

Damal Summer resumes today

Sports Reporter
The 18th Damal Summer cricket tournament resumes after a day's gap with two matches billed for today. Victoria Sporting Club will take on Gopibagh Friends Association at the Mirpur Pallabi ground while Surja Tarun will play Ajax Sporting Club in the other match at the Dhanmudi Cricket Stadium. Meanwhile, no matches will be held on November 12 and 13 for 'unavoidable reasons,' said a BCCB press release issued yesterday. The suspended matches will be held on November 14 and 15.

Div I chess

Sports Reporter
Brothers Union overcame the shock defeat of their Pakistani star IM Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi to maintain their solo lead with 14 points at the end of the fourth round of the First Division chess league at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Brothers finally prevailed over Ansars 3-1.

Although Lodhi, who finished third in the recently concluded QM Hossain International Masters chess tournament, lost to local Kalimullah Khan, Brothers' other stars twinkled duly.

Niaz Morshed, the lone Grand Master of the country, V Sharavanan of India and Abdullah Al Rakib were the easy victors for Brothers Union.

In the other billings of the day, Bangladesh Biman beat Farashganj SC 3.5-5 and Boby Fisher Chess Club blanked Parijat Chess Club 4-0 to jointly share the second slot with eleven and a half points each.

Stewart still optimistic

NEWCASTLE, Australia, Nov 10: Vice-captain Alec Stewart is still confident of playing in the first Test against Australia in Brisbane despite ruling himself out of England's latest first-class match, against New South Wales starting on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Stewart fractured his right index finger batting in a practice match in Perth on October 24 and has yet to play on tour.

And his decision to sit out the match in Newcastle to ensure his finger is completely healed means he will have just one match — against an Australian XI in Hobart, starting on November 18 — to prove his form and fitness before the first Test, which begins a week later.

But, after flying in from Canberra with the squad on Thursday, Stewart said: 'I've got no fear that I'm cutting it fine and it's never entered my head that I won't be playing in the first Test.'

The finger is still a little sore but it will only be three weeks on Monday since I suffered the injury, and it takes anything between two and four weeks for most fractures to heal.

'Come Monday, I'll be looking to resume nets, and then it's up to me to make sure I have enough practice, whether it is out in the middle in Hobart or in the nets, to mean I'm in contention for the Test.'

Stewart's original hope was to play against South Australia in Adelaide, then, when he missed out on that match, he looked to play against the Prime Minister's XI in Canberra.

That proved impossible too, but Stewart has accepted that it would be pointless trying to rush back before the injury has healed.

Rodney Eyles crashes out

YOKOHAMA, Japan, Nov 10: World number four Rodney Eyles crashed out of the 100,000 Japan Super squash tournament on Thursday, beaten 15-13, 14-15, 15-8, 14-15, 15-5 in a 65-minute second round match by Tony Hands of England, the ninth-seed, reports Reuter.

For Hands' 25, it was his first advance to the quarterfinal stage of a world tour even since the World Open Championships in Karachi 12 months ago.

'It is also the first time I have managed to get past Rodney Eyles,' he said. 'I guess it probably is my best win to date in terms of world rankings.'

'Rodney was a bit off his game and, as he became increasingly angry with himself, he made too many errors, especially in the early part of the match, but that is when you get these chances.'

The top quarterfinal on Friday will be between world champion Jansher Khan of Pakistan and Peter Nicol, the young Scot who unexpectedly defeated him the last time they met in the second round of last February's Welsh Classic in Cardiff.

Bangladesh to meet India in Asia Cup opener



CALCUTTA, Nov 10: Reigning champions India will take on minnows Bangladesh on April five next in the inaugural match of the fifth Asia Cup cricket championship to be held at Sharjah, reports PTI.

Announcing the details of the competition, Jagmohan Dalmiya, the secretary of the Asian Cricket Council, said the detailed flaws were chalked out at the ACC meeting here on November six to infuse life into the competition which would now be held after a gap of every two years.

Four teams — India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh would play in the championship on league basis and the two top teams would clash in the final to be held on April 14.

There would be a total prize money of 75,000 US dollars. The champions would get 30,000 US dollars and the runners-up would receive a sum of 20,000 US dollars.

The man-of-the-series would be richer by 5,000 US dollars and the man-of-the-match would pocket 1,000 US dollars in each match. However, the man-of-the-match in the final would have 2,000 US dollars in his kitty. The winners and losers of each preliminary match would get 1,500 US dollars and 500 US dollars respectively, Dalmiya said.

The ACC committee has constituted a special committee comprising its secretary, Asif Iqbal and Ashrafal Haque, which has made several recommendations to improve cricket in Asia.

