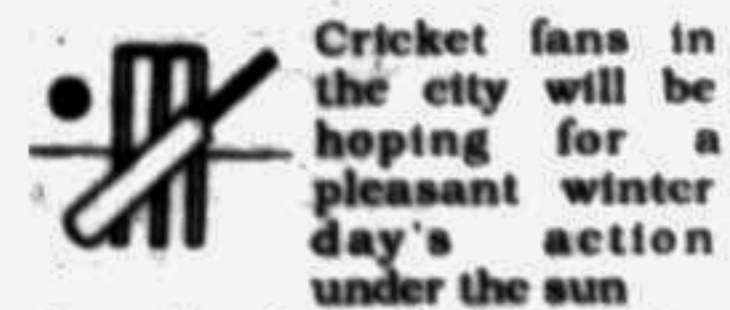


13th Damal Summer final today

Arch rivals chase title

Sports Reporter



Cricket fans in the city will be hoping for a pleasant winter day's action under the sun when the two giants Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra clash in the final of the 13th Damal Summer tournament at the Dhaka Stadium.

The 45-overs a-side match should start at 9:15 in the morning. None should expect either of the arch-rivals to give any quarters in today's game which will be broadcast live by Radio Bangladesh. BTV will also telecast the record highlights of the day's play in the evening.

Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting, who have the enviable distinction of having featured in every final of the tournament since its inception way back in 1979-80, will be facing an opponent who themselves have reached the final on seven previous occasions. While Mohammedans have won the title seven times — the last three seasons in a row — Abahani have won it four times. Bangladesh Biman are the only other side to have written their name on the honour roll by having won the trophy in the inaugural year.

Although Mohammedans have a better track record in the limited overs tournament which is organised by the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) as a curtain raiser for the local league programme, Abahani enjoy a slight psychological advantage from the fact that on the seven occasions they have met their traditional rivals in the final they have won the issue on four occasions to three for Mohammedans.

Mohammedans' road to this year's final was winning against Surjo Tarun Club, Uddity Club, Bangladesh Biman in the quarter-final and last year's runners-up Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) whom they thrashed by eight wickets in last Monday's semifinal.

On the other hand, Abahani reached the final beating last year's Second Division runners-up Ajax Sports Club, last year's semifinalists Dhaka Wanderers Club, Bangladesh Biman in the Group D final, Uddity Club in the quarter-final and Gulshan Youth Club in last Tuesday's semifinal.

Both Mohammedans and Abahani have had exceptionally easily sailing in this year's tournament so far, beating

their opponents with consummate, almost one-sided ease.

Abahani, who failed to reach the final in the two previous seasons, will once again be looking to their Indian star Raman Lamba to provide the impetus in today's match. Lamba, a former Indian international who plays for Delhi and North Zone, has had a fantastic run of scores for Abahani this year, having already piled up a record 445 runs including three scintillating centuries in the five matches he has played. On top of this, Lamba and his opening

Selim. In addition, Abahani made a late acquisition of a former Sri Lankan Test all-rounder in the person of Asoka De Silva who will be hoping to make his mark in today's game.

The Abahani attack is spearheaded by left-arm paceman G M Nowsher Prince. Another left-arm Anis, who has joined from Mohammedans, Morshed, De Silva, and Lamba himself are also quite competent one-day bowlers. Then there is spinner Efi and Masoom.

Mohammedans also have a formidable batting line up. Their new recruits from Biman Jahangir Alam and Aminul Islam Bulbul are wonderful players with Jahangir already showing signs of repeating his last year's performance by having hit a century. Bulbul can tear any attack apart.

On top of these two there is the skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannoo who is considered by many to be the best bat in the country. He, too, has been in good nick with the willow. Ramesh Kaluwirathana, their Sri Lankan wicket-keeper batsmen who some seasons ago played for Brothers, is also a solid player, as is Rafiqul Alam who led a weak Abahani last season. On his day there are very few in this country who can bat better than this enigmatic all-rounder.

