Nannu revives MSC's title hopes

If the fans and officials of Mohammedan Sporting Club have any quarrel with Minhazul Abedin Nannu they should bury the

hatchet right away. For Nannu bore them no grudge - for serving him a show cause notice and more importantly. for deposing him as their captain - when he produced that sterling knock of 87 to earn his team full points from their super league encounter against the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Blamed, perhaps unfairly.

for letting the defending champions down by his nonappearance against Bangladesh Biman last Thursday. Nannu served a perfect riposte to his detractors by batting with a degree of vengeance as he took charge in the middle Mohammedans were not too happily poised on 11 for two chasing a modest GMCC total of 185 in 45 overs.

Nirman, B Boys win in Div II

Sports Reporter

Nirmal's four -wicket spell gave Nirman Eleven a narrow 13-run victory over Amortvoti Club in the Second Division cricket super league at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yester-Batting first the Nirman

cricketers, aided by some fine batting from Asad and Apon, collected 197 in 39.2 overs. Asad notched up 44 while Apon made 43. Jewel, who made 29, was the other notable Nirman batsman.

Zahidul was the most successful Amorjyoti bowler claiming four for 45. But Ahmed was the most economical, conceding only 18 for his three scalps.

In reply, Nirmal's superb bowling forced the Amorjyoti boys to 184 in 39.1 overs. Nirmal gave away 28 runs for his four victims. Four Amorjyoti batsmen made 20- plus scores. Nipu topped them with

In the other match of the day at the Dhanmondi Club ground, Palash steered Bangladesh Boys Club to an easy five-wicket victory over Dhaka Wanderers Club with a superb

Wanderers made 203 for the loss of six wickets in their quota of 40 overs with Nripen hitting a magnificent 75 off 86 balls. Nripen sent the ball five times across the fence and once over it. Liton and Shafique supported him well with 39 and 33 runs respec-

Kamrul claimed three Wanderers wicket for 45 runs. Bangladesh Boys cruised home with 13 balls to spare losing half of their batsmen: Palash's unconquered knock was studded with five fours. Sumit and Ranga made 32 and 25 runs respectively.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Shantinagar B vs Three Star (Mirpur Pallabi) Gandaria Cricketers vs Ajax SC (DCG)

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Eleven of yesterday's fourteen Janata Bank Pioneer football league matches of five different zones produced results while the remaining three ended in deadlock at different venues across the city.

The day belonged to Amjad of Apurba Jubo Sangsad who slammed home three goals to guide his side to a facile 4-0 victory over Sonali KC in one of the three matches of the South zone. Bayazid netted the other

In the other matches of the zone, Kalabagan KC booters found the net twice against Mohammad Ali Sporting and a solitary goal from Kayettuli Samaj Kalyan Sangha's Rahman made the difference against

Agrant KC. In the two matches of the East zone, there was scarcity of goals as the two matches produced only one goal which gave Anirban Sangsad a win over Aganagar. The other tie

between Red Sun KC and Maniknagar, saw no goals. That was not the case in the Central zone where Motifheel T & T trounced Matuail Udayan 3-0; Painadi Agragoti edged Gulbagh KC 1-0 and Manda Sangsad and Titas

Sporting settled for a one-all a

Rising Star and Karwan Bazar Progoti Sangha registered solitary goal wins in the North zone.