Dalmiya said that from 1996 onwards competitions would be held amongst the associate members of Asia every two years in the year preceding the Asia Cup and the winner would play in the Asia Cup.

The special committee has recommended that the 1996 ACC Trophy be played in Malaysia and a final decision would be taken at the ACC annual general meeting in Sharjah on

April 13. Dalmiya said that serious efforts are on to promote and develop cricket in Asia so that an infrastructure is created for Asian countries to enter the International Cricket Council (ICC) the apex body of cricket in the world.

He, however, denied that the forementioned efforts are for setting up a parallel body of ICC. The primary objective is to make the ACC a more meaningful entity, he asserted.

The ACC is also contemplating to build a team comprising a cricket coach and an umpire which would visit different Asian associate member countries and organise cricket clinics for cricketers and umpires.

Following is the fixture of the Asia Cup cricket:

- April 5: India vs Bangladesh.
- April 6: Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh.
- April 7: India vs Pakistan.
- April 9: India vs Sri Lanka.
- April 11: Pakistan vs Sri Lanka.
- April 14: Final.

SAARC Gold Cup football put off

Sports Reporter
The SAARC Gold Cup football tournament comprising Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Maldives and hosts Sri Lanka, scheduled earlier for a December 2 start in Colombo, has been put off.

However, no new date has been fixed, said a BFF source. The ongoing residential camp for the national footballers will remain unaffected by the change of the schedule.

N'ganj soccer

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Nov 10: Khanpur Mohsin Club edged past DCC Club by the odd goal in three in the Hanjin Shipping First Division football league at the local Osmani Stadium here today.

Apu struck in the 28th minute to give Khanpur a lone goal lead at the breather. In an evenly contested match Ujjal restored parity in the 56th minute before Emly scored the match winner for Mohsin Club twelve minutes later.

Shuktara Juba Sangha will take on Godhnail Krira Proshikhhan Shibir tomorrow.

Barisal soccer

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Nov 10: Abahani Krira Chakra continued their winning spree when they earned another emphatic 4-1 victory over Water Development Board (WDB) in the Emma Overseas Senior Division football league at the local stadium here today.

Tuhin, so far the top marksman in the league scored all the four goals for Abahani while Zaman pulled one back for the losers.

Yekini for sale

ATHENS, Nov 10: Nigerian World Cup striker Rashidi Yekini, axed by Greek club Olympiakos, wants to sign for a new club, his manager said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

'We have offers from Everton and from Spain's Atletico Madrid and Logrones,' manager Luisdo Ribeiro said.

Olympiakos, who bought Yekini after his impressive showing for Nigeria in the World Cup finals earlier this year, broke his contract last month.

Club officials said they wanted to sell him after disappointing performances and rows with coaches and teammates.

'Rashidi wants to sign a two-year contract with another club and Olympiakos agree. I expect developments in the next 10 days,' Ribeiro said.

Agassi to play in Aussie Open

MEL BOURNE, Nov 20: It's official. Andre Agassi is set to play in the Australian Open tennis tournament for the first time, reports AP.

Tennis Australia president Geoff Pollard said Thursday that his organisation has received an official entry form signed by the American ace.

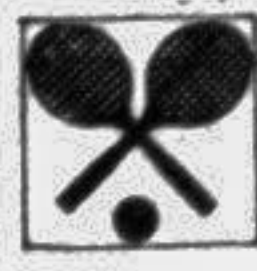
'This is very exciting news for the Australian Open,' Pollard said.

Independiente's first Supercup

BUENOS AIRES, Nov 10: Independiente beat fellow Argentines Boca Juniors 1-0 to win the South American Supercup for the first time on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Gustavo Lopez and Sebastian Rambert, two of Argentina's brightest hopes for the future, combined for the only goal of a tight encounter to give Independiente, seven times winners of the South American Libertadores Cup, a 2-1 aggregate win.

Jennifer reborn Capriati



PHILADELPHIA, Nov 10: Jennifer Capriati returned to tennis Wednesday night, looking much more like a young phenomenon than a troubled schoolgirl who was busted for carrying marijuana, reports AP.

great to be out there again.' The match was Capriati's first since she left the tour in September 1993 and went through months of personal and legal problems that many thought jeopardized her career. Capriati pounded the same groundstrokes that made her a

broke Huber's serve moments later with a deep return that Huber was unable to handle. 'She hit the ball well,' Huber said. 'She made a few mistakes, and I'm sure she'll get better in the next couple of months. She played fine.' Capriati's groundstrokes were sound in the first two sets. She was able to find corners and hit deep forehands, as is her trademark, and stayed with Huber's power for most of the first set until the German won the final two games.

