

World Youth Cup Skipper's heroics powers India

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 25 (AP/AFP): Captain Amit Pagnis rescued India with a near century and led them to a 51-run, rain-affected upset of England at the under-19 cricket World Cup.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh — in their second upset of the tournament — won the plate final by beating the West Indies by six wickets.

India's victory leaves Australia atop the Basil D'Oliveira Pool with two victories in two matches. England and India are 1-1 while Pakistan are 0-2. A victory by Australia over England on Tuesday will send the Aussies to the final.

However, a victory by England and another by India over Pakistan will set up a three-way tie atop the group and leave the decision to run-rate, which presently favours Australia.

India were muddling along at 65 for three before Pagnis entered and stroked one six and five fours for 99 off 113 balls, leading India to 252 before rain began to fall.

England's target was reduced to 229 from 45 overs then to 204 from 39 overs.

Bur Virender Sehwag took three wickets for 32 runs in 5.5 overs and India bowled out England for 152 in 33.5 overs.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Nabin Sangha and Kathalagan CC won their respective matches in the Acme Second Division cricket league played at different venues of the city yesterday.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Nabin Sangha routed Indira Road KC by six wickets.

Set to eclipse a modest Indira Road total of 145 for four, Nabin Sangha put their opponents bowling to the sword by reaching the victory mark in just 8.4 overs out of the stipulated 30.

Away at the T&T ground, a hurricane 95 from opener Sadi saw Kathalagan cruise to a five-wicket win against Eskaton Sabuj Sangha.

Opting to bat Eskaton amassed a competitive 223 for three in 30 overs, largely due to a blistering 39-ball 87 from skipper Nurul Hadi.

Hadi clubbed ten massive sixes and four boundaries during his aggressive knock.

In reply, Sadi slammed seventeen fours and a six in his 60-ball vigil at the crease to guide Kathalagan through with three deliveries to spare.

Zia smriti cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 25: Boppara Cricket Club defeated Friends Circle Club by six wickets today in the second round of the 10th Shaheed Zia Smriti cricket tournament at the Rajshahi Government College playground.

Winning the toss, Friends Circle batted first and collected 142 runs for eight wickets in the stipulated 25 overs.

Hitu and Utan bagged 36 and 30 runs.

In reply, Boppara made 146 runs for four wickets in 22.2 overs.

Boppara and Azam collected 51 and 35 runs for the winners.

In the second match of the day at the same venue, Shaheb Bazar Sporting Club defeated Success Sporting Club by 73 runs.

Winning the toss, Shaheb Bazar batted first and made 202 runs for five wickets in the stipulated 25 overs.

Rozel, Jony and Jafar made 64, 36 and 35 runs respectively.

In reply, Success Sporting failed to reach the target and collected only 129 runs for eight wickets in the stipulated 25 overs.

Sazal and Sumit scored 45 and 48 runs respectively for the loser.

Rozel of Shaheb Bazar was selected player-of-the-match.

