

# Star SPORT

DHAKA SUNDAY APRIL 21, 2002, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

## Abahani ride on Akram

SPORTS REPORTER



**Skipper Akram Khan returned among the runs as title contenders Abahani Krira Chakra recorded a comprehensive five-wicket victory over Young Pegasus in a GrameenPhone Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.**

With this win Abahani joined their previous match conquerors Bangladesh Biman in the second position behind leaders Victoria Sporting Club. But they needed to cross the biggest hurdle, a victory against defending champions Mohammedan in the last game of the first round, to consolidate that position.

Akram, the mainstay in the Abahani batting for nearly a decade, scored an unbeaten 51 as the last year's runners-up toppled a modest Young Pegasus total of 173 in 46.2 overs.

Akram put on a vital 81 runs for the fourth wicket with young Moniruzzaman after the popular Dhanmondi outfit suffered an all too familiar top-order collapse.

Abahani lost their first three wickets for 55 runs with opener Nafis Iqbal, Mehrab Hossain and Naimur Rahman fell cheaply.

But Moniruzzaman and Akram, mixing caution with aggression against the three pronged spin attack of Saifullah Khan, Sohail Rana and Pakistani Majed Jafri, led the recovery operation.

Moniruzzaman scored a disciplined 60 off 106 balls that included three boundaries and a six.

Akram on the other hand struck only two fours in his watchful knock.

Left-arm spinner Saifullah Khan with three for 25 was responsible for Abahani's top-order collapse.

Earlier, the unimpressive Pegasus total was built around two 40-odd knocks from captain Hasan and Majed.

In-form Hasan scored a 75-ball 41 with the help of three fours.

Majed, who was instrumental in

Pegasus' upset victory against Bangladesh Biman, struck 40 off 50 balls. He hammered a quartet of fours.

The defeat effectively dashed Pegasus' dream for a passage into the Super Six.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League match between Abahani Krira Chakra and Young Pegasus at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

### YOUNG PEGASUS

|  |     |  |  |  |  |
|--|-----|--|--|--|--|
| Uzzal st. Mokter b Hasan   | 8   |  |  |  |  |
| Nahid c & b Neeyamur   | 12  |  |  |  |  |
| Bidyut b Arman   | 31  |  |  |  |  |
| Sabbir c Mokter b Alamgir  | 1   |  |  |  |  |
| Hasan run out  | 41  |  |  |  |  |
| Majed b Naimur   | 40  |  |  |  |  |
| Tanvir b Hasan   | 11  |  |  |  |  |
| Mahabub c Moni b Hasan   | 1   |  |  |  |  |
| Sohel c & b Naimur   | 5   |  |  |  |  |
| Saifullah st. Mokter b Hossain                                       | 0   |  |  |  |  |
| Wahid not out  | 1   |  |  |  |  |
| Extras: (lb-8, w-14)   | 22  |  |  |  |  |
| Total: (All out in 46.4 overs)                                       | 173 |  |  |  |  |
| Fall of wks: 1-23, 2-25, 3-84, 4-111, 5-132, 6-138, 7-152, 8-166, 9- |     |  |  |  |  |

| Bowler    | O   | M | R  | W |
|-----------|-----|---|----|---|
| Alamgir   | 6   | 0 | 17 | 1 |
| Neeyamur  | 7   | 0 | 32 | 1 |
| Ali Arman | 8   | 0 | 36 | 1 |
| Hossain   | 8   | 3 | 12 | 1 |
| Hasan     | 10  | 0 | 33 | 3 |
| Naimur    | 7.4 | 1 | 35 | 2 |

### ABAHANI

|   |     |  |  |  |  |
|---|-----|--|--|--|--|
| Nafis b Sabbir                                  | 14  |  |  |  |  |
| Mehrab c Hasan b Saifullah                      | 15  |  |  |  |  |
| Moni st. Bidyut b Saifullah                     | 60  |  |  |  |  |
| Naimur c Mahabub b Saifullah                    | 0   |  |  |  |  |
| Akram not out                                   | 51  |  |  |  |  |
| Hossain c Saifullah b Majed                     | 4   |  |  |  |  |
| Neeyamur not out                                | 18  |  |  |  |  |
| Extras: (lb-1, nb-8, w-3)                       | 12  |  |  |  |  |
| Total: (For 5 wks in 46.2 overs)                | 174 |  |  |  |  |
| Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-53, 3-55, 4-136, 5-146 |     |  |  |  |  |

