

Abahani excel

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani Krira Chakra extended their impressive all win record to four in the Premier Cricket League when they handed Sadharan Bima a seven-wicket defeat at the BKSP ground in Savar on Thursday.

The popular Dhanmondi outfit rode on the brilliance of their Pakistani duo of Mohammad Hussain and Tarik Javed in the successful run chase after Bima threw up a challenging 250 for seven in the stipulated 50 overs.

Hussain scored a quickfire 60 off 49 balls and his compatriot Tarik notched up an unbeaten 72 as Abahani raced on to 253 for three wickets in 45.2 overs.

With the ball Hussain however got a bit of stick conceding 59 runs in his 10 overs. But the discarded Pakistan left-arm spinner maintained a high standard as pinch-hitter while opening the innings with Nafis Iqbal. Hussain smashed 10 savage hits across the rope.

Nasif scored 29 runs before both were dismissed in quick succession.

But Abahani never looked troubled in their chase with Tarek clobbering six fours in his sensible 89-ball undefeated vigil at the

crease. He shared 87 runs for the third wicket with skipper Azam, who chipped in with 40 off 61 balls.

Young Anisur Rahman then joined the Pakistani to take Abahani home without further damage, putting on 66 runs for the undefeated fourth wicket. Anisur scored 34 off 32 balls that included three fours and a couple of sixes.

Earlier, Bima, who pulled off a stunning victory over Kalabagan, thrived on three half-centuries to recover from a shaky start to post a fairly impressive total.

Rizwan scored 68 off 111 balls after Bima lost two wickets for only 17 runs. Tarikur Rahman hammered a 51-ball 56 with the help of seven fours while Sopu scored a breezy 63 off 53 balls.

Coming in to bat at number six, Sopu took the Abahani spinners to the sword. He struck nine boundaries.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the Premier Cricket League match between Abahani Krira Chakra and Sadharan Bima at the BKSP ground in Savar on Thursday.

S BIMA
Mofizul run out 26
Jashim c Selim b Iqbal 4
Chopra run out 2
Rizwan c Anisur b M Hussain 68
Tarikur c & b M Hussain 56

Sopu c Selim b Tarek 63
Moin st. Selim b Hassan 9
Hossain not out 1
Kamal not out 1
Extras: (b-1, lb-8, nb-2, w-9) 20
Total: (For 7 wickets in 50 overs) 250

Fall of wickets: 1/7, 2/17, 3/74, 4/139, 5/197, 6/245, 7/249

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Iqbal	10	0	31	1
Nayeamur	8	2	38	0
Mukul	5	0	38	0
Hassan	7	0	32	1
Tarek Javed	10	0	42	1
M Hussain	10	1	59	2

ABAHANI
M Hussain c Azim b Chopra 60
Nafis c Chopra b Tarikur 29
Azam c sub b Rizwan 40
Tarek not out 72
Anisur not out 34
Extras: (b-3, lb-3, nb-4, w-8) 18
Total: (For 3 wickets in 45.2 overs) 253

Fall of wickets: 1/98, 2/100, 3/187

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hossain	3	0	24	0
Rizwan	10	0	52	1
Totam	4	0	30	0
Moin	4	0	27	0
Chopra	10	0	29	1
Tarikur	7	0	41	1
Azim	4	0	19	0
Sopu	2	0	8	0
Kamal	1.2	0	17	0

Result: Abahani won by 7 wickets.

Meeting on Mar 27 cricket match

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Saber Hossain Chowdhury had an unscheduled meeting with nine of his newly elected directors at the BCB office Thursday morning.

Tanvir Mazhar Islam Tanna, one of the 16 Dhaka based directors elected in the February 25 election who attended the meeting, said that they sat together to discuss about smooth holding of an exhibition match on the occasion of the 30th Independence Day of the country.

The day-night match between the BCB Eleven and an international invitational team will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on March 27, the day after Independence Day.

Saber meanwhile has instructed all the new directors and councillors to give undertakings citing that they don't have any criminal charges filed against them. Councillors from different districts will have to give additional undertaking in which they need to declare that they have become councillors after fulfilling all the requirements of the BCB constitution.

Undertakings should be reached by March 28.

Syed Ashrafal Huq, Ahmed Sajjadul Alam, Mahmud Ul Haq, Enayet Hossain Siraj, Aziz Al-Kaiser, Afzalur Rahman Sinha, Enayet Kabir and Alam Chowdhury were the other eight directors elect who attended the meeting. Ali Ahsan Babu, who has been appointed as the GM of the Board last year but is yet to take over the responsibility, was also present.

Mazhar revealed that job responsibilities have been given out to directors as all the sub-committees of the previous Board handed over its charges on March 20.

