

Damal Summer from today

Sports Reporter

Besides Lamba Abahani are almost assured of the services of another Delhi player, a much more vaunted name, the former Test spinner Maninder Singh.

The official of the Dhamonji team are reportedly trying hard to rope in Pakistani Test cricketer Rameez Raja.

Twenty-one teams divided into six groups will compete in the first phase to be played on league basis.

Group A: Abahani Ltd, Sadharan Bima KS and Uddi Club.

Group B: Brothers Union, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha, Dhamonji Club and Lalmita Club.

Group C: Mohammedan SC, Wari Club and Dhaka Wanderers Club.

Group D: Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC), Kalabagan KC and City Club.

Group E: Bangladesh Biman, Gulshan Youth Club, Agrani Bank Club and Combined Nirman School team.

Group F: Victoria SC, Surjo Tarun Club, Ajax SC and Gopibagh Friends Association.

Six group champions will play in the second phase beginning from November 25.

LOOPHOLES IN BY-LAWS

Meanwhile, organisers Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) have revised the extant by-laws for this season. However, the more knowing section of the local cricket

buffs feel not all the rules promulgated are feasible.

Particularly the one regarding allocation of overs appear problematic given the competence of local umpires.

According to the article 5(c), the side fielding first must complete the 45 overs in the stipulated time. If they fail to do so they will continue their full quota of overs. But while batting they will bat the number of overs that they have bowled within the stipulated time. . . . If in the opinion of umpires the batting side has caused any delay their overs will be curtailed on the basis of one over for four minutes.

The rule specifically assigns the power of judging whether there is an intentional on the part of the batsmen on the fielders to the umpire, which may lead to controversy and knowing the general attitude to the umpires, to undesirable incidents.

With prevalent doubts over umpires' competence, an apt decision might appear biased to blind supporters. What seems to many as the adequate measure to avert such mishaps is appointment of match referees, which, they feel, would dispel the cloud of alleged favouritism on the umpires' part.

Now can the organisers afford to realise this concept? If not, how do they plan to make the by-laws effective - a question the authorities should really work on.

Dean Jones' condition for a return

MELBOURNE, Nov 6: Dean Jones intends to break his retirement from international cricket if the Australian Cricket Board guarantees him the captaincy of the Australian A team this summer, reports AFP.

Jones, who led Victoria to victory over New South Wales with an unconquered century here Saturday, said he did not want to be remembered as a filler in for the Australian A team with no assurances of playing international cricket again.

"I've got to keep my integrity," Jones said Saturday. "If they want me to be captain of the Australian A team and they want me to come out of retirement I'll do it."

"I'm not going to come out of retirement and leave all the options to the selectors."

"I'm not going to end up playing second eleven cricket when I know I'm good enough to play for the first team."

Jones, who has a Test average of 46.55 with 11 centuries in 52 Tests, retired from international cricket earlier this year while on the South African tour.

But it may have been a premature decision as Australia will play a second eleven in the upcoming World Series Cup one-day international series with England and Zimbabwe.



Referee Joe Cortez pushes George Foreman away as Michael Moorer lies prostrate in the tenth round of their scheduled 12 round title bout in Las Vegas on Nov 5. Foreman, 45, created boxing history after becoming the oldest heavyweight champion. —AFP photo

Foreman makes fairy-tale true

LAS VEGAS, Nov 6: With a blasting two-punch combination, George Foreman, 45, erased the memory that has haunted him for 20 years, reports AP.

"I exorcised the ghost (of Muhammad Ali) once and for ever," the 45-year-old Foreman said after knocking out Michael Moorer to win the IBF and WBA heavyweight championships Saturday night.

For nine rounds, Foreman looked like a battered old fighter whose hopes of regaining at least part of the championship he lost when he was knocked out by Ali on Oct. 30, 1974, could not be realised.

Foreman's face was lopsided from Moorer's right jabs and right hooks. His left eye was closing. He was huffing and puffing.

Then, with shocking suddenness in the 10th round, Foreman knocked Moorer out.

"He should never have stood in front of me," the 250-pound (113-kg) Foreman said.

But for a brief moment in the 10th, that's just what the 26-year-old Moorer did.

Slam, came foreman's left hook.

Crash, came his right hand.

And Moorer landed flat on his back with his arms outstretched. He barely moved a muscle as referee Joe Cortez counted Foreman into boxing history.

When Cortez completed the 10-count, Foreman, the boxer-

turned-preacher-turned-actor-turned-champion, knelt in prayer in a neutral corner.

"It's like the song: 'When you wish upon a star and your dreams come true,'" Foreman said. "Well, look at me tonight."

"He didn't see the punch coming," said Moorer's trainer, Teddy Atlas. "That was the best punch George threw all night. That was what we were afraid of."

