

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 Narayanganj High School completed the quorum on the same day with wins in their respective 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. Sujan and Arman claimed two wickets apiece.

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

Needed 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, Narayanganj Zila School squeezed into the last four with a hard-fought one-wicket win over Chittagong Govt High School.

Batting 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, Narayanganj posted the required 158 runs for the loss of nine wickets with three balls to spare.

Mymensingh Zila School defeated Medina 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 Reuter.

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

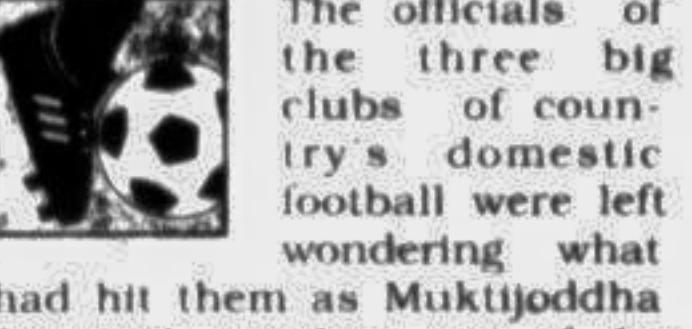
The sixth seed was always in command in the first set but had to come back from 3-1 down in the second to win the match.

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.

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 Metropolis Football Association (DMFA) office yesterday.

It was quite a blow for the supremos of the three giants — reigning league champions Mohammedian Sporting Club, runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra and Brothers' Union,

and Ata making up their minds to join Muktijoddha this year.

The Abahani officials, however, were left in a relatively better position than their Mohammedian 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 Charms

Waqr to miss Australasia Cup

ISLAMABAD, Apr 9: Pakistani ace fast bowler Waqr 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 Waqr will weaken the Pakistani attack as he along with paceman Wasim Akram formed the cutting edge.

Doctors said Waqr, 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 Bruguer packing

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

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 Agenor in the semifinals following Agenor'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," Bruguer said after the match.

The other semifinalists are 19-year-old Alex Corretja who beat fellow Spaniard Jordi Arrese 6-4, 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 tipple 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.

