

GMCC, Biman off to fine start

Sports Reporter
Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) and Bangladesh Biman were easy winners in their 15th Damal Summer cricket tournament openers yesterday.

At the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium, GMCC humiliated minnows City Club by a massive 106-run victory, thanks to creditable all-round showing from Javed Omar Belim, who stroked a breezy 52 and later, claimed three wickets for 23 runs with his occasional off-spinners.

Sent in to make the first use of the strip, the GMCC batsmen had party time against the weak City Club attack, five making 20-plus scores.

Skipper Mahbubur Rahman Selim top-scored with a 66-ball 53 followed by Javed who stayed at the crease for two balls less for his half century. Sanwar, Babul and Anis contributed 34, 27 and 20 respectively as GMCC amassed 235 in 45 overs losing seven wickets, in the process.

City Club were never in the chase against some accurate bowling from K Ibrahim, who took three for 19 runs, and Belim could manage only 129 in 40.4 overs.

Away at the Mirpur Pallabi ground, Biman raced to a resounding nine-wicket win against the Nirman School XI.

Put in to bat first, the youngsters garnered 129 for the loss of eight wickets in the allotted 45 overs with Ehsanul Haq and Ridwan Hassan notching up 41 and 43 respectively.

The modest target was always easy for the airlines team to get and with national opening bat Jahangir Alam in fine fettle the task was made even easier.

Alam made a run-a-ball 68 with two sixes and six fours and Habibul Bashar, who left Brothers Union only this year a sound 29 as Biman earned home in 21.1 overs. The only batsman to fall was Ziaur Rashid caught by Ridwan off Tanvir for 19.

Milan don't suit Gullit
ROME, Nov 9: Troubled Italian champions AG Milan agreed on Wednesday to return Dutch striker Ruud Gullit to First Division Sampdoria, a Milan spokeswoman said, reports Reuter.

In return, the Genoa-based Sampdoria striker Alessandro Melli, 24, will go to Milan. The spokeswoman declined to say how long the deal would last.

"An agreement has been reached, but still needs to be signed," she said. Further details would be released later on Wednesday once the deal had been completed, she added.

The agreement was struck with only hours to spare before Wednesday's 7pm (1800 GMT) close of the transfer market and a final agreement would have to be signed by then.

The dreadlocked Gullit, 32, whose transfer was widely expected, returned to Milan last September after a season at Sampdoria.

Gullit collected 15 goals for Sampdoria but has scored only three times for Milan this season.

Leeds after Dahlin
LEEDS, England, Nov 9: Leeds United are reportedly poised to make a move for Swedish international striker Martin Dahlin, reports AFP.

Manager Howard Wilkinson has been frustrated with his forward line this season, particularly Brian Deane, who has scored just 14 goals in 36 games since his £7 million pound move from Sheffield United.

He has been searching for a top-class marksman since missing out on Czech international Tomas Skuhravy from Genoa and has sold Frank Strandli to the Norwegian side SK Brann for 100,000 pounds to make way for another striker.

Dahlin, who rejected a move to Everton after a successful World Cup in America, currently plays for German outfit Borussia Moenchengladbach, who rate him at 2.8 million pounds.

Neither Wilkinson nor managing director Bill Forthery — both away on business — were available for comment.

Ctg soccer
CHITTAGONG, Nov 9: Sea Customs beat Abahani Krira Chakra 2-1 in the CJKP First Division football league at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Sea Customs led the first half (1-0). Mashi Salam and Sujit scored once each for Sea Customs while Tipu netted Abahani's consolation goal.

In the other match Friends Club beat Chittagong City Corporation Club by a solitary goal.

Chanchal scored the all-important goal in the first half for the Friends Club.

First time ever for the Indians and Jadeja

CUTTACK, India, Nov 9: Ajay Jadeja scored his maiden one-day century on Wednesday, putting on 176 for the first-wicket with Sachin Tendulkar, to lead India to their first one-day series victory over West Indies, reports Reuter.

Jadeja hit 104 and Tendulkar completed 88 as India recorded a remarkable eight-wicket victory to take an unbeatable 3-1 lead in the five-match series.

