

Udity, Victoria in group finals

Sports Reporter

Udity Club moved into the Group A final of the 13th Damal Summer cricket tournament beating Kalabagan Krira Chakra by two wickets at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the other match of the day at the Dhanmendi Cricket Stadium, Victoria Sporting Club moved into the Group B final with a four wicket win over Lalmatia Club.

In the group finals, Udity will meet defending champions Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club while Victoria will face the winners of the match between last year's runners up Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) and City Club. That match, earlier scheduled for Nov 11, was put back since the pitch at the Dhanmendi Cricket Ground wasn't ready until only yesterday.

At the Dhaka Stadium, Kalabagan, batting first after winning the toss, made 156 for the loss of nine wickets in their stipulated 45 overs. In

reply, Udity, thanks to a fine unbeaten 56 from Rinku, reached 157 for the loss of eight wickets in 40 overs.

Former Bangladesh opener Ishfaq top scored for Kalabagan with 34 while extras contributed a healthy 30. Skipper Tamim made 23. Tanvir 26, Shaon 19 and wicketkeeper Mamun 15.

Durjoy claimed three wickets for Udity for 27 runs while their skipper Imran claimed two for 31. Munir, Rahul and Rokan got one each.

At the Dhanmendi Cricket Stadium — the first double programme of this year's Damal meet since its start Nov 7, Victoria Sporting scored 166 for six wickets in 44.1 overs in reply to Lalmatia's 164 all out in 44.2 overs.

In the closest match of the meet yet, Victoria must consider themselves lucky in getting the necessary runs for victory with only five balls to spare in the face of some very determined bowling and fielding by the Lalmatia players.

Former Bangladesh captain Roqibul Hassan played a re-

sponsible knock of 59 not out with the help of three boundaries. He and Iqbal featured in a match-winning unbeaten 58-run partnership in only 12.4 overs, a stand that rallied the side around after being reduced to 108 for six in the 32nd over.

Mukul also played a sterling knock for the winners laying the foundation with a well-made 53. Opener Jewel made 14.

Debabrata and Uttam claimed two Victoria wickets each for 27 and 32 runs respectively.

Earlier, opener Anwar top scored with 42 in the Lalmatia innings with skipper Rome making 30 and Shaheed making 33. Liton, the other Lalmatia opener, made 11.

Mukul had a wonderful all-round game for Victoria picking up four Lalmatia wickets for 22 runs while Jewel Sr took two for 24.

TODAY'S MATCHES
GMCC vs City Club (DCS)
Abahani vs Wanderers (Dhaka Stadium)

Malik, Casey in Rajshahi semis

RAJSHAHI, Nov 14: Pakistan's Rashid Malik, Joost Wynhood of the Netherlands, second seed Owen Casey of Ireland and Italy's Mario Carnevale advanced to the semifinals of the singles event in the second leg of the ITF Bangladesh-Pakistan satellite tennis circuit here today, reports BSS.

Pakistan's number one and ICC Trophy winner Rashid Malik took 82 minutes to beat American Kenneth Lee 6-3, 6-4 in the quarter-final today.

In the semis tomorrow, Rashid Malik, a member of Pakistan's tennis team for the Colombo SAF Games, will play Holland's Joost Wynhood who defeated Bradley Kooz of the USA 6-3, 6-4 in the quarter-finals.

Second seed Owen Casey of Ireland got the semifinals berth with an easy 6-2, 6-2 win over Evert-Jan Hulshof of the Netherlands. Owen Casey will meet Mario Carnevale of Italy in the semi-finals. Carnevale beat compatriot Alessandro Fornaro 7-6 (7-4), 6-4 in the quarter-finals.

The singles semifinals will start tomorrow (Friday) at 10 am.

In the doubles, Italy's Laurence Tieleman and Sylvano Simone of Italy and the Netherlands' Joost Wynhood and Irishman Owen Casey moved into the final.

The top seeded Tieleman-Simone pair easily beat the US pair of Mark Avedikian and Robert Pellizzi in straight sets 7-5, 6-2, while the Wynhood-Casey pair routed India's Mahesh Bhupathi and Italy's Mario Carnevale 6-3, 6-0 in the semi-finals today.

The doubles final will also be held tomorrow.



South African skipper Clive Rice (L) with his teammates Richard Snell (C) and Allan Donald (R) in their warm-up exercise in the Indian capital New Delhi on Nov 13 preparing for the last one-day international against India. India won the first two matches. —AFP photo

Bacher downplays comments

NEW DELHI, Nov 14: South African cricket chief Allan Bacher, under fire for accusing Indian players of tampering with the ball during a one-day international, does not want his comments to become "a thorn in a beautiful relationship," reports Reuter.