As per Thursday's decision, Mazhar will look after ticket, Mahmud Ul Haque will manage gate, law and order and Enayet Kabir will be in charge of facility department. Ali Ahsan Babu will handle reception while Afzalur Rahman Sinha will take care of finance.

Ticket rates for exhibition match

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) have announced ticket prices for the day-night exhibition match to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on March 27.

Zimbabwe bound Bangladesh national team will take on an international invitational eleven in the 50-over a side game arranged to mark the country's 30th Independence Day.

The following are the rate of tickets of different enclosures which will be sold through branches of Al-Baraka Bank:

Enclosure	Rate
Hospitality Box (A/C)	Tk 5,000
Hospitality Box (Non A/C)	Tk 3,000
Shahbed Jewel Gate	Tk 150
Club House (east)	Tk 100
International Gallery	Tk 50
Western Gallery	Tk 25
Eastern Gallery	Tk 20

Div Two cricket Railway, F'ganj Kalindi win

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Railway registered an exciting one-run win over Mill Barrack Cricket Club in one of the three Acme Second Division cricket league matches played at the Dhanmondi Club ground on Thursday.

In the other two matches, Farashganj Sporting Club thrashed Kakrail Boys Club by 94 runs at the Mirpur Outer Stadium while Kalindi Krira Chakra posted a three-wicket win over Udiy Club at the Jagannath Hall ground of Dhaka University.

BRIEF SCORES
B Railway v Mill Barrack CC
B Railway: 163 all out in 32.5 overs (Jalal 55, Abedin 32, Rajib 28, Shaliquel 6/41)
Mill Barrack CC: 162 for 8 in 45 overs (Tanvir 45, Tanjir 35, Samud 22, Nazmul 3/37)
Result: B Railway won by one run.

Farashganj SC v Kakrail Boys
Farashganj SC: 180 all out in 42.5 overs (Extras 40, Sayem 38, Sujon 24, Rumi 23, Momtaz 3/24)
Kakrail Boys: 86 all out in 32.3 overs (Extras 20, Sanaullah 14, Bright 13, Iqbal 6/19)
Result: Farashganj SC won by 94 runs.

Udiy Club v Kalindi KC
Udiy Club: 159 all out in 40.5

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Singh on song India triumph in a thriller

Cricket

AFP, Madras

India's bowling star Harbhajan Singh hit the winning runs amid nerve-wracking tension to give the hosts a dramatic two-wicket win in the final Test against Australia here on Thursday.

But the valiant Australians grabbed six wickets for 50 runs, including frontline batsmen Sachin Tendulkar, captain Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid, to launch a brilliant fightback.

As 45,000 boisterous home fans cheered every run, Dighe smashed Colin Miller for two consecutive fours and edged McGrath through

"India are a very tough side to beat at home and they showed it in this series. But no one can take away our record of 16 consecutive Test wins, which my team and I are very proud of."

Ganguly, jeered by the crowd for his lean patch with the bat, attributed the win to a "fantastic team effort."

"I am not concerned about my batting as long as the team wins," the Indian captain said.

"Even after the defeat in the first Test, I was confident we will come back. Not many teams have come back after losing the first game, so there is even more reason to be proud of the boys."

Ganguly paid rich tributes to Harbhajan Singh and Laxman for their brilliant work in the series.

"They showed a lot of character in fighting back. It may not be right to single out individuals in a team sport (but) Harbhajan and Laxman were really outstanding."

"And then there was Dighe who told me at tea that we will do it. He lived up to it by staying till the end."

Harbhajan had grabbed eight wickets, his fourth successive haul of six wickets or more, to bowl out Australia for 264 in their second innings an hour after the start.

It was a remarkable win by India after they were thrashed inside three days in the first Test at Bombay and then followed on 274 runs behind in the second at Calcutta.

Harbhajan, who claimed four wickets in the first Test and 13 in the second, took 15 here to win the man of the series award.

Only three other bowlers in the game's history have taken more wickets in a three-Test series.

England's George Lohmann leads the pack with 35 wickets against South Africa in 1895-96, followed by another Englishman Syd Barnes' 34 against the South Africans in 1912 and New Zealander Sir Richard Hadlee's 33 against Australia in 1985-86.

It is also a record haul by an Indian bowler against Australia, surpassing Bishan Bedi's tally of 31 in a five-match away series in 1977.

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MAN-OF-THE-SERIES: Indian sensation Harbhajan Singh shows off his trophy after the end of the third and final Test against Australia in Madras on Thursday. The off-spinner, who captured 15 wickets in the match, also won the man-of-the-match award along with Matthew Hayden.

