



Mohammedan coach Hasanuzzaman Khan draws the attention of his players to something during a practice session at the BDR ground yesterday ahead of today's Federation Cup final against arch-foes Abahani. —Star photo

Battle royale

Mohammedan, Abahani face to face
Sports Reporter



Football fans of the country are all in a hope to enjoy a cracker of a contest when the two football giants -- Abahani Krira Chakra and Mohammedan Sporting Club -- renew their rivalry in the final of the 16th Federation Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The blood and thunder clash kicks off at 5 pm with Ekushey Television and Bangladesh Betar airing the live coverage from the BNS.

It will however be the first meeting between the two crowd-pulling sides in the final since their last encounter in 1995, which Mohammedan won in

the tie-breaker. But since then Abahani had enjoyed a better record in the season's curtain raiser. In fact, the popular Dhammondi outfit today will be looking for a hat-trick of titles in the Federation Cup.

Dethroned their arch-rivals in the fourteenth edition in 1997, Abahani went on to retain the title last season, beating Muktioddha in the final. Mohammedan, who made a habit of lifting the Cup since its inception in 1980 by winning it five times in a row, however had not achieved much success of late.

They failed to reach the final on the previous two occasions

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Abahani coach Amalesh Sen (R) instructing his charges during a practice session at their club premises at Dhammondi yesterday. —Star photo

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

Competition-135

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
Sept 1, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Who scored the first hat-trick in this year's Fed Cup football?
Ritu Kanchan Tanveer
- Who is Pakistan's cricket team captain?
Wasim Waqar Moin
- Who is the captain of Bangladesh cricket team?
Amrul Akram Naimur
- Who won the AB Bank Men's TT title?
Armanola Biman Mariners
- Who was voted Germany's footballer-of-the-year in 2000?
Kahn Sammer Reuter

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)

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SPORTS TALK



Richie Richardson

(Former West Indies cricket captain)

"I have told the selectors if they want me, I would come back."

'India can't play cricket with Pakistan'

BANGLORE, Aug 27: Minister of State for Sports and Youth Services Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain yesterday ruled out India playing cricket matches against Pakistan "for the time being", reports PTI.

"There is no question of the India cricket team playing a direct match against Pakistan for the time being," Hussain told reporters here.

"Pakistan was playing a different game resulting in blood-bath," he said, referring to the neighbouring country's role in aiding terrorism in India.

"We can't be playing two games at the same time," he said, when asked about the BCCI's request to the government for playing in Pakistan to reciprocate that country's gesture of playing two tests in India in 1999.

When pointed out that there was still time for the tour, he said the government would take a decision then.

To a question, Hussain said the Central Bureau of Investigation was likely to submit its report on the match-fixing scandal by September end.

Cox's Bazar bonanza

BCB to spend Taka 24.6 lakh

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is totally absorbed in holding its first ever Annual General Meeting (AGM) in grand style at the holiday resort of Cox's Bazar on September 2.

The long overdue meeting, drawing together more than hundred councillors, is expected to be held in a lavish manner. The BCB has already earmarked a budget of Taka 24 lakh for the three-day meeting.

Although critics have already termed it the most expensive meeting ever to be staged by any sports federation in the country, the general secretary of BCB Syed Ashraf Huj has no hesitation to justify the expense.

"The budget may appear excessive, but considering the efforts we've put in for the last three years as well as our successful campaign to attain the Test status, I think it's quite logical," said Ashraf.

"Besides, it was everybody's wish to hold the AGM in a tranquil backdrop where people can engage in open discussion," he added.

Ashraf however admitted that it was a failure on the part of the Board for not holding the

meeting annually. "It will not be right if you call it an AGM. But we had reasons for not holding it as per schedule. Actually, we were more focused on organising big tournaments like the first knock-out World Cup, Independence Cup and above all the goal to gain the Test status."

Secretary of the AGM preparatory committee and BCB member Sheikh Nizamuddin meanwhile revealed the details of the much-talked-about gathering during yesterday's briefing, which was supposed to chaired BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury.

But Saber did not turn up and his vice-president and chairman of the AGM preparatory committee Tanveer Haider conducted the briefing.

Nizam said that a total of 126 councillors will take part in the AGM which is likely to okay a new constitution. Besides, the bejaded AGM is expected to set off an animated debate involving the financial aspects.

