

Victoria first in last four

Victoria Sporting Club became the first team to enter the semifinals of the 15th Damai Summer Cricket tournament.

Yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium, the traditional but low profile outfit beat Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club by 30 runs to finish their group engagements with a heady all-win record.

Fired up by a stunning three-wicket victory over the holders Abahani in their second round opener Monday, Victoria restricted GMCC to 150 after garnering a modest 180 from their quota of 45 overs.

Although it was earned mainly through team effort, Victoria's win, however, owed much to Indian Rajinder Singh.

The genial *sardarji* turned in a stingy stint of spin bowling — spending only eleven runs in nine overs — to tighten the noose around GMCC, who missed the service of their skipper Mahabubur Rahman, who had to skip the match for examination.

Rajinder was also in the thick of things in the morning when Victoria batted after the stand in GMCC skipper won the toss and opted to field first.

He tied up with opener Mirhab Hossain for the second highest score of the innings following skipper Azhar Hossain's 82 ball 43.

Rajinder took 39 balls for his 27 while Mirhab, who got the same number of runs, required 54 balls in Victoria's eventual collection of 180 for eight.

None of the GMCC bowlers met with any success though new ball bowler Mizanur Rahman and off-spinner Sanwar bowled tightly to capture one each for 31 and 29 runs respectively.

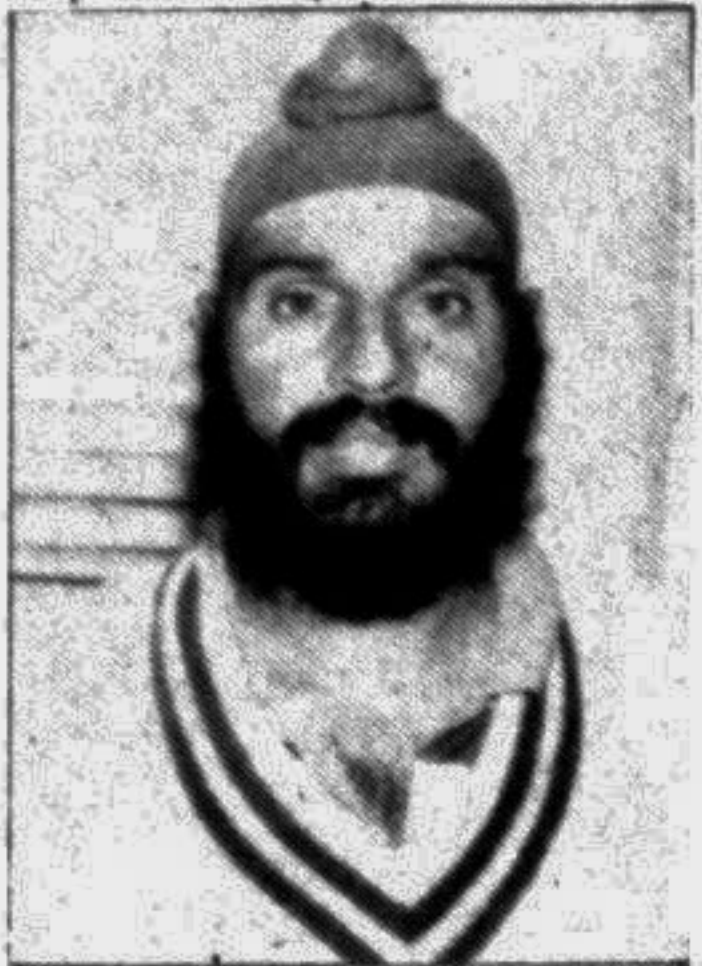
GMCC began their victory quest limpingly against Victoria's spirited new ball attack spearheaded by Iqbal, whose lusty willow triggered

off the biggest upset of the domestic season only couple of days back.

Iqbal, who forced the GMCC opener Javed Omar Bellin to don the helmet with a menacing spurt early on, took a wicket apiece with his partner Tanveer of a lovely action.

Although Javed hung on grimly, wickets fell far too frequently for GMCC to keep themselves focused on a win.

Two batsmen were run out in pursuit of quick runs as the



RAJINDER SINGH

Victoria bowling, led by the mean Rajinder, dried up the pipeline of strokes.

Having lost six batsmen for 73 even before the innings was halfway through, GMCC gave up rather too prematurely, earning a bad name for a match that promised to be a fascinating contest.