| Bowler    | O   | M | R  | W |
|-----------|-----|---|----|---|
| Wahid     | 4   | 0 | 28 | 0 |
| Sabbir    | 3   | 0 | 28 | 1 |
| Saifullah | 10  | 1 | 25 | 3 |
| Majed     | 10  | 1 | 27 | 1 |
| Sohel     | 10  | 1 | 27 | 0 |
| Mahabub   | 9   | 0 | 36 | 0 |
| Nahid     | 0.2 | 0 | 2  | 0 |

**Result: Abahani KC won by 5 wickets.**

## Green Delta Hockey AKC alive at last

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani Krira Chakra shrugged off their rustiness to thump Ajax Club by 6-0 in a Green Delta Premier Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

The sky blues, who scored a lone goal in the opening match against lowly Sonali Bank and squeaked past promotes Bangladesh Railway in the last game, looked a refreshingly impressive side against Ajax.

The striking duo of Shamim and Ramiz scored twice in a top-sided affair that Abahani led 2-0 at the breather.

Ashraf and Miraj shared the other goals.

Their fourth straight win kept them in the front along with defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club.

Meanwhile, in the First Division League Mukta Bihanga blanked Victoria Sporting Club 2-0.

Forward Iqbal struck both the goals for winners in the first half.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST



**HURST DOES IT FOR ENGLAND:** World Cup Final, 1966. Wembley, England. 30th July, 1966 England 4 v West Germany 2. England forward Geoff Hurst scores the fourth goal of the game in the dying seconds to complete his hat-trick and seal England's first ever World Cup victory.

## Get ready for anything



AFP, Paris

This week's action with 40 days to go until the World Cup finals gave us a taste of things to come -- it will be uncompromising and at times brutal.

Wednesday's "friendlies" involving 28 out of the 32 contestants heading for South Korea and Japan were littered with bone-crunching tackles and snarling off-the-ball incidents.

Over 20 yellow cards and one red one were shown and there were ugly scuffles involving groups of players during the Portugal-Brazil and France-Russia games.

Fortunately only one player -- Italy's Gianluca Pessotto -- picked up the kind of injury that can ruin World Cup hopes, but with most managers all but settled on their squads and concerned about late

injury withdrawals, the remaining warm-up games are likely to be tamer affairs physically.

Four-goal England, five-goal Spain and Argentina, away winners against a dispirited Germany, were the form-horses, but it was perhaps down in Lisbon where the evening's most significant development took place.

Brazilian manager Luis Felipe Scolari, under fire at home for his conservative tactics, and struggling to put together a match-winning side gambled by playing together for the first time the three-Rs -- Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Ronaldinho.

The result was encouraging for him even though his side had to hit back to force a 1-1 draw against a Luis Figo inspired Portugal.

It was the second match in a row that the injury-prone Ronaldo has played for the first 45 minutes and, as against Yugoslavia, he looked sharp and dangerous.

The Brazilians have two more matches left ahead of the World Cup finals and how this trio mesh in the time left could have crucial say in

who wins the first ever World Cup on Asian soil.

One thing seems certain though - there will be no fourth "R" as veteran striker Romario remains out of favour with Scolari.

In England meanwhile all eyes will be on captain David Beckham's injured left foot.

The Manchester United player picked up the injury in a European Champions League match on April 10 and was straightaway plunged into a race against time to be fit for England's opening match against Sweden in Saitama on June 2.

The signs are that he will just about be ready in time, but there was food for thought in his absence as England, spearheaded by new skipper Michael Owen, produced their best performance in several months in crushing Paraguay 4-0 at Anfield.

World Cup holders France were brought back to earth following their 5-0 demolition of Scotland as

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2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

**4** **0**

days to go



### Did U Know?

No event in the history of the World Cup caused so much discussion, between fans as well as on an official level, as the so-called "Wembley goal" that set England on the way to victory when Geoff Hurst made it 3:2 in the final against Germany. Hardly a year went by without some new technology being used to prove once and for all that the ball was (or maybe was not) really behind the line. The Swiss referee Gottfried Dienst, who made his decision after consulting his Russian linesman, is still remembered by football fans all over the world, fondly by England fans, less so by their German counterparts.

