

## Khulna send Army packing in nat'l soccer

**Sports Reporter**  
 Khulna, DSA, boasting a host of national stars in their ranks, blew out Bangladesh Army's hopes of a second consecutive national crown when they upset the defending champions by a solitary goal in the penultimate quarterfinal encounter of the 17th national soccer championship for the Sher-e-Bangla Cup at the Mymensingh Stadium yesterday, according to reports received in Dhaka.

Bangladesh Army, making their first appearance in the final round of the meet, having received a bye directly into the quarterfinals, displayed a very poor standard of football characterised by a rough and tough approach to the game.

Very seldom they managed any synchronised moves and most of the openings they did create in the match were mostly isolated, disorganised efforts, without direction.

Khulna DSA, who had earlier made their intentions clear very early in the tournament with a 13-1 drubbing of Bholia DSA in the zonal preliminaries last month, produced a superior blend of soccer from the kick-off with compact offensives originating from the midfield.

Although it was a Khulna-dominated encounter from the outset it was Sumon of Bangladesh Army who took the first shot at goal when he found Shukur, the Khulna custodian, in between the net and himself but the goalie's brilliant effort denied Army the lead.

Three minutes later Rumi, the national star who donned the Abahani jersey last season in the Dhaka Senior Division league, threatened the Army citadel with a solo effort only to be cut short by an illegal tackle by Army defender Selim Miah well inside the penalty area.

The referee awarded Khulna DSA a penalty but Nita, Sumon's teammate in Abahani, deprived Khulna from the lead by failing inexplicably to beat Army keeper Bibhash.

The Khulna footballers were far from dispirited by the setback instead, they launched relentless attacks on the Army defence but were kept from gaining the lead by the Army defenders.

The first half, as a result, remained goalless.

The second session of the match started with the Khulna forwards trying desperately to get the winner.

Partha Sisir Kunda finally gave Khulna the much-sought goal only two minutes before the final whistle.

With this win Khulna advance to the semifinals where they are scheduled to meet Ntrakona DSA tomorrow, Friday.

Mymensingh DSA, the hosts, take on Bangladesh Customs in the last quarterfinals encounter today.

## Ambia bests nat'l Army athletics

**Sports Reporter**  
 A national record and two Army records were set up on the last day of the three-day annual athletics meet of the Bangladesh Army which concluded at the Army Stadium at Banani yesterday.

Nk Md Gholam Ambia set a new national mark in the 200 metres sprint by clocking 21.20 seconds. The previous record was 21.30 seconds. Ambia also retained his position as the fastest man of the Army.

Those who clinched gold medals on the concluding day yesterday were LNK Yunus Ali (Chittagong Area) in the marathon, Sepoy Md. Shafiqul Islam (Chittagong Area) in the 1500m, J.K. Nazrul Islam (Savar Area) in the triple jump, LNK Majibur Rahman (Chittagong Area) in the 3000 metres steeple chase, the Jessore area team in the 4X100 metres relay, Nk Md Monmful Haque (Savar Area) in the hammer throw, LNK. Solaiman Majumder (Chittagong Area) in the 400 metres low hurdles, LNK Md. Mokhlesur Rahman (Savar Area) in the 800m race, Nk Md Gholam Ambia (Chittagong Area) in the 100 metres sprint, Havildar Md. Jahangir Alam (Jessore area) in pole vault, LNK. Mir Md Zakir Hossain (Dhaka Engineers) in the 5000 metres, and the Savar Area Team in the 4X400 metres relay.

Engineer-in-Chief of the Bangladesh Army Major General Mohammad Abdul Halim was the chief guest on the concluding day and gave away the prizes.

## Hosts to meet Shri Lanka in opening tie SAARC tourney from Dec 3

**Sports Reporter**  
 The first SAARC cricket tournament will be held at the Dhaka Stadium from December 3 to 11.

Cricket playing countries of the SAARC — Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh — will take part in the limited-overs competition.

