

Nirman cricket

Sports Reporter

Hasu cracked a brilliant 77 as Dinajpur Zila School stormed into the semifinal of the 12th Nirman school cricket championship, eliminating Scholastica by 116 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Dhanmondi Govt School, Mymensingh Zila School and Narayanangj Zila School completed the quarterfinal matches at different city venues.

Sent in to bat, Dinajpur Zila School piled up 235 in the stipulated 40 overs for the loss of five wickets.

Dinajpur innings was built on the blazing knock from opener Hasu. He hammered twelve fours and a huge six in his 66-ball essay.

Palash and Bachchu were the other notable scorers with 27 and 28 respectively.

Scholastica, one of the four city schools, were bundled out for 119 in 28.5 overs.

Opener Ridwan was the highest scorer with 22 followed by Shaker, Rubayat and Monir who contributed 20, 20 and 15 respectively.

Monir was the most successful Dinajpur bowler finishing with four for 16. Sujun and Arman claimed two wickets apiece.

At the Mirpur Pallabi ground, Dhanmondi Govt High School registered a five-wicket win over Sathkira PN School.

Needing 170 runs for victory, Dhanmondi reached the target in 37.3 overs for the loss of five wickets after restricting Sathkira to 169.

Dipu and Shaon guided Dhanmondi to victory with an unbroken 74-run partnership for the sixth wicket. Dipu scored 50 off only 45 balls with the help of three boundaries and a huge six while Shaon made 30.

At the Jagannath Hall ground, Narayanangj Zila School squeezed into the last four with a hard-fought one-wicket win over Chittagong Govt High School.

Battling first, the Chittagong boys managed 157 runs in the regulation 40 overs for the loss of seven wickets.

Opener Liton topscored with 44 while Masud contributed 35 in the handsome Chittagong innings.

In reply, Narayanangj posted the required 158 runs for the loss of nine wickets with three balls to spare.

Mymensingh Zila School defeated Khulna Zila School by four wickets at the Dhanmondi Club ground en route the round of four.

Mymensingh, who bundled out Khulna for a meagre 81 in 29.4 overs, reached 82 for six wickets in 29 overs.

Costa in Spanish Open final

BARCELONA, Apr 9: Carlos Costa swept into the final of the Spanish Open with a 6-3, 6-3 win over fellow Spaniard Alex Corretja in their semifinal on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Costa, champion here two years ago, plays the winner of the second semifinal between Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands and Ronald Agénor of Haiti.

The sixth seed was always in command in the first set but had to come back from 3-1 down in the second to win the match.

Corretja, second round conqueror of top seed Jim Courier of the United States, broke Costa in the first game of the second set and held his own service to go 2-0 up.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Discard

6 Resells

12 Bullfight cloth

13 Conditional release

14 Pictures

15 Dickens-based musical

16 Pop

17 Hulot's

19 Have a bite

20 Celebrity

22 Adjective suffix

24 Overly

27 Non-copy; abbr.

29 One of the Bears

32 Gertrude Stein quote

35 Timetable, for short

36 Past the deadline

37 Lineman

38 Diary

40 Tramp's love

42 "You Sincere"

44 Leftovers

46 Bridge

50 Scattered

52 And others (Lat.)

54 Moss Hart

55 Shirley, in "Terms of Endearment"

56 Linen closet

57 Fender

DOWN

1 Form of wrestling

18 Zoo bunch

2 Dressed (in)

3 Stately

4 Foolhardiness personified

5 Like an idyll

6 Dick and Jane's dog

7 U.S. map

8 Onassis, to pals

9 17th-century English poet

10 Entreaty

11 Spanish muralist

12 "— for the million..."

18 Zoo bunch

21 Charged bit

23 AP count-erpart

24 "— the season..."

25 Erstwhile

26 Brunch

28 Succeed

30 Zero-star review

31 Addition-ally

33 Bother

34 Embar-rassed

39 1814

41 Long

42 "Oh, woe!"

43 High-calorie

45 Belligerent deity

47 Oodles

48 Letter opener

49 Carrere of "Wayne's World"

51 Place-kicker's pride

53 Calendar

Solution time: 24 mins.

BIP LAND SWIG
ANA ABOW WACO
SCISSORS AGED
SADISM TOM
NIB PLIERS
BARGE CAD COO
AMES VAN CHOP
ROB HIP SLOTS
BRACES SPA
AMI TOUPEE
YAWL TROUSERS
OKAY OARS WIT
MARX RHEE SKA

On the first day of players' transfers

Muktijoddha reap rich

Sports Reporter

The officials of the three big clubs of country's domestic football were left wondering what had hit them as Muktijoddha Sangsad, rated as one of the middlings in the Star Premier Division, roped in 11 of the so-called pool players on the opening day of the inter-club players' transfers at the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) office yesterday.