TODAY'S MATCHES

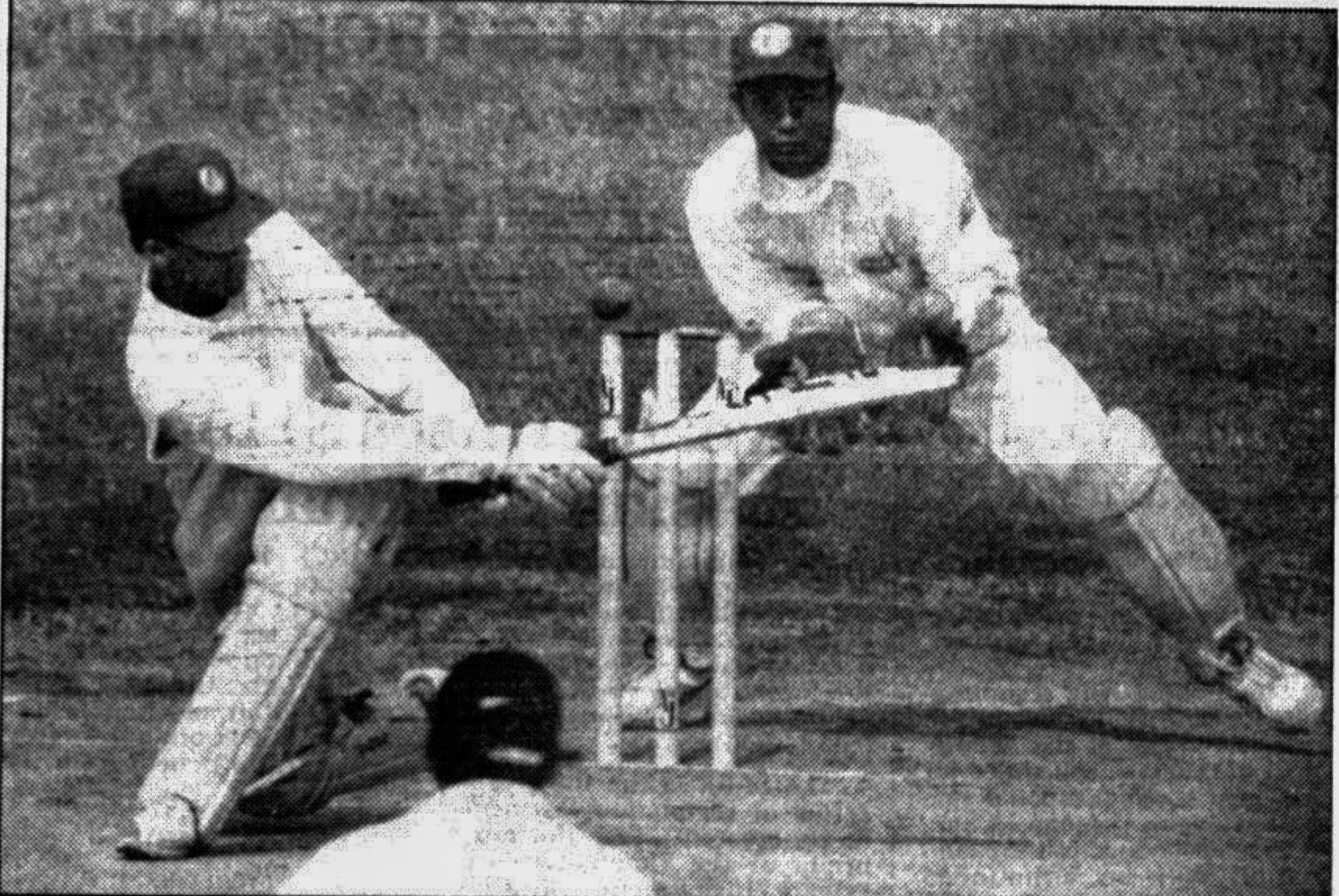
Bijoy Dibash Cricket (First semifinal)

Mohammedan vs Kalabagan (NS)

20th national hockey championship (Final)

Dhaka DSA vs Dhaka University

Venue: National Hockey Stadium (2pm)



Abahani's national wicketkeeper Khaled Masood's eyes light up as Biman's Hasanuzzaman misses an attempted sweep during yesterday's Bijoy Dibash cricket quarterfinal fixture at the Dhaka Stadium.

— Star photo

Abahani bring Biman down

Brothers thrive on twin tons

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

BIMAN: 164 for 9 wickets in 50 overs (Hasanuzzaman 41, Mofizur 34; Saifullah 3/20, Colonel 2/33)

ABAHANI KC: 165 for 4 wickets in 44 overs (Azam 64, Imran Hamid 35, K Masud 25; Ziaur Rashid 2/44)

Result: Abahani won by 6 wickets.

BROTHERS UNION: 283 for one wicket in 50 overs (Shahriar Hossain 109 not out, Jahangir Alam 120 not out, Wahidul 24)

SURJO TARUN: 151 all out in 28 overs (Javed 49, Rashed 36; Towhid 3/39, Reaz 2/7, Saifuddin 2/24)

Result: Brothers won by 132 runs.

Shahriar scored an unbeaten 109 and discarded national wicketkeeper-cum-opener

Jahangir Alam hammered a magnificent 120 not out to help Brothers amass 283, the highest score in an innings of the season so far. Besides, the undefeated 233-run stand for the second wicket between Shahriar and Jahangir was also a record of sorts in annals of domestic cricket.

Incidentally, it was Shahriar's second century against Surjo Tarun this year. The national opener hammered nine fours in his 146-ball rule at the crease. But it was an experienced Jahangir, the more aggressive of the two, who stole the limelight with a flawless 123-ball 120 inclusive of 11 hits across the rope.

Although Surjo Tarun with their limited local resources tried their best to make a match with giants like Brothers, title-hopefuls Biman were surprisingly subdued while playing against Abahani.

After winning the toss and electing to use the wicket and the national airline outfit lost nine wickets to garner only 164 on a wicket which only a week ago produced 630 runs in the third and deciding final of the tri-nation Independence Cup tournament between India and Pakistan.

Abahani, in their chase, faced virtually no opposition to rattle up the victory, scoring 156 for the loss of four wickets and with six overs to spare.

Left-handed opener Imran Hamid gave the popular Dhan-

moni outfit a flying start with an aggressive 28-ball 35 studded with five firmly hits to the fence and a massive sixer against Biman skipper Ziaur Rashid over mid-wicket.

With the dapper southpaw and his more orthodox opening partner Azam Iqbal in full cry, especially in the first 15 overs, the Abahani 50 came in only eight overs.

