

## Column One

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID

#### Competition-130

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm  
May 26, 2000 and draw  
shortly afterwards

1 Who replaced David Lloyd  
as England cricket coach?

Fletcher Wolmer Richardson

2 Which country will host the  
Euro 2004 Championship?

Portugal Germany Spain

3 Which Kiwi batsman hit 214  
on his Test debut against  
West Indies?

Sinclair Fleming Crowe

4 Which country won the four-  
nation football tournament in  
Maldives?

Sri Lanka Bangladesh India

5 Who won the national chess  
title this year?

Rezaul Zia Tipu

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

POWERED WITH

EN-VITS

ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK

Robert Pires

(Marseille's French striker)

"I don't know what my future

is, I must see my agent to ensure

everything is done before Euro

2000. Arsenal? Who would not

want to go there?"

On his probable move to Ar-

senal.

Rezwan boosts

Bima

Sports Reporter

Sadharan Bima Krira

Sangstha ended their Premier

Division Relegation League

campaign on a winning note

with a comprehensive four-

wicket win over Agrani Bank

in their last match at the Dhan-

mondi Cricket Stadium yester-

day.

In a high-scoring game re-

duced to 45 overs after rain

stopped play for 40 minutes, in

the morning session, all-

rounder Rezwanul Islam ham-

mered an unbeaten 103 as

Bima, chasing a commanding

Bank total of 289, reached 293

for six in 43.3 overs.

Rezwan, who earlier in the

first session took three wickets

for 37 runs, hit three sixes and

eleven boundaries 80 balls to

propel his side to their seventh

win the league.

Opener Moin scored 53 off 51

balls with nine fours while

Moin added 40 off 26 balls with

one six and seven boundaries.

Earlier, electing to bat,

Agrani Bank scored 289 for 7 in

45 overs with Mofizur Rahman

scoring 96 at nearly a run a

ball. It included four sixes and

eleven boundaries. Opener Abid

Hanif added 59. Rezwan was

backed up by Tashriq who cap-

tured two for 44.

Bima, with yesterday's win,

finished jointly second in the

six-team Relegation League

along with City Club with 14

points each from 16 matches.

Victoria Sporting Club stood

atop with 16 points.

On the other hand, with

## Title for Abahani, but glory for Kalabagan

Sports Reporter



Curtain fell on the Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League with Abahani Krira Chakra winning the coveted title for a record 13th time at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

But the title celebration of the popular Dhanmondi outfit turned sour when they conceded a five-run defeat in the last match of the Super League against Kalabagan Krira Chakra. It was Abahani's third defeat in a row. On the other hand, Kalabagan, who started the Super League with six points behind Abahani, recorded their fifth straight victory, but sadly missed out the title on inferior net run rate.

Although the match virtually left an academic interest with Kalabagan concentrating more on winning the prestigious battle rather than going after the improbable task of topping Abahani's impressive run-rate, it eventually turned into a cracker of a contest.

In a nail-biting finish, Kalabagan, defending a fighting total of 240 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs, restricted their more colourful neighbours to 235 for nine.

The final reached a fitting climax with an unheralded Zakir Hassan leading a fantasy chase for Abahani at a stage when many thought a victory for Kalabagan was only a matter of time.

The tall right-arm seamer with a little credential as a batsman brought the Abahani supporters on the edge of their seats with a career-best 50 after his side were reduced to 175 for seven. Zakir's heroics changed the complexion of the game completely.

He shared 52 runs for the eighth wicket with fellow medium pacer Iqbal Hossain and was all set to pull off an unlikely victory.

Abahani needed 12 runs from the final over and Zakir, who has just completed half-century on 62 balls and with the help of four fours, appeared confident to make himself a cricketer to be deified for long.

But his superlative came to a sad end in the face of an exceptionally matured bowling from Kalabagan young left-arm seamer Bikash Ranjan Das, who bowled the last six deliveries with great intelligence.

Zakir missed the first two balls but firmly struck the third. The ball was travelling like a tracer of a bullet before Bikash plucked it up diving to his left. A bemused Zakir was only the half way mark when Bikash dislodged the balls at the bowler's end.

Hasibul Hossain drove the fourth ball for four through extra cover and picked up a couple from the final delivery, but that was not enough to avoid a defeat.

After the nerve-wrecking last over, the Dhaka cricket perhaps witnessed a rare incident with both the winners and the vanquished celebrating their success.