Although bowler Mizan and wicketkeeper Zaman garnered some easy pickings GMCC's

N'ganj Club snooker

Sports Reporter

Moniruzzaman clinched the title of the Narayanganj Club snooker championship when he earned a 7-5 frames victory over Monir Hossain in the final at the club billiard room yesterday, says a press release.

Forty cuedist of the club took part in the meet.

fate was well and truly sealed. Mizan with 33 and Zaman with an unbeaten 32 stood out as the major contributors in GMCC's grand total of 150 for eight that had the topscorer in Javed's 61-ball 43.

SCOREBOARD

VICTORIA SC	
Azhar Hossain run out	43
Mirhab Hossain b Rafiq	27
Vishal Yadav c A b Sanwar	05
Rajinder Singh c Mizan b Shariful	27
Zauddin Ahmed st Pappu b Sharifuddin	03
Abu Hamid run out	19
Hassanuzzaman lbw b Mizan	8
Iqbal Hossain c Javed b Sharif	14
Biplob Sarkar not out	13
Ahmed Didar not out	01
Extras: (lb-8, nb-2, w-10)	20
Total: (for eight wickets in 45 overs)	180
Fall of wickets: 1-66; 2-78; 3-103; 4-109; 5-124; 6-143; 7-160; 8-169.	

BOWLING:		O	M	R	W
Anisur Rahman		6	0	28	0
Mizan		9	1	31	1
Sanwar Hossain		9	1	29	1
Tushar Koddikora		3	0	11	0
Rafiqul Hassan		4	0	16	1
Sharifuddin					
Ibn-e-Shaheed		6	0	23	1
Shariful Haq		8	0	32	2

GMCC:	
Fazlur Ferqus c Didar b Iqbal	04
Javed Omar run out	43
Tushar Koddikora run out	00
Rafiqul Hassan b Tanveer	01
Kashif Ibrahim run out	05
Sanwar Hossain b Rajinder	04
Mizanur Rahman c Didar b Vishal	33
Pappu not out	32
Anisur Rahman b Biplob Sarkar	03
Sharifuddin Ibn-e-Shaheed not out	05
Extras: (lb-4, lb-5, nb-2, w-9)	20
Total: (for eight wickets in 45 overs)	150
Fall of wickets: 1-10; 2-16; 3-25; 4-50; 5-66; 6-73; 7-121; 8-134.	

Bowling:		O	M	R	W
Tanveer Ahmed		5	0	21	1
Iqbal Hossain		5	0	16	1
Biplob Sarkar		9	0	32	1
Rajinder Singh		9	3	11	1
Vishal Yadav		9	0	21	1
Azhar Hossain		7	0	35	0
Mirhab Hossain		1	0	5	0
Result: Victoria won by 30 runs.					

TODAY'S MATCH
Mohammedans SC vs Brothers Union.

Amre for Mohammedans

Sports Reporter

Indian Test discard Praveen Amre reportedly arrived last night to play for Mohammedan Sporting Club in today's second round encounter of the 15th Damai Summer cricket tournament against Brothers Union.

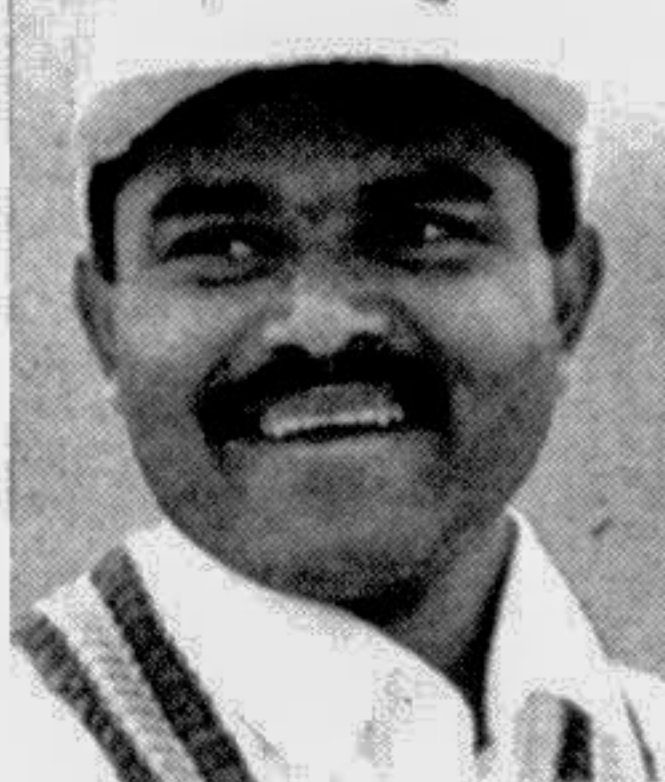
The right-handed middle-order Maharashtra batsman, though presently out of the Indian selectors' favour, made a dream debut a couple of years ago, hitting a century in his maiden Test during India's tour of South Africa.

