

Damal Sumer cricket grouping announced

Sports Reporter
Reigning champions Abahani Limited have been placed in Group A of the 15th Damal Sumer cricket tournament, scheduled for a November 7 start.

According to the groupings announced yesterday by organisers, the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB), 20 teams split into six groups will fight it out for the six second round places with only the group leaders qualifying. In the second round, the six qualifiers will again be divided into two groups and two teams from each group will advance to the round of last four.

Following is the grouping for the curtain-raising meet of the domestic cricket season:

- Group A:** Abahani Limited, Sadharan Bima and Uddity Club.
- Group B:** Brothers Union, Skatton Sabuj Sangha and Dhamnondi Club.
- Group C:** Mohammedan Sporting Club, Wari Club and Dhaka Wanderers.
- Group D:** GMCC, Kalabagan Krira Chakra and City Club.
- Group E:** Bangladesh Biman, Gulshan Youth, Agrani Bank and Combined Nirman School Eleven.
- Group F:** Victoria SC, Ajax SC, Gopibagh Friends and Surja Tarun.

Div II hockey

Combined Sporting Club took solo lead in the metropolitan Green Delta Second Division hockey super league beating Cantonian SC 1-0 in their fourth league tie at the Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Mahmood Ahmed scored the match-decider from a field goal in the 33rd minute to consolidate their claim for the title.

Tejgaon Agragami, the other unbeaten team in the league, played to a goalless draw with lowly Uttara Hockey Club at the same venue.

RU in last four

Sports Reporter
Rajshahi University qualified for the round of four in the inter-university football championship when they blanked minnows Agricultural University 4-0 at the Dhaka University central playground yesterday.

The winners will take on Chittagong University today in the first semifinal, followed by the second semifinal between hosts Dhaka University and Jahangir Nagar University at the same venue. The final will be held on Thursday.

Women's open badminton

Avesha Khatoon Noori of the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) won double crowns in the women's open badminton tournament which concluded yesterday at the Dhanmondi Women Sports Complex gymnasium, reports UNB.

Noori clinched the singles title beating Zubaida Raisa Ahmed Loba of Sputnik International 11-1, 7-11, 11-6 in the final.

She later won Asheda Khatoon Rumna with the doubles title defeating Loba-Naznin Nahar Liza pair of Sputnik International 15-5, 15-10.

State Minister for Finance Mojibar Rahman was present at the closing function as chief guest and distributed the prizes.

Ctg soccer

Chittagong Oct 25: Chittagong Abahani Krira Chakra beat Rising Star Club 2-1 in the CJKP first Division football league at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

The first half of the match ended 1-1. Jalal and Tipu scored one goal each for Abahani while Hanif netted the lone goal for Rising Star.

Rising Star took the lead in the 15th minute through Hanif, who scored off a cross from Munna (1-0). Six minutes later, Abahani equalised when Jalal found the mark with an angular shot off Aminus from Jamir. Abahani scored the winning goal in the 47th minute when right winger Tipu dodged past three Rising Star defenders in the danger zone.

Rising Star collected eight points from 14 matches.

Title aspirants Abahani now are in a very advantageous position for the championship with 25 points from 15 matches. They need only three points from their next three matches in the league with Sea-Customs, Ispat Ekadosh and arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club.

The other match between Agrabad Nowjoan Club and Regency club ended in one-all draw.

FM's condolence

President of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) A S M Mostafizur Rahman expressed his shock and grief at the tragic death of Gaminii Dissanayake, president of Sri Lankan Cricket Control Board in a bomb blast in Colombo on Sunday, reports BSS.



Monira Rahman Dalia of BTMC shows the victory sign after setting up a new national record in the 400 metre free-style on the opening day of the 14th national age group swimming championship at the Mirpur National Swimming Complex yesterday. She clocked one minute 17.51 seconds. — Star photo.

National age-group meet on



The 14th national age-group swimming championships got underway yesterday at the Mirpur national swimming complex with seven previous marks eclipsed on the inaugural day.

Of the 18 events decided yesterday, Bangladesh Ansars and Rajshahi Education Board evenly shared eight golds, followed by Pabna DSA and Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP), who have three each. The other four were equally shared between Bangladesh Biman and Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC).

Two nanants each from Ansars, Rajshahi Education Board (REB) and Pabna and one from BTMC set the new records on the day.

Mohammad Jahangir Alam led an REB 1-2 in the 100-metre butterfly for the boys aged

between 11 and 12 with a time of 1 min 17.51 secs, shaving 2.49 seconds off the previous mark. Aminul Islam followed Jahangir in 1:23.58 ahead of Ibne Rashid of BKSP, who timed 1:33.20.

