

Sport

Dull draw

Sports Reporter

Arambagh Kriya Chakra suffered yet another setback in the Premier Division football league when promoters Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society held them to a goalless draw at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Neither team was interested to entertain rather they opted to go through the motions. It was Arambagh's third draw from five outings. The Motijheel club has also gone down to Mukti-Joddha Sangsad and Victoria Sporting Club.

The Federation Cup runners-up, who began with a bang reaching the final of the season's first major competition two months ago, are now occupying the crowded second to last spot in ten-team elite league with Abahani and Farashganj each having three points.

Rahmatganj earned their fourth point which moved them into the sixth place in the table. Yellow card: Saiful (Rahmatganj).

TEAMS

RAHMATGANJ MFS: Pannu, Pons, Biplab, Shakil, Shaiful, Asif, Nayan, Badal, Towhid, Milan and Saiful.

ARAMBAGH KS: Abeer, Shamim, Choton, Biplab, Jaglu, Shobib, Tushar, Roxy, Falash, Nana Fandi and Jahangir (Total). Referee: Subhash Roy.

WARI WIN

In the other match of the day, Wari Club recorded their first win in the First Division with a 2-1 victory Dhaka Wanderers Club.

The winners led the first half 2-0. Midfielder Mong Bathui put Wari ahead in the 9th minute while Zafar Iqbal sealed the first half in the 36th minute.

Wanderers, however, pulled one back when forward Echo found the net in the 85th minute.

Two Wari booters — forward Reaz and substitute Nazim were sent off after getting involved in a brawl inside the final minute.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier Division: Mohammedan SC vs YMC Fakirpur (4:30 pm)

First Division: East End Club vs BRCC SC (2:30 pm)

Div II handball

Sports Reporter

Baniangar Sports Club recorded a 23-11 victory over YDP team in yesterday's lone Ashraf Real Estate Second Division handball league match played at the court adjacent to Dhaka Stadium.

The winners led the first half 15-6. Jewel, Abed and Babul scored six goals each for Baniangar while Hasnain and Lovlu grabbed six and three goals respectively for the losers.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Azampur SKKS vs Prottyasha Club (2:30 pm)

Bangladesh Boys Club vs Farashganj SC (3:30 pm)

PSG's cause for concern

PARIS, Nov 5: Brazilian Rai, reportedly injured during practice on Tuesday, is doubtful for Paris St Germain's European Champions' League Group E match against Bayern Munich today, reports Reuters.

PSG captain Rai was hurt during training behind closed doors at the Parc Des Princes match venue, sources close to the club said. The sources said they did not know how seriously Rai had been hurt.

The sports daily L'Equipe had defender Paul Le Guen down as captain in their probable PSG line-up with either Rai or Jerome Leroy, originally not in the squad which has been increased by one to 19, in attack.

No-one at PSG was available for comment.

Rai was expected to play up front with striker Florian Maurice but if he does not play then Franck Gava will move forward with Leroy coming into the middle.

The Rai injury worry is just one more in a catalogue of woes for French First Division leaders PSG, who have three first choice players including Italian striker Marco Simone out through injury and defender Alain Roche suspended.

Sporting director Claude le Roy said PSG could sign a new player in the next few days as they have finally decided they need to take their "joker", an option open to French clubs for one more addition to their squads before the winter recess.

