



**Fidahussein Habib Rhemtulla Kara (FHR)  
Died 12<sup>th</sup> October 2013 in London.**

**➤ Newspaper Clips Retracing Achievements of FHR, Muslim and Bashir**

While perusing to my documents and files few weeks back, I landed to one of the files containing pictures/cuttings and value able information related to FHR sports career. I remembered the relevant file was given to me by Late Ibrahim Jivraj with a courtesy request to utilize and insert the photographs in my website. With the necessary available information and data, I was enthused as a cricket veteran to contribute on my part and pen the article about this great personality who was an outstanding phenomenal cricketer of the time that the community and Tanzania ever produced. Besides, being an instrumental on the field he played a significant role to the promotion and development of the game within the community and the country.

Being a sportsman with a career of 4 decades in cricket (my second wife at the time), I cultivated in myself adoration, affection with high respect toward the veterans of the game who were once the icons in the sports environment. Many, I had opportunity to witness them in action on the field and various whom I missed due to age difference. Among them, the magnificent cricketer known by his initials

FHR whom I was not fortunate to witness him in action during his golden days. Since the commencement of my sports career in Zanzibar, the renowned and legendary name was being mentioned, discussed, and echoed whenever the gentle man's' game topic emerged. My first acquaintance in person with this marvel cricketer was in 1987 in Daressalaam where he was present to participate as a spectator for the Supreme Council Sports Tournament hosted in Dares salaam and thus we became very near, intimate and affectionate to each other.



**Kinondoni Cricket Ground in Daressalaam 1987.  
Fidahussein Kara (FHR) shaking hands with Mohamed Nathoo.**

FHR was born in Daressalaam on 2nd November 1920. He began his sports career in 1934 from school with cricket and volleyball as his favorites. Besides being extra brilliant and exceptional cricketer, he excelled in volleyball playing for Ithnasheri Sports Club-Daressalaam whom he led successfully from 1943 to 1952 and helped the club to clinch and sweep most of trophies and honors in the local tournaments. He ruled the court with his accurate smashes putting the oppositions in disarray.

His illustrious cricket career spanning from 1938 to 1995 with interval of 12 years of 'no cricket' while he settled in Zaire during the period, his career expounded two phases feature 30s, 40s, and 50s in East Africa known as 'FHR' and 70s, 80s and 90s in Pool Sports Club – England as 'Kara'. He earned laurels and accolades in his lengthy sports career which rarely has been accomplished by any cricketer in East Africa. He must have scored thousands of runs, obtained thousands of wickets and held hundreds of catches. His most memorable performance was in 1945 during the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of H.H. the Agakhan, he played for Daressalaam Combine against the strong East African Ismailis for the 'Diamond Jubilee Cup' and led his side to victory with an unbeaten innings of 109 and then proceeded to claim 9 wickets for just 20 runs. His scintillating performance earned him praises from Aga Khan himself who came to watch the game and was the first to congratulate him.



**The picture relates to: Cricket Match between DSM Combine v/s Zanzibar Combine played on Mnazi- Moja Ground--Zanzibar on 30th August 1953.**

**FHR captain of DSM Combine in conversation with Judge Green Col., Bell captain of Zanzibar Combine and Mr. Wheatly-President Zanzibar Cricket Association.**



**The picture relates to: Cricket Match between DSM Combine v/s Zanzibar Combine played on Mnazi-Moja Ground--Zanzibar on 30th August 1953.**

**FHR captain of DSM Combine in conversation with H.E. Mr. Rankie (British Resident-Zanzibar). In the picture also to be seen D. Daruwala, Mamda Kassam, Tahemton Bhungara and Gulamhussein Dharamsi (Golo Mshamba).**

Numerous articles by individuals and media have contributed and reported time to time about this great prodigy cricketer. The highlight of his sports career:

1. He played until the age of 75 and had one of the longest sports careers of six decades that seldom accomplished by very few sportsmen.
2. He scored 8 centuries.
3. He was one of the finest captains and led the Daressalaam Combine and Tanganyika XI for several years.
4. Besides being a regular First Division League cricket player in Daressalaam, he represented Daressalaam Combine, Tanganyika National Team and East Africa XI for number of years.