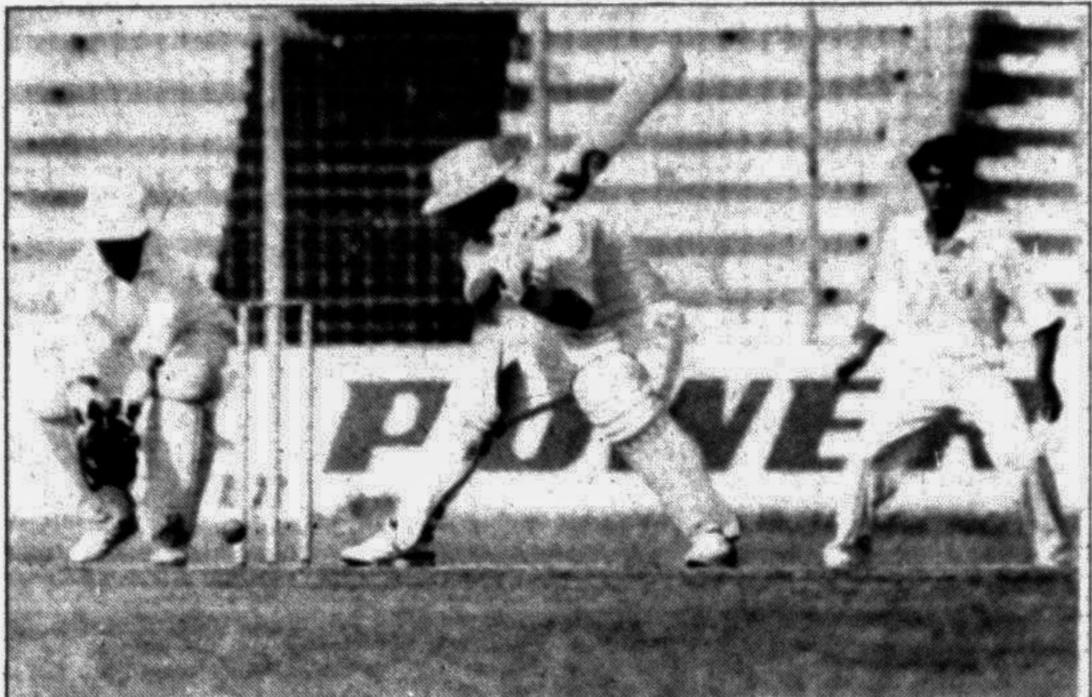
Of the four ties of the West zone, three were settled and the other one drawn. Arambagh and Dhaka Dynamo came out winners by 1-0 margins while Tejgaon Nabataranga had a one-goal edge over Uttara Sporting in a 2-1 final scoreline. The tied match was played between Amligola and Mukta Bihanga, the score being 1-1.

Sports Reporter

Finding himself in the unfamiliar role of a player without the onus of a team for which he has been playing for seven long years now. Nannu yesterday restored the balance and attraction of this year's Navana league that at one stage wisdom underlying Munir's decision certainly did not conform with the tempera ment and commitment of his major batsmen. His batting mainstays - Indian Raman Lamba and Shri Lankan Sanjeeva Weerasinghc - failed

ing a power-packed straight drive brought his downfall. Nannu, who took his time to settle down like a true professional, later blossomed to play some lovely strokes. He once imperiously swung a full

from Santceva



Mohammedan Sporting's top scorer Minhazul Abedin Nannu attempts a late cut during yesterday's Navana Premier Division cricket super league match against GMCC at the Dhaka Stadium. Mohammedans won by six wickets with Nannu making 87. - Star photo

seemed to be waning following two successive defeats of Mohammedans, one of the two most popular clubs of the country. Not only did Nannu, the skipper of the national team, bear a big hand to his side's return to winning ways after defeats to arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra, in the finale of the first phase of the league, and to Biman in their super league opener but also breathed new life into a good but blighted lot.

In a funny fluctuation of forthe Greater tunes. Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC), who announced their intentions of a possible major upset in speculations about the would be top notchers in this year's league with a thumping seven-wicket victory against Gulshan Youth on Friday, withered into inanity as Mohammedans romped home by six wickets.

They could only blame themselves for yesterday's debacle. Skipper Tariquzzaman Munir beat Waheedul Ghani, Mohammedan's 'emergency' captain, in the spin of the coin and chose to bat first. The to deliver the goods and the side was restricted to 185 for nine wickets on a fairly good batting wicket against a stingless attack.

Sanjeeva still managed the top score of the innings with 30, followed by Lamba who made a rapid 24 off 23 balls and medium-pacer Dulu's improvised 29.

Off-spinner Azhar Hossain Shantu was the pick of the Mohammedan bowling with figures of one for 24 from his nine overs. Rafiq and Gamagee claimed two wickets apiece while Sanjeev Sharma and Zakir took one each. Mohammedans looked

destined for another disaster when slumped to eleven for two in the fourth over. Saiful trapped Shantu leg before for four and one-down Rafiq's bold attempt to upset Raman Lamba's line with a lofted drive backfired when Sanwar, running back and right, took an athletic catch to dismiss the veteran batsman for one.