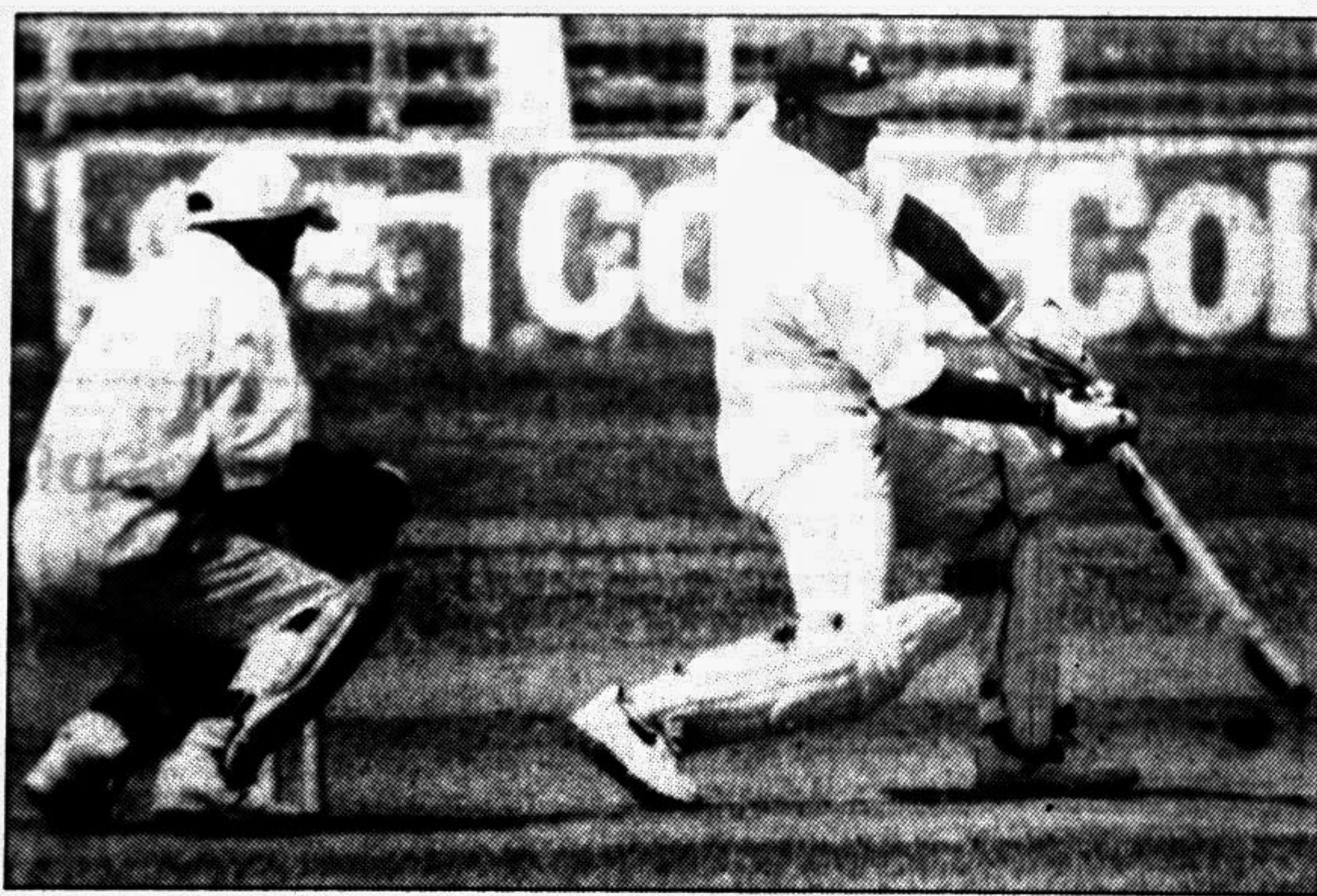
PSG are desperately short of forwards, with Patrice Loko still recovering from a nervous breakdown and unsettled Brazilian Edilson considered only for the bench. They have been linked in the last few days with AC Milan's Swede Andreas Andersson.

Oldies' tours pull crowds

TOKYO, Nov 5 (AFP): While the regular ATP Tour sees crowds slip away, the oldies' tour launched by American tennis legend Jimmy Connors is growing and expecting new stars to join.

When Connors started his Champions' Tour in 1993 with five-time Wimbledon champion Bjorn Borg of Sweden and four-time US Open champion John McEnroe, it had only three tournaments.

But this year it has expanded to 19 tournaments around the world after uniting with the US Nueven Tour and the ATP Senior Tour.



Abahani's star Pakistani recruit Basit Ali makes an abortive attempt to pull Agrani Bank off-spinner Suja during the first semifinal of the 18th Damal Smriti cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Bankers take U-turn

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Abahani Kriya Chakra stormed into the final of the 18th Damal Smriti cricket tournament with a crushing 119-run defeat of the last year's runners-up Agrani Bank at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The first semifinal of the season's curtain-raiser ended into an anticlimactic finish when Abahani, defending a commanding total of 202 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs, shot the bankers out for a meagre 83 with twelve overs to spare. Basit Ali played a cavalier

In his 84-ball vigil at the crease Basit clouted a massive six off spinner Sumit, which travelled all the way over mid-wicket before landing on the top floor of the eastern gallery. Basit's rule eventually came to an end in the 40th over when slow left-arm Suja had caught him at gully, but not before Abahani reached a respectable score of 154.

