

Muktijoddha KC hoe a hard row

Sports Reporter

Muktijoddha Kri- ra Chakra had to battle for about three hours against the rowdy spectators to earn a 4-2 victory over East End Club on the opening day of the DMFA Cup football tournament at the floodlit Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The second match of the day which started at 7.45 pm was suspended thrice as the angry supporters of Mohammedans and Abahani pelted stones through out the marathon match which finally concluded at 10.15pm.

Monirul Islam, who conducted the checked match blew the final whistle without permitting any injury time in the second session.

Muktijoddha who stole the 11 so-called pool players from Mohammedans, Abahani and Brothers Union in this year's sensational players' transfer was troubled right from the kick-off.

Left winger Rakib, who quit Brothers Union to join Muktijoddha this year was brought down by an East End defender close to the western gallery and the supporters in the gallery started throwing missiles to desist the players from taking to free Kick, causing a ten minute hold up in the proceeding.

Linesman Badal, who was on duty on the western line, was struck by a missile on the head after the breather and was forced out of the match leaving the fourth referee to do the duty on the line.

The unruly supporters also uprooted the corner flag and partially tore the net. Muktijoddha captain Mohsin and winger Mamun Joarder also sustained minor injuries by the hurled wrath of the public.

The spate of undesirable incidents over shadowed a fine performance by national footballer Rumi Rizvi Karim. The renegade from Abahani scored a hat-trick to help his side recover from early set backs. The skillful forward opened the ac-

count for Muktijoddha in the 18th minute when he flicked a Masud Rana free-kick into the far corner of the net 1-0. But the spirited East End backed by the nearly 20,000 cheering fans restored parity two minutes later. Kowshik Ahmed, who scored both the goals for his side, lobbed a feeble shot from outside the box which crossed the goaline eluding the grip of a shaky Mohsin 1-1.

The national colours of Muktijoddha found the going tough with no support or encouragement from the galleries. Rumi put his team in the lead again 11 minutes after the breather with a spectacular side volley 2-1.

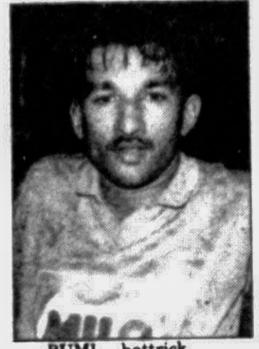
Intiaz Ahmed Nakib, who replaced midfielder Arman in the first half, was little unlucky when his two powerful shots, one in each half rebounded on the pitch from the cross piece.

After the resumption of the match following two successive hold ups midway through second half, Mizan, the hero of Charms Cup made it 3-1 after completing a solo dash.

Three minutes later Kowshik scored the second goal for East End shooting from a goalmouth melee 3-2.

Rumi, who scored the second hat-trick in the curtain-rising tournament following Shafulah's treble in day's first match, completed the tally for

the winners converting a penalty. Referee Monirul Islam awarded the spot-kick to



RUMI... hat-trick

Muktijoddha when Shaikat of East End handled the ball on the goal line to thwart a goal-bound shot from Mizan.

Shaikat who received the first red card of the tournament, appealed for an off-side which was overruled by the referee.

Muktijoddha Kri- ra Chakra will play their second Group A match against the winners of Rahmatganj and Dhanmondi Club on May 1 to decide the champions from the group.

Ashiq Babu and Moshin were cautioned with yellow

cards for rough play.

TEAMS

MUKTIJODDHA KC: Mohsin, Barun (Omar Faroque), Jewel Rana, Ataur, Masud Rana, Tito, Arman (Nakib), Rumi, Mamun Joarder, Mizan and Rakib.

EAST END: Mizanur Rahman (Pappu), Monwar Hossain, Manik, Shaikat, Mohsin, Sumon, Kowshik Ahmed, Ujjal, Dulal (Shahdat Hossain), Mokhles, Ashiq Babu and Selim.

GOAL GLUT

In the first match of the day, Shafulah notched the first hat-trick of the tournament when his team Bangladesh Boys Club crushed lowly Pioneer Eleven 7-0.

Shafulah scored twice in the first half and completed his hat-trick in the 80th minute converting a penalty.

Kamruzzaman, Mostafizur Prince and substitute Amer Khan scored one goal each for the winners who led the first half 3-0.

Pioneer Eleven who were groomed by former national footballer Enayef could hardly withstand the thrust of their opponents and capitulated under pressure ineffectually.

Earlier renowned former footballer Ashraf Chowdhury, who inaugurated the meet, was introduced to the players of both teams.