West Indies looked likely winners until the 20th over with the prolific Indian openers struggling for runs on a slow wicket of uneven bounce that made batting difficult.

Their total of 251 for nine, with a masterly 89 from Brian Lara, looked to be slipping out of India's sight until Jadeja set about West Indian off-spinner Carl Hooper, lofting him for two sixes in an over which cost 17 runs.

The next two overs went for 11 and 13 runs respectively and India were suddenly on course for victory.

The pair were finally separated when Tendulkar drove over a ball from Phil Simmons and was bowled off his legs for 88 made in 120 balls.

Jadeja went on to make 104 off 126 balls until clipping West Indian captain Courtney Walsh off his legs straight into the hands of Cameron Cuffy.

Vinod Kambli, despite suffering a back strain that made him grimace, and Indian captain Mohammed Azharuddin then took their side to a historic victory with four balls to spare.

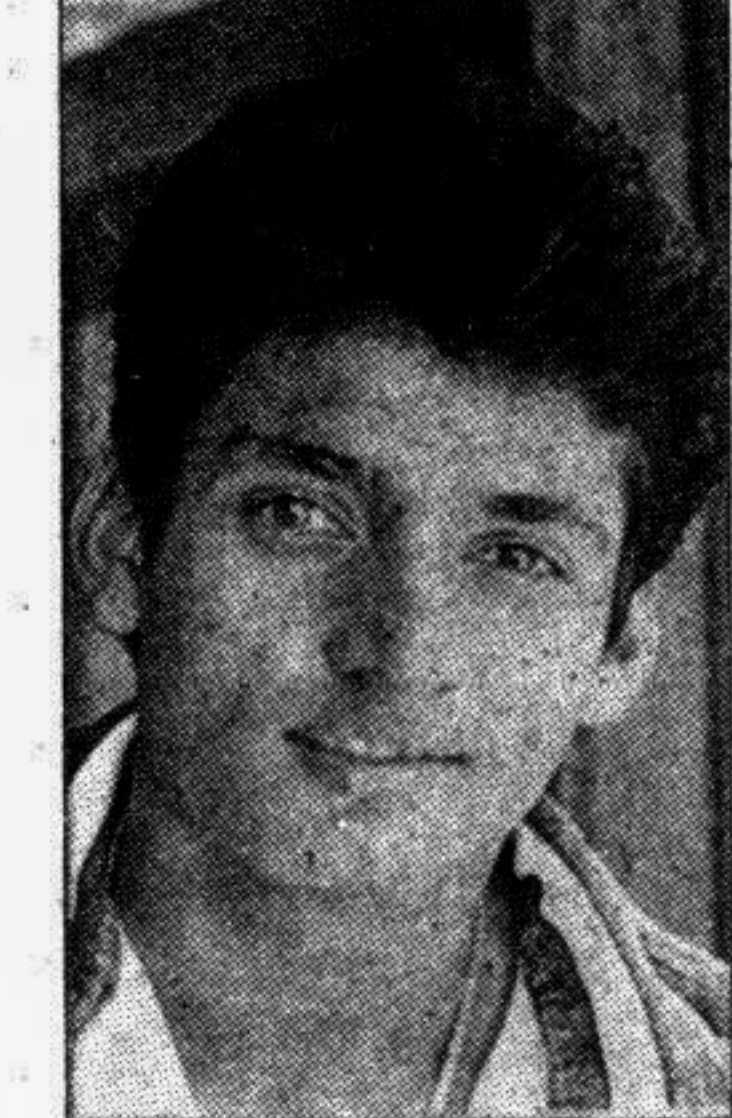
Kambli made 40 not out and Azharuddin was unbeaten on 17 at the end, both batsmen scoring at a run a ball.

It was a win that exposed the West Indies' lack of bow-

ing depth, only Walsh and Cuffy managing to curtail the Indians.

But on a tricky pitch, Lara's best score of the tour so far had taken the West Indies to a score that seemed to pose a challenge to an Indian side lacking injured Navjot Singh Sidhu, whose unbeaten century won the previous match.

Lara, hitting top form for the first time on the tour of India, dug the West Indians out of a hole as the first three wickets tumbled with only 77 runs on the board.



