

# GMCC scrape by skin of their teeth

Sports Reporter

Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) survived a scare before booking a berth in the second round of the 14th Damal Summer cricket tournament in one of the two matches at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

GMCC got past a waggish Udit Club by one wicket. Put into bat Udit, reved up by a cavalier 78 from Rahul, managed 158 for all the ten wickets in 43.1 of the 45 allotted overs.

Udit were in dire straits as the GMCC bowlers spear-headed by quickie Saiful established firm control right from the beginning and at 97 for nine Udit looked set to be relieved of the embarrassment within hundred.

Not everyone was thinking in the same vein and Udit's BKSP product Rahul was one of

the never-say-die clan. With wicketkeeper Nittu, who scored 17, Rahul played a superb unbeaten knock of 78 off 75 balls, including one sixer and two fours. Rahul, who got his 50 off 48 balls, put on 61 priceless runs for the last wicket.

Sanjeeva Weerasinghe, GMCC's Sri Lankan all-rounder, had the Udit batsmen in the knots claiming the last four wickets at a cost of 43 runs from eight overs of leg-break-googly bowling.

Saiful bagged two for 16 from eight stingy overs. Kajal also bowled quite well taking two for 23.

GMCC's quest for the required 159 runs suffered a jolt when opener Rowanul Islam Tutul was caught by Tipu off Sajal for nine.

Mohsin, the other opener, and Pika steadied the boat



SAIFUL ... 50 making 28 before falling prey to the spin of Rokan. Pika made 21.

Sanwar made 18 to keep GMCC on course but then came the slide that saw GMCC slip down to 86 for six wickets.

If it was Rahul's turn to inject interest in the match with a late rally in the pre-lunch session, it was Saiful's turn in the afternoon to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for GMCC.

In a brisk accelerando innings of 50 off 38 balls, Saiful saw GMCC home and dry with his priceless knock which included three fours.

GMCC reached 159 in 43.1 overs with just one wicket to spare.

Rokan was the pick of the Udit bowlers claiming two for 20 off nine overs.

Durjoy got two for 28 while Sohail took two for 35. Rahul did one better with the ball, taking one for 11.

## A draw should suffice for Zia

The 15th and final round of the ninth Dr Quazi Matabar Hossain International Masters chess tournament will be played at the National Sports Council conference room this afternoon.

Bangladesh's would be IM Ziaur Rahman, who has earned eleven and a half points from 14 matches, needs just only a draw in his ultimate round match today to clinch the championship trophy.

His nearest rival IM Krishnamurthy Murugan of India has collected ten and a half points.

Defending champion Pakistani IM Mahmud Lodhi, Indian IM Lanka Ravi and Rahul Shetty — another Indian player — have nine points each and are vying for the third position.

Reigning national chess champion Reefat bin-Sattar, who lost to Zia in his 14th round match Friday, has eight and a half points.

Two players have collected eight points each. They are the Indian IM Arun Vaidya and his compatriot PDS Girinath.

Yemeni IM Hamed Mansour Qudhi, Bangladesh IM Zillur Rahman Champak and former national champion Jamilur Rahman have secured six and a half points each.

Two Bangladesh players have five and a half points to follow the above three. They are former national champion FIDE Master Syed Tahmidur Rahman and Khandaker Kayes Hasan.

Two players have three and a half points each. They are Atanu Lahiri, the junior most member of the Indian team, and Saifuddin Lablu of Bangladesh.

International Women Master Rani Hamid The lone lady in 16 player fray, have managed only a point by virtue of her two drawn encounters to remain at the bottom of the points-table.

# Wari make Victoria sweat

Sports Reporter

Victoria Sporting Club were made to sweat in yesterday's other match by minnows Wari Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Victoria won the match by 13 runs to go through to the second round of this year's Damal Summer cricket tournament.

Asked to bat first, Victoria were tottering at 32 for four in no time. Wari opening bowlers Timir and Asim were instrumental for the Victoria debacle which did not even spare the formidable father-son combination of Roqibul Hasan and Sajid. The dad got two while Sajid fell for a duck.

Left-handed Abu Hamid Partho teamed up with Indian

Goutam Some to bring some semblance of sanity in Victoria's innings in mess.

Both Partho and Goutam scored 42 each with the former hitting two fours in his 75-ball knock.

Victoria managed 156 for eight in 40 overs, with Rubel hitting an unbeaten 30.

Timir returned fine figures of three for 29. His partner Asim took two for 31 while Biddyt claimed two for 34.

