

## Column One

### SPORTS TALK



**Wasim Akram**  
(Former Pakistan cricket captain)

"As far as I myself am concerned, I know that I haven't done anything wrong, and no-one can point the finger at me. I think Bangladesh played well, fair and square, and they won the game fair and square."

On the allegations of match-fixing surrounding the Bangladesh-Pakistan match in the World-Cup last year.

## Boost sports WHIZZ KID

### Competition-129

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
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Competition closes at 8 pm  
May 12, 2000 and draw  
shortly afterwards

- Who won the 2000 Trophy in West Indies?  
Windsies Pakistan Zimbabwe
- Who was the man-of-the-series in 2000 Trophy?  
Inzamam King Ambrose
- Who is South Africa's cricket captain?  
Kirsten Gibbs Pollock
- Who was the man-of-the-match in the Asia vs World Eleven cricket match?  
Tendulkar Bevan De Silva
- Who is the fastest man in the country now?  
Mahbub Sattar Mizan

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

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**EN-VITS**  
ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

## Bima defeat Wari

### Sports Reporter

Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha beat Wari Club by 14 runs in a Relegation League match of the Janakantha Premier Division Cricket at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Electing to bat in a 38-over-a-side encounter Bima scored 208 for the loss of nine wickets.

Lower-order batsman Tashriqul Islam scored highest 40 off 34 balls with two sixes followed by Rajinder Singh and Kamol Chopra. The middle-order batsmen added 29 and 28 respectively.

Wari opening bowler Gamagee of Sri Lanka took three for 36 runs from his allotted eight overs.

In reply, Wari were shot out for 194 in 36.1 overs with Sri Lankan Dilan Ramanayake scoring highest 91 off 81 balls with eight boundaries. Skipper Halim Shah scored 37.

Bima bowler Moinuzzaman captured three for 59 runs. Ahsanullah and Rezwanul Islam claimed two wickets each.

It was Bima's fifth win so far in 12 matches which kept them on 10 points in the six-team Relegation League. Wari suffered their tenth defeat and were jointly second from the bottom on four points with Agrani Bank. Gopibagh Friends Association, who have won only one match so far, are at the bottom of table with only two points.

### BRIEF SCORES

**Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha v Wari Club**  
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

**Sadharan Bima KS:** 208 for 9 in 38 overs (Tashriq 40, Rajinder 29, K Chopra 28, Rezwan 25, Saiful 19, Faruk 16, Gamagee 3/36).

**Wari Club:** 194 all out in 36.1 overs (Ramanayake 91, Halim Shah 37, Sajib 25, Moin 3/59, Rezwan 2/36, Ahsan 2/45).

**Result:** Sadharan Bima won by 14 runs.

## Abahani closer to title

### Sports Reporter

The world of statistics and mathematical calculation might suggest Abahani have to hold their breath for a while, but the popular Dhanmondi outfit rightly deserved an early title celebration after their record thirteenth straight win in the Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Flying high with an enviable tag as the only invincible side in the 12-team echelon, Abahani went into their second Super League match against Brothers Union not only to keep their reputation intact but also to cross the final hurdle to regain the coveted League title.

They did it in style, defeating Brothers Union by five wickets. Chasing a modest Brothers total of 145 all out in 31.5 overs, Abahani reached 146 for five in 27 overs. The match was truncated to a 41-over-a-side contest due to an overnight shower.

The victory took Abahani to a position where others can only dare to dream. But in that case Abahani would have to lose their remaining three matches badly, which is absolutely impossible.

Besides, the current form of a motivated Abahani proved that even at half-strength, the side is more than capable to take on strong Brothers.

Plagued by injury, Abahani borrowed Surjo Tarun's Zahid Razzak to form a playing eleven knowing fully well the former national opener is not a regular member of his own team.

On the other hand, Brothers possessed the services of Sri Lankan master blaster Atula Samarasekera and Indian left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi along with a strong local selection.

Still, Abahani outclassed the Gopibagh outfit in every department of the game.

### TODAY'S MATCHES

**Super League**  
Kalabagan KC v Surjo Tarun Club  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

**Relegation League**  
Victoria SC v Agrani Bank  
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

Hasibul Hossain laid the foundation for an easy Abahani sail when the tall national right-arm seamer returned with a five-wicket haul. His devastating second spell earned him four wickets and Brothers capitulated a sound start only to end up with 145.

