

MSC, GMCC win big

Sports Reporter

Title aspirants Dhaka, Mohammedan Sporting Club started their quest for this year's Navana Premier league honours in right earnest when they overcame Rupali Bank at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium by 105 runs.

Mohammedans, playing without their injured skipper and star batsman Minhajul Abedin Nannoo, Ashar Hossain Shantoo and all-rounder Mohammed Ali, were never stretched by the bank team at any stage of the game. However, none of the Mohammedan batsmen could get into a groove except opener Jahangir Alam who continued his prolific form by hitting an excellent 74 with the help of four boundaries. Aminul Islam Bulbul scored an unbeaten 43 with two fours and one six. Rafiqul Alam's 21 was embellished with one six and a four. Suru, deputising for the injured Nannoo, too showed a six and two fours in his 20 before being bowled by Bilal.

The young left-arm spinner who got the prize scalp of Jahangir bowled very well for the bankers to finish with three for 28 off his nine overs. He managed both turn and bounce from an unresponsive track.

Replying to Mohammedans' mammoth total of 223 for four, Rupali Bank ran into trouble soon when their opener Tipu was sent back by Sri Lankan pacesman Gamage.

The bankers, with their limited batting potential, were never supposed to pose any threat even to a somewhat depleted Mohammedan attack. Any possibility of challenging the opposition evaporated when burly Belal was run out for one.

Biplob Roy Dulu top-scored for Rupali Bank with 23 before being bowled by Rafiq. Skipper Khokan managed an undefeated 22 while Billu, the successful man with the leather, proved his worth with the willow as well by making 19.

Rupali Bank, who fortuitously escaped relegation last season, crawled to 118 for nine.

Gamage bowled with venom and accuracy to finish with two for 14 from nine overs. Leg-spinner Waheedul Ghoni claimed two for 15.

GMCC CRUSH KALABAGAN

In the other match of the day, at the Dhaka Stadium, the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) made an auspicious start in this year's league when they thrashed Kalabagan

Krira Chakra by a huge margin of 131 runs.

Sent in to bat by Kalabagan skipper Ishtiaque, GMCC piled up a reasonably good score of 193 for six from their quota of 45 overs.

Opener Salim was the highest scorer with 58 with the help of four boundaries.

Skipper Lipu with 37 and Sarath with 33 with the help of two fours and one six were the other notable scorers.

Left-arm spinner James bowled well to capture three wickets.

Kalabagan's Indian recruit, left-arm seamer Gajanan Reddy bowled nippily but without luck.

Kalabagan, in their turn, were skittled out for 62.

Saiful, the young GMCC opening bowler, sent shivers down the spine of the Kalabagan batsmen with a fiery opening spell in which he priced out two batsmen, including skipper Ishtiaque for ducks.

Zakir, the other GMCC opening bowler, bowled tidily to finish with the best analysis of three for 23 off nine overs. Sri Lanka Duminda Perera who did not shine with the bat, went wicket-less.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Abahani KC vs Lalmita (D Stadium)
Surjo Tarun vs Gulshan Youth (DCS)

Tamhane dismisses talk of sending replacements

NEW DELHI, Dec 5: India's chief cricket selector has ruled out flying in replacements for bats-

men struggling to come to terms with Australian pitches — a threat voiced by the team's manager after the first Test loss, reports AFP.

"Such a thing has not been done before," the Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted Naren Tamhane as saying Thursday in Bombay. "Replacements have been flown out only for injured players."

"What if we send replacements for out-of-form players and they too fail?"

"There are 16 players in the team and not all of them have failed", Tamhane said. "Others in the squad should be given a chance if the regulars continue to fail."

India's batting lineup, which went down under with a reputation as one of cricket's best, crumbled against the Australian pace attack in the first Test at Brisbane for a humiliating 10-wicket loss.

Tamhane's remarks were in response to manager Abbas Ali Baig's threat to send home non-performers on the gruelling four-month tour, which India has begun in disastrous fashion on hard, bouncy wickets.

Baig's uncharacteristic display of toughness has prompted newspapers to voice concern at a possible rift within Mohammad Azharuddin's team.