Wari got off to an equally shaky start, losing three wickets for 46 runs. But a revival started with the trio of Tarek, Didar and Raju contributing substantially in the middle of the innings.

Raju top scored with 31, followed by Tarek 24 and Didar 20, but the collective

contribution of the three musketeers came to seed when Victoria's promising left-arm spinner Saikat claimed three wickets to restrict Wari Club to 143 for nine in 40 overs.

Although Victoria's new-ball bowlers Golam Nowsheer Prince and Goutam Some went wicketless, the two bowled tightly enough to put the latter Wari batsmen under pressure.

Saikat had the best figures with three for 27. Off-spinner Rubel, who had earlier played an invaluable knock of 30 in the Victoria innings, bagged two for 31.

## SA-PAK-WINDIES SERIES FIXTURES

- KARACHI, Oct 24: The following are the detailed fixtures of the three-week triangular cricket tournament in February in South Africa announced here Friday:
- February 8: West Indies v NFO XI, Halfway House
  - 9: South Africa v Pakistan, Durban
  - 11: South Africa v West Indies, Port Elizabeth
  - 13: West Indies v Pakistan, Johannesburg
  - 15: South Africa v Pakistan, East London
  - 17: South Africa v West Indies, Cape Town
  - 19: West Indies v Pakistan, Durban
  - 21: South Africa v Pakistan, Centurion Park
  - 23: South Africa v West Indies, Bloemfontein
  - 25: West Indies v Pakistan, Cape Town
  - 27: Final at Johannesburg
  - 28: 2nd day available for final, if necessary.
- During the three-week tournament each team will play six one-day 50-over matches.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

- Brothers Union vs Kalabagan (Dhaka Stadium)
- Blman vs PWD (DCS)

## BCCB yet to decide format for leagues

The league committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board failed to take any decision regarding the format of the forthcoming Premier and First Division leagues in its meeting held at the BCCB office yesterday.

The failure was attributed to the absence of some of the representatives of the clubs taking part in the league.

The committee will meet on October 26 to finalise the format.

# Fischer, Spassky resume Game 24

BELGRADE, Oct 24: Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky resumed their dlr 5 million chess rematch Saturday with game 24, which Spassky had postponed from Thursday because of a severe cold, reports AP.

Fischer leads 8-4 and needs only two more victories to clinch the dlr 3.35 million top prize, which goes to the first player to win 10 games.

Spassky, playing white, showed no outward signs of illness at the start of Saturday's game.

As in his two most recent turns playing white against Fischer's Sicilian Defense, Spassky used a so-called chameleon-setup in which he

delays his choice between the open and closed variations.

This time he took the closed option, transposing in to the Dragon variation.

Neither player appeared to have a clear advantage in the early going.

A three-doctor panel on Thursday found that Spassky, 55, was suffering from an acute cold, and match organisers accepted his request for a postponement.

It was his third postponement in the match. Under previously agreed rules, he is allowed one more, if he cannot play a game after that, he forfeits the match. Fischer has not requested any postponements.

Under match rules, games are scheduled every Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and

Sunday. Draws do not count, and there are no adjournments.

The match, sponsored by Yugoslav businessman Jezdimir Vasiljevic, started Sept 2 in the Montenegrin coastal resort of Sveti Stefan. It moved to Belgrade after Fischer had won five games.

Fischer defeated the Russian-born Spassky in 1972 to capture the world chess championship, but the International Chess Federation stripped him of his title in 1975 for refusing to defend it.

The 49-year-old American insists the rematch, which is being played in defiance of UN sanctions against Yugoslavia, is for the world title. But it is not sanctioned by the chess federation.

# REB youngsters retain supremacy

Sports Reporter

Two new records marked the penultimate day of the four-day long national age group and first youth swimming championships at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex pool yesterday.

Saiful Islam and Masud Rana of Rajshahi Education Board (REB) rewrote records as their team led the medal's table with 17 golds, as many silvers and 14 bronzes, at the end of the third day.

Saiful Islam, who competed for the 100m breast-stroke for boys aged between 13 and 14 years, took one minute 23.81 seconds, an accomplishment which eclipsed his own mark of one minute 25.75 seconds set last year.

Niaz Ali of REB set a new record yet finished with the silver.

Abdul Hamid Ripon of Pabna DSA got the bronze.

Saiful was joined by Masud Rana of REB who broke a new record in the 100m backstroke for 13-14 year-old boys.