Amre had been procured rather frantically by the Mohammedan officials to offset the accidental unavailability of Nadim Yunus, one of the two Pakistanis signed up recently.

Nadim is currently nursing a wrist injury suffered in Mohammedans match against Wari last week.

Naveed Bhatti, the other Pakistani, is however, alright and will spearhead the Mohammedan pace attack.

While Mohammedans brace for banking on Amre at least for the curtain-raising meet, arch-rivals Abahani had Pakistani international Nadim



PRAVEEN AMRE

Khan, a left-arm spinner, registered for the season.

Meanwhile, Aritra Nandy, a badminton player from Calcutta, arrived in the same flight to play for Mohammedans in the First Division badminton league.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Kathalbagan Green Cricket Club and Dhanmondi Progoti Sangha won their respective matches on the inaugural day of the Acme Second Division cricket league at different city venues yesterday.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Kathalbagan recorded a 37-run win over Lalbagh Anwar Club.

Sent in to bat first, Kathalbagan raced to a mammoth total of 256 for five in the allotted 40 overs and then restricted Lalbagh to 219.

Nazmul with 66 top-scored for Kathalbagan followed by Azizul, Sohel Rana and Barkatullah, who chipped in with 48, 42 and 38 not out respectively.

The Lalbagh innings was featured by two half centuries from Sumon (59) and Zafar (58) while Zauddin with 31 was the other notable contributor.

In an otherwise batsmen-dominated encounter, Barkatullah of the winners was the lone bowler to have some success with the cherry claiming three for 26 in his eight-over spell.

Away at the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Dhanmondi Progoti Sangha beat Young Pegasus B by three wickets in a low-scoring affair.

Chasing a modest target of 115 for victory in 40 overs the Dhanmondi outfit rattled up required runs for seven wickets with more than ten overs to spare.

Manzur, who scored 31 off 49 balls, was the top scorer for the winners while skipper Liti made 19 with the help of two hits to the fence.

Earlier, sent in to bat first, Young Pegasus were bundled out for a paltry 114 in 28.1 overs with Ashrafur notching up 24.

Alli Rahman and Mashrurul Qadir evenly shares six wickets among them.

TODAY'S MATCHES

- Orient SC vs Nabin Sangha (DCS-W)
- Mirpur NK vs Azad SC (DCG)
- Shantinagar A vs Rayerbazzar Club (MOS)

Matthaeus gets one-match ban

FRANKFURT, Nov 30: German soccer chiefs fined and banned national team captain Lothar Matthaeus for one game on Wednesday after he accused a World Cup referee of taking a bribe in a recent league match, reports Reuter.

The German Football Federation (DFB) ordered the 33-year-old Bayern captain to pay 25,000 marks (dollar 15,900). Matthaeus, who has apologized for his emotional post-match outburst, will miss Bayern's Bundesliga home clash with Dynamo Dresden on Saturday.



Dutch player Jacques Brinkman (R) scores his team's fourth goal despite an attempted interception by South African captain Wayne Graham (L) during the World Cup hockey encounter in Sydney yesterday. The Netherlands trounced South Africa 5-1 to book a berth in the last four.

Top four in round of four

SYDNEY, Nov 30: The Netherlands set up a semifinal confrontation with hosts Australia after strolling to a

5-1 win over South Africa at the eighth men's World Cup hockey tournament here Wednesday, reports AFP.

Olympic champions Germany will take on Pakistan in Friday's other semifinal after drawing with Asian champions South Korea 1-1 Wednesday.

World hockey's big four have been in the semi-finals in three of the last four World Cups and despite England's play-off with Australia for a semifinal place Tuesday, it was widely anticipated that the four top-ranked nations would fight for the trophy here.

They have dominated major competition for the last couple of seasons: the Dutch won the last World Cup in 1990, Germany won the gold medal at the Barcelona Olympics two years ago, Australia won the 1993 Champions' Trophy and Pakistan 'claimed' this year's Champions' Trophy in Lahore.

