

Sport

MSC meet Utdy in Navana opener today

Sports Reporter
Reigning champions Mohammedan Sporting Club take on newcomers Utdy Club in the curtain raiser for the 1992-93 Navana Premier Division cricket league at the Dhaka Stadium today.

While Mohammedans with their Indian reinforcements Sanjeev Sharma and Bhaskar Pillay will try to regain the winning formula, spirited Utdy comprising some bright youngsters should go all out for an impressive showing against their superior opponents.

Eleven teams are taking part in the Premier league this year. They are the champions Mohammedan Sporting Club, last year's runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra, Brothers Union, Public Works Department (PWD), the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC), Bangladesh Biman, Surja Tarun Club, Gulshan Youth, Kalabagan Krira Chakra and newcomers Victoria Sporting Club and Utdy Club.

The top six teams of the first round will play in the super league while the other five teams will compete in the relegation league with the bottom team going down to the Milnars league.

Twelve teams took part in the last league with three teams moving down to the Milnars league. The relegated teams were Lalmatia Club, Rupali Bank and Wart Club.

The contests will be 45-overs a side.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) has announced the rates of tickets for the Navana league. VIP Gate No 1 has been fixed at Taka 30, VIP Gate No 3A Taka 20, VIP 3B Taka 10. Tickets for both the eastern and western galleries will cost Taka 5 each.

Pillay in city

Sports Reporter
Bhaskar Pillay, a batsman from Delhi, arrived in the city last night to play for reigning champions Mohammedan Sporting Club in the Navana Premier Division league which begins today.

However, Pillay who plays Ranji cricket will play only in some vital matches for his new club, according to club sources.

Although Mohammedans had contacted the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) about Pillay's registration formalities, the player had not reached the board office till eleven last night because of a delayed flight, when reports last came in.

Mohammedans signed up former Indian Test player Sanjeev Sharma last Tuesday.

The champions earlier confirmed the services of Gamagee and Guragee of Sri Lanka, who played for them last season also.

Meanwhile, last year's runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra submitted the names of Kapil Dev and Sanjeeva Ranatunga to the BCCB for renewal of registration.

Kapil Dev, the Indian superstar, had signed up for Abahani when he was here with the Indian team for the Wills Asia cup in 1988.

The two foreigners who are already playing for Abahani this season are Ashoka De Silva and Athula Samarasekera, both of whom have played Test cricket for Sri Lanka. Sanjeeva Ranatunga, younger brother of the current Sri Lankan skipper Arjuna, played for Abahani some seasons ago.

However, it couldn't be confirmed if and when Kapil Dev or Sanjeeva Ranatunga would arrive in Dhaka.

Each Navana league team can register a maximum of four foreigners with only two being eligible for any given match.

Ali Cup soccer

Ganaktali Youth XI (Yellow) edged past Rayer Bazar Dragon Krira Chakra by a solitary goal in the first Ali Sports Cup juvenile soccer tournament at the Hazaribagh Park ground yesterday, says a press release.

DU national champions

Sports Reporter



Dhaka University captain Kaiser Hamid holding aloft the Sher-e-Bangla Cup after his side recorded a facile 2-0 victory over Khulna DSA at the Mymensingh Stadium yesterday.

Dhaka University, the traditional force in national football, once again proved their prowess by clinching the 17th national football championship title for the Sher-e-Bangla Cup beating former champions Khulna DSA by two goals to nil at the Mymensingh Stadium yesterday.

The winners, for whom it was the fourth title, led the interruption-plagued first-half 1-0 with a goal from striker Intiaz Ahmed Nakib. More than thirty thousand spectators — almost double the ground's capacity — spread all over the place gathered to watch the touted classic contest between two evenly-matched teams but went home rather disconsolate at the end of the prolonged hustle-bustle on a dusty pitch as the victors chalked up an almost sweatless victory.

Dhaka University who were mistakenly portrayed as bidding for only their second title in seven appearances in the final because of wrong United News Agency of Bangladesh (UNB) report Tuesday, sealed the fate of the match midway through the second half with a second goal from Mahbubur Rahman Roxy.

