

Sport

AB Bank TT
Uttara, Engineers
in super league

Uttara Club finished their first phase engagements atop the table with full 10 points in the AB Bank Senior Division table tennis league while Engineers Club topped the First Division league table with full 12 points, reports UNB.

Three top finishers from both the Senior and First Division leagues will take part in the super league.

Swamibagh TTS (8 pts) and Angels Club (4) finished second and third respectively in the Senior Division while Dilkusha Club (10) and Wari Junior (8) finished second and third respectively in the First Division league.

In the day's senior league, Swamibagh Boys, Bangladesh Biman and Armanitola JS won their respective matches at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium.

Swamibagh Boys defeated Angels Club in straight sets as Anup beat Milu 21-11, 21-8, Babu outplayed Nawasd 21-15, 21-13 and Jewel overpowered Shahin 21-16, 21-19.

Biman blanked Armanitola Junior 3-0 with Hemlet defeating Abid 21-6, 21-14, Mahbub beating Milton 21-10, 21-13 and Kachi outplaying Saiful 21-10, 21-6.

Armanitola JS overpowered Biman Junior 3-1 as Mustafa beat Pappa 26-21, 21-13, 21-10, Tuhin outplayed Edison 11-21, 23-21, 21-17, Goutam of Biman Junior got walkover, and Mustafa defeated Edison 21-14, 21-14.

In the First Division there were wins for Dilkusha SC, Engineers Club, Wari Junior and Araka Club.

Dilkusha SC outplayed Mansur SC in straight sets as Parag crushed Mosharaf 21-11, 21-3, Tirtha beat Mamun 21-21, 21-8 and Mehedi defeated Arif 21-2, 21-8.

Engineers Club dumped Mohammad Youth 3-0 with Munna defeating Kamrul 21-8, 21-11, Ritu beating Jewel 22-20, 19-21, 21-17, and Ali outplaying Kallol 21-10, 21-14.

Wari Junior overpowered Mohammadpur Boys 3-1. Munna defeated Kajal 21-10, 20-22, 21-17, Musabir beat Rafiq 21-12, 21-19, Ahsiq outplayed Parag 21-17, 21-17 and Musabir defeated Kajal 21-17, 21-23, 21-12.

Araka edged past Angels Club 3-2. Ahsiq lost to Shawkat 22-20, 21-10; Mansur defeated Sabuj 21-13, 21-13; Nasir beat Bulbul 21-15, 25-23; Mansur lost to Shawkat 15-21, 21-10, 21-16, and Ahsiq outplayed Sabuj 21-16, 21-14.

**Athletics Canada
keeps Ben
in limbo**

TORONTO, Canada, Dec 7: Canada's athletics federation has refused to reinstate disgraced sprinter Ben Johnson, disqualified for doping after winning the 100 metres at the Seoul Olympics, the Toronto Sun reported Sunday, reports AFP.

The paper said Athletics Canada, which examined the athlete's request at its general assembly on Saturday at Ottawa, did not see a reason to welcome him back into the fold until all possible appeal avenues had been exhausted.

"We don't want to do anything above and beyond what we think is the best system in the world, one that's fair and equitable to all athletes," said Athletics Canada president Rolf Lund.

Johnson, 36, has not competed professionally since the IAAF handed him a life suspension in 1993 after he returned two positive tests — first when being stripped of his 1998 gold medal and then five years later after a meeting in Montreal.

Last September, Ontario's appeal court rejected a bid for the lifting of his life ban.

Malik imposes himself



LAHORE, Pakistan, Dec 7 (Reuters/Internet): Zimbabwe lost to the Lahore City Cricket Association by one wicket in a thrilling finish to the four-day game on Monday, thanks to a magnificent 149 by skipper Salim Malik.

The former Pakistan captain, omitted from the squad of 18 for the second test starting on Thursday, gave a fine exhibition of his immense experience and skill as the local side accepted a challenging task of chasing 347 for victory in 75 overs.

The win was achieved with five balls to spare when Zaheer Khan, who made 24 not out, steered paceman Neil Johnson through third man in fading light.

Zimbabwe, who won the first test against Pakistan, batted for 20 minutes in the morning before declaring their second innings closed at 239 for six, adding 28 runs in six overs. They made 394 in their first knock.

LCCA conceded a lead of 107 by declaring their first innings at 287 for nine. Malik, under judicial investigations on allegations of match-fixing and betting, set out the target by opening the innings.

With Imran Farhat, who made 33, he scored 92 for the first wicket and then was joined by Babar Zaman (23) in a second-wicket partnership of 70.

Batting with aplomb and displaying a variety of shots, Malik and Shahid Anwar (76) further boosted the chances with their third-wicket partnership of 95 in 101 balls.

Malik, who struck 20 fours

and a six in an innings spanning 166 balls and 212 minutes, was third out at 257 at the stroke of tea when he was clean-bowled by Murray Goodwin.

Anwar was seventh out at 325, falling to off-spinner Andy Whittall after hitting six fours and a six.

Whittall, who finished with three for 56, revived his side

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