

MSC march into Round Two

Sports Reporter

A reinforced Mohammedan Sporting Club chalking up a comfortable victory over Wari Club yesterday to enter the next round of the 15th Damal Summer cricket tournament.

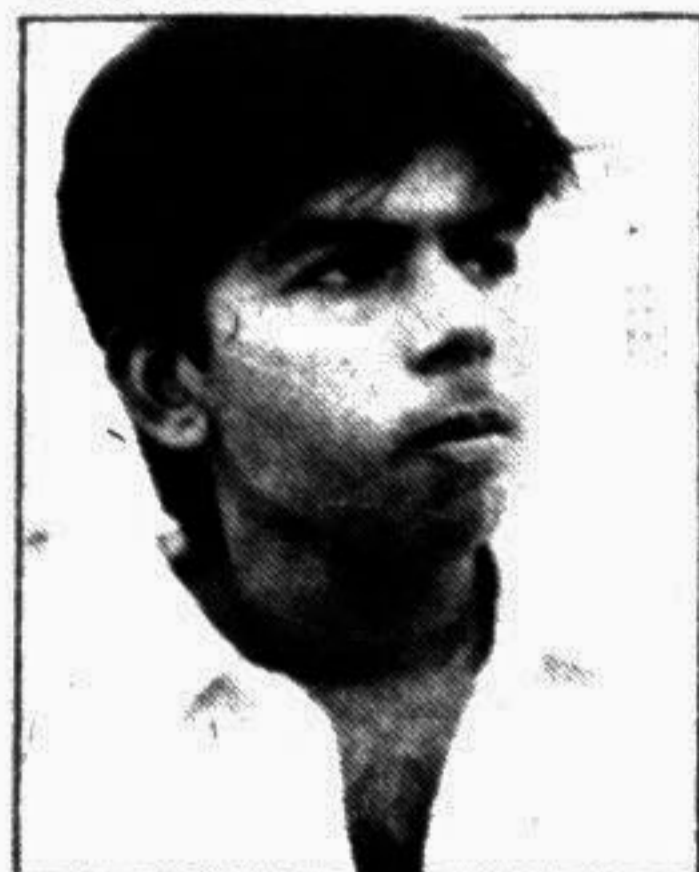
The former champions and 13 time finalists of the curtain-raising meet beat their neighbours by 46 runs in a weather-muddled match at the Mirpur Pallabi cricket ground to emerge as Group C champions.

Mohammedans, who expectedly played their two Pakistani recruits — Naveed Bhatti and Nadim Yunus, could muster 180 for seven wickets after the Wari skipper asked them

to make the first use of the wicket in a match reduced to 40 overs-a side due to drizzle.

The Mohammedan openers began circumspectly in conditions touted more often than not ideal for quicker bowlers.

Experienced Nurul Abedin, a national discard became Wari stumper Sajjad's one of the four dismissals as the first Mohammedan casualty was recorded in the tenth over with the score on 31.



SELIM SHAHED 50

Runs started coming more briskly once the stylish Selim Shahed joined Sajjad Mansur at the wicket and a big total appeared on the cards.

Shahed middled the ball to his liking to notch up 50, the topscore of the innings.

A member of the national squad, the orthodox right handed batsman struck two fours and three sixes with one of his overboundary off spinner Sohail landing in a house after clearing the ground.

Sohail, who dismissed Sajjad for 34, had the last laugh when he got the prize wicket of Shahed to raise his tally to three including the scalp of Pakistani Nadim Yunus, who

perished cheaply in pursuit of quick runs.

Skipper Aminul Islam remained unbeaten on 22 from 17 balls while the left handed Rafique clobbered two sixes to slam 20 off only seven balls as Mohammedans braced for a flourishing finish.

For Wari, new ball bowler Salahuddin (Jr) and Sohail claimed three wickets apiece for 31 and 43 runs respectively.

Two former Mohammedan players — paceman Morshed and Sheikh Salahuddin — could not do much to make life difficult for their former club.

Mohammedans, who had got past minnows Wanderers in an unconvincing manner in this year's Damal opener, wasted no time to prove the extra zip in their attack by the introduction of Naveed Bhatti.

The left-arm paceman put Wari on the backfoot rightaway by removing the two openers with only 13 runs on the board.

