

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

HAT kings and monarchs are usually rather whimsical. A royal nod was at one time enough to bestow a person, or wage a war, or whisk away a damsel to the palace.

At the first modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896 the festivities were not confined to athletics events. The air was live with stage shows, concerts and other cultural events.

The French president was there to show visiting dignitaries around. On presenting the famed ballet company of the Paris Opera to the Shah of Paris, a little problem arose. What do you think the Shah did? Like a true monarch the sports loving Shah immediately offered to purchase the entire company for his harem!

It's a good thing that Shah is not longer around. Wonder what he might have done in present day Olympics after witnessing a stadium filled with girls performing calisthenics.

SPORTS TALK



John Major

(British Prime Minister and an ardent cricket fan)

"I can completely escape from politics while I am at cricket. It is a release with an atmosphere all its own. What concerns me is what is going on out on the pitch. I switch off into a completely separate world."

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN The rules are published every Saturday.

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-15

Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes 8 p.m. Dec 1, 1995)

- 1. The World Cup cricket 1996 final will be held in Calcutta Karachi Lahore

- 2. Test cricketer Hanif Mohammad was born in India Pakistan Bangladesh

- 3. Besides India, with whom did Australia play a Test? England Pakistan West Indies

- 4. ITF Thai-Bangladesh Satellite tennis was played locally in Dhaka and Chittagong Comilla Rajshahi

- 5. Ajax is a football club from Holland Amsterdam Milan

Name: Roll No: School Address: Phone: (if any)

Police football

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Metropolitan Police lifted the Bangladesh Police football championship '95 trophy when they defeated Armed Police Battalion by a solitary goal at the Uttara Armed Police Battalion ground in the city yesterday.

Ajit Kumar scored the all-important goal in the 20th minute of the second half.

Inspector General of Police A S M Shahjahan was present as the chief guest during the game and distributed prizes among the participants.

Army athletics

Five more events of the annual athletic meet of the Bangladesh Army were finalised at the Mirpur National Stadium here yesterday, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

Those who clinched gold were Md Nasir Uddin of the Momenshahi area in long jump, Md Shahinur Islam of the Chittagong Area in 5000 metres, Abdul Hannan of the Savar Area in 800 metres, Md Mustafa Talukder of the Bogra area in hammer throw and the Jessore Area in 4x100 metres relay.

Nasu leads MSC to final

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

MOHAMMEDAN SC: 191 for 9 in 50 overs (Nasu 48 not out, Gulam Ali 39, Litu 21, Sajal 3/26, Billu 3/34). BROTHERS UNION: 168 in 47.3 overs (Sanwar 44, R Hanif 27, A Hanif 26, Shanto 4/28)



A brilliant all-round performance from wicketkeeper Nasir Ahmed Nasu steered Mohammedan Sporting Club to the final of the 16th Damal Summer cricket tournament as the traditional local cricketers registered a 23-run win over Brothers Union Club in the second semifinal at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Nasu, the former national keeper who earlier in the morning played a significant role in taking his side to a modest 191 for nine in 50 overs with a swashbuckling 48 off 44 balls, displayed a magnificent show behind the stumps as he took three important catches and stumped out one helping his side to book the Gopibagh outfit on 168 in 47.3 overs for their 14th appearance in the final of the season's opening meet.

In Friday's final Mohammedans will take on their arch rivals Abahani Krira Chakra. Both the giants have so far won the championship a highest seven times each and the winners of Friday's final will surpass their rivals. As far as previous records are concerned, Mohammedans and Abahani met each other nine times in the final out of which Abahani have a 5-4 wins in their favour.

It was yet another low scoring affair yesterday at the big bowl which saw the top orders of each side playing careless innings and returning to the dressing room with cheap scores.

Put into bat in the morning after Brothers skipper Ziauddin Shovon won the toss, Mohammedans were soon in trouble when opener Jahangir Alam was caught behind in the very second over of the day. Jahangir, the national opener who had been struggling for form from the beginning of the season, was fooled by a delightful outswinger of new ball bowler Salahuddin edging an easy catch to wicketkeeper Abid Hanif after he scored only a single run.

The other opener Gulam Ali of Pakistan and one down Selim Shahed added 30 runs in the next stand before the latter was brilliantly caught by Biplab Sarkar Billu at point off a Sajal Chowdhury delivery with only 13 runs to his account.

Skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul, who scored 88 runs against Kalabagan Krira

Chakra in their previous match last Monday, was next to go as he was caught by Shahriar Hossain Bidyut of a Billu delivery which left his side on 47 for three in 18.4 overs.

Things turned for worse for Mohammedans when opener Gulam Ali (39) and all-rounder Minhazul Abedin Nannu (9) returned to the pavilion in the spell of eight balls leaving the scoreboard precariously poised on 75 for five in 25.2 overs.

Ali, a Pakistan international, became the second victim of Billu edging a catch to Bidyut at backward point. In his 59-ball innings, he scored two boundaries through cover and long on and hit a big six with a brilliant on drive. On the other hand, Nannu, who returned to his old club this year after a two-season stay in Abahani, tried to pull medium pacer Iqbal Hossain through square-leg only to be denied by a spectacular catch by Billu.



NASU... m-o-m

In the next eleven overs MSC collected only 30 runs but lost two more wickets, that of Khaled Mahmud Sujon (9) and Pakistani Shawkat Mirza (17) which left them struggling on 105 for seven in 36.2 overs.

Mohammedans were then heading for a poor total with all the dependable batsmen piled up in the dressing room.

But Nasu had other ideas in his mind. He added 46 runs with Mustadir Litu for the eighth wicket and scored a further 21 runs later with Hasibul Hasan Shanto. His unbeaten 19-run partnership in the last wicket stand with Morshed Ali Khan Sumon took his side to a defendable 191 for nine at the end of their allotted 50 overs. Nasu's timely unbeaten knock of 48 came from only 44 balls which included three magnificent boundaries.

But for the final outcome, it was a brilliant day for the Gopibagh boys who fielded with all their potentials yesterday.

Billu was impressive on the day with his one man show. The left arm spinner

took three wickets conceding 34 runs in his ten-over spell and scooped four beautiful catches in the morning session which was in the main responsible for the MSC collapse.

However, opening bowler Sajal Chowdhury was the most successful bowler. The tall new ball bowler also bagged three wickets but conceded only 26 runs in his ten overs. Iqbal and Salahuddin took one wicket each giving away 28 and 37 runs respectively.

In reply, Brothers, the most unpredictable team in the local cricket circuit and who beat Bangladesh Biman in the group match to earn their semifinal berth, were booked for 168 in 47.3 overs.

After Sujon got the early breakthrough in the third over, Shanto, equally supported by wicketkeeper Nasu behind the stumps, took control of the match with his lethal pace.

In his first spell of six overs, Shanto, the national cricketer, gave only 17 runs and sent back Abid Hanif (26) and Sajjad Ahmed Shipon (11) both being caught behind. He bowled only 2.3 overs in his second spell but earned two more wickets, that of Rashid Hanif (27) and Iqbal (4) to make his match figures read 8.3-2-28-4.

Middle order Sanwar Hossain was the most successful batsman for Brothers with his 44 runs off 85 balls.

This was the seventh encounter between the two sides. In their previous six meets, MSC won five times while the lone win for the Gopibagh boys came last year in the second phase.

After the match, a beaming MSC skipper Bulbul said he was confident of their victory throughout. He commended Nasu and Shanto for their match-winning performances. He also gave credit to their counterparts for their brilliant fielding.

Replying to the question why their top orders failed Bulbul said "It happens in cricket, specially in the limited overs matches where runs are important more than anything else. Just on the other day we scored 255 against Kalabagan. So you can't say we failed today. It's part of cricket. We are capable enough to win against any local team these days."

On the other hand, Brothers skipper Ziauddin Shovon was of the opinion that batting has let his team down once again. "We could post a big win today had our top orders acted as per the need of the situation. Our fielding was nice except during the last four overs. Even though it was not a big target to chase, we failed. I should give credit to MSC fielders for their win today," said Shovon before he begged excuse from the reporters.

SA-Eng 2nd Test today

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 29: South Africa, who badly misread the pitch in the first Test against England, plan to field a more balanced attack in the second Test starting at the Wanderers on Thursday, reports Reuter.

South Africa fielded five pace bowlers at Centurion Park only to watch England amass 381 for nine before the remainder of the match was rained out. "Purely from a personal point of view I think we are a better side with a balanced attack. We miss Fanie de Villiers, and Meyrick Pringle's ability to swing the ball away from the bat gives us the variety that Fanie brought," said South African coach Bob Woolmer.