### POINTS TABLE

Super League	Teams	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Abahani KC	16	13	3	2	25	+1.19
Kalabagan KC	16	13	3	2	25	+0.57
Biman	16	12	4	2	24	+0.67
Surjo Tarun	16	10	6	2	20	+0.16
Mohammedan SC	16	8	8	0	16	+0.15
Brothers Union	16	8	8	0	16	+0.11

### TODAY'S MATCH

Relegation League  
Wari Club v Gopibagh FA  
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

While the Kalabagan players hugged each other in the middle after finishing at par with Abahani, the dressing room of the Dhanmondi outfit was also full of festivity.

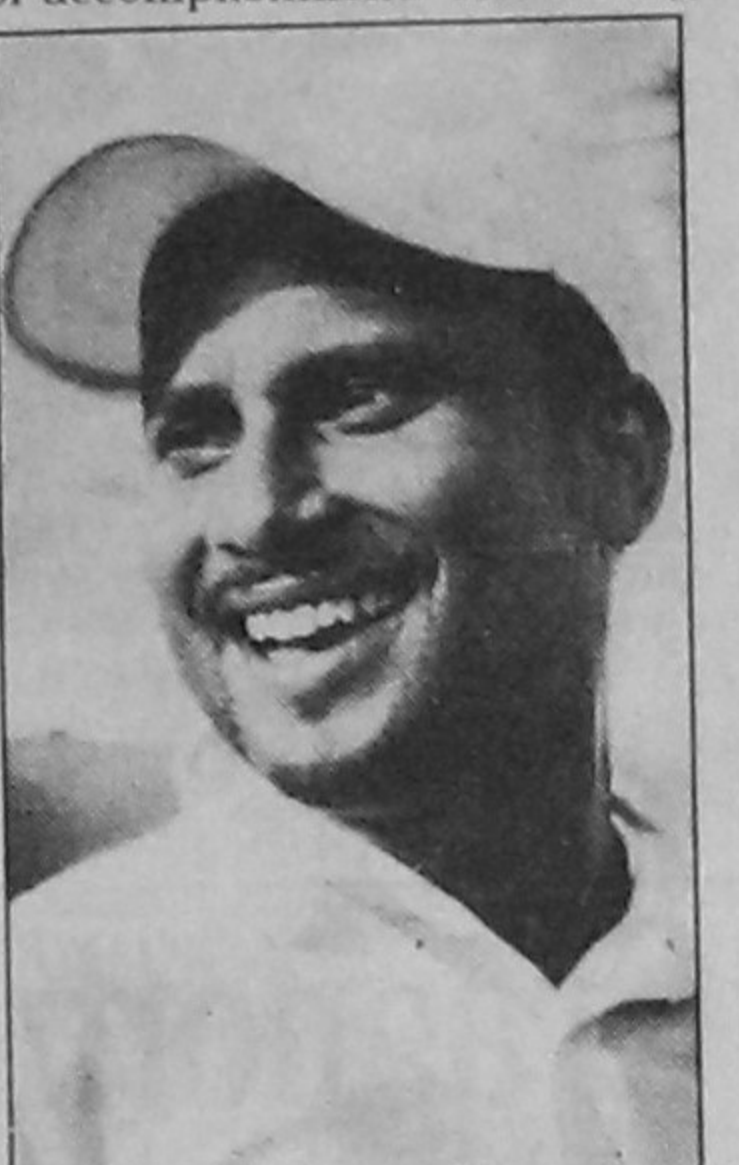
Skipper Akram Khan even desired to go for a victory lap but eventually changed his mind not finding any of his peers interested. A strong band of Abahani supporters joined the party and tried their best to be euphoric. However, the absence of enthusiasm was quite evident in their celebration.

Meanwhile, the mood in the Kalabagan camp exuded an air of accomplishment. The feeling

was that they gained moral victory in the championship race.

They however certainly have the right to take pride in emerging as the most enterprising team in this year's League. And had not they conceded a one-run defeat in their first leg match against Abahani, it would have been even a 'red letter' year for the new levitians in the domestic cricket.