The match, scheduled to start at 2 O'clock in the afternoon kicked off exactly at 2-48 and the university boys clad in black and white outfit turned the screw on their counterparts in yellowing orange right from the word 'go'.

Satyajit Das Rupu, the effervescent midfielder of the student equipte was the main source of inspiration for his side as he won important balls and extended lovely passes to upfront where Nakib was once again the culprit, missing some fine scoring opportunities.

Rumman bin-Wali Shabbir, the star schemer of the national and DU team, was not unexpectedly tightly marked by the Khulna players and Rupu made up for the relative inactivity of Shabbir with some clever football. In fact, the Khulna players perhaps awed by the presence of the spill over crowd on every side of the rectangle, never looked like taking on the university team.

The winners' defence, marshalled by national colours — skipper Kaiser Hamid, Jewel Rana, Ataur and an ageing Intiaz Sultan Johnny — succeeded in keeping the Khulna offence under a tight leash although player-of-the-tournament Sheikh Jahangir created rare anxious moments with detectable feints and swerves. Rumi Rizvi Karim, the na-

tional forward and the more celebrated kingly of Khulna was too selfish to spell any real danger for the university footballers.

After an indifferent spell of eleven minutes Nakib opened the account for Dhaka University when he quite effortlessly volleyed a cross that came his way from the right by Rupu after Shabbir had set the industrious midfielder free with a fine ball (1-0).

Khulna, won the championship back in 1982 under the leadership of Abdus Salam Mursheed — a former national and Mohammedan player — took some time to recover themselves from the shock. Their first real sortie came when Mohammad Jahangir



S JAHANGIR ... man-of-tournament

pushed a fine square pass from the left to an unmarked Badal in the striking position but the midfielder hit too much under the ball to keep it within the posts.

Jahangir, the speedy, elusive forward who mainly concentrated on the Khulna right-flank, outpaced Johnny through sheer pace but DU custodian Kanan stymied his loss before any of the Khulna players could pounce upon it.

Although Dhaka University had the ball under their control for most of the time Jahangir placed the spheroid wide off the far post once with Kanan, the DU and Bangladesh goalkeeper, at his mercy.

Dhaka University geared themselves up in the second half and carried number of forays into the opposition citadel. A lovely through ball was laid on the path of Nakib, but the miss-prone, fumbling striker of Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club shot the ball wide with Khulna custodian Totam left with very few options.

A fine one-two between Shabbir and Rupu had the Khulna defence groping but Rupu goofed at the last moment. Nakib retained his rather dubious reputation as a

squanderer when he blasted the ball from close following a concerted move.

DU consolidated their advantage twenty minutes into the second half when Mahbubur Rahman Roxy, running absolutely unmarked on the left, released a left-footed grass-cutter to the far post that entered the net beyond the reach of diving Totam (2-0).

Khulna could have reduced the margin shortly after this but Kanan steered away a power-packed drive by Tara and later Jewel Rana blocked a fierce attempt by defender Partha Pratim of Khulna.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar gave away trophies as chief guest. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain and BFF president Siddiqur Rahman were also present at the special guests.

The Mymensingh Sports Writers' Association voted Khulna's Sheikh Jahangir, a player of Agrani Bank in the Dhaka league, as the player of the tournament.

MISMANAGEMENT
Local organisers — the Mymensingh District Sports Association (MDSA) — should thank their stars that the final did not end in a fiasco as over-enthusiastic spectators broke into the playing area making the most of the lax, indifferent attitude of police.

Sitting arrangements for the large number of journalists who went from Dhaka was poor to say the least, and reports of misbehaviour with some of the visiting journalists were registered. All in all, the local management was visibly at a loss, overwhelmed by the number of visitors from the capital of which the twelve busloads of Dhaka University students formed the chunk.

Three DU students who had gone to watch the game — Rubel, Lablu and Shahan — were injured in brickbattling which ensued among sections of the local crowd at one stage of the game.

A dozen teams — ten zonal champions, last year's champions Bangladesh Army and hosts Mymensingh — took part in the 14-day tournament.

TEAMS
DHAKA UNIVERSITY — Kanan, Kaiser, Jewel, Ata, Johnny, Rupu (Pappul), Titu, Roky, Shabbir, Nakib, Tutul (Rakib).

