

Nat'l TT from today

Sports Reporter

The 16th national table tennis championships begin today at the National Coaching Centre. Organised by the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation, the six-day meeting will be formally inaugurated this afternoon by Chairman of the National Sports Council Maj General Mahbubur Rahman.

A hundred and forty-six players, including 105 men and boys and another 31 women will be representing 31 teams.

Competition will be held in ten events — the men's, boys' and women's team events, the men's, boys' and women's singles and doubles, and the mixed doubles.

Preliminary rounds of each event start today.

"The New Paper", a local English weekly news magazine, has forked out a sum of Taka one lakh as sponsorship for the meet.

The participating teams are: Rajshahi, Panchagarh, Jessore, Thakurgaon, Bagerhat, Lalmonirhat, Fapna, BTMC, Habiganj, Jhalakati, Narail, Patuakhali, Mymensingh, Satkhira, Natore, Moulvi Bazar, Dinajpur, Kusthia, Bangladesh Ansars, Pirojpur, Chittagong, Khulna, Bogra, Tangail, Munshiganj, Dhaka, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Bakerganj, Rangpur and Bangladesh Biman.

Ben banished to the 'B' race

MALMO, Sweden, Aug 5: Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson had to threaten court action to force organisers of the Malmö international athletics meeting on Monday night to let him take part, reports AP.

But Johnson will only compete in the B series race, the organisers said. They had originally planned to cancel his appearance altogether because of his bad performances since coming back from a drugs ban imposed after the 1988 Olympics.

Johnson's lawyer had threatened legal proceedings for breach of contract so he was offered the B race. World record holder Leroy Burrell and fellow American Carl Lewis will take part in the main race.

Merlene Ottey of Jamaica has withdrawn from the women's race because of illness, the organisers added.

Lewis & co aim to do better

MONACO, Aug 5: Carl Lewis is putting the track world on notice: after leading the Santa Monica Track club to tie the world record in the 400-meter relay at a weekend meet, he's ready to better the mark, reports AP.

One of the top invitationals, the Zurich Weltklasse meet — which opens Wednesday — will bring together some of the finest runners for one last major meet before the World Championships later this month in Tokyo.

Lewis is hoping it will provide a chance to break the world mark of 37.79 last September in beating the Britons in the European Championships. But the French never were a contender Saturday, having missed the first baton exchange and failing to finish.

But there's always a chance for a second chance.

Lewis said the top U.S. relay team is expecting his team will again face the French in the Zurich event Wednesday, and he hopes a head-to-head competition will provide the motivation to break the record.

"We didn't know the French would be here until two days ago," Lewis said of the surprise encounter with the French runners in Monaco. "That... put us over the edge."

In Saturday's performance, Lewis blazed down the final stretch, leading runners from Italy and the Soviet Union by more than 10 meters.

Looking ahead to Zurich, Lewis said Santa Monica's teamwork is considered the key, and he hopes that the

long training and the competition with the French will bring it all together.

"Being teammates, partners, good friends, everything comes together," Lewis said. "We just put the whole thing together."

In 1984 Lewis anchored the American Olympic team to a world record of 37.83 which held until the French broke it. Lewis also ran fourth on the 1983 World Championship team the set a then-world



CARL LEWIS...gunning for a world relay record together. He added that the team had chased the record all year. "We wanted it so bad," said Burrell. "We have been saying all along we can do it and it's the fulfillment of a dream." That contest quickly be-

came a non-event when the French team messed up the first baton change and did not even complete the race.

But their disappointment was quickly forgotten in the euphoria surrounding the Santa Monica win with spectators swarming on the track and surrounding the exuberant Americans.

"We're really excited," Lewis said. "I don't know the last time a club held a world record."

"We really went for it last year and we were disappointed the French got it," Burrell said. "But we knew it [the world record] was going to happen this year."

Lewis added: "It's a milestone — not only did we take it back to America but we did it before the World Championships. We can run faster, we can run 36"

BUBKA FAILS

The relay, final event of a balmy summer night, overshadowed an unsuccessful attempt on his own world pole vault record by Soviet Sergei Bubka.