It was quite a blow for the supremos of the three giants — reigning league champions Mohammedan Sporting Club, runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra and Brothers' Union, the pricey booters and the three superpowers of local football. Whatever one prefer to dub it, the outcome of all the bickerings have surely left Muktijoddha as an outfit to be seriously dealt with.

On the other hand, with the players' pool in shambles, the men at the helm of the top three teams will now have to work some way out of this terrible mess and many feel, the only solution for them in this situation, maybe, to go for overseas players.

Incidentally, the twelve booters, who turned the big trio's plan upside down, opted to stay out of the high voltage transfer drama. These twelve and Ata making up their minds to join Muktijoddha this year.

The Abahani officials, however, were left in a relatively better position than their Mohammedan and Brothers counterparts. Although they lost three of their key players — Mamun Joarder, Masud Rana and Rumi Rizvi Karim — in the sudden shake-up of things, they retained Gaus, who also threatened to join the rebels. To make things even better for them, a number of promising players including goalkeepers Saidur, who played for the national team in the sixth SAF Games, and Dhanu; striker Mintu, who, playing for Abahani on hire in the Charns



Rehanul Karim Rehan of Abahani KC seen taking his token on the first day of the week-long inter-club players' transfers at medio Alamgir and Mohammedan general secretary Fazlur Rahman look anxiously on at the DMFA office yesterday. The two Abahani players handed their token to Mohammedan SC.

who, many thought, had won the first round in the prelude to this year's transfer by striking a deal among themselves, which resulted in an unwritten covenant leading to a pool of 21 most sought-after footballists.

However, such an upheaval seemed imminent with most of these elite booters expressing disapproval of what they termed 'back-stabbing' by the club supremos. The Football Players' Welfare Association clearly indicated that they would come up with some kind of a counter to upset the 'gentlemen's agreement' reached by these club officials.

Yesterday's events came as a sequel to the pre-transfer psychological warfare between alongwith former national custodian Mohsin obtained tokens through their representatives.

The revolt of the pool players left Mohammedans in a delicate situation with five of their key players — midfielders Arman and Tito, defenders Jewel Rana and Barun Bikash Dewan and striker Imtiaz Ahmed Naqib — set to leave the side to join Muktijoddha.

The only source of consolation for the Mohammedan officials lied in the fact that they managed to persuade two Abahani players — Rehan and Alamgir — to play for them this season.

Next to the reigning champions, Brothers Union found themselves at the wrong end of the table with Mizan, Raqib



Action from the Sonali Bank office league match between Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Ansars at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. Navy trounced Ansars 4-0. — Star photo

Waqar to miss Australasia Cup

ISLAMABAD, Apr 9: Pakistan's ace fast bowler Waqar Younis will miss the Australasia Cup in Sharjah as he was hospitalised after appendicitis surgery in Lahore, cricket officials said Saturday, reports AFP.

His place will be taken by medium fast bowler Ata-ur-Rehman, who was in the team that toured New Zealand this year but was dropped from the Sharjah squad, the Dawn newspaper quoted chief selector Imtiaz Ahmed as saying.

The absence of Waqar will weaken the Pakistani attack as he along with paceman Wasim Akram formed the cutting edge.

Doctors said Waqar, who underwent the surgery on Thursday, would leave the hospital in a few days but he would need at least eight-weeks for complete recovery and to be fit again to bowl.

Australia, New Zealand, India, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates are the other teams that will compete in the Australasia Cup tournament scheduled to start on April 13.

Navy march on

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Navy marched into the Sonali Bank office hockey super league with a thumping 4-0 victory over Dhaka Ansars at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The sailors, who remained unbeaten in the league, led the first half 3-0.

Momtaz scored two goals while Farhad and Akhter netted the other two for the winners.

With this win, Navy have eight points from five outings while Dhaka Ansars remain stuck to their previous collection of three points.

Momtaz who rounded up the winners' tally from a penalty stroke in the 40th minute, opened the Navy account in the ninth minute by a spectacular field goal. Farhad doubled the margin in the 17th minute while national colour Akhter made it 3-0 ten minutes before the breather.

Krajicek sends Bruguera packing

BERCELONA, Spain, Apr 9: Seventh seed Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands, dispatched local favourite Sergi Bruguera 7-5, 6-3 to reach the semifinals of the Spanish Open on Friday, reports Reuters.

Krajicek, who has been out of action for five months with knee problems, took one hour 26 minutes to earn a surprise win over the world number four.

The Dutchman, ranked 24th in the world, will now face Haiti's Ronald Agénor in the semifinals following Agénor's 7-6(9-7), 6-3 victory over Italy's Andrea Gaudenzi.