Young Ehsanul gave Brothers a perfect start with a superb 45 off only 41 balls. But once the right-hander was out in 20th over, Brothers suffered a stunning slide, losing their last five wickets with the addition of 34 runs to the total.

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### FIVE WICKET TAKERS

Bowler	Team	Figure	Against	Venue	Date
Hasibul Hossain	Abahani	5/35 (8.2)	S Bima	BNS	March 3
Zahoor Elahi	Kalabagan	5/36 (9)	Abahani	BNS	March 9
Aminul Islam jr	Biman	5/34 (8.1)	Victoria	BKSP	March 9
M Hussain	Abahani	5/34 (7)	Biman	BNS	April 20
Hasibul Hossain	Abahani	5/45 (8.5)	BU	BNS	May 3



CELEBRATIONS BEGIN EARLY: Skipper Akram Khan (2nd from L) is ready to greet mates Asadullah Khan and Anisur Rahman (not in picture), who featured in a match-winning 63-run stand against Brothers Union, with some chilled water in front of the dressing room.

— Star photo by Amran Hossain

## ICC's emergency meeting ends

## Life bans for culprits

LONDON, May 3: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday announced that anyone found guilty of match-fixing could be banned for life following their two-day emergency meeting, reports AFP.

ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya, declaring that cricket's "image will not be allowed to suffer" insisted there was "no place for corruption" within the game.

He said: "It has been decided that there will be stringent penalties, which may even be a life ban, if anyone is found guilty of misbehaviour."

"All the countries will co-operate but in case of any country not co-operating to the extent that is required they could face suspension from cricket."

"All international players, managers, umpires, match officials, administrators and employees will now be required to give a declaration stating whether he has or has not been approached in getting involved in corruption."

"These declarations will be obtained on a top priority basis."

The president added: "The board deliberated on the issues and there was total unanimity in arriving at our decision. Our deliberations were directed towards the top priority of the ICC which is not to allow cricket to be affected by any unacceptable behaviour."

"The board of directors is committed to the eradication of corruption from the game of cricket."

An investigating party, which will be totally independent and will be known as the Corruption Investigating Party, will be set up immediately. It will be headed by a very senior experienced person having a legal background or having the experience in investigations, like a QC or of that rank," Dalmiya said.

"And it will be done in two months. This appointment will be in consultation with the chairman of the ICC Code of Conduct Commission, Lord Griffiths, and once it's been set up it will work independently and will directly report to the chairman of commission."

"This will be totally resourced by ICC. The terms of reference will also be drawn in consultation with Lord Griffiths. It has also been decided that a stringent registration system will be adopted in order that all players understand the

type of behaviour which is unacceptable.

"The main test was that this game clears its name. This game's image will not be allowed to suffer for any unacceptable behaviour from any quarters."

"There is no place for corruption and considering all seriousness of the present situation it has been further resolved that the ICC will not hesitate to take any measure which it will consider is going to affect the game adversely."

ICC chief executive Dave Richards said: "We believe it will take some time but we will make regular representations to the board."

"We believe that these declarations will provide any corruption investigation with any

evidence from which they can draw their conclusions."