Asam scored a fine 64 off 99 balls laced with eight fours. Wicketkeeper Khaled Masud after being pushed up in the batting order, chipped in with 25 while skipper Akram Khan remained unbeaten on 13 when Abahani reached home in 44 overs.

Earlier, the Biman total was built around a defiant 41 from middle-order bat Hasanuzzaman. The young right-hander, who showed his consistency with the bat in Bangladesh's disastrous tour of New Zealand recently, once again kept his cool to prove his worth in a pressure situation. Against a never-ending fall of wickets at the other end, the youngster, who was surprisingly ignored for the Independence Cup playing eleven, held the innings together, guiding Biman to some respectability.

Biman were at one stage reeling at 61 for five. But Hasan and Mofizur Rahaman dug deep to do the repair works, putting on 62 runs for the sixth wicket. Mofizur whacked a couple of sixes and a four in his breezy 29-ball 34.

For Abahani, slow-left armer Saifullah Khan Genu returned as the wrecker-in-chief with three for 20 in his 10 overs while rookie right-arm seamer Colonel, who made the early inroads by dismissing discarded national opener Athar Ali Khan, caught at square-leg after scoring three, finished with two for 33 runs in his nine overs.

In reply, Javed and Rashed were shot out in 28 overs for 151 while chasing constantly increasing run-rate, which was 5.66 at the onset. Opener Javed Omar Bellum with a breezy 40 balls and Rashed, who hammered a 33-ball 36, tried to

get the rocking Tarun innings into the groove. But once the two fell in quick succession, leaving their side at 94 in 14.4 overs, the hopes for the mediocre Premier league outfit was well and truly over.

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Sport

Nat'l hockey

DU, Dhaka in final

Dhaka University and Dhaka DSA yesterday moved into final of the 20th national championship, reports UNB.

Dhaka defeated Bangladesh army 5-4 in a tie-breaker as the first semifinal match ended in a goalless draw in the stipulated time at the National Hockey Stadium.

In the other semi, Dhaka University eliminated Faridpur 2-1 at the same venue. The winners led the first half 2-0.

Singer award for U-20 cricketers

Sports Reporter

Singer Bangladesh, a multinational company, has announced to present washing machines to the members of the Bangladesh under-20 cricket team as a mark of its success in the World Youth Cup.

Attributing the success of the Bangladeshi cricketers, who lifted the Plate title of the second World Youth championship in South Africa defeating the mighty West Indies by six wickets in the final on Saturday, Singer termed the triumph as a significant achievement of the emerging nation in international arena.

"They have placed Bangladesh on the world map," read a press release issued by the company yesterday.

Beating favourites Caribbeans comprehensively, the Bangladesh colts proved that their 3-wicket win over another Test-playing nation, England, on January 15 was no fluke.

In the first phase, Bangladesh finished at par with New Zealand and England but failed to qualify for the 8-team Super league. New Zealand and England moved into the next round on better run rate. Eight teams who could not qualify for the Super league featured in the consolatory Plate final.

Khulna cricket

KHULNA, Jan 25: Sabuj Bangla defeated Padma Lotus KC by six wickets in the Second Division cricket league match played at the Khulna Stadium today, reports BSS.

Padma winning the toss decided to bat and scored 99 runs losing all wickets.

In reply Sabuj Bangla reached their winning target for four wickets.

In the second match of the day Tiger Boys Club defeated Musalmanpara Juba Sangha by 127 runs at the Khulna Circuit House ground.

Tiger Boys winning the toss batted first and scored 205 runs for the loss of eight wickets in the stipulated 30 overs.

In reply Musalmanpara were dismissed for only 78 runs.

In the third match Krishna Chandra Institute defeated Jogiopole KC by 85 runs. Krishna scored 135 runs for nine wickets.

Serena and Venus Williams approached officials of the men's ATP Tour to line up one-set challenges against male players ranked in the 200s.

In the fourth match Suchana KC defeated Young Suchana KC by 102 runs. Suchana scored 226 for eight wickets.

In reply Young Suchana were all out for 124 runs.

Crazy fan denied access

MELBOURNE, Jan 25: Australian Open organisers have banned a Martina Hingis fan who sends the 17-year-old world number one unwanted flowers and gifts, a newspaper report said today, reports AFP.

The Melbourne Herald Sun said security guards were under orders to stop the unnamed fan from entering Melbourne Park, where the Swiss tennis star is number one seed for the first Grand Slam event of the year.

The newspaper said the fan's identity was sent to Melbourne "from overseas tournaments, where he has made a nuisance of himself in his pursuit of the Swiss star."

Security at nearly all tennis events was stepped up after the 1993 stabbing of former number one Monica Seles by a Steffi Graf fan at a Hamburg tournament.

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