What to WATCH

BTV

Nitol-Tata Nat'l Football League

Chittagong Abahani vs Muktijoddha Sangsad

Live at 5:30 pm

ESPN

Cricket Programming

Super Selector

Repeat at 11:00 am

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TALK TURKEY

**David Beckham**  
(England soccer superstar)

"I've had a few tests over my career, physically and mentally, and I've come through them quite well and this is just another one."

**While expressing his eagerness to play in the World Cup.**

**Star WHIZZ KID**

COMPETITION 169

Tick the correct answers, post to

The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

April 26, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who clinched the Indian Wells Masters Series tennis title?  
Hewitt    Henman    Agassi
- Who won the Bangladesh Games hockey title?  
Dhaka    BDR    BJMC
- How many balls did Nathan Astle face to score Test cricket's fastest double century?  
1532 0 0
- Who lifted the Bangladesh Games football title?  
Chittagong    Dhaka    Army
- How many gold medals did Doly Akhter win in Bangladesh Games?  
None    Seven    Ten

Name: .....

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

School Address: .....

Phone: (If any) .....

## Comilla face BKSP in final

Standard Chartered

20th

National School Cricket

2001-2002

UNB, Bogra

Comilla High moved into the final of the Standard Chartered 20th National School Cricket tournament beating Bhola High by 58 runs in the second semifinal at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium yesterday.

They will take on BKSP, who booked seat beating New Model High by one-wicket in the first semis, in the final Monday.

In the day's match Comilla scored 212 runs for seven wickets in fixed 40 overs after deciding to bat first.

In reply, Bhola were all out for 154 runs in 35.4 overs.

## Army b'ball

UNB, Dhaka

The Bangladesh Army Basketball Championship began at the Savar Cantonment yesterday.

Twelve teams from different formations of Bangladesh Army are taking part in the six-day meet.

On the inaugural day, the Bogra Area defeated the Jessore Area 99-81 points.

## Raj Abahani prevail

NITOL-TATA NAT'L FOOTBALL LEAGUE

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Chittagong

Abahani Krira Chakra of Rajshahi earned full points in their opening encounter of the Nitol-Tata National Football League when they edged past Mohsin Club of Narayanangij 2-1 at the MA Aziz stadium yesterday.

The match was locked at 1-1 in the first half.

The evenly contested match between the two unheralded teams gave some delight to the spectators in true sense after the disappointing first three games.

Although Abahani enjoyed a better territorial dominance their opponents seized the first scoring opportunity in the 26th minute.

Mohsin club's captain Rinku delivered a nice pass from the left flank to striker Apu, who made no mistake to take a first time shot past Abahani custodian Mohammad Ali (1-0).

But the euphoria of Mohsin Club did not last long as the Rajshahi outfit hit back with the equaliser after six minutes through their nimble forward Bulbul.

After receiving a fine through pass from Sohagh in the left corner of the box Bulbul intelligently placed the ball home under the armpit of goalkeeper Raju (1-1).

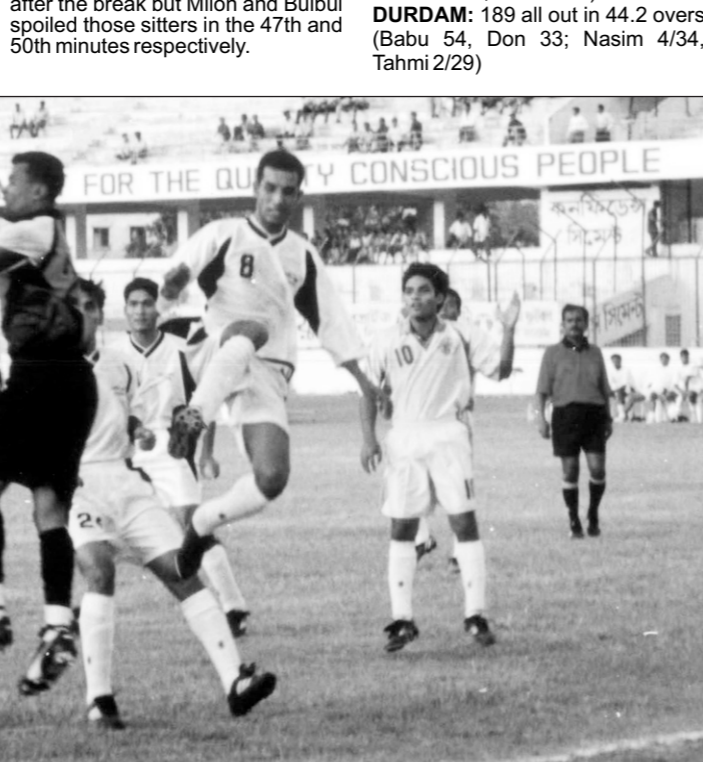
Abahani got two more chances after the break but Milon and Bulbul spoiled those sitters in the 47th and 50th minutes respectively.