"Krajicek is very quick. I don't mind that he came up to the net a lot because I rather like that, but what did disturb me was his 200kph service," Bruguera said after the match.

The other semifinalists are 19-year-old Alex Corretja who beat fellow Spaniard Jrdi Arrese 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 and sixth seed Carlos Costa, winner of last week's Estoril tournament, who beat compatriot Tomas Carbonell 6-1, 6-3.

Unseeded Corretja continued the impressive form which saw him topple top seed Jim Courier in the second round.

Arrese, at 29 the oldest player in the tournament, played some fine passing shots but was unable to match Corretja's speed about the court.

Costa, ranked 19th in the world, and Krajicek are the only two seeds to have made it through to the semifinals of a tournament renowned for its harsh treatment of the big guns.

Navratilova sails to semis

AMELIA ISLAND, Apr 9: Martina Navratilova continued her impressive showing in the Bausch and Lomb Championships, beating 18-year-old Chanda Rubin in straight sets Friday in the quarterfinals of the \$100,000 clay-court tennis tournament, reports AP.

Navratilova's 6-3, 6-2 victory sends her into Saturday's semifinals against either top seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario or No. 10 Sabine Hack, who played Friday night.

Gabriela Sabatini, the fourth seed, defeated No. 7 Mary Pierce and No. 6 Lindsay Davenport eliminated No. 2 Conchita Martinez 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 in other quarterfinals at Amelia Island Plantation.

This is the 37-year-old Navratilova's last appearance in a Florida tournament and she is making the most of it after losing the opening match in her previous two events.

She hasn't lost a set in three matches here, yet shrugged off the suggestion that she's hardly been challenged in victories over Rubin, Veronika Martinek and Silke Prahl.

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Golam Gaus, the dark national winger, shake hands with an official after submitting his token for Abahani KC on the first day of the inter-club players' transfer at DMFA office yesterday. — Star photo

Honours easy in one-day series too

Aussies win a cliff-hanger

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Apr 9: Allan Border led Australia to an improbable one-run win over South Africa on Friday in what appears likely to be his final international match, reports Reuters.

The 38-year-old veteran of 273 one-day internationals helped the visiting side level the best-of-eight match series at 4-4 after South Africa had reached the last 10 overs needing 60 runs with seven wickets in hand.

Border nominated his inexperienced seam bowler Damien Fleming to bowl the final over, needing six to win. South African pair Dave Richardson and Tim Shaw could only manage five.

Fittingly, Border was also involved in the dismissal which swung the match.

Opener Andrew Hudson had stroked a composed 84 from 136 balls before he fatally lifted a drive against Paul Reiffel to short mid-wicket.

Border, in his specialist position, made no mistake and the South Africans proved unable to reach their target, despite a breathless last two overs.

It was an impressive show of mental strength "by the Australians at the end of a gruelling tour."

Border won the toss on a good looking pitch and must have been disappointed to only realise 203-6 after top-scorer David Boon, Steve Waugh and Ian Healy all reached 40.

Hudson and Kepler Wessels, in contrast, were largely untroubled as they added 82 for South Africa's first wicket until Wessels was bowled by Steve Waugh's slower ball for 28.

The first sign of panic came when Adrian Kuiper holed out off Shane Warne to make it 158 for four in the 43rd over.

It was the first of three wickets to fall for six runs and Border's calmness under pressure was in vivid contrast to the demeanour of the South African batsmen.

Seventeen were needed off the last two overs, and 11 came from Steve Waugh's last, including a mighty six from Eric Simons, before Fleming had the final word.

United Cricket Board managing director, Ali Bacher later praised the whole Australian touring team.

Referring to New South Wales' decision not to send their rugby team to strife-torn Natal, Bacher said, "The Australian cricket team have never once questioned their presence in our country during an important time of transition."

Much of that has been down to the diplomacy and good sense epitomised by Border in a career that seems at last to have taken its final curtain call.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the 50-overs day-night cricket match between Australia and South Africa on Friday:

AUSTRALIA
Slater st Richardson b Shaw 34

Taylor c Wessels b Matthews 1
M Waugh c Wessels b Simons 13
Boon c Wessels b Matthews 45
S Waugh c McMillan b de Villiers 42
Border c McMillan b Matthews 11
Healy not out 41
Reiffel not out 9
Extras: (lb-6, nb-1, w-1) 8
Total: (for 6 wickets, 50 overs) 203
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-31, 3-69, 4-140, 5-143, 6-184.
Did not bat: S Warne, D Fleming, G McGrath.