It has been compared to former manager Bishen Singh Bedi's angry March 1990 outburst in New Zealand, where he said the whole team ought to be dumped into the Pacific after losing a triangular one-day contest.

Tamhane's comments followed a PTI report that hard-hitting opener Navjot Sidhu, nursing a broken thumb, and southpaw teenager Vinod Kamble were being tipped to reinforce the beleaguered team in Australia.

Sidhu and Kamble, known for their aggression and flamboyance, have been sounded out by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on their availability, PTI said.

Sidhu will be "fully fit to take on a full competitive load" by December 15, the news agency quoted a cricket administrator in his home state, Punjab, as saying.

Tamhane, however, appeared to be ruling out the possibility of flying Sidhu and Kamble to join the 16-member squad in Australia, which co-host the World Cup with New Zealand.

"As far as I know two mem-

bers from the present team will be returning home only at the end of the series as only 14 players can stay back for the World Cup," he told a Bombay paper. "If there are any changes before that I will be most surprised."

An earlier AFP report said, "Attacking opener Navjot Sidhu, recovering from a nasty thumb fracture, and teenager Vinod Kamble are being tipped to reinforce the beleaguered Indian cricket team in Australia."

Sidhu, who was ruled out for the fourth tour after breaking his right thumb last month, and Kamble have been sounded out by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Press Trust of India (PTI) said today.

The right-handed opener known for his aggressive strokeplay will be "fully fit to take full competitive load" by December 15, it quoted a cricket administrator in Sidhu's home state, Punjab, as saying.

Kamble, a flamboyant left-hander considered one of the bright, young hopes of Indian cricket, was dropped from the side in a decision that drew flak from cricket writers.

The BCCI is considering flying Kamble along with Sidhu to reinforce the squad, which suffered a humiliating 10-wicket defeat

Indians irked by allegations about Prabhakar's action

SYDNEY, Dec 5: The touring Indian cricket team has dismissed out of hand speculation that seamer Manoj Prabhakar's bowling action is suspect, reports AFP.

Team manager Abbas Ali Baig said newspaper reports here which quoted an unnamed Australian cricket official as branding Prabhakar a "chucker" were unworthy of comment.

"These reports don't deserve the dignity of a response," Baig told AFP from Perth where the first Benson and Hedges one-day between India and the West Indies takes place Friday.

"Unless there is an official complaint from the Australians, I will not comment on any rubbish that is printed," Baig said.

Prabhakar refused to speak on the controversy because of an Indian Cricket Board ruling which bans players from making press statements. Prabhakar's action was

okayed by umpires Steve Randell and Peter McConnell during the first Test in Brisbane earlier this week.

The 28-year-old all rounder



PRABHAKAR... chucker? was one of the few Indian successes in his team's 10-wicket rout in the Test with scores of 54 and 39 and figures of first for 88 in Australia's first innings.

This is not the first time that Prabhakar's action has been put under scrutiny.

Pakistani captain Imran Khan made similar allegations during a home series against India in 1989-90, which were later dismissed by English officials John Holder and Jhon Hampshire who stood in the four-Test series.

The British tabloid press also raked up the issue during India's tour of England in 1990, but it was not supported by the people who matter — the umpires.

Prabhakar has never been called for throwing in 14 Tests and 51 one-day internationals he has played so far all over the world.

Former Indian batting star Sunil Gavaskar, who is commenting on the series for Channel Nine Network, immediately sprang Prabhakar's defence.

"You can deceive the human eye but never the television eye which has passed his action in places like England,

India, Windies hope to find form

PERTH, Australia, Dec 5: The West Indies and India both are looking to Friday's opening match of the World Series Cup limited-overs cricket competition as a chance to regain form, reports AP.

The West Indies suffered a seven-wicket loss in a one-day match against the Western Australia state team on Wednesday night, while India goes into the match fresh from a 10-wicket loss to Australia in the first Test in Brisbane.

Both teams have struggled to come to terms with the

bouncy Australian pitches and have had less than ideal preparations for the triangular series, which also includes Australia.

Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin said Thursday that his players had taken longer than expected to adjust to Australian conditions, but said he believed an improvement was due.

"This match is hopefully the turning point for us," said Azharuddin.

