

Abahani amble, BU wobble

Sports Reporter

Brothers Union were stretched a bit by Dhanmondi but champions Abahani Kira Chakra cruised to a predictable, huge win in the two matches of the Navana Premier Division cricket league at two different venues yesterday.

Brothers Union subdued a reedy Dhanmondi Club by four wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Sent in to bat first by Brothers skipper Nurul Abedin Nobel on a bedewed, difficult wicket, Dhanmondi could collect 149 from their quota of 45 overs.

Kamrul was the topscorer with 37, garnered off 54 balls with three hits to the fence. Paceman Mohammad Ali clouded a big steer in a brisk 23 made off 26 balls in the slog overs.

Indian Yadav and Azam were the two other batsmen to make it to the double figures with 18 and 14 respectively.

Brothers' long serving Sri Lankan new ball bowler Fernando produced an effective second spell to finish with figures of three for 32.

His partner Golam Faruq Suru, a former national player, however, had the best analysis of nine overs, three maidens, on a wicket for fifteen runs.

Amal, the other Sri Lankan, bagged two for 30 while spinner Azhar Hossain Shantu and Rahul claimed one apiece.

When Brothers went in to get 150 for a win, Dhanmondi seamers retaliated with veteran captain Jahangir Shah Badsiah, a quality bowler in his prime, handling his limited resources well.

Zahid Razzak Masum, who scored a super 77 in the last match, departed early, bowled by Viray for 13 and Yadav accounted for Nobel for 18 only to reduce Brothers to 54 for two.

To add to the miseries of the Gopibagh side, Amal was run out for a duck bringing in young Al Shahrar Rokan at the wicket to pair with his senior partner Habibul Bashar Sumar, the young stylish right hander.

The two added 61 runs for the fourth wicket to make things hum again. Sumar left for 43 made off 73 balls, embellished with four elegant boundaries while Rokan, the lanky dark athletic youngster, remained unbeaten on 38 off 53 balls including three hits to the fence.

Although a couple of wickets more were lost, Suru stayed unconquered with Rokan to guide Brothers to a four-wicket victory, their second in a row.

Yadav was the pick of the Dhanmondi bowlers with excellent figures of one for 14 from nine overs. His compatriot Vinay took one for 18 also from nine overs. Dulu bought two for

14 while Sobel chipped in with one for 24.

At the Dhaka Stadium, Abahani demolished Kalabagan Kira Chakra by eight wickets in a thoroughly dull one-sided match.

