held in Chittagong and Dhaka in September and October respectively.

"I give up only when I am tired so much so that I can't even move my legs": Md Zahid

By Al-Amin

THAT he is the fastest bowler in the world may disagree but that the 21-year-old speedster from Burewala is a star in the making few would contend. Born in Burewala, a place in Pakistan that produced Waqar Younis, Mohammed Zahid hogged the headlines when he claimed 11 wickets on his debut Test against the touring New Zealand. A third-year student of Burewala Government College, this young man is the third of his parents' five children. His father works in an American company in Saudi Arabia. The six feet and two inches tall fast bowler with discernibly powerful shoulders started his career last year when PIA signed him following his impressive performance for President's Eleven against visiting Sri Lanka. Besides, Zahid also played in the English county cricket. Last year he played for Huddersfield in the Yorkshire league and captured 65 wickets from 18 matches.

Zahid's name was on the lips of every cricket buff when he came to Bangladesh as a member of the Pakistan A team for the recently concluded four-nation SAARC cricket tournament. Although he failed to something stunning in terms of number of victims or economy rate, his three wicket-burst of sheer pace against India A and a couple of nasty snorters that made light of the slowness of a synthetic wicket convinced people that Zahid is truly one from the fast lane.

The Daily Star correspondent Al-Amin after a few abortive attempts finally managed an interview with the newest of Pakistani pace sensation. Excerpts from the cordial chat that took place in the evening of February 28, shortly after Pakistan A had won the SAARC cricket tourney title for the first time defeating India A on a better run rate in the rain-zoned final follow:

DS: How did you get into the game? Zahid: After my SSC examinations, I was selected for the U-19 camp where I performed well. The selectors then picked me for the tour of New Zealand in 1995. I took 26 wickets. Last year I played for President's Eleven against the visiting Sri Lankan team. Although I bowled well, I returned wicketless but my showing in that match impressed the PIA officials. And I gratefully accepted their offer. Besides, I played against the visiting West Indies U-19 team in 1996 and captured 17 wickets in three Tests. For PIA I took 10 wickets against National Bank which gave me the lucky break to play for the national team against the touring New Zealand. And you know

that I took 11 wickets in that Test. After that I went to Australia before being dropped.

DS: Many claim that you are faster than Waqar Younis. Now what is the story behind your success? Zahid: Well, to be a fast bowler you need to work hard and you must be a good athlete as well. Besides, you also need a certain degree of luck to be successful.

DS: Tell us something about your practice schedule. Zahid: I normally wake up at nine and have a light breakfast - two or three bananas, a slice of bread and a glass of milk. Then I go to the nearby ground where I jog for 13 minutes to warm myself up and then I bowl for an hour at one wicket. After that I do some physical exercise



MD ZAHID

- starting from stretching to other modes of manoeuvring. I give up only when I am tired so much so that I cannot even move my legs. My lunch includes lot of fruits and meat - minimum one kg of mutton. After a little rest, I start for practice at around 3 p.m. I practice for two and a half hours. My dinner again includes a lot of fruits and mutton. You can call me voracious eater because I always eat when I am at home. Besides, I take two litres of milk before going to bed.

DS: What do you do in the off-season? Zahid: I have hardly any time for leisure. You know, it is a tough battle in Pakistan to be in the reckoning for the national side. At home I play for Multan in the Quaid-e-Azam trophy while in the Patron's Trophy I play for PIA. Then there are professional commitments abroad like one I had last year playing for a club in the Yorkshire league in England. DS: How did it feel to play in England? Zahid: I love to play in England.

Because the climate suits quick bowlers. It is generally cool and a fast bowler who has to bear more work load than any other cricketer remains fresh for a longer period of time. And although the wickets are neither pacy nor bouncy, the ball moves both in the air and off the pitch. I played club cricket for Huddersfield last summer. But this year, I am switching I will be in Sheffield.

