

## Tarun trounce Abahani in a practice match

Sports Reporter

### Brief Scores

**Abahani Krira Chakra:** 184 for 9 in 40 overs (Mohammad Hussain 35, Amir Wasim 30, Biplab 30; Anis 2/36, Minhazul 2/28, Suja 2/26, Enamul 2/28)  
**Surjo Tarun Club:** 190 for 5 in 40 overs (Enamul 43 n.o., Parvez 37, K Masood 26, Khokon 25)  
**Result:** Surjo Tarun Club won by 5 wickets.

A magnificent all-round performance by Enamul Hoque guided Surjo Tarun Club to a five-wicket win over Abahani Krira Chakra in a practice match at the Dhanomidi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Chasing a not-so-impressive Abahani total of 184 in 40 overs, Enamul, who took two wickets in the first session, hammered an unbeaten 43 to help his side reach 190.

Enamul apart, opener Parvez chipped in with 37 while Khokon added 26.

Earlier, batting first, Abahani were restricted to 184 for nine, with Pakistani all-rounder Hussain notching highest 35. His compatriot Amir Wasim and Biplab who scored 30 runs each.

Left-arm seamer Anisur Rahman, skipper Minhazul Abedin and left arm twerker Enamul Hoque evenly shared six wickets.

### ITF junior tennis

**RAJSHAHI, Feb 14:** The seven day ITF International Junior (Under-18) Tennis Championship began at the local tennis complex today, reports UNB.

Commissioner of Rajshahi Division Khan Shabbuddin inaugurated the junior meet.

Bangladesh's Ashek Mahmud Mridha earned a place in the main draw after winning his qualifying match.

Vivian Chhetri, Pratim Parekh and Nipun Gupta of India, Soren Spanner (Denmark), Myung J Cho (South Korea), Zony Kim (South Korea) and Lucet Ratan (Romania) also qualified.

In the day's only girls' main draw match, Rosekalin of Latvia beat Rani Chhetri 6-0, 6-4.

A total of 72 boys and girls from 15 countries are taking part in the competition.

### Inter-varsity cricket

## Big wins for RU, DU

From RU Correspondent **RAJSHAHI, Feb 14:** Rajshahi and Dhaka won their opening matches in the inter-university cricket competition here today.

Hosts Rajshahi University crushed Bangladesh Agricultural University by eight wickets at the University Stadium.

Agricultural University were bundled out for 97 in 38 overs after batting first.

In reply, Rajshahi University easily reached their target for the loss of only two wickets in 23.4 overs.

Masud Rana of Rajshahi was adjudged man-of-the-match for his four-wicket haul.

At the Shaheed Habibur Rahman Hall ground, Dhaka University recorded a thumping 145-run victory over Islamic University.

Opting to bat, Dhaka University made a mammoth 239 for five in the stipulated 40 overs. Sajid Rana hit 83.

In reply, DU were dismissed for 94 in 25.4 overs. Bikash Rana was the wrecker-in-chief with five for 11. He was later declared man-of-the-match.

Earlier, RU Vice Chancellor Prof Sajedur Rahman Khan inaugurated the five day meet of the RU Stadium, RU Pro-VC and convenor of the organising Committee Prof M Wazed Ali was also present.

### Nat'l chess qualifiers

Sports Reporter

International Master Abdullah Al Rakib of Biman, Abu Sultan Shakil of Ansars and Monir Hossain of Leonine Chess Club were sharing the 26th National Chess Championship qualifying round at the end of eighth round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

In this round Rakib drew with Shakil while Monir beat Talbur Rahman Sumon of BUET to raise their tally to 6.5 points each.

Seven players—Syed Mafizur Rahman Iman, Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu, Shawki Hossain Pollab, Aminul Islam, Nasir Ahmed, Dewan Shahidul Amin Tipu and Arifuzzaman Shukder, were at the crowded second spot collecting 6 points each.

The qualifying round will experience an unscheduled break for three days because of the hartal.

The 9th round will be held on Friday at 3 p.m.

## Warwickshire in Donald dilemma

**LONDON, Feb 14** (Internet report): Warwickshire may yet have to look beyond Alan Donald for their overseas player next season following reports that the South African pacer faces a fresh international call-up.