Mohammedans seem to be slightly better endowed with several bits-and-pieces all-rounders in the persons of Golam Faruq Suru, Jahangir Alam Dulu (ex-Biman) and their Sri Lankan opening bowler Gamagee (ex-Wari Club).

If Mohammedans win the toss they will be hoping for Gamagee to make some early inroads with the ball given the early morning moisture in the wicket. Left-arm paceman Dulu will be there to support him. Nannoo, Shantoo, Bulbul and Wahid will be looking to spin the ball.

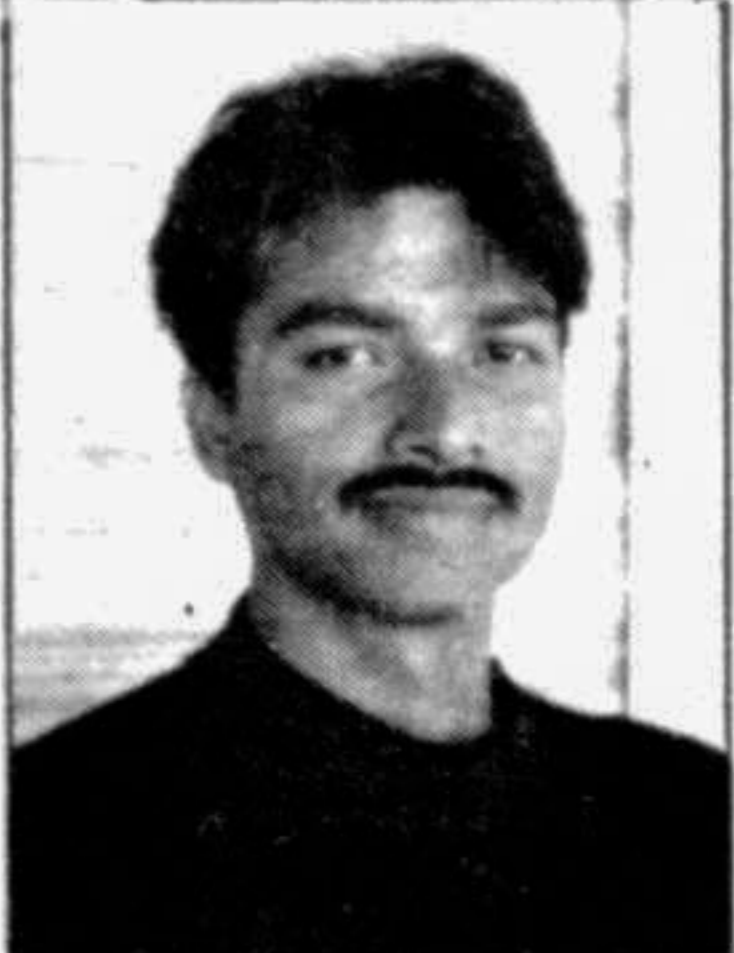
The toss could prove to be a vital factor and whoever wins may ask the opponents to bat first.

Both captains — Nannoo and Farooq — are optimistic about their team's chances of winning. Both think that the toss will be vital and it will be a battle of nerves. But neither would venture to predict the result.

BCCB have already announced rates of the tickets: Galleries will cost ten taka each and VIP Gate No-3A will be Taka 50. Ticket will go on sale at 7.30 am sharp at the stadium counters.



MINHAZUL ABEDIN



FAROOQUE

partner Zahed Razzak Masoom — who moved over from Brothers Union — have featured in a record opening stand of 247 against the hapless Ajax Sports Club in their opening encounter of the meet. And in the semifinal against Gulshan Youth, Lamba and Masoom punished the attack for another mammoth 169-run first-wicket stand. Masoom, too, has shown terrific form with the bat, having hit a century and another fine 66 in the semifinal. Besides these two, the Abahani line-up possesses a solidity with skipper Farooque, Akram Khan, Shujon and



Norway's main shooter Medalen dribbles down the field during the semifinal match between Norway and Sweden at the first women's World Cup soccer championship in Guangzhou, China on Nov 27. Norway beat Sweden 4-1 and will play against USA on Nov 30 for the title. AFP photo

Six-a-side cricket from tomorrow

Sports Reporter

The second R V six-a-side cricket tournament organised by the Dhaka Cricket Players' Association (DCPA) will begin tomorrow simultaneously at the Dhaka Stadium and Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

A press conference was held in this connection yesterday at Dhaka Stadium conference room. Seventeen teams will be taking part, divided into four groups.

