

Mohammedans are Navana champs

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club are the new senior division cricket league champions.



ASHOKA DE SILVA ... 100 unassuming Shri Lankan was particularly severe on the erratic Mohammed Ali, who bowled too full and conceded 14 runs in one over.

The tall Masum, known for his aggressive batting gave left-arm Jahangir Tahukdar Dulu a return catch as he went through his stroke to a ball that seemed to have come on after stopping a bit.

Raman Lamba, who had scored two hundreds against Mohammedans this year, got out rather tragically in the tenth over when an Ashoka De Silva straight drive was deflected by bowler Dulu on to the stumps at the bowler's end with Lamba out of his crease trying to back up a sharp call for a single.

Abahani's Russian trio is complete

Alexander Polynkov, the Moscow Torpedo club striker, arrived in the city yesterday to play for defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra in the ongoing First Division football league.

Abahani, who earlier recruited Sergei Zhukov and Alexei Arifiev from Moscow Torpedo, will complete the registration formalities of Polynkov very soon to fill up their three foreign players quota.

The Daily Star met this newcomer last night at Abahani striker Sheikh Mohammad Aslam's residence at Paribagh. Zhukov and Arifiev acted as the interpreters.

Still in his teens, the handsome Polynkov, who is 1.83 meter tall and weighs 75 kgs, started playing football for Moscow Torpedo two years ago. Though basically a striker, he is capable of playing in any position.

Polynkov will be celebrating his 19th birthday on March 20. An early happy birthday to you, Polynkov! Best of luck.

Felipe qualifies

BARCELONA, Spain, Mar 16: Prince Felipe of Spain won the Soling class of the Spanish Cup Olympic sailing trials Sunday to become the third member of his family to qualify for an Olympic Games, reports AP.

The left-handed Shri Lankan was the mainstay of the Abahani batting with an innings of exactly hundred made off 125 balls with the help of six fours. He made the most of the sloppy fielding by the Mohammedan players. The

Abahani players were cock-a-hoop. Sudarshan Gurugee, the left-handed Shri Lankan, started from where he had left off in the first round match (Gurugee had got 93 against Abahani) and together with skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannu, he calmly took apart the bowling. Gurugee was in great touch, unhurried, assured and played every ball on its merit.

Gurugee's glorious 86, studded with six fours off 96 balls, came to an end when he tried to steer a straight delivery from Selim.

Selim, who went to claim the wickets of Bulbul and Rafiq, finished with the fine figures of three for 20 with his leg breaks.

Golam Faruq Suru and Gamagee remained at the kill as Mohammedans made 226 for six in 44 overs.

Lamba took one for 31 and Prince one for 28. The Metropolis or senior division league, which was later named the Navana Premier Division from its sponsors, has been won seven times by Abahani, five times by Mohammedans and four times by Bangladesh Biman. Victoria Sporting Club, who won the title in 1975-76 and Brothers Union who won it last year, are

the only other sides to have annexed the championship. Following is the roll of honour since the start of the league in 1974-75:

Year	Champions	Runners-up
1974-75	Abahani KC	Shantinagar
1975-76	Victoria SC	Abahani
1976-77	Abahani	Victoria
1977-78	Mohammedan SC	Abahani
1978-79	Mohammedans	Abahani
1979-80	B Biman	Azad Boys Club
1980-81	Biman	Mohammedans
1981-82	Mohammedans	Abahani
1982-83	Abahani	Mohammedans
1983-84	Biman	Mohammedans
1984-85	Abahani	Mohammedans
1985-86	Abahani	Mohammedans

Navana Premier Division league: Abahani, Mohammedans, Biman, Abahani, Rupali Bank, Brothers Union, Mohammedans

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Pakistan confident of beating Kiwis

WELLINGTON, Mar 16: Resurgent Pakistan are confident of beating all-conquering New Zealand in their World Cup cricket match in Christchurch on Wednesday, though even that may not be enough to earn a semifinal spot, reports Reuter.

Pakistan's late rests as much in the hands of Cup holders Australia and West Indies, who have a day-night clash in Melbourne a few hours after Lancaster Park game begins.

If West Indies win, Pakistan will miss out no matter what the result in Christchurch. If both Australia and Pakistan win, then Pakistan will go through by virtue of having one point more than the holders.

New Zealand have carried all before them with seven successive victories and intend to win every game. "I won't change my approach," captain Martin Crow said after Sunday's crushing seven-wicket win over cup favourites England.

Whatever the result against Pakistan, New Zealand will finish top of the standings, but their semifinal will be in Sydney, rather than Auckland, if Australia are fourth. Crow wants to play the semifinal on his favoured Eden Park Ground but has categorically denied any suggestion New Zealand will put in less than 100 per cent effort.

"We are looking for 10 out of 10 wins," he said before the England game. Pakistan are now in confident mood. With consecutive wins over Australia and Sri Lanka, they have begun to show the kind of form expected of them before the tournament began.