Bubka failed with three attempts at 6.10 metres — the 20-foot barrier which he has already beaten indoors — although his first effort was desperately close.

With only the prestigious Zurich meeting remaining on the Grand Prix circuit before the Tokyo World Championships there were several significant performances on Saturday.

Chief of these was a great exhibition of middle-distance running from 21-year-old Algerian Nourredine Morceli, who beat world record holder said Aouita into second place in the men's 1,500 metres.

Morceli, who was timed at 3:32.04, has clocked 3:31.00 this year and Aouita's six-old mark of 3:29.46 looks in imminent danger.

Calcutta clubs sign more Dhaka booters

CALCUTTA, Aug 5: In a bid to boost their declining performance Mohammedans Sporting and East Bengal have imported some more players from Bangladesh who are scheduled to don the clubs' colours in the Calcutta Super Division league matches during the next fortnight, reports PTI.

Mohammedans, who suffered some reverses last week, have brought in three new players from across the border as the four Bangladeshis who had represented the club earlier returned to their country.

In Dhaka against Bangladesh's Mohammedan Sporting. According to a spokesman of the Mohammedan Sporting, the new players would play for the club till August 14 as they were required by their own club after the date.

Mohammedan Sporting are also trying to bring in a fourth player — Tito — to compensate for the return of Kaiser Hamid, Imtiaz Sultan Johnny, Rehan, Kanan and Manik who played for the club during the last 15 days.

The new players have been enlisted keeping in view the vital match against league leaders East Bengal, scheduled for August 10.

East Bengal, who had



Dhaka Abahani stars (from L) Aslam, Rumi and Munna who signed for East Bengal, seen here watching a Calcutta soccer league match. —Star file photo

The three new recruits are right-out Syed Rumman bin Wali Shabbir, stopper Mohammed Jewel Rana and custodian Mohammed Panir. All three players belong to Dhaka's Mohammedan Sporting Club.

On the other hand, East Bengal brought in Abahani Kifra Chakra striker Ghulam Ghaus who had scored the winning goal for his team in the recent club championship earlier brought three players — Aslam, Rumi and Munna — have imported Ghulam Ghaus as Rumi has already returned to Bangladesh, sources said.

Meanwhile, UNB adds: Mohammedan Sporting Club fell further behind in the championship race after a goalless draw with BNR in the Calcutta Super Division football league yesterday afternoon, according to All India Radio (AIR) yesterday.

They are now placed third

Nat'l hockey from Aug 10

Sports Reporter

The Basundhara 14th national hockey championship, organised by the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF), begins next Saturday at the Outer Stadium hockey ground.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka will inaugurate the 11-day championship, to be participated by 22 teams, divided into two groups.

On the inaugural day, defending champions Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) will take on newcomers Munshiganj DSA at three in the afternoon.

The final is scheduled for August 20.

The participating teams are: Group A - BKSP, Bangladesh Army, Dhaka Education Board, Faridpur, Chittagong, Narayanganj, Patuakhali, Bogra, Munshiganj DSAs, Bangladesh Police and Bangladesh Railway.

Group B: Dhaka University, Rajshahi University, Engineering University, Dhaka, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Jessore, Chaudangha DSAs, Bangladesh Air Force, Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Ansar.

Title retained

SAMUT PRAKARN, Thailand, Aug 5: Thailand's Khaosai Galaxy made the 18th successful defence of his WBA junior-bantamweight crown stopping Venezuelan David Griman Mendez in the fifth round, reports Reuter.

The fight ended one minute 28 seconds into the round with Mendez looking helpless after receiving relentless punishment.

Mendez struggled to continue shortly after he took a mandatory eight count early in the fifth but Galaxy did not let his chance slip.

He floored Mendez by unleashing left-right combinations to the lanky challenger's face and followed up with heavy pounding to his body.

Hick humbles selectors

LONDON, Aug 5: Graeme Hick brushed aside the disappointment of being dropped by England by blasting a sparkling century to lead Worcestershire to an eight-wicket victory in their Sunday League match against Nottinghamshire, reports Reuter.