Bacher, who is team manager and also Managing Director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), said on Wednesday he had agreed with Indian officials that neither side would "rough up" one side of the ball, which improves the swing of pace bowlers.

"It was never a question of who was, or who was not, roughing up the ball," Bacher said in a written statement. "It was a question of setting an example to world cricket."

He refused to comment beyond that statement. On Tuesday, he said Indian players had roughed up one side of the ball during the first one-day international in Calcutta. Other South African officials apologised and disassociated themselves from the remarks.

Bacher also said that India have been invited to be the first Test side to tour South Africa since 1970, when they were isolated from international cricket because of Pretoria's apartheid policies.

"I hope to meet [Indian cricket board chief Madhavrao] Scindia within the next 36 hours to finalise the details," he told Reuter. The tour is likely to be held in late 1992.

South Africa have lost the first two games in the three-match limited overs series against India, their first official international cricket in 21 years.

"We will be looking to avoid a whitewash," said team spokesman Chris Day.

Coach Mike Procter announced that Mandy Yachad, batsman and captain of Northern Transvaal, sustained a fracture in his right hand during Tuesday's match in the central Indian city of Gwalior, and had to be ruled out for Thursday.

"It's been a marvellous experience for South African cricket," Procter said. "The Indians have played some tremendous cricket and it has shown us up to some extent. We've not played to our full potential but then the opposition did not allow us to play too well."

"We've learnt an awful lot on this tour. Whatever the results, they will stand us in good stead for the World Cup."

India was also likely to make changes. Manager Abbas Ali Baig said regular wicketkeeper Kiran More will be rested and Chandrakant Pandit included in his place. A question mark also hangs over the participation of skipper Mohammad Azharuddin, who has a stomach cramp, he said.

On Tuesday, opener Navjot Sidhu said he would not be able to play for the next three weeks because of a fracture in his right thumb. India are scheduled to leave on a tour of Australia on Friday, hours after their match with South Africa ends.

The final game was to be played on a bald pitch, which is likely to help bowlers, Baig said. Authorities have not had enough time to prepare a pitch in a stadium which is primarily used for soccer and athletics.

Botham in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 14: Legendary England all-rounder Ian Botham, who once said he could never look close friend and West Indies captain Viv Richards in the eye if he visited South Africa, arrived here today on a two-week promotional tour, reports AFP.

Botham said at Jan Smuts Airport he could no longer see any reasons for not visiting the country in view of the changed political situation in South Africa.

"If it's good enough for me," he said, adding that he was looking forward to touring South Africa with an English team.

Botham was here with former English fast bowling star Freddie Trueman, batsman John Edrich and umpire Dickie Bird to give a series of after-dinner talks to raise funds for the development of sport among disadvantaged Black players.

He said he would also use the opportunity to play golf, do some deep-sea fishing and "have a holiday."

Even FIFA is amazed!

GENEVA, Nov 14: Women soccer players, used to playing before a handful of spectators, are getting the sort of attention in China that Maradona might command, reports Reuter.

The Chinese are hosting the inaugural women's World Cup this month and the local response has amazed even FIFA.

World soccer's governing body said more than 55,000 fans crammed into Guangzhou's Tianhe Stadium on Tuesday just to see the final rehearsal of Saturday's opening ceremony.

The tickets for that ceremony and for the first match between China and Norway were sold out some time ago. FIFA said more than 300,000 people had applied for tickets.

Azhar's men can afford no illusions

SYDNEY, Nov 14: India, buoyed by an historic one-day series victory over South Africa, will be under no illusions about the task ahead when they arrive in Perth on Saturday for a five-Test series against Allan Border's Australians, reports Reuter.

The series forms part of a gruelling schedule which includes a triangular one-day competition against World Cup champions Australia and the West Indies in December and January followed by the World Cup in February.

The Indians, their preparation for the first Test in Brisbane on November 29 already curtailed by the hurriedly-arranged South African games, have never beaten Australia in a series at home.

In addition, though the team has played a number of one-day internationals over the last six months, the last Test was in November 1990 with a one-off win over Sri Lanka and the last full series was a 1-0 defeat in England 15 months ago.

India's Test record since its last drawn series here in 1985-86 has hardly been impressive, but in Mohammed Azharuddin, the team's fourth captain in as many years, they have a great player who has thrived on the leadership challenge.