Winning the toss, Ekak decided to bat first and scored 246 runs for 8 wickets in 45 overs.

In reply, Durdam were all out for 189 runs in 44.2 overs.

**BRIEF SCORES**  
**EKAK SANGHA:** 246 for 8 in 45 overs (Rial 62, Shafique 55, Badshah 30; Milon 3/39)

**DURDAM:** 189 all out in 44.2 overs (Babu 54, Don 33; Nasim 4/34, Tahmi 2/29)



**Rajshahi Abahani custodian makes a save against Mohsin Club of Narayanangij during their Nitol-Tata National Football League outing at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on Saturday.**

## Alike Chas

AFP, DAEGU, South Korea

South Korea registered a morale-boosting 2-0 win over Costa Rica on Saturday with Cha Du-Ri, son of South Korea's greatest player Cha Bum-Keun, scoring his first goal for the national side.

With his father commenting on the World Cup warm-up for television, Cha scored South Korea's first goal and made the second for Choi Tae-Uk, to stake a strong claim for a place in the final World Cup squad that coach Guus Hiddink is struggling over.

The win brought some satisfaction after South Korea lost 3-1 to Costa Rica in the Gold Cup tournament in the United States in February. But despite Cha's performance Hiddink still will be worried about the lack of firepower up front.

South Korea dominated from the start with Lee Young-Pyo shooting onto the Costa Rican goalpost in the seventh minute. But Hiddink's side never managed to get a clear edge over the largely experimental Costa Rican side that held Japan to a 1-1 draw three days earlier.

Minutes after Lee's effort, Rolando Fonseca's header at the other end was desperately cleared off the South Korean goal line.

Twenty-one-year-old Cha's father went to Germany to make his name in the 1970s and 80s and never played in any of South Korea's five

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## UI IM chess Nisha upsets Reefat going

SPORTS REPORTER

Indian Women's Master Nisha Mohota upset the apperact of International Master Reefat-bin-Sattar in the tenth round of the United Insurance IM Chess Tournament yesterday.

Reefat needed a victory to clinch the title with a match in hand. But he lost to Nisha only to give Norwegian IM Leif Johannessen a chance to turn around.

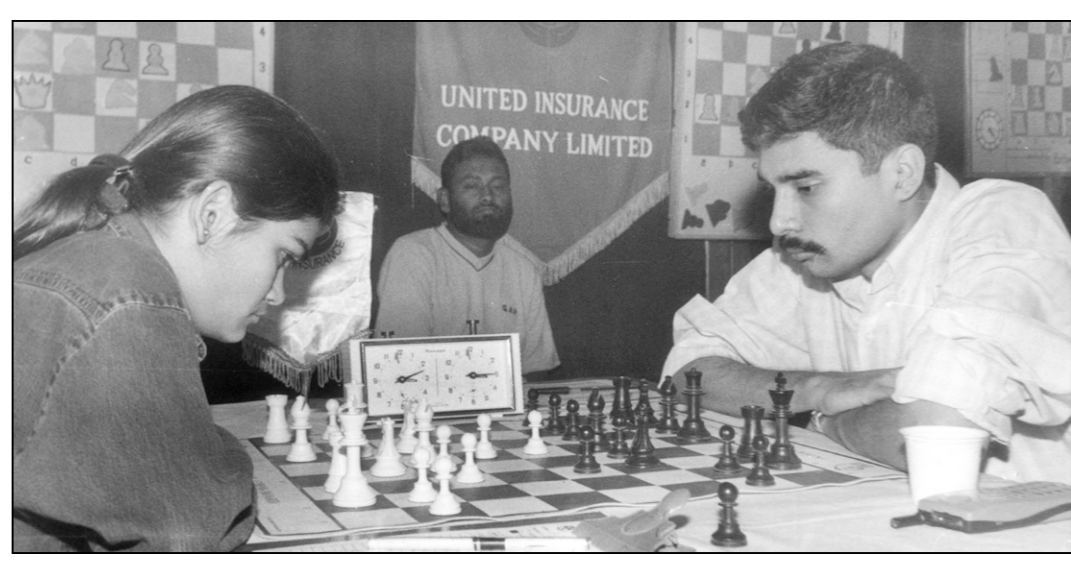
Reefat and Johannessen are now sharing the top spot with seven and half points. Johannessen defeated FIDE Master Tayabur Rahman in this round.

