

Column One SPORTS TALK

Nannu steals the show

Sports Reporter



With former national team skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannu giving rise to the most talked about transfer controversy in recent memory, the five-day long cricketers' transfers for the 1995-96 season came to an end on Friday.

An total of 266 cricketers vying to play in the twenty elite Premier and First Division clubs collected their transfer tokens from the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) office during the scheduled transfer period. Of them, 225 players chose to change their allegiance to new teams.

Nannu's desertion of Abahani Krira Chakra to join his former team, arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club, and Abahani's resulting mud-slinging, provided the only spark of excitement in an otherwise predictable duration of give-and-take.

The high-pitched drama regarding Nannu all started when he, amid protests from Abahani officials, signed for Mohammedans on October 1.

The signing immediately provoked a hasty press conference from the Dhanmondi outfit in which furious officials claimed that the prolific run-getter had promised them his allegiance to Abahani, but was forced to join their fellow joint league champions at gunpoint.

Abahani officials went to the extent of threatening to boycott the transfer and, if necessary, all BCCB activities.

The following day Mohammedans denied the allegations in a counter press briefing, in which Nannu also spoke in their support.

But, after a day, the tension simmered down. Abahani brushed the huff away and participated in the transfer, and all that was gained out of the farce was Nannu's name appearing in newspaper headlines every day.

Nannu's inclusion was actually just a feather in the cap for Mohammedans, who, like

QM masters chess begins tomorrow

Sports Reporter

The 12th Beximco Dr Quazi Motahar Hossain International Masters' chess tournament will begin tomorrow afternoon at the hall-room of National Sports Council under the auspices of Bangladesh Chess Federation.

About fourteen rated players including five international Masters from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan will vie for Tk 80,000 this year in a 13-round Swiss league competition.

Addressing in a press briefing last evening, Bangladesh Chess Federation secretary Mujibur Rahman said the draw will be held today in the evening and due to the hartal the first round will start tomorrow at 3:00 pm.

The other rounds will begin everyday at 2:00 pm from Monday onwards. He also informed the press that the sponsors of the tournament Beximco group are paying Tk 350,000 including the prize-money. The champion will be awarded with Tk 30,000 cash.

This year, as many as four countries — Indonesia, India, UAE and Pakistan — were invited for the meet of which only India and Pakistan responded and sent their players.

From Pakistan two times former champion IM Mahmud Lodhi and IM Shahzad Mirza have already arrived in the capital on Thursday while four Indian players — IM Parama Sharma Mitrakanta, IM Sudhakar Babu, RB Ramesh and Rahul Shethy — were scheduled to reach Dhaka last night.

The eight Bangladeshi participants are: Former champion IM Ziaur Rahman, Saifuddin Lavlu, Enamul Hossain Rajib, Kays Hasan, Ali Amjad Mintu, Khorshed Alam, Abdullah Al Rakib and Ziaul Kader Tuhin.

Defending champion IM Rezaul Karim and FIDE Master Syed Tahmidur Rahman are not participating this time due to personal reasons.

Hadlee for 'super Test'



RICHARD HADLEE

SINGAPORE, Oct 6: Cricket legend Sir Richard Hadlee on Friday proposed radical changes in the game, including a World Cup for Test cricket to keep spectators interested in the five-day game, reports AP.

Hadlee, New Zealand's greatest player ever, also predicted that an Asian country, likely Sri Lanka, will win the next World Cup tournament to be played in India. Pakistan and Sri Lanka in February and March.

The Sri Lankans are one of the most improved sides. They are the most fancied to win the World Cup," said Hadlee at a Foreign Correspondents Association luncheon speech he shared with another cricketing great, Graeme Pollock of South Africa.

The four cricketers are here to play in the worldwide cricket Sixes tournament this weekend among 10 countries. Each team will play with six players instead of the normal 11.

Pollock said he would put his money on India winning the 1996 World Cup even though the Sri Lankans are in top form after beating Pakistan on their own soil 2-1 in a Test series and 2-1 in a one-day series last week.

Hadlee, noting that one-day cricket had depleted crowds at five-day Tests, suggested a World Cup for a so-called "super Test" to be held once in three or four years.

But Chappell, at a separate news conference, said: "I don't want to see cricket that way. I oppose fiddling, but some aspects can be fine tuned." Getting made similar comments.

At present, the nine cricketing countries criss-cross their Test matches by playing at different times of the year and in differing playing conditions — not a good barometre for overall supremacy.

