

Netrakona in Sher-e-Bangla Cup semis

From Our Correspondent
MYMENSINGH, Nov 9: A brilliant hat-trick by Akhter Hossain helped Netrakona DSA to move into the semifinals of the 17th national football championship for the Sher-e-Bangla Cup when they beat Chandpur DSA by three goals to two here at the Mymensingh Stadium this afternoon.

The match, a keenly contested one, saw Netrakona leading by a solitary goal at the breather.

Golam Ghaus, who plays for Dhaka First Division league champions Abahani Krira Chakra, was the man behind all the three goals for Netrakona. It was in fact the good combination between the striker and winger — Akhter and Ghaus — respectively which earned a thrilling victory for Netrakona.

Akhter put Netrakona in the lead in the 23rd minute with a nice placing shot from inside the Chandpur box after Ghaus had done the spawork (1-0).

Selim deprived Netrakona of a chance to increase the margin in the 33rd minute.

Another Ghaus-Akhter combination earned the second goal for Netrakona in the 47th minute of play (2-0).

But within two minutes of this goal Jahangir Gazi drew level for Chandpur in a dramatic turnaround.

Jahangir reduced the margin in the 48th minute when a Mustafa Babu shot came his way after slipping through Netrakona goalkeeper Tayeb's grip to be placed into the open net (2-1).

And a just minute after this Jahangir restored parity for Chandpur with a goal almost from the corner line (2-2).

But Akhter then completed his hat-trick to confirm the semifinal berth for Netrakona in the 70th minute (3-2).

Saiful Islam of Chandpur spoiled an easy chance towards the end of the match when he missed the target from close with the Netrakona custodian at his mercy.

Netrakona will play the winners of the quarter final encounter between defending champions Bangladesh Army and fancied Khulna DSA on Nov 11 in the first semifinal on November 13.

The 16th national soccer runners-up Dhaka University will take on Jessore DSA in tomorrow's quarterfinal at 2:30 pm.

Brothers face Abahani in today's Damal final

Sports Reporter



A highly tuned Brothers Union take on reigning champions Abahani Krira Chakra in the final of the 14th Damal Summer Cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium today.

The first-ever Damal final between these two teams starts from 9-15 am.

Five-time champions Abahani entered the final beating their arch-rivals Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club by four wickets while Brothers Union, still in search of their first title, brushed aside the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) by eight wickets in the semi-finals.

This year's Damal final has a touch of novelty as the grand finale of the curtain raiser of the local cricket season will not feature Mohammedans, the only team to have entered the final 13 times winning the trophy record seven times.

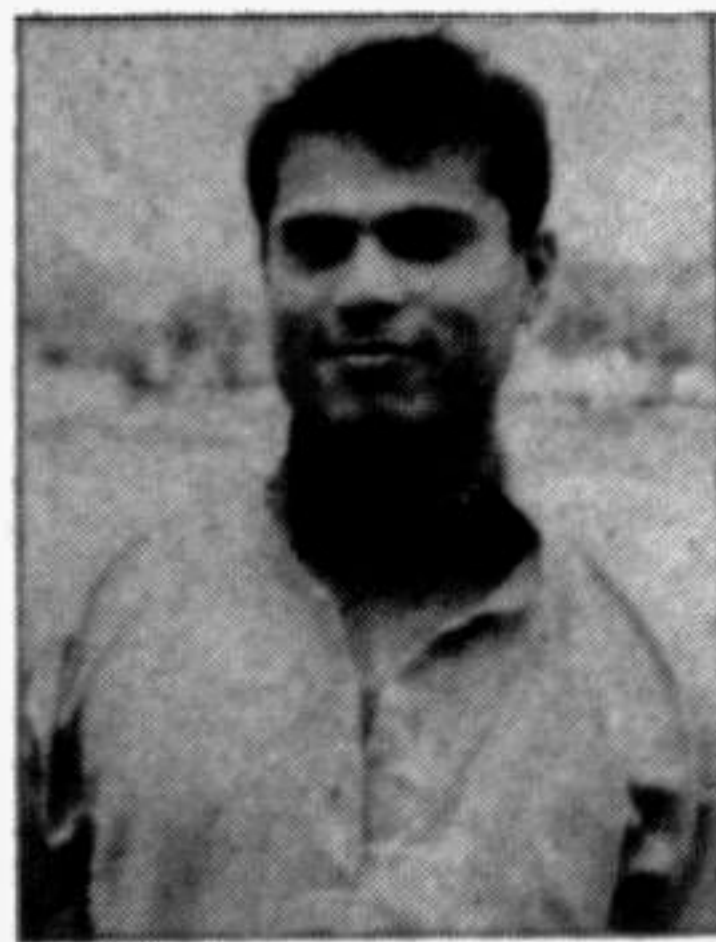
Mohammedans' unprecedented exit following the maiden semi-final clash between the two local giants — Mohammedan and Abahani on last Friday — has really opened up new vistas for Brothers who lost to Mohammedans in the 11th Damal final in the 1989-90 season.