"We've got two matches to put the pressure on the opposition and if we can get our act in working order we can do well."

India faces Australia on Sunday, also at the WACA Ground in Perth.

"One-day cricket has the effect of helping players back into form," Azharuddin said.

"There are usually not too many close-in fieldsmen and you can go for your shots more in these games than in the Tests."

"It might be the thing to bring a few players back to their best form."

West Indies captain Richie Richardson said the Caribbean team had held a 90-minute meeting Thursday to discuss the loss to Western Australia.



The PWD Sports Club, champions of the Second Division Green Delta hockey league, pose before the start of yesterday's final super league encounter at the Hockey Stadium.

PWD clinch Div II title

Sports Reporter



The dream of Bangladesh Public Works Department (PWD) came true yesterday when

they beat Dhaka Young Stars Club and earned promotion to the First Division. After the final whistle was blown, the Dhaka Hockey Stadium became a scene of jubilation as PWD team celebrated its triumph.

The last second division Green Delta super league match, however, between PWD and Young Stars was rather dull and lifeless. PWD had no difficulty in beating their much weaker opponents as they record a massive 5-0 victory.

Soaeb Md Asaduzzaman, the leading scorer this year for PWD got his first goal in the 14th minute of the game. Nasser Hossain scored twice, first in the 20th minute from a penalty stroke and then in the 35th minute. Islamuddin scored the fourth in the 50th minute while Soaeb completed the tally and scored his record in the 54th minute. Soaeb, who had an exceptionally good season, played very well in their last super league engagement.

PWD earned two penalty corners, while Young Stars despite forcing three failed to convert them.

Lankans arrive in Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan, Dec 5: An 18-member Sri Lankan cricket team led by Arjinda De Silva arrived in Pakistan for a three-Test cricket tour of Pakistan, the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The visitors will play Tests at Stalkot, Gujranwala and Faisalabad during the 46-day tour. They will also play five one-day internationals at Karachi, Hyderabad, Stalkot, Rawalpindi and Multan.

The first match, a three-day game against a Karachi XI, will start in Karachi on Saturday.

Aussies to play SA in 1993-94

MELBOURNE, Dec 5: The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) confirmed on Wednesday it has discussed the possibility of home-and-away Test series against South Africa in 1993-94, reports Reuter.

ACB chairman Col Egar said the Board was considering inviting South Africa to play a three-Test series in 1993-94, followed by three more Tests in the republic during the same season.

New Zealand and Sri Lanka have already been pencilled in for the 1993-94 season, but Egar said Australia could host Tests against two or even three countries.

United Cricket Board of South Africa president Geoff Dakin said his country were very keen to play Australia but a possible series was far from confirmed.

"At the World Cup we want to speak to as many people as possible and we certainly want to talk to Australia as one of the strong countries we would like to play," Dakin said.

South Africa and Australia last met in South Africa in 1969-70 when All Bacher's team beat Bill Lawry's Australian side 4-0.

Obaidur Rahman of PWD was shown the yellow card in the third minute of the game.

The runners-up Cantonians, who played the entire season without a regular coach, seemed content with their standing. Cantonians started playing in the Second Division in the 1975-76 season and were promoted to the First Division two years later in the 77-78 season. But after a brief stay of two years they were again back in the Second Division during the 79-80 season.

On the other hand, PWD entered the Second Division in 1985. In 1988 they ended the league as runners-up.

Besides Soaeb, Nasser Hossain and Saidur Rahman of PWD played very well throughout the season. For Cantonians, Maruf, Ersat Kabir, Masud Rana and Adnan did a

brilliant job. The Green Delta Second Division Hockey league which began on the 28th November and ended yesterday had 19th participants who were divided into four groups. Two teams from each group played in the super league following is the points table of the super league.

Team	G	W	D	L	Pts
PWD SC	7	5	2	0	12
Cantonian SC	7	4	3	0	11
Barnak Samaj	7	2	4	1	8
Mukta Bhanga	7	2	4	1	8
Shishu Kishore					
Songha	7	2	2	3	6
Farahganj SC	7	1	2	4	4
Young Stars Club	7	1	2	4	4
Lidby Club	7	1	3	3	4

Meanwhile, the First Division Hockey league for the 1991-92 season will probably begin from the last week of December.