Liton was joined by Nannu at the crease and the two took the score to 83 in 20.3 overs before a careless stroke follow-

Weerasinghe out of the ground over square-leg and later hoisted left-arm spinner Billu disdainfully over long one for his second sixer in his 119ball knock of 87 that contained seven grounded hits across the fence. Repressed emotions caused by the smouldering anger and insult were all too clear when the right handed batsman from Chittagong ignored the applause from the stands by keeping the bat down which is normally waved to acknowledge the cheers of the crowd.

Nannu departed when Sanwar made up for Saiful's inconsequential lapse when Nannu was on 77 by accepting a mistimed hoick at midwicket but Bulbul on 32 not out from 38 balls, along with Pial, saw Mohammedans through on 187 for six in just 37.4 overs. Mohammedans now have

18 points from 12 matches while GMCC have 16 points, also from 12 outings.

TODAY'S MATCH

Gulshan Youth vs Brothers Union (Dhaka Stadium)

Clubs want transfers deferred

Sports Reporter



The Dhaka Metropolis Club Association (DMCA), a relatively recently floated body representing the Se-

nior Division soccer clubs of the city yesterday, passed a resolution urging the Dhaka Metropolis Football Association (DMFA) to defer the proposed players transfer dates in view of the imminent Eid-ul-Fitr.

Yesterday, in a meeting presided by its president S A Sultan of Arambagh Club, the DMCA called for a refixation of the March 15 to 21 deadline for the transfers as it would cause unnecessary hassles to both officials and players amid the month of Ramadan and the forthcoming Eid.

Assuming that the DMFA would not be able to set the ball rolling on the field before the end of May or the start of June anyway, the DMCA contended that the DMFA would be better advised to set a new deadline, preferably from April 20 to 25, much to the expediency of all quarters.

The apparently cogent argument of the DMCA did not fail to observe that the DMFA is

yet to complete the arrangements to run this year's league at the Dhaka Stadium the centre of controversy regarding this year's league, which is yet emerge from the mire of uncertainty.

The meeting, participated by the officials of Mohammedan Sporting, Abahani Arambagh, Dhanmondi, PWD, Wari, Eskaton, Muktijoddha, Fakirerpool, Wanderers and East End — 12 of the 20 clubs of the Senior Division football league - noted that the national football team is preparing now for the Asian Zone qualifying meets for the 1994 World Cup, to be held in Japan and the UAE in April and May next, and the DMFA would do well to complete the players' transfers during that respite in schedule.

The fate of this year's league football came under a cloud as the club officials and players served an ultimatum to the DMFA. The dilly dallying of the football authorities planted confusion in the minds of the footballers who considered their future in jeopardy because of the procrastination in announcing the dates for transfer of players. The crisis

deepened as the club officials called for a return of the league football to the Dhaka Stadium from the far away Mirpur Stadium.

Pressed hard, the DMFA recently came up with an announcement to complete the transfer formalities between March 15 to 21. The decision, however, looked certain to be pre-empted by Mohammedans and Abahani - the two heavy weights of local football - who had earlier stayed away from the other clubs in their collective attempt to force the DMFA for a date for players' transfers.

Both Mohammedans and Abahani appeared adamant earlier in their demand for shifting the venue for the league from Mirpur to Dhaka Stadium as a pre-requisite of entering the transfer fray. The officials of the two most popular clubs of the country cited economic problems caused by the poor turn out in the distant Mirpur Stadium as the main reasons for their hardline

Outnumbered earlier, both these clubs now seem to have succeeded in convincing the smaller clubs to fall in line with their stand.

champions Brazil stumbled to a scoreless draw with Saudi

Outsiders US trounce Turkey champions, but who now face

ted States, 50-1 pre-tournament outsiders, left Euro-pean champions Turkey in tatters with a 6-0 drubbing in a Group C

MELBOURNE.

Mar 7: The Uni-

match at the World Youth football championship here Sunday night, reports AFP. The young Americans, full

of running, left the Turks reeling with three goals in six minutes midway through the first-half, with Turkish goalkeeper Yetkin Akman all at sea, to lead 3-0 by half-time. Giant striker Chris Faklaris

from Atlanta, Georgia, cashed in with the championship's first hattrick, Miles Joseph netted twice and Imad Baba, a midfielder from Humble, Texas, opened the scoring.