The AGM will be held in three sessions.

The general secretary will submit his report during the first session while the treasurer will present his reports in the

second session. The final session in the afternoon during which amendments to the constitution will be made winds up with a press conference.

The councillors from all over the country will gather in Dhaka on August 30 and will head for Chittagong collectively by train on August 31 morning and will reach Cox's Bazar by bus in the evening.

The draft constitution has already been sent to all the councillors by mail while the general secretary's report will be distributed to them on August 30.

According to Nizamuddin, the councillors, who have been invited along with their wives, will enjoy an excursion on September 1. During the day-long fun and games, the councillors will indulge themselves in beach cricket followed by cultural programme and raffle draw.

EXPENSES	
Purpose	Amount
Train fare	1 lakh
Accommodation	3.6 lakh
Food	5 lakh
Travel Allowances for councillors	4.5 lakh
Gift	6.5 lakh
Miscellaneous	4 lakh
Total:	Tk 24.6 lakh

S Africa win in canter



SINGAPORE, Aug 27: A whirlwind partnership by Gary Kirsten and Nicky Boje paved the way for a 93-run South African victory over Pakistan in the final of the Singapore Challenge 2000 cricket tournament here Sunday, reports AFP.

In a rain-shortened match, South Africa made 197 for seven at the end of their 35 overs, with a further 17 runs added under the Duckworth-Lewis system for a rain disrupted innings, leaving Pakistan a target of 215.

Pakistan, who were unable to recover from a middle-order collapse and were all out for 121 in the 29th over.

Boje, the man-of-the-match, was promoted up the order to join Kirsten when South Africa were struggling at 29 for two after 10 overs, and desperate to revive their game plan of a brisk start.

The pair of left handers put on 40 runs in their first five overs together, before a two-hour rain interruption, then returned to the wicket to continue their no-holds barred attack.

When Azhar Mahmood bowled Kirsten to break the partnership, Kirsten and Boje had put on 97 runs in 82 balls and lifted the run rate to nearly 5.5.

Kirsten, the man-of-the-series, scored 62 off 77 balls,

while Boje who was out soon after faced 48 balls for his 54 which included six fours and a six.

Daryll Cullinan, who had been out of sorts in the early matches in the series, found form at the right time for South Africa and was unbeaten on 31 from 23 balls at the end.

The batsmen were particularly heavy on Abdur Razaq and Mahmood. Although Razaq did pick up two wickets he went for 54 in his seven overs and Mahmood took one for 48.

Fielding lapses hurt Pakistan, with Cullinan and Boje both surviving chances.

On a slow outfield because of the rain, 215 runs at over six an over was always going to be difficult for Pakistan.

Trying to force the pace cost early wickets with Imran Nazir out in the second over, Younis Khan in the sixth and Salim Elahi in the 10th.

Saeed Anwar and Ijaz Ahmed put on 39 for the fourth wicket before Saeed was run out for 24, starting a middle-order collapse in which three wickets fell in the space of 11 balls for just two runs, and Pakistan never recovered.

"In the past few years we've played badly in finals, so it's nice to play well when it really counts," South African captain Shaun Pollock said, singling out the Kirsten-Boje partnership as crucial to their win.



South Africa's Nicky Boje, who was later adjudged man-of-the-match, follows through on a drive against Pakistan's Azhar Mahmood during the Singapore Challenge 2000 final yesterday. —AFP photo

"We decided that it was easier to score up front, that's why Nicky Boje was promoted up the order and he played superbly well with Gary. And once the rain interruption was over the guys carried on... and scored at a great rate."

Pakistan captain Waqar Younis was left to regret a match of missed opportunities. "The fielding really let us down. It wasn't the (South African) runs it was the dropped catches," he said.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the final of the Singapore Challenge 2000 limited-overs cricket tournament between Pakistan and South Africa at Kallang Stadium Sunday:

SOUTH AFRICA				
Kirsten b Mahmood	62	5		
Hall c Ijaz b Kabir	5			
Kallis b Kabir	5			
Boje c Elahi b Arshad	54			
Klusener c Arshad b Razaq	12			
Cullinan not out	31			
McKenzie b Razaq	3			
Dippenaar c sub (Younis) b Waqar	17			
Pollock not out	2			
Extras: (lb-6, w-1, nb-3)	10			
Total: (For 7 wks in 35 overs)	197			
Fall of wks: 1-7, 2-29, 3-126, 4-138, 5-143, 6-152, 7-188				