The top teams in the each of the groups will play for the R V Cup while the bottom two teams of each group will play for the R V Plate.

All the Cup and Plate matches will be played on a knock-out basis.

Matches will be played between two teams of six players each consisting of a maximum of five six ball overs to be bowled by each side.

Each member of the fielding side shall bowl one over with the exception of the wicket-keeper. A wide shall count as four extras to the batting side and an extra ball shall be bowled.

The three-day tourney will

start at 8.30 am daily and only old balls will be used. There will be no lunch break and matches may even be played at night under floodlights if required.

The clubs will have to field their own registered local players.

The champions and runners-up of both the R V Cup and Plate will receive trophies. There will also be prizes for highest six-hitter, highest run-scorer, highest wicket-taker, best all-rounder and the man of the match in both R V Cup and Plate categories.

The teams in different groups are:

- Group A: Biman, PWD, Wari Club, Ajax and Young Pegasus.
 - Group B: Wanderers, Abahani, Surja Tarun, Uddity Club.
 - Group C: Brothers, GMCC, Rupali Bank and BKSP.
 - Group D: Mohammedans, Victoria, Lalmatia and Kalabagan.
- The Group A and D matches will be held at the Dhaka Stadium and Group B and C will play at DCS.

PWD inch closer to title

Sports Reporter

Title-contenders PWD SC marched inexorably towards annexing this year's Green Delta

Second Division hockey league honours when they held their close challengers Cantonian SC 1-1 in the crucial super league tie at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

While the top two teams in the eight-team super league table split the points, yet another title-aspirant Shishu Kishore Sangha virtually allowed their hopes to evaporate after suffering a shock 0-1 defeat at the hands of second-from-bottom Young Star Club in the other fixture yesterday.

PWD now have eight points from five super league engagements to seven for the Cantonians as many outings. Shishu Kishore, following their first defeat of the super league, have six points from five games. With only two games remaining for each of these teams, PWD have the best chance of wrapping up the championship; their remaining games are against the weaker opponents.

Shovon put PWD ahead in

the 17th minute with a field goal which was neutralised by Cantonians' Tariq in the 44th minute.

Earlier in the afternoon, Young Star wrecked Shishu Kishore's prospects by inflicting a 1-0 win with a 30th minute goal from Mahfuz.

The win, their first in the super league, took Young Star's points to four from five games, leaving bottom of the table Uddity Club languishing in the pits with just one point from the four they had played until Wednesday's day of rest.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Mukta Bihanga vs Farashganj SC (2:00 pm)
Barnak Samaj vs Uddity Club (3:15 pm)

Russell Smirty soccer

Sports Reporter

The final match of the Sheikh Russell Smirty junior football tournament will be held today at 2.30 pm in the Bayera Kabi Nazrul High School ground. Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament, Mohammad Nasim will distribute prizes among the winners as the chief guest.

Border's party on card



BRISBANE, Australia, Nov 28: Australian captain Allan Border is widely expected to celebrate his

record-breaking 126th Test match with victory over India in the first game of their five-test series which starts at the Woolloon Gabba Oval on Friday, reports Reuter.

India have suffered one of the briefest — and poorest — Test build-ups in recent memory and will need to produce a dramatic change of form if they are to gain a first ever Test victory in Brisbane.

Their batsmen, having delayed their departure from India to host South Africa's historic visit, have struggled to adapt to Australian wickets. They were dismissed for 64 western Australia.