Talking to the press at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) office yesterday, Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman, who is also the BCCB president, said that the concept of a SAARC cricket tournament was mooted at a meeting of the Asian Cricket Conference (ACC) held in Pakistan last month for the development of cricket in this part of the world, particularly Bangladesh.

Former Test players and promising cricketers who could not make their respective national squads of the three Test-playing countries will feature in the meet for Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka while Bangladesh will field its national side.

Maninder Singh, the well-known left-arm spinner, will lead the Indian team which will also include batsmen like Navjot Singh Sidhu and Saurav Ganguly and all-rounder Mohinder Amarnath, the BCCB president said, noting The Daily Telegraph of India.

The players of the other two teams were not known.

"This tournament will give our players international exposure, which should help them perform better in the forthcoming tournament for the associate members of the ICC in Kenya next year," Mustafiz hoped.

The first three teams of the ICC trophy tourney will qualify for the 1995 World Cup.

Although the SAARC cricket tournament will be staged on an experimental basis in Dhaka, it may become a regular feature of this region to uphold the spirit of SAARC, according to some BCCB officials.

In that case, this tournament may shift to the countries who earn the privilege of hosting the annual SAARC summit in the coming years.

The tournament will be played on a league basis with the top two teams meeting in the final.

According to the fixtures, Bangladesh will take on Sri Lanka in the inaugural match on December 3.

Pakistan will play arch-rivals India on December 4 and Bangladesh on December 5.

India will meet Sri Lanka on December 6 and will play Bangladesh the next day, while Pakistan will clash with Sri Lanka in the last league match on December 9.

The final will be held on December 11, a day before the SAARC summit begins in the city.

The BCCB will nominate the man-of-the-match for each game.

The BCCB has also decided to offer a special prize to the man-of-the-tournament.

The nature of the prizes are to be disclosed later.

## Brothers remain unbending

**Sports Reporter**  
 tect players, officials and fans but they in fact did quite the opposite thing," the Brothers secretary commented.

Giving details of the incident, Mishu said that Police themselves broke the windowpanes of the dressing room and lobbed tear gas shells and then beat up the players and officials indiscriminately.

Players like Masum, Suru, Athar Ali, Halim Shah, Sujan and Morshed were seriously hurt.

"The condition of Sujan — a young prospect — was stated to be critical by the doctors when he was taken to the Holy Family Hospital," Mishu said.

The BCCB even did not arrange an ambulance for the injured players, Mishu alleged.

"The tournament committee of the BCCB deliberately did not distribute the earlier declared man-of-the-tournament trophy since it would definitely have gone to Brothers' Zahid Razaque Masum," Mishu said.

Citing examples, the Brothers Union secretary said that although the club had finished as champions in the Navana league in 1990-91, they were not considered for a match against the visiting West Bengal team last February.

The Brothers players, despite their notable performances in the league, are not considered for the Bangladesh national team, Mishu alleged.

When he was asked to comment on the role played by the president of the BCCB Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman, who is also the chairman of the governing body of Brothers Union, Mishu said that in a letter written to the resident of the club in the capacity of the BCCB president, Mustafiz had asked the club to reconsider its decision for the greater interest of the game.

The Brothers secretary said that even the BCCB officials did not express sympathy to the injured players.

"Players are like our own children. And if we cannot ensure protection for them we have no right to field them," Mishu said.

Brothers Union's cricket secretary Wasim Khan and skipper Nurul Abedin Nobel were present at the news conference.

Skipper Nobel termed the incident as the worst in the country's sports history.

Meanwhile, the BCCB secretary Aminul Haq Moni told some journalists it was not true that the BCCB did not express regret over the incident.

"I, along with other BCCB members including vice-president Raisuddin Ahmed, went to the Brothers Union club to express our heartfelt sympathies."

"We also made it clear that the BCCB was in no way involved with police action," Moni reiterated.

Abahani Krira Chakra Skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, along with Sajjadul Islam Bobby, a BCCB joint secretary, went to the Brothers Union club Wednesday to express their sympathies to the players and officials.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka Cricket Players' Association (DCPA) has condemned the brutal attack on players by police and said that it would obviously hamper the growth of cricket in the country. The DCPA press release was signed by Gazi Ashraf Lipu, its secretary.