5. When Poole Cricket Club celebrated their Centenary in 1991, Kara (FHR) was named and honored as one of the 11 best players of the Club in a period of 100 years.

6. In 1980 at the age of 60, he engraved his name in the Country Southern League records with the remarkable bowling performance and became the 2nd player in Southern League history to capture 50 wickets, taking 5 or more wickets in an innings in seven consecutive matches exclaimed by local newspapers:

- a. '6 for 20 -Kara completely bewildered the batsmen.'
- b. '5 for 24 -Tight bowling by Kara.'
- c. '5 for 18 -Evergreen Kara.'
- d. '5 for 24 -Spun out by Kara.'
- e. '5 for 36- Beguiling Kara.'
- f. '5 for 33- Lively bowling by Kara.'
- g. '8 for 7- A fine spell by Kara.'
- h. '9 for 13-Kara wrecks his opponents.'
- i. '8 for 28- Spin favorite from Poole.'

Alhaj Mohamedbai Dhirani the former Chairman of Africa Federation and previous President of KSI Daresalaam Jamaat who used to be school mate and neighbor of FHR writes "besides being excellent in sporting (cricket and volleyball) FHR was also co-editor of Satchu Abdulrasul community's Gujarati monthly magazine 'INQUILAB' (Revolution) which was published from Daressalaam alongside others community magazines like 'SALSABIL' and 'AWAZ' from Zanzibar and 'REHBAR' from Mombasa. FHR in his physic was quite tall, many times we used to walk together, on Livingstone Street where we used to stay, to go to the Indian Central School, on the corner of Morogoro and United Nations Roads, (the name of this school has now been changed to Tambaza Secondary School), an indigenous elderly man jokingly would ask FHR in Kiswahili "Je, habari kijana, je mawingo leo, kutakoa mvua?" meaning "will there be rain today?" I tried to find out as to why the gentleman was asking such question daily, the answer responded that FHR was so tall in height that he would be we able to reach the clouds to enquire about rain."

Alhaj Mohamed Pirbhai, the ex-Vice Chairman of Africa Federation and past cricket captain of Union Sports Club (previously known as Ithnasheri Club) tributes:

F H R was a father figure in cricket in Daressalaam during 50's. Always well dressed in cricket attire and would turn up at the then CHUNGANI ground

opposite the present Kabrastan 15 minutes before the schedule time. This extra time gave us (we were all under 10 at that time) to approach him and ask for advice and training of the game. He always obliged with patience and enthusiasm. It was a privilege for us. The first lesson he taught us was the discipline and time keeping where he was very conscious, concerned, and particular. A good cricketer by himself who had extra leadership qualities and would not compromise with discipline and timings even with the most senior players.

His unique personality brought him great and high respect from all cricketing clubs. FHR started his carrier playing for BOHORA GYMKHANA since none Ithnasheri cricket team then was established in Daressalaam. It was him with other senior players efforts to institute the Ithnasheri Sports Club cricket in 1951 and immediately the club became the force to reckon in Dar cricket scenario and clinched its first Cricket Championship in 1954.

He left for Congo few years later but was recalled to play for Tanganyika against Uganda in Kampala. Although Tanganyika lost the match FHR won special tribute from the captain of Uganda Mr. Adams an ex-Cambridge and English county player.



**During my last visit to London in October 2011, I had an opportunity to visit FHR, meeting him after 24 years at his London residence accompanied by Br. Mustafa Pirbhai.**

FHR will be remembered in the Tanzania cricket fraternity as one of the finest all-rounders and of the greatest captains of the time. He commanded the faith and respect of his team- mates as well as the opposition. He conducted himself to the strict code of cricket ethnics and is and will be remembered for his attitude to the game which he enriched with elegance, simplicity, and nobility.

▶ **[Newspaper Clips Retracing Achievements of FHR, Muslim and Bashir](#)**

**Prepared and written and updated October 2020 by:**



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(Website: <http://www.dewani.ca/mnmainpage.htm>)