



A goalmouth action during yesterday's Premier Division encounter between Abahani and Agrani Bank at the Mirpur Stadium. The match ended goalless. — Star photo

AB Bank TT

Sports Reporter

Favourites Bangladesh Biman maintained their all-win record in the Senior Division of the AB Bank table tennis league defeating Wari Club 3-1 at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

With the win, Biman joined Armanitola Jubo Sangha at the top of the ten-team Senior Division table both having full 14 points from seven matches.

In the day's other matches, Brothers Union posted their sixth win in seven outings thrashing Inter Sports 3-0 while Biman Red beat Wari Club 3-1.

In the First Division, leaders Bangladesh Bank recorded their fourth successive victory taming Jatrabari Krira Chakra 3-0. Besides, Synthia Sporting Club outplayed Mansoor Sporting with the identical margin while Swamibagh Table Tennis Association defeated Purbachal Parisdas 3-1.

Olympic course

Sports Reporter

The five-day long Olympic Solidarity course on sports leadership, organised by the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA), began in the city yesterday.

SM Akram, the president of Bangladesh Rowing Federation, inaugurated the course as chief guest. BOA Secretary General Golam Qudus Chowdhury was also present.

A total of 40 organisers nominated by different national federations are taking part in the course.

Div II hockey

Uttara Hockey Club and Barnak Samaj split points in the Green Delta Second Division super league when they played to a goalless draw at the Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

The day's other match between Shantinagar and Cantonian SC was called off due to ID card problem of Shantinagar players.

Tournament committee will hold a meeting Sunday to fix a fresh date for the match.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Combined SC vs Uttara Hockey Club (1:45 pm)
Wanderers Club vs Cantonian SC (3:15)

New health club

Sports Reporter

A modern health club equipped with latest machinery has recently started catering services to the health conscious people of the city.

The club — Famous Gym, Health and Slimming Centre — at New DOHS in the city's Mohakhali area went on operation on October 1.

Famous major areas of expertise and concern include, weight loss and gain, belly and abdomen reduction and waist trimming, hip reduction, slimming and shape up, cut down extra fat and cholesterol, physical fitness, body building, increasing energy and stamina. Besides, it has 'Sauna' and Steam Bath' and Yoga facilities.

Abahani in an abyss

Sports Reporter



The Premier Division jinx of the Abahani Krira Chakra continued as the title aspirants recorded their third successive draw yesterday against a lowly Agrani Bank Sports Club.

The popular outfit appeared to have completely lost its way in a hazy maze as its star booters failed to score a single goal against the minnows in one of the two Senior Division matches played at the Mirpur Stadium.

Abahani, the Federation Cup champions who were wandering in the wilderness with two draws in two matches against Victoria Sporting Club and Arambagh Krira Sangha, tried in vain to break the deadlock in their third Pioneer Division match.

Although they went all-out right from the word go, neither the lady luck nor their goal-blind forwards did any good to avoid the draw. The result however marked the longest drawn streak of the sky-blues in their 25-year history of football.

In 1975, Abahani began their league campaign as defending champions and lost their opening match by a solitary goal to then promotes Brothers Union while in 1985, they got off with two successive draws against PWD and Victoria SC.

Although the Dhanmondi boaters, who missed the service of their injured skipper Zakir, dominated the whole proceedings, they failed to come up with a winner due to lack of cohe-

siveness. They manned their fort well, ruled over the mid-field but all of their spirit and effort seemed to have dried out once their forwards enter the opponents' box.

Several times Abahani came closer to victory but failed to capitalise those chances. In the 17th minute, Mamun Joarder exerted all his strength but skill on an Amin Rana minus and eventually sent the ball miles over the bar from close. And Munna's powerful 30-yard shot from the midfield missed the cross piece by few inches after seven minutes, much to the dismay of the Abahani supporters.

Besides, Agrani Bank defender Raju denied Abahani of a lead twice in the first half. In the 20th minute, the short defender cleared a Rana header from the goal line while after 19 minutes, he sent a Rana placing shot for a corner standing on the same place.

Not only the poor finishing, the woodwork also stood in Abahani's way to take away full points in the match. Substitute Sourav Raju's volley from a goalmouth melee was rebounded off the cross piece in the 51st minute while in the 73rd minute Tipu's header from a Barun cross rocked the same opponent in vain.