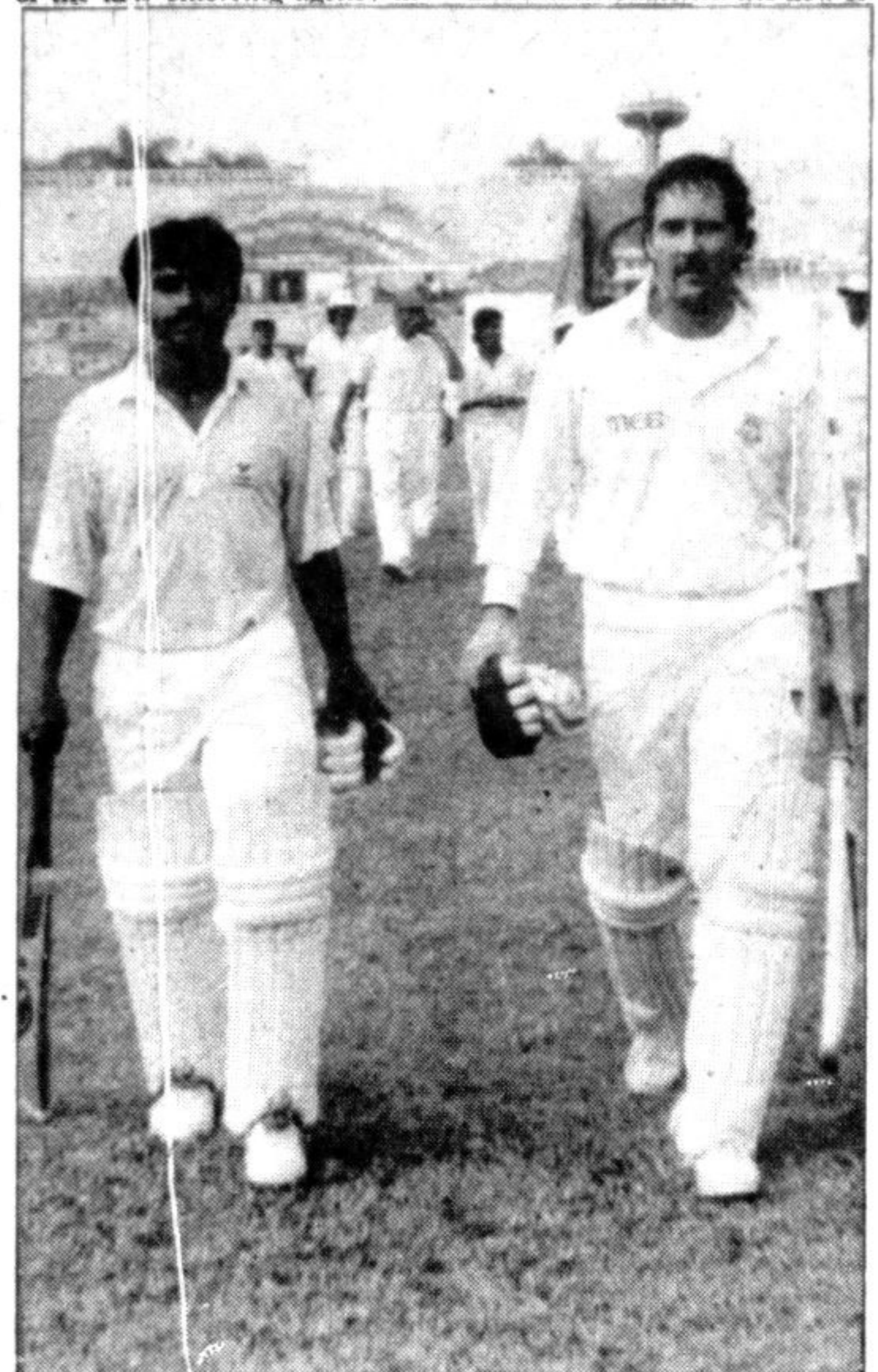
Two stoppages were the only interesting incidents in a low scoring encounter that saw Abahani waltz to their third consecutive win in this year's single league.

Tear gassing by the members of the law enforcing agency in

Effie had the best figures among the six Abahani bowlers claiming three for 17.

Babu and G P Singh bagged two wickets apiece for 15 and 16 runs respectively.

G P Singh, who opened the Abahani innings with Harunur Rashid Liton, swung a long hop from Dipu Chowdhury down to Gamage's throat at long leg with the score on one but Faruque with an unbeaten 49 that included three boundaries and a sixer stanch the flow of



Faruque Ahmed, who skipped the Bangladesh national squad against Zimbabwe recently, walks back to the pavilion along with Abahani's English recruit Richard Illingworth after his side won their Navana Premier Division cricket league engagement against Kalabagan at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Faruque made an 49 and Illingworth 11.

the adjoining area caused players to rush into the dressing room twice in the pre-lunch session of the match.

Off-spinner Saidul Anam Effie, backed by pace duo of Khairuzzaman Babu and Indian G P Singh, never allowed Kalabagan any header. Only four batsmen made it to the double figures, with Bobby, a tallender, hitting 21 not out. At the end of the possible 40 overs the Dhanmondi score read too

adrenalni in Kalabagan bowlers along with Liton, who made a laborious 32.

