

### Nat'l cricket final today

Sports Reporter

Chittagong DSA and Sylhet DSA clash in the final of the 18th national cricket championship this morning at 8:45 at the Dhaka Stadium.

Chittagong beat Bangladesh Biman in the first semifinal while Sylhet outplayed Dhaka DSA in the other semifinal.

ASM Mustafizur Rahman, Foreign Minister who is also the BCCB chief will attend the occasion as chief guest, while Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan, State Minister for Textiles and Malcolm Frye, Managing Director of the Bangladesh Tobacco Company, the sponsors of the meet, will be present as special guests.

Meanwhile, BCCB has fixed the rate of tickets as follows: Gate No 3A-20 Taka Gate No 3B-10 Taka However, no ticket will be required for the galleries.

### National youth cricket finals from tomorrow

Sports Reporter

Chittagong, Kushtia, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Rangpur DSAs qualified for the final round of the Siraj memorial 12th national youth cricket championship by emerging champions of their respective zonal competition at different venues across the country yesterday.

The eight-team finals comprising the six zonal champions and the defending champions Dhaka DSA and last year's runners-up BKSP begin in the city tomorrow April 18.

It was indeed a heroic fight back by the Chittagong boys when they beat Comilla by 12 runs after having been shot out for a paltry 99, in the Sylhet zonal final.

Chittagong made 99 in 38.2 overs.

Rezaul survived the Comilla attack, remaining not out with 36, Ripon made 12 and John 11 while extras added 19 invaluable runs.

Hassan with four for 24 was the pick of the Comilla bowlers while Anis took two for 11.

The Comilla batsmen failed to stay at the wicket and were dismissed for only 87 runs in 37 overs.

Morshed scored 23 and Mona 11 while sundries amounted to 20.

Mizan and Rezaul took three and two wickets respectively and Fazole, Tutul and Ripon a wicket apiece.

At Jessore an all-round performance by Arif helped Kushtia beat Barisal by 63 runs in the zonal final.

Kushtia made the first use of the pitch and were all out for 197 in 43.3 of the stipulated 45 overs.

Raju and Asim equally shared six wickets while Bazu and Ibrahim bagged two apiece for Barisal.

Barisal, in their turn, found scoring extremely difficult and were restricted to 134 in 40.2 overs.

Extras top scored with 40 while Raju, Azad and Arun made 22.21 and 18 respectively.

Arif with three wickets for 18 and Riju with another three for 34 were the most successful bowlers for Kushtia.

Mymensingh posted a convincing four-wicket victory over Faridpur in the Tangail zonal final.

Batting first, Faridpur were dismissed for 146 in 39.5 overs with Bipal making 35, Sajjad and Pappu 24 each, Asad Khan 15 and Asad Shah 12.

Marwat and Sumit took two wickets each for Mymensingh. Mymensingh cruised past Faridpur total making 147 for six wickets in 43.2 overs.

Haasib and Niaz bagged two wickets each for Faridpur. At Pabna, Rajshahi trounced Bogra by nine wickets, thanks to devastating bowling by Shakhawat and Tory.

Batting first, Bogra were bundled out for only 58 in 30.2 overs.

Sundries top scored with 16 while Ranjan and Rumel made 15 and 10 respectively.

Rajshahi needed only 9.3 overs to hit off 61 with nine wickets to spare.

Sanchay remained unbeaten on 36 while Rawnak made 13 for Rajshahi.

All round performances by Shahadat and Pallab helped Rangpur record a convincing 30-run victory over Pabna in the Thakurgaon zonal final.

Batting first, Rangpur were all out for 175 in 43.2 overs with Shahadat making 52, Philip 44 and Pallab and Ali Raj 22 each.

In reply, Pabna were restricted to 145 in 39 overs with Babar making 30, Puak 25 and Asim 17.

Faruk with three wickets for 29 was the pick of Rangpur bowling, while Shahadat and Pallab with two wickets apiece lent him able support.

The result of the Barisal zonal final between Jessore and Khulna was not available till the filing of this report late last night.

## Brothers' challenge fades

Sports Reporter



Only nine minutes left and no goal scored yet in the Brothers-Fakirpool tie. Certainly an embarrassing situation for the Federation Cup champions who had dropped their fourth point in this year's league in their previous match. Suddenly Mosh, the Fakirpool striker, darts inside the box like a kingfisher and Pijush, the Brothers right-back, trips him only to concede a penalty to the men in blue.