The Americans, building up to next year's World Cup at home, would need only to beat either England or South Korea to clinch a place in the last eight of the tournament after their feast of goals.

It was a deflating start to the championship for Turkey, who arrived as European

an uphill task in their remaining group matches to reach the quarterfinals.

The Turks, feted on their arrival here and playing before a large local Turkish contingent, had salt rubbed into their wounds with the dismissal of Oktay Derelioglu for dissent.

ENGLAND DRAW

In another match in Melbourne, an 85th minute strike by Chelsea's Ian Pearce spared England's blushes and earned them a 1-1 draw with South Korea in their opening match on Sunday.

Midfielder Pearce was the England saviour in the Group C game, diving to head home a corner after his side were rocked by an own goal in the first half.

England failed to convert a series of early chances and had only themselves to blame for going into he interval a goal down when Newcastle's Steve Watson miskicked into his own net in the 33rd minute.

SAUDIS HOLD BRAZILIANS Away at Adelaide, two-time Arabia here Sunday in their opening Group D match. The Brazilians' frustrations

were compounded by the loss of forward Pereira, given the red card by Russian referee Sergie Khussainov for his second bookable offence.

Pereira received his second caution of the night in the 73rd minute when he tried to head the ball out of the hands of the Saudi goalkeeper Hussein Al-Sadig.

Brazil next face Mexico, earlier ebullient 3-0 winners over Norway, here on Tuesday, with the Saudis up against the Norwegians.

MERRY MEXICANS

Winger Vicente Nieto sparked Mexico to a 3-0 hammering of Norway in the opening match in Group D in Adelaide Sunday night. The 19-year-old left-sided

goals to boost Mexico's chances of claiming a quarterfinal place. Neito became the tournament's leading marksman with strikes in the 44th and 71st

minutes.

Nadir suspended

Sports Reporter

in keeping with the recent spate of disciplinary actions against erring players, Kalabagan Krira Chakra yesterday informed the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) in writing about their decision to suspend Nadir Shah for the next three years.

Under the rules the BCCB has no option but to accept Kalabagan's decision as final and binding.

Nadir Shah, the lanky legspinning all-rounder and younger brother of the more renowned all-rounder Jahangir Shah Badshah, allegedly failed to honour his commitments under the terms of the contract he signed with Kalabagan for the 1992-93 cricket sea-

According to club sources, Nadir Shah has been irregular at the nets and has also missed some of the team's Navana Premier Division league engagements.

England arrive in Shri Lanka

COLOMBO, Mar 7: England's cricketers arrived in Shri Lanka this weekend promising to atone for their disastrous tour of India but accepting that their new hosts could prove daunting opponents, reports

England, heavily beaten in all three Tests in India, play one Test and two one-day matches in Shri Lanka who have never beaten England in a

Coach Keith Fletcher, who led England to victory in Shri Lanka. When they first met 11 years ago, and coached England A here in 1990-91 said "Shri Lanka always play well in their own country."

Alec Stewart, leading England for the first time in his own right, said: "We are keen to put the record straight after India."

England have not appointed a new vice captain but Bob Bennett, their manager, said Mike Gatting, as senior professional, would understudy Stewart.

The Shri Lankans, while pleased to have England touring, are resentful that they are playing just one Test. It is only the fifth meeting between the countries since Shri Lanka gained Test status a dozen years ago. Neil Perera, secretary of the

Shri Lanka, said: "I expressed the view at the last ICC meeting that we have had very few matches against England, Australia, and the West Indies. There is an improvement with Australia, who played

Board of Control for Cricket in

three Tests in August, and hope things will be better in the future with England." Bennett said he thought the problem was cash related but Perera added "Although we are

not a rich board we can man-

age and have always agreed to meet any financial conditions The tour opens with a day night international on Wed nesday followed by the Test on Saturday and a further one day international the following

Saturday. Hungary win in Kirin Cup soccer

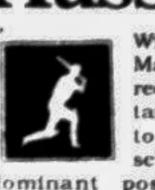
FUKUOKA, Japan, Mar 7: Winger Jozsef Kiprich flicked in the only goal to give Hungary a win over Japan in the opening game of the 100,000 dollar Kirin Cup football tournament here Sunday, reports AFP.