Illingworth was at the kill along with Faruque when Abahani posted 102 for two wickets in 25.3 overs.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Mohammedans vs Victoria (Dhaka Stadium)
Biman vs Surjo Tarun (DCS) Gulshan Youth vs Udiy (Mirpur Pallabi)

Bangladesh draw with S Korea in Asia Cup

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh national squad showed commendable courage and determination in coming from behind to force strong South Korea to a one-all draw in the Asia Cup men's hockey championship in the Japanese city of Hiroshima, according to a telephonic message received in Dhaka yesterday.

The Koreans, who are to play their last match against Kazakhstan, came up against rather an unexpected challenge from the theoretically weaker Bangladeshi side, finding it very difficult to make inroads to the opponent's defence. On the other hand, our boys, apart from foiling each and every move from their stronger opposition, came up with a number of attacks although they failed to capitalise on them. The first half remained goalless.

The second half began with the Koreans going flat out for a goal and captain Park Shin-Hum shot them into the lead when he neatly converted a penalty stroke six minutes into the second half.

But the Bangladeshi team was not to be denied. Our players stepped up the pressure on the opposition and won the equaliser ten minutes later through Rabiuddin Ahmed Rabi, who slotted home from a penalty corner to make it one-all.

The draw takes Bangladesh's tally to three points from four outings and leaves them ahead of the hosts Japan, who have a game in hand. Earlier, Bangladesh lost their first match to Japan 1-2, were outplayed in the next match by neighbours India by four goals to nil, and edged out Kazakhstan 2-1.

India, ROK in semis

HIROSHIMA, Nov 10: India and South Korea, each scoring in the last four minutes, played to a 1-1 draw Wednesday in a women's preliminary match, and both advanced to the semi-finals of the Asian Cup hockey tournament, reports AP.

South Korea play Japan and India meet China in Friday's semifinals.

Jang Dong-sook scored for South Korea with four minutes to play, and Aleyamma Mathews' goal tied it for India with one minute left in the Group A game at Hiroshima Regional Park in western Japan.

South Korea and India completed the preliminaries with one victory and one draw each.

Defending champion China finished atop Group B with two victories and one draw. Japan had one victory and two draws.

In the men's Group B Kazakhstan came from behind to beat Japan 2-1.

Japan's Hideji Numada scored in the last minute of the first half. But Kazakhstan's Gennady Kallinin scored 12 minutes into the second half and Bertitzay Sekmsenbaev added the winner four minutes later.

The men's preliminaries continue through Thursday.

S Africa to bid for 2006 WC

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 10: South Africa will bid to host the 2006 World Cup finals following hints from FIFA that the African continent could state the tournament early next century, reports Reuter.

"There is no doubt that we will make a bid," Solomon Morewa, secretary-general of the South African Football Association, said on Tuesday.

He was reacting to comments from FIFA Secretary-General Sepp Blatter who said last week the foresaw a major African country hosting the 2006 event.

Morewa said South Africa would make a serious attempt to become the first African country to host the World Cup finals.

"We have the facilities and we are learning quickly the ways world football," he said. South Africa was readmitted to FIFA, soccer's world governing body, last July after almost 30 years of isolation because of the country's apartheid policies.

"South Africa has to consider a very serious candidate because of the infrastructure and expertise at our disposal," Morewa added.

"We plan to bid for the 1998 African Nations Cup finals and that will give us a good trial run for the World Cup."

Morewa said he would seek a meeting with FIFA officials soon to discuss South Africa's candidature.

Three South African cities — Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg — have already declared their candidature for the 2004 Olympic Games. One of them will be put forward as an official candidate in January by the country's National Olympic Committee.

"We will be able to piggy back on their efforts," Morewa said.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain exchanging views with the sports journalists at the state guest house Padma yesterday.

Basile knows what's coming

Buenos Aires, Nov 10: Argentina resumed training on Tuesday for the second-leg of their World Cup play off against Australia amid speculation that national coach Alfio Basile may step down after the match, reports Reuter.

