

## Total Team Game drives Indra Indians to victory over Arun Chargers



**Terrel Mill Park, Atlanta, GA:** The cricket enthusiasts from Atlanta Bengali Forum gathered early on the chilly morning for their first ever cricket match. The bright sunshine at the ground was a respite from the chill wind blowing from the north due to snow fall up north east. As the team members warmed up, Captain Arun Saha of Arun Chargers and Indraneel Chatterjee of Indra Indians went for the toss. Head was called by Arun, while the outcome being Tail, Indraneel after careful considerations choose to field first.

Arun Chargers send out their experienced campaigners Bishu and Ajay to open, as Indra led his team to field. Dip opened the bowling for Indra Indians, followed by Ranajay. Soon Arun Charger's strategy proved right, as they scored 7 runs in the first over including a four over the bowlers head. Ranajay bowled the second over but clever singles and 4 over long off by Bishu kept the scoring rate high. Dip got the break through on the 3<sup>rd</sup> over, as Bishu failed to connect and the ball nicked the outside edge of the bat into the safe hands of wicket keeper Kunal Saha. Biplab Biswas came down to bat for Arun Chargers. Kept the score board ticking with cheeky singles, giving most of the strike to Ajay, who went on with some clean hits to the boundary.

Indraneel did a change on the 4th over bringing on Subho, who bought some chilling pace and on the 5<sup>th</sup> over introduced Rajesh's spin bowling. The change proved the worth, as Rajesh immediately picked up Ajay caught behind by Kunal Saha. Ajay played a brilliant innings of 17 runs and was replaced by experienced Amar Saha (dressed in perfect cricketing whites) at the crease to join Biplab Biswas.

For the next 5 overs, Arun Chargers tried to keep up with the initial pace of acquiring runs. But a strict line by Subho, Rajesh and Kunal Saha made runs hard to come by. This was backed by some awesome fielding by Mishal at deep mid off – cutting off some clear fours. Biplab tried to hit over the infield in the bowling of Kunal Saha but a missed catch at long off, missed him the deserving wicket. Amar and Biplab kept the score board ticking but the much needed boundaries eluded them.

Arun Chargers increased the momentum. But lost quick wicket of Amar Saha, as he was bowled by Subo. Biplab was joined by Arup, as they kept the score board ticking. With less than two over remaining, Biplab and Arup retired and this bought Arun Saha and Kingshook to the crease. Arun wasted no time and lead from the front with a 4 through covers in the bowling of Ranajay. Final over was bowled by Dip. As he maintained a tight control on line and length, dot bowls and singles mounted the pressure for Arun Chargers. Arun looking for boundaries got the outside edge into the safe hands of wicket keeper Kunal. His 3<sup>rd</sup> catch of the day. Arun Chargers innings ended with 51 runs on the board from 12 over – with Indra Indians needing 52 to win.

After a quick drinks break, Arun lead Arun Chargers into the field. Indra Indians adopted a different strategy by sending their youngest campaigners Mishal and Subho to open the batting. Ajay opened the bowling for Arun Chargers. Subho facing the first ball opened the account immediately with a single. Mishal had different plans as he faced his first ball. He basically took the game up from there and took the charge right back to the Chargers. He hit Ajay brilliantly for two consecutive fours over long off. Bishu bowled the second over with sheer pace. But Mishal, having a blast, hooked him for 2 more fours. Bishu came back with a clever inswinger, as Mishal missed the line and was bowled by Bishu. It was the wicket Arun Chargers wanted but Mishal have set Indra Indians on a flying start with 17 runs on the scoreboard. Mishal departed scoring 16 runs. Dip came to the crease with the fall of 1<sup>st</sup> wicket and joined Subho. Dip looked settled right from the start as he drove Ajay through the covers for a four and pressing hard on the singles. 3<sup>rd</sup> over bought 8 runs for Indra Indians. Subho fell in next over, bowled by Bishu, taking his second scalp of the day. Bishu lead the charge from the front for Arun Chargers with very clear line and pace and cutting off the boundaries. Arun made some clever bowling and field changes. Kunal Saha replaced Subho at the crease. As he tried to go for a quick single but fell short of the crease by a direct throw and was run out. Indra Indians started losing wickets fast and felt the pressure. As Kunal fell without scoring a run, Rajesh joined Dip at the crease.

Next 2 overs bowled by Biplab and Arup could not stop the flow of runs though, as Dip continued to find the boundaries through the gaps at mid on, mid off. Dip hit 3 boundaries and Rajesh found it once – along with some fast running – slowly inching Indra Indians towards the target with 4 runs to victory. Rajesh retired, as Indraneel, captain of Indra Indians came to the crease. Arun made a clever bowling change, bringing in Bishu to bowl the 6<sup>th</sup> over. Bishu returned the captain's faith with a wicket, as the ball found an inside edge from Indra's bat and hit the stumps. Indra departed for a duck. Pressure mounted on Indra Indians, as their last batsman Ranajay came to the crease. Arun Chargers could sense victory as they were just one wicket away from it. But Ranajay and Dip kept their cool and resorted to pushing the ball into the gaps and taking singles as they sailed through Bishu's over and tying the score to 51. Dip did not waste time in the next over, as he glanced the ball for 4 through the leg side for the winning shot.

A very tense match down to the last ball, saw some brilliant performances particularly from the youngsters and great captaincy and their strategies in action. Celebration and enjoyment by both teams followed by sumptuous food bought by team members. Special Thanks goes to Amar Saha, Kunal Saha, Dipanka Dutta, Babul Ghosh for bringing the delicacies. Everybody was excited and vowed to hit the field for a continued series and rematch.

**Scorecard:**

Arun Chargers			Indra Indians		
Batsman	Out	Runs	Batsman	Out	Runs
Ajay	C Kunal B Rajesh	17	Subha	B Bishu	2
Bishu	C Kunal B Dip	8	Mishall	B Bishu	16
Biplab	Retired	5	Dip	Not out	25
Arun	C Kunal B Dip	6	Kunal	Run out	0
Arup	Retied	4	Rajesh	Retired	7
Amar	B Subho	2	Indraneel	B Bishu	0
Kingsukh	Not Out	0	Ranajay	Not Out	2
Priyom	Did Not Bat	-			
Wide / No ball		9	Wide / No ball		3
Total		51	Total		55

**Wickets Talley:**

Arun Chargers Bowling Stats			Indra Indians Bowling Stats		
Bowlers	Overs	Wickets	Bowlers	Overs	Wickets
Bishu	3	3	Dip	3	2
Ajay	1	0	Ranajay	3	0
Biplab	2	0	Kunal	1	0
Arup	1	0	Subho	3	1
			Rajesh	2	1