

# BU's trial of strength

Sports Reporter



Pakistani Hanif brothers were among the runs on their debut but it was the young quickie Sajal Chowdhury who fired Brothers Union to their second victory in the 15th Damal Summer cricket tournament at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Sajal, one of the fastest bowlers of the land, ate up the heart of the Dhanmondi batting, who, chasing a rather improbable victory target of 218 in 45 overs, were all out for 82 leaving the Gopibagh side winners by the massive margin of 135 runs.

Brothers, who opened their campaign with a facile eight-wicket victory against Lalmitia on November 8, now advance to the next round as the group champions.

Standing barely at five and a half feet, Sajal, who is amply compensated by a lovely run up, yesterday had a haul of four wickets for 26 runs from nine overs.

Earlier sent in to bat, Brothers rattled up an impressive total of 217 for four wickets.

Pakistani Aabed Hanif, who opened with Moniruzzaman Mont, scored 40 in a partnership of 73 before being bowled by Tareq.

His 40 came off 58 balls including four fours and a sixer.

Though less spectacular it was, however, his partner who

topscored with a 100-ball 51 featuring five hits to the fence. Aabed's elder brother Aamer Hanif, the more celebrated of the two and one of those on the periphery of the Pakistan test team, came at number four and the useful right-hander revved up the tempo with 31 off 29 balls with the help of four boundaries.

But the real storm came from the willow of young all-rounder Raimur Rashid with an unbeaten 33 off just 23 balls with three fours and a sixer.

Ziad, Tareq and Shabbir took one wicket apiece.

Minnows Dhanmondi were up against it right from the word go and were five down for 44 with the first four batsmen being trapped right in front of the wicket.

Almost every Brothers bowler had a wonderful time with the cherry.

Besides Sajal, Raimur Rashid took two for 16 while Aabed Hanif's off-spin in undemanding situation earned him two for nine.

Sajal's new ball partner made an early inroad to finish with one for 13.

Extras apart just three Dhanmondi batsmen, got into the double figures with Moshed topscoring with 18.

Experienced Rownakul Is Jam found an able and willing partner in Zafrul Ehsan to design unfancied Eskaton Sabuj Sangha's passage to the second round in the day's other match

played at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Opener Rownak followed up his fine stint of spin bowling with a half-century and Ehsan made an undefeated 66 as Eskaton carved their second successive win after a 14-run win against Dhanmondi in their opener.

Sent in to bat first, Lalmitia collected 171 for eight from 45 overs mainly because of two useful knocks from Nasim and wicketkeeper Raju.

Nasim was run out for a 98 ball 55 while Raju remained unconquered on 48.

Rownak used up his nine over quota to finish with two 29.

Nee ball bowler Taher bowled steadily to return with one for 22.

When Eskaton went in, Rownak played 85 balls and hit seven fours to make 57 and although two wickets went down for 55 Zafrul Ehsan held one end up to ensure a well-deserved victory.

Zafrul Ehsan, who saw two wickets go down at 164, was there with a 100-ball 66 containing seven hits to the fence when Eskaton rattled 172 for five in 39.4 overs.

Nasim ploughed in the sands capturing two for 19 from nine tight overs and so did Amin who also collected two for 22.

**TODAY'S MATCH**  
Biman vs Agrani Bank (DCS)

# Champs cruise Biman bump

Sports Reporter

Grandmaster Niaz Murshid took a day off but Brothers Union didn't quite miss him as the defending champions raced to a 4-0 victory over Farashganj Sporting Club and in the process regained sole lead at the top of the First Division chess league yesterday.

Stand-in Hasibul Hassan won his match against Muniruzzaman and so did Pakistani IM Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi, Indian V Sharanavan and Abdullah al-Raqib to deposit full four points in Brothers' account, increasing the collection to 30 from nine matches.

However, Bangladesh Biman, co-sharers of the top position Thursday, conceded a stunning 1.5-2.5 defeat to Mashgul Mehfil Club but held on to the second place with 28 points from ten outings.

Two and a half points behind Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation stayed in their familiar third slot after beating Mahakhali Pradip Sangha 4-0.