The 33-year-old announced on Monday he will be taking an eight-month break from international cricket.



LIONS START TO PARTY: As a dejected Nigerian player walks off the pitch the Indomitable Lions' celebrations begin. — Internet photo

## Nations' Cup's cheers and tears

**LAGOS, Feb 14** (Reuters/Internet): Cameroon's dramatic win over heavily fancied Nigeria in the African Nations Cup final in Lagos on Sunday characterised a tournament that provided much entertainment and quality football but again raised vexing questions about officiating and organisation.

Sunday's final saw Cameroon return to the winners podium after more than a decade without success in the bi-annual African championship, edging Nigeria 4-3 on penalties after the final ended 2-2 after extra time.

It was a deserved victory for the central African country but remained clouded in controversy after a refereeing error ruled out a vital penalty for Nigeria in the post-match shootout.

A kick from Victor Ikpeba, the Nigerian substitute, hit the underside of the crossbar, crossed the goal line and then bounced back out of the goal and was not awarded.

Television replays afterwards clearly showed the penalty should have stood and that both the Tunisian linesman and referee erred badly at a vitally dramatic juncture in the penalty shootout.

The error took much of the gloss off the spectacle of the final, where Cameroon took an early 2-0 lead only for Nigeria to claw their way back into contention.

And so it was for much of the three-week tournament, co-hosted by Ghana and Nigeria in the first experiment of its kind in world football.

The general chaos of organisation in Nigeria, where security at the imposing Surelere stadium was virtually non-existent and rioting by supporters common place after every game, negated almost all the progress shown by African football on the field.

The image of soldiers firing teargas at bands of youths lurking outside the stadium contrasted sadly with the skills of the likes of Patrick Mboma, Austin Okocha and African soccer's exciting new finds Laurent Mayer of Cameroon and Nigerian teenager Julius Aghahowa.

Nigeria's football association were fined on two separate occasions for pitch invasion and general mayhem at their national stadium during the tournament.

While Ghana proved a gentle venue, the lack of crowd support also contrived to deprive the tournament of much of its shine.

Both Ghana and Nigeria stepped in as hosts of the Nations Cup a year ago when the Confederation of African Football (CAF) took the tournament away from Zimbabwe.

CAF declared the principle of co-hosting a success with secretary-general Mustapha Fahnny saying the "door was now open" for bids from pairs of African countries who would ordinarily not have the resources to host the tournament.

Victory on Tuesday would see Real overtake Barcelona for the first time this season and leave them just four points behind Deportivo.

They then defend a 1-0 lead from their Spanish Cup quarter-final first leg against Merida on Thursday, with a place in the last four within their grasp.

A tough league game at Valencia follows on Sunday, and then the chance to steal a march on Barca at the Bernabeu six days later.

"The league is wide open again," Real's Brazilian defender Roberto Carlos said on Monday.

Results have all gone our way this weekend and we're really going to push for the league now."

Real's chances of making that decisive push over the next week or so will be hit by an injury to Raul Gonzalez, who limped out of Saturday's 1-0 win over Malaga with a thigh problem. He is likely to miss all three games this week and could even be a doubt for the Barcelona clash on February 27.

While Real Madrid have been gaining momentum in the league, Barcelona have been struggling for the form that saw them cruise to the last two league titles.

Their 2-1 defeat at Real Betis on Sunday leaves them five points behind the league leaders and in need of a speedy improvement if they are to complete a hat-trick of titles.

Louis van Gaal's side should at least gain some comfort from the Spanish Cup, though. They take on Second Division Osasuna at the Nou Camp on Wednesday with a 4-0 lead from the first leg and a semifinal place all but secured.

City rivals Espanyol should also complete a comfortable passage through to the last four on Wednesday after their 5-1 hammering of Compostela last week.

Rayo Vallecano and Atletico Madrid, who drew 0-0 in the first leg, will battle for the remaining spot.

### CONCACAF Gold Cup

## Mexico maul T&T

**SAN DIEGO, Feb 14** (Reuters/Internet): Luis Hernandez tied the Mexican national team's career goal-scoring record Sunday in a 4-0 rout of Trinidad and Tobago in Group C play during the Gold Cup soccer tournament at Qualcomm Stadium.