AJAY JADEJA... m-o-m
Lara struck eight fours and a six for his 89, and put on 91 with Keith Arthurton, a stand that ended with a brilliant catch by Indian wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia.

He sprinted 15 metres to scoop up a ball from left-arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju that fooled Arthurton and popped up high in front of the wicket.

Lara went soon after to another smart piece of work by Mongia, who whipped off the balls as leg-spinner Anil

Kumble got one past his bat.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the fourth one-day international between West Indies and India here today:

WEST INDIES
Simmons run out 32
Williams c Prabhakar b Sharma 15
Lara st Mongia b Kumble 89
Hooper run out 27
Arthurton c Mongia b Raju 2
Holder not out 36
Chanderpaul lbw b Jadeja 0
Murray c Prabhakar b Jadeja 3
Cummins lbw b Kumble 8
Walsh b Kumble 0
Cuffy not out 16
Extras: (lb-4, w-15, nb-4) 23
Total: (9 wks -50 overs) 251
Fall of wickets: 1-47; 2-67; 3-77; 4-168; 5-191; 6-192; 7-202; 8-228; 9-228

Bowling:
Prabhakar 8 0 35 0
Srinath 7 0 32 0
Sharma 7 1 31 1
Kumble 10 0 43 3
Tendulkar 2 0 20 0
Raju 6 0 33 1
Jadeja 10 0 53 2

INDIA
Jadeja c Cuffy b Walsh 104
Tendulkar b Simmons 88
Kambli not out 40
Azharuddin not out 17
Extras: (lb-6, w-1) 7
Total: (2 wks) 256
Did not bat: A Bedade, M Prabhakar, N Mongia, C S Sharma, J Srinath, A Kumble, V Raju
Fall of wickets: 1-176; 2-222

Bowling:
Walsh 10 1 29 1
Cuffy 10 1 36 0
Cummins 9.2 0 52 0
Hooper 4 0 34 0
Arthurton 3 0 29 0
Simmons 8 0 46 1
Chanderpaul 5 0 24 0
Overs: 49.2

Result: India won by eight wickets
Man-of-the-match: Ajay Jadeja

For Vogts, it's do or die
BONN, Nov 9: German coach Berti Vogts, whose job will be in danger if the former world champions continue to struggle, has decided to play safe with his squad for next week's opening European Championship qualifier in Albania, reports Reuter.

Vogts, who announced his squad in Tuesday, kept faith with 12 players involved in Germany's disappointing World Cup but refused to include in-form playmaker Bernd Schuster.

Former Barcelona midfielder Schuster is eager to play international football for the first time in 10 years.

The conservative policy could backfire, however, if the old faces fail again in a difficult game in Tirana following lacklustre performances in friendlies in Russia and Hungary.

A defeat would almost certainly mean the end in charge for the 47-year-old trainer, who was heavily criticised after Germany's quarter-final World Cup exit at the hands of Bulgaria.

Vogts had made some concessions to critics who believe he should look more to the future. He has included Karlsruhe defender Dirk Schuster, Freiburg midfielder Jens Todt, and VFB Stuttgart striker Fredi Bobic in the 19-man party.

But he could be accused of being over cautious by ignoring 34-year-old Schuster yet including Werder Bremen's Dieter Eilts, who is inexperienced at international level despite his 29 years.

Vogts also named Eintracht Frankfurt's 25-year-old midfielder Ralf Weber in the squad.

Moeller and Thomas Haessler as playmakers.

However, Moeller was Germany's biggest disappointment at the World Cup and many believe Sammer will soon demand to play as libero, the role in which the former East German has shown superb form for his club Borussia Dortmund this season.

Vogts' refusal to move captain Lothar Matthaus out of the sweeper's position still remains controversial.

Matthias, 33, is clearly not as mobile and effective as Sammer in the libero role.