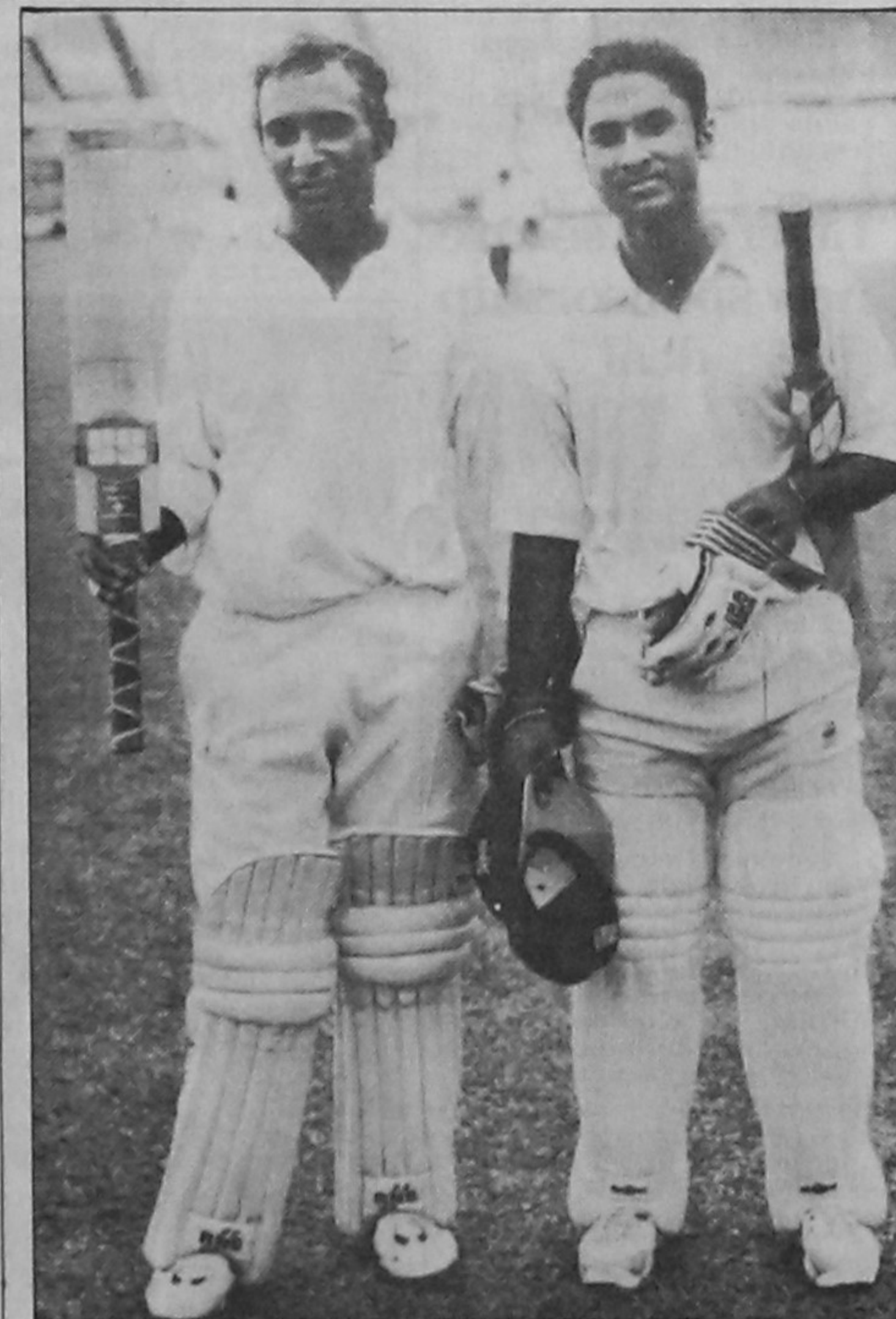
"We have a sense of urgency about this and we would like to move it forward quickly."

"We are asking them to make a declaration to us as to whether they have or have not been approached to become engaged in corrupt behaviour."

"We felt it was an important thing to say."

"It's a knee-jerk reaction in my mind to suggest that by cutting down the amount of cricket you are actually going to solve the problem."

Dalmiya added: "We do not envisage any problem in getting this declaration signed because it is just to get information and there is no good reason why anyone should not come forward and not sign it."



MEN OF THE MOMENT: Abahani's Asadullah Khan (L) and Anisur Rahman returning after seeing their team through against Brothers Union at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo

## SAF champs play Maldives today

### Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will take on hosts Maldives in their second match of the four-nation Golden Jubilee football tournament at the Male National Stadium this afternoon.

Ekushey Television will telecast the game live and Bangladesh Betar will provide running commentary from 5 pm.

In their opening match on Tuesday, the SAF Games champions played out a 1-1 draw with arch-rivals India.

It was learnt that Bangladesh captain Alfaz Ahmed, who was sidelined due to fever on Tuesday, was still doubtful for today's match. A vastly improved Maldives pulled off a stunning 2-1 win over Bangladesh in a group league match of the SAF Games.

Bangladesh face Sri Lanka in their last encounter on Sunday.

## Asian Youth Hockey

## Bangladesh beaten badly

### Sports Reporter

Bangladesh went down 5-1 to India in their opening match of the Fourth Asian Cup Youth Hockey Championship in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The winners led the first half 3-1. Captain Ishtiaq Ahmed Shipu scored Bangladesh's lone goal.