Australia have beaten the Dutch in three of their four World Cup encounters, but have failed to impress in their five preliminary matches here, beating Belarus, Argentina and Spain, but losing 2-1 to Pakistan and staying off England 2-0 on Tuesday to earn their fifth consecutive World Cup semifinal place.

The host nation will be without experienced forward David Wansbrough, who was suspended after picking up his third yellow card at the tour-

naments.

Automatic suspension is legislated for two yellow cards. Unruffled Netherlands have cruised through the tournament, winning four times, playing out a scoreless draw with Germany and scoring 21 goals and conceding six.

Their winger Taco van den Honert scored a hat-trick against South Africa Wednesday to take his tally here to 10.

"We controlled the game in the first half with three goals so I could bring on the other players for the second half and give them some rhythm just in case I need them for the semi-finals," said Dutch coach Roelant Oltmans.

Pakistan, who clinched the top of Pool A after grinding out a 2-0 win over lowly Belarus Wednesday, are prepared to play Shahbaz Ahmed against Germany even though their irrepressible match-winner is unlikely to have fully recovered from a hamstring injury.

Team manager Abdul Rashid said: "We hope he will be fit for the semifinal," said Rashid. "He is still in pain, but he is now walking. The team needs him, he's Maradona to us," said Rashid.

Shahbaz, 27, injured his left hamstring during Pakistan's 2-1 win over Australia last Saturday.

"We have to improve our game, particularly in the midfield and we will be looking forward to the return of Shahbaz, it will be better for us," said teammate Tahir Zaman.

Pakistan have lost three of their eight matches with Germany this year, another four

were drawn. But they have appointed Hans Jooritsma, who led the Dutch to World Cup victory in Lahore in 1990, as coach, adding a scientific dimension to the Pakistanis' natural flair.

German coach Paul Lissek said after his team's tenacious draw with South Korea that Germany could be the surprise team of the semifinals.

"I'm sure if Shahbaz plays for Pakistan my team will be more concentrated," said Lissek. "They have most of the ball through Shahbaz and Zaman and we have good players who can play against them, like Michael Green and Ulrich Moissi... and cover them."

Green was hit in the face by a ball during the Korean match and Christian Stengler was also hit suffering a gashed lip. But Lissek was confident they would be fit.

Final group standings in the men's World Cup hockey on Wednesday (tabulated — played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Group A	
Pakistan	5 4 0 1 10 4 8
Australia	5 4 0 1 9 4 8
England	5 2 2 1 4 3 6
Argentina	5 2 1 2 8 8 5
Spain	5 1 1 3 7 8 3
Belarus	5 0 0 5 2 13 0

Group B	
Netherlands	5 4 1 0 21 6 9
Germany	5 2 3 0 10 3 7
India	5 2 1 2 11 10 5
South Korea	5 1 2 2 10 9 4
South Africa	5 0 4 1 5 9 4
Belgium	5 0 1 4 6 26 1

Zimbabwe warm up well for World Series

PERTH, Nov 30: Zimbabwe stepped up their preparations for the limited overs international series with a five-run win over Western Australia on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The tourists won the toss and compiled 207 for nine with middle order batsman Dave Houghton top scoring 78, while the home side's bowler Jo Angel took two wickets for 27.

Western Australia, for whom opener Mark Lavender scored 58 and vice-captain Justin Langer 40, fell just short of Zimbabwe's total with 202 for seven.

They needed 15 runs from the final over, a target out of reach for lower order batsmen Adam Gilchrist and Angel.

Zimbabwe face Australia in the first match of the one-day series at Perth's WACA ground on Friday.

Rindel included in SA squad

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 30: Northern Transvaal batsman Mike Rindel, 31, has been included in South Africa's 14-man squad for the first three matches of the quadrangular one-day series against New Zealand, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, reports Reuter.

The selectors have named the 11 who played in the first Test defeated by New Zealand as well as Rindel, who is uncapped, and two all-rounders Dave Callaghan of Eastern Province and Eric Simons of Western Province.

Both have played one-day internationals for South Africa in the last 12 months.

John Commins, who was 12th man for the Test, has been left out and former captain Kepler Wessels was not considered because of injury.

After the first three matches the squad will be reviewed.

TEAM

Hansie Cronje (captain), Andrew Hudson, Gary Kirsten, Darryl Cullinan, Jonty Rhodes, Brian McMillan, Dave Richardson, Richard Spell, Craig Matthews, Clive Eksteen, Fanie de Villiers, Dave Callaghan, Eric Simons, Mike Rindel.