Monira Rahman Dalia of BTMC finished way in front of the Ansar pair of Rehana Zaman and Zarina Akhter in the women's 400m freestyle, touching the board in 5:48.06, 4.52 inside of the previous best.

Lipi Akhter of Ansars won the gold in the 200m butterfly for the girls of 13-14 age group with the top three finishing almost half a minute inside the old mark. Lipi clocked 3:30.55.

Mahmud Sharif rewrote records in the women's 200m breaststroke with a time of 3:16.26. The old mark was 3:19.91.

Mohammed Abdul Hamid

Ripon of Pabna earned a fantastic double when he set new marks in both 100 freestyle and 400 individual medley for the boys of 15-17 age group. Ripon shedded one and a half seconds from the previous mark of 1:1.67 in the 100 freestyle while he performed even better in the 400 finishing more than six seconds inside the previous mark.

Masud Rana's record was fraction of a second inside the old mark of 1:11.77, clocking 1:11.14. The Pabna natant finished ahead of M Golam Rahman of Madartpur and Aminur Rahman of Rajshahi in the 100 backstroke for the 15-17 age group.

Earlier, Feroza Begum, country's leading exponent of Nazrul songs who is also the sister of M Asafuddinwah, president of the Bangladesh Swimming Federation, inaugurated the three-day meet. Her brother was also present.

Rahmatganj win, DMFA loses



Curtains fell on the domestic football season yesterday, leaving organisers Dhaka Metropolitan Football Federation still in search of an adequate measure to do away with the painfully frequent match-rigging in the Star First Division football league.

The league of the lesser ten came to a befitting end as regards the general pattern when Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society clinched the title through a pre-arranged 5-5 draw with Victoria Sporting Club at the Dhaka Stadium under the floodlights.

The off-court equation which led to the on-court equilibrium, however, remains quite a puzzle for Victoria might have set up a date with Farashganj Sporting Club in a play-off for the second promotion berth behind Rahmatganj had they beaten the new champions. So, why Victoria had settled for a draw when they could have benefited from a Rahmatganj defeat which would have done little harm for the Star First Division kings, who had already con-

firmed their promotion in their previous match, remains a point to be pondered.

Meanwhile, the pre-destined draw was another blow to recently-taken DMFA resolution of punishing culprits involved in settled matches with a fine of Taka 25,000, which was more often than not played with during this year's league. Should DMFA keep silent about this type of unholy deals then why, feels football buffs, did it take the pain to

introduce such punitive measures in the first place?

Nevertheless, as far as the league is concerned, the fact that matters is that Farashganj made it to the Star Premier Division, due to, among other things, unexpected generosity on the part of the Victoria officials.

In the other match of the day, East End shared four goals and two points with Shantinagar Club at the same venue.

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STAR FIRST DIV STAS

Following is the final standing of the First Division teams.

Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	P
Rahmatganj MFS	18	8	9	1	31	20	25
Farashganj SC	18	6	11	1	20	14	23
Victoria SC	18	6	10	2	26	18	22
Sadharan Bima	18	6	8	4	20	13	20
Dhanmondi Club	18	3	12	3	22	21	18
Shantinagar Club	18	4	10	4	18	18	18
East End Club	18	4	9	5	22	23	17
Eskaton SS	18	4	9	5	22	25	17
Wanderers Club	18	1	14	3	13	16	16
Muslim Institute	18	1	2	15	15	41	4

Top Scorers: 12 goals — Milton (Rahmatganj); 8 goals — Don (Eskaton SS); 7 goals — Selim (East End) and Amin Khan (Victoria SC); 6 goals — Liton (Dhanmondi), Shakhawat (S. Bima), Towhid (Rahmatganj) and Masud Karim (Shantinagar); 5 goals — Abul Hassan (S. Bima) and Mostakim (Rahmatganj); 4 goals — Towhid (Dhanmondi), Liton (Farashganj), Uzzal (East End), Rijajul Hakim (Muslim) and Titas (Victoria).

Kapil Dev at end of road?



NEW DELHI, Oct 25: Test cricket's leading wicket-taker Kapil Dev has accepted an offer to become a television commentator, fueling speculation that his 16-year-old career has finally ended, reports AFP.

The 35-year-old Indian all-rounder said today he had agreed to do television commentary on the ongoing triangular limited-overs series between West Indies, New Zealand and hosts India for the state-owned Doordarshan network.

Kapil, who was forced to miss the triangular because of a hamstring injury, will begin his new assignment on Sunday when India play the West Indies in Kanpur, and continue until the final on November 5.