On the other hand, the organisers -- Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) -- could not think of a better way to finish the League that



HARUN ... 66



ZAKIR ... 50

### CENTURIONS

Batsman	Team	Runs	Against	Venue	Date
Zahoor Elahi	Kalabagan	100*	Agrani Bank	BNS	Feb 28
Zahoor Elahi	Kalabagan	144	Mohammedan SC	BNS	March 2
M Ramzan	Surjo Tarun	105	Victoria	BKSP	March 4
Zahoor Elahi	Kalabagan	110*	Surjo Tarun	BNS	March 7
Javed Omar	Biman	102*	Victoria	BKSP	March 9
Saifullah Magdi	City Club	136*	Wari Club	BNS	March 11
Iqbal Ahmed	Abahani KC	101*	Agrani Bank	BKSP	March 12
Javed Omar	Biman	100	Agrani Bank	BNS	March 29
Fahad Khan	Victoria SC	100	Gopibagh	DCS	March 29
Kamol Chopra	S Bima	109*	Wari	DCS	March 30
Saifullah Magdi	City Club	107	S Bima	DCS	April 1
D Ramanyake	Wari Club	142*	Agrani Bank	DCS	April 6
Mehab Hossain	Abahani KC	123	City Club	BNS	April 15
Salim Elahi	Kalabagan KC	150*	Victoria SC	BNS	April 17
D Samaratweera	Mohammedan SC	127	S Bima	BNS	April 18
Salim Elahi	Kalabagan KC	119	Surjo Tarun	BNS	May 4
Rehan Rafique	City Club	115*	Wari Club	DCS	May 5
Fahad Khan	Victoria SC	102*	City Club	DCS	May 13
Rezwanul Islam	S Bima	103*	Agrani Bank	DCS	May 14

### 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
Amrul Islam Jr	Biman	5/34(8.1)	Victoria	BKSP	March 9
M Hassan	Abahani	5/34(7)	Biman	BNS	April 20
Hasibul Hossain	Abahani	5/45(8.5)	BU	BNS	May 3
Shahid Nazir	Biman	5/22(9.1)	Mohammedan SC	BNS	May 5
Rehan Rafique	City Club	5/23(10)	Gopibagh FA	DCS	May 12

### ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champions	Runners up
1974-75	Abahani KC	Shantinagar Club
1975-76	Victoria SC	Abahani KC
1976-77	Abahani KC	Victoria SC
1977-78	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
1978-79	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
1979-80	Biman	Azad Boys Club
1980-81	Biman	Mohammedan SC
1981-82	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
1982-83	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC
1983-84	Biman	Mohammedan SC
1984-85	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC
1985-86	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC
1986-87	Mohammedan SC	Mohammedan SC
1987-88	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
1988-89	Biman	Abahani KC
1989-90	Abahani KC	Rupali Bank
1990-91	Brothers Union	Biman
1991-92	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
1992-93	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC & Biman
1993-94	Abahani KC & Biman	Mohammedan SC
1994-95	Abahani KC	Kalabagan KC
1995-96	Mohammedan SC	Brothers Union
1996-97	Abahani KC	Kalabagan KC
1997-98	Abahani KC	Brothers Union
1998-99	Biman	Abahani KC
1999-2000	Abahani KC	Kalabagan KC

## Post match parley

Sports Reporter



Abahani captain Akram Khan gave full credit to his teammates for regaining the Premier Division cricket league title after a season.

The famous son of Chittagong, who has been captaining the Dhanmondi giants for last five seasons, was talking to the local press after yesterday's title decider against Kalabagan Krira Chakra.

Although Abahani lost by five runs and finish equal on points(26), it was Akram's men who clinched the prestigious title on superior net run rate.

Ironically, Kalabagan had surrendered the crown last season under similar circumstances to Bangladesh Biman.

"We did not have four regular players including two foreigners in our last three matches and that was the main reason why we lost those matches," said an exhausted Akram. "But I'm happy in the end as we have won the title."

Opener Mehbab and wick-

etkeeper Mizanur Rahman missed our last three matches. Also the strength of the side was weakened without Pakistani recruits Amir Wasim and Ijaz Ahmed Junior," he said adding that despite that the team was determined to put on a good show.

Akram believed the performance of the local batsmen was the key to his side's success.

"I'm always in favour of local players because they give their hundred per cent."

Abahani coach Sarwar Imran also praised his players for their extraordinary showing in the league this season.

"The cricketers of Abahani were fully dedicated to their game," said Imran who has recently been appointed as Bangladesh coach for the forthcoming Asia Cup.

"Despite the hiccups in the last part of our campaign, I have reasons to feel satisfied."

Abahani had a sensational run of 13 straight wins before they first suffered a loss.

We became a bit complacent in the last few matches probably because our champi-

onship was virtually ensured. But today we played a serious game and were unlucky not to have won," Imran added.

The former coach of Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan(BKSP) thanked all the Abahani divots for their support throughout the season.