The departure of Basit, who was later adjudged man-of-the-match, inflicted a mini-collapse on Abahani line-up as they lost their next five wickets with the addition of only 22 runs. Azam soon followed in the footsteps of Basit after scoring 51 off 130 balls while skip-

bankers was always on the cards, but the way their chase petered out it reflected nothing but a sign of sub-standard batsmanship. Agrani, who stunned semifinal hopefuls Kalabagan with a 41-run win, showed the old syndrome of inconsistency in local cricketers after displaying a superb performance on November 3.

When in the established world batsmen took the bowlers to the sword, their batsmen could only manage to break the shackles twice in their innings with Shaheen Malik hitting the first boundary in the 21st over.

Abahani will now have to wait for the outcome of today's second semifinal between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Bangladesh Biman to know their opponents in the grand final, to be held on Saturday.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns: ABABANI KC, Azam Ibw b Sumit, Imran c Sajjad b Khurshid, Al-Shahriar c Hannan b Khurshid, Monirul Haq Ibw b S Iqbal, Basit Ali c Sumit b Suja, Akram c S Malik b Sumit, K Masud c & b Sumit, Iqbal b Sumit, Zakir not out, Salahuddin run out, Gem not out. Extras: (lb-5, lb-3, nb-2, nb-2) 12. Total: (for 9 wickets in 50 overs) 202. Fall of wickets: 1-7; 2-23; 3-42; 4-154; 5-167; 6-167; 7-171; 8-176; 9-198.

Table with columns: Bowling, O, M, R, W. Imran c Sajjad b Khurshid 1, Al-Shahriar c Hannan b Khurshid 2, Monirul Haq Ibw b S Iqbal 5, Basit Ali c Sumit b Suja 70, Akram c S Malik b Sumit 11, K Masud c & b Sumit 0, Iqbal b Sumit 2, Zakir not out 22, Salahuddin run out 6, Gem not out 6. Extras: (lb-5, lb-3, nb-2, nb-2) 12. Total: (for 9 wickets in 50 overs) 202. Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-17; 3-17; 4-26; 5-28; 6-52; 7-60; 8-60; 9-65.

Result: Abahani won by 119 runs. Man-of-the-match: Basit Ali (Abahani)

TODAY'S MATCH

Mohammedan SC vs Biman (9 am)



Man-of-the-match Basit Ali receives his award and the cheque at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Innings of 70 and opener Azam Iqbal scored a patient 51 to set the tone of a resounding victory for the popular Dhanmondi outfit.

The clash of the two unlikely opponents, however, promised a good contest when Agrani Bank, a surprise package in the last four at the expense of Kalabagan, reduced Abahani for 42 for three by the end of eleventh over.

But once their butter-fingered fielders dropped Basit twice in successive overs, the match which was under the firm grip of the bankers at one stage swung decisively in the holders' way. The Pakistan Test-discard, who came into bat at number five after his compatriot Monirul was dismissed for only 5, was dropped at cover by Nahid even before the right-hander could adjust himself on the crease. Agrani's woe was compounded when Suja let loose an itchy-foot Basit at mid-off while he was on only six.

After a few more close calls, the elegant Pakistani stroke-maker never looked behind to complete a dazzling half-century and Abahani convalesced from a jumpy start to an imposing total with Basit putting on 112 runs for the fourth wicket with Azam.

per Akram Khan made only 11 before offering a straight forward catch at cover.

But thanks to a little cameo knock of an unbeaten 22 from number nine batsman Zakir Hossain, Abahani crossed the 200-mark. The right-arm seamer, who was particularly harsh during the last over, clouted a huge sixer in that fateful over of Pakistani Shaheen Malik that yielded 12 runs.

After the good work with the willow, the tall medium pacer wasted little time to run through the vulnerable Agrani batting line-up, which tumbled like a pack of cards in the face of some accurate bowling from the new-ball duo of Zakir and a balding Iqbal.