Their bowlers were unfavourably compared with a grade attack after being hit for a century by a Country XI batsman.

The preparation problems began the moment they arrived when inspirational batsman and captain Mohammad Azharuddin strained a groin lifting his cases at Perth Airport.

No such worries for his counterpart Border, who typified the impressive early-season form of Australia's batsmen with 196 in his opening innings, ending a two-year spell without a first-class century.

Border, who averages 32.30 with the bat in Tests and has not missed one since 1979, could push the record past 150 as he wants to go on at least until Australia's tour of England in 1993.

Sunil Gavaskar, whose 125-Test mark Border will surpass,

will be in Brisbane commenting on the match. He said this week, "It is nice to see someone do it that I admire. Allan is a cricketer after my own heart."

The man India sees as Gavaskar's successor, 18-year-old Sachin Tendulkar, has been told to curb his attacking instincts in the interests of the

team as India seek to score the runs their talented batting line up is capable of.

Standing in the way of that ambition is Craig McDermott, who, in a year, has gone from being on the Test sidelines to becoming Australia's leading bowler.

McDermott, fresh from a personally successful tour of the West Indies, was compared this month to Dennis Lillee by the great fast bowler's former opening partner, Jeff Thomson.

"He's bowling like Dennis bowled at his top," said Thomson, the now McDermott's coach at Queensland.

McDermott, who has 122 Test wickets, 233 behind Lillee's Australian record, may be joined in the Australian attack by Paul Rieffel, who has been called into the Test squad for the first time.

Four Indian players wait to see if they will make their Test debuts — batsmen Praveen Amre and Sourav Ganguly, and two students of Little's Indian fast bowling school, Jawagal Srinath and Subroto Banerjee.

TEAMS
AUSTRALIA: Allan Border (Captain), Geoff Marsh, Mark Taylor, David Boon, Dean Jones, Mark Waugh, Ian Healy, Craig McDermott, Mery Hughes, Peter Taylor, Mike Whisney, Paul Rieffel.

INDIA: Mohammad Azharuddin (Captain), Krish Srikanth, Ravi Shastri, Dilip Vengsarkar, Sanjay Manjrekar, Sachin Tendulkar, Praveen Amre, Sourav Ganguly, Chandrakant Pandit, Kapil Dev, Kiran More, Manoj Prabhakar, Venkatesh Raju, Subroto Banerjee, Jawagal Srinath, Narendra Hirwani.

A tough job for Smith

BRISBANE, Nov 28: Mike Smith, the former England Test captain, steps into the front line of cricket's fight to clean up its image on Friday, reports Reuter.

Increasing player indiscipline has led the game's ruling body, the International Cricket Council, to institute a system of match referees to oversee conduct.

Smith becomes the first to take up that role when he adjudicates the opening Test between Australia and India at the Gabba.

He will have the power to fine players up to 2,600 dollars (2,200 US) and suspend them for three Tests.

"Hopefully I will be able to just sit there and enjoy the match," said Smith.

The referee is there to back up the umpires and is not concentrated with their decisions. He is not a third umpire but is there to ensure the spirit of the game is observed and the conduct of the game maintained.

Referees will have access to television and video monitors and must decide punishments within 24 hours if an incident.

Aussies best bet: Richardson



PERTH, Nov 28: Australia is a hot favourite to retain the nine-nation World Cup, West Indies cricket

captain Richie Richardson said Wednesday, reports AFP.

"Australia must be hot favourite, because it is probably the best one-day team in the world," Richardson said after the West Indies team arrived here.

Having just beaten Pakistan twice and tied with them once in a three-match one-day series away from home, the West Indies are now preparing for the world series triangular one-day competition against Australia and India.

The contest starts December 6 in Perth when the West Indies clash with India, just three days after the scheduled finish of the first Test between Australia and India in Brisbane.

The 12 preliminary matches continue until mid-January, with the best of three finals starting January 18.

The World Cup, also involving teams from England, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and

Zimbabwe, will be decided between February 22 and March 25 on grounds in Australia and New Zealand.