Hadlee said one match in a regular five-Test series could be played as a preliminary for the super Test. Bonus points could be awarded for outright victories, highest wickets taken or highest runs, providing incentives for teams to play more exciting cricket at least once during the series.

The two nations with the highest number of bonus points would then clash at the "super Test."

"How can you determine which is the best team in the world? Super Test is one way," he said, speaking at a fast clip, conjuring images of his deadly fast bowling that helped him scalp 431 wickets in Tests.

The outstanding all-rounder, now 45, also has scored 3,124 runs in 86 Tests with two centuries.

Hadlee later said that it was the first time he has publicly aired the Test World Cup idea. Another inevitable change in the game, he said, is day and night Tests.

Pollock, said he "basically agreed" with Hadlee's suggestions. "That is the way to go," said Pollock, once regarded as the best batsman in the world.

Michael Jordan

(US basketball superstar) When you hire 12 Clint Eastwoods to do a job for you, you don't ask them what bullets they're going to be putting in their gun.

On the row over which sponsors outfit to wear at the medal ceremony.

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT in any competition being the best is all that matters. Of course, there are values such as sportsman spirit and fair play. You don't have to climb the highest mountain to be the best climber of a meet, nor do you have to leap the farthest to win a jumping gold, and you definitely do not have to catch the biggest fish to be the best in an angling competition.

On Boxing Day (that's the day after Christmas) in 1950, 159 anglers staked their reputation at Walton-on-the-Naze. Of course, like in any other competition, they found the winner. He was E. Curry of Bury St. Edmunds. Curry was rewarded with a 12 pound turkey and a carton of cigarettes. This was before the time of ADHUNIK and other anti-smoking campaigners. What did Curry catch? Well, it was a flounder which weighed 9 ounces. The other 158 competitors caught nothing at all. Now, nine ounces are better than nothing, anytime.

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN Competition closes 8 pm Oct 13, 1995

- 1. How many Grand Slam tennis tournaments are there? 2. Sri Lankan cricketers recently beat...

- 1. The Sports WHIZZ KID Competition is a property of The Daily Star. 2. The competition is open only to school-going children.

Roberto Pompei (R) of Argentina's Racing Club and Wagner of Brazil's Gremio chase the ball during their South American Super Cup encounter in Buenos Aires on October 5. Gremio advanced to the second round after the first round return match ended 3-3.

Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Oct 6: Mohammedan SC recorded their second consecutive victory after beating Power Development Board 2-0 in the CJKP Elite Paints First Division football league at the Niaz Stadium today, reports UNB.

Earlier, in their opening match on September 30, Mohammedans trounced Bakalia KS 4-1.