Hernandez's strike in the 52nd minute was his 34th for Mexico, equalling Carlos Hermosillo's mark.

In Group D play, Canada's Carlo Corazzin scored on a bicycle kick in the 57th minute to force a 2-2 draw with Costa Rica. The goal was Corazzin's second of the match.

Hernandez's goal came after Mexican defender Sergio Almaguer cleared Dwight Yorke's shot off the goal line. Francisco Palencia secured the right wing. Hernandez then struck a 15-metre shot that sailed inside the far post.

AS Monaco defender Rafael Marquez gave Mexico a 1-0 lead in the 36th minute.

Marquez volleyed Emilio Mora's left-wing cross from 25 metres inside the left post.

Mexico received an own goal from Shurland David in the 75th minute, and Palencia finished the scoring 10 minutes later with a shot off goalkeeper Clayton Ince's chest.

Trinidad and Tobago's best chance to score came on Yorke's penalty kick in the 89th minute. But goalkeeper Oscar Perez deflected the shot off the underside of the crossbar.

Jesus Arellano's handball inside the penalty area resulted in Yorke's kick. The ensuing red card forces Arellano to miss Mexico's next match against Guatemala on Thursday night in Los Angeles.

Trinidad and Tobago defender Ronald Mauge suffered a severe leg injury in the 62nd minute and was taken to a hospital.

"They say his leg is broken but I haven't seen it," said Trinidad and Tobago coach Bertille St. Clair. "I hope not."

Trinidad and Tobago concludes group play against Guatemala on Tuesday night in Los Angeles.

Canada will play South Korea in group play Tuesday night. The Costa Ricans and South Koreans will face each other

Thursday night. Both matches will take place in Los Angeles.



Action from Gold Cup match between Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago in San Diego on February 13. — Internet photo

## Shoaib, Azhar recalled

**KARACHI, Feb 14** (Internet report): Pakistan made two changes in their squad for the second and third one-day international after Sri Lanka won the opener by 29 runs, says a report of The Dawn.

The second match will be played at Gujranwala on Wednesday while the last match of the series will be contested at Lahore on Saturday.

Pakistan cricket selectors recalled pacerman Shoaib Akhtar and Azhar Mahmood in place of all-rounder Yasir Arafat and left-arm pacer Zahid Saeed.

Shoaib missed the opening match after being banned by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for breach of code of conduct in Australia. Azhar was nursing a hamstring injury.

The dropping of teenager Zahid Saeed looked surprising as he has been left out without getting an opportunity in the first match. The National Bank pacer was adjudged the best bowler of the Youth World Cup in Sri Lanka last month.

**SQUAD**  
 Saeed Anwar (captain), Aamir Sohail, Younis Khan, Yousuf Youhana, Imran Abbas, Faisal Iqbal, Imran Nazir, Moin Khan, Azhar Mahmood, Abdur Razaq, Wasim Akram, Shahid Nazir, Shoaib Akhtar, Saqlain Mushtaq and Shoaib Malik.

## Ebisawa lifts ANZ Grindlays golf title

Sports Reporter

K. Ebisawa won the fifth ANZ Grindlays Bank Cup tournament on Feb 11 (Friday) at the picturesque Bhatary Golf & Country Club in Chittagong.

Maj Gen Abu Kaisar Fazlul Kabir, GOC, 24 Infantry Division and senior vice president of the BGCC teed-off the 77 golfers who took part in the event played on the Stableford format. He later distributed prizes at the club.

The prize-giving ceremony was addressed by Neil Merrick, deputy general manager of ANZ, Mahfuzur Rahman, manager Corporate Finance Services (Chittagong), captain Ahsan Aziz Shelly (ret), captain and chairman tournament committee of BGCC and M.A. Rahim vice-chairman of the tournament committee.

**OTHER RESULTS**  
**Runner-up:** Maj Gen Abu Kaisar Fazlul Kabir; **Second runner-up:** M. Shimojima; **Senior Winner:** M. R. Chowdhury; **Lady Winner:** M. Baba; **Best Front Nine:** M. H. Murad; **Best Back Nine:** K.M. Iqbal; **Longest Drive:** B. Lee; **Nearest to the Pin:** K. Ebisawa.