Following the 1-1 first-leg result in Sydney on October 31, a scoreless draw next week will be enough for Argentina to secure a berth in the 1994 finals in the United States.

But Basile — whose contract runs out after the Australia match — knows his future depends not only on qualifying but also on how well his team perform.

Basile admitted he had con-

templated resigning when Argentina conceded the fourth goal in September's shock 5-0 defeat at home to Colombia.

His decision to hang on was widely attributed to the support of Argentine Football Association (AFA) president Julio Grondona.

On Tuesday Grondona again gave Basile a vote of confidence, but another AFA director was less supportive, telling the Daily Pagina: "We first need to see exactly how we qualify."

Argentines crave a return to the glory days of 1978 and 1986 when, playing adventurous and exciting soccer, the national side twice won the World Cup.

Basile's record — including Copa America triumphs in 1991 and this year during a 31-

match unbeaten run — would surely guarantee most coaches a renewed contract.

But in Argentina, where style counts for everything, the ends do not always justify the means and the national team were criticised in the press for lacklustre performances.

Although Basile recalled former captain and national idol Diego Maradona to the fold for the first-leg in Sydney, the team laboured and looked short of ideas against the physical but inexperienced Australians.

With eight days remaining until the match that will seal Argentina's World Cup fate, and former coach Carlos Bilardo waiting in the wings, Basile is under no illusions as to the task ahead of him.

Newsman see it for themselves

Sports Reporter

A group of sports journalists visited the under-construction Mirpur indoor stadium and the swimming pool to see the progress for themselves. They also went to the Mirpur Stadium to have a first-hand inspection on the laying out of synthetic tracks for next month's sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, billed for a December 20 start.

While talking to the concerned personnels, the newsmen came to know that the construction works will be finished at least ten days before the commencement of the seven-day Games.

After the visit, the journalists exchanged views with the State Minister for Youth and Sports, Sadek Hossain, who is also the chairman of the Steering Committee for the sixth SAF Games, at the state guest house Padma. After the meeting, the State Minister hosted the newsmen to a lunch.

Youth and Sports Secretary M Azizul Haq, BOA deputy secretary-general Zafar Imath and NSC Secretary ASM All Kabir, Director (Sports) Sqd Ldr Mohiuddin Ahmed were present on the occasion.

Shri Lanka to send 143 athletes to SAF Games

COLOMBO, Nov 10: Sri Lanka will send a team of 143 athletes to the South Asian Federation (SAF) Games in the Bangladesh capital Dhaka next month, a local sports official said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

"Sri Lanka is taking part in all events," National Olympic Committee official Pema Pinnewale said. This is the biggest sports contingent to leave the island.

At the 1991 Games in Colombo, Sri Lanka bagged 44 gold, 33 silver and 41 bronze medals to come a close second to India.

The Games, held every two years, draw competitors from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives.

Pinnewale said Sri Lankan athletes will take part in track and field events, swimming, judo, kabaddi (a body contact sport that originated in India), volleyball, shooting, tennis, table tennis, football and wrestling at the December 20-27 Games.

IWF plans drug tests at World Championships

MELBOURNE, Nov 10: All medalists at the world weightlifting championships will be tested for illegal drugs, along with up to three other competitors in every division, officials said Wednesday, reports AP.

International Weightlifting Federation general manager Dr Tamas Ajan and IWF president Gottfried Schodl said weightlifting was doing everything in its power to eliminate the use of performance-enhancing drugs. Three competitors each from Poland and Russia tested positive last week for prohibited drugs and were banned for life.

Both nations were banned from the world championships, although Russia was later readmitted after paying a \$150,000 fine.

Two Australian lifters also recently failed drug tests and face bans from the sport.

Ajan said testing for drugs in weightlifting was a two-edged sword. "When we find drugs, some people may say it is a scandal, while others would say we are cleaning up the sport," he said.