Agrani Bank lost half of their wickets for only 28 runs on the board before their Pakistani duo of Shaheen Malik and Shahid Iqbal offered some sort of resilience, sharing a gritty 24 runs for the sixth wicket. But once spinner Salahuddin had Shahid Iqbal for 11 the innings of Agrani Bank, who were always far away from the asking run-rate, caved in during the 38th over.

Although a defeat for the

Giovanni gets into trouble

MADRID, Nov 5: Barcelona's Brazilian striker Giovanni was handed a two-match ban Tuesday for making an offensive gesture at Real Madrid fans after scoring his side's winner at the Bernabeu stadium on Saturday, reports AFP.

Giovanni was on target in the 76th minute of Barca's emotionally-charged 3-2 win at their keenest rivals and immediately raced the length of the pitch to gesture crudely at Real fans.

The Spanish Football Association's disciplinary committee, in handing down the ban, took into account the fact that Giovanni had apologised at length for his action in the press the day after the game, which saw Barcelona go seven points clear of real at the top of the table.

Danish booter jailed

COPENHAGEN, Nov 5: Allan Olsen, a 23-year-old player with Denmark's First Division outfit AB, was handed a two-year jail sentence here on Tuesday for drug trafficking, reports AFP.

Judicial sources said Olsen, who was arrested on July 27, had been found guilty of trafficking 200 grams of heroin and 750 gram of hashish.



A disorganised shot from Pakistan batsman Ijaz Ahmed leaves Sri Lankan wicketkeeper Lanka de Silva in a state of confusion as he looks for the ball in the wrong direction. — AP/UNB photo

Div III cricket qualifiers

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

ISLAMPUR CC: 127 all out in 30 overs (Maruf 25, Sharif 15; Monir 4/27, Bappi 2/21) MIRPUR CC: 129 for six in 21 overs (Nizam 51, Shahin 21 n.o. Shamu 2/27; Tapu 2/32) Result: Mirpur CC won by four wickets.

PACIFIC ASSEMBLY: 133 all out in 29.2 overs (Jitu 24, Sabui 19, Moni 18, Sayem 15; Shaon 2/8, Popel 2/12) RAJABAZAR KC: 137 for six in 29 overs (Liton 30, Munna 27, Popel 17, Chanchal 16; Moni 2/33) Result: Rajabazar KC won by four wickets.

Mirpur Cricket Club and Rajabazar Kriya Chakra won their respective Lotus-Kamal Third Division cricket league qualifying round matches played at different city venues yesterday.

At the Mahakhali T&T ground, Mirpur registered a four-wicket victory over Islampur Cricket Club.

Middle order bat Nizam scored 51 off only 38 balls as Mirpur, chasing a moderate Islampur total of 127 in 35 overs, reached 129 in 20.1 overs.

Lower middle order Shahin, who shared a match winning 62-run partnership with Nizam, was unbeaten on 21.

Earlier, opting to bat, Islampur were all out in 30 overs due to some fierce bowling by Monir who finished with four for 27.

Away at the City Club ground in Mirpur, Rajabazar also recorded an identical victory over Pacific Assembly.

Sent into bat first, Pacific Assembly managed 133 before they were all out in 29.2 overs.

In reply, Rajabazar scored 137 for six with six overs to spare.

Liton topscored with 30 while Munna chipped in with 27.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Deepayan Boys Club vs Chawkbazar YMC (MOS)

Swastika CC vs Dilkusha SC (Mohammadpur)

DSC Mirpur vs Lalkuthi Club (T&T)

Aaladin SS vs Pallabi CPK (UGF)

Armanitola JS AB Bank TT champs

Armanitola Jubo Sangha emerged unbeaten champions in the AB Bank Senior Division table tennis league stunning giants Bangladesh Biman by 3-1 sets at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.

Armanitola clinched the prestigious title with an all-win record securing 26 points from 13 league outings while Biman finished runners-up collecting 22 points.

In the day's last group ties, Hamlet (Armanitola) beat Mahboob (Biman) 21-16, 21-17, Manash (Armanitola) defeated Saadi (Biman) 18-21, 21-15, 21-18, Kochi (Biman) beat Mustafa (Armanitola) 21-18, 21-16 and Hamlet (Armanitola) beat Saadi (Biman) 21-1, 21-16.