The elegant right-hander scored three centuries in his first six Tests as captain, a feat more noteworthy because they were made away from home at Eden Park in New Zealand, and at Old Trafford and Lord's.

Azhar, 28, will bring with him a formidable batting lineup which includes the brilliant teenager Sachin Tendulkar who in his short Test career has already begun to assume the mantle of the famous little run machine Sunil Gavaskar.

India, who named their touring squad before the one-day series against South Africa, also recalled two former captains, Dilip Vengsarkar and Krishnamachari Srikkanth, both Test veterans who will add to the batting strength.

India will need every run the batsmen can get because Azharuddin's bowling line-up could be badly exposed on the true Australian wickets by batsmen of the quality of Dean Jones, Geoff Marsh, Mark Taylor, and Steve Waugh.

Dean Jones, arguably the best one-day batsman in the world, also made his Test place secure with a patient 144 on Tuesday which saved against New South Wales.

With all-rounder Greg Matthews and David Boon also hitting centuries at the weekend, the Australians can look forward to the series with confidence.

The pace bowling attack looks formidable with Craig McDermott, the main strike bowler against the West Indies, assured of selection along with Bruce Reid, who had recovered from a back problem which dogged him on the Caribbean tour.

The Australians also have the aggressive paceman Merv Hughes and veteran swing bowler Terry Alderman in their squad and of the spinners, Greg Matthews will be competing with fellow all-rounder Peter Taylor and young leg-spinner Shane Warne for Test places.

The Indians will play a couple of one-day games before a four-day match against Sheffield Shield champions New South Wales starting on November 23.

Apart from the five Test, the triangular one-day competition between India, the West Indies and Australia, starts on December 6, ahead of next year's World Cup which starts on February 22.

WA pick Reid, Alderman

PERTH, Nov 14: Front-line bowlers Bruce Reid and Terry Alderman were chosen Wednesday to play in a Western Australian side against India in the tourists' first major clash of their Australian tour, reports AFP.

The pace pair, leading architects of Australia's 3-0 Ashes victory over England last summer, will lead the state's attack in a limited-overs match under lights at the Western Australia Cricket Association (WACA) ground here Monday.

Reid, who captured 27 wickets in the Ashes campaign, will be returning after missing Western Australia's opening Sheffield Shield meeting of the season, against New South Wales, because of a stomach virus.

Alderman missed the Australian domestic one-day competition at the start of the new season, but made an auspicious return to senior cricket with a four-wicket haul in the only New South Wales innings of the Shield match.

The tourists will face a stern challenge against a side which includes four other players with Test experience.

SOCCER SCENARIO

Lineker goal takes England thru'

POZNAN, Poland, Nov 14: England went through to the European Championship finals in Sweden next year with a 1-1 draw here on Wednesday night, reports AFP.

England Captain Gary Lineker sealed the draw with a 77th minute strike to cancel out Roman Szewczyk's 32nd minute long range shot which beat goalkeeper Chris Woods off a deflection.

Lineker is now just three goals behind Bobby Charlton's England scoring record of 49.

Italians hold Norwegians 1-1

GENOA, Italy, Nov 14: Italy needed a late equaliser to hold Norway to a draw here on Wednesday night in their European Championship qualifier, reports AFP.

The result puts the Soviet Union through to the finals.

Spaniards salvage some pride

SEVILLE, Spain, Nov 14: Spain salvaged some pride with a 2-1 win over Czechoslovakia in their European Championship qualifying match here on Wednesday night, reports AFP.

But France have already qualified from Group One, having beaten the Spaniards home and away.

Soviets qualify beating Cyprus

LARNACA, Cyprus, Nov 14: The Soviet Union qualified for the European Championship finals in Sweden next year with a confident 3-0 win over Cyprus here on Wednesday night.

Romanians beat Switzerland

BUCHAREST, Nov 14: Romania beat Switzerland 1-0 in their European Championship qualifier here on Wednesday night, reports AFP.

Romania need to beat Bulgaria in Sofia next Wednesday by two goals to qualify for the finals. If they win by a goal they will be level on points and on goal average with Scotland.

Scotland crush San Marino

GLASGOW, Scotland, Nov 14: Scotland crushed San Marino 4-0 here on Wednesday night, but it may not be enough to book their trip to next year's European Championship finals from Group Two, reports AFP.

The Scots were 3-0 up inside 37 minutes through midfielder Paul McStay, defender Richard Gough and striker Gordon Durie, but they managed only one goal in the second half from forward Ally McCoist despite constant pressure.