Pringle replaces Brett Schultz, who bowled only 16 overs in the first Test after sustaining a recurrence of a strained buttock muscle. Woolmer also indicated that the Transvaal slow left armer Clive Eksteen was part of his plans. Eksteen carried the drinks at Centurion Park but looks set to take the place of Craig Matthews in the final line-up at the Wanderers.

On Wednesday England included pace bowlers Devon Malcolm and Mark Ilett in a squad of 13, with the in-form John Crawley again missing out on a batting place.

Left-arm spinner Richard Illingworth appears a likely starter despite a back strain. "We have no choice but to name a big squad because the pitch has changed so much in character over the last 24 hours," said England manager Ray Illingworth.

"We don't know yet if it will be a seamers' or a fast bowlers' wicket," South African captain

Hanse Cronje said. "The wicket does look as though there's a bit of grass on it but the Wanderers' wickets are always a bit slow on the first day with help for the seamers and they become quicker as the game goes on."

"They also take a bit of turn on the last couple of days so I think we are very likely to play our spinner."

TEAMS

ENGLAND: Mike Atherton (captain), Alec Stewart, Mark Ramprakash, Graham Thorpe, Graeme Hick, Robin Smith, Jack Russell, Dominic Cork, Darren Gough, Richard Illingworth, Angus Fraser, Devon Malcolm, Mark Ilett.

SOUTH AFRICA: Andrew Hudson, Gary Kirsten, Hanse Cronje (captain), Darryl Cullinan, Jonty Rhodes, Brian McMillan, Dave Richardson, Shaun Pollock, Clive Eksteen, Allan Donald, Myrick Pringle, Craig Matthews.

Hill fails to advance

DQHA, Nov 29: Seventh-seeded Australian Anthony Hill was bundled out of the Qatar international squash tournament in the first round on Tuesday by Paul Gregory in a match marred by arguments and recriminations, reports Reuter.

Hill had won the first game 15-11 when his opponent began arguing with the referee.

Hill complained about lost time and became so distracted he lost the second game 15-8 and the third and fourth 15-9, 15-7.

Early in the fourth game referee John Robinson warned both players they could be penalised a full game if the arguments con-

tinued. Gregory, a former British national champion who now plays for Greece, calmed down and played out the match, while Hill remained agitated and complained afterwards about the management of the match to the tournament referee.

Second seed Rodney Eyles won in straight game against Federico Usandizaga of Argentina and Bratt Martin beat Hong Kong's Abdul Faheem Khan 15-3, 15-5, 15-6.

Earlier on Monday, Jansher Khan, straight from winning the Pakistan Open on Sunday, opened his bid for a 71st international tournament title with a win over Australian Byron Davis in the first round.

World champion Jansher, who boarded a plane immediately after his win in Karachi, has now played 16 matches in 19 days. "I played straight through the World Open in Cyprus, the World Team Championship in Cairo and then at home in Pakistan," Jansher said after his 15-11, 15-11, 17-15 victory over qualifier Davis. "I am feeling it all but I get a day of rest here before the second round so I should recover."

British champion Stephen Meads lost 8-15, 15-13, 11-15, 15-11, 15-12 in 86 minutes to South African qualifier Craig Wapnick.

Dan Jensen, a young Australian ranked 33 in the world, beat fifth seed Chris Walker of England 15-12, 15-6, 15-8.

DU cricket

Sports Reporter

Social Welfare and Research Institute defeated Institute of Business Administration (IBA) by a narrow margin of three runs on the opening day of the inter-department cricket tournament of Dhaka University at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Batting first, the Social Welfare students managed to score 115 for the loss of four wickets with Nahid hitting 48 runs to be the highest scorer. In reply the IBA team was bundled out for 112 runs.

Earlier, chairman of the university's cricket committee Dr Didarul Alam inaugurated the annual meet. Teams from 43 departments of the university are taking part in the competition.

BOA ignoring Hanif!

Sports Reporter

With the Seventh SAF Games less than a month away, the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) is yet to decide who will hand over the Games' flag to the authorities in Madras, the venue for the biennial extravaganza involving the seven South Asian nations.

The sixth version of meet was held in Dhaka in 1993. According to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) conventions, the mayor of Dhaka should pass on the SAF emblem and the Games' torch to his counterpart from Madras. But as of yesterday, the Mayor, Mohammad Hanif, has not been invited by the BOA to carry on the honours.