"I got lackadaisical," said Moorer, who became an ex-champion one week before his birthday. "I just got caught. That's part of boxing. I'm going to have to live with it."

Foreman became the oldest fighter to win a championship in any weight class at 2:03 of the 10th round. The previous oldest heavyweight champion had been Jersey Joe Walcott, a mere 37 when he knocked out Ezzard Charles in 1951.

When Moorer crashed to the canvas, a crowd of 12,127 came to its feet as one. It didn't take anyone with two eyes long to realize that Moorer was not going to get up in time.

Jubilation broke out as the fans screamed themselves silly. Foreman's younger brother, Roy, passed out in the ring and was removed on a stretcher. He later made an appearance at the post-fight press conference and appeared OK.

"I tried to stay with the game plan I was doing," Moorer said. "I was stunned too quickly. He came back, he's a quick man. I don't know

if my punches affected him."

"I'm a straight right-handed puncher and sooner or later I'm going to hit you," Foreman said.

It's doubtful that in his legendary career, Foreman has hit anyone any harder than he hit the 222-pound (100-kg) Moorer, who went down like a rag doll.

Moorer landed 369 of 641 punches through nine rounds and connected on 259 of 450 jabs. Foreman landed 229 of 496 total punches and 115 of 268 jabs.

After the ninth round, judges Jerry Roth and Chuck Giampa each favoured Moorer 88-83, while Duane Ford favoured Moorer, but only by 86-85.

The AP card had it 89-82 for Moorer.

Foreman needed a knock-out to win.

Many people had questioned Foreman's right to a heavyweight championship shot since he had not fought in 17 months and had lost that fight on points to Tommy Morrison.

Foreman shrugged off the criticism like so many jabs.

"One of these days — it may be Nov. 6 — people will be saying 'he got the title shot because he deserved it,'" Foreman said before the fight.

They were saying it Saturday night. In fact, they were shouting it — George Foreman is champion again.

No longer when Foreman's

career is discussed through the years will his loss to Ali be mentioned. What will be remembered will be the fact that age 45, he became the heavyweight champion again, winning the way true champions do. With an eye closing and his back to the ropes, Foreman summoned all the strength left in his weary body and knocked out his tormentor.

Foreman was seemingly invincible going into the fight against Ali on Oct. 30, 1974.

He never got a rematch, and after he lost to Jimmy Young in 1977, he retired to become a preacher.

He launched a comeback in 1987 to, he said, earn some money for his Houston youth centre. He fought his way to a title shot against Evander Holyfield and was outpointed April 19, 1991.

That appeared to be his last hurrah. And for nine rounds Saturday night, Foreman looked like he had made a mistake to even think he could be a champion again.

Foreman, who earned about \$1 million, improved his record to 73-4 with 68 knockouts. Since beginning his comeback in 1987, his record is 28-2 with 26 knockouts.

Moorer, of Detroit, earned \$1.75 million. He is 35-1 with 30 knockouts. This was his first defence of the title he won from Holyfield on April 22.

De Silva hits a ton, SL win one-day series

Hosts humiliated at Harare

HARARE, Nov 6: Sri Lanka crushed Zimbabwe by 191 runs in the third and final one-day international today to clinch the three-match series 2-1, reports Reuters.

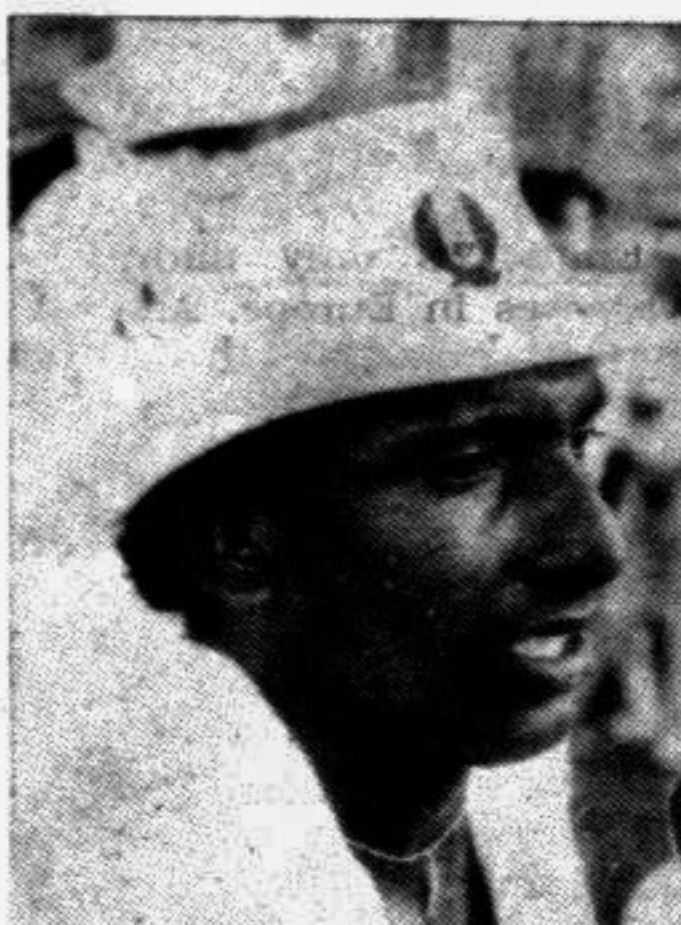
Sri Lanka compiled an impressive 296 for four in their 50 overs, with Aravinda de Silva top-scoring with a career-best 107 not out and captain Arjuna Ranatunga scoring 85 at a-run-a-ball.