KHULNA — Shukur Mohammad, Zaglul Karim, Ataur Rahman, Partha Pratim, Dasgupta Hossain Neera (Jahangir Alam), Shah Alam (Asaduzzaman), Tarana Hasan Chisty Tara, Mostafa Zaman Sunny, Rizvi Karim Rumi, Jahangir Hossain, Sheikh Jahangir.

Pakistan may fill Kiwi void

KARACHI, Pakistan, Nov 17: Pakistan could send a cricket team to Sri Lanka if New Zealand abandon their tour there, Nasim Hasan Shah, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan said today, reports Reuter.

"We will certainly consider touring Sri Lanka if any request comes from Sri Lankan cricket officials," he said in an interview.

The visiting New Zealand cricket team are deciding whether to call of their tour of Sri Lanka after a bomb explosion on Monday that killed Sri Lanka's Navy Commander Clancy Fernando, near the hotel where they were having breakfast.

Shah said he felt the New Zealanders were being over cautious.

He said Pakistan could raise a strong team including those who did not win a place in the national team for this month's tour of Australia and New Zealand.

SA cricketers' magnanimity

DURBAN, Nov 17: South Africa's international cricketers have pledged a donation from their earnings this season towards developing the game among South Africa's underprivileged youngsters, reports Reuter.

The players intend to raise 100,000 rand (33,000 US dollar) from their income on and off the field for the United Cricket Board of South Africa's development fund which finances facilities and coaching, predominantly for non-white children from the urban townships and in rural areas.

Wicketkeeper Dave Richardson said the idea came from the players themselves.

"It wasn't immediately popular, but we thought about it and felt it was a good idea," he said.

"Cricketers here are not particularly well paid, compared to some countries and other sports, but it is a worthwhile gesture."

"South Africans do have a conscience, especially among cricketers."

Durban Test dies quiet death

DURBAN, South Africa, Nov 17: The first cricket Test between South Africa and India meandered to the inevitable draw today, reports Reuter.

Having started the day 23 runs behind India, South Africa ended it 153 ahead at 176 for three in their second innings. Andrew Hudson made 55 and Jimmy Cook 43.

The rain which washed out the fourth day meant the fifth and final day's play was likely to be an academic exercise and so it proved with the game providing little of interest from the second ball onwards.

The first ball was of note, especially to the man who faced it, opener Cook.

Cook, who suffered the unique fate of being dismissed in his maiden Test off the first ball of the match in the first innings, did rather better second times around.

Kapil Dev generously refrained from reproducing the swinging 'pearler' that did for him on Friday and bowled a harmless long hop wide of the off stump.

Cook naturally left it alone — it would have been quite a feat to make contact — and did not play much else for the next 13 deliveries until he got off the mark by neatly clipping Manoj Prabhakar to the square leg boundary.

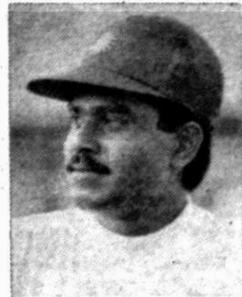
Prabhakar, already unhappy with the shape of the ball, was now visibly discontent and he eventually managed to persuade the umpire to change it — a process that took eight-and-a-half minutes.

Cook went on to display some of the class that has brought him a clutch of records in South Africa and England — where he played for Somerset — before getting a leading edge and giving a return catch to Anil Kumble.

By then he had done enough to ensure the Test could die a quiet death and that he should be around for the next one.

Hudson, who pulled Prabhakar for six, made a well-crafted half-century, taking his aggregate to 231 runs in his

first four Test innings. Kepler Wessels, first innings centurion, made 32 and Jonty Rhodes and unbeaten 26. Javagal Srinath, with two



P AMRE ... man-of-the-match

for 42, and Kapil Dev, who conceded only 19 runs off 19 overs, were the picks of the bowlers.

Praveen Amre, whose maiden century saved India on the second and third days of the Test, was named man-of-the-match by referee Clive Lloyd.

He scored 103 after coming in at 38 for four and said: "I am delighted to be man-of-the-match in my first Test. It was especially pleasing that it was an important innings for the team."