In the women's First Division League, Biman clinched the title with an all-win record beating Brothers Union by straight 3-0 sets.

Brothers finished runners-up securing six points from four matches.

FBCCI President Yousuf Abdullah Haroon was the chief guest on final day and distributed prizes. Managing Director of the league sponsor AB Bank Limited, Abdur Rahim, was present as the special guest.

JU football

Sports Reporter

Forward Uthua Singh scored a hatrick as Department of Government and Politics moved into the final of the Jahangirnagar University inter-departmental football tournament with a comfortable 4-1 victory over Department of History in the first semifinal held at the JN University ground on Tuesday.

Apart from Uthua's three goals Nannu added the other for the winners. Mansoor pulled one back for the Historians.

Meanwhile, the inter-departmental cricket tournament will start from November 10.

Department of Archaeology will take on Psychology department in the opening match.

Div II hockey

Cantonian Sporting Club consolidated their claim to the Green Delta Second Division hockey title, trouncing Uttara Hockey Club 4-0 in their super league encounter at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Cantonians so far have collected 16 points from six matches while Combined SC followed the leaders with 13 points.

Cantonians will play their last group match against Shantinagar Club while Combined SC meet Dhaka Wanderers Club.

If two or more teams earn equal number of points then the fate of the league will be decided by a play-off match.

The other match between Shisu Kishore Sangha and Raktim Sangha was abandoned in the 50th minute due to shortage of Raktim Sangha's required number of players. At the time Shisu Kishore were leading 3-0.

SL slaughter Pakistan



LAHORE, Nov 5:

Dominating centuries by Sanath Jayasuriya and Aravinda de Silva dented Pakistan hopes as Sri Lanka scored a crushing eight-wicket win in the quadrangular cricket tournament here today, reports AFP.

with ten overs to spare. The two put on a Sri Lankan record stand of 213 runs for the third wicket.

Sri Lanka qualified for the final where they meet South Africa on November 8. Before that the two teams meet each other in the last league match on Thursday.

Pakistan's total had contributions of 94 by Ijaz Ahmed and 70 by Aamir Sohail. Chaminda Vaas and Sajeeva de Silva took three wickets each.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecards of the fifth quadrangular cricket tournament match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at Gaddafi Stadium Wednesday:

Table with columns: PAKISTAN, Afridi b Vaas 39, Anwar c Ranatunga b Vaas 26, Sohail cbb Muralitharan 70, Ijaz c sub (Chandana) b Sanjeeva 94, Inzamam c Aravinda b Jayasuriya 8, Akram c Lanka b Muralitharan 6, Mohi not out 10, Mahmood c Lanka b Sanjeeva 15, Latif c Lanka b Vaas 1, Saqlain not out 1, Waqar b Sanjeeva 1, Extras: (lb-6, w-3) 9, Total: (All out in 49.4 overs) 280.

Fall of wickets: 1-66; 2-73; 3-195; 4-205; 5-214; 6-234; 7-269; 8-278; 9-280.