Hick hit six fours and sixes in his 98-ball innings of 109 at Trent Bridge as Worcestershire, set a target of 210, won with five deliveries to spare.

The 25-year-old Zimbabwe-born batsman, dropped by England after a run of poor scores, dominated a second-wicket partnership of 187 in 35 overs with Tim Curtis after Tom Moody had departed to the fifth ball of the innings.

After Hick was eventually dismissed by West Indian all-rounder Ranklyn Stephenson, Curtis guided Worcestershire home, hitting an unbeaten 66 off 120 deliveries that in-

Ambrose helps restrict Essex

CHELMSFORD, Aug 5: Curtly Ambrose included England captain Graham Gooch among his four victims as West Indies took a 118-run first innings lead over Essex on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Gooch had not faced a delivery from Ambrose until he had made 60 but the giant pacemen's 13th ball moved enough to find the outside edge and wicketkeeper David Williams took the catch to dismiss him for 66.

Ambrose, used sparingly by skipper Viv Richards, finished with four for 29 in 14.5 overs as Essex were dismissed for 249.

But the county bowlers then struck back to leave West Indies on 60 for four in their second innings by the close of the second day of the three-day match.

It was still useful practice for Gooch ahead of the final Test beginning at the Oval on Thursday. He struck eight fours and faced 121 balls.

Gooch was batting in the unfamiliar position of number six to accommodate young opener Adam Seymour who made an impressive 74 in 176 minutes.

Tennis result

KITZBUHEL, Austria, August 5: Third seed Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia defeated fourth seed Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden 7-6(7-2), 7-6(7-4), 6-2 in the final.

Holyfield highest-paid athlete

NEW YORK, Aug 5: Evander Holyfield, owner of the heavyweight boxing title once held by Mike Tyson, has now replaced the former champion as the highest-paid athlete in the world, according to Forbes Magazine, reports Reuter.

The reigning heavyweight champion, who will defend his title against Tyson in November, will earn an estimated 60 million dollars this year, the Magazine said in a cover story of its latest issue.

Tyson, who dropped to second place, will earn more than 31 million as boxing continued to be the most lucrative of sports with four fighters listed among the top-10 highest paid athletes in the world, the article said.

In April, Holyfield, who was 10th on the Forbes 1990 list, earned an estimated 24 million dollars for his successful title defence against former champion George Forman, who ranks fourth on the list at 14 million dollars.

Michael Jordan, the high-flying basketball superstar who led the Chicago Bulls to the 1991 National Basketball Association championship, stands to earn an estimate 16 million, ranking him third. Most of Jordan's income — some 13 million — comes from pitching products from breakfast cereal to Nike's air Jordan sneakers, the Magazine estimated.

Rounding out the top five were Formula One motor racing drivers Ayrton Senna of Brazil and Frenchman Alain Prost, who Forbes estimated will earn 13 million and 11 million dollars respectively. British F-1 driver Nigel Mansell also landed in the top-10.

Sixty one-year-old Arnold

Palmer, number eight on the list, was the top-paid golfer at 9.3 million dollars, while 17-year-old women's world number one Monica Seles of Yugoslavia was the top-earning tennis player in the world with an income of 7.6 million, putting her 12th overall.

The highest-salaried athlete from a team sport is Larry Bird of the Boston Celtics, who because of his contract structure will earn dlr 7.4 million. Another dlr 500,000 in endorsements puts him 11th on the overall list.

Joe Montana of the San Francisco 49ers makes the most of any football player, dlr 7.5 million to stand 13th on the list.

Canadian Wayne Gretzky of the Los Angeles Kings, 19th on

the list with dlr 7 million, leads hockey players in earnings.

Two-sport star Bo Jackson is 31st with dlr 4.5 million, dlr 2.5 million from endorsements and the rest from his baseball and football contracts.

Baseball's biggest earner is Darryl Strawberry of the Los Angeles Dodgers, 34th on the list at dlr 4.3 million. Also at that figure is three-time Tour de France cycling champion Greg LeMond of the United States, who makes dlr 2.5 million away from the circuit, even though his finish was disappointing this year.