DS: Whose hands have gone into shaping your career as a cricketer? Zahid: Actually, I never went through any academic training till I joined PIA. I played cricket only for fun. To be frank, initially I liked football more than cricket. My mother and elder brothers did not like the idea of taking this game professionally. But when they came to know of me doing rather well, they helped me a lot. They apart the person I am most indebted to is Nadeem Bhai. He is now 28, but I believe he is quicker than I. When I was more inclined to play football Nadeem Bhai told me that I had it in me to be a fast bowler. Moreover, I knew a lot about the game from him.

DS: Which particular delivery you would love to bowl at? Zahid: Inswinger comes naturally to me. I can bowl perfectly yorkers, but outswinger is the variety I want to develop.

DS: Which particular type of dismissal pleases you most? Zahid: To get someone clean bowled. DS: Whom do you consider the most difficult batsman to dismiss? Zahid: Mark Waugh of Australia. I think Michael Bevan is also a very solid bat.

DS: Your favourite batsman? Zahid: Sachin Tendulkar. DS: Who is your favourite bowler? Zahid: Wasim Akram. DS: The man you admire most? Zahid: Mohammed Ali. DS: Your favourite hero or heroine? Zahid: Madhuri Dixit of India. DS: Your goal? Zahid: To play for the national team as long as possible.

DS: Your occupation? Zahid: I am a group five officer of PIA. I draw a salary of 14,000 rupees per month. DS: Which version of the game you are more comfortable in? Zahid: I hate one-day matches. It is too many restrictions against the bowlers. I shall be happy to play Test matches. I think Test match is the real thing.

DS: How do you rate our bowlers? Zahid: I think some of them are good. But they need to practice a lot to improve their effectiveness. There is no short cut to success.

Solid start for Mohammedans

Sports Reporter

Third penalty corner. While Siam-e-Noor, the other stalwart of Mohammedans, scored three goals in quick succession in the second half to complete the Victoria rout.

But Siam missed the feat of a hat-trick as centre-half Ashik, who played a pivotal role in every Mohammedan sortie, punched in the fourth goal in the 64th minute after a double strike from Siman.

Besides, Mohammedans captain Mahfuzul Alam Nixon put his name on the scoreboard scoring the second goal, an intelligent scoop past an onrushing Victoria custodian Shahidullah.

On the other hand, Victoria, who were at the receiving end throughout the lop-sided affair, looked more inclined in mastering the basics. The black and whites will take on Sadharan Biman in their last Group A match on March 8. Earlier, A F L Rahim, the residence director of the sponsors Karnaphuli Limited, declared the meet open and was introduced to the players of

both teams. But the tourney, first of its kind, involving the leading club failed to attract not even a couple of hundred spectators on the inaugural day.

TODAY'S MATCHES Wari Club vs Railway Usha KC vs Police AC

Inter-varsity cricket Rajshahi rout Khulna

Rajshahi University routed Khulna University by 10 wickets in a Coca-Cola inter-iversity cricket championship at the Jahangirnagar University ground yesterday, reports BSS.

Khulna scored 103 all out in 36.1 overs. In reply, Rajshahi were 104 for no loss in 11.4 overs. Titu of the winners, who took four for 15, was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Facilities Department Bagerhat Zone, Bagerhat. Tender Notice. Name of Project: Government Primary Education Re-Construction & Renovation. Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from Facilities Department's A/1 & A/2 class enlisted contractors for re-construction/major repair work of the selected govt primary schools under 'Government Primary School Re-construction & Renovation' project.

গাজীতালুক ১৭তম জাতীয় যুবা সিকেট প্রতিযোগিতা ১৯৯৭. বাংলাদেশ ক্রিকেট বোর্ড. A press conference was organised yesterday at the BCB office in connection with the Gazi Tanks 17th national youth cricket championship which starts tomorrow.

Dhaka WASA Tender Notice. (পানির অপচয় বন্ধ করুন। ম্যানহোলের ঢাকনা চুরি রোধ করুন) Tenders are invited from Dhaka WASA's pre-qualified category 'B-1' & 'B-2' contractors under ADB aided Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection Project for the work construction of relief drain from Abdul Gani Road to Osmani Uddyan pond at an allotted cost of Tk 9,37,772/=.