Botafogo make it to qtrs

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 30: Botafogo defeated Gremio 1-0 Tuesday night to clinch the last quarterfinal berth in the Brazilian national soccer championship, reports AP.

Juninho took a pass from Tulio and scored the game winner at 75 minutes for Botafogo, who needed only a tie to qualify.

The win gave Botafogo 13 points and first place in Group F in the return leg of the tournament's second round. A loss would have given the berth to Santos.

Botafogo take the field again Thursday against Atletico Mineiro in the opening game of their home-and-away quarterfinal series.

Barisal soccer

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Nov 30: Touch Video Club recorded their second successive win in the Emma Overseas First Division football super league when they beat Fifth Armed Battalion by a lone goal at the local stadium here today.

Harun netted the all important goal in the first half for the winners.

Abahani KC will take on Brothers Union in the next match of the four-team super league tomorrow (Thursday).



Mizanur Rahman Sinha, Managing Director of the sponsors Acme Laboratories Limited, is being introduced to the players at the Dhanmondi Club ground on the opening day of the Second Division cricket league yesterday.

Intercontinental Cup final today

Milan meet Velez Sarsfield

TOKYO, Nov 30: AC Milan may not be exactly at their peak, but they are, after all, AC Milan. And Argentina's Velez Sarsfield are taking them very, very seriously.

"Milan are Milan, no matter who play," said Velez coach Carlos Bianchi.

"They have been one of the world's best teams for years. We feel it is an honour to play them."

The Italian team — minus Dutch stars Ruud Gullit, who was recently dumped, and injured Marco Van Basten — take on Velez Thursday at Tokyo's National Stadium in the Intercontinental Cup, an annual contest to decide the world's top soccer club, reports AP.

For Milan, it is a familiar setting.

The Italians represented Europe in the cup for the fifth time last year, narrowly losing to Brazil's Sao Paulo. Milan have won the Intercontinental Cup, held here since 1980 as the Toyota Cup, three times — in 1969, 1989 and 1990.

But AC Milan's woes this year do not end with their missing Dutchmen.

Midfielder Dejan Savicevic is also on the questionable list, though he says he "hopes to play. And as captain Franco Baresi put it: "We haven't had much good luck."

Luck was definitely not on

Milan's side in their game last week against Ajax Amsterdam, which they lost 2-0. Sweeper Baresi, a veteran member of Italy's national team, scored one of the goals for Ajax.

Just six months after cap-

Baggio back in action soon

TURIN, Nov 30: Juventus attacker Roberto Baggio is expected to make a rapid return to first team action after tests revealed a knee injury he suffered at the weekend was not as serious as feared, club officials said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

"The tests show there is no damage to the ligaments and he's fine," club spokesman Daniele Boggio said.

He added that Baggio would miss Thursday's Italian Cup quarterfinal first leg match against Roma but that the Turin Club hoped he could be fit for the league game with Fiorentina on Sunday.

Juventus, seeking their first league title since 1986, are in second place in Serie A, a point behind leaders Parma but with a game in hand.

European footballer-of-the-year Baggio is finding his best form, striking twice against Austria's Admira Wacker in the UEFA Cup last week and netting a free-kick in Sunday's league victory over Padova, the game in which he was hurt.

turing their third consecutive league title and their fifth Champions' Cup, Milan have been eliminated from the Italian Cup and are on the brink of elimination from the Champions' League.

"It has been disappointing compared to last year," Baresi said. "But I think we'll be able to play more our own game in the future."

Since Milan's ascent began under coach Arrigo Sacchi in 1988, the team has won, along with the two Intercontinental Cup titles, four league titles, three Champions' Cups and two European SuperCups.

For Velez, meanwhile, this has been a good year.

The young team currently co-lead their domestic league with River Plate. They won their first Intercontinental Cup berth by defeating Sao Paulo in August for the Copa Libertadores, or Liberators' Cup.

"We have been lucky in getting good young players," Bianchi said. "It has added up for us and we are getting stronger and stronger."

Both teams arrived in Tokyo last week so that they would have ample time to acclimatize, and have held daily workouts. Velez arrived on Saturday, one day later than Milan.

"That won't make any difference," Bianchi said. "We've had enough time to get ready."

Thursday's kickoff is scheduled for 7:10 pm (10:10 GMT).