PAKISTAN				
Nazir c Kirsten b Telemachus	1			
Elahi lbw Telemachus	26			
Younis c Boje b Pollock	8			
Anwar run out (Kirsten)	24			
Ijaz lbw Klusener	31			
Razaq c and b Klusener	0			
Mahmood lbw Boje	0			
Atiq c Pollock b Hall	18			
Waqar c Cullinan b Pollock	11			
Arshad run out (Pollock)	0			
Kabir not out	0			
Extras: (lb-1, nb-1)	2			
Total: (All out 28.1 overs)	121			
Fall of wks: 1-7, 2-33, 3-35, 4-74, 5-75, 6-76, 7-102, 8-119, 9-110				

Bowler				
Pollock	6.1	0	26	2
Telemachus	6	1	20	2
Kallis	4	1	9	0
Klusener	7	0	35	2
Boje	4	0	24	1
Hall	1	0	6	1

Result: South Africa won by 93 runs. Pakistan required 215 to win under the Duckworth-Lewis system for rain-interrupted innings.

Man-of-the-match: Nicky Boje.

Man-of-the-series: Gary Kirsten.

Reefat fifth

Sports Reporter

International Master (IM) Reefat-bin-Sattar finished fifth in the Penta Media Grand Masters' (GM) chess tournament which concluded in the Indian city of Madras yesterday.

In the final round of the 13-round meet, Reefat beat Indian IM Sandeep Chandra to raise his tally to six and a half points.

Indian GM Shashikiran won the tournament with nine and a half points while Kazakh GM Yevgeny Vladimirov followed him with eight points.

A total of 14 players including five GMs and eight IMs from India, Bangladesh, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Iran took part in the tournament.

Div II Chess title Dhaka Daba Ghar's

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Daba Ghar clinched the Second Division Chess League title despite losing their final round clash to Progoti Samaj Kalyan Sangha by 5-3.5 points at the NSC chess room yesterday.

In the day's play, Progoti won three boards while the others were drawn.

Dhaka Daba Ghar finished with 23.5 points, 1.5 points ahead of runners-up Anirban Daba School.

Crescent Club got the third position with 21.5 points while Progoti Samaj Kalyan Sangha collected 21 points to take the fourth spot.

U-16 booters off to Vietnam tomorrow

A 25-member Bangladesh under-16 football team leaves tomorrow for Vietnam to take part in the final round of the 9th Asian under-16 Championship beginning on September 3, reports BSS.

Bangladesh qualified for the final as group champions in the preliminary round held in Jamshedpur, India this year.

The Vietnam-bound team yesterday called on State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader at his office at the National Sports Council (NSC).

The state minister, on behalf of the prime minister, handed over a gold medal to each member of the team for their success in Jamshedpur.

Bangladesh will play their first match against Kuwait on September 6.

Giles recalled to Eng squad

LONDON, Aug 27: Ashley Giles secured the specialist spinner's place as England named their squad for the fifth and final Test against the West Indies here on Sunday, reports AFP.

Warwickshire left-armers Giles, whose only previous Test appearance was against South Africa at Old Trafford two years ago, is the only addition to the team that won the fourth Test at Headingley inside two days to set up the chance of England's first series win over West Indies since 1969.

Giles, 27, has had a successful summer taking 52 championship wickets at 23.07 and also averaging 40.36 with the bat — all-round figures that put him ahead of spin rivals Robert Croft and Phil Tufnell.

His performances also fit in with the England management's repeatedly expressed desire to have "all-round" cricketers in their team.

TEAM

Nasser Hussain (captain), Michael Atherton, Marcus Trescothick, Graham Thorpe, Alec Stewart (wkt), Michael Vaughan, Graeme Hick, Craig White, Dominic Cork, Andy Caddick, Darren Gough, Ashley Giles.

Abahani, Mariner split points

Sports Reporter



Title aspirants Abahani Krira Chakra suffered a major setback in their campaign to win the Green

Delta Premier Division hockey league when Mariner Youngs Club came from behind to hold them to a 2-2 draw at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half, Abahani, who have not won the title since artificial turf was laid at the stadium four years back, thought they had taken control of the proceedings when forwards Giasuddin Rubel and Pakistani Mohammad Khalid scored in the space of two minutes to give them a 2-0 lead. But brothers Isa and Musa, replied for Mariner to force their opponents to share the honours.