But Kapil, who has not yet announced his retirement from the game, refused to say whether he will also provide commentary on the three Test matches against the West Indies that follow the triangular.

Kapil was planning to announce his retirement after the final of the triangular in Calcutta's Eden Gardens, but the hamstring injury suffered during a one-day match against the West Indians in Faridabad last week upset his plans.

Kapil's hopes of going out with a bang now depend on whether the national selectors pick him for the Test matches against the West Indies, ahead of younger seamers like Javagal

Srinath, Manoj Prabhakar and Venkatesh Prasad.

India has usually picked just two seamers for home Tests, to accommodate three spinners on wickets that assist turn from almost the first day, and Kapil's declining strike rate has not helped his cause.

Media reports have indicated that Kapil may be selected for the final Test in his

home town of Chandigarh, giving India's best known cricketer a suitable platform to bow out from.

Speculating on the timing of Kapil's retirement has become a national pastime in India since he overtook New Zealander Richard Hadlee's world record of 431 wickets during the home series against Sri Lanka earlier this year.



Mili Akhter of Bangladesh Biman celebrates her victory after finishing first in the 100 metre butterfly of the 11-12 years age group on the opening day of the four-day national age group swimming championship at the Mirpur National Swimmingpool yesterday. — Star photo

Reefat's first loss

Sports Reporter
International Master Ziaur Rahman, the Bangladeshi national champion, forced resignation yesterday from arch-rival I M Reefat bin Sattar in their sixth round match of the 11th Dr. Qazi Motaahar Hossain International Masters' chess championship, which was adjourned on Monday after 61 moves.

Zia, playing with white pieces, opened the match with queen's pawn and consolidated his position after Reefat, who lost his unbeaten record yesterday, failed to cling to a chance for a draw. The encounter lasted for 78 moves.

The other competitors had a day off yesterday. Reefat's defeat means the former national champion now shares the top slot with Indian V Sharavanan with five points each from six outings, with IM Lanka Ravi also from India trailing half a point behind.

Udal joins Alec Stewart on the sideline

PERTH, Oct 25: England's injury problems intensified today when spin bowler Shaun Udall broke his left thumb to join vice-captain Alec Stewart on the tourists' casualty list, reports Reuter.

Udal sustained the fracture as he attempted a difficult diving catch off his own bowling during England's opening tour match against the Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI.

The Hampshire bowler left the field in obvious pain at the end of the over and an X-ray later confirmed the fracture.

"It is a nasty break and Shaun could be out of action for three to four weeks," England physiotherapist Dave Roberts told Reuters.

Stewart suffered a hairline fracture to his right index finger during a squad practice match on Monday and the opening batsman is expected to be sidelined for between 10 to 14 days.

Brain dead

RIO DE JANEIRO, Oct 25: A Brazilian soccer fan shot outside the Maracana stadium after a match was declared brain dead by doctors on Monday, a hospital spokesman said, reports Reuter.

Wagner Soares da Silva, 22, a fan of the Sao Paulo club Palmeiras, was shot in the neck by the occupants of a passing car following Palmeiras' away match with Flamengo on Saturday.

"He is not clinically dead as his heart is still beating. But his condition is irreversible," said the spokesman at Rio's Souza Aguiar Hospital, where the man had been placed on a life support machine.

No arrests have been reported.

Holyfield fit to fight

ATLANTA, Georgia, Oct 25: Former world heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield insists he'll fight again, despite having sarcoidosis, a disease that can attack the heart and lungs, reports AFP.

Holyfield said he underwent medical tests this week that showed he was fit to fight.

"They said I passed all my tests and I could get back in there, without a health problem," he said. "I am cleared to fight and I am applying for a license."

Holyfield's doctor, Christopher Vaughns, supervised the tests. Vaughns is the same doctor who diagnosed sarcoidosis, which causes small fibrous tumors in the tissue it attacks.

The cause of the illness is unknown, and Holyfield and Vaughns refused to discuss the fighter's condition in more detail.

Gooch's prompt reply



PERTH, Oct 25: Former England captain Graham Gooch produced a swift reply here Tuesday to a suggestion by ex-Australian skipper Greg Chappell that the 41-year-old veteran may be too old for top cricket, reports AFP.

a totally happy England day. The tourists' casualty list grew when off-spinner Shaun Udall broke his left thumb — an injury which could keep him off the field for up to a month. Udall was struck when he attempted to catch promising 19-year-old Rickey Ponting off his own bowling. The bowler was taken to

hospital for X-rays and the injury, at the base of the thumb, was bound.