SQUAD
Goalkeepers: Oliver Kahn (Bayern Munich), Andreas Koepke (Eintracht Frankfurt).
Defenders: Thomas Berthold (VFB Stuttgart), Juergen Kohler (Juventus), Lothar Matthaus (Bayern Munich), Stefan Reuter (Borussia Dortmund), Dirk Schuster (Karlsruhe), Thomas Strunz (VFB Stuttgart), Ralf Weber (Eintracht Frankfurt).
Midfielders: Dieter Eilts (Werder Bremen), Thomas Haessler (Karlsruhe), Andy Moeller (Borussia Dortmund), Matthias Sammer (Borussia Dortmund), Jens Todt (Freiburg), Christian Ziege (Bayern Munich).
Forwards: Fredi Bobic (VFB Stuttgart), Ulf Kirsten (Bayer Leverkusen), Juergen Klinsmann (Tottenham), Karlheinz Riedle (Borussia Dortmund).

BERTI VOGTS
although he lacks the flair and experience of former Barcelona midfielder Schuster, who quit the national team in 1984 after 21 appearances.

Vogts countered the critics by saying he did not need Schuster because he already had Matthias Sammer, Andy

Grobelaar stirs commotion
LONDON, Nov 9: English soccer was rocked by scandal Wednesday as former Liverpool goalkeeper Grobelaar was accused of taking bribes from a gambling syndicate to fix matches, reports AP.

The Football Association ordered an immediate investigation into the charges against the 37-year-old Zimbabwean, who now plays for Southampton.

Grobelaar, who cancelled a trip home to Zimbabwe, denied the allegations and consulted with lawyers.

The Sun newspaper alleged that the goalkeeper accepted 40,000 pounds (dhs 64,800) from a Far East betting ring to throw a game last November between Liverpool and Newcastle. Liverpool lost the match 3-0. The betting ring was believed to have netted more than three million pounds (dhs 4.8 million) from the result, the Sun said.

The newspaper claimed it had secretly filmed Grobelaar admitting he threw the game.

The report alleged that Grobelaar was offered an additional 175,000 pounds (dhs 280,000) to let in goals in other league matches, including last Saturday's game between Southampton and Manchester City. That match ended in a 3-3 draw.

The Sun said it had a video recording of Grobelaar accepting money in an envelope.

"Clearly these are disturbing reports and there needs to be a very urgent and thorough investigation," FA chief executive Graham Kelly said.

Southern director Lawrence McMenemy said the club supported Grobelaar and would not take any disciplinary action against him while the inquiry was being held.

"Obviously if the person is found guilty of this sort of thing we would be very concerned, but until there is any proof we stand by our man," he said.

Liverpool's chief executive Peter Robinson said the club had promised "full cooperation" with the FA probe.

Grobelaar canceled a flight to Zimbabwe Tuesday night when he was besieged by reporters at Gatwick airport. He was due to play for Zimbabwe against Zaire in an African Nations qualifying match on Sunday.

"I never tried to throw a game in my life," Grobelaar was reported as saying when he was approached by Sun reporters.

The player was quoted as saying the accusations would probably "destroy me, my career, my marriage and my existence here."

Grobelaar has a reputation as one of the most colorful players in English soccer and is often referred to as a "clown prince."

He made his name with Liverpool, where he played in more than 400 games over 13 years and won league championships in 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986 and 1988. Grobelaar also shared in league Cup triumphs over three consecutive years from 1982 to 1984, collected FA Cup medals in 1986 and 1989 and was a European Cup winner in 1984. He transferred to Southampton in August.

English soccer's biggest bribery scandal was in 1966 when 10 players were found guilty of rigging results. One player was jailed for four years, the others for terms between four and 15 months.



Toil, torment, whither?

Sports Reporter
Groveling under relentless experiment, Bangladeshi footballers prepare for possibly the last go at the elusive gold in a regional competition.

Man Young-Kang, the new South Korean coach engaged by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) to shore up the ruins left by his Swiss predecessor Oldrich Shav, is working on a new formula for the 25 booters now undergoing training at the BKSP for the SAARC Gold Cup football tournament, to be held in the Sri Lanka capital of Colombo from December 2.

The 34-year-old Korean former national player, who is putting the beleaguered booters thrice-a-day rigorous workouts with the express intention of ensuring top physical condition, is trying a new combination of a sweeper behind four defenders, four midfielders and only one man up front, something akin to the play adopted by German coach Bert Vogts in the last World Cup.

While the fate of the former world champions in the United States does not inspire optimism as an instance, the condition of the players at the residential camp hardly augurs well.