With yesterday's draw, Abahani earned three points from as many matches while the bankers, whose seven players received yellow cards for rough tackles, edged past their much-flattered counterparts by raising their collection to four points from three matches.

Yellow cards: Bijan, Bishu, Atique, Narayan, Johny, Rana, Kanchan (Agrani Bank) and Munna (Abahani).

TEAMS

ABAHANI KC: Biplab, Partho, Kingshuk, Munna, Masum (Ali Mansoor), Barun, Mamun Joarder (Raju), Jahangir, Sentu, Anatoly (Tipu) and Amin Rana.

AGRANI BANK: Bijan, Rafique, Bishu, Atique, Raj, Narayan, Mangal (Johny), Alamgir, Kabir (Ekram Rana), Masood Rana and Kanchan.

Referee: Nazir Hossain.

B BOYS BEAT POLICE AC

In the other match of the day, Bangladesh Boys Club registered a solitary goal victory over Police Athletics Club to earn full points in the First Division league.

In a dull affair, Bangladesh Boys Club forward Rana struck the match-winner shooting the ball home from a Tutul pass in the very third minute.

It was the first win for the Gopibagh outfit in three matches which raised their points tally to four points. On the other hand, Police remained glued to their previous collection of two points on completion of their third match.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier Division
Muktijoddha Sangsad KC vs Farashganj SC (4:30 pm)
First Division
Badda Jagarani vs Dhanmondi Club (2:30 pm)

Kalabagan keep cruising

Sports Reporter



Title aspirants Kalabagan Krira Chakra recorded their second successive win in the 18th Damal Smi-

rti cricket tournament when they handed a six-wicket defeat to Gulshan Youth Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The last year's semifinalists, chasing a paltry Gulshan total of 101 in the stipulated 50 overs, reached 105 for four in 29.4 overs for yet another cakewalk win after their massive 127-run drubbing of Bangladesh Boys in their Group D opener on Saturday.

Gulshan Youth, who won the toss and opted to bat first, only invited a disaster when they were bundled out in 38.2 overs in the face of some fired-up bowling from Kalabagan new-ball bowler Talha and left-arm spinner Enamul Haq Moni who evenly shared six wickets among them.

Talha, who ripped through the top order, finished with three for only 11 runs in his six overs. While Moni gave away 26 runs for his three scalps. The slow-left armer in his mop-up

operation on the fragile Gulshan lower-order was ably supported by off-spinner Jewel.

BRIEF SCORES

GULSHAN YOUTH: 101 all out in 38.2 overs (Asad 32, Sajal 28 n.o; Talha 3/11, Moni 3/28, Mona 2/24)
KALABAGAN KC: 105 for four in 29.4 overs (Liton 35, Sher Ali 28, Shipon 24; Jewel 2/25)
Result: Kalabagan won by six wickets.

LALMATIA CLUB: 229 all out in 48.2 overs (Redwan 46, Nayan 41, Ripon 36; Tariqul 3/46, Liton 2/33)
SADHARAN BIMA: 157 all out in 45.3 overs (Mintu 54, Shaiful 27, Mizan 26, Fazlu 3/40, Nayan 2/38)
Result: Lalmatia won by 72 runs.

GMCC: 178 all out in 46.1 overs (Ripon 30, Extras 33, Russell 28; Firoz 4/25, Sajib 2/28)
WARI CLUB: 129 all out in 38.4 overs (Shaker 46, Adil 16, Extras 30, Bablu 3/20)
Result: GMCC won by 49 runs.

Meanwhile, at the Dhanmondi Club ground, Lalmatia Club defeated Sadharan Bima by a flattering margin of 72 runs.

Put into bat in the morning, Lalmatia piled up a huge total of 229 before being all out in 48.2 overs with one-down Ridwan scoring highest 46.

Opener Ripon chipped in with 36 while middle-order bat Nayan hammered 41 off 55 balls.

In reply, Sadharan Bima, facing an uphill task of scoring more than 4.5 runs per over, were shot out for 157 in 45.3 overs. Thanks to a defiant 54 from Mintu, Sadharan Bima, who were at one stage reeling at 118 for nine, managed to avoid a humiliating defeat.