This mishap came only a day after vice-captain Alec Stewart, one of England's most dependable batsmen, broke the index finger of his right hand during practice.

He is expected to be sidelined for two weeks, causing him to miss another three games.

Luckily for England, Udall is unlikely to come under serious consideration for a Test place until the third Test, a starting in Sydney early next year.

Gooch impressed with his pace, accuracy and hostility during his 9.4 overs.

However, his pace-bowling colleague Martin McCague, apparently nervous, had anything but a happy return to Australia, where he learned his cricket before deciding to return to England.

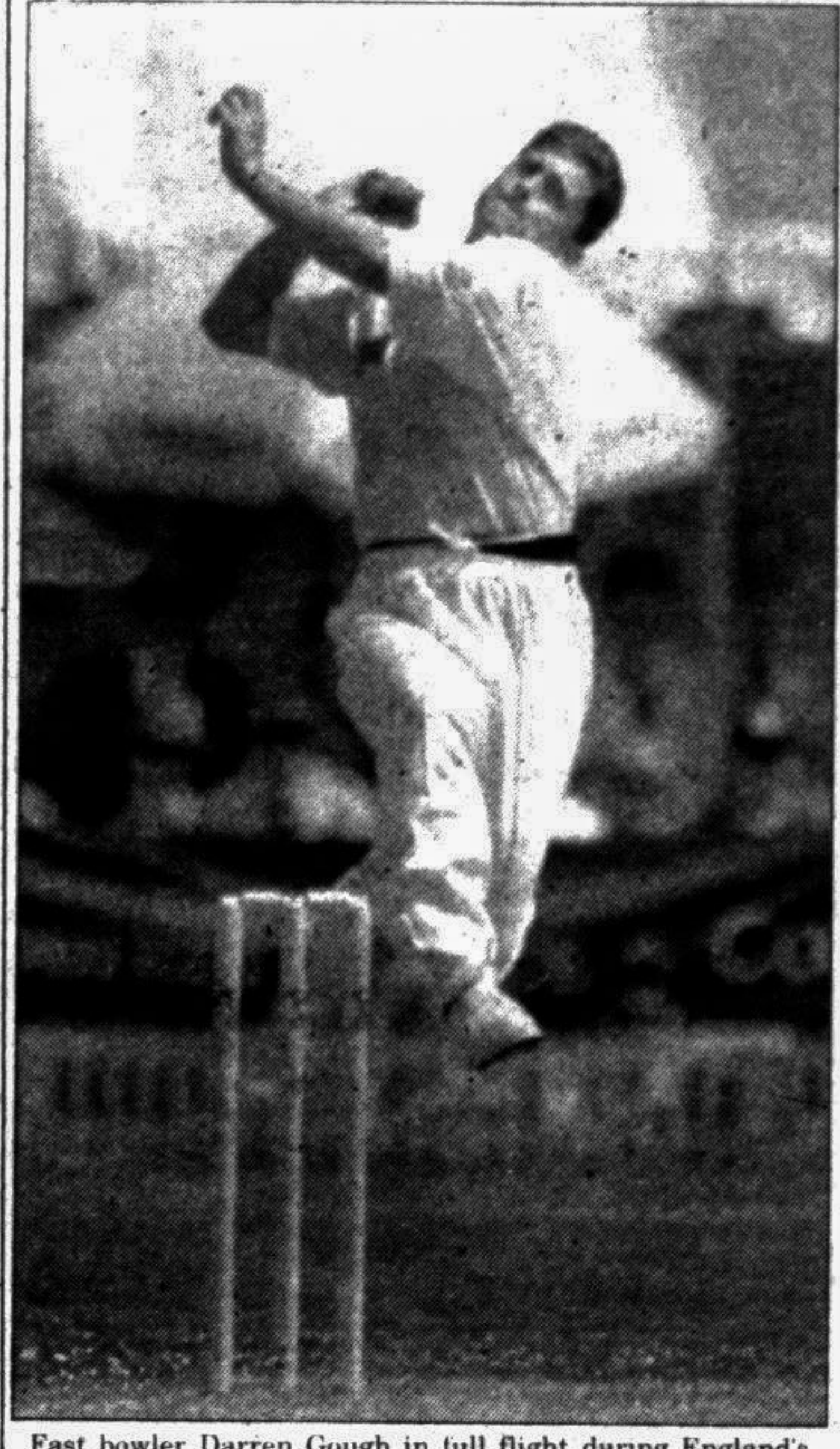
He was handled savagely by Ponting, conceding 33 runs from his opening three overs. Despite the late wickets of former champions Rodney Marsh and Dennis Lillee, he conceded 61 runs from seven overs.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the England v Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI exhibition match at Lilac Hill Park, Caversham, near here, Tuesday.