Mahmud, the Mohammedan wicket keeper batsman, robbed 22 runs off one over from Shri Lankan pacesman TL Fernando. The match had appeared safely tucked under Brothers' belt when Mahmud unleashed that memorable assault which included five boundaries in a row.

Although Mahmud is no longer there Fernando, Athar Ali Khan and Arup Bhattacharya are still with Brothers Union to leaven the younger ones in the team with the retrospective wisdom of a traumatic experience.

For that matter, Brothers would do well to remember the presence of their Shown in the opposition camp. The wicketkeeper batsman has shone brightly for Abahani this year in rearguard action and at least on two occasions in this meet he saved the bacon for Abahani in company with Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, the Abahani skipper.

Talking of chasing, both teams would like to chase than set a target for their opponents today because the wicket for the repeat 'show' between Abahani and Brothers will be



The captains: Lipu of Abahani and Brothers' Nobel (R)

unveiled today for the first time this year.

If the wicket offers any assistance for the seamers Brothers with experienced campaigners like Fernando, Athar and Suru in their ranks will be better off as far as the attack is concerned.

Both teams, however, will bank heavily on their batsman to tilt the balance in their favour. Brothers openers — Zahed Razzak Masum and skipper Nobel have been in prolific form this year with the former notching four half-centuries and an unbeaten century up to the final. The Brothers' middle order may face some unpleasant pressure in the event of a failure on the part of the openers, from the want of sufficient match practice.

Abahani will look forward to Shri Lankan Test player Athula Samarasekera for inspiration. The tall right-hander, who fell for a duck in the group match against Brothers, regained his touch with a bright innings of 47 against Mohammedans.

Although the 35-run win of Abahani against Brothers in the last Group X match caused frustration among genuine cricket lovers for the negative

attitude of the losers, bent on avoiding a semifinal clash with Mohammedans, the openers of both sides had enough confidence boosting practice. Abahani opener Jahangir Alam hit the first century of this year's Damal tournament while Masum and Nobel completed fine half centuries, Masum even reaching the three figure mark against GMCC.

EXTRA INCENTIVE

Meanwhile, Air Canada Cargo has announced awards for the man-of-the-match and the man-of-the-tournament. This will be an added incentive for the man-of-the-match who is destined to receive a cash award of Taka 3000 from Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) itself.

RADIO COMMENTARY

Radio Bangladesh will broadcast running commentary of this match from 9-15 am onwards.

Following is the rate of tickets for the final: VIP gate 3A — Taka 50; VIP 3B — Taka 25 and the galleries Taka 10.

In a press release issued yesterday BCCB announced that no tickets for VIP Gate No 1 will be on sale today.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champions	Runners-up
1979-80	Bangladesh Btman	Mohammedan SC
1980-81	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC
1981-82	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC
1982-83	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
1983-84	Mohammedan SC	Azad Boys
1984-85	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC
1985-86	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
1986-87	Mohammedan SC	Young Pegasus
1987-88	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC
1988-89	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
1989-90	Mohammedan SC	Brothers Union
1990-91	Mohammedan SC	GMCC
1991-92	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC

Rain makes it a draw

CENTURION PARK, South Africa, Nov 9: The four-day cricket match between the touring Indians and the President's XI ended in a draw after heavy rain washed out the final day's play here Monday, reports AFP.

