

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT volleyball has suddenly become popular worldwide, particularly since the telecasting of its beach version. But, "lung" volleyball had caught the Bangladeshi imagination ever since this American game came to India via England, perhaps between the wars and with a little help from the YMCA network.

As with basketball, the modern game owes its origin to another YMCA instructor, William Morgan of Holyoke, Massachusetts. Discovering that basketball was too strenuous for older men, Morgan devised a game called Minonette, in which a basketball was punched to and fro over a net.

Formal rules were drawn up in 1897 and volleyball was born. I mean, till we can improve in football, why not try fanball — tossing the ball between the Mohammedan and Abahani galleries over the Press enclosure. How's that Morgan?

SPORTS TALK



Steffi Graf

(German ace tennis player)
"It's something I've never imagined I would be able to do, and be capable of doing."

On reaching the landmark of 100 career titles, after winning her seventh Wimbledon crown.

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

WIN
TK. 2000/-
PRIZE BOND
EVERY FORTNIGHT

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-54

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes : 8 pm
October 11, 1996

1 How many Tests has Wasim Akram played to capture 300 wickets?
80 70 60

2 The man-of-the-series in the Sahara Cup was
Kumble Mushtaq Srinath

3 The final round of the Meril U-16 national football championship will be held in
Nature Bogra Pabna

4 The new Indian cricket coach is
Madan Lal Arun Lal Gavaskar

5 The captain of Bangladesh hockey team is
Harun Sadeq Alamgir

Name:

Class:

School Address:

Phone: (if any):

Inter-varsity aquatic on

Sports Reporter

The three-day inter-university aquatic championships began at the Dhaka University swimming complex yesterday morning.

Professor A K Azad Chowdhury, the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, inaugurated the meet as chief guest.

Total sixty swimmers from Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Bangladesh Agriculture University are participating in the championships.

Tomorrow, eve of metro eves TT

Sports Reporter

The AB Bank Metropolis Eves' table tennis league, organised by the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation, will begin at the wooden-floor gymnasium from October 10.

Eight teams will participate in the league. The teams are: Brothers Union Club, Bangladesh Biman, Biman Juniors, Uttara Youth Club, Swamibagh TTS, Combined Sporting Club, Swamibagh Girls and Cynthia Sporting Club.



SEE YOU TOMORROW: Imtiaz Sultan Johnny and Dewan Shaiful Arefin Tutul, the managers of Mahammedan SC and Abahani respectively, exchange their views in a press briefing prior to their head on clash of the Danish Premier Division football league, at the Dhaka Stadium last night.

—Star photo

Mohammedans-Abahani crucial clash today

Do or die at the big bowl

Sports Reporter

last couple of days.

Mohammedans, so far the most consistent outfit in the 10-elite group, are also plagued with the same injury problem.

"Shabbir is a doubtful starter tomorrow", said Imtiaz Aeed Johnny, the manager of Mohammedan Sporting Club while elaborating his team's preparation for the all-important match.

But, Mohammedans, who are short of any quality reserve players may be left with no other option but to field the mercurial midfielder against heavy odds.

It is rather a psychological battle than a test of skill. In such a situation, the team which can overcome the enormous pressures will certainly emerge as a winner; no matter what their strength are", said Johnny while explaining his views about today's match.

"But, we will fight for a win", said the confident Mohammedan manager while his Abahani counterpart Tutul came up with a repartee: "If Mohammedans' attitude is to win, then I must say, we need a double victory against them to stay on course".

On the other hand league-leaders Mohammedans, though in a position to afford a draw to maintain their solo lead on completion of the first phase in the double-leg league, but, given their poor record of not a single league win against Abahani since 1988 and with their reputation in jeopardy, the black and whites will be looking for a win to salvage their pride.

With the entire city bubbling with widespread speculations about the crucial league tie, both Mohammedans and Abahani have already finalised their respective characters for the big occasion.

Abahani, who had gone through a chronic injury problem from the very beginning, is expected to field the same eleven which featured against Muktijoddha in their previous match.

"But, we may miss the services of striker Mian", said Abahani manager, Dewan Shaiful Arefin Tutul, in a crowded press conference at the Dhaka Stadium last night. Mian is running a fever for the

Although, both have expressed their reluctance to reveal their strategies, they made it clear that they would do everything possible to win the match.

Mohammedan captain Jewel Rana and Abahani's inspirational skipper Monem Munna have also expressed their keenness to win the match.

"Our back is against the wall. We will have to win to keep our hopes alive", said Munna.

Jewel was rather philosophical: "Mohammedan-Abahani match has never been a good game. But, this time we will try our best to produce soccer splendour".

It remains to be seen whether the central defender of Mohammedans is going to emulate his illustrious counterpart Monem Munna, who was the difference between the two giants the last couple of years.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka Mahanagar Football league committee have announced the rate of tickets for today's match.

Tickets for gallery will be Taka 20 and for VIP it will be Taka 40 each.

Tickets will be on sale from 2 pm and the gates will be opened simultaneously.