Bowling:

	O	M	R	W
De Villiers	10	1	44	1
Matthews	10	0	40	3
Simons	10	2	36	1
Shaw	10	0	30	1
McMillan	7	0	34	0
Kuiper	3	0	13	0

SOUTH AFRICA

Hudson c Border b Reiffel 84
Wessels b S Waugh 28
Cronje b McGrath 18
Rhodes c S Waugh b Reiffel 13
Kuiper c M Waugh b Warne 6
McMillan run out 4
Richardson run out 18
Simons b S Waugh 18
Shaw not out 2
Extras: (lb-6, nb-1, w-4) 11
Total: (for eight wickets, 50 overs) 202
Fall of wickets: 1-82, 2-111, 3-143, 4-158, 5-162, 6-164, 7-196, 8-202.
Did not bat: C Matthews, F de Villiers.

Bowling:

	O	M	R	W
McGrath	10	0	44	1
Fleming	10	2	33	0
Reiffel	10	0	34	2
Warne	10	0	37	1
Steve Waugh	10	0	48	2

Result: Australia won by one run.
Series Result: South Africa 4, Australia 4.

Dean Jones calls it a day

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Apr 9: Australian batsman Dean Jones announced his retirement from international cricket Saturday, reports AP.

The 33-year-old right-hander, best known in world cricket for his one-day prowess, stepped down from Australia's 13-man touring party to Sharjah.

Jones made the decision a day after Australia had won a nerve-wracker by one run to tie the eight-match series with South Africa 4-4. Jones was dropped from the side after scores of eight each in the three preceding games.

"I always wanted to play Test cricket. I feel at this stage, at 33, I am not getting any younger and my chances of playing Test cricket is running out," Jones said at a hurriedly arranged news conference. He was flanked by tour manager Dr Cameron Battersby and coach Bobby Simpson.

"At this stage the time is running out, unfortunately, and the life has to stop at some stage. I've got no regrets," Jones said adding that he had enjoyed every bit of his 12 years on the road with Australia.

"I am very emotional about Deano's retirement," Simpson said. "Not having him around, not having his effervescence, his spirits, his desire to do well is going to be a huge loss to the team."

Left handed opener Mathew Hayden will replace Jones in the Australian side for the fortnight in Sharjah for the six-nation Australasia Cup. Jones will continue to play professional cricket for Victoria.

"There is more you can contribute to Australian cricket when you are not fully involved. There are not very many senior players around to help out the youngsters because of their fulltime commitment," Jones said.

"The biggest problem faced by Australian cricket is the lack of senior players helping the youngsters. Especially because all the big boys are on tour all the time."

Jones said he wants to be remembered as a "good Test player, a guy who gave it all who loved his cricket and enjoys life."

In 52 Tests since making his debut against the West Indies in Port-of-Spain (1983-84) Jones has accumulated 3,631 (avg 46.55) with 11 centuries, his highest 210 against India in Madras (1986-87) in only the second Test in cricket history.

Jones was dropped from Australia's Test line-up after the tour of Sri Lanka in August 1992-93, where he scored more than any other top order batsman — 276 (avg 55.20) with an unbeaten century in the second Test.

Since then he has been overlooked for two home summer series — West Indies (1992-93) and New Zealand and South Africa (1993-94).

He replaced Justin Langer in the squad for the one-dayers in New Zealand (1992-93), and later missed out on the winning tour to England in 1993.

Jones' one-day performance — 6,063 runs (avg 44.58) in 164 matches is second only to skipper Allan Border.

He has scored seven centuries and 46 half centuries with a highest score of 145 against England in Brisbane (1990-91), an Australian record.

All-American final in Tokyo

TOKYO, Apr 9: Michael Chang pulled off an impressive victory over Boris Becker on Saturday to set up an all-American final against top seed Pete Sampras in the Japan Open tennis championships, reports Reuters.

Second seed Chang delighted his huge throng of vociferous Japanese fans as he outpaced the third-seeded German 7-6, 6-2 in a battle of contrasting styles on the sun-drenched Centre Court.

World number one Sampras wasted little time and effort

blasting aside eleventh seed Henrik Holm of Sweden 6-2, 6-1 in a mere 47 minutes.

The defending champion fresh from victory in the Osaka Salem Open last week, extended his winning streak to 20 matches and is on course for his sixth title of 1994.

"Things are looking really positive, it's been a pretty good run for me these last three to four weeks. I just hope I can continue it until tomorrow's match," Sampras said.

The 22-year-old champion of the last three Grand Slams was in devastating form. He

pounded in a high per centage of first serves to hold, serve easily throughout and returned consistently and aggressively to break Holm twice in each set.

Chang's win was sweet revenge. The stocky Chinese-American had succumbed to the tall Becker's serve-and-volley game in their only previous two meetings.

"Whenever you're able to beat Becker, it's a good win anywhere," Chang said. "Boris has a certain amount of respect from all the players due to the way he presents himself off and on court."