**NBL v'ball**  
 Titus Club blanked Wari Club by 3-0 sets in the National Bank Premier Division volleyball league yesterday, reports UNB.

In the day's another match, Water Development Board defeated Dilkusha Club by 3-1 sets.

East End Club earned full points beating Nabagarami Sangha by 3-1 sets in the first division league.

## NATIONS CUP SCORERS

**LAGOS, Feb 14** (Reuters/Internet): African Nations Cup scorers after Sunday's final:

5 - Shaun Bartlett (South Africa)  
 4 - Patrick Mboma, Samuel Eto'o (Cameroon)  
 3 - Hossam Hassan (Egypt), Julius Aghahowa, Austin Okocha (Nigeria)

2 - Abdelhafid Tassafat (Algeria), Ousmane Sanou (Burkina Faso), Marc-Vivien Foe (Cameroon), Kwame Ayew (Ghana), Victor Ikpeba, Tijani Bagandiga (Nigeria), Henri Camara (Senegal), Siyabonga Nomvethe (South Africa), Ali Zitouni (Tunisia)

1 - Farid Ghazi, Bilal Dziri, Fawzi Moussouni (Algeria), Alassane Ouedraogo, Ismael Koudou (Burkina Faso), Rymond Kalla (Cameroon), Yasser Radwan, Ahmed Salah Hosni, Hani Ramzi, Abd-Ihalim Ali (Egypt), Chiva Nzigou, Bruno Mbanangwe (Gabon), Otto Addo (Ghana), Tchirresoa Guel, Donald-Olivier Sie, Bonaventure Kalou (Ivory Coast), Salaheddine Bassir (Morocco), Finidi George, Raphael Chukwu (Nigeria), Papa Sarr, Salif Kelta, Abdoulaye Mbaye, Kalidou Fadiga (Senegal), Massamesso Tchanganal, Lantane Ouadja (Togo), Adel Sellimi, Walid Azale, Radhi Jaldi, Khaled Badra (Tunisia), Dennis Ngobe, (South Africa), Dennis Lota, Laughter Chilembi, Kalusha Bwalya (Zambia)

### Premiership

## Liverpool jolt Gunners



**LONDON, Feb 14** (Reuters/Internet): Liverpool beat Arsenal 1-0 with a Titi Camara goal in a pulsating Premier League match yesterday to leapfrog them into third in the table and further dent the hosts' title chances, reports Reuters.

The hard-earned victory puts Gerard Houllier's side on 47 points from 25 matches.

Champion Manchester United lead with 53 points from 24 matches and Leeds United are second, three points behind.

The match at Highbury saw French manager, Houllier pitted against compatriot Arsene Wenger.

Both sides signalled their intentions early on, with thrusting, attacking play.

Arsenal's Thierry Henry went agonisingly close to breaking the deadlock after 12 minutes, thundering in a shot from 25 metres.

The ball moved around in the air and Liverpool goalkeeper Sander Westerveld did well to thrust up an arm and palm it away.

Six minutes later, though, Gerard Houllier's visitors took the lead courtesy of Camara.

The striker raced on to Steven Gerrard's lofted ball over the top to spring Arsenal's off side trap and go on-one with David Seaman, beating the England goalkeeper at his left-hand post.

Arsenal piled on the pressure in the second half but Liverpool's defence held solid.

Henry missed a golden opportunity to level matters when his header shaved the crossbar in the 78th minute and four minutes later Marc Overmars's shot on the turn missed by centimetres.

Patrick Vieira's thumped shot a minute later slapped against the underside of the bar but cannoned back out and was cleared as Liverpool rode their luck.

An Henry shot in the last minute was brilliantly saved by Westerveld and the goalkeeper then comfortably held a Davor Suker header in a thrilling finish as Liverpool held on for victory.

Liverpool defender and man-to-the-match Sami Hyypia said: "We have a gap of two weeks now before we next play, against Manchester United, so can rest — although we are playing so well at the moment maybe we don't want a break."

Houllier said: "I think it was a tremendous team performance and I'm very proud of the team."

The fans both here at Highbury and back at Liverpool must be very happy. I still think Arsenal are a better side than us at the moment but I knew we could beat them."

He added: "It looks as though we are a bit mentally tougher and cooler and that is what you need for the big games. But we keep our feet on the ground."