Masud Rana shattered his last year's record of one minute 17.06 seconds with a new timing of one minute 16.07 seconds. Aminur Rahman of Rajshahi DSA took the silver while Abdus Samad of Pabna DSA bagged the bronze.

Pabna's Mahbubur Rahman

Abdul Hamid Ripon of Pabna DSA picked up his sixth gold of the meet when he came first in the 200m butterfly event in the 13-14 age group. He was tailed by Masud Rana for the second slot. Rana's REB peer Jamal Hossain collected the bronze.

Nayeb Ali raised his personal tally of gold gongs to four

picked up one of his two golds yesterday in the 50m freestyle of the 15-17 age group.

Nur Khan Alam of REB secured the second spot while Abu Zafar Haider, Alam's teammate won the bronze.

Mahbubur Rahman won his second gold in the 1500m freestyle. Abu Bakr Haider of REB got the silver and Mizanur

the bronze.

Golam Rahman of Madaripur DSA won the gold in the 100m breaststroke of the 15-17 age group. Hasan Zulfikar and Sajedur Rahman of Pabna DSA won the silver and bronze respectively.

The 100m butterfly gold of the 15-17 years category went to Saiful Islam of REB last year's champion team. Mosharraf Hossain of Pabna DSA snatched the silver ahead of Nur Khan Alam of REB who had to settle for the bronze.

Abdul Hamid Ripon of Pabna DSA who bagged five golds last year leads the points table with six golds already. Nur Khan Alam of REB has five golds to his credit, followed by Nayeb Ali of the same team who has four golds.

The first youth competition begins today. Thirteen instead of eleven events will be held on the final and fourth day.

## MEDALS TABLE

|                 | G  | S  | B  | Total |
|-----------------|----|----|----|-------|
| Rajshahi Board  | 17 | 17 | 14 | 48    |
| Pabna           | 11 | 5  | 9  | 25    |
| Kushtia         | 2  | 1  | 0  | 3     |
| Chapalnawabganj | 1  | 3  | 1  | 5     |
| Madaripur       | 1  | 1  | 2  | 4     |
| Rajshahi DSA    | 0  | 3  | 3  | 6     |
| Gopalganj       | 0  | 2  | 0  | 2     |
| Bogra           | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1     |
| BKSP            | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1     |

# Aussie umpires win damages for libel

PERTH, Australia, Oct 24: Top Australian Test cricket umpires Peter McConnell and Terry Prue have started the new season with a win, reports AFP.

Both were awarded damages of 25,000 Australian dollars (17,950 US) after a Supreme Court jury here found on Friday they had been defamed by a Sydney-based newspaper.

McConnell, 48, and Prue, 44, successfully sued the Daily Telegraph Mirror newspaper, part of the Rupert-Murdoch chain, over an article published in January this year during the third Test between Australia and India in Sydney.

The back page article, headlined "Aussie Cheats", referred to a column written by former Indian cricket captain and legend Sunil Gavaskar, who accused the umpires of being biased.

The article quoted Gavaskar as saying the Indian team were up against not eleven but 13 players.

The umpires' lawyers, Terry Tobin, said the article implied that McConnell and Prue cheated as umpires.

The publisher of the newspaper, Nationwide News Ltd, defended the action, claiming the article was not defamatory and asserting it was fair comment on a matter of public interest.

During the two-week trial, the umpires told the court that being called a cheat was the worst charge that could be levelled against them.

Outside the court after the case, McConnell described the verdict as a moral victory.

"The jury had a very hard job," he said. "I have always believed you have to accept the umpire's decision. The jury have made their decision and set the damages. I am happy. The main thing is our name has been cleared from those allegations."

McConnell said he could now retire without a stigma attached to his career.

"I would have preferred to have retired under different circumstances but now my reputation is intact and that is the important thing," McConnell said.

McConnell is Australia's most experienced current umpire. He has stood in 22 Tests, 62 one-day international matches, including six World Cup matches earlier this year, and was invited to officiate in the Nehru Cup in India in 1989.

Prue has officiated in five Tests and 14 one-day internationals.

# India-Zimbabwe one-dayer today

HARARE, Oct 24: Zimbabwe return to familiar ground when they take on India in a one-day cricket international at the Harare Sports Club on Sunday, reports AFP.

Test cricket's newest en-

During the 1983 World Cup, Zimbabwe reduced India to a pathetic 17 for five at Turbridge Wells, before Kapil Dev pulled the eventual champions out of trouble with a breathtaking 175 not out.