Two MRF products — Shanto and Suman — then further turned on the screw with the latter a gangling fast-improving left-arm paceman returning splendid analysis of three for 17 in eight overs.

Though Wahid remained unconquered on 39 to be among the four Wari batsmen to be in the double figures on the day, left arm spinner Mostadir Litu took two quick wickets to bowl Wari out for 134 in 39.3 overs.

Litu finished with two for 29 to stand beside Bhatti, whose early double strike cost 31 runs.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Biman vs Gulshan Youth (DCS)
Agrani Bank vs Nirman Schools (Mirpur)

BOA's gratitude

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) accorded a reception to the national kabaddi team, which justified, albeit infinitesimally, the sports ministry's decision of spending some Taka two crore on the Hiroshima Asian Games mission, winning a silver in what is now an extinct Asiad event.

At the Purbani Hotel last night, the BOA officials almost went overboard in expressing their gratitude to the kabaddi players for restoring, to some extent, their credibility in handling sports affairs.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain, who is also chairman of the National Sports Council (NSC) was chief guest on the occasion and gave away a cheque of Taka 10,000 each to the 12 members of the kabaddi squad. Gias Kamal Chowdhury, the BOA president, and Azizul Haq, secretary for the ministry for youth and sports were present there too.

Barisal soccer

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 23: Gamlur notched up a hat-trick as Touch Video Club crushed Brown Compound 6-2 in the Emma Overseas First Division football league at the local stadium today.

Gamlur apart Tarique, Kaisar and Milan scored one goal each for the winners while Nahid scored both the goals for the losers.

League leaders Abahani Krira Chakra will take on the Fifth Armed Battalion in a crucial league engagement tomorrow (Thursday).

Inter-varsity Swimming from Nov 28

Dhaka University yesterday formed a 13-member team to take part in the inter University swimming and water polo competition to be held on November 28-30 at the University Swimming pool, reports UNB.

The players are: Dipak Kumar Pal, Mehdi Shamim, Omar Faruque, Belal Uddin, Tipu, Swapan Basu, Nawser Ali, Iqbal Anwar, Hifzul Islam, Faruque Ahmed, Nittya Ranjan Barman, Liton, Zakir Hossain.

All the universities of the country are expected to compete in the meet.

FIFA rankings

ZURICH, Nov 23 (Reuters): World champions Brazil retained top spot in the latest world rankings announced by FIFA on Tuesday.

Rank	Country	Points
1	Brazil	66.90 pts
2	Sweden	61.52
3	Italy	61.35
4	Germany	60.68
5	Spain	60.56
6	Netherlands	59.80
7	Switzerland	57.66
8	Ireland	57.63
9	Argentina	57.58
10	Norway	57.37
11	Romania	56.77
12	Equal. (18) Nigeria	54.39
13	Equal. (14) Russia	54.39
14	Denmark	54.26
15	(21) Colombia	52.74
16	(11) England	52.56
17	(31) Bulgaria	51.94
18	(15) France	51.84
19	(16) Mexico	51.64
20	(27) Zambia	49.63
21	(20) Portugal	48.13
22	(25) Belgium	48.11
23	(26) Egypt	48.01
24	(22) US	47.70
25	(33) Ivory Coast	46.44
26	(37) Ghana	45.83
27	(38) Saudi Arabia	44.95
28	(23) Cameroon	43.69
29	(32) Tunisia	43.61
30	(24) Scotland	43.04

BU have it under thack & rape

Sports Reporter

Brothers Union can call themselves the First Division chess league champions with one round still to go.

At the National Sports Council chess room yesterday, the defending champions neat Konika Sanskritik Sanga, 3.5-0.5 in the penultimate round of the 16-round tournament.

Their nearest rivals Bangladesh Biman drew 2-2 with Bangladesh Ansars to virtually drop out of the title race but they stayed four and a half points clear of the third place holders Ansars.

The Dhaka University chess team leapfrogged Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) into the fourth position with a 3-1 victory over Narayanganj Chess Club. BTMC had



MSC's PAKISTANI DUO: Naveed Bhatti (L) and Nadim Yunus made their debut in Dhaka cricket yesterday. Bhatti met with immediate success but Yunus did not quite make his mark but their team, Mohammedans had no problems in beating Wari yesterday. — Star photo.