ACB CHAIRMAN'S XI

Moody lbw Gough	0
Marsh c DeFreitas b Gough	46
Ponting c and b Gough	82
Martyn c Thorpe b DeFreitas	36
Chappell b Gough	3
Hogg lbw Bengamini	33
Zoehrer b Gough	4
Julian c Rhodes b DeFreitas	1
Marsh b McCague	11
Lillee b McCague	0
Thomson not out	2
Extras: (lb-1, w-5, nb-8)	14
Total	232

Fall of wickets: 1-15; 2-132; 3-139; 4-143; 5-213; 6-213; 7-214; 8-230; 9-230; 10-232.



Fast bowler Darren Gooch in full flight during England's first tour match Down Under against an Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI in Perth. England won the one-day exhibition game by seven wickets with Gooch taking 5 for 32. — AFP photo

Gooch hit a scintillating century to guide England to victory in the opening match of their Ashes tour the very day after Chappell raised doubts about the ability of a player of Gooch's vintage to retain the mental dedication to succeed.

In a chanceless exhibition at Lilac Hill Park, Caversham, just north of the city, Gooch hammered 129 from 130 balls as England raced to 236 for three to beat an Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI by seven wickets with 16 balls to spare.

The Chairman's XI were all out for 232.

Gooch clubbed 19 fours and two sixes during his vintage 151-minute knock in the heart of the Swan Valley wine-producing district.

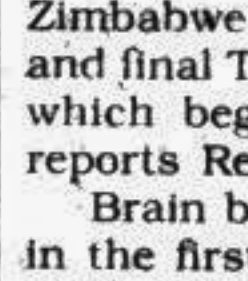
But despite Gooch's dominant form and a superb performance by fast-medium bowler Darren Gooch, who captured five for 32 in the Chairman's innings, it was not



GRAHAM GOOCH... 129

Lanka-Zimbabwe 3rd Test from today

Brain ready to roll



HARARE, Oct 25: Left-arm seamer David Brain, injured in the opening Test, returns to bolster the

Zimbabwe attack for the third and final Test against Sri Lanka which begins on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Brain bowled only five overs in the first Test before straining a chest muscle and the injury also kept him out of the second Test which ended on Monday.

The first two Tests in this inaugural series between the two countries were drawn.

The return of Brain is the only likely change in the Zimbabwe line-up.

"Brain will come straight back into the side and that will strengthen our seam attack considerably, but the rest of the team is not likely to change," Zimbabwe coach John Hampshire said.

Durable Duran

BAY ST LOUIS, Miss., Oct 25: While waiting for a rematch with Vinny Pazienza, former world boxing champion Roberto Duran stopped journeyman Heath Todd.

Fighting for the first time in three months, Duran defeated Todd in the sixth round at Casino Magic on Tuesday, reports AP.

"He is the type of fighter you have to be careful with the most," said Duran, a four-time champion who lost a 12-round decision to Pazienza. "He could put you in a bad situation because he has nothing to lose. Duran now sets his eyes on Atlantic City, NJ, where he will take on Pazienza in a followup to their controversial fight three months ago.

ATP annoyed at CTA's move

BEIJING, Oct 25: The Association of Tennis Professionals ATP said today it would no longer sanction men's tournaments in China as Beijing officials had granted exclusive rights to organise events to an unidentified agent, reports Reuter.

Players and ATP officials said they were shocked by the Chinese Tennis Association's (CTA) decision, announced just after top-seeded Michael Chang had retained the Salem Open by beating unseeded Anders Jarryd 7-5, 7-5.

Lawrence Scott, chief operating officer of the ATP Tour, said his organisation would not work with the CTA's agent and would "no longer be able to sanction professional tennis in China."

Jarryd said he was saddened by the news.

"Now it's just going to be exhibition stuff and it's not going to develop tennis in China," he said.

Beijing officials said they were perplexed by ATP's unwillingness to work with their new agent whom they declined to name.

"I don't understand why the ATP is doing this. We would like to work with them," said Ren Yi, a CTA official.

He made clear the financial backing of the new agent was the key to the CTA decision.

"If they give us a good deal, this is business," he said.

Spinks floored in Round One

WASHINGTON, Oct 25: Unknown fighter John Carlo posted a spectacular first-round victory over former world heavyweight champion Leon Spinks in a non-title bout here Saturday, reports AFP.