The 20-year-old, who picked up 32 wickets in the three-Test series, cut Glenn McGrath for two runs to clinch a 2-1 series victory for India an hour after tea on the fifth day.

It was Australia's first defeat in a Test series since the 1-0 loss in Sri Lanka in August, 1999. They have not won in India since Bill Lawry's team secured a 3-1 win in 1969.

Harbhajan and debutant wicket-keeper Sameer Dighe, who remained unbeaten on 22, kept their cool after India, chasing a target to 155, collapsed to 151-8.

India had earlier appeared set for an easier win when Venkatesh Laxman's 66 lifted them to 101-2 midway through the post-lunch session.

the slips to narrow the margin.

"It was one of the most fantastic series I have played in," Waugh said, but added he was disappointed at not realising his dream of winning his country's first series on Indian soil in 32 years.

"I would not be honest if I said I am not disappointed. Of course I am a bit sad that we could not win."

"But I am proud that my team fought till the end. We backed ourselves even when the match was going out of hand and kept the pressure on the Indians."

Waugh said the exciting series had taken a lot out of both teams.

"Usually in a three-match series one Test gets a bit tight, but here we had three matches that were very close and the crowd got their money's worth," Waugh said.

Proteas prevail

Cricket

AFP, Port of Spain

South Africa beat the West Indies by 69 runs when a tense, hard-fought second Test match ended with a flurry of wickets on the last afternoon here Wednesday. It put South Africa 1-0 up in a five-Test series.

Fortunes swung wildly on the final day, as they had throughout an enthralling match.

West Indies crashed to 51 for five and an early finish seemed likely.

But Ramnaresh Sarwan and West Indian captain Charlie Hooper gave their side a chance of victory when they put on 92 for the sixth wicket.

Sarwan fell to a spectacular catch shortly before tea. Just when it seemed the stand had swung the game back to the West Indies, Sarwan hooked Jacques Kallis and Nicky Boje, fielding about 45m from the bat, turned and leaped to hold a fine catch.

Ridley Jacobs, who made 93 not out in the first innings, was the last major batsman for his side and he started aggressively before being run out.

Called for a leg bye by Hooper, Jacobs was beaten by the speed and accurate throw of Herschelle Gibbs who raced in from back-ward point to pick up the ball near the batsman's wicket and throw down the stumps at the bowlers' end.

Nixon McLean survived a huge appeal for a catch behind off Kallis but the appeal was turned down by umpire Darrell Hair.

He made only four, though, before getting a thick edge to the wicket-keeper off the same bowler.

wickets of the morning after the West Indies resumed at 32 for one.

South African captain Shaun Pollock then had Chris Gayle caught behind and Makhaya Ntini claimed the prize wicket of Brian Lara with his first delivery of the innings.

The West Indies slide started in the fourth over of the day when nightwatchman Dinanath Ramnarine edged a hard catch to Kallis at second slip off Donald without adding to the 11 runs he scored Tuesday.

He took the last wicket when he bowled Courtney Walsh. Clearly working to a plan to strangle the batsmen with accurate pace bowling, Pollock did not use left-arm spinner Boje.

SCOREBOARD
Final scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the second Test between South Africa and West Indies at Queen's Park Oval Wednesday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 286 (D Cullinan 103, J Kallis 53; N McLean 3-60, D Ramnarine 3-57)

WEST INDIES: First innings 342 (R Jacobs 93 not out, W Hinds 56, C Hooper 53; A Donald 4-91, S Pollock 3-55)

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings 287 (H Gibbs 87, D Cullinan 73; C Walsh 6-61, M Dillon 3-58)

WEST INDIES: Second innings 2 Hinds lbw b Kallis 2
Gayle c Boucher b Pollock 23
Ramnarine c Kallis b Donald 11
Samuels c Kallis b Donald 9
Lara lbw b Ntini 0
Sarwan c Boje b Kallis 39
Hooper not out 54
Jacobs run out (Gibbs) 4
McLean c Boucher b Kallis 2
Dillon lbw b Kallis 0
Walsh b Pollock 0
Extras: (b-7, lb-4, nb-7) 18
Total: (All out in 80.1 overs) 162

Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-35, 3-50, 4-50, 5-51, 6-143, 7-150, 8-159, 9-159

Bowler O M R W
Donald 15 4 32 2
Pollock 23.1 8 35 2
Kallis 16 6 40 4
Ntini 16 4 22 1
Klusener 10 5 22 0

Result: South Africa won by 69 runs and lead the series 1-0.
Man-of-the-match: Daryll Cullinan.
Third Test: March 29-April 2, Barbados.
Umpires: Billy Doctrove (West Indies) and Darrell Hair (Australia).