National defender Monem Munna has already shed seven kilograms while Jewel Rana another battle weary campaigner came up with a curious observation: "My limbs feel numb, I feel like a robot."

Unwittingly, the lanky central defender was the spokesman for his comrades, who unanimously expressed exhaustion from an unprecedented three-session-a-day workout after a grueling domestic season.

On the other hand, their tormentor, the South Korean coach voiced optimism: "The boys will deliver the goods on the big occasions."

The football fans of this country would surely want to believe that.

No place for Mushtaq
KARACHI, Nov 9: Pakistan have dropped leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed from their 16-man squad to tour South Africa and Zimbabwe starting this month, reports Reuter.

Salim Malik has been reappointed as captain for the tour which includes one Test in South Africa and three in Zimbabwe.

TEAM
Saeed Anwar, Aamir Sohail, Shakil Ahmed, Inzamam-ul Haq, Salim Malik (Captain), Basit Ali, Asif Mujtaba, Ijaz Ahmed, Rashid Latif (Vice-Captain), Moin Khan, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Aaqib Javed, Kabir Khan, Manzoor Elahi, Akram Raza.

Malcolm has yet to prove himself, says M Waugh
SYDNEY, Nov 9: Australian batsman Mark Waugh claims England pace spearhead Devon Malcolm still has to prove himself over an extended period in Test cricket, reports AFP.

Waugh, who returned this week from Australia's tour of Pakistan, will play for Sheffield Shield champions New South Wales against the tourists in a four-day game starting Saturday in Newcastle.

The right-hander scored a century on his Test debut against an England attack containing Malcolm in January 1991 and also prospered in last year's Ashes series in England.

Malcolm, who took 1-166 in his Test debut against Australia in 1989, has performed patchily in Ashes clashes.

He took 16 wickets at 41.56 on the 1990-91 tour of Australia. But he captured six wickets in England's only victory to the 1993 series.

He routed South Africa by taking 9-57 in England's last Test match but boasts an overall record of 98 wickets at 35.08 from 28 Tests.

"Devon Malcolm is obviously the key, he is the one everyone has been talking about," said Waugh on Wednesday.

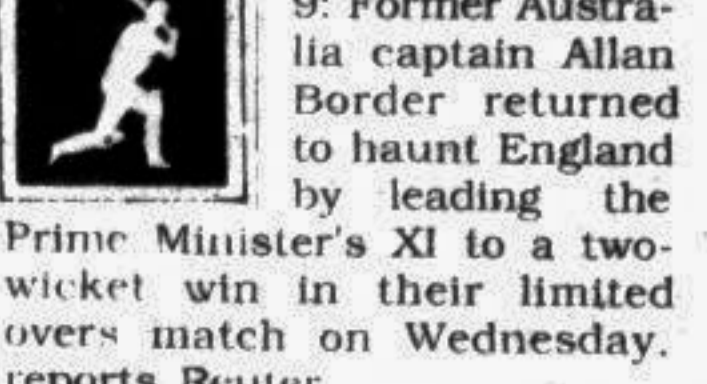
"To my mind on his day he is a very good bowler, but he has not produced consistent results over the last couple of years," he added.

"Although he has got big wraps on him," he said, "to me he has yet to prove himself over an extended period of time."

Pointing to England's performances in recent Ashes campaigns, Waugh claimed the England selectors were right to stack their attack with genuine pace bowlers.

"I think the only guy who has been successful against us, was Devon Malcolm in that 1993 Test at the Oval," he conceded.

Border England's bogeyman



CANBERRA, Nov 9: Former Australia captain Allan Border returned to haunt England by leading the Prime Minister's XI to a two-wicket win in their limited overs match on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

reached their target with 14 balls to spare at Manuka Oval. It was a memorable outcome for Border on what was expected to be his last limited-overs appearance against England.

But he predicted the tourists would prove more challenging opponents during



England struggled throughout, losing wickets regularly while hitting only three boundaries before being dismissed in the 47th over.

England captain and opener Mike Atherton was top scorer with 31, equalling the number of extras. Only four other England batsmen reached double figures.

"It was a slow, low wicket, with a very slow outfield and these are not the conditions you would like to see for a limited overs match," Border added, an opinion shared by Atherton in his post-match comments.