Jewel Rana (R), the lithe national defender who left Mohammedan this year to join Muktijoddha in a sensational and stunning transfer move along with other star footballers, tries to keep East End's Ujjal at bay in the second match of the DMFA Cup football tournament on the opening day at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

Imran denies any wrongdoing

LAHORE, Apr 27: Former Pakistan captain Imran Khan dismissed allegations Tuesday about his role in the recent dissolution of the Pakistan Cricket Board, and the removal of Javed Miandad from the captaincy, reports AFP.

"It is a figment of imagination in some people's mind that I was responsible for the recent upheaval in national cricket," he told a news conference.

Miandad announced his retirement last month in protest, but withdrew later on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's intervention.

Imran said he had recommended fast bowler Wasim Akram as captain, keeping in view long term planning.

"Now since Wasim has been removed Salim Malik must continue as captain as he is delivering the goods," Imran said.

Malik has proved his credentials during the recent tour of New Zealand as well as in the Australasia Cup in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, he said.

"He played under pressure" during the two matches against India and made "fine tactical changes" during the final against Pakistan's rival, which enabled Pakistan to retain the title at Sharjah, he said.

Imran said conspiracies emerge only when a player was not able to give his best. "I was myself a victim of many such conspiracies but I silenced my detractors through my own performance on the field," the former all-rounder added.

India lost the final of the Australasia Cup "because the Indians were unable to absorb the pressure."

Even otherwise, he said, the Pakistani side was qualitatively "much better than the Indians" who were without key players Kapil Dev and Manoj Prabhakar.

Acme to meet Techvally in office Cup final

Sports Reporter

Acme Laboratories Limited waltzed into the final of the Cup final of the office cricket league outclassing Somatec Pharmaceuticals by 107 runs in the second semifinal at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the final, Acme will take on Techvally, who had earlier earned a passage to the final with an exciting win over Bangladesh Biman in the first semifinal.

The star-studded Acme batted first and raised quite a big total of 196 for eight wickets from the stipulated 40 overs.

National cricketer Akram Khan was the topscorer with a disciplined 57 off 83 balls.

Promising all rounder Al Shahriar Rokon whose leg-spin spelt Somatec's doom later in the day was one of the two batsmen to make 20 plus scores.

He made 26 while Sajid Hassan, the young member of the national team, who came at the wicket after the quick dismissals of openers — the two national discards — Zahid Razzak and Nurul Abedin, scored a quickish 22 from 25 balls.

Former national skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, who is in the saddle of Acme made 18, followed by Zahid and Sajal who contributed 13 and 11.

Veteran paceman Golam Nawsher took three for 29 among the Somatec bowlers. Rafiq too captured three wickets giving away 31 runs.

After a reasonably good start Somatec innings fell apart in the face some aggressive bowling by former national cricketer Jahangir Shah and Al Shahriar.

Veteran Jahangir captured three wickets for eight runs only from four overs while Al Shahriar removed four batsmen for 16 runs from his quota of eight overs.

Somatec were finally all out for 89 in 37.2 overs with Javed Omar Belim making 23.

Gooch eying a return

LONDON, Apr 27: Graham Gooch, England's leading Test run-scorer, emphasised on Wednesday that he still wants to play for his country, despite snubbing their recent tour of the West Indies, reports AFP.

The 40-year-old former England captain opted out of the Caribbean trip because he no longer wanted to be away from home for long periods of time.

But Gooch said Wednesday: "I do still want to play for England. If you get asked to play for England, you will bat anywhere or do anything in my book."

"When I went out to the Caribbean to commentate for a couple of Tests, people asked me if I'd retired from international cricket. Let me say quite categorically that I don't regard myself as having retired."

"At the moment I'm just concentration making runs for Essex at the start of the new season."



Shabana Parveen Nipa (L) captures a piece from Roxana Gulshan Nikkon during their match in the ninth and final round of the 15th national women's championship at the NSC chess room yesterday. Nipa won after 39 moves. —Star photo

Ambrose angers Northants

LONDON, Apr 27: West Indies pace ace Curtly Ambrose faces a fine of more than 1,000 pounds when he finally arrives in England to join Northamptonshire for the county season, reports AFP.

Northants chief executive Steve Coverdale reported that his teammates, the club's members and fans felt badly let down over Ambrose's decision to miss the start of the county season.

He refused to divulge how much Ambrose would be fined, but the club said in a statement that his late arrival would have "a very significant affect" upon the financial terms accepted by the Antiguan for the 1994 season.

The world number one bowler, who failed to arrive on Monday as planned, is now due to land in England on Friday morning.

Coverdale reported that Ambrose was still fully committed to the club, despite his no-show.

"From conversation I've had with Curtly over the last couple of days I can assure everyone

that he is 100 per cent committed to Northants and now realise the effect his recent actions have had on the club," said the chief executive.