Besides India, the preliminary group consists Japan, Uzbekistan, China.

Bangladesh will take on Uzbekistan today.

## Schools' v'ball

### Sports Reporter

The IT Excel schools' volleyball tournament begins today at the court adjacent to the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Sixteen schools split into two categories -- boys' and girls' -- will take part in the four-day knockout tournament.

On the opening day, International School of Uttara take on Kamalapur Sher-e-Bangla School while Vignarunessa Noon School face Aga Khan School in the girls' section. In the other competition, Matherteek Aziz School meet Rajdhani High School while South Breeze will play Kamalapur Sher-e-Bangla School.

Following are the schools:  
**Boys' group:** Matherteek Aziz School, Rajdhani High School, International School of Uttara, Jatrabari Ideal School, South Breeze, Kamalapur Sher-e-Bangla School, International School of Gulshan and Gandaria High School.

**Girls' group:** International School of Uttara, Kamalapur Sher-e-Bangla School, Green Herald, Dhanmondi Government Girls' High School, Viqarunessa Noon School, Aga Khan School, International School of Gulshan and Agrani Girls' School.

## Rajshahi soccer

### From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, May 3: Abahani Krira Chakra defeated Diganta Prashari 2-0 in a lone match of the Rajshahi First Division football super league at the Rajshahi Stadium today.

Kamal opened the account in the 73rd minute and Nazrul netted the second goal in the 78th minute.

Abahani Krira Chakra earned eight points from four matches and Diganta collected six points from same outings.

Kajirganj Sporting Club will take on Helenabad tomorrow.

## Imran doesn't buy the idea

### From Our Correspondent

LONDON, May 3: Pakistan cricket legend Imran Khan on Wednesday criticised the International Cricket Council's (ICC) proposals to offer immunity to international cricketers for coming clean about match-fixing, reports AFP.

The former World Cup-winning captain told Britain's TalkSport radio station: "These proposals are bizarre -- I don't know how anyone can come up with this idea."

"It is all very well for the ICC to offer immunity, but what about individual national cricket boards and the law of the land?"

Imran claimed he had never been offered money to influence the outcome of a game.

He continued: "During my 21 years of playing cricket I was never approached by anyone or offered a bribe."

"It seems to me that the people who were approached liked gambling. The bookies seemed to target people who might be susceptible."

He is unsure how many people might be involved in match-fixing, and said: "I am now totally confused."

He added: "When this story first emerged I thought it was just a few games in Pakistan and maybe India."

"I never thought that South Africa and Hansie Cronje were involved too -- God knows how many people are involved."

## Imran steps into Eddie's shoes

### Sports Reporter

Imran Sarwar could not think of a better reward after inspiring Abahani closer to winning the coveted Premier League title when he was named coach of the national cricket team for the forthcoming Asia Cup.

The man behind Abahani's success story for the last four years, Imran will replace ailing Eddie Barlow for the most demanding job.

Barlow suffered a stroke on Saturday and will not be available for at least next three months. He is in intensive care at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) and is expected to be flown to Singapore for further treatment shortly.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) made the announcement yesterday. Imran is expected to supervise the month-long camp at BUET from today.

"I'm elated at the opportunity to take over the national side," said a beaming Imran after the receiving the appointment letter from BCB vice-president Tanvir Haider, who is also the chief selector.

This is for the first time the 41-year-old big man from Feni

got the opportunity to coach the national team.

"It is like a dream come true. But the task won't be easy for me. I have only a couple of weeks before the Asia Cup and I just want to concentrate on the

and Gordon Greenidge.

"But his is an exciting opportunity and am eager to make a grade in my first assignment as coach of the national team," said Imran who started his coaching career way back in 1984.

During his brief stint, Imran hopes he will be allowed a free-hand in matters of team selection.

## Rajshahi cricket

### From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, May 3: Altaf Smriti Songha beat Ekota Sobuj Sangha by 34 runs in the second Siraj Memorial Kishor Cricket tournament at the Rajshahi Medical College campus play ground today.

Winning the toss, the winners batted first and collected 165 for three wickets in the stipulated 25 overs. Faisal with 54 was the top-scorer.

Jahurul and Sipu claimed one wicket each for 22 and 26 respectively.