Atletico back to saddle



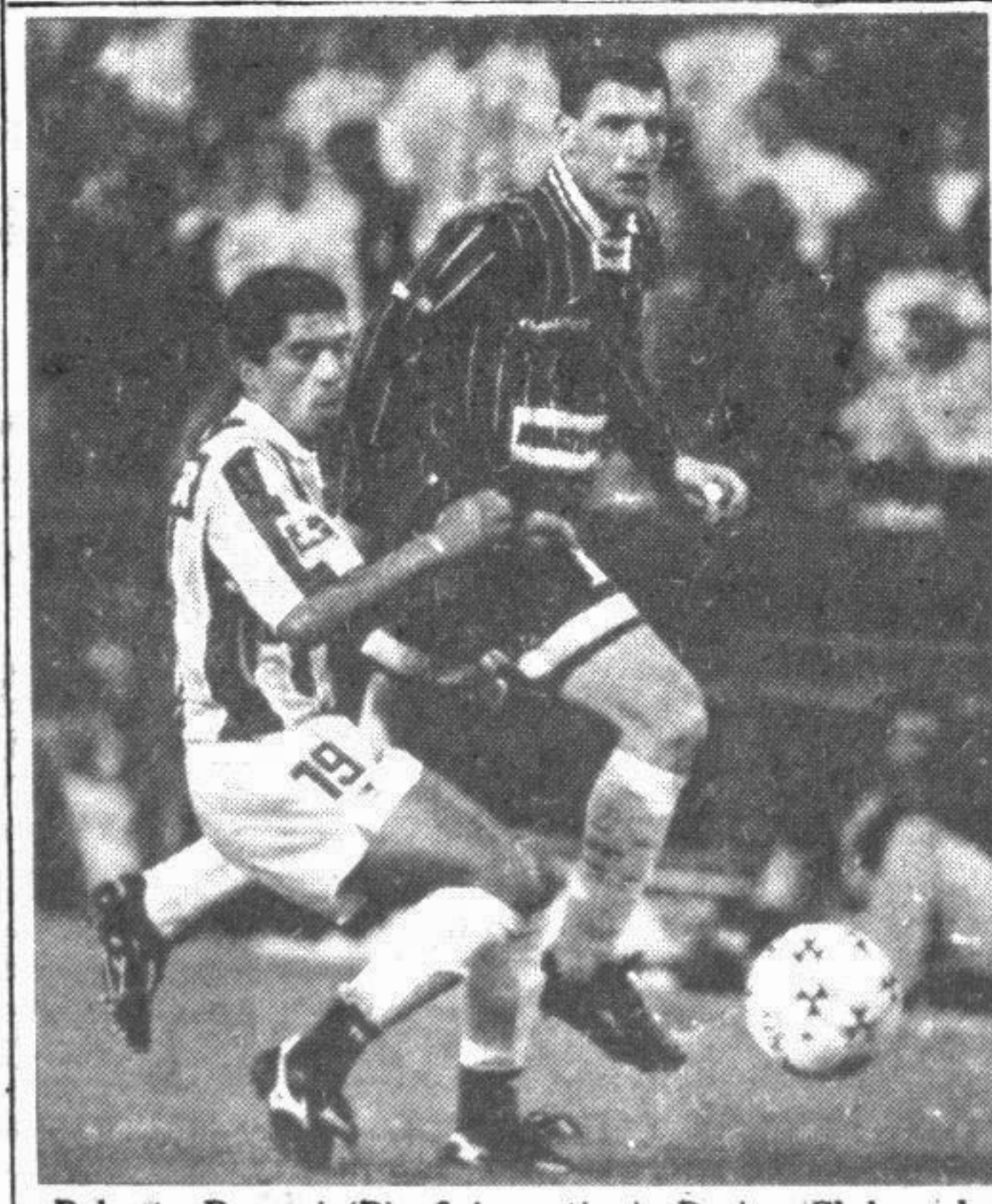
MADRID, Oct 6: Atletico Madrid midfielder Milinko Pantic scored on a direct kick Thursday breaking a second half tie to defeat Espanyol 2-1 and put his team back atop the Spanish League after the sixth round of play, reports AP.

After falling to second place a week ago, Atletico regained the top position with an overwhelming offensive attack.

Atletico took an early lead when striker Francisco "Kiko" Narvaez scored after just five minutes Kiko's goal came from a header after teammate Diego Pablo Simeone ricocheted the header of his own from a corner kick.

Although Atletico dominated play for much of the first half, Espanyol surprised the home team by scoring just moments before halftime with a powerful left-footed shot by striker Jordi Lardin Cruz from beyond the penalty area.

The turning point in the game came in the 55th minute when Espanyol defender Sebastian Herrera was thrown out for illegally bringing down Atletico's Kiko as the team's star striker was on a fast break, dribbling



Roberto Pompei (R) of Argentina's Racing Club and Wagner of Brazil's Gremio chase the ball during their South American Super Cup encounter in Buenos Aires on October 5. Gremio advanced to the second round after the first round return match ended 3-3.

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Painadi Agragati Jubo Sangha recorded a big win in the Pioneer football super league on Friday when they outclassed Swadesh Sangsad Club 10-0 at the Rajuk ground.

The match featured two hat-tricks by strikers Nazmul Haque and Mahmudul Hasan, who scored four goals. Amirullah, Arman and Shaquie netted the other three goals for the winners.

In the day's other encounter, Rainbow Club and Uttara Club split points with a 3-3 draw.

Abul Hossain scored twice while Khokon added the other to Rainbow account. On the other hand, Akram Hossain, with two goals, and Ripon were the Uttara Club scorers.

Inter-services athletics

Sports Reporter

The annual inter-services athletic championship begins at the Bangladesh Army Stadium in Banani today, reports UNB.

About 150 athletics from the Army, Navy and Air Force will take part in different events of the meet.

Div II cricket transfers Oct 25

Sports Reporter

The Second Division inter-club cricketers' transfers will begin on October 25.

As per a press-release of BCCB yesterday evening, the transfer will continue for three days and will end on October 27.