"We have had a good run but will not be getting carried away."



Arsenal's French defender Gilles Grimandi (L) handles the ball under pressure from Liverpool striker Titi Camara during their Premiership clash at Highbury on February 13. — Internet photo

## European soccer scene



**PRIMERA LIGA**  
 Barcelona suffered another damaging First Division defeat on Sunday, going down 2-1 to a Real Betis side reduced to 10 men following Miroslav Karhan's dismissal for the last 40 minutes.

Betis' first home win over Barca in 18 years left Luis van Gaal's side in third place but

league leaders Deportivo Coruna failed to take full advantage of the Catalans' continuing problems as they lost 1-0 at Numancia.

Deportivo remain top of the table but their lead was cut to three points by Real Zaragoza, who drew 1-1 at home to Rayo Vallecano.

**BUNDESLIGA**  
 First Division leaders Bayern Munich ended neighbours SpVgg Unterhaching's impressive unbeaten home run by scoring twice in the second half through Paulo Sergio and Mehmet Scholl for a 2-0 win on Saturday. Unterhaching had not lost in front of their own fans since August 1998.

Bayern day three points clear of second-placed Bayer Leverkusen who beat VfB Stuttgart 1-0 thanks to a goal by Brazilian-born striker Paulo Rink in the 69th minute.

On Sunday, third-placed Hamburg SV goalkeeper Hans-Joerg Butt saved a penalty and then converted one himself as his side beat 10-man Schalke 04 3-1. Schalke defender Tomasz Waldoch was sent off for a second bookable offence.

**DUTCH FIRST DIVISION**  
 Dutch top scorer Ruud van Nistelrooy scored one and set up two in PSV Eindhoven's 3-0 victory over Heerenveen on Sunday, which kept them seven points clear at the top of the First Division.

Van Nistelrooy took his tally to 27 for the season with Heerenveen reduced to 10 men for the last 20 minutes after Dumitru Mitrita's dismissal for two yellow cards.

PSV top the league with 50 points from 22 matches with second-placed Ajax on 43 points with a game in hand having beaten Willem II 2-0 3-1 on Sunday. Feyenoord, who drew 3-3 with Vitesse Arnhem, are third behind Ajax on goal difference.



Barcelona's Portuguese international Luis Figo (R) and Betis' Iulian Filipescu fight for possession during their Primera Liga encounter on February 13. — Internet photo

### Weekend violence

## FA to take tough action



**LONDON, Feb 14** (Reuters/Internet): Top, English Premier League clubs faced official sanctions on Monday after a weekend of player violence on and off the field.

The incidents included an alleged assault on Chelsea's Italian manager Gianluca Vialli, who was reportedly hit in the players' tunnel after his side's 1-1 home win against Wimbledon.

Newspapers also reported Wimbledon's Norwegian manager Egil Olsen had been knocked to the ground in the melee.

Leeds United and Tottenham Hotspur players piled into each other after a two-footed challenge by Leeds midfielder Lee Bowyer on Stephen Clemence as Leeds won 1-0 on Saturday.

And Manchester United players are in the dock after repeatedly confronting officials during their 3-0 defeat at Newcastle United, a game that also saw United captain Roy Keane sent off for a late tackle after earlier dissent.

Spokesman Steve Double said the FA was waiting for the referees' reports from the

referee Peter Jones to blow his whistle to try and break up the fighting.

The violence comes during a season that has seen referees come in for a deluge of criticism for the high number of yellow and red cards they showed. But dissent among players has reached crisis levels, according to many pundits.

moment when, for Paolo Di Canio and referee Paul Alcock, push turned to shove," declared a columnist in the Guardian newspaper.

Italian Di Canio served a lengthy ban after pushing Alcock to the ground in a 1998 incident at Sheffield Wednesday.

The striker, now at West Ham United, was back in the news again at the weekend after his side clawed their way back to a remarkable 5-4 home win against Bradford City.

Di Canio twice claimed penalties and was denied by referee Neal Barry. The Italian was reportedly so upset that he did not want to start the second half.

He then demanded to be taken off after another penalty claim was denied before eventually scoring from another spot-kick which Frank Lampard had been poised to take.

It claimed players from both sides as well as staff and stewards became involved, forcing