Yugoslavs shrug off domestic unrest

VIENNA, Nov 14: Yugoslavia shrugged off the battles back-home to beat Austria here on Wednesday night and win their ticket to the European Championship finals next year, reports AFP.

Despite the absence of several Croatian stars, the Yugoslavs controlled the match from start to finish.

Pakistanis fail to reach semifinals

HELSINKI, Nov 14: Pakistan, dominant force in international squash over the last decade, crashed 2-1 to Finland on Wednesday and failed to reach the World Team Championship semifinals for the first time, reports Reuter.

In the other group, holders Australia made sure of a semi-final spot after dismissing New Zealand 3-0.

S Kishore, Barnak in super league

Shishu Kishore and Barnak Samaj qualified for the super league after winning their respective matches of the Green Delta Second Division hockey league yesterday at the Hockey Stadium.

Shishu Kishore registered a hard-fought 1-0 win over Raktim Sangha while Barnak Samaj coasted to a comfortable 2-0 win over Agrani Bank.

After a barren first half, Shishu Kishore earned a penalty corner in the 40th minute. In the very next minute, Shishu Kishore were awarded a penalty stroke. Well-built defender Wakil Ahmed slammed the all important goal by converting the penalty stroke.

Raktim Sangha pressed hard for the equaliser and earned two penalty corners in the 49th and 52nd minutes. But their player failed to translate these into goals.

Shishu Kishore qualified for the super by topping Group C. Udity are the other club to have booked their super league berth after finishing runners up behind Shishu Kishore.

In the other match of the day, Barnak, inspired by goals from Jamil and Nripendra Nath Biswas, defeated Agrani Bank Club. Barnak finished as the Group B runners-up.

The super league matches will start from November 18 at the same venue.

Eight teams — Group A: PWD SC and Mukta Bihanga ; **Group B:** Young Star Club and Barnak Samaj ; **Group C:** Shishu Kishore and Udity Club ; **Group D:** Cantonian SC and Farashganj SC will play in the super league.

MSC off to Male today

A 22-member Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club team will leave Dhaka for Male today (Friday) for the return leg of their second round match of the 11th Asian Club football championship, reports UNB.

They will take on Maldives champions New Radiant FC on November 18 at Male.

Dhaka Mohammedan's who outplayed New Radiant FC by 3-0 goals in the first leg match held in Dhaka last Monday, need only a draw to reach the final round of the championship.

Players: Kanan (captain), Tuhin, Kaiser Hamid, Johnny, Barun, Montu, Abdul, Jewel Rana, Shamim, Romy, Titu, Naquib, Riaz, Chandan, Shabbir, Pappu, Reaz and Ayaz.

Mohammedan SC reached the second round eliminating Pakistan champions Wapda in the first round matches.

Sabatini, Capriati struggle

PHILADELPHIA, Nov 14: Top-seeded Monica Seles advanced easily, but No. 2 Gabriela Sabatini had trouble moving into the quarterfinals of the Virginia Slims Philadelphia tennis tournament, reports AP.

Also struggling to win was fourth-seeded Jennifer Capriati, who outlasted Lori McNeil in a marathon match.

Seles started slowly but rallied to beat Marianne Werdel 7-5, 6-1.

Sabatini, ranked No. 3 in the world, quandered five service breaks before settling down to post a 7-6 (7-5), 2-6, 6-2 victory and improve to 7-0 in her career against Natalia Zvereva, who is ranked 19th.

Capriati, No. 6 in the world rankings, needed 2 hours, 17 minutes to edge No. 20 McNeil 7-6 (11-9), 6-7 (4-7), 6-2.

No. 6 Conchita Martinez topped Helena Sukova, 6-3, 6-2.

In the completion of the first round, Nicole Provis defeated Rosalyn Fairbank-Niedffer, 6-3, 6-2.

Werdel jumped out to a 3-0 lead over Seles before the world's No. 1 player settled down to win five straight games, recording two service breaks.

Serving with a chance to win the set, Seles fell behind 0-40 and double faulted. But she bounced back with a break and won the set when Werdel hit a forehand into the net.

Werdel was broken to fall behind 2-1 in the second set, but jumped to a 0-40 lead and had a chance to break back in the next game. Seles won the next five points, to win the game.

Werdel then fell apart, double faulting to fall behind 4-1 and hitting another forehand into the net to lose the match.

In the tie-breaker, McNeil failed to take advantage of three set points. Capriati had only one but that was all she needed as she took a 10-9 lead on a service winner and won the set when McNeil double faulted.