Tennis has the most earners on the list with nine. Basketball players occupy seven spots and auto racers

six.

The world's 10 highest-paid athletes in 1991, according to estimates by Forbes Magazine:

1. Evander Holyfield (boxing) 60.5 million dollars
2. Mike Tyson (boxing) 31.5 million
3. Michael Jordan (basketball) 16.0 million
4. George Foreman (boxing) 14.5 million
5. Ayrton Senna (Formula One driver) 13.0 million
6. Alain Prost (Formula One driver) 11.0 million
7. Donovan "Razor" Ruddock (boxing) 10.2 million
8. Arnold Palmer (golf) 9.3 million
9. Nigel Mansell (Formula One driver) 9.0 million
10. Jack Nicklaus (golf) 8.5 million

Jahangir slates refereeing

ADELAID, Australia, Aug 5: Jahangir Khan, surprisingly beaten in Sunday's final of the World Squash Open title, said on Monday a band of professional referees should be employed to lift the standard of officiating, reports Reuter.

The Pakistani, 27, beaten in an epic four-game battle by Australia's fifth-seeded Rodney Martin was highly critical of New Zealand referee Chas Evans.

Martin, 25, won his first world title 14-17, 15-9, 15-4, 15-13, in a tense match marred by several physical clashes which resulted in the calling of a high number of lets.

Aussie firemen plan record run

MELBOURNE, Aug 5: A team of 23 Melbourne fire-fighters will begin a 17,500-kilometer (10,875-mile) charity run around Australia on Tuesday that could earn them a place in the Guinness Book of World Records, reports AP.

The run on the Princes Highway would break a Guinness record for the world's longest relay run, a 16,000-kilometer (10,000-mile) distance set two years ago in Norway by 2,000 runners.

Organized by the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade and charities, the Great Aussie Run will raise money for research into the lung and digestive-tract disease cystic fibrosis.

Accompanying the runners, who have been training for two years, and running some of the way, will be Lucia Simonsen, who was born with the disorder and has survived the disease.

The ultra-marathon relay is expected to take 50 days.

Sampdoria down gunners

LONDON, Aug 5: Italian champions Sampdoria edged out English counterparts Arsenal despite having a player sent off in a stormy final and won the Makita four-club soccer tournament for the second successive year on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Sampdoria striker Renato Buso, who scored four goals in his team's 6-1 drubbing of West Ham on Saturday, was ordered off for elbowing Arsenal skipper Tony Adams after 55 minutes.

Gianluca Vialli Ten-man Sampdoria, already 1-0 down following an 18th-minute effort by Paul Merson, hit back with a brilliant goal from star striker Gianluca Vialli in the 70th minute to send the final into a penalty shoot-out. They won the shoot-out 3-2.

Sampdoria coach Vujadin Boskov criticised Buso's dismissal. "There was a clash of two players in the air. I don't think my player deserved to be sent off," he said. "Both players went in with maximum force. It was an athletic clash. These things happen."

Greek champions Panathinikos won the third-place play-off, beating English First Division West Ham 3-2 in a penalty shoot-out after a 1-1 draw.

Monaco replace Marseille

PARIS, Aug 5: A last-minute goal by Liberian striker Georges Weah gave Monaco their fourth victory in as many matches to recapture the lead in the French First Division on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Monaco went back to the top of the table after being temporarily displaced by Marseille on Saturday when the French champions won 2-1 at Rennes.

Christophe Robert put Monaco, last season's league runners-up and French Cup winners, ahead after 23 minutes before Cameroon striker Fancois Oma-Biyik equalised in the 61st minute.

Weah's fifth goal this season made Monaco the only side with maximum points. Marseille are second, one point behind.

It left Cannes fifth from the bottom with only two points after four matches.



Mohammed Ali (left) runs his fingers over his three dimensional likeness in Miami Beach, Florida, on Monday as current world heavy weight boxing champion Evander Holyfield looks on during festivities dedicating Hall C of the Miami Beach Convention Centre the Mohammed Ali Hall of Champions. Ali won the first of three heavy weight titles in the hall in April 1964.