Indonesia fend's host's challenge

MANILA, Dec 5: Regional sporting giant Indonesia retained the South East Asian Games crown today after fending off a ferocious surprise challenge from host Philippines, reports AFP.

The two rivals split the golds in the last events — men's and women's marathon — giving Indonesia the championship with 92 golds to the Philippine '91.

An earlier Reuter reports said, a Filipino forced into swimming to cure his asthma emerged as the top male athlete in the 16th South East Asian Games in Manila.

Eric Buhain led nearly 3,000 athletes from nine nations in the medal charge by grabbing six golds in swimming while breaking three records.

"My dream is to make it to the finals of the Olympics in 1992," said Buhain, who took up swimming when he was a boy after doctors said he needed to develop his lung power to cure his asthma.

"Being in competition, you learn to push yourself, make that competitive spirit work for you," Buhain said.

"Whatever you do, whether it be sports, schoolwork or whatever, go for it 100 per cent... never be self-destructive."

Games officials and sports journalists named Thai runner

Dutch qualify for Euro finals

SALONIKA, Greece, Dec 5: European soccer champions the Netherlands qualified for next year's finals with a comfortable 2-0 win against Greece on Wednesday, despite losing AC Milan star Ruud Gullit minutes before the kick-off, reports Reuter.

The Dutch, with Erwin Koeman impressive in midfield, took control of the game from the start and never looked remotely like succumbing to the Greeks, who needed to win to keep alive their chances of qualifying.

Koeman created the opening for the first goal in the 40th minute with a brilliant pass which gave Jan Wouters room to cross to unmarked Ajax striker Dennis Bergkamp, who scored.

BFF trainees triumph

Sports Reporter



The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) trainees won the talent hunt soccer tournament for footballers under 16 years of age when they edged out the fancied Bangladesh Krira Shikhiya Pratisthan (BKSP) in yesterday's final at the Mirpur Stadium.

The 70-minute encounter had ended goalless and the tie-break saw the BFF selection converting five of their penalty kicks to four by the BKSP students.

Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan gave away the trophies after the exciting final as chief guest. Also present were BFF chief M Siddiqur Rahman and other high federation officials.

The BFF trainees dominated the major portion of the exchanges and but for some appalling misses by their striker Biplob should have won by a comfortable margin. The errant Biplob once shot wide from point blank range after having given the last BKSP defender the dodge and again failed to find the mark from a wonderful scoring position.

The tense tie-breakers saw Emdad, Biplob, Minto, Arman and Shazad driving home their penalties for the BFF trainees while Salam Khan, skipper Younus Ali, Mamoon and Anjam netted for BKSP.

The divisional teams from Dhaka and Chittagong were awarded the fair-play trophies.

Eight teams took part in the tournament organised by the BFF with a view to forming a pool of about 30 promising youngsters who would be imparted intensive, long-term training under the federa-

tion's coaches. This pool will eventually provide the players to represent Bangladesh in the upcoming South Asian under-16 tournament scheduled for Dhaka sometime next February.

The teams taking part, in two groups, were the four divisional sides from Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, BKSP, BFF trainees, a Dhaka Metropolitan selection and a National Sports Council selection.

Nissan Club rout E Bengal 3-1

CALCUTTA, Dec 5: Nissan Club of Japan handed a crushing 3-1 defeat to Super League champions East Bengal in their crucial first leg quarter final tie of the Asian Cup Winners, Cup at the Salt Lake Stadium here today, reports PTI.

In a pulsating encounter, Nissan's Rizkicu Matushahi scored the first goal in the 22nd minute of the opening session and struck again in the 26th minute to put his side in a commanding position.

Cig soccer

Title aspirant Mohammedan SC crossed a big hurdle yesterday defeating defending champions Customs SC by a solitary goal in an important match of the Chittagong Elite Paints First Division football, reports UNB.

Mohammedan SC dominates the league securing 24 points from 13 outings and maintained its unbeaten record while Customs SC bagged 18 points also from 13 encounters.

Abahani KC closely followed the leader collecting 22 points from 13 matches.