Rain foiled Zimbabwe's heroic chase for victory over India in the fifth World Cup down under earlier this year.

In reply to India's 203 for seven in 32 overs, Zimbabwe were 104 for one in 19 overs when the weather gods intervened to save the day for India.

Indian captain Mohammed Azharuddin, still ranked by his top batsmen's failure in the Test, is looking for an improved display in a match he wants to win badly.

"We have to win this one," he said. "Everyone has to put in a 100 per cent effort."

"I am not looking forward to South Africa yet. This match takes top priority."

Debutant off-spinner Steven Peall is the likely 12th man for Zimbabwe who are expected to blood two newcomers in left-arm seamer David Brain and all-rounder Craig Evans.

INDIA: Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), Ravi Shastri, Ajay Jadeja, Sanjay Manjrekar,



AJAY JADEJA

trans, who drew their inaugural Test with India earlier this week, are more adept at the shorter version of the game than the five-day rigours.

Zimbabwe have creditable one-day wins over experienced England and Australia in the three World Cups they have participated so far as the champions among non-Test playing nations.

India have reason to take on Zimbabwe with a fair degree of respect.



PRAVEEN AMRE

Sachin Tendulkar, Praveen Amre, Kapil Dev, Manoj Prabhakar, Kiran More (wicket-keeper), Javagal Srinath, Anil Kumble. 12th man: Venkatesh Raju.

ZIMBABWE: David Houghton (captain), Andrew Flower, Mark Burmester, David Brain, Alistair Campbell, Gary Crocker, Craig Evans, Grant Flower, Steven Peall, Ali Shah, John Traicos, Andrew Walker.

# ACC support 3-nation WC bid

LAIPORE, Pakistan, Oct 24: The eight-nation Asian Cricket Conference (ACC) unanimously supported here Friday the joint bid for the 1996 World Cup by Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka, cricket officials said, reports AFP.

India and Pakistan jointly hosted the 1987 World Cup, won by Australia at Eden Gardens, Calcutta.

England and South Africa are also contenders for hosting the next World Cup.

Pakistan are pursuing the matter aggressively after they won the last World Cup in

Melbourne. Bangladesh, who will be contesting in the ICC trophy and hoping to qualify for the World Cup, also want to be included as a venue if the three Asian nations' proposal is accepted, said former Pakistan captain and the secretary of the ACC, Asif Iqbal.

He said the next Asia Cricket Cup will be held in Pakistan next year, dates for which will be firm up later.

The Asia Cup, originally scheduled to be played in Karachi from October 16 was postponed after India decided not to participate due to Pakistan's failure to visit India earlier.

However, the matter was

resolved recently and India expressed their willingness to participate next year.

The ACC meeting also resolved that in future dates and venues of the Asia Cup will not be changed even if a team decides to withdraw.

The ACC also discussed the recently held six-side international tournament in Hong Kong which Pakistan won.

Hong Kong representative Mike Speak told the meeting that this may become a regular fixture.

Besides hosts Pakistan, the meeting was attended by representatives from India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates.

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# Lulu to lead side to Punjab

Veteran centre-forward Jamil Parvez Lulu of Dhaka Mariner Youngs team will lead the Bangladesh national hockey squad to the ninth Surjeet Singh memorial hockey tournament to be held from November 3 to 13 in Jalandhar, Punjab, India.

Lulu, who had been the key-figure for Mariner Youngs' last season when they finished third in the league, just behind champions Mohammedan Sporting Club and runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra, will be leading the national team for the first time.

Rahmat Ali Asir, the Abahani custodian who captained the national youth under-21 squad in the second Asian youth hockey championship held in Kuala Lumpur last month, has been made the vice-captain.

The 24-member Bangladesh team will leave the city for Calcutta en route to Punjab either on October 31 or November 1.

There are five officials and 19 players including three stand-bys in the squad.

The players are: Jamil Parvez Lulu (capt), Rahmat Ali Asir (vice-capt), Jahangir Alam, Rabiuddin Ahmed, Irteza Kader Guddu, Mamun-ur-Rashid, Zahirul Islam Mitul, Khurshid Alam, Md Mahfuzul Alam Nixon, Md Mahbub Harun, Md Sadek, Md Alamgir Alam, Akhter Hossain, GH Zahid Biswas, Zahid Hossain Raju and Haider Alam.

The three stand-bys are: Shamim Ahmed, Ejaz Ahmed and Shaiful Islam.