A night of Spanish success

LONDON, Nov 23: Spain enjoyed 100 per cent success in the UEFA Cup on Tuesday night as Real Madrid, Athletic Bilbao and Deportivo la Coruna all won their third round, first leg ties, reports Reuter.

Real, UEFA Cup winners in 1985 and 1986, scored a last minute goal to beat Danish part timers Odense 3-2 away from home, while Bilbao beat Italian Parma 1-0 at home and Deportivo also won at home by the same score line against German league leaders Borussia Dortmund.

Jose Ziguanda scored for Bilbao after 48 minutes while Brazilian striker Bebeto notched Deportivo's goal in the 22nd minute against Dortmund.

But Spain's ambition of winning the UEFA Cup for the first time since Real's victory in 1986 will be severely tested — not least by Bayer Leverkusen of Germany and Lazio of Italy who virtually ensured their places in the last eight in March with important away wins.

Leverkusen, UEFA Cup winners in 1988, crushed GKS Katowice of Poland 4-1 with three goals coming in a 14-minute spell just before half-time.

Lazio, bidding to become the sixth Italian winners of the trophy in seven seasons, overcame a difficult obstacle in Turkey, beating giant-killers Trabzonspor 2-1 with their goals coming in a two-minute spell in the second half.

Three more first leg matches are scheduled for Thursday night: Admira Wacker vs Juventus, Nantes vs Stion and Eintracht Frankfurt against Napoli.

NO FAIRYTALE ENDING

Real Madrid went to Odense, the birthplace of Hans Christian Andersen, but there was no fairytale ending for the home side as a last minute goal from Danish international Mi-

chael Laudrup gave Real a 3-2 victory.

That's soccer. I'm a professional and even against a Danish side I must do my best," said Laudrup afterwards.

Odense's part-timers led 1-0 through Michael Schjoenberg but trailed 2-1 after Real strikers Ivan Zamorano and Jose Amavisca scored in the 67th and 69th minutes.

Substitute Jesper Hjorth scored a 79th minute equaliser just six minutes after coming on before Real, the UEFA Cup winners of 1985 and 1986, clinched victory.

Athletic Bilbao, who beat Newcastle of England in the previous round on away goals after trailing 3-0 at one stage of that tie, needed all the patience they showed then to break down the stubborn resistance of Italian Parma to win 1-0 at home.

The only goal came three minutes after half-time when Ziganda deftly headed home a near post cross from Julien Guerrero. It was the first goal Parma had conceded in the competition.

DEPORTIVO DO ALA BRAZIL

Deportivo's goal that sank Dortmund was one made in Brazil. The move was started by Donato Gama da Silva, Brazilian-born but now a Spanish national, and ended with Brazil's World Cup striker Bebeto controlling the ball on his chest before firing home a spectacular volley off the underside of the Dortmund crossbar.

Six-a-side football

Sports Reporter

The Alam Tower six-a-side football tournament, under the auspices of Sonali Otis Club, will begin at the Hockey Stadium from next Friday.

Six teams — National Sports Council Recreation Club, Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association, Eugene, Shahjahan Eleven, Al Imam Eleven and Lulu Eleven — will take part in the meet.

The most dramatic goal-scoring burst came in Poland where Leverkusen strikers Ulf Kirsten and Jans-Peter Lehnhoff scored three times in 14 minutes against Katowice. A second Lehnhoff goal in the second half killed off the poles.

Lazio also enjoyed a scoring burst in Turkey with Roberto Rambaudi (59th) and defender Paolo Negro (61st) seeing off Trabzonspor.

Unal Karaman pulled one back for the Turks who now have a huge job on their hands if they wish to repeat their giant-killing performance of round two when they knocked off former European champions Aston Villa of England.



Ulf Kirsten (C) of German club Bayer Leverkusen watches the ball beat the keeper to add his team's third goal during their UEFA Cup match against GKS Katowice in Poland on Nov 22. Leverkusen trounced the Polish outfit 4-1. — AFP photo



Indian strike bowler and man-of-the-match Javagal Srinath (C) holds onto a catch to dismiss West Indies skipper Courtney Walsh on the final day of the first cricket Test at the Wankhede Stadium in Bombay on Nov. 22. India won by 96 runs to go one-up in the three-match series. — AFP photo.