The hearts of the Gopibagh boys danced in a fit of momentary relief when Mosh, who had a short, insignificant stint with reigning champs Abahani once, cracked a grounder to the body of a diving Poir but Babuzzaman lurking nearby sneaked in to cash in on the partial save by the Brothers custodian to ensure the loss of the sixth point by Brothers Union who, like every year, promised to create a stir at the onset of the football season.

Brothers Union suffered their second defeat of the First Division league, the first

being at the hands of unfancied Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha. The losers had very little to console themselves unless of course the more prejudiced members of the team were inclined to see it as some kind of divine punishment for the flagrant violation of laws by their officials. Retribution or mishap, Brothers played a brand of football that could produce only one kind of result and that was exactly what they were handed by the Fakirpool Youngmen's Club.

Fakirpool had most of their rare moves initiated by Mosh who made good use of his experience by working on the growing frustration of the Brothers players. He often hung on to the ball cleverly. But he failed to give his side the lead as early as the sixth minute when he got past the Brothers custodian but failed to find the net. Poir again came to the rescue of his side when he saved a Babu shot a few minutes later.

Brothers had their share of chances which one would like to mention more for the sta-

tistical interest than from any admiration for the aggressive mein of the team yesterday. Sanyajit Das Rupu and Nurul Huq Manik were twice foiled by Fakirpool custodian Dhara.

With 22 points from 14 games Brothers look quite out of the race for the league honours with Abahani six points and Mohammedans three points ahead of them. Fakirpool now have 14 points from as many matches.

#### POINTS SHARED

Arambagh KS shared points with Farashganj Sporting Club in a goalless draw in the first match of the day yesterday. Farashganj whose collection goes up to 13 from 14 matches, dominated the proceedings with Salahuddin and Badal Das wasting good opportunities. Shamim of Arambagh too, spoiled scoring chances to let the game peter out to a draw.

#### TODAY'S MATCHES

Adamjee vs Dhanmondi ( 6 pm)  
PWD vs Police (8 pm)

## Bouncer rule to curb quickies



BRIDGETOWN, Apr 16: South Africa's batsmen may be spared a constant short-pitched barrage from West Indies' pace attack when the first-ever cricket Test between the countries begins on Saturday, reports Reuter.

For the first time in Tests the West Indians will have to abide by the new bouncer regulation which limits a bowler to one head-high delivery per over at any one batsman.

If they exceed it, they will be no-balled, then warned and finally ordered out of the attack, and South African coach Mike Procter is among those wondering about the potential effect on a West Indian side in transition at Test level.

"I think it'll be difficult to interpret it," Procter said as the tourists practised on some hard, fast net pitches at Kensington Oval only hours after landing in Barbados on Wednesday.

"Our batsmen realise they may not get as many, but I don't think it will make any difference to our bowlers".

The South Africans were surprised by the relative lack of pace in the one-day pitches in both Jamaica and Trinidad but know they will face con-

siderably more bounce during the early stages of the Test.

West Indies will be playing four fast bowlers, with either Winston or Kenneth Benjamin pencilled in alongside Curtly Ambrose, Patrick Patterson and Courtney Walsh.

Yet only Ambrose of that quintet has taken over 100 Test wickets and three members of the 13-man squad—David Williams, Jimmy Adams and Kenneth Benjamin - have never played a Test match.

Opener Brian Lara has played 27 one-day internationals but still has only one Test cap to his credit.

Phil Simmons, Keith Arthurton and Winston Benjamin can boast only 20 Tests between them, leaving Desmond Haynes as the one surviving member of the West Indies old guard.

Viv Richards, Malcolm Marshall, Jeff Dujon and Gordon Greenidge, all regulars as late as eight months ago, have each departed the Test scene, yet it still requires imagination to see South Africa taking advantage of the situation in their first Test for 22 years.

Procter revealed there had been discussions earlier in the week about flying out a replacement to ease the side's injury situation.

Nobody was called up but seam bowler Meyrick Pringle is still highly doubtful with a rib cartilage injury, all-rounder Corrie van Zyl has been troubled by shin splints and left-arm spinner Omar Henry spent Wednesday in bed with influenza.