Capriati won the first four games and took the second set when she rushed to the net and returned a drop shot past Huber. She then tired in the final set.

'I'm not in tip-top shape,' Capriati said. 'She ran me around a lot.'

For Capriati, the match was not about winning and losing, but simply playing — escaping for 89 minutes from a troubled year to play the sport that made her a multimillionaire. She returned to a life of gripping a racket and, perhaps, the other way around.

'I had a lot of fun out there,' Capriati said. 'It was great to get back on the court. It was nice.'

Capriati had not played a tournament match since Aug 31, 1993, when she was eliminated by little-known Lella Meskhi in the first round of the US Open.

Capriati's return overshadowed unseeded Nathalie Tauziat of France, who upset top-seed and defending champion Conchita Martinez earlier on Wednesday 6-4, 6-4.

Tauziat, who is ranked 39th, defeated the No 3-ranked Martinez, the defending Wimbledon champion, using a varied attack that included several well-timed net approaches.

'Conchita passes really well, so I waited for the good balls to do it, when I had the chance,' Tauziat said. 'This is my last (singles) tournament of the year, and I'm playing the number-one seed so I have nothing to lose there. When I play my best tennis I feel I can beat anybody, and today I played one of my best matches of the year.'

In another afternoon match, American Lindsay Davenport, seeded third, defeated Tami Whitlinger-Jones 7-5, 6-3.

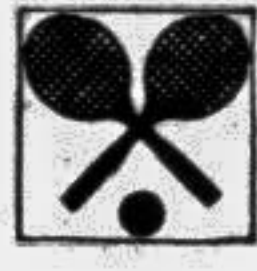


American Jennifer Capriati makes a double fisted return to Anke Huber of Germany at the Virginia Slims tournament in Philadelphia on Nov 9. Capriati lost her comeback match 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

Capriati was far from top form in losing to Anke Huber 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 in the first round of the 750,000 dollars Virginia Slims of Philadelphia, but her match marked an important step in an 18-year-old life that already is being rebuilt. 'I thought I played good,' Capriati said. 'It was really

winner, but with less consistency. Her serve topped out at 96 mph, but it was mostly ineffective against her 19-year-old German foe. In the opening game, Capriati looked as if she hadn't been away from the tour at all. She won the first point when Huber hit into the net and

Stich suffers major setback



ANTWERP, Belgium, Nov 10: Canadian qualifier Sebastien Lareau beat Michael Stich 6-7 (0-7), 6-3, 6-3 Wednesday in the 1.1 million dollar European Community Championship, pushing the German out of next week's World Championship, reports AP.

With American Todd Martin losing in Moscow, Stefan Edberg, who won here Wednesday, and Alberto Berasategui, playing in Buenos Aires, have an opportunity to claim the last two places in the Elite Eight IBM-ATP Tour World Championship in Frankfurt.

Stich, seeded second behind Pete Sampras here, lost in the opening round for the second time in a row, costing him the chance to defend his World Championship title. He went in a blaze of double

faults and unforced errors, allowing Lareau, ranked 123rd in the world, to claim his biggest win ever.

'I knew he was very tight because of Frankfurt,' said Lareau, 21. 'And I didn't feel any pressure.'

It appeared to be the opposite when he failed to take a mere point off Stich in the first set tiebreak, after the German produced a half dozen double faults in the opening set alone.

But in the second set, Lareau gained in composure and kept Stich pinned in the backcourt.

Frustrated, Stich lost the match on yet another double fault. 'I had so many chances, I controlled the match until 3-3 in the second set and all of a sudden I made two double faults, hit a stupid volley,' said Stich, who produced 10 double faults.

'I'm very disappointed with my performance. (Lareau) is a solid player but if I'd played up to my game I should have beaten him.'

'I wanted to finish the year with some really good tennis and I didn't do that at all,' he added.

Stich said he had squandered his chances for the ATP Tour finals with unexpected losses in events earlier this year and some disappointing performances.

'This year I didn't do too well in the Grand Slams,' he said.

He said he was also looking for a new coach, 'someone I can practice with, have fun with on and off the court, and that's not easy to find.'

Earlier, third seed Edberg had to come from behind to struggle home against British Number One Jeremy Bates 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Wadekar wants to wrap it up



JAIPUR, Nov 10: Indian cricket manager Ajit Wadekar wants the best-ever margin of victory 4-1 in the one-day series against the West Indies, reports PTI.

On the other hand, the West Indies manager David Holdford desperately wants a win tomorrow to boost the sagging morale of his team before the Test series begins.

