

Bangladesh meet Malaysia today

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh under-23 national soccer side will be playing their third match today against hosts Malaysia in the second leg of the pre-Olympic qualifier in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Bangladesh lost to Thailand 0-4 in their first match and 0-1 to South Korea second in earlier matches.
Malaysia won narrowly (1-0) against Bangladesh in Seoul in the first leg match.

Rehan for Calcutta MSC

Sports Reporter
Abahani Krira Chakra's stopper-back Rehan leaves for Calcutta today to play for Calcutta Mohammedan Sporting.

Rehan will join two other Bangladeshi players of Dhaka Mohammedans, Kaiser Hamid and Imtiaz Ahmed Johnny who have earlier signed for Calcutta Mohammedans.
These three Dhaka players are expected to play for Calcutta Mohammedan in tomorrow's match against East Bengal.

Sheikh Mohammed Aslam, Munna and Rumi of Abahani are already playing for East Bengal.

England 269 for 8 at Trent Bridge

Sports Reporter
England were 269 for eight at close of play on the first day of the third Test against the West Indies at Trent Bridge, Nottingham yesterday, according to BBC commentary monitored in Dhaka late last night.
Robin Smith, who made and unbeaten 148 in the second Test at Lord's, was at the crease with 43. With him was Richard Illingworth, the Test debutant off-spinner.
England won the toss elected to bat.

Skipper Graham Gooch and Michael Atherton gave them a flying start by putting on 108 for the first wicket. Gooch made 68 and Atherton 32.

England's hope Graeme Hick, who has been struggling with only 12 runs from his first three Test innings, finally gained some confidence by making 42 runs.

Curtley Ambrose, who took four wickets conceding 61 runs, was the main Windies' bowler followed by Tony Allen who took two wickets for 69.

Marshall and Walsh picked up one wicket each.

England lead the five-Test series 1-0 having won the first Test at Headingley by 115 runs.

Sabatini's first Wimbledon final

LONDON, July 4: Gabriela Sabatini won the second women's semifinal 6-4, 6-4, clinching the duel on her fifth match-point to end Capriati's fine Wimbledon run today, reports Reuter.

It will be Sabatini's first Wimbledon final and she fully deserved her victory, showing too much know-how at crucial junctures for the 15-year-old American.

Year's best

REIMS, France, July 4: Igor Astapkovich of the Soviet Union set a 1991 hammer world best of 84.26 metres at the Reims international athletics meeting on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Munton rocks Middlesex

LONDON, July 4: Warwickshire's Tim Munton produced the best bowling figures of the English season to rock Middlesex at Edgbaston on Wednesday but failed to prevent last year's county champions from taking a narrow first innings lead, reports Reuter.

The England seamer bowled a marathon 30.1 overs to take eight for 89 as Warwickshire piled on the pressure in humid conditions on the second-day of the three-day game.

But Middlesex were rescued by a career-best 77 from Neil Williams and recovered from 133 for six to 237 all out, seven ahead.

But then captain Andy Lud (71 not out) and Jason Ratcliffe (51 not out) led the way in a brisk century partnership for the second wicket as Warwickshire, the current championship leaders, raced to 158 for one and a valuable advantage of 151.

South African Jimmy Cook hit his fourth century of the summer as Somerset declared at 268 for three, 58 behind Lancashire at Taunton.

Cook hit 17 runs during his near three-hour stay before falling to Mike Watkinson for 131, still 81 short of 1,000 runs for the season.

Lancashire were 67 for two in their second innings at the close.

Graf in final, Edberg meets Stich in semis

WIMBLEDON, July 4: Steffi Graf move into her fourth Wimbledon final in the last five years by defeating fifth seed Mary Joe Fernandez 6-2, 6-4 on Thursday, reports AP.



STEFFI GRAF

Graf, the top seed, was knocked out in the semifinals last year by Zina Garrison, but has been a finalist other year since 1987. She won the Grand Slam event in 1988 and 1989.

In men's play, defending champion Stefan Edberg and sixth seed Michael Stich advanced to a semifinal meeting by overpowering quarterfinal opponents.

Edberg, the top seed, defeated Thierry Champion 6-3, 6-2, 7-5, while Stich slammed 15 aces in a 6-3, 7-6, 6-2 victory over Jim Courier — getting the US Independence Day

holiday off to a bad start for Americans at the All England Club.

Stich, a 1.93-meter (6-foot-4) German with a huge reach, complementary his hard serves and sharp passing shots with delicate volleys and lobs to eliminate the fourth-seeded Courier.

The contest was a preview of one match up at the Davis Cup semifinals in September between the United States and Germany, and was another installment in what could become one of the most intriguing duels in men's tennis.

Stich, 22, and the 20-year-old Courier are two of the best young players in the game. Each combines awesome power with a light touch, and both have the potential to be good on all surfaces — though Courier still is learning to play on grass.