He said every weightlifter at the 1992 Olympic Games was tested. "Show me another sport which did the same?" he asked.

Lifters from 80 countries will compete in the world championships. The opening ceremony is Thursday night, with competition beginning on Friday.

Competition in nine men's and seven women's divisions ends November 21.

English soccer out of date?

ZURICH, Nov 10: English football is 30 years out of date according to FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter, reports AFP.

Reflecting on England's probable failure to reach the World Cup finals, Blatter told the Swiss weekly Sport the underlying reason was a failure to develop young players' technique.

In contrast, Norway, who have qualified at England's expense, "train their players in a modern fashion," Blatter said.

"In England, physical training dominates and they are still playing kick and rush football like 30 years ago."

"Last March I watched the Tottenham Chelsea match. I was appalled by the poor technique of players, incapable of killing a high ball without it bouncing four metres off their feet."

Blatter's onslaught brought a stinging response from Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the Football Association.

"I didn't see much evidence of kick and rush when Norwich beat Bayern Munich with thoughtful, measured football last week," Kelly said.

"I'm sure Arsenal didn't get 10 goals against Standard Liege

with kick and rush football. And even though Manchester United went out of the European Cup you couldn't accuse them of playing kick and rush football.

"Beauty is in the eye of the

OM likely to sell again

PARIS, Nov 10: Troubled European champions Marseille, beaten 1-0 by Lyon in the French League on Tuesday, are likely to sell again to ease their financial problems, reports Reuter.

"It is the intention of (club boss) Bernard Tapie to sell another player," club deputy chairman Jean Louis Leveau told a private television channel Canal Plus after the match.

Marseille, crippled by debts since being ejected from European soccer in a bribery scandal, have already sold Croatian Alen Boksic to Lazio of Italy.

According to club sources, international defender Basile Boli has been contacted by Italian side Juventus.

Marseille were reduced to 10 men for the last 10 minutes of the match in Lyon after midfielder Fabric Henry, who had already been booked, received his marching orders for a rough tackle.

ACOG faces financial crisis

ATLANTA, Nov 10: The International Olympic Committee acknowledged the financial difficulties facing the organisers of the 1996 Atlanta Games, reports AP.

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games has concentrated on its financing plan because, unlike most Olympic hosts, government backing is not an option.

"It's nerve-racking business because these Games, as you know, are privately financed," Dick Pound, an IOC vice president who chairs the body's co-ordinating committee for the 1996 Games, said Tuesday.

"With different organising committees, their priorities are different at different stages. With Atlanta, they've had to devote much more time making sure the finances are there be-

cause you can't spend what you don't have."

Pound spoke at a news conference after the coordinating committee's two-day, semi-annual meeting with ACOG officials.

"It's going to be a stretch," he said of ACOG's marketing efforts. "But we continue to believe that the revenue targets that have been established are achievable."

The 1.47 billion dollars event will be financed largely from corporate sponsorships, aided by other revenues from the sale of tickets and television rights. Pound said sponsorship sales are going better than expected.

"As to other sources, there ain't none," he said. "So we've sharp pencils and lots of Rolods."

An example of the budget problems was ACOG's decision

to move the rowing and canoeing venues from Stone Mountain Park in suburban Atlanta because it would be too expensive to eliminate an island in the middle of the proposed course on Stone Mountain Lake.

Pound said that decision "caused enormous dismay" among IOC members, who had considered the Stone Mountain venues an essential part of Atlanta's bid for the Games.

Still, Pound said, the IOC and ACOG were ready to "put rowing and canoeing where it ought to be and not worry about where it could have been."

Although the venue is not final, current plans are to put rowing and canoeing in an under-construction reservoir in Rockdale County, another east Atlanta suburb.

DU inter-dept cricket

Sports Reporter

Philosophy department beat Bangla department by 73 runs in the Dhaka University inter-department cricket competition at the Jagannath Hall cricket ground yesterday.