Kalabagan manager Rafique Alam believed that they were champions at heart. The enterprising Dhanmondi lakeside outfit had Abahani on the ropes when they met in the first phase of the league only to be defeated by a controversial ruling. Kalabagan has since lodged an official protest and have taken the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) to the court.

"We will wait for the verdict of the High Court," said Rafique.

"We played quality cricket, this season as we had promised before the start of the league and we feel that ethically we have won the crown," claimed the former national cricketer who was managing a team for the first time in his illustrious cricketer.

## Sher-e-Bangla Nat'l Football from today

Sports Reporter

The first round of the Sher-e-Bangla National Football Championship begins at different zonal venues across the country today.

A total of 67 teams split into ten zones will compete in the first round. The winners of the zones will join holders Dhaka University and hosts Noakhali in the final round which is likely to be played in Majde, Noakhali from the first week of June.

The matches in Moulvi Bazar, Noakhali and Barguna zones will start today while games of the Bagerhat zone begins tomorrow. Dinaipur's zonal round starts on May 18 while matches in Naogaon and Sheba zones kick off the following day. First rounds of the remaining zones -- Narashingdi, Gopalganj and Jamalpur zones will start on May 20.

In today's matches, hosts Moulvi Bazar will take on Sunamganj at the Moulvi Bazar Stadium while Barguna face Barisal at the Barguna Stadium. In the day's other match, Feni will meet Khagrachari at the Majde Stadium.

A press-conference was held in this connection at the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday afternoon with tournament committee chairman and Information Secretary M Akmal Hossain in the chair. BFF joint-secretary Badal Roy, treasurer Shamimuzzaman Basunia and tournament committee secretary Fazlur Rahman Babul were present among others.

## Nairmur, Rafique to play in Kuwait

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday selected all-rounder Nairmur Rahman and Mohammed Rafique to represent Bangladesh in a double-wicket competition scheduled to be held in Kuwait later this year.

Bangladesh apart, the three Asian giants -- India, Pakistani and Sri Lanka -- will also take part in the daylong ball-bashing meet in the desert kingdom.

The instant cricket that offers lucrative cash awards including an appearance fee of 5,000 US dollars per player will feature a host of exciting left-right combinations in the likes of Shahin-Saurav (India), Sanath-Maralitharan (Sri Lanka) and Wasim Akram-Afridi (Pakistan).

## M'singh, Comilla start with wins

ANZ Grindlays National School Cricket

MYMENSINGH. May 15: Mymensingh Zila School and Comilla Zila School started their final round campaign of the ANZ Grindlays Bank national schools cricket championship with winning note here today, reports UNB.

Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Rafique Islam inaugurated the eight-day meet participated by 16 teams.

At the Mymensingh Stadium, local Zila School beat Sylhet Aided High School by six wickets. The touring Sylhet School had to play with nine cricketers due to over age of some players.

At the Circuit House ground, Comilla Zila School eliminated Dhaka Government Laboratory High School by seven wickets.

### BRIEF SCORES

SYLHET AIDED HIGH SCHOOL: 135 for 8 in 35 overs (Alok 47, Deep 27, Ejaz 18; Dipu 4/10, Robin 1/12 and Sunny 1/29).

MYMENSINGH ZILA SCHOOL: 137 for 4 in 20 overs (Robin 36, Lipon 27, Arman 24, Sunny 22; Alok 2/26, Robin 1/23 and Ejaz 1/29).

GOVT LAB HIGH SCHOOL: 96 allout in 33.4 overs (Imon 21, Devnath 12, Ehtesam 10; Sumon 3/20, Masum 3/24 and Russel 2/18).

COMILLA ZILA SCHOOL: 97 for 3 in 17 overs (Russel 21, Somun not out 18, Imon 16, Apu 16 and Masum unbeaten 13).

### Rajshahi v'ball

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI. May 15: Jagata Sangha and Green Star Club won their respective matches of Hassan Imam-Alli. Imam Pintu Smriti First Division Volleyball League at the Rajshahi Stadium today.

Jagata Sangha beat City Club by 3-0 (25-18, 25-16, 25-11) sets and Green Star defeated Abgash Club by 3-1 (23-25, 25-22, 25-22 and 25-23) sets.

Brothers Union will take on United Sporting Club and Colony Club will meet Morning Star Club tomorrow.



Players and officials of Abahani Krira Chakra, who won the Premier Division Cricket League title, pose for photograph at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo

## Kapil renews call for pullout



NEW DELHI, May 15 (AFP):