"He was serving just monstrous and his returns were really pretty effective also," Courier said. "It was just a matter of him being more effective on this surface. He just beat me fair and square."

Stich's victory gained him revenge for his four-set loss to Courier in the French Open semifinals a month ago. Courier, who went on to win the tournament, now leads Stich 3-2 in their head-to-head matchups.

"I knew that I could play really well on grass," Stich said. "It's a great feeling, just four weeks ago reaching the semis in Paris and now reaching the semis here."

Navratilova promises to return

WIMBLEDON, July 4: She apparently did more than just hear the whispered questions. She has begun asking them herself.

"I hope that the gods are with me so I can come back next year," Martina Navratilova said, suddenly feeling all of her 34 years. "I'm not hanging it up. I still feel that I have some really good tennis left in me," reports AP.

"I just don't know," she added, "how much of the heart is left."

Self-doubt follows a hurtful fall as surely as night follows day. And make no mistake, what Navratilova did against Jennifer Capriati was a most hurtful — and disheartening — sort of way.

She lost the crowd almost from the outset. She squandered break points at the worst moments. She watched time and again as the ball was air-mailed back across the net with greater haste than she had used to post it. She double-faulted at match point.

And when she walked off the court, the thundering applause in her ears must have been dimmed by the jangling of her own nerves.

But if at this same time next year, Navratilova takes stock and finds too little heart to contend again for a championship she has already won nine times, then the Centre Court crowd Wednesday was witness to one of the most incredible shrinking acts in history.

Seles seen shopping

PALM BEACH, Fla., July 4: Monica Seles, whose quick exit from Wimbledon caught the attention of tournament



watchers, was spotted browsing and shopping in this Florida seaside community, a newspaper reported Thursday, reports AP.

Seles, 17, who abruptly withdrew from the Grand Slam tournament outside London, brought an outfit in Blomfield's Saturday at The Gardens mall in Palm Beach Gardens, the Palm Beach Post reported.

"I'm not going to tell you a thing," said the clerk who sold Seles and outfit with the exclusive Donna Karan label. "She deserves her privacy."

Seles was next seen at a Palm Beach grocery store with her parents on Sunday.

Health reporter Karen Curtis of WPTF-TV in Palm Beach Gardens saw her but didn't recognize her at first. Curtis said Seles was the last person she expected to find on the check-out line.

larger in the Wimbledon record books than any of the thousands of other who competed on these lawns over 114 years precisely because of the depth of her desire. It was as powerful last year for No 9 as it was 1978, when she won No 1.

But this year, clearly, was different. Pursued by the publicity of a lawsuit filed on the eve of the tournament by former lover Judy Nelson, Navratilova began this Wimbledon more consumed with subpoenas than served with subpoenas. And during her first foray onto Centre Court, she was nearly lulled into extinction by South African Elna Reinach, the world No. 49.

To be sure, a slippery court and the cool English mist lent a bewildering quality to Reinach's array of slicing forehands, two-flisted backhands and well-disguised overheads. But there was no mistaking that Navratilova was the defending champion in name only, and her plodding, tentative play was a clue that she was defending against nothing so much as losing.

Afterwards, she talked about being "all over the place emotionally," but still insisted the brewing court fight that awaited her back in the States was not a fatal distraction.

"I didn't see," she said defiantly, "any lawyers hitting the balls out there." Thankfully, none popped up during the rest of the fortnight and her own play improved considerably — at least until Wednesday, that is.

She and Capriati had completed one set and part of another Tuesday when rain in-



NAVRA TILOVA — will be waiting for next year's championships.

terrupted play. She went home down one set, but up a service break in the second, ordered Chinese takeout and put her feet up to watch the match being replayed on the television.

Navratilova did not say in her post-match interview Wednesday whether she felt the image on the screen looked older than she remembered herself, but her comments appeared to belie that sentiment.

When she was asked whether she was surprised that the 15-year-old Capriati was so calm and cool throughout the match, Navratilova replied:

"Experience helps to a point. But when you've been there so many times, it means that much more and you're more apt to get nervous. When you get older, you get more nervous. It should get easier, but all the players say the same thing — it gets more difficult."

This hardly qualifies as news, and it is something Navratilova has known since she joined the circuit. In fact, one of the great pleasures of

watching her assemble that long and glorious resume has been watching her undergo transformations to meet every challenger that has threatened her domain.

She was chubby and slow when she set out, indistinguishable from the pack of baseliners who filled out Chris Evert's dance cards at tournaments. But before long, she was svelte and quick, a serve-and-volleyer who became Evert's equal in what would become a season of memorable encounters.