"As far as the other players are concerned, time is a great

healer. I think it will be easier for him to fit back into the dressing-room than people imagine. It's going to be a much bigger battle for him to win the public over, though."

There was no lack of public backing for Ambrose's international teammate, batsman Brian Lara, when he arrived in

England on Wednesday to start a new cricketing career with Warwickshire.

The Trinidad and Tobago left-hander, whose innings of 375 against England in Antigua shattered the Test record, was met by his country's high commissioner at Heathrow Airport.

Lara will make his Warwickshire debut in the county championship match against Glamorgan, starting at Edgbaston on Thursday.

He said: "I'm looking forward to a good season it's my first time as a professional here and the conditions are going to be different. But I hope I can adjust as quickly as possible and enjoy the year."

"It's always been a great ambition of mine to play here. I know a couple of people who already play for Warwickshire, so I should settle down pretty easily."

However, Lara admitted that he found the heavy media attention he was subjected to a Heathrow daunting.

"It's quite a lot of pressure to be under, but I'm a fairly relaxed sort of person, so I should be able to cope with it," he said.



CURTLY AMBROSE

Deadlock in nat'l women's chess

Sports Reporter

The 15th national women's championship ended at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday but the winner remained undecided.

At the end of the ninth and last round, last year's runnerup Shabana Parvin and Tanima Parvin were locked at the top position with seven points each.

The two will meet in the play-off on Friday to decide the champion.

Shabana yesterday beat Roxana Gulshan Nikkon. Playing with white pieces, she adopted Queen Pawn opening to wring out submission from Nikkon in 39 moves.

Tanima too played with white pieces and beat Afroza Khanam in 36 moves in a game of French opening.

Last year's champion Zakia Sultana finished third while veteran IWM Rani Hamid came fourth.

Zakia won her last match against Jahanara Huq Runu in a game that lasted 60 moves.

Playing with black pieces Rani Hamid made short work of Afsana Parvin Nira in 37 moves.

Ten players took part in the round robin tournament.

Finance's fourth in a row

Sports Reporter

A brilliant all-round performance by Ziaur Rashid helped the Department of Finance lift the Dhaka University inter department cricket championship title for the fourth year in a row when they careered past the Department of International Relations by 85 runs in the final played at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Rashid scored a solid 80 not out off 91 balls with the help of five boundaries as Finance batting first, rattled up a huge score of 230 for six wickets from their quota of 40 overs.

After three wickets went down rather cheaply with only 46 runs on board, Rashid paired with national cricketer Selim Shahed to add 77 runs for the fourth wicket.

Shahed departed for a run-a-ball 45 featuring two hits to the fence, but Rashid found another willing partner in skipper Ziauddin Ahmad. One hundred and six runs were totted up for the fifth wicket

before Ziauddin left four short of his half century.

Ziauddin scored a brisk 46 off 40 balls sending the ball thrice to the ropes as Finance braced for an unassailable total on a hot, humid day.

At the end of 40 overs Finance total stood at 230 for six wickets with Sabbir chipping in as the other notable

scorer with 20 apart from the trio of major run-getters in the form of Rashid, Shahed and Zia.

Afzal captured two for 34 among the tolling IR bowlers while Atiq, Mesbahuddin, and Ronnie bagged one apiece at varying costs.

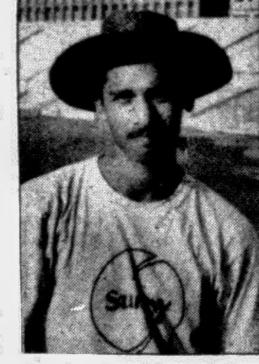
Ziaur Rashid's right-arm off spin accounted for three batsmen and with his peer Palash another snaring three batsmen, IR's predictable surrender came earlier than anticipated.

Rashid took three for thirty and Palash three for 29 as IR in spite of a fighting innings of 45 from Suman were all out for 145.

Himel with 37 and Atiq with a quick 21 tried their best to hold the disintegrating IR innings but enough support was not there.

For Finance Bappi made early inroads with a haul of two for 20 while Shahed produced a light spell of off spin bowling to finish with one for 24.

Pro VC and chairman of the sports board Wakil Ahmed gave away the prizes.