The rain, which swept the area since Sunday night, was still falling when the umpires called the match off soon after the scheduled lunch break.

The bad weather ruined a potentially exciting finish with India on nine for no loss, chasing a fourth innings victory target of 305.

The Indians leave on Tuesday for Durban, where the first of four Tests against South Africa starts on Friday.

Final scores: President's XI: 208 and 200, India 164 and nine for no loss.

McDermott is Queensland's hero

SYDNEY, Nov 9: Test pace bowler Craig McDermott completed an eight-wicket match haul to spearhead Queensland to an innings victory over South Australia in their Sheffield Shield match in Brisbane today, reports Reuter. McDermott took two wickets for a four for 61 return as South Australia, resuming at 201 for six, added just 45 runs for their last four wickets.

Queensland won by an innings and 61 runs.

Opener Greg Blewett was the best performer with a solid half century while James Brayshaw made 32 and Glenn Bishop 27.

South Australia made 178 in its first innings and Queensland replied with 485 for seven declared, adding a bright 59 on Sunday morning before sending the South Australian batsmen back to the crease.

Wayne Phillips stakes Test claim with double ton

SYDNEY, Nov 9: Victorian opener Wayne Phillips showed his Test credentials on Sunday, totalling to an impressive 205 as Victoria dominated the third day of the Sheffield Shield match Against New South Wales, reports Reuter. Victoria reached 495 for seven at stumps, in reply to New South Wales's 377 for eight declared.

Phillips resumed on 54 and was out eight minutes before stumps after a marathon 585 and his knock included as many as 24 boundaries.

It was the slowest double century for Victoria but pushed him to the top of the list of candidates to open the Test batting against the West Indies later this month.

Phillips was content to be the backbone of the innings while nightwatchman Shane Warne (54), Darren Lehmann (49) and captain Simon O'Donnell (67) played cavalier knocks on a superb batting track.

Veteran left arm pacesman Mike Whitney worked hard for his three for 94 but left arm wristspinner David Freedman was the most impressive and deserved better than one for 81.

Victoria captain Simon O'Donnell called for uniform rules relating to stoppages after bad light snuffed out his side's chance of victory over New South Wales in Sydney.

New South Wales led by just nine runs with three second innings wickets left when the umpires offered the light to batsmen Michael Bevan and David Freedman during the third of the compulsory 16 overs in the final hour.

A rule change this year allowed Friday's rain delay to be made up over the course of the match. But O'Donnell called for an extension to also include bad light.

"We want results and people to come back to Shield cricket, but today has just kicked it in the butt," he said.

"In Queensland they start games at 9:30 am to compensate for possible bad light, so why can't we switch the lights on here?"

"We all suggested it before we came off because it's such an obvious action to take. Someone just flicks the switch."

Borg's title at Tanner's cost

COUNTRYSIDE, Ill, Nov 9: Bjorn Borg of Sweden beat Roscoe Tanner on Sunday to win the Advanta Tour of Chicago — his first tournament victory since 1981, reports AP.

The top-seeded Borg earned dls 25,000 for his 6-4, 6-1 victory over Tanner, who also fell to Borg in the 1979 Wimbledon finals. Tanner took home dls 12,500.

The dls 100,000 tournament in this Chicago suburb featured eight former Davis Cup and Grand Slam players aged 35 and over.

The golden-haired Borg originally retired in 1982. He won Wimbledon five times and six French Opens.

Zimbabwe 173 for three



HARARE, Nov 9: Zimbabwe were 173 for three when bad light ended play 30 minutes before the scheduled close on the second day of the second cricket Test against New Zealand today, reports Reuter.

Scores: New Zealand 335; Zimbabwe 173 for three.

An earlier report said: Zimbabwe had very much the better of the morning session at Harare Sports Club here on the second day of the second Test against New Zealand.