In reply, Zimbabwe slumped to a disastrous nine for three in the second over and then 22 for five in the 12th before totalling 105 for nine in 48.1 overs. It was comfortably their lowest score in one-day

internationals, beating their previous low of 134 against England at Albury in the 1992 World Cup in Australia.

For the home side, only Wayne James (29), Mark Dekker (23 retired hurt) and John Rennie (18 not out) reached double figures while Ravindra Pushpakumara returned three for 25 and his new ball partner Chaminda Vaas two for 12.

Aravinda de Silva's third one-day international century was the highlight of the day, coming from 100 balls with nine fours.



A DE SILVA... 107 n.o.

He reached three figures in the final over of the innings with a savage pulled six over wide long on off the hapless Rennie's medium pace. Rennie conceded 21 runs in the final over to finish with figures of nought for 60 in seven.

De Silva and Ranatunga shared in a authoritative fourth-wicket stand off 143 in only 24 overs, with both finding the gaps in the field at will. The left-handed Ranatunga was the more aggressive of the two in the early stages of the partnership and was particularly strong off his legs.

Ranatunga eventually departed in the 46th over, lofting left-arm seamer David Brain to Grant Flower at deep extra-cover. He had faced 83 deliveries for his forthright 85 and struck six fours.

Chasing 297 to win, poor Zimbabwe batting then put them right out of the game when they lost the key wickets of Grant Flower (0), captain Andy Flower (eight) and Dave

Houghton, who was dismissed by the first ball he received, before the end of the second over.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third and final one-day (50 overs) cricket match between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka at Harare Sports Club on Sunday:

SRI LANKA:				
R Mahanama lbw b Brain	40			
S Jayasuriya c A Flower b Brain	11			
A Gurusinha c A Flower b Whittall	25			
A de Silva not out	107			
A Ranatunga c G Flower b Brain	85			
R Kalpage not out	12			
Extras: (lb-3, w-10)	16			
Total: (for four wickets, 50 overs)	296			
Fall of wickets: 1-18; 2-76; 3-106; 4-249.				
Did not bat: H Tillekeratne, M Muralidharan, P Wickremasinghe, C Vass, R Pushpakumara				
ZIMBABWE				
A Flower c Muralidharan b Pushpakumara	8			
G Flower c Tillekeratne b Vaas	0			
A Campbell c Mahanama b Vaas	2			
D Houghton lbw b Pushpakumara	0			
M Dekker retired hurt	23			
G Gurusinha b Pushpakumara	7			
W James run out	29			
H Streak run out	8			
D Brain b Muralidharan	0			
J Rennie not out	20			
S Peall b Wickremasinghe	2			
Extras: (lb-3, nb-2, w-1)	6			
Total: (for nine wickets, 48.1 overs)	105			
Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-9; 3-9; 4-11; 5-22; 6-69; 7-70; 8-86; 9-93.				
Bowling				
	O	M	R	W
Vaas	7	2	12	2
Pushpakumara	9	1	25	3
Wickremasinghe	9	1	17	1
Muralidharan	10	0	21	1
Kalpage	10	1	21	0
Jayasuriya	2	1	2	0
Tillekeratne	1	0	1	0
Mahanama	0.1	0	3	0

Result: Sri Lanka won by 191 runs.

First one-day: Sri Lanka won by 56 runs

Second: Zimbabwe won by two runs

Sri Lanka won series 2-1

N'ganj soccer

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 6: Suktara Junior Kira Chakra came from behind to post a 3-2 win over Sirajuddowlah Club in the Hanjin Shipping First Division football league at the Osmani Stadium here today.

Suktara, who were 2-0 down at the breather, fought back gallantly in the second half and snatched a thrilling victory when Monir struck the match-winner three minutes away from time. Imron and Pitu score the other two for the eventual winners.