In reply, Ekota managed 134 in 23.2 overs.

Hira took three wickets for 32.

In other match, Upashar Cricket Club received walkover against Brothers Union.



IMRAN SARWAR

proven set. I need to fine tune those players with flawed techniques," said the qualified coach.

A coach at BKSP from 1987, Imran also worked as assistant to both Mahinder Amaranath



Reefat bin Sattar (L) contemplates his next move against Dewan Shahidul Amin Tipu during their 26th Abdur Razzak National Chess Championship engagement at the NSC yesterday.

— Star photo

## Reefat cruises, Zia falters

### Sports Reporter

Zia accepted the draw after 59 moves. Zia earned 6.5 points so far after eight games.

Monir Hossain of Leonine Chess Club remained content with the third position after a draw with Fide Master Enamul Hossain Rajib in this round.

Monir's tally stood at 5.5 points while Rajib was on four points.

In other matches Sawkat Hossain Pallab of Ansars beat Arifuzzaman Shikder. Pallab played with black and adopted Queen's Indian Defence to win the board after 42 moves.

Mainuddin Ahmed of Chittagong beat Saifuddin Lovlu of Titus Club. Mainuddin also playing with black pieces and won after 45 moves.

Abu Sufian Shakil of Ansar beat Abul Kashem Bhuiyan of Titus Club. Playing with whites, Shakil made a Ruy-Lopez Opening and won after 47 moves.

IM Abdullah Al Rakib of

Biman drew with Sheikh Nasir Ahmed of Ansars. Rakib, who played with blacks, adopted Carokan Defence and drew with Nasir after 20 moves.

Syed Ruhul Kabir Shipu beat Taibur Rahman Sumon of BUET. Shipu played whites against the French Defence of Sumon and won after 28 moves.

## STANDINGS

7.5 points -- Reefat; 6.5 points -- Zia; 5.5 points -- Monir; 5 points -- Rakib; Pallab, Mainuddin; 4.5 points -- Shakil, Shipu; 4 points -- Rajib, Amin; 3.5 points -- Sumon; 3 points -- Tipu; 2 points -- Arif; 1.5 points -- Lovlu, Nasir; 1 point -- Kashem.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

Amin v Reefat, Rakib v Zia, Monir v Nasir, Mainuddin v Razib, Pallab v Lovlu, Kashem v Arif, Sumon v Shakil and Tipu v Shipu.

## Dalmiya let off the hook

LONDON, May 3: International Cricket Council president Jagmohan Dalmiya was cleared Tuesday of allegations of malpractice by the game's governing body, reports AFP.

Dalmiya is suing financial advisor Arun Aggarwal following the claim that the rights to the ICC Trophy in Bangladesh two years ago were sold in a cut-price deal to a company with which Dalmiya had an interest.

He remained tight-lipped as he left Lord's following the first day of the emergency meeting to discuss the match-fixing scandal, which concludes Wednesday luncheon.

However, ICC chief executive David Richards confirmed that Dalmiya, along with the 18 other delegates attending the meeting, had signed a statement put forward by English Cricket Board chairman Lord MacLaurin that he had no financial interest in the game of cricket other than those which are already known.

"There is no evidence to suggest that any person in ICC benefited from this contract," said a statement issued by the ICC, which broadly reiterated Richards' own words as he tried to outline opening day business.

"At no stage did Jagmohan Dalmiya get involved in any negotiations."

Richards said that there were four bidders for the television contract -- Doordarshan, TWI, World Tel and CSI.

tender, which meant they were bidding for the total rights to the competition," he added.

"The bids were opened by myself and Ehsan Mani -- ICC chairman of finance and marketing -- in the presence of a Notary Public."

"The top two bidders -- Doordarshan and TWI, were invited to re-bid on a 'Share of revenue'

basis, again this was done in writing."

"The revised bid of Doordarshan, which was the highest was accepted and I signed the contract."

Richards' defence is a ringing endorsement of his president, who claimed that his

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Golden Jubilee  
**LIVE FOOTBALL**  
On  
**ETV**

Bangladesh vs Maldives (May 4)  
Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka (May 7)  
Final (May 10)

## Direct Telecast

From the National Stadium in Male  
Kick-Off 4:45 (May 4 & 7) 4:20 (May 10)

## EKUSHEY TELEVISION

Committed to Change