- 1. Md Muzammel Hossain University Laboratory School Dhaka 2. Sujjada Afroz Nahar Tutorial Dhanmondi, Dhaka 3. Mursheda Sharmeen Scholastica School Dhaka 4. Tamanna Nazneen Engineering University School Dhaka 5. M S Rusalat Scholastica School Dhaka

Labrooy replaces Vaas

COLOMBO, Oct 6: Sri Lanka's star pace bowler, Chaminda Vaas is to miss the three-nation limited over cricket tournament in Sharjah next week and will be replaced by fast bowler Wendell Labrooy, cricket officials said today, reports AFP.

Vaas has been forced to skip the tournament due to a back injury he suffered during the recent tour of Pakistan.

Labrooy is the only newcomer in the 14-member squad picked for the Champions' Trophy Tournament in Sharjah from October 11 to October 20. Pakistan and the West Indies are the other two nations taking part in the triangular contest.

The Sri Lankan team, fresh from a Test and one-day series win over Pakistan, is to leave for Sharjah on Monday.

SQUAD

A. Ranatunga (capt), PA de Silva, RS Mahanama, AP Gurusinha, C. Hathurusinghe, HP Tillekeratne, ST Jayasuriya, RS Kalpage, RS Kaluwitharana, K. Dharmasena, M. Muralidharan, E. Upasantha, W. Labrooy, P. Wickramasinghe.

Kasparov title-bound



NEW YORK, Oct 6: Title-holder Garry Kasparov edged closer to victory in his Professional Chess Association World Championship series with Challenger Viswanathan Anand after they agreed to a draw in their 15th game Thursday after only 16 moves, report AP.

Kasparov leads 9 points to 6 and requires one win or two draws to retain his title. Experts said Kasparov's latest victory all but ends Anand's chance to unseat him.

"I think he probably gave up his hopes to win the game," Kasparov said when play finished after only 40 minutes. "There are more games to go and he's still very dangerous," Kasparov

Kasparov plays with the advantage of white pieces in the 16th game Friday. In a game that started two hours late because of an air-conditioning failure in the players soundproof glass booth, Kasparov once again chose the sharp Dragon Sicilian defence as he did in two previous games when he played with the black pieces. Play followed well-known routes into a double edged position where both players are expected to attack on opposite sides of the board.

But on the 14th move, Anand's lackluster continuation led to a trade of queens and a dead equal end game position.

"I understand people are disappointed in this result, but we are two human beings," Kasparov said. "I don't think it's easy for someone who spent two years of his life climbing and getting quite close," he said of Anand.

After nine games, Anand led the contest 5-to-4, but Kasparov came back with a dramatic run of four victories in the next five games.

SA's sweet strategy!

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 6: England's cricketers face an added menace on their tour of South Africa later this year — jelly babies, reports Reuter.

The South African team will be gobbling the sweets at a rate of up to a dozen an hour — on doctor's orders.

"Jelly babies are high in carbohydrates and very good at replacing the nutrients lost in the field," United Cricket Board of South Africa managing director Ali Bacher told a news conference on Thursday.

National coach Bob Woolmer, the former Kent and England player, endorsed the diet.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Edward Scissorhands star 5 So bad it's good 9 A mere handful 12 Notion 13 Neighborhood 14 Soul, on the Seine 15 Future flock 16 Glasses-wearer's choice 17 Pizzazz 18 Teen's room, often 19 Bother 20 Saucy 21 Youngster 23 "Yankee Doodle Dandy" 25 "Chances Are" singer 28 Withstand 32 The little mermaid 33 Studio statuette 34 (dis-

solution 11 Sobbed 20 Become a lawyer 22 Edmonton athlete 24 "Take — to the Ball Game" 25 Incensed 26 Jackie's second 27 "— the season..." 29 Bar supply 30 Gal of song 31 Have a go at it 35 Dedicate 36 Adhesive 39 "Moo-nopoly" corner 40 Unsightly 41 Un-matched 43 Un-yielding 45 Bygone times 46 Incursion 47 Significant periods 49 Chemin de —

11x11 crossword grid with numbers 1-47.

CRYPTOQUIP ET WFR HBJWBEL HIL - TZILWXFEX GEXFBJ - JZILR XZRP, FR SRGBLSXB XWZBEW BLXPZR. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WITH THE COMING OF ELECTRIC LAMPS, SKILLED CANDLEMAKING TAPERED OFF. Today's Cryptoquip clue: L equals N