HEAD-TO-HEADS

Sports Reporter

Country's two most popular outfits — Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra — renew their 26-year-old rivalry when they meet each other in the crucial Danish Premier league engagement on the green top of the Dhaka Stadium today.

In the chronology of the league, the two perennial foes clashed with each other for the 41st times, of which Abahani won 13, lost 12 and drew in 16 matches.

Today will mark their 59th clash since country's inception. Mohammedans are leading the race with 22 wins against Abahani's 20. The rest of the 16 matches ended in draws.

Last year's runners-up Mohammedan SC lead the league table with 22 points, remaining unbeaten so far, while holders Abahani, who are craving for an elusive league treble, secured 20 points from eight matches.

Year	MSC	AKC
1973 (first leg)	0	2
(second leg)	0	2
1974	1	2
1975 (first leg)	4	0
(second leg)	1	0
1976 (super league)	0	1
1978 (super league)	1	0
1979 (super league)	0	0
1980 (first leg)	0	0
(second leg)	3	0
1981 (super league)	0	0
1982 (super league)	1	0
1983 (super league)	2	2
1984 (super League)	1	1
1985 (super league)	2	0
1986 (super league)	0	0
1987	2	0
*Play of match	0	0
*Play of match	0	0
(Ershad Stadium)	2	0
1988-89 (super league)	1	0
1989-90	0	0
1991-92	1	2
1993	1	2
(second leg)	2	3
1994 (first leg)	1	1
(second leg)	1	1
1995 (first leg)	1	1
(second leg)	1	2

In the day's other match away at Mirpur Stadium, Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society and Wari Club split points in a goalless affair.

With this draw, Rahmatganj finished their first leg with the second spot having 16 points from nine matches, two points adrift of leaders Victoria Sporting Club, while Wari raised their tally to 13 points from nine outings which kept them jointly third with Mirpur Chalantika.

Cricketers' transfer

BU stronger by the day

Sports Reporter

Title aspirants Brothers Union Club, last year's runners up in the Premier Division cricket league, further enriched their squad when they reserved the services of Pakistani cricketer Zahid Ahmed on the third day of the four-day inter-club cricketers' transfer at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board office yesterday evening.

Zahid, the short Pakistani hard-hitting batsman, who had a magnificent season with Kalabagan last year, joined the Gopibagh outfit along with two of his teammates of last year — offe Saidul Islam Efe and Wahidul Islam.

Besides, national opener Harun-ur-Rashid Liton of Abahani and former national opener Nurul Abedin Nobel were the other important cricketers who shifted their allegiance yesterday. Liton, who was a member of the Bangladeshi team which won the ACC trophy last month, joined Kalabagan Krira Chakra while Nobel left Kalabagan for Lalmonirhat Club.

72 cricketers completed their transfer yesterday raising the total number of cricketers who shifted to new clubs so far to 209.

After a day of break for the important Premier football league match between Mohammedan SC and Abahani, the last day of transfer will be held at the same venue tomorrow from 4 pm to 8 pm.

Div One soccer

Victoria end first leg atop

Sports Reporter

Sadharan Bima Krira Sangsada recorded their second success in the Danish First Division football league with a convincing 3-1 win over Mirpur Chalantika Sporting Club at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday afternoon.

Striker Palash struck twice in the 34th and 41st minutes while Ershad scored the third in the 66th minute for the winners. Meanwhile, Chalantika skipper Selim pulled back one in the 89th minute converting a spot-kick.

With this win, Bima earned nine points from as many matches and ended up, on completion of the first leg of the league, with second position from the bottom along with Badda Jagarani Sangsada. On the other hand, Chalantika have collected 13 points from nine matches which placed them third in the table.

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STANDINGS

Teams	M	W	D	L	G	GA	PTS
Victoria	9	5	3	1	10	2	18
Rahmatganj	9	4	4	1	9	5	16
Chalantika	9	4	1	4	9	15	13
Wari	9	3	4	2	8	9	13
Dharmundi	9	2	5	2	10	8	11
PWD	9	2	5	2	5	5	11
BRTC	9	2	4	3	9	9	10
S Bima	9	2	3	4	9	10	9
Jagarani	9	2	3	4	8	9	9
Police	9	1	4	4	8	13	7

Greenidge's arrival a fact

Sports Reporter

Former West Indian Test opener Gordon Greenidge arrived in the capital on Sunday at the invitation of Bangladesh Cricket Control Board.

During his visit at the BCCB office yesterday, Greenidge discussed various cricketing matters with the local officials.

Meanwhile, it was learnt that the prolific Indies batsman will take over the role of coach of the Bangladesh cricket team on a three-year contract. It is expected that his inclusion in the squad will bolster the spirits of our cricketers for the ICC trophy.

Meril U-16 soccer

BFF award final berths to N'ganj and Bagerhat

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday announced Bagerhat and Narayanganj as the winners of their respective zonal qualifiers of the Meril under-16 national football championship.

According to a BFF press release, Bagerhat were declared Bholai zonal champions after the hosts failed to observe proper security for the visitors and the final was postponed on October 4.

Army boxing

SAIDPUR, Oct 7: The Chittagong Area clinched