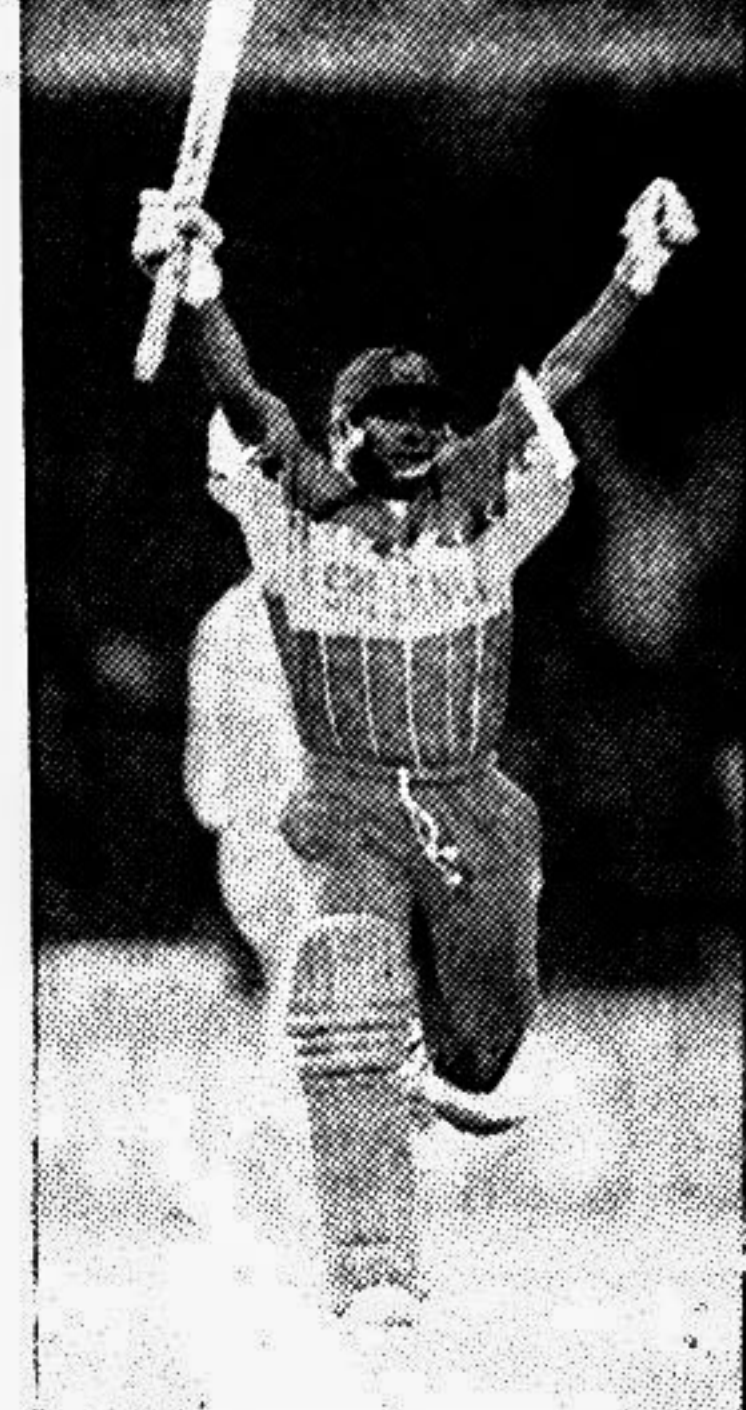
Table with columns: Bowling, O, M, R, W. Vaas 10, 0, 59, 3, Sanjeeva 9.4, 1, 58, 3, Dharmasena 10, 1, 41, 0, Muralitharan 10, 0, 37, 2, Jayasuriya 6, 0, 54, 1, Aravinda 4, 0, 25, 0.

SRI LANKA: Jayasuriya not out 134, Alapattu run out 23, Mahanama c Sohail b Mahmood 0.

A De Silva not out: 102, Extras: (lb-6, nb-3, w-13) 22, Total: (two wickets in 40 overs) 281, Fall of wickets: 1-65, 2-68.

Table with columns: Bowling, O, M, R, W. Akram 8, 0, 44, 0, Younis 6, 0, 49, 0, Saqlain 8, 0, 55, 0, Mahmood 8, 0, 53, 1, Sohail 5, 0, 32, 0, Afridi 5, 0, 42, 0.

Result: Sri Lanka won by eight wickets. Man-of-the-match: Sanath Jayasuriya.



A De SILVA ...102 n.o.

Another Ajax attraction



AMSTERDAM, Nov 5: (Reuters):

Gaze at soccer memorabilia through the ages, tour the futuristic 51,000-seat concrete arena then sample the Frank de Boer hamburger or savour the Frank Rijkaard Caesar salad in the Soccer World Cafe.

All part of the modern Ajax Amsterdam experience, which club officials hope will draw supporters and bring money into the coffers.

Until 1996, Ajax possessed just the old-fashioned De Meer Stadium, where 30,000 spectators squeezed into the stands on alternate weeks.

Then last year, the arena was finished, a futuristic construction with a sliding roof. It cost a remarkably low 250 million dollars guilders (127 million dollars) but has generated investment plans worth 10 times that amount for a huge shopping mall, offices, apartments and theatres on the city limits. The marketing men have billed the museum as "every young boy's dream," although some would argue that the new Ajax is most marketing men's dream.

"We are a sort of national property," said the arena's director Jan Gaasterland.