Richardson said Pakistan and England could also be serious contenders for the limited-overs crown.

"It is very difficult to rule out any team, because it is a question of who is playing well at the time," he said.

Richardson said the West Indies side did not have quite the same aura without former captain Viv Richards and veteran opener Gordon Greenidge.

"We do not have quite the reputation that we have had in the past, but we hope the guys can do the job as effectively as we have done previously, and I have no doubt we will be there."

Richardson was enthusiastic about his side's attack, again heavily based on speed. The experienced Malcolm Marshall, Curtly Ambrose, Patrick Patterson and Ian

Bishop will be supported by Anderson Cummins, from Barbados, and Antiguan Hamish Anthony.

"Cummins bowled very well in Pakistan and Anthony was very promising," Richardson said.

He also forecast a productive summer for two of the side's new batsmen — 21-year-old opener Philo Wallace and Brian Lara, 22, a middle-order left-hander. Both performed well in Pakistan.

"Wallace is a very exciting, hard-hitting player who will go well on Australian wickets because he likes hard, bouncy pitches," Richardson said.

The West Indies have three clear days in Perth for practice before their first match Sunday when they travel north 50 miles (80 kilometers) to the town of Northam to play a limited overs game with a Western Australian XI composed mainly of country players.

This carnival-type match will be followed by a tougher clash with the senior Western Australian side under floodlights at the Waca ground here Wednesday.

Indonesians surge ahead

MANILA, Nov 28: Indonesia showed its might on Wednesday and took command of the 16th South East Asian Games, reports Reuter.

With flurry of victories in weightlifting, judo, cycling, swimming, table tennis and fencing, the defending champions grabbed 10 gold medals to boost its gold tally to 27 after three days of competition.

Host Philippines, the Games' surprise leader for two days, dropped to second spot with 21 goals hotly pursued by Thailand which picked up 11 victories for a three-day total of 19 goals.

The Thais, who chalked up the most wins on Wednesday among the nine competing nations, have also amassed the biggest number of medals so far with 62, counting 19 silvers and 24 bronzes.

Indonesia and the Philippines have each won a total of 56 medals, including silvers and bronzes.

In another day of record-breaking performances, Thai athletes cracked three Games marks in shooting and three records in swimming while Indonesia's Stwoyo toppled a weightlifting standard with a gold-medal total lift of 305 kg

in the 75 kg category.

In the day's biggest upset, 19-year-old Thai swimmer Wong Rattiporn shocked the crowd by beating hometown favourite Akiko Thomson of the Philippines by a fraction of a second in the women's 100 metre freestyle.

Rattiporn swam the event in 59.17 seconds, breaking Thomson's Games record of 59.27 set in Kuala Lumpur in 1989.

"Very glad," the Thai woman said after her victory.

"Rattiporn was doing 58.66 in practice and I expected it would be 50-50 between her and Akiko because Akiko was swimming only in the range of 59 seconds", Thai coach Colonel Samnek Snagak said.

Another Thai swimmer, Sornaswan Phuvichit, smashed her own Games record in the women's 100 metre breaststroke with a new time of one minute 13.07 seconds. Her previous mark was 1:58.89.

In a battle of sisters, Indonesia's 21-year-old Elfra Nasucion whipped 18-year-old Maya Nasucion and Thailand's Prapaisat Minpraphal in the women's 400 metre individual medley, winning in four minutes 59.92 seconds.

"She's always behind me

anyway, so I don't feel too bad about beating her," Elfra said, referring to her sister, who came in third behind the Thai girl.

Malaysia finally struck gold after three days when cyclist Kumarsan won the men's 4,000 metre individual pursuit and swimmer Jeffrey Ong captured the men's 400 metre freestyle.

"I was hoping to go under four minutes. I just missed doing that. I had a lot of pressure being the favourite in the event," Ong told reporters.