Twenty-year-old Jiang's time eclipsed the previous record of 14 minutes, 31.27 seconds set Tuesday by Dong Yanmei, another Ma portage.

Hossain Mona, who finished with two for 24 in his 9.2 overs. After the good work of the bowlers, Kalabagan were off to a flying start with their openers Sajjad Ahmed Shipon and Harun-ur Rashid Liton putting on 60 runs in 13.1 overs before the later was run out for 35 off 44 balls.

Shipon scored 24 before being bowled by Jewel, who also captured the wicket of Pakistani Sher Ali (28) to return as the most successful Gulshan bowler with two for 25 runs in his 10 overs.

Away at the Mirpur City Club ground, GMCC recorded their first win at the expense of Wari Club.

Sent into bat, GMCC scored 178 before being all out in 46.1 overs and then went on to skittle Wari out for 129 in 38.4 overs to post a 49-run victory.

But it was Mr Sundries, which played highest contribution to the GMCC total with 33 followed by a captain's knock of 30 from Ripon.

Fazlur Rahman of Wari captured four wickets for 25 runs in his 10 allotted overs.

They lifted their side from 24 for two by adding 103 for the third wicket before the last eight wickets tumbled for 69.

Bichel, who is pressing for a recall to Australia's Test side, strengthened his claims by taking the last five wickets to fall.

BRIEF SCORES
NEW ZEALAND: 196 all out (Pocock 63, Fleming 57; Bichel 5/31)
QUEENSLAND: (Love 201 retired hurt, Maher 114; Vettori 3/101)

Graf to play at Frankfurt

BONN, Oct 23: Steffi Graf has confirmed her entry for the inaugural Masters of Champions tournament in Frankfurt in December, organiser Ralf Moehwald said today, reports Reuter.

Moehwald said the former world number one, recovering from a knee operation, had told him she would definitely participate in the five-day event starting on December 3.

Graf, expected to appear in a charity exhibition match in Baltimore, Maryland, next month, should use the Frankfurt tournament to prepare for her return to competitive tennis at the Australian Open in January.

Akram, Suzuki face to face

KARACHI, Oct 23: Pakistan cricket star Wasim Akram is demanding 50 million rupees (1.25 million dollars) from leading car firm Pak-Suzuki, accusing it of illegally using his name in publicity, reports AFP.

Akram's lawyer, Kamaluddin Azfar, said the pace bowler had been shocked to see the company promoting its name using pictures of Akram bowling.

Illegal life-size pictures of Akram have been put in show rooms of the car firm.

The 30-year-old cricket star, who had been off for five months due to a shoulder injury, earns a fortune modelling for several companies.

Azfar said if the company did not pay in seven days he would file a suit. The company did not comment.

Warwickshire confirm Lara's coming

BIRMINGHAM, Oct 23: Warwickshire said Thursday they have received confirmation from record-breaking West Indies batsman Brian Lara that he intends to play for the English county cricket club next season, reports AP.

Chief executive Dennis Amis secured the necessary clarification after speaking to Lara as he travelled with the West Indies team to Pakistan.

The Sunday League champions reacted quickly to kill suggestions that Lara was having second thoughts about a one-year contract.

"Brian was always coming to us and he said he doesn't know where the rumours came from," Amis said. "We hope to get a contract to him in the next month."

Lara, who played for Warwickshire in their double-winning season in 1994, eased the county's concern that the West Indies domestic programme could intrude into the English season.

"Brian indicated that he expects to be available to us at the end of April," Amis said. "The West Indies board has yet to publish its fixture list and Warwickshire may take the precaution of inserting a get-out clause in the contract with Lara."

Love's double century

CAIRNS, Australia, Oct 23 (Reuters, AP): Queensland opening batsman Martin Love scored a double century against New Zealand's likely Test match attack on the second day of the Kiwis four-day Australian tour opener Thursday.

New Zealand were dismissed in their first innings for 196 and Queensland were 482-6 at stumps.

Love retired hurt for 201, while Jimmy Maher also scored a century, adding 114. Queensland lost three wickets for 12 runs after Love departed but had the match well under control after his 296-run second-wicket stand with Maher.

It was Love's second century in a row after scoring 129 against New South Wales in Sheffield Shield competition last week. He has been sidelined for 10 months because of a knee injury.