Media interest has been high, about 200 journalists attended the opening, more said club chairman Michael van Praag than would ever be seen at a soccer-related news conference. The museum places Ajax among the ranks of Barcelona

and Manchester United, but perhaps more importantly, puts it on a par with arch-rivals Feyenoord. The Rotterdam team were the first Dutch club to win the European Cup and the first to open a museum, which now attracts 30,000 visitors per year. In both, Ajax has followed, but gone a couple of steps further.

So what can the visitor to the museum expect. Downstairs is a vast array of photos, shirts, commentaries and film clips of Ajax form its beginnings in 1894. We return to the time when Amsterdam had four top sides, we see a chronology of the classics against Feyenoord and we get a glimpse of Ajax's much vaunted youth policy with a photo of Rijkaard towering over a pint-sized Patrick Kluyvert and the 1983-84 season ticket of a boyish Dennis Bergkamp.

Upstairs are the spoils of European triumphs since the 1970s and a roll call of Ajax players who have worn the orange of the national side.

But the club has also put less prestigious items on show. There is a document from the founding in 1894 with reference to the new "football club" which subsequently broke up in acrimony and, further along, is the metal bar that Ajax fans threw onto the pitch against Austria Vienna in 1989. The incident led to Ajax's exclusion from European competition for a year.

The museum was officially opened by Johan Cruyff on Tuesday. "I feel very honoured and rather flattered. A footballer always plays for himself.

But it means something if you've been able to play for Ajax," he said.

Cruyff himself features heavily in the museum with a shrine almost to himself. In one area, he heads a goal, elsewhere he stabs the ball home and, in the corner of one older photo, there he is again, a catcher in the junior baseball side.

The baseball department disbanded in 1972. Ajax is now just a plain old football club, albeit one with a soccer-theme cafe, a selection of bars, a restaurant and now a museum.

Benevolent Baresi

TAVERNE, Italy, Nov 5: Former AC Milan star Franco Baresi paid a visit on Tuesday to some of the families who are living in tents and caravans in wintry conditions after being made homeless by Italy's recent earthquakes, reports AFP.

Baresi also announced the imminent arrival of 50 million lira (30,000 dollars) in aid for the quake victims; the money having been raised from auctioning player's shirts from his star-studded testimonial last week.

"It was the least I could do," Baresi said. "These people need to get their enthusiasm back and I've come to do my bit. At times like this. Those of us who have been more fortunate need to do everything they can."

Baresi, now in charge of the club's youth teams, also handed out AC Milan shirts, track suits and souvenirs to the young kids.

"I hope the situation improves and that all these people can find dignified accommodation," Baresi said. "We're well into autumn now and a lot of the old people are frightened of the cold weather."