Each player recorded three service breaks in the second set but McNeil won the final three points to take the tie-breaker when Capriati hit a backhand into the net.

McNeil faltered in the third set, however, losing her serve in the first game on a forehand shot into the net. She broke back to tie the score at 2-2, then double faulted and was broken again in the next game and fell behind 5-2 on another double fault on break point. Capriati won the match in the next game with a backhand shot down the line.

Sampras, was sympathetic and understanding, but that didn't prevent him from beating a Wimbledon champion.

The American won 6-2, 7-6 Wednesday to open his challenge at the ATP tour World Championships in impressive style.

Ivan Lendl, meanwhile, went 2-0 by beating top-seeded Jim Courier 6-2, 6-3 and virtually assured himself of reaching the semifinals.

Guy Forget kept alive his chances by beating Karel Novacek 6-3, 7-6 . The Frenchman is now 1-1, while the Czechoslovak dropped to 0-2, and is virtually eliminated.

CRICKET CLIPPINGS

Windies set off without Logie

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Nov 14: West Indies left for cricket tours in Pakistan and Australia without vice-captain Gus Logie, who was injured in a road accident at the weekend, reports Reuter.

Desmond Haynes took over as vice-captain from Logie, who broke his right arm in Saturday's accident in Trinidad and was replaced in the 15-man squad by Barbados batsman Carlisle Best.

Haynes had been vice-captain of the team since 1985 under Viv Richards. Richie Richardson leads the current team which set out on Tuesday.

West Indies play three one-day limited-overs games against Pakistan and then fly to Australia for matches mostly against state sides and the World Series Cup against Australia and India in December and January.

Hospital sources said Logie's arm had been placed in a cast and the player was likely to be out of action for six weeks.

This would mean he would miss part of the domestic Red Stripe competition but could be fit for the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand in February and March.

Logie has played 53 Tests and 130 one-day internationals.

Hirwani for Siddhu on tour

NEW DELHI, Nov 14: India's opening batsman Navjot Singh Siddhu, who broke his right thumb during Tuesday's one-day international against South Africa in Gwalior, will not be touring Australia, it was announced here Wednesday, reports AFP.

C. Nagraj, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said Siddhu would be replaced by leg-spinner Narendra Hirwani for the four-month tour beginning Sunday.

"It is not yet certain whether Siddhu will go to Australia once his injury is healed," Nagraj said.

"Doctors have advised Siddhu take at least a month's rest. The national selectors will meet then to decide whether Siddhu will go to Australia."

Siddhu was injured while fielding after scoring 61 runs in India's innings.

The BCCI chose to replace him with a leg-spinner because the national selectors had asked for Hirwani to go with the team as the 17th member.

BCCI president Madhavrao Scindia had originally rejected the selectors' proposal, but gave in to their demand after the injury to Siddhu.

Greg Thomas calls it a day

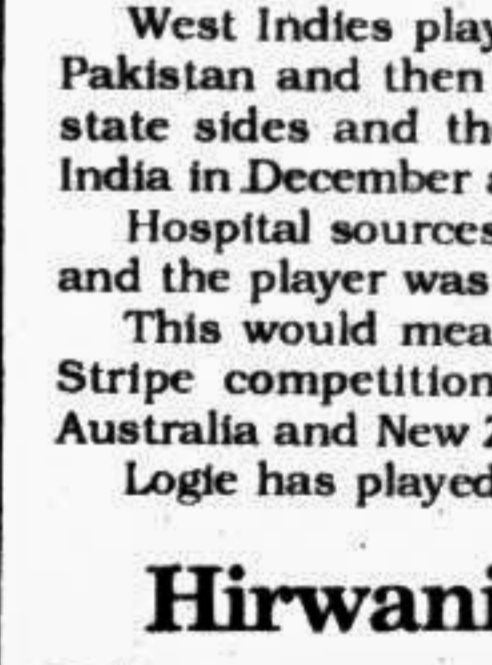
LONDON, Nov 14: Greg Thomas, the former England paceman, has announced his retirement from first-class cricket after doctors diagnosed an arthritic left hip, reports Reuter.

Once regarded as the fastest white bowler in world cricket, Thomas, 31, played five Tests for England during 1986 but was banned from the international scene for five years after participating in the 1990 English rebel tour of South Africa.

Thomas played for Glamorgan before joining Northamptonshire in 1989.



Gus Logie



Hirwani



Greg Thomas