South Africa only switched from three to four-day domestic cricket this season and Procter admits his side will be short of five-day knowledge.

"They've got to get their minds right," he said. "If you play Test cricket, you must be able to adapt to different conditions wherever you play".

It will also be the first time a match referee has been seen in a Caribbean Test. Ex-England Test player Raman Subba Row will do the job on a ground where West Indies have not lost since 1935.

Some of the biggest names in world cricket will be in Barbados to watch the match and the South African players have already been introduced to a string of West Indian legends including Sir Garfield Sobers, Everton Weekes, Clyde Walcott and Wes Hall.

But doubt remains about the number of paying spectators who will attend the Test. Threats of a boycott are still in the air after the selection of only one Barbados-born player in the 13-man home squad.

## Procter rues the lost years



BRIDGETOWN, Apr 16: Even though he was suffering from flu, March 10, 1970 was a day to remember for a 23-year-old South African called Mike Procter, reports Reuter.

A member of arguably one of the most talented cricket teams in history, Procter and his teammates strolled off St George's Park in Port Elizabeth that afternoon with the world at their feet.

The touring Australians, led by Bill Lawry, had been trounced by 323 runs to give South Africa a record breaking 4-0 clean sweep in an extraordinary series.

Procter, in just his seventh Test, had shrugged off his illness to take four wickets in succession, finishing with figures of six for 73.

Neither he nor any of his colleagues in the dressing-room were to know that no South African side would be seen on an official Test field for another 22 years.

Apartheid and world wide isolation were destined to ruin the careers of a whole generation of South African sportsmen.

Men like Procter, Barry Richards and Eddie Barlow became cricketing castaways,

condemned to a twilight zone far from the Test stage they had briefly illuminated.

Now, too late for some, South African cricket's metaphorical message in a bottle has finally washed up on receptive shores.

In Barbados this Saturday, a team from the republic will take on the West Indies in the first ever Test between the



MIKE PROCTER

countries, and South Africa's first on foreign soil since 1965.

Most of the players were only children back in 1970 and Procter, 45 and now the team coach, concedes that Saturday will mean more to him than most.

## Nicklaus feels jaded



PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla, Apr 16: Jack Nicklaus came into the defense of his title in the PGA Seniors

Championship at something considerably less than the peak of his form, reports AP.

He said he was tired after two consecutive weeks of competition, called his golf game questionable and his chances of a repeat victory completely unknown.

"Don't ask me how I'm playing because I don't have any idea," he said, stifling a yawn after his final, frustrating practice session for the tournament that began Thursday at PGA National.

"I was just going through the motions out there," he said.

"I hit about a half-dozen balls in the water and didn't get a putt within eight feet of

the hole.

"I was just in a daze." But that's practice. It'll be different in competition," he said. "It always is."

But he was less than enthusiastic about his recent play, including an unsuccessful defense of his title in the Tradition at Desert Mountain on the senior tour, and in a tie for 42nd in the Masters.

"Overall, I'd say I'm probably not swinging as well, not hitting the ball as well, as I was coming into this tournament a year ago," Nicklaus said.

"Last year at this time, I'd played two pretty good tournaments in a row.

"This year, well, I've played about 2 1/2 pretty good rounds two weeks in a row."

"This is my third tournament in a row. That's hard for me," said Nicklaus, who now plays an extremely restricted schedule.

## Barbadians irked by WI selectors

Sports Reporter

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Apr 16: West Indies' cricket selectors have been accused of bias against players from Barbados following the naming of the team for the historic Test against South Africa starting on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Desmond Haynes is the only Barbadian in the 13-man squad after the surprise omission of seam bowler Anderson Cummins.

Many local fans threatened on Wednesday to boycott the match at Kingston Oval.

Former West Indies opener Gordon Greenidge said: "Now is the time for Barbadians to speak out against the injustice that is being done to people".

Another recent West Indian star Malcolm Marshall, also a Barbadian, has repeated his post-World Cup criticisms of the current team.

Despite the West Indies' easy victories in the recent one-day internationals, Marshall said in a newspaper interview: "Everything just seems to be going down the drain. There is no respect, no manners. It's embarrassing."