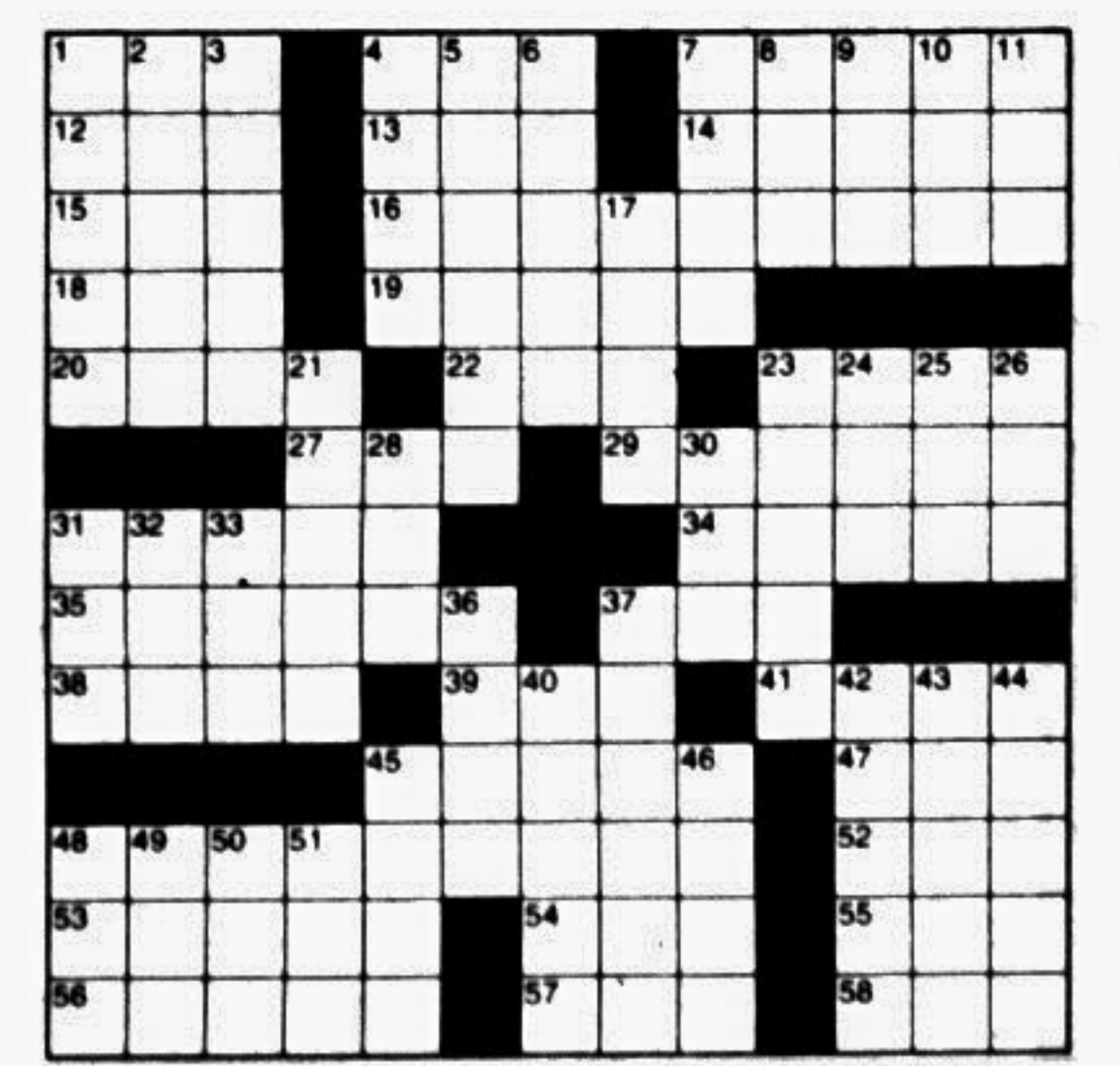
Nat'l b'ball begins Dec 3

Sports Reporter

The 20th national basketball championship will begin in Khulna from December 3 under the auspices of Khulna District Sports Association (DSA). Participants have been asked to complete their entries at the Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation office in Dhanmondi before November 20, says a press release.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Newion, 4 Micro-computer system, 7 November, 12 Fables, 13 Ordinal, 14 Talked a blue streak, 15 Snitch, 16 Twin, 18 Windy, 19 Beau, 20 Time, 22 Appointments, 23 mellox VIP, 27 Idiot's feeling, 29 Streisand, 31 Nimble, 34 Bad lighting, 35 Citizen Kane, 37 Lingerie, 38 'Zounds', 39 Greek. DOWN: 2 Gem State, 3 Gain admit-25 Mr., 4 Farmer's home, 5 Law-rence's, 6 Push, 7 Autocrat, 8 Pusey, 9 Lulu, 10 Cumsy, 11 Wye, 17 Retain, 21 Dieter's, 22 Reef stuff, 24 Boom, 25 Links, 26 Swamp, 28 Become one, 30 Corn spike, 31 Item for Paul, 32 Joe, 33 Once-a-lifetime, 36 Hexagonal, 37 Place for a drop?, 40 Obey, 42 Frankly, my dear, 43 Horse behind bars?, 44 Flu variety, 45 Lots of locks, 46 Be in charge of, 48 Lid for a lid, 49 When Were Kings' subject, 50 Josh, 51 Potential puffin.



CRYPTOQUIP

GL JSD V DGYJST YGXQAO T ZVQDO GBJYT JSZXESJ. "RJ LDDPL EORPD AZDL BGT." Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ISN'T A GIRAFFE THE HIGHEST FORM OF ANIMAL LIFE?

Today's Cryptoquip clue: B equals P. The Cryptoquip 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.