SA FACE FINES

South Africa's players could face a fine of about 1,000 rand (330 US dollar), 25 per cent of their match fee, for bowling a slow over rate.

South Africa were five overs short of the required quota for the time they bowled. Fines are levied at five per cent over but referee Lloyd may reduce the total if he feels other factors, such as injuries influenced the rate.

ON EVEN TERMS

An earlier Reuter report said: South Africa and India look set to go to Johannesburg next week for the second cricket Test on level terms after rain ruined the first Test.

Frustratingly, there was cricket played on the King-smead outfield for much of the earlier part of the day, but only by bored spectators who,

unlike the players, were unworried by the light rain and poor light that prevented play. Umpire Karl Liebenberg said that had the players made a start they would have played through most of the morning rain, but although it was rarely heavy it was never light enough to enable a start.

In mid-afternoon the drizzle became a deluge and the umpires called play off at tea. The team for the second Test, which opens in Johannesburg in 10 days' time, will be named after play today.

Of the current team, opener Jimmy Cook and bowlers Meryrick Pringle and Omar Henry are vulnerable and Brett Schultz may not be fit after his hamstring injury.

Craig Matthews and Steven Jack are probable replacements for Schultz while Cook's place may depend on how he bats today. In his favour, there are no overwhelming candidates to replace him on his home ground.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fifth and final day of the first cricket Test between South Africa and India today:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 254 (K Wessels 118)

INDIA: First innings 277 (P Amre 103)

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings

J Cook c and b Kumble	43
A Hudson c More b Srinath	55
K Wessels c More b Srinath	32
P Kirsten not out	11
J Rhodes not out	26
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, nb-6)	9
Total (for three wickets)	176
Fall of wickets: 1-68; 2-129; 3-138	

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Kapil Dev	19	11	19	0
Prabhakar	14	3	47	0
Srinath	16	3	42	2
Kumble	16	4	36	1
Shastri	14	2	22	0
Tendulkar	2	1	3	0
Manjrekar	1	0	4	0

Result: Match drawn

Second Test: Johannesburg, November 26-30

Third Test: Port Elizabeth, December 26-30

Fourth Test: Cape Town, January 2-6

BCCB plans warm-up tie

Sports Reporter
The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) is yet to announce the Bangladesh team for the first SAARC cricket tournament to be held in the city from December 3 to 11.

However, the BCCB is planning a preparatory match for the yet-to-be-named national team against a Visitors' XI comprising Indian and Sri Lankan players playing for different clubs in the Dhaka league either on November 29 or 30 at the Dhaka Stadium.

The match is designed to provide the national cricket with some competitive cricket in preparation for the South Asian tourney.

However, according to a BCCB official, practice will not be a big problem for the side since all the players have been practising for their respective clubs for the Navana Premier Division league which begins today.

Wari Club's get-together

A get-together of Wari Club will be held today at 6 pm at the club premises in Motijheel. Commerce Minister M K Anwar will grace the occasion as chief guest.

Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan, Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam, Mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation Mirza Abbas MP and State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka will be present as special guests.

V-Day badminton

The 1992 Agrani Bank Victory Day Open badminton competition for boys and girls under 16 years of age will begin from December 10 at the Outer Stadium wooden-floor gymnasium, says a press release.

Kiwi cricket chief flies to Colombo to save series

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Nov 17: The New Zealand cricket tour of Sri Lanka is likely to continue despite a terrorist bomb blast outside the team's hotel, New Zealand Cricket chairman Peter McDermott said Tuesday.

McDermott flew to Sri Lanka Tuesday, saying the NZC board was unanimous in its decision the tour should proceed despite strong reservations among team members.

He will meet the 15-man squad, manager Leif Dearsley, and coach Warren Lees, to try and persuade them to stay in Sri Lanka. A decision will be made within 24 hours of McDermott arriving in Colombo.

Some players have said they want to return home, saying they were shaken by the suicide attack which killed Sri Lankan navy commander Admiral Clancy Fernando and three of his staff.

McDermott said he believed the tour could be rearranged. Five of the tour squad were in Sri Lanka five years ago when a massive bomb killed over 100 people and forced the cancellation of the New Zealand tour after two matches.