SQUAD: Richie Richardson (captain), Desmond Haynes, Brian Lara, Phil Simmons, Carl Hooper, Keith Arthurton, Jimmy Adams, Winston Benjamin, Curtly Ambrose, David Williams, Courtney Walsh, Kenneth Benjamin, Patrick Patterson.

## Nat'l chess results

Sports Reporter

Rezaul Huq, Anisur Rahman and Neyamul Huq Niru with four points each jointly led the points table after the completion of the fourth round of the 18th national chess championship at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

Reza beat Amir, Anis outplayed Khaleq and Niru defeated Yahya in their respective fourth round encounters.

Syed Tahmidur Rahman, Khandaker Kayes Hassan, Shiekh Shahadat Hossain, Kalam, Ahmed Hossain Majumder and Iqbal Rakib, who have three and a half points each, jointly held second in the list.

Tahmid beat Hafiz and Rakib outwitted Almas while the matches between Kayes and Kalam, Shahadat and Majumder were drawn affairs.

## Stich bites dust

HONG KONG, Apr 16: Veteran campaigner Kevin Curran knocked second seed Michael Stich out of the Hong Kong Open yesterday and they advised the Wimbledon champion to give his body and mind a break, reports Reuter.

"He may be overplaying—it is tough on your body and tough mentally," the 34-year-old South African-born American said after his 6-1, 6-3 second round victory.

## Bhalinder Singh dead

NEW DELHI, Apr 16: Raja Bhalinder Singh, a life member and former vice-president of the International Olympic Committee, died in a Delhi hospital today of a kidney ailment, the Press Trust of India reported, reports Reuter.



BHALINDER SINGH

"Singh, 72, was a member of the former royal family of the north Indian region of Patiala and used the honorific Raja as part of his name.

He had headed India's Olympic Association and its Athletics Federation.

Singh is survived by three daughters and a son, Randhir, who has represented India in trap shooting and is president of the Indian Olympic Association.

## Karpov escapes

LINARES, Spain, Apr 16: British Grandmaster Nigel Short squandered a chance to beat former world champion Anatoly Karpov yesterday when the third game of their world chess championship semi-final series ended in a draw, reports Reuter.

The game was adjourned from Tuesday when Short was a pawn ahead in a rook and knight ending.

"Short lost his chance to win and I managed to get a draw", Karpov said after the game.

After 3-1/2 hours of play and 33 moves, Short agreed to a draw leaving his opponent with a one-point advantage in the series. Karpov leads 2-1.

The Russian will play black pieces in the fourth game of the semi final on Thursday.

## Maradona defies FIFA ban



BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Apr 16: Diego Maradona shone on Wednesday in a charity soccer match held despite FIFA's threats against players who dared join the banned star on the pitch, reports Reuter.

Over 40 Argentine and Latin American professionals volunteered for the match even after FIFA sent the Argentine Football Association (AFA) a facsimile warning that those players could face sanctions.

The players, many of them members of Argentina's national team, persuaded Mara-



DIEGO MARADONA

Nearly a year after FIFA, soccer's world governing body, banned him for 15 months for failing a dope test, the former Argentina skipper scored two goals and set up two more in a match to raise funds for the family of an Argentine international who died after surgery earlier this year.

dona to play after he had agreed to drop out of the match to avoid trouble.

Thousands of wildly cheering fans met the stocky Maradona, 31, at the Velez Sarsfield Club's stadium when he appeared with the players who defied FIFA's warnings.

Before going into the

changing rooms to get ready for the match the former Napoli captain rallied against international and local soccer authorities.

"Human beings cannot be so spiteful as to be against a soccer match like this one. Only a robot or a computer could have written such a fax," he told reporters. "We are playing it because we are human, while soccer officials are not human."

The match was played bending some established soccer rules. At times the teams had 12 players instead of 11 and outballs were kicked in instead of thrown in.

Maradona's first goal was a classic. Receiving a pass 20 metres (yards) out, he juggled the ball on his left foot in front of a bewildered opponent and then kicked it to a high corner, out of Colombian goalkeeper Carlos Navarro's reach.

For his second goal, he placed the ball softly next to Navarro's left goalpost after deceiving defenders with a few slight shoulder movements.