1994 World Cup to be a sell-out

NEW YORK, Dec 4: The United States' top soccer official has promised sell-out crowds for the 1994 World Cup finals, and guaranteed no rule changes to accommodate the fastidious American television networks, reports Reuter.

"We are going to sell every seat. We really mean it," Alan Rothenberg president of the U.S. Soccer Federation (USSF) said on Wednesday. "We will sell out every seat in the stadiums."

"The 1994 World Cup will be the best ever in the history of the championships. It will herald the beginning of the game nationwide and not the end."

"It will leave a rich legacy for soccer in this country," Rothenberg predicted.

But the one promise the US soccer officials are struggling to fulfill is a professional league before the championship opens as demanded by the International Football Federation (FIFA) when award-

ing them the World Cup.

Rothenberg said progress had been slower than expected because of the economic recession and a lack of suitable stadium and he was now looking at 1995 for a prospective launch.

Rothenberg said the major television networks who had been reluctant to become involved in the month-long finals were now jostling to secure the US rights, but he promised there would be no arbitrary commercial breaks as once suggested to entice the networks.

FIFA president Joao Havelange at one stage proposed changing the duration of matches from two halves of 45 minutes to four quarters of 25 minutes to allow more time for commercial breaks but the idea was quietly dropped after attracting little support.

"We will confine the duration of commercials to logical periods during breaks in play. There will be no arbitrary interruptions while play is in progress," Rothenberg told

Reuter in an interview ahead of Sunday's draw for the qualifying rounds.

He said prospective bidders for the US television rights would have the choice of buying them outright or selling advertising time which the USSF would market themselves.

"Financially, we have no rich uncles or government support. The media exposure of soccer and selling it to the US public is vital to us. By buying advertising time we would control our product," he said.

Rothenberg, 52, a California lawyer who was the architect

gold medal for Indonesia because it meant the overall championship," said an exhausted Lawalata, a bank employee, after the "marathon along Manila's seafloor."

Lawalata discarded her shoes 15 km into the race and ran in socks because her shoes were chafing her ankles. She finished in two hours, 51 minutes and nine seconds.

MEDAL TABLE

Final medals standings at the end of the nine-nation South East Asian Games in Manila today

(Tabulate under Gold, Silver and Bronze):

	G	S	B
Indonesia	92	86	69
Philippines	91	62	84
Thailand	72	80	71
Malaysia	36	38	65
Singapore	18	32	45
Burma	12	16	28
Vietnam	7	12	10
Brunei	0	0	8
Laos	0	0	0

Note: More than one bronze medal was awarded in several events. Two golds and no silver were awarded in the floor exercises of the women's gymnastics.

Faiyaz, Jhelun in final round

Two Bangladeshi boys Shahabuddin Ahmed Faiyaz and Sheikh Motiuddin Jhelun, reached the finals of the Malaysian International Junior age-group tennis championships held in Kuala Lumpur recently, says a BTF press release.

The European Broadcasting Union stepped in as host broadcaster to provide the worldwide television signal when American networks showed little interest taking on the role.

Dockyard in N'ganj final

Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Dec 5: BSEC (Dockyard), the defending champions, moved into the final of the 1991 Narayanganj soccer league by trouncing Nitaiganj Krira Chakra 3-0 in the first semi-final played here today at the local Osmani Stadium.

Swapon netted the first goal for the winners in the 30th minute while Shimu doubled the margin nine minutes later. Swapon completed the tally in the second minute after the breather.

Nitaiganj made several forays into the opposition territory but could not reduce the margin because of poor finishing by its forwards.

Referee Rafiqul Islam supervised the match. The league, which had been in limbo since 1988 generated a lot of interest among the local people and the fact was borne out by the 500 spectator who thronged the Osmani Stadium this afternoon.

Tomorrow (Friday) Group B champions Mohan Club, will face Group A runners-up Shuktara Juba Sanghad.

Mother of Khaled, Lutfur Hoque Ara Gafur (63) died of massive heart attack on December 2, at a local clinic.

She left behind her three sons, eight daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death.

The Uditi Club in a meeting condoled the death of Hoque Ara Gafur on Tuesday last.