Cronje hits 68th first-class ton

Cronje denies Kiwis a win

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Nov 23: South Africa captain Hansie Cronje stole some psychological points ahead of the first Test by leading provincial side Orange Free State to a thrilling two-wicket win over New Zealand on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Set 381 to win from 84 overs after Martin Crowe's 68th first-class century had taken New Zealand to 234 for three declared, Free State reached the target with just five balls remaining.



HANSIE CRONJE

Cronje, who leads South Africa in the first Test starting on Friday in Johannesburg, was unbeaten on 44 as Free State clinched victory off the first ball of the final over.

Opener Mickey Arthur gave Free State exactly the start they required and although he lost both Rudolf Steyn and Gerhardus Liebenberg cheaply, he and Louis Wilkinson revived their hopes with a 146-run partnership for the third-wicket.

Arthur fell lbw for 85 to Dion Nash and Wilkinson went the same way for 89 to fellow paceman Murphy Su'a as Free State slipped to 252 for six shortly after tea.

But Cronje, batting down the order at number eight, then joined Nicky Boje in an enterprising seventh-wicket partnership which produced 103 runs in 75 minutes of which Cronje's contribution was a mere 32.

When Boje fell for 66 to a slip catch by Steven Fleming to give Nash his fourth wicket and Philip Radley was bold by Chris Harris, Gordon Parsons joined Cronje, his brother-in-law, to take Free State to their first win against a touring team.

Afterwards the delighted Cronje described the win as "a terrific lift" and said he had learned a few things about the New Zealand side. But he said the defeat would not necessarily upset the tourists' build-up to the Test.

"If that was their full Test side out there then I think they would be a bit concerned but may be some of their guys held back a little," he said.

New Zealand captain Ken Rutherford remained in optimistic mood for the Test.

"We are disappointed but not that disappointed because it was a really good game of cricket," he said. "I think there were enough individual performances for us to have got something out of it."

Rutherford reserved special praise for Nash who took four for 83. "Dion bowled really well on a fast track. After about 30 overs there was no shine and no seam and he toiled away really well."

Crowe was another player to take advantage of the conditions, adding an unbeaten 124



MARTIN CROWE

not out to the 89 he made in the first innings as he and Chris Harris shared an unbroken partnership of 166 in 108 minutes to set up the declaration.

Nadia patriot Comaneci

BUCHAREST, Nov 23: Nadia Comaneci, the star gymnast who fled the tyrannical regime of dictator

Nicolas Ceausescu five years ago, on Tuesday offered 100,000 dollars to help train other athletes, reports Reuter.

"I didn't have this money until now. I have it now and I will give them to developing Romanian gymnasts," Comaneci told a news conference to mark her return to Romania five years after she escaped to the United States.

"I thought many times before about paying a visit to Romania not only to say hello, but to offer real help Romanian

gymnasts," she said, speaking in Romanian.

She said she would also consider a further donation to build a sports hall in Onesti, her native city where 25 years ago she began her sensational gymnastic career.

"I will visit the gymnastics training centre in Onesti and decide afterwards if I will contribute to the construction of a new hall," said the now 32-year-old Comaneci.

The bouncing Comaneci was 14 when she won three gold medals and snatched seven tens — setting a gymnastics record at the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games and securing her place in sports history.

She has never clearly ex-

plained what drove her to flee across the Hungarian border in November 1989, just a few weeks before Ceausescu was toppled and executed in the bloodiest of the Eastern European revolutions.

Again on Tuesday, she shed little light on the escape, saying: "I did what I thought was right when I left Romania. I will write a book on the way I left the country."

On why she had waited five years to return to the country of her birth, she said: "I was waiting for a good opportunity to return to Romania. I wanted to return immediately after the revolution, but I had a difficult life."

Comaneci has brought her fiancé, American gymnast Bart Conner, with her to Romania but said she could never see herself returning to the Balkan country to live.

"I will never return to live in Romania because my life now has other connections," she said, adding, however, that she wanted to build a close relationship with Romanian gymnastics.