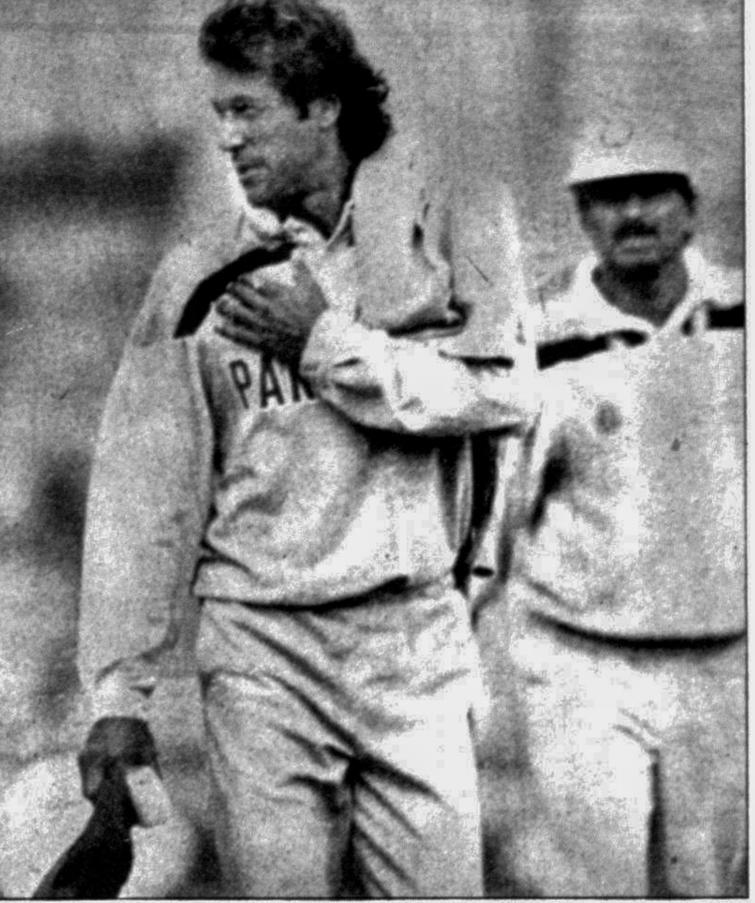
"We are confident of victory in Christchurch, manager Intikhab Alam said. He said Pakistan must put the Australia-West Indies match out of mind and concentrate the one in hand. "We need another match to go our way but we just have to now concentrate on what we have to do to make the finals. You can't worry about matters not in your hands."

Unlike most teams, Pakistan are looking forward to a nasty surprise. West Indies captain Richie Richardson said the Lancaster Park pitch was as fast as any he played on in Australia.

moving off the faster pitches of Australia and on to the slower New Zealand tracks. New Zealand wickets usually don't have much pace in them and they have allowed bounce which suits the players in our team, Intikhab said. However, Pakistan may be

Even if it is as fast as in the West Indies-South Africa match, then Pakistan's attack is well equipped to take advantage. Fast bowlers Wasim Akram, Aaqib Javed and Imran Khan should find such conditions far more to their liking than

shown weakness against wrist spin. He may find the bouncy Christchurch surface assists him. New Zealand will want to play fast bowler Danny Morrison if he has recovered from a hamstring strain. After unsuccessfully break-



Pakistan skipper Imran Khan favours his injured shoulder while leading his team off the ground after Sri Lanka's innings in Perth on March 15. Pakistan won the match by four-wickets. — AFP photo

in for a nasty surprise. West Indies captain Richie Richardson said the Lancaster Park pitch was as fast as any he played on in Australia.

New Zealand's bowlers. In addition, Pakistan's form bowler has been leg-spinner Mustaq Ahmed and New Zealand have traditionally

ing up the Mark Greatbatch-Rod Latham opening partnership against England by using John Wright, Crowe may revert to Latham on Wednesday.

McEnroe, Seles win easily

KEV BISCAYNE, Fla, Mar 16: John McEnroe, playing his first singles match in South Florida since 1981, swept Sandon Stolle 6-3, 6-4 Sunday in the second round of the International Players Championships, reports AP.

Second-ranked Stefan Edberg advanced when leg cramps forced qualifier Grant Stafford to retire leading 7-5, 1-6, 1-0. Fifth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic eliminated Bernd Karbacher 6-4, 6-1.

In women's play, top-ranked Monica Seles won the first five games and beat Camille Benjamin 6-1, 6-3. Fifth-seeded Jennifer Capriati

eliminated Kristin Godridge 6-3, 7-5. All of the seeds had received first-round byes. McEnroe's only previous appearance at Key Biscayne was in 1987, when he played the doubles and lost in the first round. He otherwise skipped the tournament because he objected to its equal prize money for men and women, disliked the windy weather and thought the old two-week format was too long.

In recent years, the men's purse has exceeded the women's and the schedule has been reduced to 10 days. And now, the tournament suits McEnroe's tastes. "It's nice for people to have the opportunity to come down to Florida in March when you've been indoors," McEnroe said after beating Stolle. "I don't find it as enjoyable to play the indoor circuit as I used to. I don't feel like being indoors 23 hours a day is really what I want to do anymore. I think it's nice to get out."