The five officials are: SMA Karim (team leader), Nurul Amin (manager), Md Monwar Hossain (asst manager), Pratap Sankar Hazra (coach) and Hossain Imam Chowdhury (asst coach).

Although detailed fixtures of the tournament are not yet known, the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) secretary Shamsul Bari told the Daily Star yesterday that Bangladesh would play their first match on November 7.

The tournament committee will receive the Bangladesh team in Delhi and arrange some exhibition matches for the side in Punjab.

An amount of Taka one and a half lakh will be needed for this trip.

The National Sports Council has granted 50,000 taka as a special donation to the BHF for the tour.

The residential camp of the national hockey team will conclude on October 30 at the

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Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Prothisthan (BKSP).

Bangladesh national youth under-21 hockey team finished fifth in the second Asian youth hockey championship held in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur held last month.

Pakistan and hosts Malaysia emerged as champions and runners up while South Korea and India finished third and fourth respectively.

Pakistan, Malaysia and South Korea will represent Asia in the world youth hockey championship to be held in Barcelona next year.

## Tension at Tilburg

TILBURG, Netherlands, Oct 24: Both Interpolis chess championship semi-finals ended drawn yesterday, leading up to the tension for when the players switch colours in the return games today, reports Reuter.

Britain's Michael Adams shared a point with a Ili Smirin (Israel), as did eighth said Gata Kamsky US and fifth seed Boris Gelfand (Belarus).

Unseeded Smirin with white, used a Marshall Gambit a variation of the Ruy Lopez opening, to wage his assault of 15th seeded Adams.

Both players used the short route to castle, and after a quick exchange of pieces the adventurous Smirin was left with his rook in an advanced position on e5, which he later returned to e1.

Midway through his match Adams, with black, appeared to have a reasonable chance of winning.

"At one stage I had hoped of earning a bit more, but I couldn't get anywhere without taking risks," Adams said.

But Smirin managed to evade the young Briton and ended disappointedly accepting the draw offered, leaving Adams saying, "Getting a draw with black in the first game is reasonable."

"If I do lose the match it won't be as a result of today."

## Sports medicine course Oct 29-30

A training course on sports medicine for doctors and coaches organised by the Bangladesh Association of Sports Medicine will be held at the conference room of the National Sports Council on October 29 and 30, reports ISS.

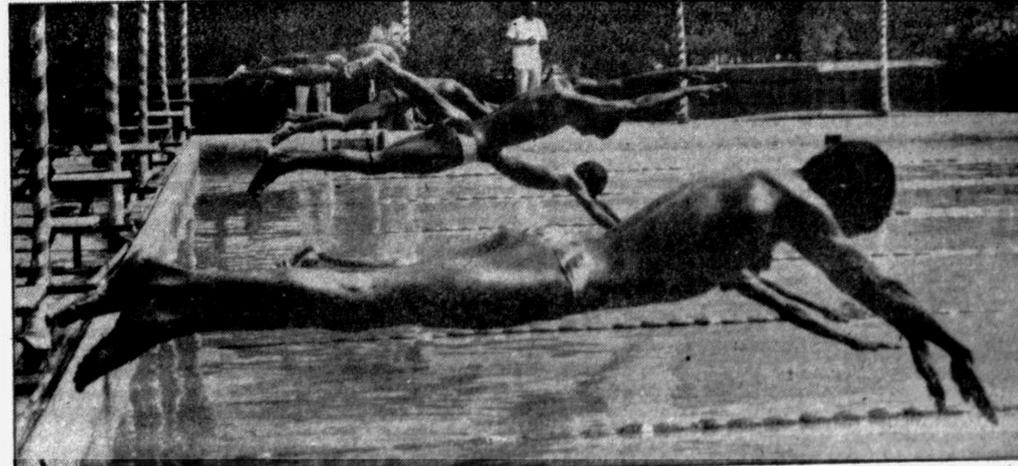
Intending doctors and coaches have been requested to contact the association of fice daily from 3 pm to 5 pm.

## Handball refs make IHF grade

Sports Reporter

Four Bangladeshi handball referees have been included in Grade B of the international referees' panel by the International Handball Federation, says a press release.

The Referees are: Shaikh Nasim Ali, Md Moushum Ali, Nasirullah Lablu and Mohammad Kawser.



Start of the 200m breaststroke event for boys between 13 to 14 years at the Dhanmondi Women's Complex pool yesterday.