Talking to the press last evening, Enamul Haq, acting president of the BOA, termed the forgone conclusion as a "sensitive issue" presumably as the mayor is not from the ruling party. But the seasoned bureaucrat refused to rule out the possibility of Hanif's official presence in Madras.

Audina hopes for the best

SINGAPORE, Nov 29: Indonesia's Mia Audina, the youngest women's player in this week's Grand Prix finals, said Tuesday she believed she had a good chance of winning her first international badminton title, reports Reuter.

"I hope to win my first title at the Grand Prix finals," said 16-year-old Audina, who heads group A in the singles. The finals start on Wednesday and finish on Sunday at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

Audina said the withdrawal of two key players, compatriot Susi Susanti and Hong Kong Open champion Bang Soo-Hyun of South Korea, had left her with a good chance of the title.

Susanti, the holder, pulled out because of injury, while organisers said Bang had declined an invitation without giving a reason.

FINA to take stern action against dopers

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 29: Swimming's governing body announced drastic new punishment for doping offenders on Tuesday, agreeing to impose automatic four-year bans on swimmers found to have used anabolic steroids, delegates and officials said, reports Reuter.

An extraordinary congress of FINA, the international swimming federation, also agreed on two-year bans for swimmers found to have used other drugs, apart from lighter drugs such as an excess of caffeine, which will carry only a three-month ban.

The four-year ban for testing positive for anabolic steroids doubles the previous maximum suspension.