However, Zafar and Zakir gave Sirajuddowlah a two-nil lead with strikes in the 14th and 26th minutes respectively.

Netaiganj KC will take on Godnail Kira Proshikshan Shibir tomorrow.

DU cricket

Sports Reporter

Department of Law recorded an impressive seven-wicket victory over Social Welfare in the Dhaka University inter-department cricket championship at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Battling first Social Welfare Department made 150 for 8 in their allotted 30 overs.

Ashish top-scored with a wellmade 39.

Arif led Law Department's run chase with a breezy 86 not out. They achieved the target with the loss of three wickets and 5.2 overs to spare.

Stewart fighting to be fit

ADELAIDE, Nov 6: England vice-captain Alec Stewart is struggling to be fit for the touring team's next four-day match against New South Wales starting on Nov 12, reports Reuters.

Stewart, who fractured his right index finger during a practice match on October 24, had originally targeted the one-day game against the Prime Minister's XI in Canberra on Nov 9 as his comeback date.

But although he has batted in the nets during the team's current game against South Australia in Adelaide, team manager Keith Fletcher said: "Alec is still some way from being fit."

The injury is pretty sore and it's taking its time to heal so he must be doubtful for the four-day game.

Touch thrash Manju Sangha

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 6: Goal rush continued for the second successive day in the Emma Overseas senior division football league when Touch Vedio Club recorded a thrashing 8-0 victory over Manju Smriti Sangha at the local stadium here today.

Milon scored four goals for the winners, who led the breather 4-0.

Kamal netted two goals while Swapan and Milon(f) scored once each in an one-sided affair.



England's Martin McCague fails to stop the ball while Jamie Brayshaw (C) and Jamie Siddons complete a run. Both batsmen slammed centuries for South Australia on the third day of their four-day fixture against the tourists at the Adelaide Oval on Nov 5. —AFP photo

Brayshaw, Siddons steady S Australia

A cold day for Englishmen

ADELAIDE, Nov 6: Centuries by James Brayshaw and captain Jamie Siddons ensured South Australia's batsmen dominated the third day of their four-day match with England at the Adelaide Oval on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Brayshaw's 101 and an unbeaten 100 from Siddons, supported by Darren Webster (49) and Wicket-keeper Tim Neilsen (33 not out) helped South Australia reach 415 for five by the close of play, a lead of 194 to set up the possibility of an intriguing final day.

Conditions were hardly ideal for bowling and fielding with a bitter south-westerly

gale blowing across the ground, bringing with it occasional blustery showers.

It was so cold that one spectator watched the cricket from inside a small tube-like tent set up on a grassy bank next to the Bradman stand.

Despite the conditions, the pitch is playing easily and a draw has now become the likeliest result, although both sides can still harbour realistic victory hopes.

England will be looking to wrap up the home side's innings quickly on the final day and the home side must be thinking over a possible declaration with the prospect of unleashing spinners Matthew Minagall and Peter McIntyre on the touring team's batting.

In the fifth over of the day, Darren Gough had Martin Faulk caught at third slip for 47 by McCague, then the Kent pace bowler struck four balls later, having Paul Nobes caught behind for 72, cutting.

But then Webster and Brayshaw added 88 for the fourth wicket with Webster missed on 38 by Joey Benjamin at long leg. The Surrey seamer had his revenge soon afterwards when he trapped him lbw.

After Brayshaw fell Siddons and Neilson then added an unbroken 99 for the sixth wicket as acting captain Mike Gatting, who shuffled his bowlers vainly, searched for another break-through.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on Sunday, third day of the four-day cricket match between England and the South Australia state-team at Adelaide Oval:

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: 1st Innings

102

ENGLAND: 1st Innings

323

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: 2nd Innings

101

Innings

Blewett c Rhodes b Gough 0

Faulk c McCague b Gough 47

Nobes c Rhodes b McCague 72

Webster lbw Benjamin 49

Brayshaw c Hick b White 101

Siddons not out 100

Nielsen not out 33

Extras: 13

Total: 415

Fall of wickets: 0, 126, 126, 214, 316.

Bowling:

Gough 29 3 112 2

McCague 28 9 104 1

Benjamin 26 3 76 1

Tufnell 21 5 59 0

White 17 1 52 1

Hick 2 0 7 0

Batting time: 493 minutes.

Overs: 123.

Ctg football

CHITTAGONG, Nov 6: Bakalla Kira Sangtha earned full points in the CJKP First Division football league beating Regency Club 1-0 at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Liaquat scored the all-important goal in the 20th minute off a corner.

Bakalla and Regency have collected 12 points from 16 matches.

The other match between Chittagong City Corporation Club and PDB Club ended in a goalless draw.