BTMC's Thursday's conquerors Bangladesh Ansars lost only half a point against the Dhaka University chess squad to raise their haul to 24.5 points.

Bobby Fischer Chess Club, who stocked current league leaders Wednesday, trailed Ansars by three-and-a-half points along with Mashgul Mehfil.

# Ataur to take Akram's place

ISLAMABAD, Nov 18: Pakistani pace bowler Wasim Akram has withdrawn on medical grounds from the 16-member squad which is to tour South Africa from November 30, a cricket official announced Thursday, reports AFP.

Wasim will miss the South African leg of the tour, but could join the team in Zimbabwe if he is fit, Arif Ali Khan Abbas, a member of an ad hoc committee in charge of cricket affairs, said.

He said medium pacer Ataur-Rahman would replace Wasim.

The team is scheduled to start the tour of Zimbabwe from February 25.

Wasim's wife Huma has said Wednesday her husband could join the team after a medical checkup in London on November 21 for a sinus problem, which had compelled him to miss a Test against Australia in Lahore this month.

# Maradona a menace?

BUENOS AIRES, Nov 18: A referee and a senior soccer team official on Thursday accused former superstar Diego Maradona of aggression and calling fans to attack them when his struggling team was losing a match on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Referee Angel Sanchez told a local radio station Maradona, who coaches Mandiyu in Argentina's Corrientes province, that Maradona chased him into the changing rooms and kicked his door after his team lost 2-1 to Independiente.

Independiente's vice-president Hector Grondona said Maradona shouted insults at him during the game and urged Mandiyu fans to attack him.

"Maradona is a menace," Grondona protested.

"Had it not been for Mandiyu's president, who acted like a gentlemen, I don't know whether I would have made it out of the field alive," he added.

"He is constantly inciting to violence, he is a challenge to security in any stadium," added Grondona, who is the brother of Argentine Football Association (AFA) president Julio Grondona.

Referee Sanchez, who gave Independiente a penalty, agreed, saying, "even worse than that were Maradona's remarks at a news conference inciting the people of Corrientes to join ranks for battle."



Former Olympic gymnastics gold medalist Nadia Comaneci (L) of Romania and her American fiance Bart Connor pose together with the diamond engagement ring in Dortmund on Nov 17. The couple have yet to fix a wedding date. — AFP photo

# Martyn in marauding mood



HOBART, Australia, Nov 18: Australian XI captain Damien Martyn and Tasmanian teenager Ricky Ponting gave England a first hand look on Friday at the depth of talent available to the home side during the coming Ashes series, reports Reuter.

Martyn, who made 103, and Ponting, with 71, put on 132 in only 32 overs to help their side to 327 for five at stumps on the first day of the four-day match.

The Australian XI won the toss and bated on an easy-paced pitch but England had reduced them to 99 for three soon after lunch.

The fourth-wicket pair brought the tourists down to earth before both departed in the final session. But an unbroken stand of 60 between Stuart Law (54) and wicketkeeper Mark Atkinson of Tasmania (25) kept the home side in control.

Martyn, who became captain of Western Australia at the start of the season, illustrated his liking for the Bellerive Oval by scoring his fourth century on the ground and his second there this season.

It was achieved in only three hours from 150 balls, with fourteen fours. Soon

afterwards his concentration lapsed and he was bowled by spinner Phil Tufnell.

Ponting, who at the age of 19 already has eight first-class centuries to his credit, looked certain to reach his ninth for much of his stay at the crease.

He survived early lbw appeals from pace bowlers second slip by McCague off paceman Darren Gough when he had scored 30.

Apart from those chances, he played with great assurance as he and Martyn scored heavily off the seamers.

McCague returned after tea to have Ponting caught down the leg side by wicketkeeper Steve Rhodes. The Kent bowler finished the day with three for 89.

McCague had broken through in the morning session when he had Matthew Hayden caught in the gully by all-rounder Craig White. White then removed Justin Langer, caught by Rhodes.

Greg Blewett fell soon after lunch, bowled off his pads by McCague after making 53 in 102 balls with four fours. That brought Martyn and Ponting together for the most attractive batting of the day.