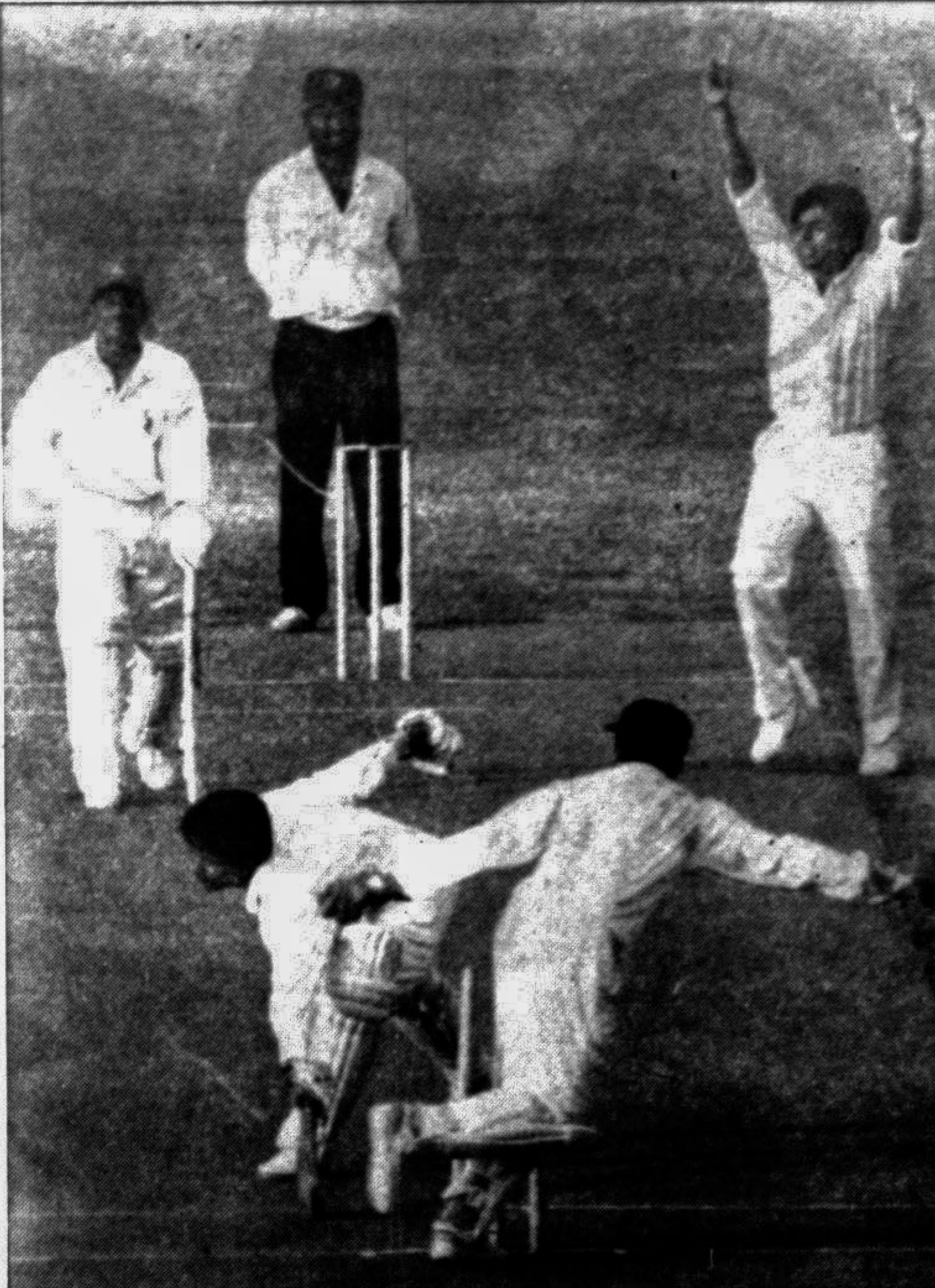
Reading send Saints tumbling

LONDON, Nov 29: First Division Reading knocked Premier league Southampton out of the English League Cup with a 2-1 victory in their fourth round clash on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Trevor Morley's bravery drew a rich reward when he scored the winner which sent home side Reading into the quarterfinals of the competition for the first time.

The former West Ham striker has only recently re-established himself in the side after fracturing his skull, an injury which threatened to finish his career.

His decisive 65th-minute header allowed Reading to settle a 17-year-old score with Southampton. The last time Reading reached the fourth round, back in 1978, they went out to Southampton in a replay.



Wicketkeeper Nasir Ahmed Nasu of Mohammedan SC, the man-of-the-match of yesterday's Damal Summer cricket tournament semifinal against Brothers Union, removes the bats before Sanwar Hossain's attempt to amend. Mohammedans won the match by 23 runs. — Star photo

SAF Games deliberation

Athletics, kabaddi lie low

Sports Reporter

A confident proclamation of at least one gold in the forthcoming Seventh South Asian Federation (SAF) Games was lacking from the shy officials of two federations — Athletics and Kabaddi who informed the press about their preparations for the Madras meet on Wednesday.

On the inaugural day of the week-long deliberations organised by the BOA on Bangladesh's prospects for the regional-styled Olympic games scheduled to be held in the Indian City of Madras from December 18-28, the Kabaddi officials said that they will fight for the silver while the general secretary of the Bangladesh Amateur Athletic Federation (BAAF) Abdul Mannan expressed his guarded optimism about local hopes in the track and field events.

Bangladesh will take part in all the 14 disciplines — football, hockey, athletics, swimming, boxing, wrestling, weightlifting, table tennis, tennis, shooting, kabaddi, basketball, volleyball and judo — along with Sri Lanka and hosts India in the seven-nation meet which also includes Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives.

In athletics, Bangladesh will feature in 20 events out of 38. But the locals hopes will once again concentrate in the men's 100 metres sprint with Bimal Chandra Tarafdar, the fastest man of South Asia, leading the charge from the front.

Bangladesh, who had earlier captured six golds including three in men's 100 metres in the last six version of the regional extravaganza, will carry a relatively small contingent of 18 athletes including seven women.

"We rely on our short dis-

ance runners for gold," said Mannan. The BAAF general secretary, while elaborating, added that they will put up a valiant fight against perennial favourites India in the men's 100 metres, 200 metres and 4x100 metres relay. "Besides", the soft spoken Mannan said, "I can't rule out an upset result in the women's high jump."

Terming Kalpana Biswas, who set a new mark in the Summer meet, a quick improver, Mannan said, "She now scales 1.61 meters." While expressing his con-



fidence on Bimal, who won the only gold in the track and field event for Bangladesh in the sixth SAF Games held in Dhaka in 1993, Mannan said that Bimal has consistently clocked 10.4 sec during the practice session at the BKSP.

Bimal, who along with upcoming Mahboob is expected to feature in the 100 metres sprint, will also take part in the 4x100 metres relay.

After the eight-month training session at the BKSP Mannan, who was visibly satisfied by the preparations, rounded off saying "We will certainly fare better in

Madras than the disappointing show at home."