## Kiwis lead by 239

**HARARE, Nov 11:** New Zealand were 187 for four in their second innings, a lead of 239, at the close of the fourth day of the second and final cricket Test against Zimbabwe today.

Scores: New Zealand 335 and 187 for four, Zimbabwe 283 for nine declared.

Despite a third-wicket partnership of 50 between captain Martin Crowe and Andrew Jones, Zimbabwe enjoyed a productive afternoon session as they reduced New Zealand to 81-3 by tea on the fourth day.

AP adds: Martin Crowe and his vice captain, Andrew Jones, eased the score along to 77 when Jones was stumped by Andy Flower, placing the Kiwis in a delicate position.

But Crowe and Ken Rutherford fought back. Crowe made 61 before trying to sweep John Traicos and getting out leg before while Rutherford was still batting with 57, partnered by Dipak Patel on 16.

Crowe, with his healthy lead, may repeat his Bulawayo tactics in the first Test last week by giving Zimbabwe something like 300 to win in five hours, a challenge Houghton decided against taking up.

Thursday's play ends the Kiwi tour and the first Tests by Zimbabwe since it gained international Test status earlier this year.

After Zimbabwe skipper Dave Houghton declared his first innings closed at 283-9 just before lunch—52 behind New Zealand—impressive new ball bowling by Zimbabwe's Eddo Brandes and David Brain reduced the visitors to 27 for 2 with both openers back in the pavilion.

Latham, uncomfortable against the short pitched delivery, edged a Brandes lifter low to Houghton at fourth slip to depart for 10 and, three overs later, Greatbatch attempted to square cut a rising ball from Brain and top-edged to Brandes down at third man for 13.

Crowe and Jones then shared in their stand of 50 before John Traicos lured Jones down the wicket, beat his prodding forward push with the arm ball and wicketkeeper Andy Flower removed the balls in a trice, Jones gone for 28.

Crowe and Rutherford then steered New Zealand to tea on 81 for 3 from 33 overs, but the session had certainly gone the way of the home side.

Brandes and Brain generated pace and bounce with the new ball and, on occasions, Brandes made even the elegant Crowe look uncomfortable.

## A chance for Aussie Test hopefuls

**CANBERRA, Nov 11:** A number of Test candidates will be seeking to impress the Australian cricket selectors when they play for the Prime Minister's XI against the West Indies at Manuka Oval on Thursday, reports AP.

Two of Australia's best young batsmen, Michael Bevan and Justin Langer, are included in the team selected by Prime Minister Paul Keating.

But Keating ignored potential Test players Damien Martyn and Matthew Hayden and opted instead for Tested performers Mike Veletta, Paul Reiffel, Simon O'Donnell, Tim May, Dean Jones and Mark Taylor.

The Prime Minister's XI will be captained by Australian skipper Allan Border, giving him an early look at the powerful West Indies pace attack.

"This match gives guys like Dean, myself and Mark an opportunity to have a look at the West Indies team," Border said. "It's always nice to have a fresh look at them and we'll note their strengths with interest."

The new-look West Indies team scored a 236-run victory over Sheffield Shield champion West Australia last week.

The tourists have selected a near-Test strength team for Thursday's match, with Ian Bishop and Curtly Ambrose heading their attack.



Pakistani medium-pace and all-rounder Wasim Haider (centre), who played in this year's World Cup in New Zealand and Australia, signed for Bangladesh Biman for the forthcoming Navana Premier league yesterday at the BCCB office.

## Hosts prepare a green-top at Durban

### Jadeja poised to make debut

**DURBAN, Nov 11:** Promising all-rounder Ajay Jadeja, who had slammed a masterly double century in the first four-day cricket match in South Africa, is most likely to make a Test debut in the historic tour opener, beginning here on Friday, reports PTI.

With his marathon, unbeaten innings of 245 against Combined Bowl XI, Jadeja, a former India youth captain and an excellent fielder, has established that he is ripe enough for a Test match.