Queensland's Stuart Law, who made a half-century in only 75 balls, and Tasmanian wicketkeeper Mark Atkinson ensured there were no further losses.

The pick of the attack was probably Tufnell, who ended the day with one for 62 in 23 overs. Gough was heavily punished, finishing with 0-82 off only 18 overs.

DAMIEN MARTYN...103  
Martin McCague and Joey Benjamin and was dropped at

# SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps Friday, first day of the four-day cricket match between England and an Australian XI at Bellerive Oval:

**AUSTRALIAN XI:** 1st innings

Hayden c White b McCague	53
Blewett b McCague	8
Langer c Rhodes b White	10
Martyn b Tufnell	103
Ponting c Rhodes b McCague	71
Law not out	54
Atkinson not out	25
Extras (1-lb, 1-w, 1-nb)	3
Total (for five wickets)	327
Fall of wickets: 9, 40, 99, 231, 267.	

**Bowling**

	O	M	R	W
Darren Gough	18	1	82	0
Martin McCague	18	1	89	3
Joey Benjamin	15	2	47	0
Craig White	16	3	46	1
Phil Tufnell	23	3	62	1

Batting time: 360 minutes. Overs: 90.

# Grobbelaar left alone for a while



LONDON, Nov 18: Goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar was given a respite on Friday from police enquiries as he prepared to face British fans for the first time since allegations that he took bribes to fix premier league soccer matches, reports Reuter.

Grobbelaar trained with his club Southampton on Friday morning and will play in Saturday's sell-out clash with Arsenal, Southampton's director of football Lawrie McMenemy confirmed.

A local police spokeswoman said they had interviewed the 37-year-old goalkeeper three times on Thursday, but had no plans to speak to him again for the time being.

"Every time we spoke to him, he cooperated fully with everything we requested," a Hampshire police spokeswoman said.

Grobbelaar has denied allegations by The Sun newspaper that he accepted money from an Asian gambling syndicate to throw matches at his previous club Liverpool, and at Southampton.

One of the main allegations related to a game Liverpool lost 3-0 to Newcastle United in November 1993.

Liverpool police said they had no plans to question the flamboyant goalkeeper. They said two of their officers had gone to Southampton earlier this week, but they were leaving investigations to the Hampshire force for the moment.

Southampton club and fans are preparing to give their keeper a huge welcome at the Dell ground on Saturday.

"We support our man. He is innocent until proven guilty," said Brian Truscott, secretary of Southampton who Grobbelaar joined earlier this year, after 13 years with Liverpool, where he won almost every honour in the English game.

England's Football Association (FA) has charged

Grobbelaar with taking money to influence the result of matches and with bringing the game into disrepute.

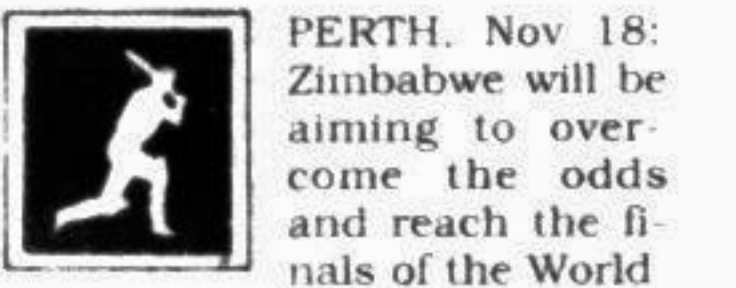
The FA said they expected Grobbelaar to consult his lawyers in Liverpool this weekend. He still has 11 days to notify the FA how he will respond to the charges.

"We are determined to give him ample opportunity to assess the evidence which was passed to us by the Sun newspaper, which we've said we'll pass on to him," an FA spokesman said.

The FA has not banned Grobbelaar from playing while the allegations are investigated. Grobbelaar flew back into Britain early on Thursday after helping Zimbabwe to victory over Zaire.

His wife and children did not return with him. Grobbelaar said they had remained in Zimbabwe "because of the pressure that I might be under and because of the pressure that they might be under."