On the other hand the general secretary of the Kabaddi Federation Munir Hossain hardly dared to commit on reaching the ultimate goal. "I think the fight for gold will be confined between India and Pakistan," said Munir but promptly added, "We can be a surprise finalist provided that the boys perform extremely well."

Although Kabaddi is the national game, the gold in the team event still remained elusive for Bangladesh which won the silver thrice in the biennial event. But the highest achievement in Kabaddi came in the 16th Asian Games held in Hiroshima last year where Bangladesh won the silver behind India.

Lamenting on the decline of the popularity of Kabaddi Munir said, "In the absence of any tournament at district level we had to rely on four services teams to prepare the national side. But, this time we have included five youngsters after their good show in the national championships."

While elaborating on the technical aspects Munir said, "Our defence is strong but the attack is less penetrating." Answering to a query, Munir added, "A technically sound India is favoured to win the gold."

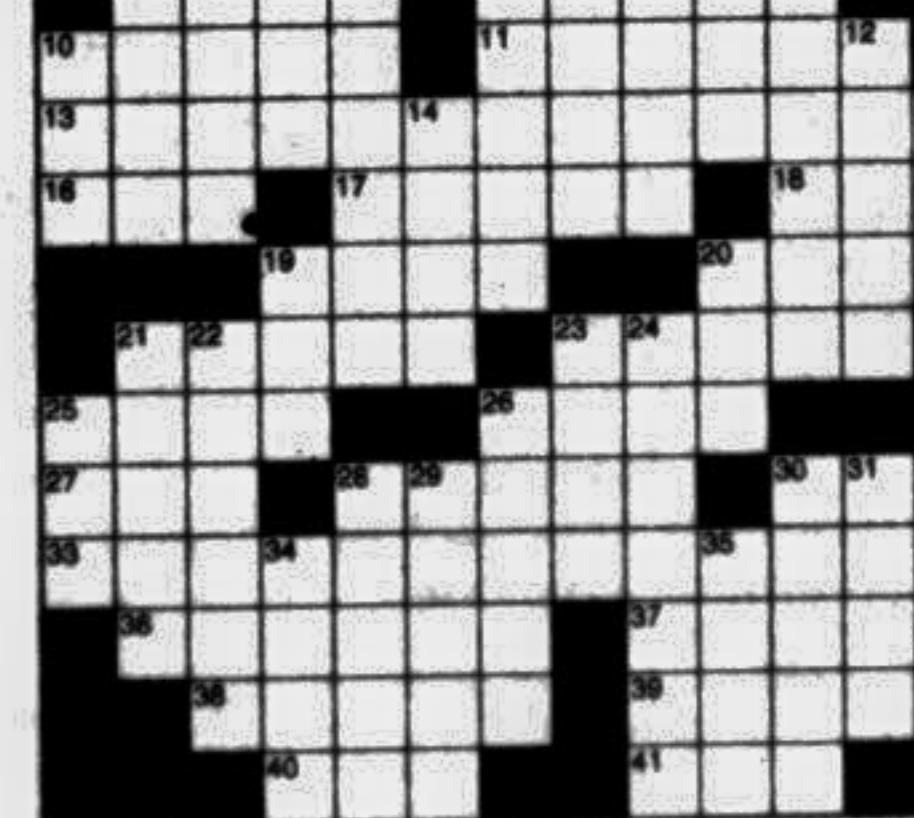
Faridpur soccer

FARIDPUR, Nov 29: Al-fadanga thana blanked Nagarkanda thana 4-0 in a second round match of the third Primary Mass Education Gold Cup football tournament held at local stadium today, reports UNB.

Selim notched a hattrick and Raj scored the other goal for the winners after leading the first half 1-0.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Vim and vigor 4 Not masc. 7 Wrestling style 8 Begat 10 "The cruelest month" 11 Pupils' cover 13 Horseback rides? 14 Absolutely DOWN 17 Lost cause 18 Affair 19 Hole in the head? 20 Existed 21 Crepe de 23 Puppeter 24 Use a spatula 26 A bit of a shock 27 No longer chic 28 Thread holder 30 Took a meeting



MUEZWE ALEENAPJUI JZUXMNAZ IUNAEUNAW, 'JLLX KIZW P LIX.' Yesterday's Cryptquip: SMUG ARCHAEOLOGIST PROUDLY PROCLAIMED THAT HIS CAREER LAY IN RUINS. Today's Cryptquip clue: P equals G. The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.