Teenage spin bowler Daniel Vettori took three for 101 off 29 overs.

New Zealand will play three Test matches against Australia starting in Brisbane on November 7.

Earlier on Wednesday New Zealand endured a miserable start to their tour of Australia as Queensland's Test paceman Andy Bichel captured five wickets on his comeback after injury.

Bichel took five for 31 in 15.3 overs in his first game since being forced to return home early from the Ashes tour of England during the northern summer because of a back injury.

New Zealand opener Blair Pocock survived two dropped catches to score 63 and captain Stephen Fleming stroked a fluent 57.

They lifted their side from 24 for two by adding 103 for the third wicket before the last eight wickets tumbled for 69.

Bichel, who is pressing for a recall to Australia's Test side, strengthened his claims by taking the last five wickets to fall.

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Final Test begins today



FAISALABAD, Pakistan, Oct 23: Pakistan and South Africa are looking to the heavens for untripped cricket in the series-deciding third and final cricket Test starting here on Friday, reports AFP.

Incessant rains have marred the first two Tests of the series leaving the result on the Faisalabad Test.

The series opener at Rawalpindi had just two innings completed while the second Test at Sheikhupura lost three and a half days due to heavy rain and the chaos it brought.



SAEED ANWAR

Both sides are pinning their hopes on the final Test in this industrial town while clouds hovered around without bringing rain.

"We really look for positive cricket at Faisalabad and hope that there will be a decision in the final Test. Fans have not been able to watch exciting cricket between the two top teams," Pakistan coach Haroon Rasheed said.

South African captain Hansie Cronje and coach Bob Woolmer were confident their team will enter with an edge after scoring 402 runs against Pakistan at Sheikhupura.

Today the two teams practised at the Iqbal Stadium pitch which has some grass. But it remains to be seen if it helps seamers.

Pakistan included local pacer Shahid Nazir in the squad with Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis in the hope the pitch may help the seamers. In that case Pakistan will play with one spinner.

Pakistan also recalled opener Aamir Sohail who will be playing his first Test after remaining out of the team for almost one year.

Faisalabad has a history of tame draws. Former Australian great fast bowler Dennis Lillee in 1979-80 had termed the Faisalabad pitch "a graveyard for fast bowlers."

A total of nine Tests out of 18 played here have remained resultless, with Pakistan winning six and losing three.

TEAMS

PAKISTAN (from): Saeed Anwar (captain), Aamir Sohail, Ali Naqvi, Ijaz Ahmed, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Wasim, Moin Khan, Wasim Akram, Azhar Mahmood, Waqar Younis, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmed and Shahid Nazir.

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Hansie Cronje (captain), Gary Kirsten, Adam Bacher, Daryll Cullinan, Brian McMillan, Jonty Rhodes, Lance Klusener, Shaun Pollock, Dave Richardson, Mark Boucher, Allan Donald, Pat Symcox and Paul Adams.



HANSIE CRONJE

MSC move into Round Two

Sports Reporter



Mohammedan Sporting Club joined their arch-rivals and defending champions Abahani Krira

Chakra in the second round of the 18th Damal Smriti cricket tournament when they defeated Surjo Tarun by 25 runs at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In yet another low-scoring affair at the big bowl, Mohammedans, defending a not-so-impressive total of 166 all out in 48.1 overs, backed by some excellent fielding by their skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul, went on to skittle a new-look Surjo Tarun out for 141 with nine balls to spare in the 50-over-a-side match to post their second successive win and secure a place in the six-team second phase of the season's curtain-raiser as Group C champions.

Although Mohammedans gained full strength in their second match with the inclusion of their national quartet of Aminul Islam Bulbul, Minarul Abedin, Nannu and Hasibul Hossain Shanto the day, however, belonged to rookie opener Mehrah Hossain Opee, who scored a brilliant half-century.

The young right-hander, who held the innings together, batted his way to a watchful 78 before becoming the eighth batsman out in the Mohammedan innings. Opee's confident 185-minute vigil at the crease, which included five hits across the rope, will certainly strengthen his claim in the national team.

The youngster, who has a good cricketing sense and is also an agile fielder, went through a very rough patch during the last couple of years after emerging in the domestic cricket as an extremely talented batsman at a tender age of sixteen.