Philosophy batted first and scored 138 runs for the loss of nine wickets in the stipulated thirty overs.

Harun topscored with 45 and Monirul 21 while a hefty 44, came from sundries.

Rashidul claimed five wickets for 7 runs and Azad took three for 25 for Bangla.

In reply, Bangla were bundled out for 65 runs, in 21.2 overs with only Taslim managing a double digit score.

Tiko and Afzal evenly shared six wickets among them giving away 15 and 14 runs respectively.

Nat'l soccer team wins

Bangladesh national football team, now preparing for the sixth SAF Games, defeated the Rajshahi Players' Welfare Association 2-0 in an exhibition match at the Rajshahi Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

After a barren first half, Naquib scored the first goal for the national side from a penalty while the second was netted by Rumi.

Ghosh meets Gonsalves in Majumder final

Sports Reporter

National champion Narayan Chandra Ghosh will take on his arch-rival Adrian Gonsalves in today's final of the second F H Majumder memorial snooker tournament.

The best-of-13-frames final is scheduled to cue off in the snooker room of the Narayanganj Club at noon.

In yesterday's semifinals NC Ghosh, representing the host club, beat Frederic Randolph of the Chittagong Catholic Club by six frames to four. Adrian Gonsalves of Catholic Club, who lost the last national championship final to Ghosh, beat Mofazzal Hossain of Gulshan Club by a similar 6-4 margin.

In the quarter-finals Tuesday, Ghosh held his club-mate Anwar Hossain by 5 frames to 3. Gonsalves shut out Quamrul Huda of Dhaka Club in five straight frames while Mofazzal beat former national champion and last year's Majumder snooker runner-up Reshadul Ameen Bappa. The defending champion of this tournament — J F D Costa of Dhaka Club — lost his chance of retaining the trophy by losing his quarter final to F Randolph in a keen contest 5-4.

President of the Bangladesh

Billiards and Snooker Federation Azimuddin Ahmed, who is also the Home Secretary, will give away the trophies after the final.

Thirty-two participants from six invited clubs of the country took part in the six-day meet organised by the Narayanganj Club. The meet is sponsored by the Majumder Group of



GHOSH (L), GONSALVES (R) ... the finalists

Companies of which late F H Majumder, himself a keen snooker enthusiast, was the founder.

First Arab to win in Israel

JERUSALEM, Nov 10: A Moroccan made a double entry into Jerusalem's record books Tuesday, becoming the first Arab to enter and win the city's marathon, reports AP.

"I didn't win for Morocco. I didn't win for France. I won for peace," said Hassan Sebtaoui, 30, who entered the country on a Moroccan passport with a French contingent.

Organizers promoted the second annual Jerusalem marathon as a "Run for Peace" and said 187 runners from 26 countries participated, with 154

participants finishing. Although Palestinian runners stayed away, organizers stressed that in the spirit of detente following the PLO-Israel accord, two runners from Morocco and a Tunisian showed up. All three also have French passports.

Sebtaoui, who moved to the French city of Orleans from Rabat, Morocco, when he was a teen-ager, said he hoped his participation would pave the way for more Arab athletes to come to Israel.