After a workout this morning, tour manager Amrit Mathur said the team would be announced tomorrow.

However, selecting the team has been made easier by not-so-impressive showings by medium-pacers Subroto Banerjee and Chetan Sharma and left-arm spinner Venkatesh Raju.

Other quickies J Srinath and Manoj Prabhakar had bowled quite well in the practice matches while Anil Kumble is expected to be preferred to Raju for two reasons.

Firstly, Raju did not perform well in the matches. On the other hand, Ravi Shastri, vice-captain of the side, has found his rhythm with his left-hand spin.

Kiran More is most likely to keep the wickets as Vijay Yadav is yet to prove his skills here.

And Praveen Amre, in most likelihood, may have to be content with being the 12th man.

By ticket sales and popularity wise, the first Test, to be played at the Kinghead Stadium where most of the 28,000 seats have been sold out, is going to be a grand show.

The experienced Indians have a tough task ahead though their opposition is a little raw in the sphere of international exposures.

However, even their lesser known fast bowlers — like Brett Schultz — have exposed the weaknesses of Indian batsmen on a bouncy wicket.

The home side's strength is the weaknesses and vulnerability of the Indians to rising deliveries.

That South Africa are wholly dependent on pace and bounce is clear from the fact that the wicket has a thick layer of grass. And it looks as green as the outfield.

The hosts' main strike bowler, Allan Donald, will appear for a fitness test tomorrow morning in the presence of public, the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) announced today.

The Indian and South African camps will thrash out the contentious umpires issue on Thursday in front of former West Indian captain Clive Lloyd.

Lloyd is the International Cricket Council appointed match referee for the first two Tests.

India want the unprecedented panel of three umpires — West Indian Steve Bucknor, Karl Liebenberg and Cyril Mitchley — rotated on a day by day basis, while the South Africans favour a change after each session of play.



AJAY JADEJA



AJAY JADEJA

## It's not going to be easy for the Indians

**By A M Chowdhury**  
 Cricket at international level is in full swing. Zimbabwe, the babes of Test Cricket, have done well to have drawn their debut Test against the visiting Indians and followed it up with a draw against New Zealand. It was indeed most creditable on their part to have saved the latter match in which, at one stage, the Kiwis looked like winning.

The Indians have moved into adjacent South Africa to begin the historic series of four Tests and seven one-dayers marking the revival of official cricket in South Africa after a lapse of 22 years. Quite a few of South African cricket fans are likely to have nostalgic memories of the last Test series against the visiting Australians, who suffered a 0-4 drubbing, back in 1970.

South Africa's long isolation from international cricket, of course interspersed by visiting rebel teams, has not really put them a long way backward. This was ably demonstrated by them in the World Cup early this year when they surprised the entire world by reaching the last four and, but for the rueful rain rules, were almost in the final.

Their return to the multi-racial Test arena was marked by their defeat at the hands of the mighty Caribbeans in the one-off Test in Bridgetown last April. They are now playing host to the Indians, the first official coloured team to visit the African state, and the first Test opens at Durban next Friday. This Test will long be remembered in the sporting annals as marking the end of apartheid and revival of official international cricket in South Africa, which had to bow down to world opinion and give up its apartheid policy, if not in all spheres of life, at least in sports.

The visiting Indian team would be eager to re-establish themselves in Test cricket, where their performance in the recent past have not been very encouraging. Having lost the series 4-0 to the Australians last winter, Indian skipper Muhammad Azharuddin is under tremendous mental pressure, and so also will be most of his team-mates. If they can achieve success on this tour they will return home with confidence to face Graham Gooch's men, who will be in India at the beginning of the new year.

The Indians did not perform all that well in Zimbabwe, but did warm up well for the South African part, where they have already put up signals of prowess. The strength of the Indians lie in their batting line up, which is full of talented players. The mainstay will be provided by Sanghar Manjrekar, Muhammad Azharuddin and, of course, Sachin Tendulkar. If these three stroke-makers find their true form nothing could be more exciting from the point of view of the spectators. Ajay Jadeja, the talented youngster, is likely to ride on his double century and it is good to see Manjrekar and Tendulkar in very fine nip. The Indians would only hope for their skipper to get over his 'pressure' early in the series. Ravi Shastri, with his determined approach to the game; Kapil Dev, the flamboyant stroke-maker; Kiran More and Manoj Prabhakar, both very capable batsmen, are going to provide enough solidity to the Indian batting.