In country which has had little to cheer since the Christmas 1989 anti-communist revolution the visit by the 32-year-old Comaneci has national importance with calls on the President Ion Iliescu and Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu.

Conner, a double gold medalist at the 1986 Los Angeles Olympics, said: "I know Nadia is your treasure so I promise you that I take care of her."

Comaneci returned on Monday night on the same aircraft carrying the Romanian women's gymnastic team which won its third World Championship in Dortmund at the weekend.

The team is far more commercially minded than Comaneci ever dared to be and went on strike last month over non-payment of bonuses.

"If I had been born in the United States I would never have become 'Nadia Comaneci,'" she said.

Fortune no more

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 23: Charles Fortune, South Africa's best-loved cricket commentator, died at his home in Johannesburg on Tuesday at the age of 89, reports Reuter.

Fortune was particularly loved for his occasional eccentricity and descriptions of the surroundings as much as the cricket itself.

He began his broadcasting career as a freelance contributor at the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) in 1939 but soon became established as a household name at home and abroad with his cricket Test commentaries for over three decades.

United Cricket Board of South Africa managing director Ali Bacher, who captained the national team when Fortune was at his peak, paid rich tribute in a statement.

"Charles Arthur Frederick Fortune was revered here and abroad for his outstanding commentaries... he brought a new dimension with his incredible knowledge of every facet of the game and his delightful flair for the English language."

"He was a man of intellect who enjoyed life and this was reflected in his commentaries and in his after-dinner speaking for which he sought after."

"He will be missed but never forgotten," said Bacher.

Current SABC cricket commentator Gerald de Kock said that he was deeply saddened by the news of Fortune's death.

"He was the man that everyone looked up to... he was my hero and still is. I used to visit him as often as possible for advice and guidance because he listened to all of us on a regular basis."

Fortune is survived by his wife Daphne, whom he married in 1939.

Butt's purse on fire

KARACHI, Nov 23: Pakistan cricket authorities have for the first time banned and fined a player for ball-tampering, cricket officials said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

A Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) official said on Wednesday pace bowler Assadullah Butt had been banned for four matches of a domestic cricket tournament and ordered to pay a fine of 5,000 rupees (162 dollars) for ball tampering in a first-class match.

"Butt confessed during a cross-examination by a domestic tournament monitoring committee of using a bottle neck to rough up the ball surface in a first-class match," he said.

The offence took place during a Patron's Trophy league match between the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and Habib Bank Limited teams in Karachi on November 1-4. Butt was playing for Habib Bank.

Butt will not be able to play in the first four matches of the Qaid-i-Azam Trophy beginning on December 4, the official said.

He said ball-tampering charges against another bowler, Nadeem Afzal of PIA, had been dropped by the committee as his name was not mentioned in reports filed by the umpires and the match referee.

Zimbabweans again in mess

ADELAIDE, Nov 23: Left-arm pace bowler Brett Swain picked up two wickets in a fiery opening spell Wednesday as the Australian Institute of Sport Cricket Academy took control on the opening day of their three-day match against Zimbabwe, reports AP.

The Academy made 271 for seven declared and then reduced the tourist to 46 for three by stumps.

Swain struck in his first over when he had Mark Dekker caught in the slips by Craig Howard for a duck, and he followed with the wicket of Alistair Campbell in his next over, caught by wicketkeeper Craig Glasscock. Campbell also failed to trouble the scorers.

Swain finished with figures of two for 20 from nine penetrative overs.

New South Wales paceman Shane Lee grabbed the prize wicket of Grant Flower for 11 late in the day.

Zimbabwe captain Andy Flower will resume Thursday on 27 with Guy Whittall unbeaten on eight.

Academy captain Daniel Marsh, the son of former Australian Test wicketkeeper Rodney Marsh, earlier smashed a superb 100 not out of only 112 balls as the Australian youngsters refused to be overawed by their more experienced opponents.

Marsh's innings included 14 boundaries.

A brisk 118-run stand between Marsh and Matthew Nicholson (42) set the stage for the Academy's declaration.

Scores: Australian Institute of Sport Cricket Academy 271-7 declared (Daniel Marsh 100 not out; Paul Strang 2-56). Zimbabwe 46-3 (Brett Swain 2-20).