MEDALS TABLE

Medals standings on the third day of competition in the nine-nation South-East Asian Games in Manila on Wednesday:
(Tabulate under gold, silver and bronze)

	G	S	B
Indonesia	27	16	13
Philippines	21	16	19
Thailand	19	19	24
Singapore	4	12	10
Vietnam	3	5	3
Malaysia	2	4	10
Burma	1	5	4
Brunei	0	0	0
Laos	0	0	0

Note: Medals do not tally because more than one bronze was awarded in some events.

Cubans rally to whip Germans

HIROSHIMA, Nov 28: Defending champions Cuba battled from one set down to whip Germany in the men's volleyball World Cup preliminary round here Wednesday, crushing German hopes of playing at the Barcelona Olympics, reports AFP.

Cuba won 3-1 (12-15, 15-9, 15-6, 15-8) to finish the Group-B round robin with five straight wins. The United States finished top of Group A, also with a clean slate, by beating Tunisia 3-1, 15-1, 15-3 13-15, 15-13.

With two wins and three losses, Germany failed to make the medal round of the 12-nation World Cup and lost their chance of winning an Olympic berth — something team captain Rene Hecht called his side's main aim in coming to Japan.

"I am so regretful," he said. Instead South Korea won an

Olympic berth as they reached the medal round after trouncing Iran 3-0 (15-12, 15-4, 15-5) for their third win against two losses in Group B.

South Korea took the World Cup's Olympic ticket

Victoria's platinum jubilee bash

The platinum jubilee ceremony of the Victoria Sporting Club will be held today at the club pavilion at six in the evening.

Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman will be the chief guest on the occasion.

Commerce Minister M K Anwar, Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne-Yousuf and State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain will attend the function as special guests.

because the five other teams in the final round — Cuba, the Soviet Union, the United States, Brazil and Japan, have already secured berths through world and regional contests.

Germany took their early lead with spikes from Ronald Triler. Ronald and the solid toss work of Andreas Franke as the defending champions showed a lack of concentration.

"But Cuba got their pace gradually so we couldn't manage to counter their attacks and blocks", German head coach Igor Priclozny said later.

In the other Group-A matches, the Soviet Union, who beat world champions Italy in the European championship final, defeated Japan 3-0 (15-10, 15-12, 15-11) and Mexico outlasted Chile 3-1, (15-10, 16-14, 13-15, 15-11).



Raquibul Hasan, president of Dhaka Cricket Players' Association is speaking at a press conference held at the NS conference room yesterday in connection with six-a-side cricket tournament which begins tomorrow at the Dhaka Stadium and Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium simultaneously. Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, general secretary of DCPA and Tanjeeb Ahsan Saad are also seen in the picture. — Star photo

Gullit's gaffe

ROME, Nov 28: The Italian soccer authorities said on Wednesday they would open a disciplinary inquiry against AC Milan's Dutch star Ruud Gullit next week, alleging he brought the game's federation into disrepute, reports Reuter.

It was the federation which gave the (1990) championship to Napoli, Italian newspapers quoted Gullit as saying in an interview, in the Belgian weekly sport 90.

Gullit cited a controversial ruling when Napoli were awarded a 2-0 victory following a goalless draw at Atlanta because their Brazilian midfielder Alenao had to leave the field after being hit on the head by a coin

A most exciting confrontation

LONDON, Nov 28: World champion Liz McColgan's clash with Olympic gold medalist Olga Bondarenko in Durham's traditional end-of-year meeting has been hailed as the most exciting cross country confrontation ever to be staged in Britain, reports AFP.

Organisers of the county Durham International at Beamish are believed to have worked out around 10,000 pounds to persuade McColgan to tackle her great Soviet rival for the first time since Bondarenko outpaced her on the last lap of the 10,000 in Seoul three years ago.

The December 28 race is over four kilometres. Bondarenko, now 31, has avoided meaningful competition this year and, like her Scottish rival, enjoyed a sabbatical from the track when she became a mother.

But she returned to demolish Portuguese marathon great Rosa Mota over 10 miles