Tuning up for the qualifying rounds next month for the 1994 World Cup, the Japanese squad fought well against the Hungarian national team, holding them to a scoreless first

But only two minutes into the second-half the 29-yearold Hungarian striker collected a pass from midfielder Lajos Detari in front of the Japanese goal to score. But Japan fought back, time

and again getting shots in but failing to find the necessary edge to get the ball in the net.

Aussies hold the upper hand WELLINGTON.



Mar 7: Australia recovered from a tail-end collapse to bowl themsclves back into a dominant position in the

second cricket Test against New Zealand today, reports Reuter. New Zealand, who notched up a first innings lead of 31, were 40 for three in their sec-

ond innings at stumps on the fourth day. With the wicket at the Basin Reserve starting to take spin, leg-spinner Shane Warne could be the key to the tourists'

three-game series. Warne had taken seven wickets in the first Test to lead Australia to win by an innings and 60 runs.

Australia began today on

107 for two and looked capa-

ble of a first innings total in

hopes of wrapping up the

excess of 300 as Steve Waugh and Allan Border plundered a wayward attack on a slow Those hopes were dashed in the 86th over when New Zealand captain Martin Crowe

handed the new ball to Danny Morrison. Morrison cut a swathe through the Australian lineup, taking Test-best figures of seven for 89, including the

wickets of Waugh for 75 and Border for 30. Only a spirited knock from tatlender Warne, who scored 22, helped boost the total to

Fast bowler Craig McDermott quickly struck back, taking the wickets of first innings runscorers Mark Greatbatch and Crowe in his first four overs. At one stage New Zealand were two for nine The introduction of

medium-pacer Paul Reiffel in the 18th over proved disastrous for the New Zealanders when he dismissed the in-

form Ken Rutherford, caught his performance grew. behind for 11.

Late in the final session Warne looked increasingly dangerous, beating the bat of the out-of-form Andrew Jones and Tony Blain several times.

Jones, 20 not out, survived two confident appeals from



D MORRISON 7 for 89

One attempted stumping required the services of the third umpire. He decided in the batsman's favour after viewing a video tape replay in the main stand.

New Zealand's fortunes have

plummeted since the departure of world Test wicket record-holder Richard Hadlee in 1990. They have won only one Test against Zimbabwe. Crowe, who hit 98 in the first innings of the present

game, offered to resign after

the first Test as criticism of

cerned about the Tamil ethnic

war in the country's north and

In November, five members

of the New Zealand cricket

Bowling: McDermott Hughes

SCOREBOARD Scorecard at the close of play on the fourth day of the

second cricket Test between New Zealand and Australia here today:

NEW ZEALAND: 1st innings 329 (M D Crowe 98, J G

Wright 72, C T McDermott 3-66, M G Hughes 3-99). One run was added to

Martin Crowe's previous total of 97, increasing New Zealand's total to 329). AUSTRALIA: 1st innings (overnight 107-2)

Taylor run out Goon c and b Morrison Langer c Blain b Watson M Waugh c and b Owens S Waugh c Blain b Morrison Border lbw b Morrison Healy c Rutherford b Morrison

Hughes c Wright b Morrison 8

Reiffel lbw b Morrison

Warne c Greatbatch b Morrison McDermott not out Extras: (14-lb, 4-nb) Total: Fall of wickets: 1-92, 2-105; 3-128: 4-153: 5-229: 6-237: 7-251; 8-258; 9-271

Bowling: Watson 29 Owens Patel

NEW ZEALAND: 2nd in-

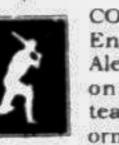
Greatbatch b McDermott

Jones not out

Crow Ibw b McDermott Rutherford c Healy b Reiffel 11 Blain not out Extras: (2-lb, 1-w, 1-nb) Total: (3 wkts) Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-9, 3-