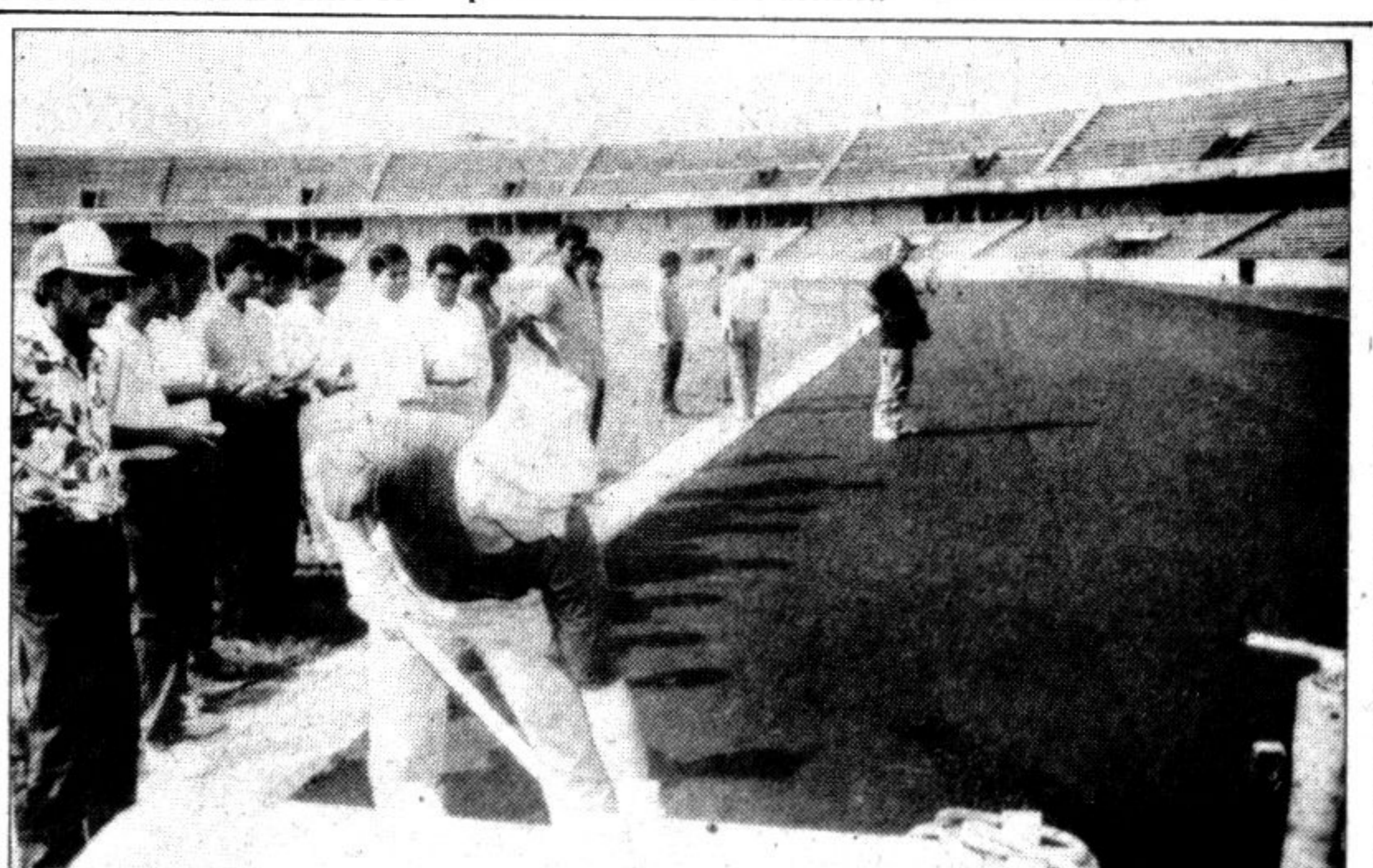
"I can tell them that this marathon was extraordinary and the welcome we received was exceptional," the super-

market manager said. His wife, Catharine, cried when he lead the pack into Teddy Stadium at the finish.

"I will tell our children that their father was the first Muslim to run the Jerusalem marathon and to win!" she said.

For those runners who found the full 42 kilometres (26 miles) too gruelling, the event also had a 21-kilometre (13-mile) half marathon and a fun run of about 4,000 metres (yards).

About 900 runners chose the half-marathon, and another 3,000 people, mainly school children, participated in the fun run.



A group of sports journalists watch closely a couple of experts yesterday working on the synthetic tracks laid at the Mirpur Stadium for the forthcoming SAF Games.