The upset victory also took Nisha to the second position with seven points.

IM Enamul Hossain Rajib, Abdullah-al-Rakib and Indian IM Roktim Bandapadhaya are sharing the third position with six and half points.



**GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League**  
City Club vs Victoria SC  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium  
Dhanmondi Club vs Young Cricketers  
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium  
**Nitol-Tata National Football League**  
Chittagong Abahani vs Muktijoddha Sangsad (5:30 pm)  
Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong  
**Green Delta Premier Hockey League**  
Azad SC vs Sadharan Bima (4:00 pm)  
Venue: Maulana Bhasani Stadium  
**United Insurance IM Chess Tournament**  
Round Eleven  
Venue: NSC Chess Room



**India's Nisha Mohota (L) and Reefat-bin-Sattar are absorbed in deep thinking during their Sixth United Insurance International Masters' Chess Tournament engagement at the NSC yesterday.**

## Tendulkar touches The Don

Cricket

REUTERS, Port of Spain

Sachin Tendulkar is thrilled that his name will be written alongside Donald Bradman in the list of highest Test centuries but is convinced that the Australian remains the sport's greatest batsman.

The 28-year-old from Bombay equalled Bradman's tally of 29 Test centuries on the first day of the second Test against West Indies, scoring an unbeaten 113 to guide his team to 262 for four at close of play.

Only India's Sunil Gavaskar, with 34 tons in 125 Tests, has crossed the three-figure mark more times.

"It will be great just to see my name next to Sir Don's when they show the number of hundreds scored," Tendulkar said.

"It feels fantastic to equal his number of hundreds, but nobody can match Sir Don," he said. "I think that is something accepted all over the world."

Tendulkar reached the landmark in his 93rd test, while Bradman, widely regarded as the greatest batsman in history, notched up his total in just 52 matches at an average of 99.94.

Tendulkar dedicated the latest century to his deceased father and

said the fact that the runs had come in the West Indies, where he had never scored a hundred before, was the icing on the cake.

"I dedicate this achievement to my father, he would have loved to have witnessed it," he said.

"It was my dream to score a



hundred in the West Indies. The last time when I was here, I narrowly missed out on three hundreds so this time I was determined to get one.

Tendulkar holds the record for the most centuries in one-day internationals with 31.

His Test average moved above 59 with this century and he said he was happy to keep it climbing.

"It's great that I've been able to maintain a good average. I just want to continue...do less talking and more batting."

But how many more centuries does Tendulkar aim to score?

"I want to go as far as I can," he said. "When I started playing cricket, I never thought about how far I was going to go."

"I just want to go out there and enjoy playing. I always set goals for myself but I don't like to disclose them."

Tendulkar had been struggling early in his innings on Friday and was fortunate to survive against a fired up West Indian attack on a grassy pitch.

"If your feet are not moving well or your timing is out, you have to be patient to get your eye in...that's what I did," Tendulkar said.

"I played well in the first Test at

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### TENDULKAR ... 29 Test tons

### TOP TEST CENTURIONS

- Sunil Gavaskar 34 (from 125 Tests)
- Don Bradman 29 (52 Tests)
- Sachin Tendulkar 29 (93 Tests)
- Steve Waugh 27 (148 Tests)
- Allan Border 27 (156 Tests)
- Gary Sobers 26 (93 Tests)
- Greg Chappell 24 (87 Tests)
- Viv Richards 24 (121 Tests)