If the spinners get little bit of turn, they could be a difficult proposition on the bouncy wickets. Kapil Dev will be trying hard to get 28 wickets in the four Tests to surpass Sir Richard's record; at the moment his tally stands at 404 at 29.67 apiece. Sachin Tendulkar will be looking forward to the first of the many milestones of his batting career — 1000 runs in Test cricket. He has 956 from 26 innings in 17 Tests at an average of 39.83.

The South Africans, after their 'sweet and sour' reinstatement, are going to face the real challenging situation of Test cricket on home grounds after a gap of long 22 years. In the only Test match played after their return to international cricket they failed to pull off a victory only due to lack of experience, when their nerves gave in. Needing to score only 79 for victory with 8 wickets in hand they capitulated before the fiery fast bowling of Ambrose and Walsh.

The Indians are not likely to find their hosts to be an easy proposition. If their batting fails to tackle the real pace attack on the fast bouncy wickets, they may very well face awkward situation more than once in the series. The Indian bowling lack real penetrative power. In the fielding department the host side holds an edge. Only experience of Test cricket may tilt the issue in favour of India. But there can hardly be any doubt that the task will not be easy. All in all, the series holds out prospects of a keenly contested one.

To date, South Africa have played 173 Tests, won 38, lost 78 and drawn 57; whereas India have played 273, won 44, lost 95 while 134 were drawn. Muhammad Azharuddin has yet to win a Test series abroad and he would very much like to have a break during the current tour. But it will require quite a bit of doing.

From the view point of the cricket hungry spectators of South Africa and cricket lovers all over the world, the series holds out possibility of some exciting cricket. Nothing could be more exciting than the sight of Sachin Tendulkar, the wonder-boy of Indian cricket, facing up to Allan Donald, one of the fastest bowlers in present day cricket. If the battle between the two lingers on during the series, revival of multi-racial Test cricket in South Africa could not but be a fascinating story.



M AZHARUDDIN



M AZHARUDDIN



KEPLER WESELS

## Biman sign up Pak World Cupper

**Wasim Haider**  
**Sports Reporter**  
 Bangladesh Biman have signed up all-rounder Wasim Haider of Pakistan to play for them in the forthcoming Navana Premier Division cricket league.

Wasim Haider, who played for world champions Pakistan in the 1992 World Cup, yesterday completed his registration formalities with the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board.

Although, registered for the whole season, Haider is likely to play for fancied Biman in crucial league matches only.

"Haider's appearances will depend much on the performances of our local players," said a Biman official.

Haider will be the first ever foreign player to play for Bangladesh Biman.

Biman, who were also willing to register Asif Mujtaba who had an excellent tour in England for Pakistan last summer, have decided to give up the idea since Mujtaba will remain busy with the Pakistan national team's schedules throughout the 1992-93 season.

## Royal reception for Azhar's men

**DURBAN, Nov 11:** The Indian cricket team were accorded a grand reception on their arrival here for the first Test against South Africa starting on Friday, reports PTI.

The players, travelling in open cars with the Indian tricolour fluttering in the centre, were taken around the city before they were taken to their beachfront hotel.

"This kind of reception is accorded to only kings, queens or prime ministers," said an English scribe who had flown here to cover the historic Test.

South African captain Kepler Wesels expressed his delight at the arrival of the Indian team and said "I do hope it will be a good series which will go a long way in promoting cricket in both countries."

Wesels' view was wholeheartedly endorsed by the Indian skipper Muhammad Azharuddin who, though tired, appeared emotional at the spontaneous reception.

Earlier, UCBSA president Krish Mackerdhuji expressed hope that the series will be played in the spirit of the game.