Opee, now an 18-year-old youth, kept his cool before a never-ending procession of his comrades at the other end and was eventually out in the 46th over when a direct throw from Surjo Tarun skipper, Javed Omar Belin Golla beat his pace while taking cheeky single.

However, in their chase, Javed fought a lone battle with the willow to upset the Mohammedan appeacraft with a characteristic 33. With the dapper right-hander playing confidently along with former national opener Nurul Abedin Nobil, Surjo Tarun were at one stage cruising with 51 for no loss in 14 overs.

Surjo Tarun suffered a setback in the 16th over when national left-arm spinner Mohammed Rafique took two wickets in successive deliveries.

He dismissed Nobel for 20 and then trapped one-down Rehan in front of the wicket to put a spoke into Tarun's wheel.

But the real rot started when former national left-arm seamer Jahangir Talukder Dulu, returning in his second spell, took the prize scalp of a doughty Javed, whose 77-ball knock

came to a sad end when a low and devilish delivery got himself awkwardly in front of the wicket.

The departure of Javed not only brought Mohammedans on the driving seat, but also trimmed Surjo Tarun's chances of an upset win. Although their Pakistani left-hander Sabur Khan remained unbeaten on 25, he did not find any wily one in his colleagues to carry on the battle. Left-arm seamer Anisur Rahman however tried to raise a ray of hopes for Tarun swing his willow wildly.

As he, coming into bat at number nine with Surjo Tarun reeling at 116 for seven, gave Mohammedans a late scare with a whirlwind 11-ball 17 which included a massive sixer off Mohammad Rafique. But when Sumon had the former national opening bowler caught by Nannu at cover, it was all over for Surjo Tarun.

Sumon, an underrated yet very effective left-arm seamer in the Mohammedan bowling army, finished with two for 28 in his 10 economic overs while an ever-energetic Jahangir Talukder Dulu, who joined Mohammedans this year after having a successful stint with Abahani, gave away only 23 runs for his two scalps.

Besides, skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul with his off-spinners captured one wicket for 23 runs in his ten nippy overs.

But Hasibul Hossain Shanto, the tall Mohammedan and national new-ball bowler, had a disappointing day with the cherry, conceding 20 runs in his three erratic overs.

On the other hand, Hathurasinghe, the big Sri Lankan signing of the popular Motijheel outfit, once again failed to live up to the expectations. The bald Lankan Test discard scored a duck following his unimpressive

23 in the first match. And with the cherry he gave away 19 runs in his 5.3 overs for the wicket of Surjo Tarun's number eleven batsman Khairuzzaman Babu, who was dismissed in a bizarre fashion. Babu drove the ball hard, but was only to be caught by Hathurasinghe as the ball ballooned in the air after hitting Sabur, who was standing at the non-striker's end.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Biman vs Dhaka Wanderers Club (DCS)
Brothers Union vs Ajax SC (DS)
GMCC vs Dhanmondi Club (CCG)

Dissanayake sets a deadline

COLOMBO, Oct 23: Sri Lanka, the world champions, has given its cricket board two weeks to prove allegations that a top official was involved in bribery scandal or face mass dismissal, officials said today, reports AFP.

The Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka was rocked by scandal when board president Upali Dharmadasa charged Tuesday that a top official demanded a bribe from an international television company.

Sports Minister SB Dissanayake gave Dharmadasa two weeks to prove the allegation or else he will dissolve the entire board, the chief executive of the cricket board Dharmika Ranatunga said.

He said the minister was willing to meet all expenses of Dharmadasa to obtain documentary evidence to back his claim that another office bearer demanded 100,000 dollars to award television rights for five years.

Dissanayake said he was "extremely unhappy" with the work of the board because of infighting among officials ahead of elections due by March.

Dharmadasa's election as cricket chief in March last year was marred by allegations of vote-buying when the former board president Ana Punnihewa was ousted despite Sri Lanka having won the World Cup in the same month.

BAF hockey

JESSORE, Oct 23: The Air Headquarters Unit clinched the BAF inter-base hockey championship title which concluded at the Base Matur Rahman today, reports BSS.

They defeated Base Zahurul Haque by 4-1 goals in the final. They led the first half 2-0.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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