McDermott said the safety of the players and team officials was paramount, but he was also concerned that New Zealand should be seen to be fulfilling its international obligations.

"The ramifications (of pulling out) are extremely serious and New Zealand Cricket have an obligation to try and complete their contractual commitments," he said.

"But I don't believe we'll do that at the expense of any of our players' safety."

An earlier report said New Zealand called off a cricket match against Sri Lanka Tuesday as some players wanted to head home after Monday's assassination of the naval commander near their hotel, the team manager said.

The visitors are waiting for cricket board chairman Peter McDermott, who is scheduled to arrive in the night, said Lief Dearsley, the team manager.

"McDermott will talk to those players who wish to go home and those who wish to stay," Dearsley said.

"I believe those players who wish to return will be released and replaced by others," Dearsley told the Associated Press in an interview.

He said many players wanted to leave but declined to give the number.

"A decision will be taken late Wednesday," Dearsley said. The team also called off cricket practice and stayed in the Taj Samudra hotel.

New Zealand were to kick off their six-week-long tour of Sri Lanka with a three-day match against a second string team led by Test player Roshan Mahanama.

The visitors were to play three Test matches, three one-day internationals and two three-day games.

This is the second time New Zealand cricket tours have run into problems. In 1987, the cricketers left after playing one Test match when a

bomb exploded in Colombo not far from where they were staying.

GAME CANCELLED

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan cricket officials on Tuesday cancelled a three-day match against New Zealand amid hectic negotiations to save the eight-match tour following a Tamil rebel attack here, AFP reported.

A spokesman for the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) said the opening game of the tour which was to have commenced Tuesday in northwest Kurunegala has been cancelled since the visiting side was still in Colombo.

"We have cancelled the match in Kurunegala. The tickets will be refunded," said the BCCSL spokesman.

New Zealand were to have travelled to central Kandy at dawn Monday before going on to Kurunegala to meet a Board XI but a weather report from Kandy suggested the team delay their departure by a few hours.

Had the team started on schedule to Kandy, the players may have been far away from the blast site and things might have been different. Unfortunately they were having breakfast at the time of the attack, a BCCSL official said.

The New Zealand team voted Monday to abandon the tour.

The first of three Tests has been scheduled to be played in Kandy from November 21. Another three-day match is scheduled to be held in southern Matara on December 1.

Jansher is best bet

LONDON, Nov 17: Jansher Khan, the Pakistan who has been dominating the world squash circuit, looks favourite to add another major title to his collection, reports AFP.

The 23-year-old world champion from Peshawar has established such a long lead in the points standings that he is almost certain to be top seed for the super series final in Zurich in January.

Even though Jansher missed last week's European Open in Kiel with bronchitis, he has a massive lead of 2,657.5 points over his nearest rival, Australia's Chris Dittmar.

The top eight points scorers from selected super series events worldwide go through for a 100,000 dollar event that is effectively the sport's first ever world Grand Prix final.

Three events remain — the Pakistan Open in Karachi (December 1 to 5), the Hong Kong Open (December 8-13) and the Qatar International

(December 17-22) — during which the scramble to make the cut could become hectic. Four Australians look safe — Dittmar, former world champion Rodney Martin, brother Brett Martin, and Tristan Mancarrow — but a member of Australia's world title winning squad, Rodney Eyles, is down in tenth place.

He and England's ninth-placed Chris Walker will be pushing for the bottom two qualifying places currently occupied by Finland's Sami Elopuro, the highest ranked player ever from continental Europe, and Austin Adarraga, the Australian-born Spaniard who reached the world semi-final in Johannesburg two months ago.

Jansher expects to return to action in 15 days' time at the Pakistan Open, which should also see the temporary return of the legendary Jahangir Khan, British Open champion a record ten times, who retires at the end of the season.



What a mess! Hosts Mymensingh were not in the final yet spectators, a bit for the hell of it, a bit for the lack of room in the galleries, entered the field and the too friendly police making abortive attempts to clear the field, in yesterday's national football championship final between DU and Khulna at the Mymensingh Stadium. — Star photo