Despite the cheers from the crowd and the praise heaped upon him by players and sport commentators, Maradona said he was not planning a comeback once his ban is up in July.

"If they raised such a stink for a friendly match, I can't imagine what they'd do if I played every week. That's why I tell people who stop me in the street and ask me to return to the game that I wouldn't enjoy it."

The organisers said they had raised 109,000 dollars for the family of Juan Gilberto Funes, a popular young striker and a friend of Maradona's who died after heart surgery in January.

Among the players were Argentine team skipper Oscar Ruggeri and internationals Diego Latorre, Claudio Garcia and Blas Giunta.

AFA president Julio Grondona said he had sent a copy of FIFA's message to the players, many of whom did not believe it was real.

Even once his ban is up Maradona will still have to deal with his legal problems.

Nearly one year ago he was arrested for cocaine possession in Buenos Aires. He was quickly released from jail but still faces trial.

In September a Naples court gave him a 14-month suspended prison sentence on similar charges.

## Barcelona to meet Sampdoria in European Cup final



BARCELONA, Apr 16: Two goals in the space of 12 minutes in the first half here Wednesday put

Barcelona through to the European Cup final against Sampdoria of Italy after a 2-1 win over Portuguese champions Benfica, reports AFP.

Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov opened the scoring in the 12th minute, capitalizing on a blunder by defender Jose Carlos to rocket a shot from 12 metres by the helpless Neno.

Jose-Maria Bakero doubled the score after a quick-flowing build-up in the 24th minute.

Eusebio, ever active in midfield, found Stoichkov with a pinpoint pass and the Bulgarian pulled a cross back for Bakero to volley home with the outside of his right foot.

Johan Cruyff's Catalans could now see Wembley within their sights.

Benfica were down but not out. Four minutes later Cesar Brito ran onto a pass from fellow Brazilian Isaias to cut the deficit by half, despite a brave attempt by Barcelona's Andoni Zubizarreta in goal.

Cruyff had urged Barcelona's fans to fill the Camp Nou stadium for this crucial Group B semifinal match, and around 70,000 obliged, raising a noisy racket as Benfica mounted a comeback. The attendance

was, however, short of the 120,000 maximum for the famous stadium.

And they had reason to shudder as Ukrainian Sergiy Yuran in the 52nd minute, Vitor Pereira four minutes later and Paolo Sousa in the 73rd all tested the Barcelona defence.

The Spaniards pulled back in defence, leaving their attacking potential in the hands of Stoichkov and Denmark's Michael Laudrup.

Barcelona held firm in their 250th match in European competitions to get another crack at the Champions' Cup. They lost to Benfica in the 1961 final and to Steau Bucharest in the 1986 final.

Sampdoria ensured their passage to Wembley by drawing 1-1 with Panathinaikos after their closest rivals, holders Red Star Belgrade, lost 3-2 away to Anderlecht.

Benfica's Swedish coach Sven Goran Eriksson, who takes charge of Sampdoria next season, praised his team's overall performance, but said that defensive errors had cost dearly.

"When the Spaniards lead from the beginning they are difficult to play," he said.

"We dominated in the second half but weren't able to find a weak link in their defence," he said.

Cruyff understandably expressed satisfaction with the

## Torino in UEFA final



TURIN, Apr 16: Italian club Torino reached the final of European soccer competition for

the first time in their history on Wednesday when they beat Real Madrid 2-0 in the second leg of their UEFA Cup semifinal, reports Reuter.

The result gave Torino a 3-2 win on aggregate.

They will meet Ajax Amsterdam in a two leg final to be played on April 29 and May 13.

Torino were gifted a flying start when Real's Brazilian defender Ricardo Rocha fired a cross from winger Gianluigi Lentini into his own net after only eight minutes.

The pacy Lentini set up the decider 14 minutes from time.

He tricked his way behind the Spanish defence and his low left-foot cross was side-footed home from close range

by midfielder Luca Fusi.

Rocha put the ball into his own net as he tried to divert it away from his Brazilian compatriot Walter Casagrande.

Torino striker Casagrande had a great chance to double the lead on the stroke of half-time but shot against the legs of Real goalkeeper Francisco Bujo when unmarked 10 metres from goal.

Real picked up the