Z RASHID ... all-round show

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

36 Pungent
1 Old Olds
4 Rascally sort
9 In disuse: abbr.
12 Sprite
13 Barbecue site, often group?
14 Morse as Capote
15 Changed
17 LBJ pooch
18 Reverential fear
19 "Out of Africa" actress
21 River in the Carolinas
24 Actor Dullea
25 The whole shootin' match
26 Genetist's initials
28 Spur wheel
31 Nuisance
33 Imogene's costar
35 One may go out with sailors

DOWN

pit
1 Blushing
2 Philanthro- pist Lilly
3 Vacationing
4 Gushed forth
5 Sways
6 Gave in to hunger pangs
7 Capital of Belarus
8 Morgan's "M*A*S*H"
9 Contrarily
10 Cheese tray choice
11 Draining
16 Craze
20 Peace disturbance
21 Hemingway sobriquet
22 One util.
23 TV's "St."
27 Football fill
29 Paradise
30 Plumbum
32 Kingston, e.g.
34 Manner of speaking
37 Introduce a subject
39 La

SOLUTION TIME: 27 min.

CRYPTOQUIP

U J D G O M I X D X I X V V
D G X A M X R L D G U D M U
Z X G D R X L F D M J D X
M Z X R F D X F O M .
Today's Cryptoquip: DEMOLITION MAN DIS-
MANTLING OUR ROOF IS ACCUSED OF WAVES.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip clue: D equals R
Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to finding vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Holyfield hangs gloves up

ATLANTA, Apr 27: Even before he knocked out Buster Douglas for the heavyweight title almost four years ago, Evander Holyfield knew something was wrong with his body.

On Tuesday, four days after losing his title to Michael Moorer on a 12-round decision, Holyfield, 31, was diagnosed with a heart condition, forcing his retirement, report AP.

Holyfield's personal physician, Dr Ronald Stephens, said the condition was manifested by severe fatigue and was diagnosed after the fight Friday night in Las Vegas, it is not life threatening.

"It was not like he was sitting on a time bomb," said cardiologist Dr Douglas Morris. "His heart was not functioning at its maximum level. We did not look at this that his life was imperiled at any time."

Stephens, speaking at a news conference at Crawford Long Hospital, said Holyfield's condition is under control and he could lead a normal life if

he follows a less strenuous lifestyle, meaning no more boxing.

"When Dr Stephens told me, it was an easy decision," said Holyfield, wearing a black warmup suit and slippers after walking slowly, with the aid of a nurse, to the podium. "I'm going to miss boxing a lot, but I believe God put boxing in my life for a reason. I had a lot of love for it and it made a better life for me and my family."

Stephens said the condition, diagnosed as a non-compliant left ventricle or "stiff heart," prevented sufficient oxygen from being pumped to muscles and tissues.

The left ventricle is one of four chambers of the heart and one of two ventricles. It is responsible for pumping blood out of the heart to the body, the right ventricle pumps blood to the lungs.

Stephens said that after the fight Holyfield, who lost for only the second time in 32 fights, was immediately taken to a Las Vegas hospital to treat a kidney condition caused by dehydration and strenuous exercise. He was given massive

amounts of fluid, but his heart was not able to handle the fluid build-up.

"That's when we realised he had a cardiac condition," said Stephens, chief of general surgery at Crawford Long Hospital. Holyfield returned to Atlanta Sunday night and was admitted to the hospital. He will undergo one more cardiac test Wednesday before being released.

Stephens said the cause of Holyfield's condition is unknown so far, but it was not caused by fighting.

The condition was manifested by severe fatigue, Stephens said. "In retrospect, we realise he has noticed progressive fatigue over the past couple of years."

Holyfield said he first realised he was starting to get fatigued during training for the Oct 25, 1990 fight with Douglas. Before that, he said, he was able to train for hours and then go out "dancing all night."

"But for the Douglas fight, I started to get sick and would complain to my handlers. They called me a crybaby," Holyfield said. "I then knocked out Douglas and everybody was happy."

His next fight was against George Foreman on April 19, 1991.

"I was training for Foreman and started complaining again. Again they called me a crybaby. I won and everybody was happy again," said Holyfield, drawing laughter from the crowd of about 50 media in attendance.

He said it was the same scenario in winning title defenses in November 1991 against Bert Cooper and in June 1992 against Larry Holmes.



Germany's Steffi Graf takes a breather with the imposing figure of a minder in the background during her first round match in the Citizen Cup tennis tournament in Hamburg, Germany on Tuesday. —AFP photo

Graf gets into groove

HAMBURG, Germany, Apr 27: Germany's world number one Steffi Graf shrugged off a death threat with a relaxed and faultless performance in her opening match at the Hamburg Open tennis tournament on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Graf, returning to the court where Monica Seles was stabbed in the back a year ago, took just 35 minutes to dispose of compatriot Silke Frankl in a 6-0, 6-0 victory.

Graf's death threat came in a handwritten letter, which was published on Monday, was signed: "Friends of Seles and opponents of Graf."

German police do not believe the threat is serious. But after the attack on Seles all players are being given two bodyguard and undercover police are operating at the tournament which runs until Sunday.