They bowled the visitors out for 335 in their first innings, the last seven wickets falling for just 36 runs, but then reached lunch on nine for one in their reply, with the man to go Grant Flower, leg before to the left-arm seam of Murphy Su'a for five.

New Zealand, resuming on their overnight Saturday score of 314 for 6, pinned most of their hopes for a score of 400-plus on the not out batsman Ken Rutherford who was unbeaten on 72 at the start of play.

However, Rutherford went in only the third over, cutting at the off-spin of John Traicos to be caught at the wicket for 74, and the rest of the Kiwi batting line-up folded in the next 11 overs.

Su'a edged the pace of Brades to third slip for one Willie Watson dragged a Brain delivery back onto his stumps for three and Haslam, pushing forward, thin-edged Brain behind to go for three as well.

David Brain finished as the leading Zimbabwe wicket-taker with 3-49.

But New Zealand managed an early breakthrough just before lunch when Grant Flower was adjudged outleg before, after some deliberation by umpire Ian Robinson, to new-ball bowler Su'a.

Scoreboard on the second day of the second and final cricket Test between Zimbabwe and New Zealand on Monday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 314 for six) Greatbatch c A Flower b Brain 55 Latham c A Flower b

Player	Runs
Crocker	15
Jones c Pycroft b Brades	8
Crowe c Burnmester b Crocker	140
Rutherford c A Flower b Traicos	74
Patel c Cambell b Traicos	6
Paore run out	2
Nash not out	11
Su'a c Arnott b Brades	1
Watson b Brain	3
Haslam c A Flower b Brain	3
Extras (lb-11, nb-6)	17
Total	335

Fall of wickets: 1-44; 2-73; 3-131; 4-299; 5-306; 6-313; 7-321; 8-327; 9-330.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Brades	22	6	49	2
Brain	18	5	49	3
Crocker	15	1	65	2
Burnmester	10	2	34	0
Traicos	23	1	82	2
O Flower	6	0	45	0

ZIMBABWE: First innings

Arnott not out	3
Flower lbw b Su'a	5
Cambell not out	0
Extras (lb 1)	1
Total (1 wkt, 10 overs)	9

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Su'a	5	3	6	1
Nash	5	4	2	0

S African side for first Test against India

Wessels captain, Cook recalled



CENTURION PARK, South Africa, Nov 9: Left-arm pacesman Peter Wessels, who took five for 35 during the President's XI against the touring Indians last week, has been named in the South African team for the first Test.

Opener Greg Blewett was the best performer with a solid half century while James Brayshaw made 32 and Glenn Bishop 27.

Phillips was content to be the backbone of the innings while nightwatchman Shane Warne (54), Darren Lehmann (49) and captain Simon O'Donnell (67) played cavalier knocks on a superb batting track.

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China in Asian TT quarterfinals

NEW DELHI, Nov 9: Defending champions China defeated Chinese Taipei Monday to move into the men's quarterfinals of the 11th Asian Table Tennis Championship, winning three of the four matches, reports AP.

Chinese women also defeated India, winning all three matches effortlessly on the third day of the tournament. They will now face Hong Kong, South Korea's women will meet Malaysia and Japan will take on North Korea in the last eight stage matches.

In the men's final eight, China will face Iran, India will fight Japan, South Korea will take on Indonesia and Chinese Taipei will play North Korea.

On Monday, Chinese men dropped their first match to Chinese Taipei but rallied to win, 3-1. China's Xie Xiaojia, ranked 24th in the world, was the first Chinese to lose at the championship, going down 21-17, 23-21 to Chinese Taipei's Chin Chin Shui.

South African team for first Test: Kepler Wessels (captain), Peter Wessels (captain), Peter Kirsten (vice-captain), Andrew Hudson, Jimmy Cook, Jonty Rhodes, Brian McMillan, Dave Richardson (wicket-keeper), Omar Henry, Meyrick Pringle, Allan Donald (Steven Jack) and Brett Schultz. 12th man: Ilanisk Cronje.

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