"The ball seemed this morning and took spin during the afternoon it was difficult for the batsmen to play any shots," he added.

South Australia opener Darren Lehmann scored 43 to provide a foundation for the Prime Minister's XI. Border made 13.

England spinner Phil Tufnell grabbed three wickets at a cost of 30 runs but had to contend with a barrage of good-natured insults during the game.

England captain Mike Atherton gave his players a lashing after the match.

"It was criminal that we did not even bat for the last three and a half overs of our innings," he said, following the team's two-wicket loss to the Prime Minister's XI at Manuka Oval.

Sent in by former Australian skipper Allan Border, England were routed for 143 in just 46.3 overs in this traditional fixture.

The Australian side also had problems on the tricky pitch, but scrapped home at 144 for eight with 14 balls to spare.

Atherton said: "If we had lasted the extra three and a half overs we might have scored and extra 20 runs and won the match."

"Even so, I was pleased with the fielding and general fighting spirit of the side," he added.

"It was not an ideal pitch for one-day cricket, but often wickets like that produce more interesting games. Limited overs matches nowadays can often become very sterile and boring."

The England reverse comes only 13 days after they went down to Western Australia in Perth in a one day game.

Chasing England's meagre 143, the Prime Minister's XI

the forthcoming five-Test Ashes series, starting in Brisbane on November 25.

"England have a good combination and my gut feeling is that this series will be a lot tighter than the previous three," Border told reporters afterwards.

"It's hard to dissect from this match, but they have got such strike-power with Darren

Sick Sampras still sails
ANTWERP, Belgium, Nov 9: Pete Sampras, fighting a throat infection, managed to beat local hero Johan Van Herck 7-6, 6-4 on Tuesday to advance in the 1.1 million dollar European Community Championship, reports AP.

Peru's Jaime Yzaga, seeded eighth, beat German qualifier Arne Thoms 6-2, 7-6 (7-1), ending a string of upsets that had sent two seeds home on the first day.

Sampras, who returned to competition on October 19 after the latest in a series of injuries sustained since winning Wimbledon in early July, was repeatedly outplayed by the 157th-ranked Belgian, but prevailed after 81 minutes on his first match point.

Sampras, seeking to fine-tune his game ahead of the season-ending ATP Tour World

Championship in Frankfurt next week, will be the first player to hold the world number one ranking for an entire calendar year since Ivan Lendl in 1987.

"Thoms is difficult to play against," said Yzaga. "There's no pattern in his game."

Yzaga, world-ranked 31, easily won the first set, but was in trouble when he wasted several matchpoints on 5-4 in the second set.

"I got a little nervous," the Peruvian said. "He (Thoms) changed his game and started to play more from the back. I guess I was lucky to win it in the end."

Sampras said he had considered pulling out of the tournament but had played because of his own pride.

"I don't like to lose. I've got too much pride to go out. I wasn't sure I was going to play today to tell you the truth but I felt (that) if I could get some adrenalin going I could work my way through," he said.

"I actually felt pretty good in the second set."

"I'm looking forward to my day off. I'll take it easy, just take the antibiotics I've been taking the last couple of days and I should be in good shape."

On Tuesday, the Sports Palace also lost crowd favorite Guy Forget of France, who was beaten by American Jared Palmer 7-6 (7-4), 6-3. Frenchman Cedric Pioline beat Mark Woodforde of Australia by an identical score.

The tournament already lost two top-20 players on Monday when Dutchman Richard Krajicek, seeded fourth, and Australian Jason Stoltenberg, the No. 5 seed, lost in straight sets.

Second-seeded Michael Stich and No. 3 seed Stefan Edberg play their openers on Wednesday.

The tournament is key for both Stich and Edberg, as they still want to reach next week's IBM-ATP Tour World Championship. If they are ousted early, they are unlikely to make the Elite Eight.

Under the complicated computer rankings, Stich will probably have to reach Sunday's final to be able to defend his World Championship title next week.



American Pete Sampras makes a backhand return against Belgian Johan Van Herck during a first round match at the Antwerp ECC tournament in Belgium on Nov 8. Sampras won 7-6, 6-4. — AFP photo