

## Rajshahi Kabadi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 12: Mahabagan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra won their respective matches of the Rajshahi First Division Kabadi League at the local gymnasium today.

In the first match of the day, Mahabagan defeated Bangladesh Krira Chakra 26-23 points.

## Refreshing

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on the field today was the icing on his brilliant five-wicket haul.

Naimur's plotting of the downfall of two batsmen stands out. When Rahul Dravid came in to bat, Naimur put six men on the off-side in catching and run-saving positions. He however made an initial error by not keeping a forward short leg.

It is natural for batsmen to try and work something on the leg-side once their options on the off-side are blocked. In doing so they tend to give catches at short leg. Dravid, when on two, scooped a Mohammad Rafique delivery to the same area but there were no fielders.

It didn't take long for Naimur to spot the incident and soon there was a short leg in place and Dravid eventually fell there.

Saurav Ganguly always backs himself up for going over the boundary even if there are fielders on the line. Still when on 84, very few Test batsmen would want to hit sixes preferring to edge toward a hundred.

Naimur could not have been blamed had he brought his field up thinking likewise but he persevered with a long off and Ganguly got trapped.

There was however one uncharacteristic blemish from the captain when he spoilt a simple chance to run out Sunil Joshi. Had he been behind the stumps at the non-striking end, he could have easily gathered the throw from mid-wicket to complete the run out as Joshi was stranded the half way down the pitch. Rather Naimur was caught off-guard and was never in a position to collect the return.

As the game moves into Day Four, it appears that Bangladesh have done enough to the amazement of everybody to ensure at least a draw. Things have gone "to plan" according to coach Sarwar Imran and he knows strategy as good as anybody.

To those who have trained under the former BKSP coach, it wasn't difficult to spot Imran's mark on the field placing and in some other finer points.

So far so good but the crumbling pitch still may have a decisive say and the Indian spinners are keeping their fingers crossed for that bit of encouragement.

## Azhar ducks BCCI probe



NEW DELHI, Nov 12: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Saturday launched an independent inquiry into charges of match-fixing levelled against five national players by a federal police agency, officials said, reports AFP.

Former skipper Mohammad Azharuddin, one of the five accused of match-fixing, skipped the maiden questioning round as the board's anti-corruption chief, K. Madhavan, began cross-examining players in the southern city of Madras.

Madhavan appeared unhappy with Azharuddin's absence. "A haruddin will be given another opportunity to submit himself. Otherwise, I will be forced to go by his evidence, as reported by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)," he said.

Only whistle-blower Manoj Prabhakar, who was called with Azharuddin and batsman Ajay Sharma for the cross-examination, appeared before Madhavan for a closed-door session.

Sources said Prabhakar was "grilled" for five hours.

Madhavan said Prabhakar, who had accused Indian cricket icon Kapil Dev of offering him a bribe to underplay in 1994, had "gone away in a happy frame of mind after being questioned."

Prabhakar, who has retired from Test cricket, was not available for comment.

Meanwhile, in the northern Indian city of Lucknow a local court on Saturday lodged a case of "treason" against the five tainted player, officials said.

District Judicial Magistrate



AZHARUDDIN

In New Delhi, activists belonging to the Hindu right wing Shiv Sena party late Saturday attacked a beauty parlour owned by Manoj Prabhakar's wife in upscale Greater Kailash, throwing rocks and missiles at the building.

The board, after banning the five players from playing in international and domestic matches, named Madhavan last week as the commissioner of its own inquiry.

But on Thursday it hit back at the CBI saying the agency had made "unjustified" comments against the authorities.

The CBI report had taken the board to task for its style of functioning, selection policies and alleged lack of accountability in selling television broadcasting rights for matches played in India.

It also charged some state cricket boards of nepotism.

No one was hurt in the attack but the incident almost led

to a stampede, a witness said. The Shiv Sena, which pelted Ajay Jadeja with rotten eggs last Saturday at a news conference, warned the group will step up such attacks against the tainted players.

This is the beginning of our crusade against corruption. The corrupt are traitors and they should be hanged," Sena's New Delhi chief Jai Bhagwan Goyal told reporters.

"Shiv Sena supporters are upset over the manner in which these cricketers have fooled the nation," he added.

In Madras, Madhavan told reporters that if needed he would also quiz players such as Kapil Dev who have been absolved of match-fixing and betting allegations by the CBI.

The CBI named Azharuddin, Prabhakar, Sharma, Ajay Jadeja and Nayan Mongia as the main fixers of matches in a report it published earlier this month.

It also named nine overseas players, several bookmakers and said some Indian officials of the game were also involved in corruption.

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## England's perfect warm-up

PESHAWAR, Nov 12: England wrapped up their preparations for the first Test against Pakistan with an eight-wicket win in the four-day side game against a Governor's XI at Shahi Bagh Stadium Saturday, reports AFP.

The tourists achieved their second successive win soon after lunch on the final day by dismissing the home team for 170 and then capped the win by notching up the required 80 runs for two wickets.

Captain Nasser Hussain remained not out on 22 and Michael Vaughan unbeaten on 19.

England meet Pakistan in the first of the three Tests in Lahore from November 15. England had beaten Patron's XI by an innings and 27 runs last week.

On Saturday, England wiped off 35 in quick time before Kashif Raza struck twice in the ninth over.

Raza forced an edge from Marcus Trescothick to wicket-keeper Rashid Latif who leapt in the air and took a beautiful catch.

## SCOREBOARD

Final scorecard of the four-day match between England and the Governor's XI at Shahi Bagh Stadium on Saturday:

**GOVERNOR'S XI:** First innings 224 (Mohammad Hussain 65, Yasir Hameed 57; Darren 3-82).**ENGLAND:** First innings 315 (Marcus Trescothick 93, Alec Stewart 59, Graham Thorpe 48; Kashif Raza 3-66, Kabir Khan 3-82).**GOVERNOR'S XI:** Second innings

Farhat c Stewart b Caddick 0

Umer b Gough 1

Hameed lbw b Gough 5

Naumanullah c Thorpe b Gough 50

Sarfraz c Stewart b Caddick 53

Sajid c Stewart b White 18

M Hussain c Thorpe b White 7

Latif st Stewart b Salisbury 3

Kabir not out 22

Raza st Stewart b Salisbury 4

Wasti absent hurt 0

Extras (b-4; lb-2; nb-1) 0

Total (All out in 60.5 overs) 170

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-1, 3-13, 4-115, 5-115, 6-139, 7-142, 8-150, 9-170.

**Bowler** O M R W

Gough 15 3 51 3

Caddick 17 8 24 2

Umer 10 1 27 2

Giles 9 2 32 0

Salisbury 9.5 2 30 2

**ENGLAND:** Second innings

Atherton c Umer b Raza 14

Trescothick c Latif b Raza 11

Hussain not out 23

Vaughan not out 19

Extras (b-6; nb-7) 13

Total (For 2 wks in 17.2 overs) 80

Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-37

**Bowler** O M R W

Raza 9 0 38 2

Sajid 8.2 0 36 0

**Result:** England won by 8 wickets.

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