So, a full house expected at the Swal Mansingh Stadium here can look forward to a keen tussle for supremacy though the series has already been decided in the hosts' favour (3-1) with India's thumping eight-wicket win in Cuttack yesterday.

After a two-hour nets session at the stadium this afternoon, Wadekar said Navot Sidhu, who was injured in Visakhapatnam and Vinod Kambli, who had pulled his thigh muscle in Cuttack, were most likely to play tomorrow.

The manager said both players would undergo fitness tests tonight or tomorrow morning.

He said the team would be decided only tomorrow after he and skipper Azharuddin,

who did not come for the nets today, had a second look at the wicket, which according to curator Vinod Mather, is full of runs.

Vice-captain Sachin Tendulkar, who is suffering from a

could not return on time as his car broke down. Sidhu, who was struck twice on the toe in the Visakhapatnam match, and Kambli had long nets today.

The Indian manager said he would field the best possible team. There is no need for experiments now. We want to go for a win to make it 4-1.

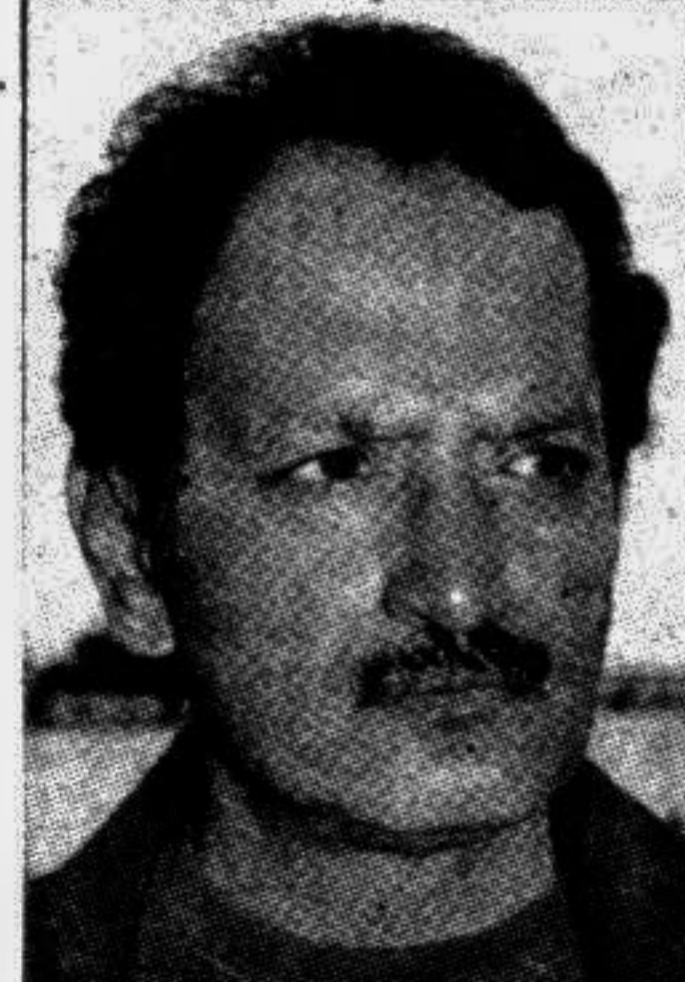
He said Tendulkar and Ajay Jadeja would open the innings as in the last three matches. 'They have been batting so well, I don't think there is any need to disturb them.'

West Indies manager Holdford said his team desperately needed a win before the Test series began.

Asked what went wrong with the team which began with a convincing victory in the first one-day at Faridabad, Holdford said, 'The key to our failure is our poor bowling.'

He did not agree with a reporter that their batting too faltered. 'Our bowlers allowed Indian batsmen to take so many runs and for our batsmen, there were too many runs to get.'

Holdford said his team has not settled as yet. 'And we are yet to find the right batting order.'



AJIT WADEKAR

Crowe returns in style



MIDRAND, South Africa, Nov 10: Martin Crowe, back in New Zealand's team after knee surgery, latched their tour of South Africa on an encouraging personal note by hitting a fluent half-century on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Crowe was top scorer with 61 from 74 deliveries as New Zealand made 232 for five declared in their one-day match against a Nicky Oppenheimer XI.

The game was drawn with the Oppenheimer side on 231 for nine, a hard-hitting 59 not out from former South African rebel Hugh Page narrowly failing to secure a surprise win.

Crowe, New Zealand's premier batsman, missed the recent triangular limited overs tournament with hosts India and West Indies so that he could have more time to recuperate from his knee operation.