Nonetheless, McEnroe complained about the weather, saying the cloudless sky made it difficult to serve. Stolle, ranked No. 135, lost his final three service games, and McEnroe then closed out the match with an ace and two service winners.

"I didn't feel as comfortable serving and volleying as I normally do," McEnroe said. "But I got a good start and made him hit good shots. He didn't have one of his better days. He's usually more consistent." Stafford, a South African

Nirman meet on in Mymensingh

Our Correspondent MYMENSINGH, Mar 16: The Nirman schools cricket tournament of Mymensingh zone began today at the local stadium with 13 schools taking part. In the opening match, Nasirabad Boys High School posted a 70 run victory over Pre-Cadet High School. Nasirabad High School amassed 174 runs for the loss of six wickets in their quota of overs. In reply, Pre-Cadet High School were dismissed for 104. Earlier, the meet was formally inaugurated by the General Secretary of the Mymensingh District Sports Association Tofazzel Hossain.

Soccer league resumes Mar 18

Sports Reporter The First Division football league is likely to resume tomorrow, March 18 after a two-day suspension, with the venue shifting from the Mirpur Stadium to the Dhaka Stadium. The league committee of the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association meets this evening to decide whether to schedule one or two matches daily at the Dhaka Stadium. The league programme remained suspended since yesterday for want of adequate security personnel at the Mirpur Stadium.

Milan consolidate lead

ROME, Mar 16: Marco Van Basten took his tally for the season to 21 goals on Sunday and edged AC Milan closer to the Serie A title with just nine games left, reports AFP. The Dutch striker, who managed only 11 last season but is the leading marksman in Italy now, has played a leading role in AC's revival and his 70th minute strike killed off what little resistance David Platt's Bari could muster.

They were already training to Marco Simone's 37th minute opener and the fine work of Platt and his Croatian colleague Zvenimir Bodan came to nothing against the powerful outfit so well drilled by coach Fabio Capello. The two points maintained a four-point cushion over second-placed Juventus who won away 2-0 against one-from-bottom side Cremonese. Julio Cesar found the net after 21 minutes and Roberto Baggio, thriving in his role as playmaker and goal scorer after a disastrous first season as the world's most expensive footballer, made sure on the final whistle with his 13th league strike of the season.

The chase is all but over behind the big two with Napoli, in third but 11 points behind AC Milan, and Internazionale cancelling each other out 1-1. Napoli's Gianfranco Zola showed the way after 14 minutes only to see Stefan Desideri deservedly cancel it out after nine minutes of the second half. Torino, fourth, were held 0-0 at home to fifth-placed Parma and might have to do better for a place in Europe.

Samaranch to run in Olympic torch relay

BARCELONA, Spain, Mar 16: International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch has announced he will run a leg of the torch relay in Spain prior to this summer's Olympic Games, reports AP. Samaranch, 72, said he would run an unspecified portion of the 4,700-kilometre (2,980-mile) relay together with a group of veteran Spanish sports journalists. "I am looking forward to taking part in a leg along with my old friends from the sporting press," Samaranch said Saturday night at a sports reception. "Until now, it was only a minor possibility," he continued. "But today I'm proud to say I will carry the torch and run some kilometres throughout the streets of my city."

In reference to his age, Samaranch joked, "None of us is prepared to run 1,000 metres. But, I think between us we will be able to add up to our objective." The Olympic torch relay will begin on June 23 with the arrival of the Olympic flame from Greece at port city of Empuries, 75 kilometres (48 miles) north of Barcelona. From there, the torch will wind its way for 32 days through each of Spain's 17 autonomous regions — touching even the Canary Islands and the Balearic Islands — before reaching Barcelona on July 24. Runners in the Olympic torch relay will be drawn mostly from volunteers around Spain. The summer Olympic Games begin July 25.

The Olympic torch relay is the latest achievement in Samaranch's long sporting career. A professional roller hockey goalkeeper in the 1940s in Barcelona,



SAMARANCH Samaranch also wrote a roller hockey column for the La Vanguardia newspaper under the pen name 'Stick' — often quoting himself. From there, Samaranch ascended from Spanish national team coach to president of the Spanish federation. Samaranch added membership in the IOC to his resume in 1966, then served a four-year term as vice-president beginning in 1974 before being elected president in 1980. Samaranch has taken a special interest in the preparations for the 1992 Olympic Games. "I am convinced that the Olympic Games of Barcelona will be a success," he said. "I hope that, on the day of the closing ceremonies, I am able to declare to the whole world that this was not one of the best, but the best in all history."

Joint Korean team in jeopardy

SEOUL, Mar 16: A joint team of rivals South and North Korea for the Barcelona Summer Olympics is unlikely, officials said Monday. The International Olympic Committee has given both Koreas until March 25 to submit a proposal for a single team for the games in Spain in July, yet no actions have been taken. An official at the Sports and Youth Ministry said it is unlikely that the two Koreas will reach an agreement on a joint team with the deadline only nine days away. The communist North has not shown great interest in a joint team, although the South has actively sought to field the Koreans' first single team for the Olympics, said the official, who requested anonymity.



Players and officials of new Navana Premier Division cricket league champions Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club photographed at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. —Star photo