# Zimbabweans arrive Down Under Hampshire hopes for best



PERTH, Nov 18: Zimbabwe will be aiming to overcome the odds and reach the finals of the World Series one-day competitions, coach John Hampshire said as cricket's youngest international side arrived here Friday, reports AFP.

Zimbabwe were admitted to full membership of the International Cricket Council only 28 months ago and have yet to win a Test match after 10 games, though they had a notable World Cup win over England in Australia two years ago.

"We have come here to be as positive as we can and try to get to the finals," said Hampshire, a former England Test

batsman in his third season as the new team's coach.

England during the limited-overs contest, starting in two weeks.

Each team will play in six preliminary games before the best-of-three finals start of January 15.

Zimbabwe's first clash in the tournament will be a tough game against Australia under lights at the WACA ground here December 2.

The team will play a warm-up match Sunday against a Western Australian side in the gold-mining city of Kalgoorlie, 600 kilometres (400 miles) east here.

Hampshire said he thought the side's pace attack might cause the other teams some surprises.

They would be unwise to underestimate Health Streak, 20, David Brain, 30, and Eddo Brandes, 31.

Streak is a right-arm fast-medium bowler of whom Hampshire has the highest regard.

"He is a big strong lad we are looking to carry our attack for many years," he said.

"Brain, a left-arm bowler, could also cause some surprises. He is not dynamically fast, but he has the potential to be very quick."

Hampshire compared Brain with Bruce Reid, Australia's former Test left-arm, in his earlier years.

"Like Reid, Brain is tall and gets lots of bounce," he said.

Brandes has already made a mark in Australia. It was his 4-21 from 10 overs which played a key role in the defeat of England in a World Cup game in 1992.

Hampshire said the side's greatest strength was probably their fielding.

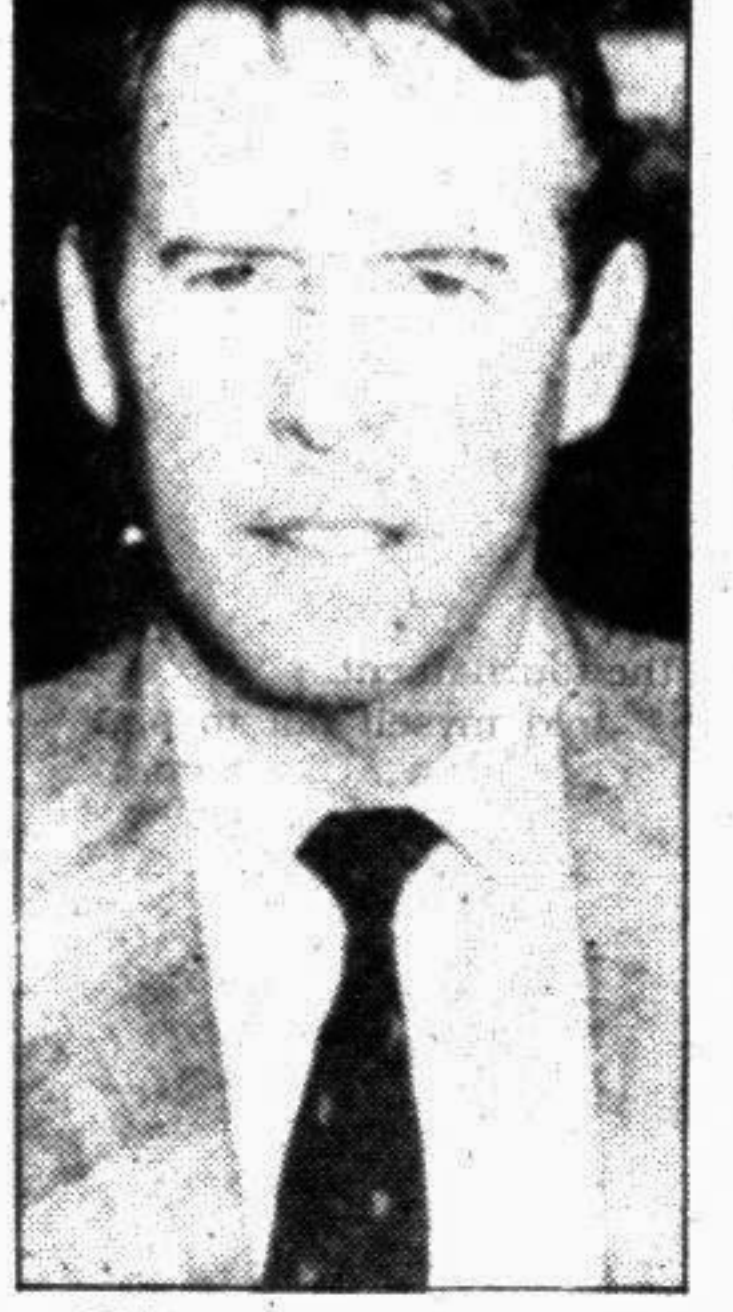
"We are a very good fielding side," he said. "Paul Strang (a leg-spinner) is outstanding, as is captain Andy Flower and Gary Martin."