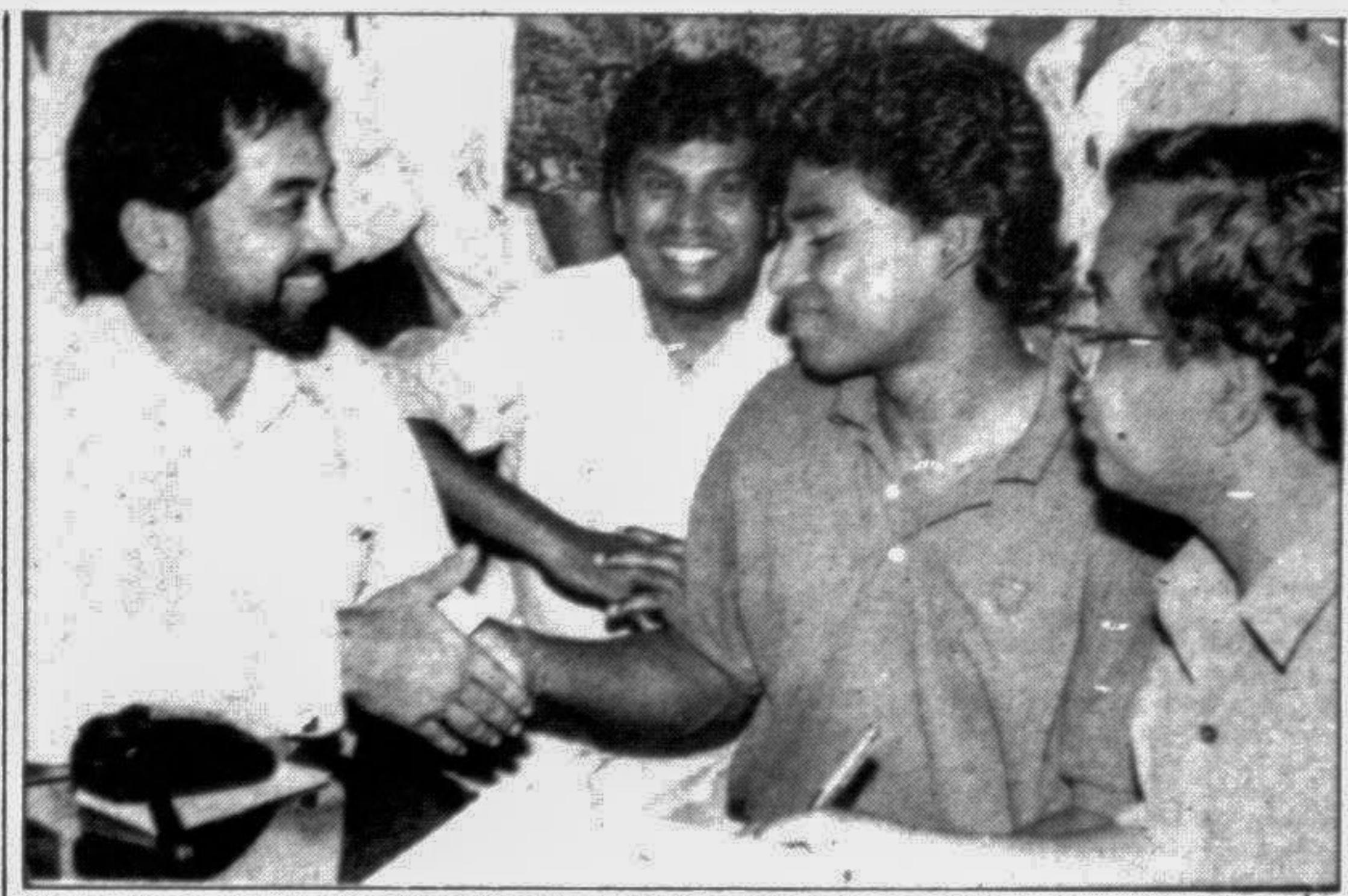
Navratilova's 6-3, 6-2 victory sends her into Saturday's semifinals against either top seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario or No. 10 Sabine Hack, who played Friday night.

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 its 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 Frak.

World number one Sampras wasted little time and effort

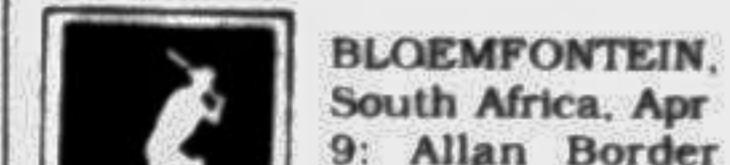


Golam Gaus, the dark national winger, shake hands with an official after submitting his token for Abahani KC on the first day of the inter-club players' transfer at DMFA office yesterday.

— 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 Reuter.

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 and, 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 grueling 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.

SCOREBOARD

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

AUSTRALIA

Slater st Richardson b Shaw 34

4. Australia 4.

South Africa

Hudson c Border b Reiffel 84

Waugh c Wessels b Simons 28

Cronje c McGrath 18

Rhodes c S Waugh b Reiffel 13

Kuiper c M Waugh b Warne 6

McGrath 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) 203

Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-31,

3-69, 4-140, 5-143, 6-184.

Did not bat: S. Waugh 0

Bowling: O M R W

De Villiers 10 1 44 1

Matthews 10 0 40 3

Simons 10 2 36 1

McMillan 7 0 34 0

Kuiper 3 0 13 0

SOUTH AFRICA

Hudson c Border b Reiffel 84

Waugh c Wessels b Simons 28

Cronje c McGrath 18

Rhodes c S Waugh b Reiffel 13

Kuiper c M Waugh b Warne 6

McGrath 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.

Did not Bat: C. Matthews, F de Villiers.

Bowling: O M R W

McGrath 10 0 44 1

Fleming 10 2 33 2

Reiffel 10 0 34 2

Waugh 10 0 48 1

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-wracking 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 Dean's retirement," Simpson said. "Not having him around, not having his enthusiasm, his spirits, his desire to do well is going to be a huge loss."

"The biggest problem faced by Australian cricket is the lack of senior players helping

to the team."