His opening tour innings contained nine fours and two sixes, and he shared a fourth-wicket partnership of 75 with captain Ken Rutherford (29). Opener Darrin Murray also made a useful start, hitting 11 fours in his 57.

Page batted superbly to give the local team a scent of victory, striking four fours and two sixes and making his runs off just 60 balls.

For the game's last two deliveries, though, he was at the non-striker's end and could only watch as Nicky Oppenheimer failed to connect with either.

New South African captain Hansie Cronje had his first look at the New Zealand bowling as he hit a positive 34 from 27 balls.

New Zealand coach Geoff Howarth was happy with his side's performance. 'The exercise was good for us after four days of nets which gets a bit tedious,' he said.

'The bowlers got a good work-out on a brilliant track'

Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Nov 10: Both the matches of CJKP First Division football league ended in draws at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

The first match between Agrabad Nowjoan Club and Brothers Union ended goalless.

BCIC and Bakalia Krira Sangsta were locked to 1-1 in the other match of the day.

and the batsmen also got a bit of a sighter.'

The New Zealanders' first three-day match, against Northern Transvaal in Pretoria, starts on Friday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the one-day

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Van Troost	10	1	51	1
Page	6	2	11	0
Malao	11	1	57	0
Rice	8	2	23	3
Cronje	5	0	23	0
Benkenstein	8	0	50	1
J. Oppenheimer	4	0	12	0
NICKY OPPENHEIMER XI				
M. Rushmore c and b Hart				47
J. Teeger b Su'a				34
H. Gibbs run out				3
H. Cronje c Germon b De Groen				34
D. Benkenstein c De Groen				24
b Pringle				24
H. Page not out				59
C. Rice c Rutherford b Su'a				8
J. Oppenheimer c and b Pringle				5
J. Malao run out				1
A. Van Troost run out				1
N. Oppenheimer not out				0

M CROWE ... 61

cricket match between a Nicky Oppenheimer XI and New Zealand on Wednesday:

NEW ZEALAND

D Murray b Rice	57
C. Harris c Teeger b Rice	19
S. Fleming c Cronje b Rice	19
M. Crowe c J. Oppenheimer	61
b Benkenstein	61
K. Rutherford c J. Oppenheimer	29
b Van Troost	24
S. Thomson not out	15
L. Germon not out	15

Result: Match drawn.



Alberto Marcio (R) of Argentine Boca Juniors is about to take a tumble after a lunging tackle by Hugo Perez of Independiente during the final of the South American Supercup in Buenos Aires on Nov 9. Independiente won 1-0 to clinch the cup for the first time.

A character in the cast



LONDON, Nov 10: In the flamboyance stakes Bruce Grobbelaar, the great eccentric of British soccer, has few peers, reports Reuter.

Even Paul Gascoigne, no shrinking violet, takes second place.

When obliged to wear a mask to protect a face injury this season, Grobbelaar, typically, chose one in the colours of the Zimbabwean flag.

Gascoigne, in a similar situation, settled for boring, plain white.

The Zimbabwean has long been a soccer showman — seemingly irrational, often acrobatic and occasionally impetuous.

On the field Grobbelaar has provided conclusive proof to the claim of some that goalkeepers are crazy.

As English soccer authorities begin their probe into media allegations that Grobbelaar took bribes to throw key matches — allegations he has strongly denied — observers took stock of one of the game's characters.

Down the years, some marvelled, others cringed, at his juggling and gymnastic antics.

He outraged the traditionalists and caused his defenders panic attacks with amazing sorties upfield.

But there is no doubt Liverpool's brilliant record in the 1980s owes much to Grobbelaar who is still capable of pulling off the most stun-

ning-of-saves. The Durban-born Grobbelaar, 37, made more than 400 appearances for Liverpool.

He had signed for the glamour English club for 250,000 pounds sterling (400,000 dollars) in 1981 from Vancouver Whitecaps in Canada after starting his English career with lowly Crewe in 1979. He joined Premier league side Southampton at the start of this season.

During a 13-year career at Anfield, he won league championship medal in 1982, 1984, 1986 and 1988 and shared in League Cup success three years in succession from 1982-84.

Grobbelaar also collected English FA Cup medals in 1986 and 1989 and helped Liverpool to the European Cup in 1984.

In a long career, he has experienced soccer at both ends of the scale, from the opulence of Anfield to the African out-back.

'In the army, I lived in the bush for weeks, so they put the luxuries of England into perspective. I know how lucky I am,' he once said.

Grobbelaar, whose family moved to the former Rhodesia when he was a baby, did national service under the white-minority government of Ian Smith in the conflict which ended with Zimbabwean