13 2 12 0 7 0 Warne 4 6 1 Reiffel

Stewart optimistic COLOMBO, Mar 7: said the team was not con-



England captain Alec Stewart said on Sunday his team will perform better in Shri Lanka after the recent 0-3 whitewash in the Test series

against India, reports AP. "It is not a big challenge to raise ourselves. The lads are aware we have to win, because pride and everything goes with it," said Stewart, who is leading the 16-member squad in the absence of the regular skipper, Graham Gooch.

arrived in Shri Lanka on Saturday night after a rineweek tour of India, will play two one-day internationals and one Test during the fortnight's Stewart and manager Keith

The English team, which

Fletcher told reporters they were disappointed with the Indian tour. "India played a lot better in the conditions that favoured them. For this I do not blame

them at all," Fletcher said. He said the team would miss Gooch, who had announced in advance that he would return home after the

Indian tour.

Tour manager Bob Bennett

team returned after a bomb explosion outside their hotel in Colombo.

ALEC STEWART

The Test will be played from March 13 to 18, and the final one-day match on March

Fletcher said the England team will be named on Tuesday night.

More bad news for English cricket

SYDNEY, Mar 7: English

cricket took another battering

on Sunday when the A team crashed to a 10-wicket defeat by New South Wales - their second successive thrashing by an Australian state side, reports Reuter. The A team's disastrous

performances follow the senior England side's 3-0 Test series trouncing in India. New South Wales captain

state of English cricket and the attitude of the A team. There have got to be some better players," he said. "If these guys are their (next) best

players perhaps an attitude of

Phil Emery questioned the

trying to win the game might make them play better. "They didn't seem to have a lot of purpose and at the end of the day I think we were al-

ways going to win the game." England A captain Jack Russell top scored with 51 not out as his side tumbled to paceman Wayne Holdsworth, five for 47, and spinner David

Freedman, four for 59. Scores: England A 238 and 208; New South Wales 421-6 dec and 26-0.

Graf beats Huber enroute to final

semifinal.

DELRAY BEACH, Florida, Mar 7: Steffi Graf and Anke Huber live only 20 minutes apart back in

Germany, but on-court Graf proved she's still miles ahead with a 6-1, 6-1 semifinals win on Saturday at the Virginia Slims of Florida, reports Reuter.

Graf's victory put her into the final against second seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, who should off her new-found confidence at the net in beating Amanda Coetzer of South Africa 6-2, 6-2 in an early

The top-seeded Graf, the defending champion, and Sanchez, ranked fourth in the world, have played 20 times with the German leading the rivalry 17-3. Their last match was at the Australian Open where Graf won the semifinal

in straight sets. Graf was barely challenged in her 59-minute semifinal.

"I played solid throughout the match," said Graf, who has never lost a set to Huber in five meetings. "I wanted to be calm. She tried too much."

Huber made and astonishing 45 unforced errors — 25 in the first set and 20 in the second, including six double

faults. The give-aways amounted to the equivalent of 11 free "I think I played the right

way," said Huber, ranked 11th

in the world." I tried to go to

net which is not really my

game. But I made too many errors." Sanchez also made a point of getting to the net but she converted her forays into points in beating Coetzer.

sive tennis to Coetzer's defensive style, winning 15 of 21 points she played at the net. In eight service games, Sanchez only lost 13 points. The Spaniard is working for the next few weeks with

The Spaniard played offen-

Brazilian Carlos Kimmayr, a former tour players, who split from former pupil Gabriela Sabatini after the Australian "I put pressure on her and I was really aggressive," said

Sanchez, the 1989 French Open champion. "I'm feeling a lot more comfortable at the net. That's what I'm working on with Carlos. Kirmayr helped Sabatini

learn to volley effectively - a key to the Argentine's triumph at the 1990 US Open. "She runs so well," said Coetzer. "That's always on your

mind. You feel you have to do

more with the ball and find

yourself making errors." The South African had 32 unforced errors in the match.

Whitaker wins NEW YORK, Mar 7: Pernell

Whitaker won his third world championship Saturday night with a unanimous decision over Buddy McGirt, who lost his WBC welterweight title because he couldn't use his powerful left hook, reports AP.

player from Unam scored two World Number Two Steffi Graf returns a volley during her Virginia Slims of Florida

semifinal against fellow German Anke Huber on Saturday. A 6-1, 6-1 victory pitted Graf - AFP photo against Arantxa Sanchez of Spain in the final.