It was the second draw for Abahani against five wins in seven matches so far which increased their points tally to 17 -- four behind Mohammedan Sporting Club, Mohammedan, the defending champions who have won seven straight games, are leading the nine-team elite league table with 21 points.

On the other hand, it was the first draw for Mariner against four wins and two defeats which added a point to their previous collection of 12 points.

Abahani, who beat powerful side Usha Krira Chakra 5-1 in

their previous match, failed to break down the stubborn Mariner defence in the first 35 minutes despite enjoying a fair amount of possession.

However, after the lemon break striker Rubel put the popular Dhammondi outfit ahead with a power-packed hit after being nicely fed by Khalid from the left in the 39th minute. Rubel then repaid Khalid two minutes later with a neat pass to double the margin.

Stunned by two quick goals, Mariner staged a brilliant comeback and reduced the margin within two minutes thanks to Musa converting a short corner in the 43rd minute.

Mariner's sustained pressure finally bore fruit with a much-expected equaliser in the 61st minutes. Isa, the elder brother of Musa, sounded the board from a short corner.

Abahani take on their arch-rivals Mohammedan in their last match of the first leg on August 31 while Mariner meet Usha Krira Chakra the day before.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier Division

Bangladesh SC v Sonali Bank (4 pm)

First Division

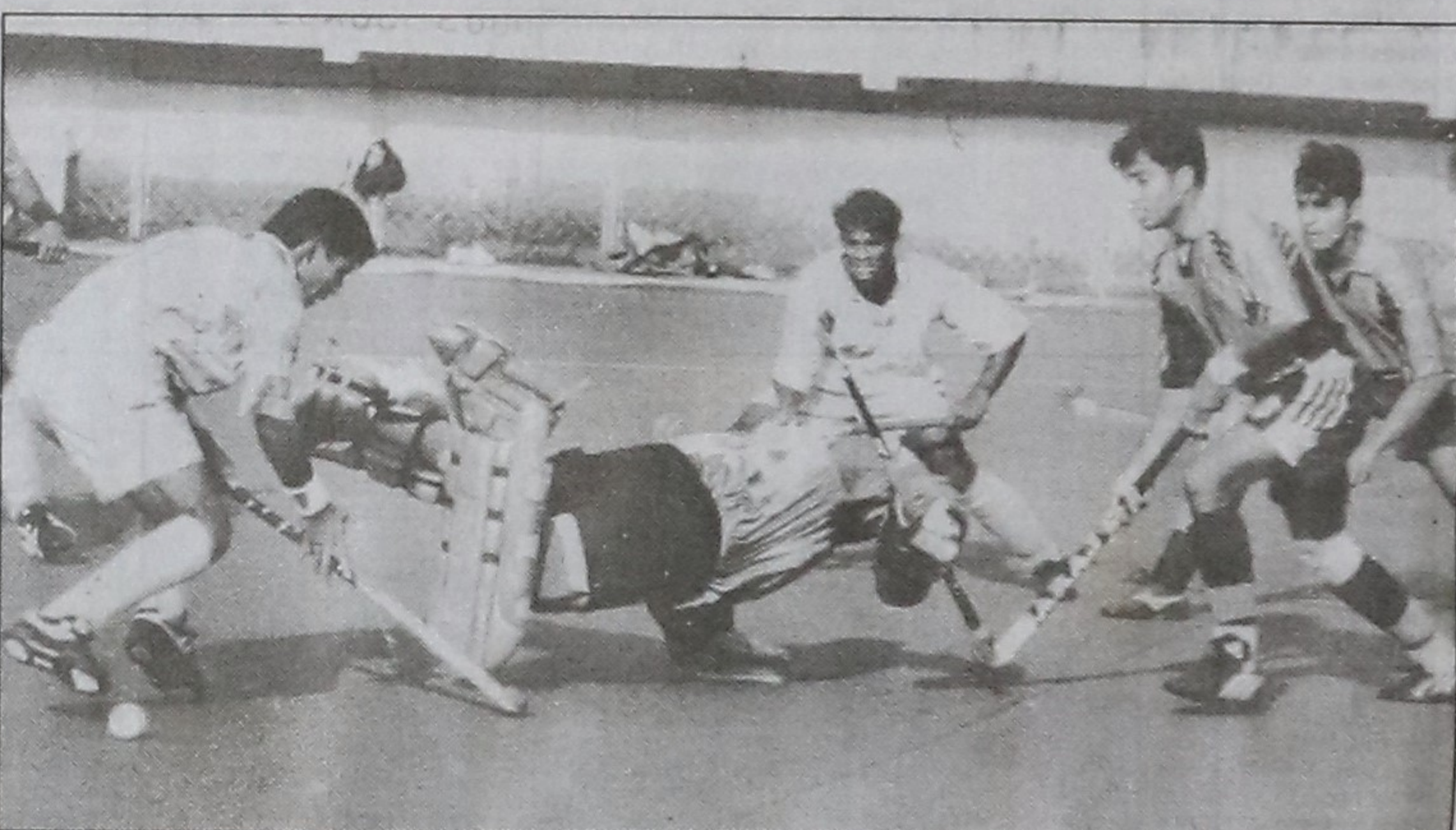
Railway v Dhaka Wanderers (2:15 pm)

POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Mohammedan SC	7	7	0	0	43	5	21
Abahani KC	7	5	2	0	22	2	17
Usha KC	7	5	0	2	33	13	15
Mariner YC	7	4	1	2	19	13	13
Farashganj SC	7	3	0	4	10	17	9
Bangladesh SC	7	1	2	4	4	21	5
Sonali Bank	7	2	1	4	7	24	7
Azad SC	7	1	1	5	12	24	4
Ajax SC	3	0	0	3	4	10	0

Hattricks: Kamal (Usha KC) against Ajax SC, Prince (Usha KC) against Azad SC and Shamim Reza (Mohammedan SC) against Usha KC.

Leading goalkeepers: 13 - Shamim Reza (MSC); 8 - Kamal (Usha), Ramji (MSC); 7 - Prince (Usha); Tahir (MSC), Shuvo (Usha), Musa (Mariner); 6 - Rubel (AKC); 5 - Navid (Usha), Razaq (Mariner), Moked (AKC); 4 - Bachchu (Azad), Aleem (Ajax), Shipu (MSC).



A goalmouth melee during the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League match between Abahani and Mariner Young's at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

Ninety-two & batting



SYDNEY, Aug 27 (AFP): Cricket's greatest Sir Donald Bradman reached another milestone Sunday with the celebration of his 92nd birthday.

Rated as Wisden's cricketer of the 20th century, Bradman typically spent a quiet day at his Adelaide home away from the limelight that he has shunned for much of his reclusive life.

Bradman is rarely seen in public since the death of his wife Jessie some years ago and earlier this month sent a message of hope for the future of cricket in a speech delivered by his son at a Melbourne function in his honour.

There was a chilling realisation among his legion of followers that his days may be numbered when he said: "As my days on earth rapidly draw to a close, I am proud to have set an example of all that is best in our noble game."

Bradman continued in his address: "Little did my parents dream that on 27th August, 1908 their new-born son would have an oration named after him and delivered by the Prime Minister."

The frail old man is acknowledged in every cricketing nation as the greatest cricketer who ever lived.

Bradman became a national icon during the depression years of the 1930s. Known as "The Don", his achievements are unlikely to be equalled.

He scored 6,996 runs in 52 Tests from 1928 to 1948, hitting 29 hundreds and 13 half-centuries. His highest Test score was 334 in the first innings against England at Leeds in 1930.

His Test batting average of 59.94 has gone unchallenged since his retirement in 1948.

Bradman had only seven ducks in Tests, with his most famous one coming in his last Test innings against England at

The Oval in London in 1948. If he had hit one more boundary in any of his Tests he would have averaged 100.

Next best was South Africa's Graham Pollock with 60.83 in the 1960s. Of the current cricketing generation nobody has come close, with India's Sachin Tendulkar reaching 54.84, and the second highest-scoring Australian, Greg Chappell with 53.86.

In this month's oration in Bradman's honour, Australian Prime Minister John Howard, a self-described cricket tragic, said it was not Bradman's record alone, nor the times in which he played, but the quality of the man himself which had elevated him to the status of "greatest living Australian."

"Even now, in another century, in a world scarcely recognisable to that in which he played, the name Bradman resonates with meaning — talent, determination, commitment, fair play, honour."