The Zimbabwe touring squad is:

Andy Flower (Capt), David Houghton (vice-capt), David Brian, Eddo Brandes, Alistair Campbell, Mark Dekker, Grant Flower, Wayne James, Gary Martin, Stephen Peall, Dan Rowett, Paul Strang, Heath Streak, Guy Whittall.

Coach: John Hampshire.

Team manager: Chris Seager.



JOHN HAMPSHIRE

"People will probably laugh at this suggestion, but it is useless coming to Australia and having negative thoughts, you just have to be positive."

"At the end of the day, we have nothing to lose. Everybody is expecting us to be rolled, so we are just going to go out there and give it our best shot."

Anything can happen in one-day cricket."

Zimbabwe will clash with Australia, an Australian A side, in effect a second team, and

# 7th Nasiruddin memorial tennis

Sports Reporter

Syed Wahid and Captain (ret'd) Munir clinched the inter-club men's doubles title when the Gulshan Club duo beat Zaburull Haq and M Mesbahuddin of the hosts in the final of the seventh Nasiruddin memorial tennis championships at the Officers Club courts yesterday.

In the men's open final, Marufur Rahman became champion when national champion Hira Lal failed to turn up.



The winners of the seventh Nasiruddin memorial tennis tournament that concluded at the Officers' Club courts yesterday. — Star photo

# Cycling competition

A cycling competition was held at the Manik Mia Avenue yesterday in observance of the Tourism Month '94, reports BSS.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain inaugurated the competition as the chief guest.

The Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation and Bangladesh Cycling Federation jointly organised the event held in three groups, four-mile road race (ladies), ten mile road race (junior) and 20-mile road race (senior).

Later, the chief guest distributed the prizes among the winners.

# Shotokan Karate Cup held

Sports Reporter

The first Shotokan Karate Cup, jointly sponsored by Nirman International and Hotel Purbani International, was held at the hotel ball room yesterday.

Jayson won the gold in the under-15 kata competition.

Meraz settled for the silver while Irene and Zara bagged the bronze medals.

In the competition of the same category for those on the wrong side of fifteen, Jewel got the gold, Zakir took the silver while Sohel and Zia were left to share the bronze.

In women's kata championship, Alia notched the gold medal followed by Swapna who picked the silver.

Tili and Ratna finished third jointly to settle for the bronze.

In children's kata, Rayyan got the gold. Mariko copped the silver while Shihab and Masami pocketed the bronze together.

In the under-15 kumite competition, Saud Padamsee was the gold winner.

Shaon Rahman picked up the silver while Emily and Naomi had to be content with the bronze.

In the over-15 age group, Sabri took the gold medal.

Zia collected the silver while Alia and Shyam settled for the bronze.

Munir won the gold in individual kumite, Zakir took the silver while Faisal and Bishu bagged bronze.

Ashiq won the gold in children's kumite followed by Rayyan who copped the silver.

Masami and Mariko jointly claimed the bronze medal.

Later the Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Shigeo Takenaka San gave away prizes among the winners as chief guest.



Action from the first-ever Shotokan Karate Cup '94 at the ballroom of the Hotel Purbani yesterday. The competition was organised by the Bengal School of Shotokan. — Star photo