As Evert cut back on her schedule, Navratilova found ways to cope with the ever-younger cast of contenders who subsequently came into the game, whether Tracy Austin and Andrea Jaeger or Monica Seles and Steffi Graf, whether it required retooling parts of her game, her attitude or her conditioning.

She was never afraid to sacrifice, never able to resist the desire to be the best. Now, it seems, that desire may be waning and nobody, least of all herself, is sure why.

Becker warned

WIMBLEDON, England, July 4: Boris Becker on Wednesday ran into trouble with an umpire on the way to the Wimbledon quarterfinals, reports AP.

The No 2 seed and three-time champion was warned by umpire Jeremy Shales for hurling his racket into the turf after Swedish opponent

Christian Bergstrom broke serve.

The German went on to lose that set with a smash that was three yards (metres) out. But he triumphed 6-4, 6-7 (5-7), 6-1, 7-6 (7-2) in three hours and three minutes.

For much of the game, Becker shouted at himself for errors, and at one stage appeared to have a long conversation with his racket.

Lewis loses again

STOCKHOLM, July 4: Carl Lewis suffered a second defeat in three days when he was beaten by Namibia's Frankie Fredericks in the 200 metres at the Stockholm athletics Grand Prix on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The Namibian squeezed past Lewis on the line, clocking 20.41 seconds against the American's 20.46.

Lewis, still smarting from his loss to compatriot Dennis Mitchell over 100 metres in France on Monday, had opted to race his first 200 metres in two years.

But he appeared unworried by his defeat by Fredericks, who has a personal best of 20.13 this year.

"I felt good, I made a mistake and opened a little bit too hard, but the next race should be a lot easier," said Lewis, adding he would run the 200 metres again in Lausanne next week.

But Lewis added he would concentrate on 100 metres, and the long jump in next month's World Championships in Tokyo.

Lewis' return to the longer sprint may be a tactical device to avoid meeting Santa Monica Track Club teammate and world record holder Leroy Burrell — his main rival over 100.

Burrell maintained his unbeaten streak this season over the distance but clocked a mediocre 10.21.

Burrell was slow out of the

blocks, pipping Canada's Bruny Surin and fellow American Mark Witherspoon over the last 10 metres.

"I did not react well to the

Diego appears in court

BUENOS AIRES, July 4: A leaner and friendlier Diego Maradona surprised onlookers when he made a brief court appearance on drugs charges here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

The Argentine football captain looked totally transformed from the overweight, unshaven and withdrawn fallen idol who first appeared in court on April 26 for possession of drugs.

Maradona, banned from Italian and international football after testing positive after an Italian league game with Napoli, was remanded on bail at the new hearing.

But since then he has been having psychiatric treatment and following a strict diet.

He appeared to have lost around eight kilos (17.5 lbs) was clean shaven and his hair was cut short. Maradona answered with a smile to the cheers from his fans outside the court building.

Argentine press reports have said that treatment is part of an attempt to make a comeback in football. He is to appear before an Italian court in July and another in Buenos Aires in September to answer drugs charges.

gun. I was worried for a while that I wouldn't catch mark," said Burrell who set a world record 9.90 at New York last month — beating the previous best 9.92 set by Lewis.

"It's harder to run after the world record. Everybody wants you to clock really good times, and that adds to the pressure," Burrell added.

Algerian Noureddine Morelli failed in an attempt at said Aouita's six-year-old 1,500 metres world mark of three minutes 29.46 seconds.

But Morelli, top-ranked in the world over the distance last year, proved by running 31.01 — his second superb time in a week — that the record could be within his capabilities.

The Algerian, who produced a rain-hit 3:31.00 in Helsinki last week, surged past pacemaker Sammy Koskei with one lap to go and fended off a late challenge from Australian Simon Doyle.

US Veteran Greg Foster, 33, shaved 0.04 seconds off his previous best this season to clock a respectable 13.24 in the 110 metres hurdles — relegating European champion Colin Jackson of Britain to second place.

The meeting also saw the emergence of yet another Kenyan world class runner. Moses Kiptanui, 20, was on track for the 3,000 metres world steeplechase record for half of the race but had to settle for 8:07.89 — the best time over the distance this year.

Big test for Brazil's new boys

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, July 4: A newly configured Brazilian team and a rookie coach get their first true international test this week in the America Cup, a year after the squad was highly criticised at home for its World Cup performance, reports AP.

Under Paulo Roberto Falcao, Brazil will be seeking its second straight title in the 10-day tournament that begins Saturday in Santiago, Chile. Last time out in 1989, Brazil was aided by being host to the biennial nations championship of South America.

But this year, Brazil will be trying to recover its quick-passing, creative style that won it the title in 1989 and accolades over the past several decades.

To do that, Falcao has swept away much of the 1989 championship team.