Did U Know?

In 1990, American tennis pro John McEnroe, often called "The Brat" because of his infantile volatile on-court behaviour, became the first player in 27 years to be disqualified from a Grand Slam tournament for misconduct. His repeated bad manners led to his being booted from the Australian Open.



What to Watch

ESPN
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
9:30 pm
English Premiership
Highlights at 12:30 pm
Serie A
12:00 am (Saturday)
Star Sports
Australian Domestic Cricket
11:00 pm
Asian Football Show
8:30 pm



Talk Turkey



Wasim Akram
(Pakistan cricket superstar)
"My cricketing career has been a roller-coaster ride on and off the field."

Sports Whizz Kid

Competition 145
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to: *Star*
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
March 23, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

- Bangladesh beat Mongolia in the 2002 World Cup qualifier
2-0 3-2 3-0
 - Who clinched the Paris Indoor Open title?
Huber Hingis Mauresmo
 - Sri Lanka won the one-day series against New Zealand
3-2 5-0 4-1
 - How many Tests will Bangladesh play in five years?
33 35 36
 - Who lifted the national under-19 cricket crown?
Chittagong Rajshahi BKSP
- Name.....
Class..... Roll No.....
School Address.....
Phone: (if any).....

Rajshahi cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Shaheen Smriti Sangha and Kazihata Junior Cricket Club won their respective matches of the Hasan Imam and Ali Imam Pintu Smriti Cricket tournament yesterday at the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital playground.

In the first match, Shaheen Smriti defeated YLG Club by 106 runs.

Kazihata beat RRTT Sangha by nine wickets in the second match of the day.



Day's Event

Premier Division Cricket League
Biman v Victoria SC
(Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)
Mohammedan SC v Surjo Tarun (BKSP)

Mehmud flays City

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

A sparkling century from Tareque Mehmud enabled title aspirants Kalabagan Krira Chakra return to the winning ways with a comprehensive 78-run victory over City Club in a Premier Division cricket league match played at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

Mehmud, the Pakistani batsman, slammed 143 off 120 balls as Kalabagan, who lost their previous match to Sadharan Bima by 67 runs on Monday, piled up a huge 334 in the allotted 50 overs with four wickets to spare.

Mehmud smote one six and twenty boundaries in his magnificent innings.

After losing his opening partner Nahidul Haque (12) on 21, Tareque built up the innings with a 144-run second wicket stand with one down Rafiqul (38) and 78-run third wicket partnership with his younger brother Ziaur Rahman who chipped in with a run-a-ball 55 with a quartet of fours.

Among others, middle order Mohammad Kalim scored a breezy 39 of 33 balls with a six and two boundaries.

In reply, the City Club were restricted to 256 for six in their share of 50 overs.

Pakistani Rehan Rafique fought a losing battle with a fine 64 off 73 balls that featured eight fours followed by his compatriot Wasim Nayem who contributed 39 off just 26 deliveries including eight sweetly timed hits across the rope.

It was Kalabagan's third win in four matches. On the other hand, City Club went down for the fourth successive time.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the Premier Division Cricket League match between Kalabagan KC and City Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Thursday:

KALABAGAN KC
Nahidul Ullash b Khairuzzaman 12
T Mehmud c Khairuzzaman 143
b Uzzal 38
Rafiqul lbw b Khokon 38
Ziaur b Khokon 55



Kalabagan Krira Chakra's Pakistani recruit Tareque Mehmud plays a square cut against City Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Kalim lbw b R Rafique 39
Rumman st Lipu b R Rafique 17
Mosaddek not out 5
Manzarul not out 24
Extras: (lb-5, nb-3, w-16) 24
Total: (for 6 wickets in 50 overs) 334
Fall of wickets: 1/21, 2/165, 3/243, 4/286, 5/327, 6/328

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Khairuzzaman	6	0	32	1
Palash	4	0	47	0
W Nayem	10	0	51	0
R Rafique	10	1	58	2
Uzzal	10	0	70	1
Khokon	10	0	71	2

CITY CLUB
W Nayem c T Mehmud b Mosaddek 39
Ullash c Ziaur b Kalim 4
R Rafique b Manzarul 64
Raihan c Saiful b Ripon 20
Mitu c Ziaur b Rumman 25
Tutul not out 54
Lipu c Subrata b Saiful 13
Khokon not out 27
Extras: (lb-2, w-8) 10
Total: (for 6 wks in 50 overs) 256
Fall of wickets: 1/7, 2/73, 3/120, 4/136, 5/171, 6/204.

Result: Kalabagan KC won by 78 runs.

M'singh cricket
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Asit Memorial Club defeated G