Gone are international stars such as Careca, Alemão, Silas, Ricardo Gomes, Jorginho, Dunga, Valdo and Muller. On Tuesday center forward Bebeto left the team, complaining he was not getting a chance at a starting job.

Also gone is the controversial 'European' configuration of a sweeper, five defenders and just two forwards. The change from the traditional 4-3-3 model was introduced by coach Sebastiao Lazaroni to make the team more 'competitive.'

But many soccer pundits preferred the old-fashioned, offensive-minded 'art-soccer' over the new defensive style. When Brazil was eliminated

from the 1990 World Cup in Italy by arch rival Argentina, the scheme was discarded and Lazaroni was replaced.

The push to re-institute the 'samba' style has increased with Brazil commemorating the 20th anniversary of its World Cup title in Mexico, when Pele, Jairzinho, Rivelino, Gerson, Tostao and Carlos Alberto comprised a talented squad.

Hopes are high for Falcao, who took over as coach last August.

As a player, Falcao was well-acquainted with the 'samba' style, having played for Brazil in the 1982 and 1986 World Cups.

And while critics say he has no coaching experience, supporters cite Franz Beckenbauer, a former international star who led Germany to the World Cup championship last year in his first stint as coach.

When named coach, Falcao immediately announced he would give preference to players on local clubs over European-based international stars. Many claimed the European influence was what had caused Brazil's 'downfall' at the World Cup.

By using the younger, less experienced players, Falcao warned good results would not be immediate — a useless request in Brazil.

In the first seven games after Falcao took over, Brazil lost two and tied five.

The first win came in April, 1-0 against Romania's 'B' team. In May, Brazil looked better in a 3-0 victory over Bulgaria.

"With Falcao, we play exactly the way they do in Europe now: close marking and a quick start on the attack," said Branco, a mainstay on the Brazilian defense since the 1986 World Cup.

The 22-man America Cup squad includes 13 players added during last year's 'experimental' phase.

The defense is anchored by veterans Taffarel in goal and Mazinho, Branco and Ricardo Rocha as the back line. Rookies Cleber, Marcio Santos and Wilson Gottardo appear to be in line for the remaining defender's job.

The biggest questions are in the midfield, where Mauro Silva, Valdir and Neto are expected to start.

Mauro Silva and Valdir were virtual unknowns until this year.

SOCCER SCENARIO

Bebeto quits Brazil's nat'l side



Bebeto

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, July 4: Star striker Bebeto, complaining he was not getting a chance at the starting center forward job, has quit the Brazilian national soccer team four days before the start of the America Cup, reports AP.

Bebeto asked to be released Tuesday afternoon before a team practice at the Beira-Rio Stadium in the southern city of Porto Alegre, said Globo TV, the nation's largest network. "It's a surprise, coach Paulo Roberto Falcao said. 'He said he wanted to play and if he didn't he wanted to be released. We can't keep unsatisfied players on the team, so I let him go.'"

The slight, 27-year-old fan favourite of Rio's Vasco da Gama failed to start on Brazil's 1990 World Cup squad because of a leg injury punch to Brazil's sputtering attack. Falcao said the sudden release of Bebeto would not affect his team's play in the America Cup, the South American nations championship, which opens Saturday in Chile. The coach said he did not have a replacement for Bebeto but would add a new player before the start of the 10-day, 10-team tournament.

Canada beat Jamaica

LOS ANGELES, July 4: Results of CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer tournament round robin matches on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Canada defeated Jamaica 3-2 (1-1 halftime) in Group A. Scorers: Jamaica — Hector Wright (42nd minute), Roderick Reid (63rd).

Canada: Dale Mitchell (34th), Colin Miller (54th), John Limnitti (60th).

Kaiser enters new controversy

PARIS, July 4: Franz Beckenbauer was at the centre of a new controversy on Wednesday following reports that he was not planning to renew his contract with Olympique Marseille, reports AFP.

Fppm Tokyo, a Japanese news agency quoted Beckenbauer as saying he had finished with football and was too busy elsewhere to renew "my contract for next season." Beckenbauer has been a technical director at the club since moving upstairs after an ill-starred time in charge of team affairs.

However, when he joined the club last season after helping then West Germany to the World Cup in Italy, he signed a two-year contract, which does not expire until December 1992. Beckenbauer, 45, has made similar statements before while abroad only to retract them or categorically deny having made them on his return.

Villa pays \$ 2.5m for Atkinson

LONDON, July 4: Aston Villa paid a club record 1.6 million pounds sterling (2.5 million dollars) for Real Sociedad striker Dalian Atkinson on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Villa's new manager Ron Atkinson originally signed the former England under-21 international for Sheffield Wednesday two years ago before selling him to the Spanish club. Atkinson said of the 23-year-old player: "As soon as I took over at Villa I knew that Dalian was a player I had to sign. He is one of the most exciting players that I have ever worked with."